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## Yogi meets kin of Sonbhadra victims

### Blames SP, Cong for backing land grabbing in state

PNS ■ SONBHADRA/VARANASI

Blaming Congress and Samajwadi Party for inciting land grabbing in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the land grabbers would be booked under the NSA and the farmers who had been denied their rights would be allowed to live on the land of their ancestors without any fear.

The announcement was made in Umbha village in Sonbhadra district where the CM had gone to meet the family members of those who were shot dead on July 17 by the cohorts of the village pradhan. "The opposition leaders are shedding crocodile tears today, but the fact is that the mal-practice started in 1955 when the Congress was in power in UP. The land records were illegally changed in 1989 and then too, the Congress was in power.

And now, the Congress leaders are pretending as if their hearts beat for the poor," Yogi said. He announced that a committee had been constituted to examine revenue records of the same land and how ownership changed in 1955, 1989 and 2017. The committee had been asked to submit its report within 10 days, he added.

Yogi said the land belonging to tribals was transferred in 1955 to the trust of the then Congress MLC. The investigation committee will also inves-



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath meets the members of the aggrieved families of the recent clashes in Sonbhadra on Sunday

tigate that. In 1989, the land of trust was transferred in the name of a family. Yogi said it all started in 1952-53. "The main accused is a Samajwadi Party worker. Apart from this, his brother is a BSP leader. All of them have been misusing power. Cases were filed against the poor by misusing power and actions were taken in favour of the then ruling party," the Chief Minister said. He added that the land mafia would be taken to task under

NSA. "The district administration has been directed that the land on which the people working should be allowed to cultivate that land in this village. Within one month, all the villagers will be given government accommodations. Houses will be provided to Scheduled Caste, Adivasi and Mushar caste people within a year. Toilets, electricity connections, gas connection, widow pension and divyang pension will also be provided to eligible people.

Ration cards will be made available to everyone. The new tehsil will be created and two new development blocks will also be created," he said. He said that families of the victims had been paid Rs 18.50 lakh while Rs 2.50 lakh had been given to those injured. He also handed cheques to some members of the bereaved families there and inspected the site. "The incident was tragic and I wanted to come after the incident. However, due to cre-

ation of the deceased, I could not come. The government is fully committed to preventing re-occurrence of this kind of the incident," the Chief Minister said. On the occasion, state BJP president Swatantra Dev Singh, MLC Kedarnath Singh, Chief Secretary Anup Chandra Pandey, Director General of Police (DGP) OP Singh, Additional Chief Secretary (Information and Tourism) Awanish Kumar Awasthi and others were also present.

## 'Next edition of DefExpo to be held in Lucknow'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The next edition of India's mega defence exhibition - the DefExpo - will be held in Lucknow in 2020 with participation of major global and domestic military firms, the Defence Ministry announced on Sunday. It will be for the first time Lucknow will host the exhibition in which delegates of a number of leading countries will participate.

The theme of the DefExpo will be 'India: the emerging defence manufacturing hub and it will be focused on 'digital transformation of defence', the ministry said. Officials said major global and domestic military firms will showcase their latest weaponry and platforms at the exhibition, eyeing a slice of the lucrative military market in the country which is the world's biggest arms importer. "The 11th biennial edition of DefExpo India-2020 is scheduled to be held for the first time in Uttar Pradesh capital Lucknow. It offers an excellent opportunity for the Indian defence industry to showcase its capabilities and promote its export potential," the ministry said. The previous edition of DefExpo took place in Thiruvadanthai near Chennai in April 2018.

Officials said the DefExpo  
Continued on Page 4

## 2019 LS poll mystery not history: Didi

### Says her Govt will ask SEC to hold civic polls with ballot papers

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Once again holding tampered electronic voting machines responsible of her party's electoral defeat at the hustings and indicating that she would eventually lead the "ballot-versus-EVM" battle till its logical in 2021 Assembly elections, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday gave a call to dump EVMs which her own Trinamool Congress Government would attempt at doing so in next year's local polls to begin with.

Speaking at a mammoth TMC martyr's day rally, Mamata attacked the BJP for manipulating the EVMs saying the 2019 general elections was "not a history but a mystery" to her. "I have no hesitation to declare that the Lok Sabha election was not a history as is claimed by the BJP but mystery" thanks to the manipulated EVMs, Mamata said reminding how the advanced



West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supreme Mamata Banerjee during a rally in Kolkata on Sunday

countries like "America, England, Germany and France have returned to the old ballot boxes." She declared "our Government will write to the State Election Commission to hold the municipal and rural elections with ballot papers. We will start ballot paper once again giving a new direction to electoral politics."

The TMC was stunned by the BJP in the April-May general elections when the Bengal ruling party came down from a whopping tally of 34 seats in 2014 to 22 seats this time round conceding 18 out of 42 seats to the saffron outfit.

Continued on Page 4

## Lightning kills 35 in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

At least 35 people lost their lives and 13 were injured in thunder storm and lightning that struck Uttar Pradesh on Sunday.

The maximum casualties were reported from Bundelkhand region where 13 people died due to lightning and house collapse in Jhansi, Jalaun, Hamirpur and Chitrakoot districts.

Official sources here said that seven people each died in Kanpur and Fatehpur, followed by five in Jhansi, four in Jalaun, three in Hamirpur, two in Ghazipur and one each in Deoria, Kushinagar, Jaunpur, Ambedkar Nagar, Pratapgarh, Kanpur Dehat and Chitrakoot.

Of the injured, 10 were in Jhansi and three in Deoria.

Around 20 houses also collapsed in the heavy rain and lightning. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the death of people in the natural calamity and directed the districts concerned to provide all assistance, including medical treatment, to the injured.

## After ravaging Bihar & Assam, flood fear looms over Kerala

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After destroying thousands of acres of standing crops, affecting lakh of people, and killing around 150 people in Bihar and Assam, the flood fury is now looming over Kerala.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted heavy rainfall in six districts of Kerala in the coming days. The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) has issued a "Red Alert" for Kasargod, Idukki, Kannur, Wayanad, Kozhikode, and Malappuram.

A "Red Alert" denotes likelihood of very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall. Orange Alert means a warning to "be prepared to face any situation arising out of severe weather condition". Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea due to the rough weather.



As many as 38.66 lakh animals including 21.47 lakh poultry, 1.79 lakh hectare of crops, 48 lakh population and 3,705 villages are affected in 27 districts in Assam flood. In Bihar, 69.76 lakh people in 12 of the 30 districts, 25 lakh animals have been hit by the calamity.

Continued on Page 4

## Chandrayaan-2 launch likely today: ISRO

PTI ■ SRIHARIKOTA (AP)

India's second moon mission Chandrayaan-2 seeking to explore the uncharted Lunar south pole by landing a rover will be launched onboard its most powerful rocket GSLV-Mk0III-M1 from here on Monday, a week after the lift-off was aborted due to a technical snag, said the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

The ₹978 crore mission, which has been rescheduled for Monday after scientists corrected the glitch in the rocket, will be launched at 2.43 pm from the second launchpad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre here, over 100 km from Chennai.

ISRO scientists, who aborted the previous launch with 56 minutes left for the countdown to end on July 15, have taken quick remedial action based on an analysis carried out by a team set up to look into the snag and announced the rescheduled launch three days ago.

Continued on Page 4

## Sheila amar rahe echoes in Delhi

### Ex-Delhi CM cremated with full State honours

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Three-time Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit, 81, who died on Saturday due to cardiac arrest, was cremated on Sunday at Nigambodh Ghat near the Yamuna River with full State honours.

Union Home Minister and BJP president Amit Shah, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, his deputy Manish Sisodia, Power and Health Minister Satyendar Jain, former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, her daughter and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi as well as other Congress veterans, colleagues, workers and admirers witnessed the last rites braving heavy rain and gusty winds.

A large number of leaders, including BJP stalwart Lal Krishna Advani and former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and former

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh paid homage to Dikshit at her Nizamuddin East residence.

Dikshit's body was taken to the Congress headquarters where top party leaders, including Manmohan Singh, chief ministers Ashok Gehlot and Kamal Nath, paid their respects. Later, the body was taken to the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee office, the city unit which she was heading at the time of her death.

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah too visited Dikshit's residence. From there, Dikshit's final journey to Nigambodh Ghat began in a van with her sister Rama Dhawan at her side.

The truck carrying the casket moved slowly as the road was packed with supporters who chanted 'Jab tak suraj chand rahega Sheila ji ka naam rahega' and 'Sheila amar rahe amid light rain. The cremation was done using the CNG method that was

installed at the ghat during her tenure as Delhi CM.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath and senior leaders Ahmed Patel and Raj Babbar were among others who joined the emotionally charged crowd.

Vinod Singh (56), a party worker who was standing outside DPCC headquarters, trying to get in to pay homage amid unprecedented gathering, claimed that he worked with Dikshit in Delhi Assembly elections. He said he can never forget the love and warmth of the former CM. "The national Capital is renovated by her. Everything that you can see here, it all became possible because of her extraordinary efforts during her 15 years as Delhi CM," he said.

Friends, relatives and supporters remembered Dikshit as an affable person who gave the best advice in hour of need, a concerned chief minister who

cared for everyone and a leader above party politics.

"She was still working and trying to revive the party. She has left us but will be remembered for her extraordinary works for the party and for people of Delhi. She was a dedicated leader. She kept motivating party workers, a soft-spoken and a fighter," said Ashish Gupta, a DPCC post-bearer.

Earlier, paying homage to Dikshit, Sonia Gandhi said the CM was a friend and like an elder sister to her. Her demise was a big loss to the Congress party, she said.

As the longest serving woman CM who steered her party to victory for three consecutive terms in 1998, 2003 and 2008, Dikshit ushered in an era of all-round development that transformed Delhi into a world class Capital.

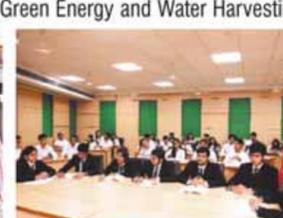
She also initiated green reforms in public transport  
Continued on Page 4

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# Unholy nexus behind land-grabbings

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The long trail of nexus between bureaucrats-land mafia-Revenue department officials and the local feudal lords is behind the killing of 10 Gond tribals in Umbha village of Sonbhadra that in the last several decades dispossessed the tribals from several thousand acres of land in the district.

The Supreme Court order for survey settlement in late 1980s on the petition of a Gandhian non-governmental organisation, Vanvasi Seva Ashram, has failed to give relief to the tribals. The NGO had filed the petition seeking that the tribals be given the title rights of the land in their possession.

The locals allege that the lands belonging to poor tribal farmers were seized by land mafia due to an unholy nexus with bureaucrats. The Wednesday's massacre in Sonbhadra's Ghorawal tehsil, in which 10 tribal farmers were killed, was the outcome of one such case where revenue records were fudged at the behest of the local land mafia to claim more than 600 bighas of land worth over ₹48 crore.

A retired IAS officer, who has served in the Mirzapur division, said, "The mutation of 600 bighas of land in favour of village pradhan Yagya Dutt by the District Magistrate of Sonbhadra emboldened him to physically take possession of the land and this precipitated the situation."

He said in the last over six decades, none of the district magistrates of Mirzapur had dared to do this."

The Robertsganj tehsil was carved out as a separate district from Mirzapur and named Sonbhadra in 1988. The district falls in Mirzapur division.

Swaraj Abhiyaan, a party headed by Yogendra Yadav, said, "The frauds committed by the district revenue authorities amply prove that Sonbhadra has of late become the most sought-after place for corrupt bureaucrats, politicians and mafia to buy land at throwaway prices."

In village Umbha, just a few hundred yards from the spot of Wednesday's killings, another huge chunk of land measuring 600 bighas in village Vishambri was usurped by senior officials of the Chakbandi department of the UP government.

"The tribals had approached a local lawyer to file a case to unravel the racket. On the instructions of the court, a subsequent enquiry revealed that Chakbandi officials (Land Consolidation department) had fudged revenue records in which the owner of the land was shown as a dead person. When the real owner (a tribal) was produced in court, the conspiracy was unmasked resulting in an registration of FIR against 27 Chakbandi officials," said Dinkar Kapoor, a member of the state committee of Swaraj Abhiyaan.

He said in another case of fraud, revenue records relating to 14 bighas of land on the highway near a cement factory owned by a big corporate house, were fudged by a kanoongo (lower rung officer of the Revenue department). "The kanoongo tampered with the revenue records and registered the land in the name of his two sons (in back date), who were not even born on the date of registry," Dinkar Kapoor said.

In fact, officials who were supposed to enforce Forest Rights Acts (FRA) and Survey Settlement in favour of tribals,

blatantly cheated the poor farmers for years. Former BJP MP from Sonbhadra Chhote Lal Kharwar, after the killing on July 17, said in a statement that "behind the killings over a land dispute, a corrupt lobby of bureaucrats played a key role".

Kharwar also named some IAS officers who allegedly bribed the revenue officers and got the land registered in the name of his family members. The IAS officer later sold the land to gram pradhan Yagya Dutt, the prime accused in the killing of 10 tribal farmers.

The former MP said that a few months back, in February 2019, Yagya Dutt had attempted to take forcible possession of the land from tribal farmers. However, the local administration and police slept over the complaint of the tribal farmers.

Over a hundred civil suits relating to fudged revenue records are pending in different courts of Sonbhadra.

"During settlement survey initiated by the Supreme Court in the mid 1980s, fraudulent entries were made in revenue records in favour of local mafia and government officials. Instead of giving possession to tribals, as per the survey, the

land was sold at throwaway prices, somewhere around ₹1000 per bigha, to bureaucrats, politicians, corporate houses and mafia. At present the price per bigha ranges from ₹5 lakh to ₹7 lakh, depending on the location of the plot," said Dinkar Kapoor.

Kapoor alleged under the cover of survey settlement and Land Consolidation department, the tribals have been systematically dispossessed of their land by the nexus of corrupt bureaucrats, land mafia and Revenue department. He alleged that the tribals had been cheated repeatedly by the revenue and forests officials and successive governments had done nothing substantial in breaking the nexus of bureaucrats and land mafia.

"When Pandit Nehru came here in 1954 he was spell-bound by the natural beauty of Sonbhadra and had said that this place should be called the Switzerland of India. However, as years passed by, this place has now turned into a den of corruption and environmentally degraded land due to rampant stone and sand mining and power and cement plants," said Dinkar Kapoor.

# Modi, Yogi T-shirts in big demand at Kanwar Yatra

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The popularity of Narendra Modi and Yogi Adityanath can be seen at Kanwar Yatra this year as devotees wearing T-shirts bearing images of the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister show the craze of these leaders among the people.

"The T-shirts having Modi and Yogi pictures are much in demand during Sawan this year. People carrying kanwar are preferring T-shirts with pictures of these two leaders," said Shyam Babu, a trader in Meerut.

This year's Kanwar Yatra has got full government support. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath



has allowed DJ during the yatra and has asked officials to make preparations of Kanwar Yatra on the line of Kumbh Mela.

The Kanwar Yatra started on July 17 and will continue for the full month of Shrawan. The CM has directed the

authorities to make all arrangements for smooth conduct of the Kanwar Yatra. He has asked officials to shower flower petals from helicopter on devotees and also monitor the crowded areas during the yatra. He said that DJs would not be banned during the yatra but they should only play bhajans.

As this year Bakra Eid and last Monday of Shrawan and Kanwar Yatra fall on the same date (August 12), the Chief Minister has asked officials to take proper security measures, including no illegal slaughtering on Kanwar Yatra route and installation of CCTV cameras in crowded areas.

# SP denies CM Yogi's charge

Lucknow (PTI): Hitting out at Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for claiming that the main accused in the Sonbhadra massacre was a Samajwadi Party member, the opposition party on Sunday said the Chief Minister was levelling allegations against it only to hide his failures.

Talking to PTI, Samajwadi Party spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary denied the charge that the main accused in the clash over a land dispute that claimed the lives of 10 Gond tribals on Wednesday had any connection with his party.

"Yogi Adityanath is trying to hide his failures by indulging in such useless talks. How can the BJP shrug off the responsibility as regards the crime committed in Sonbhadra? Law and order and the safety and security of people are the responsibilities of the state government," he said.

Claiming that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party did not want the world to know about the anarchy prevailing in Uttar Pradesh, Chaudhary said, "It (BJP) is unable to run the government in the state. The piece of land over which the clash took place was in dispute for years. The affected people had approached the officials during the tehsil diwas and thana diwas, but their grievances went unheard."

Reacting to the Chief Minister's statement that the main accused in the incident was an active member of the SP, he said, "Adityanath is making incorrect statements. Yagya Dutt does not have any connection with the SP". Later, in a statement issued by the party, Chaudhary said that SP leaders and party workers will participate in a "Sonbhadra kooch karo abhiyaan" to register their protests over the death of 10 persons in the clash.

The laid back attitude of the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party, even after the humiliating defeat in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, has baffled political observers.

On the other hand Priyanka, who as Congress general secretary in-charge east UP, could not save Rahul Gandhi's Amethi Lok Sabha seat, has taken up leadership in the Sonbhadra issue.

The SP, to be counted as 'also ran', did send a team of its low rung leaders who were also detained. Nobody, including the local people, took the notice of that effort and it was Priyanka Gandhi Vadra who continued to occupy the top slot in the media.

The other big opposition leader of UP, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati, who is licking the wounds inflicted by the Income Tax Department by attaching Rs 400 crore worth benami property her brother in Noida, is as usual sitting on a high pedestal.

Barring the incidents of killing of Dalits in Fatehpur district of UP in 2001 and gang-rape

# Sonbhadra killings: Did BJP give space to Congress?

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The way the Yogi Adityanath government handled the Sonbhadra massacre, the feeling in political circle is that the Bharatiya Janata Party will willingly give space to Congress, allowing Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to hog limelight, which in turn would galvanise the party at the grassroots level.

Senior ruling party leaders are silent on this question. One of them smiles and says that won't it help BJP if Congress emerges powerful in Uttar Pradesh because BJP always favours multi-cornered electoral fight.

"There is no doubt that Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party will contest elections separately. Both the parties have their dedicated vote banks. If Congress emerges strong in the next year-and-a-half, it will help BJP," the senior

leader said, hinting that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has already blamed Congress governments of 1955 and 1989 for the massacre.

The argument of this leader is supported by the way the Yogi government imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code in Sonbhadra and allowed Priyanka to hog limelight.

The prohibitory orders were issued the day Priyanka reached Varanasi and before that leaders of some political parties had already visited Umbha village where the massacre took place.

Lenin Raghuvanshi of People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR) said that Sonbhadra administration imposed Section 144 CrPC on July 19. Before that the government had allowed political leaders, civil activists and journalists to visit Umbha village.

"Left leaders had gone there and met the family members of the victims. Even Congress leader Ajay Kumar Lallu had visited the village on July 18, a day after the massacre took place. But when the administration came to know about Priyanka's visit, prohibitory orders were issued on July 19," Raghuvanshi said.

District Magistrate Ankit Kumar Agarwal in his order said that prohibitory orders were issued for two days because "We received intelligence input suggesting that anti-social element are active in the area. Visit of VIPs and political leaders could aggravate the situation further. So we decided to impose Section 144."

The whole issue has rejuvenated Congress, which was almost in a moribund in UP after Lok Sabha elections. Party leaders held dharna across the

state in support of Priyanka.

The BJP leaders played their role cleverly. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his deputy Dinesh Sharma in separate media interactions blamed Congress for the massacre.

"The seeds of discontent were sown in 1955 when gram sabha land was given to a society. In 1989, the said land was registered in the name of an individual. In 1955 and 1989 Congress was in power. Had the then Congress government taken steps, the massacre of people in 2019 could have been prevented," Yogi said.

As the war of words between Congress and BJP intensified, Congress lawmakar Aradhana Mishra 'Mona' said, "The said land was sold in 2017 to the gram pradhan who opened fire killing 10 people. Whose was in government at that time Yogi?"

# Priyanka upstaged Akhilesh, Mayawati

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, by being the first big leader to take up the cause of the tribal victims in Sonbhadra district and getting detained for it, has effectively seized the issue, making Akhilesh Yadav and Mayawati look like marginal players in UP politics.

The laid back attitude of the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party, even after the humiliating defeat in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, has baffled political observers.

On the other hand Priyanka, who as Congress general secretary in-charge east UP, could not save Rahul Gandhi's Amethi Lok Sabha seat, has taken up leadership in the Sonbhadra issue.

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Barring the incidents of killing of Dalits in Fatehpur district of UP in 2001 and gang-rape

# PGV's jibe at Adityanath

Lucknow (PNS): Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday took a dig at Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's visit to Sonbhadra, saying "knowing one's duty is good". She said the UP government had acted only after the Congress came out in strong support of the tribals. In a tweet on Sunday, Priyanka said, "I welcome Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's visit to Sonbhadra. It may be late, but standing with the affected people is the duty of the government. Knowing one's duty is good." She added, "Umbha has been awaiting justice since a very long time. Hope the affected people of Umbha will get justice and their five demands will be fulfilled."

in Badaun in May 2014, she has never taken the trouble of visiting the families of the victims. She is not known to play agitational politics. What is Akhilesh Yadav's excuse? Of course, he has given formal statements and the SP has forced a Rajya Sabha adjournment, but these efforts come across as mere formalities. The party does not seem to be eager to be seen actually fighting to seek justice for the victims of Sonbhadra.

A senior SP leader admitted: "We should have done what was done by Priyanka Gandhi."

Incidentally, both Priyanka and Akhilesh Yadav took foreign holidays around the same time. When Akhilesh Yadav was abroad for 15 days, he didn't put out a single tweet. Priyanka's Twitter account remained active with tweets on Uttar Pradesh affairs in Hindi as if she was sitting in Lucknow.

"If you scan the media coverage of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in the last six weeks, it appears that she is the tallest opposition leader of Uttar Pradesh," said a leader of the Samajwadi Party.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, waiting for the opportunity to break the opposition ranks, added to the profile of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra by detaining her and not letting her meet the families of the Sonbhadra victims.

She had recently written to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, asking the UP government to reduce her security cover to prevent the inconveniences caused to the public. The BJP state unit was all too happy to share this letter with the media.

It is clear that the BJP is encouraging Priyanka's forays into Uttar Pradesh to further divide the opposition. A four-cornered contest is all that the BJP needs for the by-election to 14 UP Assembly seats.

# RLD delegation meets kin of Sonbhadra victims

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A delegation of Rashtriya Lok Dal led by its state president Masood Ahmad met the families of the victims of Sonbhadra massacre on Sunday and criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party government, police and administration for the laxity which claimed the lives of the innocent tribals.

Later speaking to newsmen, Ahmad demanded ₹50 lakh as compensation, allotment of 20 bigha land and job to a member of each family of the victim.

He also demanded a police outpost in Umbha village where the massacre took place and that the remaining land be handed over to the gram sabha.

"The police and administration tried all tested measures to stop us but in vain. We met the family members of the victims and came to know the insensitivity of District Magistrate, SDM, Superintendent of Police, SHO, lekhpal and tehsildar and other officials. All these officials kept their eyes closed till the massacre took place," the RLD state chief alleged. Ahmad claimed that he was told by the families of those injured in the incident that they were charged ₹20,000 by the doctors of district hospital.

"It is a matter of shame and the chief minister cannot escape from his responsibility," he said.

# Narcotics worth ₹35 lakh seized in Shamli

Muzaffarnagar: Narcotics worth ₹35 lakh were seized from a truck in neighbouring Shamli district and two men were arrested, police said on Sunday.

During interception, 500 kg toda (weed husk) was seized from the vehicle in Jhinjhana area on Saturday, police said.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the substance was being smuggled from Rajasthan's Udaipur to Uttar Pradesh and was supplied to the dhabas here, Kairana Circle Officer Rajesh Kumar Tiwari said. UP Police announced a reward of ₹10,000 for the police team for its good work, he added.

A case has been registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act against five accused including Akram, head of Baseda village in Muzaffarnagar district who is absconding, the CO said.

Two accused — Shaukeen and Shamooun — have been arrested while the hunt for the other three is on, the circle officer said.

PTI

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E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
For & on behalf of the President of India, Sr. DENHM/ALD, N.C. Railway, Allahabad invites Open E-tender on IREPS website in prescribed tender forms, from reputed contractors/agency with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work-	
1 Name of the work	Green Rating Certification of H.Q. NCR Building & Central Hospital
2 E-Tender Notice No.	ENHM-Cert-Build-ALD-19 Dated 18.07.2019
3 Approximate Cost	₹ 662500.00
4 Earnest Money	₹ 13300.00
5 Cost of Tender documents	₹ 2000.00
6 Validity of Certification	Three years from the actual date of award of certificate (Certification to be completed with in four months)
7 Validity of offer	90 Calendar days
8 E-Tender uploading on Website www.ireps.gov.in & availability	From 18:00 Hrs. of 18.07.2019 and up to 15:30 Hrs. of 09.08.2019
9 Date & Time of closing of E-Tender	09.08.2019 at 15:30 Hrs.
10 Date & Time of tender opening	On or after 09.08.2019 at 15:30 Hrs.

Note: 1. Tender offer shall be made online through single packet system. 2. Period of work: 04 months. 3. Tender offer shall be made online only. 4. The complete information along with tender booklet of above E tender will be available/uploaded since 18.07.2019 at 18:00 hrs. shall be remained on website www.ireps.gov.in up to 15.30 hrs on 09.08.2019 due date of tender opening. 5. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tender. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with digital signature certificate issued by the CCA under IT Act-2000. 6. Rates entered into financial rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entry in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. 7. Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 8. This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 9. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Document Cost (TDC) in respect of E-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. MSEs registered for the item tendered with District Industries Centres, khadi & Village Industries commission, khadi & Village Industries Board Co. Board, National Small Industries Corporations, Directorate of Handicraft & handloom, any other body specified by ministry of MSME for items tendered shall be supplied such tender document free of cost on confirmation (Xerox Copy) of evidence to this effect and shall be exempted from payment of minimum EMD detailed above. 10. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 11. Online E-Tender can be submitted up to 15:30 Hrs. on 09.08.2019 12. Joint venture is not applicable. 104319

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

DHFL DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED		
National Office: HDL House, 8th Floor, Anant Kanetkar Marg, Bandra East-400 051		
Branch Office: DHFL, Dreams Mall, First Floor, L.B.S. Marg, Bhandup (West), Mumbai - 400078		
DEMAND NOTICE		
Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL) under Securitisation Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.		
Name of the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA Date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
(LC No. 00000713 of Noida Branch) Harish Kumar (Borrower) Mahavir Singh (Co Borrower 1)	27-12-2018 ₹ 1660417 /-(₹ Sixteen lakh Sixty Thousand Four Hundred Seventeen) NPA ( 01-11-2018 )	Plot No-A-680, Block-A, Plot No. T-S-1 N R 1 Township Yamuna, Sector-26 A Yamuna Expressway, Noida, 201308
(LC No. NOD30267 of Noida-sector 2 Branch) NILAM MADAN (Borrower)	27-12-2018 ₹ 959950 /-(₹ Nine lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty) NPA ( 01-11-2018 )	Plot No 411, Sec-5 Vasundhara, Ghaziabad-201001
(LC No. 00005469 of Kalburgi Branch) Thukaram Maruthi (Borrower) Anuradha Thukaram (Co Borrower 1)	25-01-2019 ₹ 987902 /-(₹ Nine lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Two) NPA ( 01-11-2018 )	Plot No 6(Northern) Plot No.2-910/28 Sy.No.28/2 Kumpem Nagar Behind Asian Mall, Kalburgi-585102
(LC No. 00003341 of Lucknow Branch) Ankur Saxena (Borrower)	25-01-2019 ₹ 814133 /-(₹ Eight lakh Fourteen Thousand One Hundred Thirty Three) NPA ( 01-12-2018 )	Part Of Plot No 25 & 26, Part of Khasra No. 653, Gram- Sarsawa, Lucknow-226001
(LC No. 00004210 of Lucknow Branch) Vinod Kumar (Borrower) Poonam Gaud (Co Borrower 1)	25-01-2019 ₹ 813333 /-(₹ Eight lakh Thirteen Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Three) NPA ( 01-12-2018 )	Plot Of Land Gata No. 385, Village-Pure Ishwarnath, Pargana & Tehsil-Gaur, Pratnagarh-230001
(LC No. 00005122 of Lucknow Branch) Vishal Kumar Mishra (Borrower) Suman Kumari Mishra (Co Borrower 1)	25-01-2019 ₹ 2695678 /-(₹ Twenty Six lakh Ninety Five Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Eight) NPA ( 01-12-2018 )	Plot No 9 Khasra No 09 Amraigaon Saheed Bhagat Singh Ward, Lucknow-226020
(LC No. 00005844 of Lucknow Branch) Akram Khan (Borrower) Anjum Fatima (Co Borrower 1)	25-01-2019 ₹ 4038395 /-(₹ Forty lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Five) NPA ( 01-12-2018 )	Flat No. 03 & 04, Nafees Villa, At Nagar Nigam No 292/184 Gha & Part Of Khasra No. 80, Bhadawan, Nai Basti, Aishbagh Lucknow-226020
(LC No. 00006652 of Lucknow Branch) Rohit Kumar Verma (Borrower) Shalini Vastia (Co Borrower 1)	25-01-2019 ₹ 1632918 /-(₹ Sixteen lakh Thirty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Eighteen) NPA ( 01-01-2019 )	House Constructed On Plot No 08, Part Of Khasra No. 1049, Gram-Goyala, Mahona Tehsil- Bakshi Ka Talab, Lucknow-226020
(LC No. 00006666 of Lucknow Branch) Vivek Dwivedi (Borrower) Ruby Dwivedi (Co Borrower 1)	25-01-2019 ₹ 2702223 /-(₹ Twenty Seven lakh Two Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Three) NPA ( 01-11-2018 )	Flat No. 404 4th Floor, 1M. Apartment Over Plot No. 19, A Part Of Khasra No 682, Pani Gaon, Ismailganj, Lucknow-226020
(LC No. 00007592 of Lucknow Branch) Arvind Kumar Singh (Borrower) Urmila Bhardwaj (Co Borrower 1)	25-01-2019 ₹ 2237647 /-(₹ Twenty Two lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Forty Seven) NPA ( 01-12-2018 )	House Built Over Plot No. 14, Over Khasra No. 08 Min, At Khargapur, Pargana Tehsil & District, Lucknow, Lucknow-226020
(LC No. 00001086 of Rohini Branch) Yogesh Bhati (Borrower) Pooja Devi (Co Borrower 1)	25-01-2019 ₹ 772149 /-(₹ Seven lakh Seventy Two Thousand One Hundred Forty Nine) NPA ( 01-12-2018 )	Flat No.-05, Ground Floor, Block No.-7/14, Pocket-07, Sector- 82, Noida, Gautambudh Nagar-201301
(LC No. 00000850 of Noida Branch) Amar Deep Dalal (Borrower) Shalini (Co Borrower 1) Krishna Singh (Co Borrower 2)	25-01-2019 ₹ 11378960 /-(₹ One Crore Thirteen lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty) NPA ( 01-12-2018 )	Plot No. 0014, Main. 04 The Willows, Unitech Golf & Country Club Sector- 96, 97, 98, Noida, Gautambudh Nagar-201301
(LC No. 00003032 of Varanasi Branch) Ranjit Ram Yadav (Borrower) Parwati Yadav (Co Borrower 1)	25-01-2019 ₹ 513858 /-(₹ Five lakh Thirteen Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Eight) NPA ( 01-12-2018 )	Arazi No. 210mi, Mauza Ustapur Mahmoodabad, Pargana Jhansi The. Phoolpur, Allahabad-211019
(LC No. 00000586 of Kamal Branch) Kulbeer Singh (Borrower) Harpreet Kaur (Co Borrower 1)	25-01-2019 ₹ 1967031 /-(₹ Nineteen lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Thirty One) NPA ( 01-12-2018 )	Plot No 8, Khatwa No 7, Rakba Village Mirzapur, Near Axis Bank, Karan Colony Thanesar, Kurukshetra-136118
(LC No. 00042304 of Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Gayatri Devi (Borrower) Sanjay Kumar (Co Borrower 1)	25-01-2019 ₹ 947439 /-(₹ Nine lakh Forty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Nine) NPA ( 01-12-2018 )	Plot No 12, Part Of Khasra No 216 Vill. Bijnwar Khurd Pargana Khairabad, Sitapur-261001

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

Sd/-  
(Authorised Officer)  
Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited

Place : Uttar Pradesh  
Date : 22.07.2019

# Three dreaded criminals nabbed after encounter

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Three dreaded criminals were nabbed following a police encounter in the wee hours of Sunday. They were said to be involved in three different sensational cases, including dacoity at RK Jewellers in Krishna Nagar where they had gunned down two persons and critically injured the jeweller, Rajeev Kumar. Those arrested were identified as Ajay Gupta aka Tinku Pahadi of Saadatganj, Laiq of Alambagh and Mohak Shastri of PGI locality. They are said to be members of gang run by infamous gun-toting desperado Tinku Kapala, who is on police radar after his name was disclosed by the above-named accused.

Two police constables Sunil Rai and Akhilesh Kumar also sustained bullet injuries in the exchange of fire between the police and criminals. The news that three criminals were riding the same bike despite intensive police checking and recovery of .32 bore pistol from the possession of those arrested gave uneasy moments to the cops. ADG, Lucknow Zone, Rajiv Krishna said eight teams were formed under the supervision of the IG, Lucknow Range, following after 4-5 loot incidents executed with similar modus operandi in the city. The robbers opened fire without any second thought.

"We examined 900 CCTV footages and zeroed in on 40 criminals due to intelligence inputs and surveillance," he said. The ADG said as these criminals had also opted for a



SSP Kalanidhi Naithani takes stock of the crime scene in Krishna Nagar on Sunday

Pioneer

similar said modus operandi, we put them on radar. "They opened fire without any provocation or challenge," he pointed out. He said the accused confessed to have gunned down a bank's security guard (Deshraj) and an employee of RK Jewellers (Guddu Patwa). Jeweller Rajeev was also injured in the firing on March 2 last.

The ADG said that those arrested were involved in a recent bank dacoity in Muzaffarpur, Bihar. He

announced a cash prize of Rs 75,000 for the team consisting of policemen and SHOs of Naka, Alambagh and Krishna Nagar besides in charge of anti-dacoity cell Santosh Awasthi. Earlier, the accused had looted a shop-owner (Lalit) of Naka and opened fire at him on January 12. Besides, they had shot dead a shop-owner (Sonu Yadav) in Gomti Nagar on May 25 but failed to commit loot.

The accused told the police that their mentor Tinku

Kapala, Avinash Tripathi, Pawan Dubey and others were involved in the murder of Rajeev Kumar's nephew in Barabanki in 2007. The police found jewellery worth Rs 80 lakh and claimed that it was looted after the murder of Rakesh Narayan Mehra and Lata Mehra in Gomti Nagar in 2013. "We have found some documents from the houses of the accused and they belong to the Mehra's murder case. We are verifying the same," the police said.

# New challenge for police!

PRABHA SHANKER ■ LUCKNOW

The encounter in Krishna Nagar and the arrest of three criminals on Sunday presented a new challenge before the police — to deal with the working style of underworld and change of guard in a gang of criminals.

The police woke up to the stunning revelation after they rummaged through the pages of crime history of several wanted criminals of the city. Their search led them to the history of Tinku Kapala aka Kamal Kishore, who masterminded the dacoity at RK Jewellers and looted two innocent persons.

Tinku was a small-time goon and indulged in petty crimes until he came under the 'tutelage' of Avinash Tripathi aka AT. Avinash, along with Tinku Kapala and Pawan Dubey, had executed the murder of Shyam, who was the nephew of RK Jewellers owner Rajeev Kumar, in Barabanki in 2007. Avinash and Dubey were sent to jail while Tinku Kapala fled taking advantage of his parole some time back. The jail term to Avinash and Dubey came as a blessing in disguise for Tinku, who started steering the gang," sources said.

They said Tinku broadened his reach and executed loots and robberies in Bihar

and other states too. "He used the network of Avinash Tripathi to spread his tentacles in other districts besides Uttar Pradesh. They also executed two bank robberies in Motipur police station area of Muzaffarpur, Bihar," the sources said.

According to a long list of cases registered against Tinku Kapala, he and his aides also executed two loots in Koregaon police station area of Maharashtra. He has as many as 20 cases registered against him at different police stations in Lucknow. "Tinku Kapala showed cruelty to the hilt at the time of execution of dacoity at the jewellery store on March 2

and his aim was to eliminate Rajeev. He and his aides had entered the shop two times. In the hurry, they had dropped the bag at the spot and due to this they had to make off with articles worth much less," circle officer (Crime), Deepak Singh said.

It surfaced that Tinku and his aides were to loot a petrol pump and a plywood trader in the city. "The concerned persons have been informed and given adequate security cover," ADG, Lucknow Zone, Rajeev Krishna said.

He said Tinku Kapala had been declared absconding and the police teams had launched a manhunt for him.

## LDA, LMC to remove garbage from vacant plots

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) and Lucknow Municipal Corporation will launch a joint drive to remove garbage and solid waste from vacant residential plots in the city to maintain hygienic conditions and prevent a possible outbreak of diseases. The move comes in the wake of the directives of the Waste Solid Management Committee constituted by the National Green Tribunal recently. LDA secretary MP Singh said the officials had struck an agreement with LMC to start an exercise to remove garbage from vacant plots. The exercise would begin from Gomti Nagar Extension area on Monday and later cover other residential places, he added. The main reason for involving LMC is that the civic authority has the powers to impose penalty as the LDA administration has been deprived of this power. The drive will be carried out with private partners' participation.

The LDA officials will identify the places while the civic authority will ensure quick and disposal of garbage and spraying of insecticides in the vacant plots. The private partners will transport the garbage to the dumping grounds. There are scores of vacant residential plots where locals dump domestic solid waste, leading to unhygienic conditions. As a result, the plots get flooded with rainwater and act as breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

# Shrawan: Huge rush of devotees expected at Shiva temples today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A huge rush of devotees is expected in Lord Shiva temples on the first Monday of Shrawan month (July 22). Mahant Devya Giri of Mankameswar Temple said they were expecting over one lakh devotees on the first Monday of Shrawan. The temple gates will open at 12 am and 'Jalabishek' will be performed with the Gomti water. "We have requested the district administration and traffic department to make necessary arrangements," she said.

The other ancient Shiva temples of the city where huge rush of devotees is expected on Monday are Buddheshwar, Koneshwar, Siddhnath and Raj Rajeshwar temples.

According to litterateur and noted Lucknow chronicler Yogesh Praveen, 'Shrawan Somwar' is significant because Monday is associated with Lord Shiva.

The ancient temples in the city are several thousand years old. "Buddheshwar temple was associated with Lord Buddha and hence the name. The temple was rededicated to Lord Shiva. Siddhnath temple on Nandan Mahal road has a 'laat' deep inside the ground. The temple came under the attack by Mughals, but this 'laat' could not be retrieved," he noted.

"Koneshwar temple was established by Rishi Kondeshya. Right from Neemsar Mishra to the old area of the city, there were neem trees under which 'rishis-munis' had established their ashrams. The ashrams were converted



Mankameswar temple being spruced up ahead of first Monday of Shrawan month

Pioneer

into temples," he pointed out.

Women devotees said 'Shrawan' has special significance for them. Nitika Garg, a resident of New Hyderabad Colony, said 'Shrawan' celebrations were linked with women.

"The celebrations are all about 'shringar', applying henna and enjoying the beauty of nature. Women get together away from the tedious work that they carry out and sing songs," she said.

Amrita Sinha, a housewife residing in Gomti Nagar, said that "Tej" functions resulted in

bonhomie amongst women. "We look forward to Mondays when we keep fast and visit temples. The month brings the best of festivals such as Rakshabandhan and Hariyali Teej," she said. She added that 'Shrawan' also put restrictions on eating certain food items.

Meanwhile, the traffic department on Sunday announced diversions for Monday. No traffic will be allowed to move from Ekka-Tonga crossing in Daliganj to Hanuman Setu tri-crossing through Mankameswar bandha. It will be diverted towards

IT crossing and Daliganj Pul.

No traffic will be allowed on the Nadwa-Mankameswar bandha ramp. Traffic will not be allowed to move towards Mankameswar temple, and will be diverted towards Hanuman Setu and then directed towards bandha road.

No traffic will be allowed to move from Buddheshwar crossing towards Buddheshwar temple, and will be diverted towards the service lane and then towards the overbridge after which the vehicles can head to their respective destinations.

## HOSPITAL MANAGER'S DEATH

# Police may go for narco test of kin if FSL report is inconclusive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Police are mulling narco test of the family members of Midland Hospital manager Vishwajeet Singh Pundeer if the report of forensic test remains inconclusive. Vishwajeet had died under mysterious circumstances at his house in Gomti Nagar on July 17. On Sunday, the police assisted a team of Forensic Science Lab in reconstruction of the crime scene. The report will be submit in a week's time. "If the report remains inconclusive, we have the option of narco test of Vishwajeet's family members," SP (North) Sukirti Madhav said. He added that the police had no details of the FSL findings.

On Sunday, a team of four forensic experts from the medico-legal division reconstructed the crime scene. The exercise started at 5.10 pm and lasted till 6 pm. Sources said a dummy was dropped from the balcony. The dummy also got stuck in tree branches. The height of the victim was five feet and 11 inches while he



weighed 78 kg. Vishwajeet fell from a height of over eight feet.

The dummy was also pushed from the balcony of Vishwajeet's home, the sources said. They said the pattern of injuries in both the cases did not match with that sustained by the victim. The FSL team also drew flak for using a 20-kg dummy instead of the one weighing 78 kg.

Vishwajeet was allegedly fatally attacked at his house in Gomti Nagar on the intervening night of July 16 and 17 and was later declared brought dead due to excessive bleeding in a hospital. Immediately after reaching the spot, the Gomti Nagar police had claimed that it was an accidental death as the victim fell over pointed iron grill around his house.

## NBRI technology to make gulal from floral waste

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) has come with a technology of turning temple waste flowers into herbal gulal. NBRI director SK Barik said they would soon be approaching major temples across the country and small entrepreneurs to share the technology.

The NBRI director said that with this technology, they would be able to make gulal using zero chemicals. "Both the colours and binder are plant-based. We have that in four colours, including yellow, pink, beetroot colour and red," he said. He added that the temples could install the machine in their premises and utilise the floral waste productively.

Asked as to why they chose to make herbal gulal out of the temple flower waste, he said: "The herbal gulal which we had made earlier was from fresh flowers. This will be from floral waste which consists of mainly marigolds. We decided to make herbal gulal because there was a gap between the supply and demand. Temples can make herbal gulal through the year and sell the same at the time of Holi."

# The art of converting waste into wealth!

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH) is providing guidance for management of waste in city parks and converting it into wealth. CISH director Shailendra Rajan they had helped the residents of Virat Khand-2 in developing a unique park known for waste conversion into wealth.

"The members of the association started practising conversion of organic material in the park in 2008. Principal scientist Ram Awadh trained them for preparing different types of compost, including NADEP and high-quality vermicompost," Rajan said.

The park is spread over in an area of 8,000 square metre with not only ornamental plants but also dozens of mango varieties, vegetables and spices are being cultivated for consumption by the society members.

"The most interesting fact is that they grow all these commodities without using any chemical fertiliser or pesticide. Organically produced products are shared by the society members. This is one of the sustainable systems



wherein cowdung dumped in different parts of Gomti Nagar is welcomed by the members and they convert it into high-quality manure which is regularly sold at Rs 5 a kg. The manure is used by garden lovers in Gomti Nagar even as several people come from distant colonies," he elaborated.

Garden lovers easily get this organic manure and they are ready to pay the price for it. "The returns from sale are making the park sustainable. They have no budget constraints in maintaining ornamental plants and intercultur-

al operation required for beautifying the area. About a decade back, the park members developed NADEP compost structures and pits for vermicompost where they dump the waste organic matter for its conversion into compost. They are not using any fertilisers but the plants are healthy and disease-free because they make organic pesticides using simple things like cow urine and leaves of certain plants," he said.

The principal scientist worked constantly with members of the association for over

a decade. "They know how to control insect pest using cheap and self-made organic pesticide. This is one of the unique parks of the country which is self-sustainable. Several vegetables are grown and they take advice of scientists and use good quality seeds. Sometimes the fruiting in vegetables is a sight to see and everybody feels happy as they are consuming organically produced vegetables," said Rajan.

He added that the park was not only beautified but certain parts were being utilised for growing vegetables also.



Some areas of the state capital witnessed light showers on Sunday while residents in other localities had to be content with just overcast skies

Pioneer

# Light and sound show at Residency from Aug 15

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The 'light & sound show' at the Residency will begin from Independence Day. A senior ASI official said the date had been chosen with the right ambience of patriotism which the monument creates.

The visitors will have to be in possession of separate entry tickets for the show which will be held in the evenings. "The show will definitely add to the popularity of the monument. There is a marked area on the ground of the monument where this show will be held

and the fee amount will go the Tourism department," he said.

The show, which earlier was a regular feature at the monument, was discontinued over a decade ago. However, it has been revived by the Tourism department. The official said that Residency with its ruins was the reminder of the battles which were fought during the First War of Independence.

The Residency complex was set up on the banks of the Gomti river in 1775 by Nawab Asafuddaulah after the shifting of the capital from Faizabad to

Lucknow. The main building was a three-storeyed one with a 'tahkhana'. It was constructed during the reign of Nawab Saadat Ali Khan and was used by the Resident and the Chief Commissioner of Awadh till 1857.

The ruins of the Residency remind of the historic seize of the British stronghold by the Awadh forces in 1857 under the leadership of Begum Hazrat Mahal, wife of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah, Maulvi Ahmad-ulla Shah and several Taluqdars with the full cooperation of the people of Awadh.

# Bus drivers on major routes to take breath analyser test

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

In a bid to ensure safety and security of passengers, Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport has made it mandatory for all the drivers of long-distance buses to undergo breath analyser test before departure.

Managing director of UPSRTC Raj Shekhar said that all the regional managers and managers of bus stations had started breath analyser test through machines.

"As of now, we have 36 breath analyser machines in major regions and with route checking squads. Looking into the need for more breath analyser machines at all the bus stations, with All RMs and with all route checking squads, the UPSRTC headquarters has sanctioned the budget and issued instructions for purchase of 250 more breath analyser machines. All the machines



will be purchased in the next two weeks and to start the checking in all the long-route buses in three phases," he said.

This, he said, would help in checking and preventing drinking habits of the drivers, if any, as it could prove hazardous for the passengers of UPSRTC buses. "All the RMs and ARMs have been issued instructions and they have conducted awareness camps at all the bus

## CITYBRIEFS

### GEOHERITAGE WALK

A 'Geoheritage Walk' to spread the message of conserving natural heritage was organised by Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, Society of Earth Scientists, LU's department of Geology, Directorate Geology and Mining (DGM) and others on Sunday morning to draw the attention of policy-makers regarding the urgent need to conserve geoheritage. Geoheritage refers to significant geological features like unique fossils, distinctive rocks and landscapes such as lakes, glaciers, coasts, mountains, hills, craters, water bodies, etc that provide vital information pertaining to Earth's history, evolution and climatic manifestations. A large number of geoscientists, earth and environment lovers and students participated in the walk carrying slogans and banners displaying the importance of geoheritage sites and the need for its conservation for future generations. BSIP director Vandana Prasad said there were various rich geo sites in



the state. "There is a difference between archaeological and geoheritage sites. The geoheritage sites are more than 10,000 years' old. While the archaeological sites are under protection, the geoheritage sites have yet to be preserved," she pointed out.

### GROUNDWATER WEEK

Groundwater Week celebrations will conclude with prize distribution at Ganna Sansthan on Monday. Students submitted photographs of

water wastage at various places in the city under the topic 'Capture water wastage' on the fifth day of the programme at Regional Science City. "The purpose of this event is to create awareness about saving water. Through their presentation, the students conveyed a message to save every drop of water and also presented various methods for taking care for water used in our daily activities," the organisers said. The students raised their hands for water conservation in rural

areas too. An awareness programme was organised for the students in rural areas at Satya Narayan Inter College in Nigoha. Former director of Groundwater department Ashok Kumar and ex-hydrologist NC Saxena explained different methods of groundwater conservation to the students in detail. Collage and slogan contests were also held in which about 250 students took part. It was followed by a 'nukkad natak' contest in which eight teams from different schools

presented their views on groundwater conservation and rainwater harvesting. A puppet show was also organised on the importance of water and its conservation.

### INAUGURATED

World's latest 64-slice CT scan and voluson S8 ultrasound was inaugurated at Vivekananda Polyclinic and Institute of Medical Sciences. Doctors said that the department of Radiology had in 2002 started providing single-slice CT scan facility to patients. "It was upgraded to Siemens Somatom Emotion 16-slice CT scanner in 2012. Now, we have upgraded to the 64-slice CT scanner, which is a highly advanced machine with more sophisticated features. It brings an unparalleled level of flexibility and mobility to routine CT examinations. It also enables high-quality angiography scans, neuro-imaging as well as CT endoscopy besides ensuring patient comfort and decreased radiation exposure," the doctors said.

**U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. E-TENDER NOTICE**

Following E-Tenders are invited from the experienced/ reputed contractors/suppliers for the execution of following works: For more details login on website [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in).

- Short Term E-Tender No. 51/AETC/2019-20: Replacement of outlived 33 KV MOCB 33 KV tripler control and T/F control and relay panel by new one at 132 KV S/S Lalgaon under Elected. Trans. Division, Azamgarh. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only.
- Short Term E-Tender No. 52/AETC/2019-20: Procurement of Nitrogen Gas having dew point -50 to 60 purity 99.9% in 7M3 volume cylinder having pressure 130-140 Kg/cm<sup>2</sup> at 400 KV S/S Azamgarh under Elected. 400 KV S/S Division, Azamgarh. Earnest Money: Rs. 1000.00 (Rs. One Thousand) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only.
- Short Term E-Tender No. 53/AETC/2019-20: Diversion of 132 KV Jaunpur-Badliapur SC line for construction of NH-56 by NHAI including construction of line and dismantling work of old line under Elected. Trans. Division-II, Jaunpur. Earnest Money: Rs. 29000.00 (Rs. Twenty Nine Thousand) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 3422.00 (Rs. Three Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Two) only.
- Short Term E-Tender No. 54/AETC/2019-20: Diversion of 132 KV Jaunpur-Kerakat SC line for construction of NH-56 by NHAI including construction of line and dismantling work of old line under Elected. Trans. Division-II, Jaunpur. Earnest Money: Rs. 45000.00 (Rs. Forty Five Thousand) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 6372.00 (Rs. Six Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Two) only.
- Short Term E-Tender No. 55/AETC/2019-20: Annual Maintenance of 220/132 KV Transmission line (For the period of 12 months) under Elected. Trans. Division, Jaunpur & under Elected. Trans. Division-II, Jaunpur. Earnest Money: Rs. 45000.00 (Rs. Forty Five Thousand) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 5310.00 (Rs. Five Thousand Three Hundred Ten) only.
- E-Tender No. 56/AETC/2019-20: Annual Maintenance of 220/132 KV Transmission line (For the period of 12 months) under Elected. Trans. Division, Azamgarh. Earnest Money: Rs. 44000.00 (Rs. Forty Four Thousand) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 5192.00 (Rs. Five Thousand One Hundred Ninety Two) only.
- E-Tender No. 57/AETC/2019-20: Re-ventilation of tower foundation at location no.75A+0 of 132 KV Jaunpur-Kerakat transmission line under Elected. Trans. Division-II, Jaunpur. Earnest Money: Rs. 1400.00 (Rs. One Thousand Four Hundred) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 826.00 (Rs. Eight Hundred Twenty Six) only.
- E-Tender No. 58/AETC/2019-20: Servicing and Maintenance of Air Conditioning system installed at 220 KV S/S Jaunpur along with supply of materials under Elected. Trans. Division, Jaunpur. Earnest Money: Rs. 7000.00 (Rs. Seven Thousand) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 826.00 (Rs. Eight Hundred Twenty Six) only.
- E-Tender No. 59/AETC/2019-20: Checking and Repairing of 132 KV Oil Cooled outdoor type CTs on annual maintenance basis at 132 KV S/S Mehnagar, Kolsa and Lalgaon under Elected. Trans. Division, Azamgarh. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only.
- E-Tender No. 60/AETC/2019-20: Rewinding and overhauling of cooling fan and repairing of L.T. Cubical box at different 132 KV S/S under Elected. Trans. Division, Azamgarh. Earnest Money: Rs. 1500.00 (Rs. One Thousand Five Hundred) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only.
- E-Tender No. 61/AETC/2019-20: Supply of Fiber Glass Ladder at 132 KV S/S Marayahoo and 132 KV S/S Mungrabadshapur under Elected. Trans. Division-II, Jaunpur. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only.
- E-Tender No. 62/AETC/2019-20: Procurement of hardware fitting required for installation of 36 KV new ASB make Capacitor Bank at 132 KV S/S Kerakat & Shaganj under Elected. Trans. Division-II, Jaunpur. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only.
- E-Tender No. 63/AETC/2019-20: Construction of Fire Shed, Fabrication of Fire Stand at 220 KV S/S Azamgarh under Elected. 400 KV S/S Division, Azamgarh. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only.
- E-Tender No. 64/AETC/2019-20: Modification of T/F radiator Protection G.I. Net alongwith all associated works at 220 KV S/S Azamgarh under Elected. 400 KV S/S Division, Azamgarh. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only.
- E-Tender No. 65/AETC/2019-20: Modification of T/F radiator Protection G.I. Net alongwith all associated works at 220 KV S/S Azamgarh under Elected. 400 KV S/S Division, Azamgarh. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only.

**INTEREST OF NATION**

# Two friends meet watery grave



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In a tragic incident two children were drowned in a pond in Ekoni village under the Kaundhiyara police station here on Sunday. On getting information about the matter a pall of gloom descended on the village and their family members who were shell-shocked were inconsolable. The police after conducting the necessary formalities handed over the bodies of the children to their respective families.

According to a report received here, Durga, popularly known as Guddu (10), son of Samarjeet, was a student of a primary school in class IV and Adarsh popularly known as Sonu, son of Sugreev, a student of the same school in class V. They were good friends and neighbours. On Sunday both Durga and Adarsh along with dozen other children went to a pond situated nearby in the village and decided to cool themselves there in view of the sultry weather. They along with other children went inside the pond for a dip. However suddenly they slipped, went into the deep area where the water was deep and were drowned. On hearing their cries for help, a large number of villagers gathered there to rescue them,

brought both of them out from the pond but by unfortunately that time both Durga and Adarsh had died. On being informed their parents rushed there and were shell-shocked on seeing their bodies. On being informed the police reached the spot and conducted a preliminary investigation. After preparing the 'panchnama' report, the police handed over their bodies to their parents so that they could perform their last rites.

### MINOR BOY ENDS LIFE BY HANGING SELF

Perturbed over being scolded by his mother, a 12-year-old boy committed suicide by hanging himself in Faqir Nola locality under the Kadadham police station in the neighboring Kaushambi district here on Sunday. However, the family members performed the last rites without informing the police.

As per the reports received here, Sultana, a resident of an area under the aforesaid police station, is a labourer by profession and used to earn his livelihood by doing odd jobs. His son, Gulfam (12), went to his mother and demanded money for something. However, his mother refused to give him as she had no change with her at that time. But Gulfam remained adamant and asked her to give it to him. As a result his mother got angry and rebuked him due to which he got upset. He then entered his room, bolted the door from inside and then hanged himself from its ceiling. When Gulfam did not come out from his room for a long time, his father became suspicious and peeped inside it and was taken aback on finding him hanging from its ceiling.

### CHANDRAYAAN-2...

A 20-hour countdown for the launch began at 6.43 pm Sunday, ISRO announced. Chandrayaan-2 comes 11 years after ISRO's successful first lunar mission Chandrayaan-1 which scripted history by making more than 3,400 orbits around the Moon and was operational for 312 days till August 29, 2009.

"Chandrayaan 2 is ready to take a billion dreams to the Moon now stronger than ever before! Join us for the launch on Monday 22 July, 2019 at 2:43 PM IST," ISRO had tweeted on July 18 while announcing the rescheduled launch. On the eve of launch, ISRO Chairman K Sivan said all preparations were on and the glitch had been rectified.

"Whatever technical snag we observed on July 15 has been rectified. The vehicle is in good health... The (pre-launch) rehearsal has been successfully completed," he told reporters at the Chennai airport on brief a stopover enroute here.

The 43.3m tall three-stage rocket dubbed 'Baahubali' for its ability to carry heavy payloads would blast-off carrying Chandrayaan-2 and inject the spacecraft into Earth orbit about 16 minutes later. After lift-off, the 3,850 kg Chandrayaan-2, comprising an orbiter, lander and rover, will undergo 15 crucial manoeuvres before landing on the Moon, expected by the first week of September, Sivan said.

Scientists would make soft landing of the lander in the South Pole region of the Moon where no country has gone so far, the ISRO chief said.

Billed as the most complex and prestigious mission undertaken by the ISRO since its inception, Chandrayaan-2 will make India the fourth country to soft land a rover on the lunar surface after Russia, the United States and China. About 16.20 minutes after the lift-off, the GSLV rocket will inject Chandrayaan-2 into 170 km x 39059 kms Earth orbit. From then onwards, the mission will witness a series of manoeuvres by scientists to carry out different phases of the mission over the next 48 days.

Subsequent to the rescheduling of the launch, the space agency has tweaked the orbital phases, increasing Earth-bound phase to 23 days as against 17 days planned originally.

At the end of the Earth-bound phase, the orbit of the spacecraft will be finally raised to over 1.05 lakh km before nudging it into the Lunar Transfer Trajectory taking it to the proximity of Moon in the next two days. Then gradually over the next few days it will be brought to 100 X 100 km circular orbit when the lander will separate and after another few days of orbiting it will make a soft landing at a chosen place on the Lunar surface. The soft landing of the lander - Vikram carrying rover 'Pragyan', one of the toughest phases of the mission and described by the ISRO chief as "15 minutes of terror (filled moments)", would be attempted between September 6-8. "Chandrayaan-2 is the next leap in technology as we attempt to soft land close to South Pole of Moon. The soft landing is extremely complex and we will experience approximately 15 minutes of terror," he had said earlier. The mission, which carries a total of 13 payloads, including three from the Europe, two from the US and one Bulgaria, seeks to improve understanding of the Moon which could lead to dis-

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

coveries that will benefit India and humanity as a whole.

A Laser Retroreflector Array (LRA) of US space agency NASA is among the payloads and is aimed at understanding dynamics of Earth's Moon system and deriving clues on Lunar interior. Sivan Sunday said Chandrayaan-1 revealed the presence of water molecules and similarly there were possibilities of the latest mission returning successful scientific experiments. "It is because of these reasons that Chandrayaan-2 has attracted attention not only from the Indian scientists but also from global scientists," he said. ISRO encountered the snag on July 15 when the liquid propellant was being loaded into the rocket's indigenous cryogenic upper stage engine. Veteran scientists heaped praise on ISRO for calling off the launch rather hurrying into a major disaster. President Ram Nath Kovind was present here on July 15 to witness the launch. The launch of Chandrayaan-2 had missed its date earlier too when it was fixed for the first week of January. But it was shifted to July 15.

### SHEILA AMAR RAHE...

sector successfully accomplishing the shift from polluting vehicles to a CNG based fleet. Kejrival, who handed Dikshit her first electoral defeat in decades, was among the first to underscore the importance of the CM's contribution.

After announcing that the Delhi Government would host a State funeral for her, he wrote, "Only last month I had met her for nearly an hour when she came with her party's delegation to submit a memorandum on several issues." At the end of the meeting, I wished her good health, not knowing that this would be my last meeting with her," he said.

On Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited her residence and was accompanied by Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari. As the longest serving woman Chief Minister who steered her party to victory for three consecutive terms in 1998, 2003 and 2008, Dikshit ushered in an era of all-round development that transformed Delhi into a world class capital. She also initiated green reforms in public transport sector successfully accomplishing the shift from polluting vehicles to a CNG based fleet.

### 'NEXT EDITION'...

at Lucknow is likely to be held between February and April next year. The government tried to project the 10th edition of the biennial event as the first serious attempt to transform India into a hub of military manufacturing and pursue its goal of achieving a turnover of Rs 1,70,000 crore in military goods and services by 2025 by promoting the domestic defence industry. "The exhibition will also highlight emergence of Uttar Pradesh as an attractive destination for investment in the defence sector and act as a platform for alliances and joint ventures in the defence industry," the ministry said.

The northern state has a strong defence industrial infrastructure. It has four units of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd at Lucknow, Kanpur, Korwa and Naini (Prayagraj), nine ordnance factory units and one

production facility of defence public sector undertaking Bharat Electronics Limited at Ghaziabad. One of the two Defence Industrial Corridors (DICs) of India is also planned in Uttar Pradesh. The other DIC is proposed in Tamil Nadu. Last year, Lucknow had sent a proposal to the defence ministry to host the Aero India - considered Asia's largest aerospace exhibition. However, the government decided to not shift it from its traditional venue of Bengaluru. The Aero India took place in Bengaluru in February. The ministry said the DefExpo will provide an opportunity to the major foreign manufacturers to collaborate with the Indian defence industry and help promote the 'Make in India' initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Ministerial level delegations from the foreign countries and visitors from all over the country as well as abroad are expected to visit DefExpo and witness India's emergence as a major manufacturing hub providing attractive opportunities for co-development and co-production of defence equipment and systems not only for our defence forces but also for export to the world," the ministry said.

### 2019 LS POLL...

Experts, however, said Mamata's call for return of ballot system was an attempt to tone up the befuddled party rank and hammer home the point that TMC lost the polls not because of loss of popular support but because of the BJP's manipulation of EVMs. "She wants to pull the supporters out of this despondency and get them going," political expert BN Chakrabarty said. Stumped by a stunning saffron upsurge and confused by the ongoing cut-money movement led by the BJP in villages Banerjee directed her party men to start a counter-agitation demanding the black money the BJP leaders had earned during demonetization and implementation of the Ujjwala scheme.

Post 2019 general elections the villagers led by BJP supporters had been raiding the houses of lower-level TMC leaders demanding back the cut money they had extorted all these years to help get the benefit of government schemes.

As a counter measure Banerjee directed her party men to "catch the BJP leaders and take from Rs 15 lakh each that their party earned during demonetization and implementation of Ujjwala Yojna."

Saying that she can substantiate her claims with documentary evidence she said, "I have documents to show how the BJP distributed Ujjwala scheme in the villages of Murshidabad and other places in lieu of money."

She said, "today the BJP is raising the cut money issue but what about those thousands of crores of rupees that they spent to win the elections. From where this money came? Who gave them this money?" adding how after the elections the country was experiencing a steep inflation. "There is a steep rise in petro prices and essential commodities after the elections," she said adding there was a relation between the cash that was used by the BJP in the polls and the price rise.

against the opposition Banerjee said "whenever you raise some question they will send CBI, ED to your house. Today in Bengal they are targeting the film stars like Prasenjit and Rituparna Sengupta with agencies," alleging "the actors are being told to join the BJP" to escape Delhi's wrath. Wondering which side the Left and the Congress were in the struggle against the BJP she said "I don't want you (CPIM, Congress) support. I just only will advise you not to get purchased by the fascist forces," she said. Banerjee asked the party men to restart a movement against the BJP from July 26-27 saying "I will personally start visiting the districts from this month."

### AFTER RAVAGING...

As per data provided by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), 42,864 animals including poultry in Dhemaji district; 20,600 in Lakhimpur; 19,800 in Biswanath; 34,500 in Sonitpur; 3.87 lakh in Darrang, 1.13 lakh in Nalbari, 1.51 lakh in Majuli, 11.7 lakh in Barpeta, 3.97 lakh in Kamrup, 4.16 in Moirigaon, 2.75 lakh in Goalpara, 6.10 lakh in Dhubri and 3.69 lakh in South Salmara district are affected due to flood. Over 100 big animals washed away in the flood since July 13. Around 90 per cent of rhino habitats -- the Kaziranga National Park and the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary -- are under water and 129 animals have been reported to die so far. At least 68 camps in Kaziranga National Park are inundated. The water has started receding from the Kaziranga Park. The 430-square kilometre Park is a World Heritage site spread across two districts, Golaghat and Nagaon. It is primarily known for being home to a majority of the world's great one-horned rhinoceroses, but it is also a tiger reserve, and has large populations of elephants, buffalo and deer. The flood report of the Assam government further say that as per report, 1113 hectare crops in Lakhimpur, 1293 hectare in Biswanath, 4166 hectare in Sonitpur, 13711 hectare in Darrang, 9602 hectare in Baksa, 16377 hectare in Barpeta, 2537 hectare in Bongaigaon, 20269 hectare in Dhubri, 10089 hectare in Kamrup and 100849 hectare in moirigaon have been damaged so far. "As many as 3024 villages including 197 villages in Dimajai, 695 in Dhubri, 55 in Lakhimpur, 52 in Biswanath, 44 in Sonitpur, 201 in Darrang, 674 in Barpeta, 133 in Bongaigaon, 151 in Nagaon, 260 in Golaghat, and 143 in South Salmara has been inundated," said the flood report. In Bihar, significant number of casualties have also been reported from Araria, Madhubani, Purnea, Sheohar and Darbhanga districts. However, the situation remained grim as the Bagmati river in Bihar continued to flow above the danger mark at various places at Sitamarhi and Muzaffapur, and though the Kamala Balam river levels showed a falling trend, it was still above the danger mark in Madhubani. In Punjab, flood-like situation prevailed in at least 12 villages in Sangrur district, after an embankment of the swollen Ghaggar river collapsed, damaging the newly planted paddy crop in over 4,000 acres of land. In Kerala, the India Meteorological Department has sounded a red alert.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PARIYOJANA BHANDAR KHAND, IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, U.P. VINOBA NAGAR, JUHI, KANPUR-208014**

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**E-Procurement Short Notice Inviting Tender No. 06/EE/2019-20**

Online Quotations/ rates (inclusive of all taxes/G.S.T. w.e.f. dt. 01.07.2017) of supply of O.P.C. (43 grade) Cement IS Code 8112/2013 and P.P.C. Cement IS Code 1489/2015 at 07 destinations/stores of U.P. are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Government of Uttar Pradesh, only from original Cement manufacturers (having production capacity not less than one lakh bag per day).

The rates/quotations must be submitted online in website "https://etender.up.nic.in" under "Irrigation Department (Mechanical)" during dt. 29-07-2019 (10.00 A.M.) to till 06-08-2019 (02.00 P.M.). Received online quotations shall be opened on same date 06.08.2019 (02:30 P.M.). The all quotations may be downloaded and uploaded in requisite BOQ "Excel format" on e-procurement website "https://etender.up.nic.in" during above said period ONLY. Bidders digital signature issued by nominated agency must have to be registered for participation for e-tender process by registering in above said e-tender website.

● Remaining detail can be had from above said "e-tender website" during stipulated period

Sl.No.	Supply Supply of OPC (43 Grade) Cement IS Code No. 8112/2013 and P.P.C. Cement IS Code No. 1489/2015 as per (50 Kg. Pack) at following departmental stores including loading, transportation up to stores, unloading, stacking and all taxes (G.S.T. etc.)	Tentative Quantity of OPC (43 Grade) Cement Supply (in 50 Kg. Pack)	Tentative Quantity of P.P.C Cement Supply (in 50 Kg. Pack)	Supply Period
1	Lot No.1- LUCKNOW	1000	1000	10 days
2	Lot No.2- HARDOI	1000	1000	10 days
3	Lot No.3- AYODHYA (OLD NAME FAIZABAD)	1000	1000	10 days
4	Lot No.4- GONDA	1000	1000	10 days
5	Lot No.5- BALRAMPUR	1000	1000	10 days
6	Lot No.6- TULSIPUR	1000	1000	10 days
7	Lot No.7- PACHPEDIWA	2000	1000	10 days
8	Lot No.8- BAHRACH	1000	1000	10 days
9	Lot No.9- FARRUKHABAD	1000	1000	10 days
10	Lot No.10- ETAWAH	1500	1000	10 days
11	Lot No.11- AURIAYA	1000	1000	10 days
12	Lot No.12- KANPUR	2000	2000	10 days
13	Lot No.13- FATEHPUR	1000	1000	10 days
14	Lot No.14- PRAYAGRAJ (OLD NAME ALLAHABAD)	1000	1000	10 days
15	Lot No.15- GORAKHPUR	1000	1000	10 days
16	Lot No.16- MAHARAJGANJ	1000	1000	10 days
17	Lot No.17- MIRZAPUR	1000	1000	10 days
18	Lot No.18- VARANASI	1000	1000	10 days
19	Lot No.19- GHAZIPUR	1000	1000	10 days
20	Lot No.20- ROBERTSGANJ	1000	1000	10 days
21	Lot No.21- PIPRI (DISTT. SONBHADRA)	1000	1000	10 days
22	Lot No.22- JHANSI	1000	1000	10 days
23	Lot No.23- ORAI	1000	1000	10 days
24	Lot No.24- LALITPUR	1000	1000	10 days
25	Lot No.25- BANDA	1000	1000	10 days
26	Lot No.26- HARPALPUR	2000	1000	10 days
27	Lot No.27- MAHOBA	1000	1000	10 days
28	Lot No.28- BASTI	1000	1000	10 days

**NOTE-**

- In case of irregular/ untimely supply by lowest bidder next supply order could be given to other bidder in lowest rate.
- Above mentioned quantity of supply of Cement may be increased/ decreased as per requirement.
- The rates shall remain valid till dated 05.09.2019
- All taxes should be included in rates.
- Conditional quotations are liable to be rejected.

Executive Engineer  
Pariyojana Bhandar Khand, Kanpur

UP-142258 Dt. 19.7.19 डिजिटल वेबसाइट [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

## SCHOOLSCAN



### CMS TEAM LEAVES FOR MAURITIUS

A 23-member delegation of City Montessori School comprising students and teachers of Kanpur Road branch and Aliganj Campus I left for Mauritius to participate in 'Quality Youth Initiative Summit'. Prior to their departure, the delegation was bid farewell by the teachers and parents. Mauritian Society for Quality Control Circle and World Council for Total Quality and Excellence in Education are jointly organising the international event from July 22 to 27. It will be attended by students and quality experts from around the world. Student members of the delegation are Ananya Patel, Rimi Patel, Shashwat Patel, Shiva Patel, Shivangi Patel, Yashasvi Patel, Rahul Arora, Shringarika Gupta, Suhani Tripathi, Jyothsna Gurnani, Lavanya Sisodiya, Ayushi Kesarwani, Jahnavi Shukla, Harish Singh Verma, Shreyash Kumar Singh, Priyanshi Kishor, Anshika Gupta, Kashish Nigam, and Tumul Shukla.

### WORLD UNITY SATSANG

Speaking at the World Unity Satsang, organised at City Montessori School's Gombi Nagar auditorium on Sunday, founder-director of CMS Bharti Gandhi said that God had created humans because he loved their existence and his creation. "God never likes indulging in any kind of violence. People must be very careful while speaking, behaving or doing any inhuman act," she said.

# HDK Govt's fate likely to be decided today

PNS ■ BENGALURU/NEW DELHI

The exit of Congress-JD(S) coalition Government seemed imminent when the trial of strength in the Karnataka Assembly takes place expectedly on Monday.

While 11 Congress rebel MLAs released a video on Sunday claiming they would not attend the Assembly proceedings, two independent MLAs have petitioned Supreme Court to direct the Speaker to wind up the vote of confidence process 5 pm on Monday.

The Kumaraswamy Government, on the edge for last one month, had on July 19 defied the two deadlines set by Governor Vajubhai Vala to prove its majority on the floor of the House.

Hoping for some kind of relief from the Supreme Court, the ruling coalition, mean-

while, was making last ditch efforts to win back unrelenting rebel lawmakers.

Kumaraswamy and the Congress had moved the Supreme Court on Friday, accusing the Governor of interfering with the Assembly proceedings when the debate on the trust vote was underway and sought clarification on its July 17 order, which they said, caused hindrance in issuing whip to the legislators.

The Assembly was adjourned till Monday after the Governor's 1.30 PM deadline and the second one to conclude the confidence motion process by Friday itself was ignored, prolonging the instability and suspense on the possible survival of the coalition Government.

As the first deadline neared on Friday, the ruling coalition questioned the Governor's



power to issue such a direction, with Kumaraswamy citing a Supreme Court verdict that a Governor cannot act as ombudsman of the legislature.

The Governor's second missive was dismissed as a "love letter" by Kumaraswamy, who criticised Vala for talking about horse-trading now "when it had been happening" for the last several days.

However, before adjourning the House on Friday, Speaker Ramesh Kumar extracted a "commitment" from the coalition that the motion of confidence would reach finality on Monday, even as he made it clear that it would not be prolonged further under any circumstances.

If the ruling coalition tries to delay the proceedings on Monday also, all eyes will be on the next move by the Governor, who has been keeping the

Centre posted on the curious ups and downs in the state.

The "delay" in completing the trust vote process was seen as an attempt by the ruling coalition aimed at buying time to woo back rebel MLAs, herded down in a Mumbai hotel allegedly by the BJP to protect them from poaching by the ruling coalition, whose resignation has pushed the government to the brink of collapse.

There are about 13 MLAs of the Congress and the JDS who have resigned from the assembly and are apparently no mood to go to the ruling alliance as the Congress has accused the BJP of horse trading and conspiring to destabilize the state coalition government of the state.

BJP State president BS Yeddyurappa on Sunday expressed confidence that Monday would be the last day

of the Kumaraswamy led coalition Government.

"As Siddaramaiah, Speaker and Kumaraswamy have said that they will seek majority on Monday, I am 100 per cent confident that things will reach a conclusion.

"The SC has clearly said in its order that under no circumstances should the 15 MLAs staying in Mumbai be compelled to attend the current assembly session", he said.

It has clearly stated that it is left to them (MLAs) whether they want to attend it or not," the former chief minister said.

He emphasised that whip has no value in such a situation, which the ruling party leaders too know. As Yeddyurappa has called the meeting of party's legislature party on Monday, Congress held a detailed strategy session in a hotel at Bengaluru on Sunday.

## D Raja appointed CPI gen secy unanimously

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha member D Raja was selected unanimously as the general secretary of the Communist Party of India (CPI) on Sunday. The veteran leader, who replaced S Sudhakar Reddy, is the first one from Dalit community to head the party.

Reddy stepped down due to health reasons and the recently concluded CPI's National Council decided to select Raja.

Asserting that the party's fight against "retrograde" forces would continue, Raja said, "The country is going through a critical period under the fascist regime of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Left might have lost seats in the Lok Sabha election and might have been reduced to a smaller force in Parliament, but it does not mean that we have shrunk within the country or our ideological and political influence has shrunk."

Raja said the Left parties would continue to fight against the "retrograde policies" of the present government. "The BJP government may have won the electoral battle but not the social or the political one. We want all communist parties to come together. We will have to rework our strategies. That's what our parties are trying to do," he said.

Doraisamy Raja (70), popularly known as D Raja was unanimously chosen as Reddy's



successor at a three-day meeting of the CPI National Council, the top decision-making body of the party, earlier this week.

Reddy, who stepped down as the CPI general secretary due to ill health, was also present at the press conference. Raja hailing from Tamil Nadu was National Secretary of CPI for past 15 years and became Rajya Sabha MP in 2007 and reelected on 2013. His 12 year long tenure in Rajya Sabha is ending on July 24. His wife Annie Raja is also a CPI leader and is general secretary of CPI's women's wing National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW).

## LJP MP Ramchandra Paswan passes away

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Janshakti Party MP from Bihar's Samastipur Ramchandra Paswan died on Sunday afternoon following a brief illness. He was 57.

Ramchandra Paswan, the younger brother of Union Minister and LJP chief Ram Vilas Paswan, breathed his last at 1.24 pm at the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital here.

He was admitted to the hospital last week after suffering a heart attack.

The body will be kept at his residence in New Delhi and on Monday, at the LJP office in Patna for paying last respects. He will be cremated in the Bihar capital on Monday evening. He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

"With profound sadness, I am informing that my dearest and youngest brother Ramchandra Paswan, MP Lok Sabha has passed away today at 1.24 pm in Dr Rammanohar Lohia Hospital, Delhi," Ram Vilas Paswan said.

"The body will then be taken to Patna, where it will be kept at Lok Janshakti Party's office there from 11 am to 3 pm for paying

the last respects. He will be cremated at 4 pm in Patna," he said. President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla



Union Home Minister Amit Shah pays his last respects to Lok Janshakti Party MP Ram Chandra Paswan at his residence in New Delhi. Ram Chandra Paswan died at the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in Delhi due to cardiac arrest. He was 56 PTI

were among those who con- doled his death.

Ramchandra Paswan was a four-time MP and was first elected in 1999.

He was re-elected to the Lok Sabha in 2004 and then again for the third time in 2014.

In May 2019, he was elected to the Lower House of Parliament from Samastipur in Bihar for the fourth time on a LJP ticket.

"Sad to hear of the passing of Shri Ram Chandra Paswan, MP (LS) from Samastipur, Bihar. He remained committed to serving those at the grass-roots and contributed much to the well being of the people of Bihar. Condolences to his family, constituents and colleagues," President Kovind tweeted. The vice-president said, "I express my condolences on the untimely demise of Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan's brother and Lok Sabha MP Ram Chandra Paswan ji."

## Bangladesh Home Minister to visit India on August 7

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan will visit India on August 7 during which he will hold bilateral talks with Home Minister Amit Shah, who is expected to flag issues like illegal immigration and anti-terror cooperation, officials said. Khan will have bilateral talks with the Home Minister on August 7 when issues concerning both the countries will be discussed thereabout.

India is expected to take tough stand on the issue of

**India is expected to take tough stand on the issue of unabated illegal immigration from Bangladesh**

unabated illegal immigration from Bangladesh.

Anti-terror cooperation, movement of illegal immigrants, and smuggling of cattle, arms and ammunition and a few other issues are expected to be discussed in Shah's dialogue

with Khan. Radicalisation of youths and Rohingya refugees issues may also figure in the talks. The delegation-level talks will also be attended by top internal security officials of India and Bangladesh.

During the delegation-level dialogue, steps to be taken to strengthen the existing mechanism to check movement of illegal immigrants and smuggling of cattle, narcotics and other items through the porous Indo-Bangla border will figure prominently, another official said. India shares a 4,096-km-long border with Bangladesh.

## Modi Govt 2.0 sets sights on making India \$5 trillion economy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Modi Government has underlined its priorities in the first 50 days of its second term, setting sights on making India a \$5 trillion economy and hitting the ground running on spurring growth.

Two persons in the know of the government policy making said the dispensation truly feels that transformative changes can be brought about only through economic growth and inclusive development.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was sworn-in on May 30

after the BJP won 303 seats — the first time since 1971 that an incumbent government returned to power with such a thumping mandate.

The government was off the blocks on day one and set the ball rolling on manifesto promises such as pension schemes for farmers, small traders and unorganised workers, extension of PM-KISAN to all farmers, and setting up of a Jal Shakti Ministry, say political observers.

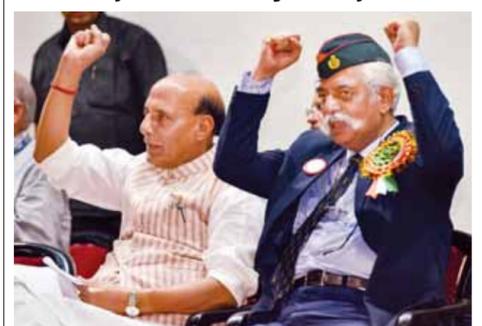
Just days after coming to power, the government spelled out its key priorities in the bud-

get which was focused on laying the foundation for making India a \$5 trillion economy and doubling farmers' income, the two persons in the know of the government's policy making said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her budget speech, said in the current fiscal, India's economy will grow to become \$3 trillion economy, sixth largest in world.

The minister had emphasised the need for structural reforms for achieving \$5 trillion economy.

## Will do best to ensure no harm comes to pride, honour of our jawans, says Rajnath



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Major General Gagan Deep Bakshi chant patriotic slogans at a function to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, in New Delhi on Sunday PTI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Lauding the heroes of the Kargil war, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said he will do his best to ensure that no harm comes to the pride and honour of the soldiers. Addressing a gathering of war veterans, Kargil war widows and others at an event held here to commemorate 20 years of Operation Vijay, Singh also asserted that people's "faith in armed forces has increased".

"Whatever we can do to honour our martyrs is less. We honour them and salute the war widows present here. We feel proud of our soldiers," he said. He also shared his experiences of visiting Drass on Saturday, where he paid homage to fallen soldiers at the Kargil War Memorial.

"I can only say this from my

side that I will do my best and whatever is possible to ensure that no harm comes to the honour, pride and esteem of our jawans," the defence minister said.

He also said a man could compromise with other things, but not with his pride and honour. "That pride ('swabhiman') could be personal, social or nationalistic (rashtriya swabhiman)". It was with this sense of pride that 18-year-olds and 20-year-olds had embraced the gallows during the freedom struggle," Singh said.

During his Kargil visit, he was given a detailed presentation on Operation Vijay, the defence minister said.

Operation Vijay was the name given to India's limited war against Pakistan after the neighbouring country infiltrated in 1999.

## CRPF gets sanction to install sanitary pad dispensers for women in combat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After unveiling full body protectors for the women troopers in the CRPF, the paramilitary has now decided to install over 500 sanitary pad dispensers and incinerators across the formations across the country to help them in ensuring personal hygiene with ease.

The Union Home Ministry has sanctioned funds to the CRPF to procure and install the equipment for the combatised women in the Force.

As many as 288 sanitary pad vending machines and as many incinerators to scientifically dispose off used sanitary napkins will be installed in the CRPF campuses.

The Ministry has also authorized the CRPF to acquire 783 steel frame stands for dry-



ing clothes for all its six 'mahila' battalions, 15 special anti-riot units of the Rapid Action

Force and training institutions. With an outlay of ₹2,10,69,000 these equipment

will be installed as one sanitary pad vending machine costs ₹25,000, a burning machine

about ₹40,000 and a cloth drying stand ₹3,000, officials said.

The acquisition of these equipment will help the force in ensuring better living and operating conditions for the over 8,000 women personnel in its ranks. The budgeting for gender-sensitive facilities is expected to be extended to other paramilitary forces as well as the Union Home Ministry has been pitching in for the inclusion of women in all the paramilitary forces.

The idea for gender sensitive budgeting and creation of an enabling environment for women in uniformed ranks was first mooted during the 'National Conference for women in Police' in 2016. The conference was organised by the Union Home Ministry in the national capital.

IPS officer Renuka Mishra,

# With demise of Sheila, Cong loses tallest leader

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

It was in 1998 when Sheila Dikshit was asked by the Congress president Sonia Gandhi to take the reins of a highly divided Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC). She accepted the challenge and took on the then formidable city unit of the BJP and ensured victory for her party. Congress was brought back to power and therein started her dream run as the Chief Minister of Delhi. Credited with transforming the landscape of the national Capital, she ushered in an era of good governance with public participation.

Before being pitch forked into the conundrum of Delhi politics, she had served as Minister of State in Prime Minister's office during Rajiv Gandhi regime. When she took over the charge of Delhi Congress from veteran Dalit leader Chaudhary Prem Singh, she was billed as a rank outsider. She proved her detractors wrong and defeated the combined might of BJP with lead-

ers like former chief ministers Madan Lal Khurana, Sahib Singh Verma, Sushma Swaraj, former Chief Executive Councillor Prof VK Malhotra, Prof OP Kohli and Jagdish Mukhi. It was a momentous victory for Congress led by Sheila Dikshit despite leaders like Sajjan Kumar, Jagdish Tytler and Subhash Chopra, owing allegiance to HCL Bhagat trying to destabilize her.

During her tenure as Chief Minister, Delhi Congress unit saw many chiefs but the DPCC had become synonymous to Dikshit as he had a major say in organisational matters. Since 2013, the Congress, once in a pole position, was relegated to the third position in every major election that it contested in Delhi. Congress was effectively finished in 2013 with the emergence of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). She bowed out of the Delhi political scene after her uninterrupted rule from 1998-2013 came to an end as she lost her Gole Market Assembly constituency to Arvind Kejriwal and Congress being pushed to third spot with just eight



Irrespressible Sheila Dikshit after filing her last nomination papers for the Northeast Delhi Lok Sabha seat in the 2019 general election Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Assembly seats. Arvind Kejriwal led AAP won a landslide in 2015 Delhi Assembly elections and Congress was vanquished from the national capital territory. For first time since 1993, the grand old party had failed to win even a single seat in Delhi Assembly elections.

Dikshit was away from the fight in 2015 and the reins of Delhi Congress were with her former minister Arvinder Singh Lovely. After Congress failed to register its presence during municipal polls under the stewardship of former Union Minister Ajay Maken, the All India Congress Committee (AICC) once again turned to Sheila Dikshit to revive the fortunes of the party.

She was brought back again to head the DPCC in 2018 with the specific mandate to revive the party. She fought a spirited election and brought back Congress to 2nd position in five out of seven Lok Sabha seats in the city.

Despite Congress putting up an improved show in the Lok Sabha elections, her detractors

in the party were after her. She had to contend with the Delhi affairs in-charge PC Chacko who did not like her decision to dissolve block and district level committees. While she was battling for life at Fortis Escorts hospital, Chacko issued a terse worded order to criticise her 'unilateral action' and revived all the block and district level Congress committees that were dissolved by Dikshit. She did not live to fight her last political battle and breathed her last on Saturday at 3.55 pm.

With her passing away, Delhi Congress has lost its tallest leader. On Sunday Sheila Dikshit's body was taken to the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee's office for the last time, the place that was central to her politics since 1998.

Emotional party workers bid her final adieu and everybody present there had tears rolling down their cheeks. Many waxed eloquent about her affable nature and easygoing nature. With Sheila Dikshit (81), gone to her heavenly abode, the politics of Delhi Congress would never be the same again.

# Ex-BJP Delhi chief passes away at 83

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Former Delhi Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) president Mange Ram Garg passed away at a city hospital on Sunday morning. The demise of Garg, 83, was mourned by senior party leaders along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi who described him as a party man with deep connect with Delhi who selflessly served its people.

"Mange Ram Garg ji had a deep connect with Delhi and that was seen in the manner in which he selflessly served the people of the city. He played a pivotal role in strengthening BJP in Delhi. His demise is saddening. My thoughts are with his family and supporters. Om Shanti," Modi tweeted.

BJP National president and Home Minister Amit Shah said that he was all along his life worked dedicatedly to the service of the people. "From the time of Jansangh till date he was serving people of Delhi. His sudden demise is a big loss which cannot be compensated," he said.

Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari said that Mange Ram Garg greatly contributed in the expansion of the party and for the raising of the problems of the people is unparalleled and this was the reason why BJP has won many elections.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has also condoled the demise of Garg. He died around 7.30 AM at Action Balaji Hospital in Paschim Vihar, north Delhi. He was not keeping much well due to age-related issues. Garg's mortal remains were taken to his residence in Ashok Vihar from where it was taken to Delhi BJP office at Pant Marg, said party leaders.

A large number of party leaders and workers gathered at the Delhi BJP office to pay their condolences. Garg had pledged his organs to the 'Dadhichi Deh Dan Samiti' for which his body will be taken to Lady Hardinge Medical College hospital at 1 pm, family members said.

# Interpersonal skills, ability to iron out differences were strongest qualities: Cong leaders

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Interpersonal skills and the ability to iron out differences through talks were Sheila Dikshit's strongest qualities and also key to her long stint as Chief Minister, Delhi Congress leaders said.

Dikshit, one of Congress's tallest leaders and a three-time Delhi chief minister, passed away on Saturday and her mortal remains were consigned to flames on Sunday, with colleagues, party workers and admirers braving heavy rains and gusty winds to bid her final farewell. Known as a warm and affable politician, Dikshit could get along well with politicians from all parties for which she drew widespread respect.

Haroon Yusuf, who was a Minister in Dikshit's Cabinet from 2001 to 2013 and handled portfolios like transport and food and civil supplies, said she loved to serve food and would often invite her Cabinet colleagues for breakfast when many issues would be resolved.

"Delhi has its own limitations and she was aware of it. She never adopted the



Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, her daughter and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and senior leader Ahmed Patel at Nigambodh Ghat crematorium Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

approach of confrontation. Instead she believed in persuasion that helped her get work done whenever it was stuck with the Centre or with the bureaucracy," Yusuf, who is the acting president of the Delhi Congress, said.

Dikshit was the president of the Delhi Congress and the 81-year-old had served as chief

minister for 15 years from 1998-2013.

He recalled how despite having difference of opinion with the Lieutenant Governor on some issues as chief minister, she never let it come out in the public. Veteran Delhi Congress leader and five-time MP Jai Prakash Agarwal said she had the ability to iron out



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, his deputy Manish Sisodia and Health Minister Satyender Jain at Nigambodh Ghat crematorium to attend the last rites of former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer



Union Home Minister Amit Shah attends the cremation of departed leader Sheila Dikshit Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer



Departed leader Sheila Dikshit's son Sandeep Dikshit, daughter Lalika at Nigambodh Ghat on Sunday Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

differences when views on any subject varied.

Agarwal, who served as the Delhi Pradesh Congress chief during Dikshit's tenure as CM, recalls how she would call him up the next morning if the two had difference of views on a certain subject.

"Either she would call me to her residence or office or she would come down to meet me and sort out the difference, whatever it may be. She had

the ability to forget things...She had a big heart," Agarwal said.

"She never brought the situation to a level where striking a dialogue with anyone was not possible," he said. This quality helped her be Delhi chief minister for 15 years. Even bureaucrats were happy with her way of working, Agarwal said.

Haroon Yusuf recalled former Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit as someone

who loved to host people for breakfast, and advised him the same when an officer posted under his department was "difficult" to deal with.

Yusuf, who was a minister in Dikshit's Cabinet from 2001-13 and handled portfolios like civil and food supplies and transport, went to her with a concern over the officer who was known for not performing. I went to Dikshit with a request to give me another officer. She (Dikshit) said nothing can be done as she had already spoken to the Lieutenant Governor, who had denied the request," Yusuf said.

The former Delhi chief minister said there was no option but to get the work done through the concerned officer. "She told me to invite the officer for breakfast the next day," Yusuf said.

The trick worked, the Congress leader recollected and he along with the officer could execute different projects. Yusuf said Dikshit herself hosted people, including her Cabinet colleagues, for breakfast. "She loved to serve the breakfast herself," he recalled.

# Tight security arrangements for Tripura panchayat polls

**Agartala:** Tight security arrangements have been made for Tripura panchayat elections and more than one thousand polling booths have been identified as "sensitive", a senior police officer has said.

Elections to the three-tier panchayat polls in Tripura would be held on July 27. Ballot papers would be used in the rural polls.

Tripura State Rifles (TSR) personnel and 17 companies of BSF and CRPF would be deployed in all the 1,848 polling booths of which 1,172 have been identified as sensitive, Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), Arindam

Nath told a press conference here on Saturday.

The DIG said 17 cases of poll violence have been registered in the state till July 20.

The BJP has won 85 per cent of the seats uncontested in the panchayat polls in Tripura.

"Of the total 6,646 seats comprising gram panchayats, panchayat samities and zilla parishads, the BJP has won 5,652 seats uncontested," secretary of the state Election Commission (SEC), Prasenjit Bhattacharya has said.

Polling will now be held for around 850 gram panchayats, 85 panchayat samities

and 80 zilla parishad seats, Bhattacharya said.

Tripura has a total 591 gram panchayats having 6,111 seats, 35 panchayat samities with 419 seats and eight zilla parishads having 116 seats, he said.

Altogether, 12,03,070 voters, including 6,16,893 male and 5,86,176 women will exercise their franchise at 2,623 polling stations between 7 am to 4 pm on the polling day.

"White ballot papers would be used for gram panchayat polls, pink ones for panchayat samities and green papers for zilla parishads," the SEC secretary said. **PTI**

# Rohingya Muslims' attempt to enter Tripura prevented

**Agartala:** The Border Security Force (BSF) on Saturday said the force has thwarted an attempt of at least 12 Rohingya Muslims to enter into Indian territory through Tripura from Bangladesh.

Two men, five women and as many children had tried to enter Sipahijala district, about 50 km from here.

"Our troops thwarted their attempts to enter into our territory through Futia village in the international border on Thursday. We have successfully prevented their entry. They are still on the zero line," BSF

Deputy Inspector General C L Belwa said.

A company commander-level flag meeting was held two days back on this with Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) which was followed by a battalion commander-level meeting, he said.

"We have seized biscuits and soft drinks from their (Rohingyas) possession, which were manufactured in Bangladesh. These were provided by the World Food Programme, at Cox's Bazar refugee camp in Bangladesh," he said. **PTI**

# Stop killing innocents, rise against those who looted Kashmir: Malik

**Srinagar:** In a statement likely to give way to a controversy, Jammu & Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik on Sunday asked militants to stop killing innocent people, including security personnel, and rather target "those who have looted the wealth of Kashmir for years".

"These boys who have picked up guns are killing their own people, they are killing PSOs (personal security officer) and SPOs (special police officers). Why are you killing them? Kill those who have looted the wealth of Kashmir. Have you killed any of them?" Malik asked, speaking at a tourism function in Kargil of Ladakh region.

However, the Governor was quick to add that guns could never be the solution and cited the example of LTTE in Sri Lanka.

"The government of India will never go down before a gun," he said, asking the militants to not take the route of violence.

Taking a veiled dig at mainstream politicians, he said these leaders talk a different language in Delhi and different one in Kashmir.

"They should speak in one language at both places and need not scare us," he said.

The Governor was speaking at the inauguration of Kargil Ladakh Tourism Festival-2019

at Khree Sultan Cho Sports Stadium Kargil.

The Governor said the twin districts of Kargil and Leh have huge tourism potential and said more such tourism festivals were needed.

He said the Kargil Airport's expansion work will begin soon and that ₹200 crore has been sanctioned for it. This will not only provide round-the-year connectivity but also give a new dimension to the tourism sector in the region, Malik said.

The Governor said the state administration is committed for the holistic development of Ladakh division and concrete measures were being pursued towards this goal. **PTI**

# Over 4000 pilgrims leave Jammu for Amarnath Yatra

**Jammu:** The 20th batch comprising 4158 pilgrims including 1137 women and 260 sadhus Sunday left Bhagwati Nagar base camp here to offer prayers at the 3,880 metre high holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

As many as 2,59,889 yatrias had visited the cave shrine, housing the naturally formed ice-shivlingam, till Saturday evening since the commencement of the annual 46-day yatra on July 1. The pilgrimage is scheduled to end on August 15, coinciding Raksha Bandhan festival, they said.

A fleet of 156 vehicles carrying the latest batch, which also included 19 children, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp under tight security arrange-

ments in the early hours Sunday and will be reaching the twin base camps of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district later in the day, the officials said.

While 2139 pilgrims including 751 women and 16 children are registered for Baltal route, the rest of 2019 pilgrims including 386 women, three children and 260 sadhus are heading for Pahalgam to undertake the yatra from there.

The yatra is going on smoothly from both the tracks — traditional 36-km Pahalgam and shorter 14-km Baltal route, the officials said. As many as 2,85,006 lakh pilgrims had paid obeisance at the shrine last year, while the number of pilgrims was 2,60,003 in 2017, 3,20,490 in 2016 and 3,52,771 in 2015. **PTI**

# INDIANS ONBOARD SEIZED BRITISH TANKER IN IRAN

# Kerala CM appeals to Centre for security

**Thiruvananthapuram/Kochi:** Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Sunday urged the Centre to take all possible efforts to secure the release of Indian nationals including four Keralites on board a British-flagged oil tanker seized by the Gulf country in the Strait of Hormuz.

In a letter to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, he asked the ministry to share the details of the persons aboard the ship so that their families could be helped.

"I request that all possible efforts to ensure the safety of the crew be made and the relevant details of persons may be shared with the state government so that their family members can be contacted and we can be of help in their hour of crisis," Vijayan said in the letter, the copy of which was released to the media here. Congress MP Hibi Eden,



Representational image

representing Ernakulam constituency, also sought urgent intervention of the Central government for release of the Indian nationals.

Eden visited the family of Diyo Pappachan, a crew member on board the seized tanker,

here. Family of Pappachan hailing from Kalamassery here said the tanker owners have informed them that Diyo was onboard the seized oil tanker.

Asked about the reports that two more people from

Ernakulam district were among the crew, Eden said there was no official information so far.

Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan had said on Saturday diplomatic efforts

were on to secure the release of Indian nationals on board the tanker.

"We are waiting for response from Iranian authorities," Muraleedharan had told reporters in Kuthiran in Thrissur district Saturday evening.

India had said Saturday that it was in touch with Iran to secure release of the Indians on board the British-flagged oil tanker seized by the Gulf country in the Strait of Hormuz.

"We are ascertaining further details on the incident. Our Mission is in touch with the Government of Iran to secure the early release and repatriation of Indian nationals," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar had said in response to a question on the detention of Indian crew members along with the oil tanker Stena Impero by Iranian authorities.

According to a media report, 18 Indian nationals are among the 23 crew members of the British-flagged oil tanker seized by Iran amid fresh escalation of tensions in the Gulf region.

The Stena Impero was seized on Friday by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard.

Iran's seizure of a British-flagged oil tanker was allegedly due to a collision with an Iranian fishing boat, Iran's official news agency IRNA had said.

"There are 18 Indian and five crew members from Russia, the Philippines, Latvia and other countries on board of Stena Impero. The captain is Indian, but the tanker is UK-flagged," the news agency quoted Allahmorad Afifypour, director general of Ports and Maritime Affairs of Hormuzgan province, as saying. **PTI**

BELEAGUERED FADNAVIS ON CM'S POST

# 'Have already said I'll return for 2nd-term'

**Mumbai:** Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday said he was the Chief Minister of not only the BJP but also the allies in the State Government and exuded confidence that he would return for a second-term to the top post.

The post of Chief Minister has been a bone of contention between the BJP and the Shiv Sena and leaders from both the parties have spoken out of turn on it.

"I am Chief Minister of not only the BJP but also the Shiv Sena, RPI, Rashtriya Samaj Paksh (all allies in the state government). People will decide who will be the next chief minister. You need not worry. Our work will speak for us," he told party workers at the state executive meeting held here.

"I have already said this that I will return," Fadnavis said.

"Some people are raking up the issue of the Chief Minister's post. Don't fall into this trap. There are people from both parties who speak unnecessarily," he said.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut Sunday evening said there was no dispute between the two parties regarding the chief minister's post.

"There is no dispute over the chief minister's post

between the Shiv Sena and BJP," he told PTI, but refused to elaborate.

Raut also refused to comment on Fadnavis' statement that he was the "chief minister of the BJP and the Shiv Sena" and that he would return to the top post after the state polls.

Recently, there was also talk of Yuva Sena chief Aaditya Thackeray being the Sena's pick for the chief minister's post.

In response, Thackeray had said, "It is the people who will have to decide whether I am ready to occupy the post or not. I can't talk about it as this is the only thing which is not in my hand."

Thackeray was speaking to a news channels Friday during his 'Jan Ashirwad' yatra in north Maharashtra.

The two parties are expected to fight on equal number of seats, and some Sena leaders have routinely stressed that "equal power sharing" also meant sharing the chief minister's post for identical tenures.

Fadnavis said the 2019 Assembly polls in the state would be fought in alliance (with the Sena and other parties) and discussions on seat-sharing would be held soon.

Alaying fears that influx of leaders from other parties into the BJP would put old-timers at a disadvantage, Fadnavis said it was about inducting

good people from other outfits.

"If they wish to join us, our people shouldn't be disturbed. Eight-five per cent (of BJP) candidates in the (2019) Lok Sabha polls were our people," he said.

He told workers not to be complacent post the massive mandate the BJP got in the Lok Sabha polls, as the Assembly elections in the state would be a different battleground.

"Since the battleground is different, our strategy will also have to be different. Don't be complacent and take people for granted," he said.

The chief minister told the gathering that they should be satisfied with the development currently on under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi instead of vying for posts.

He asked partymen not to seek tickets or recommend names as the criteria for nomination was fixed, adding that "we will fight each seat to win".

"The Congress' national, state and Mumbai president have been defeated in the Lok Sabha polls. The NCP president accepted defeat even before the election and the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi also suffered defeat. Defeat doesn't mean insult. Let us train our opponents on how to function as the opposition for 10-15 years," he said.

PTI

# Modi Government has changed India, brought 'achchhe din': Nadda

**Mumbai:** BJP working president JP Nadda on Sunday said the country has changed under the Narendra Modi-led Government which has brought "good days" in the last five years.

He said when the BJP says it aims at a "Congress-mukt Bharat" (India free of Congress), it means it wants a country free of corruption.

"Achhe din ayenge' (good days will come) and 'Desh badal raha hai' (the country is changing) were the slogans of the BJP's campaign in 2014. We would like to remind the people that good days have arrived and the country has already changed in the last five years," he said, addressing the BJP's Maharashtra state executive committee meeting here.

At the meeting, he highlighted the Modi government's achievements in health sector, poverty elevation, infrastructure, agriculture and rural development.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has changed the "political culture" of the country, he said.

He said when the BJP says it wants a 'Congress-mukt Bharat', it means a country free of "corruption and commission".

"By saying Congress-mukt, we don't mean the party as such. 'BJP-yukt' means development-oriented. It means focus on service and development and work at the grassroots level and not work for self-pro-

motion," Nadda said.

"Modi's victories in 2014 and 2019 are a rejection of the vote bank and caste politics," he said, adding that "look globally, act locally", should be the motto of BJP workers.

Before 2014, India's image abroad was that of a corrupt country which suffered foreign policy paralysis and lacked direction, he claimed.

"Now, people of Indian origin abroad and those living here feel proud to be Indian," he said, pointing out that Modi has been conferred awards for his achievements by countries like the UAE, Israel, Russia and Saudi Arabia.

The Modi government's cleanliness drive was mocked, but the prime minister was given the 'Champion of the Earth' award by the United Nations, he said.

Nadda asked BJP workers to focus on strengthening the party at the booth level.

Earlier, newly-appointed state BJP chief Chandrakant Patil urged the party workers to focus on poll preparations for all 288 assembly seats in the state.

"Let's leave the alliance talks and seat-sharing to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and party chief Amit Shah. Let's strengthen the BJP at the booth-level in the state. Even if our allies contest particular seats, our booth structure will ensure their victory. Let's focus only on this," he said.

PTI

# Mizoram's lone surviving INA member, dies at 99

**Aizawl:** Darthawma, the lone surviving Mizo member of Subhash Chandra Bose's Indian National Army (INA), died of multi-organ failure in south Mizoram's Lunglei on Sunday morning, his family said.

He was 99. The freedom fighter's last rites were performed at Lunglei, 170 km from here, this afternoon.

It was attended by representatives from the district administration, Army, paramilitary forces, non-governmental organisations and Ex-Servicemen.

He is survived by six children, 19 grandchildren and 28 great grandchildren.

Darthawma had joined the Army Medical Corps of the British Indian Army on November 27, 1940 during the World War 2 and was captured by the Japanese Imperial Army in early 1942 during his posting at Malaysia's Penang Island.

He joined the INA in May 1942 to fight against the British colonial rule.

Two years after joining the INA, Darthawma was captured by the British in 1944 but was released from Lucknow Jail on January 15, 1945 following the intervention of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Indian Government awarded him the 'Tamrapatra Award' in 1972 for his role in the struggle for Indian independence.

# Bengal BJP dares Mamata to name CBI officers who 'threatened' TMC leaders

**Kolkata:** West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh dared Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday to name the CBI officers, who had allegedly threatened TMC leaders to join the saffron camp.

Addressing the Martyrs' Day rally here on Sunday, Banerjee, who is also the Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo, alleged that central agencies were threatening leaders and elected representatives of her party to "get in touch" with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) or face a jail term in chit fund scams.

She, however, did not name any central agency.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) are separately probing two multi-crore-rupee Ponzi scheme cases in West Bengal.

Ghosh said the chief minister was "trying to malign the CBI" as she was afraid of the investigations being conducted into the chit fund scams.

"Today, she (Banerjee) alleged that CBI officers had asked her party workers to get in touch with the BJP or face imprisonment in connection with the chit fund scams. I challenge her to name the CBI officers, who threatened her party leaders."

"If she is unable to name any officer, she should refrain from making baseless allegations," he said at a press conference here.

Reacting to Banerjee's allegation that the BJP was luring TMC MLAs with Rs two crore in cash and a petrol pump, Ghosh said none of them, not even the chief minister, had such a high "market value".

Banerjee alleged on Sunday that the saffron party was trying to "replicate Karnataka's horse-trading model" in Bengal by offering Rs two crore in cash and a petrol pump each to her party MLAs.

"None of the TMC MLAs has such a high market value. Even if they stand idle on the road, no one would be interested in buying them. Not even Banerjee has such a high market value," the state BJP chief said.

Responding to the TMC supremo's statement that a probe would be ordered to ascertain if state BJP leaders were taking commissions to extend the benefits of the Centre's Ujjwala scheme to the beneficiaries, he said the allegation was bereft of truth.

"She has been saying this for the last few years. Why didn't she take any action in the matter all this while? No BJP leader is involved in any scam. Paying 'cut' money to TMC leaders, however, has become a way of life in Bengal," Ghosh asserted.

He claimed that the rally organised by the TMC annually witnessed the lowest turnout in its history this year.

# 1 dead in fire at building near Taj Mahal Hotel

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

One person was killed and 14 others were rescued on Sunday afternoon when fire broke in an old dilapidated building located behind Taj Mahal Hotel on Merry Weather Road at Colaba in south Mumbai. Two persons, including a fireman, were injured in the mishap.

Though the cause of the fire has not been established yet, informed sources attributed the mishap to a possible electric short-circuit.

The fire, which broke out in a third floor flat of Church Chamber Building at around 12.10 pm, spread to stair case of the second floor of the ground plus three-storey structure. "The fire was confined to electric wiring, electric installation, furniture, household articles in residential flat on 3rd floor with Loft in an area about approx.5000 sq.ft and staircase



Firefighters attempt to douse a fire at Churchill Chamber building near Taj Mahal hotel in Mumbai on Sunday

of the 2nd floor," a senior fire official said.

One Sham Iyer (54), a resident of the flat where fire broke out, went back inside the flat after his family members ran out, to extinguish and got trapped in the blaze, before the fire brigade arrived on the scene.

During the subsequent search of the flat, Iyer was found with critical burn wounds on his back. Iyer was rushed to GT Hospital, when he was declared upon arrival. Another injured resident, identified as one Yusuf Punawala is undergoing treatment at the Bombay Hospital.

A fireman Bhurmal Santosh Patil from Mandvi Fire Station suffered suffocation while undertaking rescue operation. He was treated inside an ambulance near the mishap site and allowed to go.

The fire brigade personnel battled with fire and smoke for three hours, before bringing the situation under control. They used four fire fighting jets, four fire engines, two Turn Table Ladders and one Angus ladder in the operation.

Of those rescued, five persons – including two girls and a boy – were brought out in a suffocated state from the loft of third floor, while two others were rescued with the help of Angus Ladder – a 45 feet manual extension. Three persons were brought down from the building with the help of a Turn Table Ladder, while the remaining persons were rescued safely by firemen from the staircase using breathing sets.



Muslims offer "Namaz-e-Istisqa" a special prayer for rains at Himayat Sagar Lake on the outskirts of Hyderabad on Sunday

# Community project for autistic people to be ready by 2023

**Kolkata:** In a first of its kind in the country, a township for children suffering from Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is coming up in the outskirts of the city and will become operational by 2023.

The India Autism Center (IAC), a community-based initiative will have the capacity to accommodate 4,000 people as its residents, including the families of those having autism, managing trustee and IAC chairman Suresh Somani said on Saturday.

The centre would be located

on a 53 acre plot at Sirakol in adjoining South 24 Parganas district and would be constructed at a cost of ₹350 crore, Somani told PTI.

ASD is a complex neurodevelopmental disorder which affects the behaviour of a person and the ability to process information. It affects a wide variety of areas like social interaction, social communication and speech.

"It is a genetic disorder and the level of awareness and knowledge is still low in the country," he said.

# Liquor worth ₹10 lakh seized in Bihar

**Purnea:** The Bihar Police has seized 200 cartons of Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL) worth around ₹10 lakh and arrested two persons in this connection in Purnea district, an officer said on Sunday.

The consignment was seized on Saturday during vehicle checks at Dalkhola checkpoint, upon receiving a tip-off, that a truckload of liquor from neighbouring West Bengal was being smuggled into Bihar through NH 31, Superintendent of Police Vishal Sharma said.

The cargo was meant to be

delivered at an address in Bihar's Saran district, he said.

Two persons identified as Shamshul Haque and Jahangir Alam, residents of Alhapur village in West Bengal's North Dinajpur district were arrested. Sharma said that ₹17,500 in cash and two mobile phones were also seized from their possession.

The accused have been booked under relevant sections of the Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act 2016, and produced in the court, which sent them to judicial custody, he said.

# India bags 1 gold, 7 silvers in Olympiads

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Indian teams put up stupendous performance at the 60th International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO) and 30th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2019, by winning one gold medal, seven silver medals and two honourable mentions.

At the IMO held at Bath in the United Kingdom, Pranjal Srivastava (Bengaluru, Karnataka) won a gold medal, Ritam Nag (Kolkata, West Bengal), Anubhab Ghosal (Kolkata, West Bengal), Bhavya Agrawalla (Indore, Madhya Pradesh) and Ojas Mittal (New Delhi) bagged silver medals. Soumil Aggarwal (New Delhi) received an Honourable men-



Members of Indian team that participated in 30th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2019 at Szeged in Hungary

tion. India finished 15th at the IMO.

At the IBO-2019 at Szeged, Hungary between July 14 and July 21, 2019, three of the four Indian students bagged Silver medals, while one student received an Honourable Mention.

In all, 112 countries participated in the IMO-2019, while 72 countries took part in the IBO.

The IBO competition consists of a theoretical and an experimental examination, each of six hours duration. Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), a national centre of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) is the nodal centre in the country for all the Science Olympiads (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Astronomy and Astrophysics and Junior Science) as well as the Mathematical Olympiad. The HBCSE is responsible for the selection and training of the teams representing India at the international Olympiads.

# J&K: Police to revamp village defence committees to curb terrorism

**Jammu:** Nearly 500 elderly Village Defence Committee (VDC) members and Special Police Officers (SPO) in Kishtwar district of Jammu & Kashmir will be replaced soon, a senior police officer said on Sunday.

The step is part of a strategy to counter terror activities in the hilly district which was rattled by the killing of BJP state secretary Anil Parihar and his brother Ajeet Parihar on November 1 last year, followed by the assassination of senior RSS leader Chanderkant Sharma and his security guard inside a health centre on April 9.

The decision was taken despite reservations expressed by former Chief Minister

Mehbooba Mufti over arming of civilians in Chenab valley.

"Keeping in view the present security scenario in Kishtwar town and the over-staying of SPOs in the district (Kishtwar), an overhauling is being done. A process to replace 352 VDC members and 117 VDC SPOs who are above the age of 60 years has been set into motion," the officer said.

The SPOs, who have overstayed at a particular place have also been replaced. Besides this, 9 VDC SPOs have been disengaged from the VDC rolls for non-compliance of orders, the officer said.

In response to the recently held SPOs recruitment, he said a list of around 85 meritorious candidates was sent to police

headquarters for final approval.

The VDCs were setup in the mid-1990s with an aim to strengthen the security of Hindus living in remote and mountainous areas of Doda, Kishtwar, Ramba, Rajouri, Reasi, Kathua and Poonch districts of the region.

The members of these committees not only guard the identified villages along the border, but also the infrastructural installations in and around them.

Kishtwar along with several other districts of Jammu province were declared terrorism free over a decade ago but after the recent killings, the authorities have taken various steps to counter attempts by terrorists to gain a foothold in the



Chenab valley. Inspector General of Police, Jammu, M K Sinha recently said at least 10 local militants - eight belonging to Hizbul Mujahideen and two affiliated to Lashker-e-Toiba-- were active in the district.

Describing the reported plans of the Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir administration to arm civilians in the sensitive Chenab valley as "alarming", Mufti, who is also Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president, had warned that the move would have "dangerous consequences".

She said similar experiments of arming civilians under the anti-militancy grid in the 1990s had led to complete chaos and the wounds inflicted upon the general masses were still fresh.

"Reports about the administration trying to arm civilians under the garb of creating VDC in Chenab valley are disturbing and alarming especially at the time when the gov-

ernment has to be inclusive to avoid further alienation of youth across the state," Mufti had said in a statement on Saturday.

On Friday, police registered a case against former PDP MLC Firdous Tak and some other party leaders after they staged a demonstration against the state administration for strengthening VDCs in the district.

Mufti dubbed the FIR "false and frivolous" and demanded its immediate rollback.

"The party leaders have represented the sentiments and aspirations of the people but it seems that the local administration are working under pressure from a particular political organisation. The registration of

the case only speaks about the sorry state of affairs in Chenab valley," she said.

On July 17, a three-member delegation of senior BJP leaders led by former deputy Chief Minister Nirmal Singh met Governor Satya Pal Malik at Raj Bhavan in Srinagar and demanded the strengthening of the security apparatus including VDCs and provision of mobile bunkers in Chenab valley region.

They expressed concern regarding growing threats to the safety and security of people, illegal encroachments on forest land, and incidents of bovine smuggling in the region.

The Governor had assured the delegation due consideration of its demands.

PTI

## Priyanka perks up

While she may have seized a moment in UP, she must launch an original campaign as a grassroots worker than a family rep



At least somebody in the Congress is alive and kicking given the political *sanyas* taken by former president Rahul Gandhi, who is now a disembodied conscience of the party that only reminds the rump it has become, forcing an ideological conflict between his mother's old guard and his young rebels and confusing the party and rank and file. In this context, his sister and Congress general secretary for UP East, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who has taken up the cudgels on behalf of the dispossessed tribals in Sonbhadra, some of whom were shot over a land that was sold among consenting power-brokers without recompensing them, is at least keeping herself relevant among the grassroots Congress workers, if not the country's politics. At least, there is a rooted realism to her brother's exalted escapism. Her refusal to furnish a bail bond after she was detained from visiting affected villagers by the Yogi Adityanath government, which fears politicisation of what is indeed an embarrassing issue, may be dramatic but did generate a talk point. The night-long *dharana* in a Mirzapur guest house, the visit of State officials whom she refused to comply with, the power cuts which she attributed to the establishment's way of dampening her spirit, all fit the agitatorist politics that at least got her better visuals than those of her election campaign. Even perked up some local Congress workers. And considering Sonbhadra's proximity to Varanasi, the constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, her antics probably made more sense than when she had casually challenged his candidacy with a hint of her own and not followed through. Question is whether it all works uphill from here or not.

Considering Congress insiders are hoping her to be a campaigner-in-chief on the ground in a State, which is slated for the next round of Assembly polls, she at least is trying to build a narrative. However, this time there has to be an all-new approach than the one that has been relied on her family for years. Already, Congress workers have started comparing her Mirzapur protest to Indira Gandhi's campaign against upper castes who had tortured Dalits at Belchi way back in 1977, forgetting that the Congress has zero base in Uttar Pradesh in 2019 compared to then. Besides, the Lok Sabha verdict for the Congress shows that the voter is no longer interested in dynastic entitlements but performance graphs where descendants have to strip their armour to be a commoner. What Priyanka needs to do is not be a paratrooped people's princess but be a permanent presence in Uttar Pradesh, relocate herself to Lucknow and consistently develop her party first before even aiming for this Assembly. This is what another of the young Turks, Sachin Pilot, did by moving to Rajasthan. Not only does she need to live down her tag, she needs her own mantra and not Rahul's. The good thing for her is that her political sensibilities are primed. And she did seize the moment in Sonbhadra with earnestness and promptness while the UP parties like Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party trailed way behind. The Trinamool Congress, too, sent a delegation to Varanasi to prop up some semblance of Opposition unity. Frankly, Priyanka needs to stay away from such diversions as they will never give her any momentum except add to her nuisance value. One must remember that she could not even generate a swell, leave alone a wave, in the Lok Sabha and completely lost the plot in the family seat of Amethi. Yet she has been backroom in-charge of both her mother Sonia's Rae Bareilly and brother Rahul's Amethi seats. This only strengthens claims of her being a visiting alibi rather than a serious Congress leader that the party would like to look up to. And before she or her brother blames the party workers or organisation, they should first ask themselves if they have done anything in the first place to restore confidence and faith. Priyanka must also realise that she cannot stake her all in UP, where the Congress has its lowest capital at this point of time, the worst flatliner that her kin ever had to face. And that it would need more than theatrics and spearheading a real issue-based movement to recharge the base first. Elections are due in Haryana, Jharkhand, Delhi and Maharashtra and the party needs to snap out of its trauma. And since everybody accepts that the new Congress president would be a puppet, she should press for organisational elections so that at least there are State-level faces to prepare a plan. For all the charm around her before, Priyanka must believe that personality politics is her real beast of burden.

## Countering Trump

As the campaign for the US presidential elections, slated for November 2020, heats up, can the man be defeated?



Much newsprint has been wasted by commentators doubting US President Donald Trump's intelligence or his methods, particularly his single-minded determination to keep Twitter relevant in foreign ministry offices and corporate headquarters across the world, let alone American homes. Yet one must admit he is a smart man. You do not win the US presidency against an establishment candidate after securing your party's candidacy in a crowded field. Trump's upending of the global trade paradigm has been drastic but he does make some sense when it comes to domestic priorities. But his latest statement against a few American Congresswomen from the Democratic Party, telling them in no uncertain terms that if they do not "love America" they should go back to where they "came from," is distressing. It just so happens that Ilhan Omar, one of the Congresswomen attacked by Trump, is of Somali descent and this is nothing more than Trump catering to the nativist part of the American electorate. Instead of reaching out to minorities, who are unlikely to vote for him, he is trying to energise his base. So the "Lock her up", Trump's slogan against Hillary Clinton, has been intensified now with his supporters chanting, "Send her home" about Omar.

Trump has been pilloried by political rivals. The Democratic Party, fractured by a contentious primary election to select the man or woman who will contest against him, has backed Omar and her fellow Congresswomen. Even foreign politicians have attacked him, particularly from Europe. Yet, Trump's attack resonates as nativist forces in the US look on immigrants as interlopers in their nation, ignoring that immigrants have actually been change agents. But with few of Trump's Republican allies attacking him, he will carry on this path and his cries against immigrants will get stronger. It remains to be seen if the Democratic Party can put up a credible candidate who can stand against Trump. The risk they run, like several other liberal parties across the world, is that they might put someone from the extreme-left ideological wing of the party who will stand little chance against Trump's intelligence. Some say Trump was a failure in everything that he did, his business ventures have never been as successful as he claims. But looking at him now, it is impossible to see how he is anything but a winner.

# Change the narrative

Asking the super-rich to pay a little extra is a modest step in reducing inequalities. Instead, the Government must work towards bringing such citizens under a tax net



UTTAM GUPTA

In the Union Budget 2019-20 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on July 5, the Government levied a new surcharge on individuals, Association of Persons (AOP) and trusts with an annual income between ₹2 crore and ₹5 crore from the existing 15 per cent to 25 per cent and on individuals/AOP/trusts with income more than ₹5 crore from the existing 15 per cent to 37 per cent. Post the hike, the effective incidence of tax will be 39 per cent on earners between ₹2 crore and ₹5 crore and 42.7 per cent on those earning in excess of ₹5 crore.

This revised tax surcharge has led to a hue and cry. While wealthy Indian residents argue that this move will act as a disincentive to wealth generation, foreign portfolio investors (albeit those, who are registered in India as AOP or trusts) see this as a deterrent to attract foreign investment. Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) opine that this move will be come as a setback at a time when the Government is keen on investing ₹100 lakh crore in infrastructure to fulfill the dream of making India a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25. Arguments in this context are amusing.

There is no dearth of wealth generation in this country, which is mostly concentrated in a few hands. According to a 2018 Oxfam Report released at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in January 2019, "Indian billionaires saw their fortunes swell by ₹2,200 crore a day last year, with the top one per cent of the country's richest getting richer by 39 per cent as against just three per cent increase in wealth for the bottom-half of the population."

Indeed, this has been possible under the existing policy environment, which includes the policies on taxation. A slight tweaking of the policy (read: Extra tax on the super-rich), which is expected to yield ₹12,000 crore (equivalent to less than a week's addition to wealth by the billionaires), is unlikely to make even the slightest dent on the pace of their wealth generation.

Put simply, consider a person earning in excess of ₹5 crore per annum, say ₹10 crore. *Per se*, an effective tax @42.7 per cent may appear to be high. But look at the absolute numbers: After paying ₹4.27 crore as tax, he/she will still be left with ₹5.73 crore or close to ₹50 lakh per month. This is a substantial amount for leading an extraordinarily good life (with all amenities at their best) and yet save a good sum to take care of future needs even under adverse financial circumstances.

In recent years, we have seen Indian billionaires donating a portion of their wealth to welfare trusts with the intent of using the money to help the poor. They do this towards the end even as most of their life span is spent accumulating wealth, which may even involve fleeing the



consumers (including poor) by charging higher prices and other unfair practices. The impact of such belated "philanthropic" steps could at best be limited.

So, the real issue is one of highly inequitable distribution of the fruits of development. Ironically, successive Governments (Modi 1.0 included) have only focussed on increasing the size of the cake, thinking that the benefits will automatically trickle down. But facts on ground zero speak otherwise.

Asking the super-rich to give a little extra is a modest step in the direction of reducing inequalities. However, there is an urgent need to nab those, who are currently evading the taxman. And this number continues to be huge.

According to the 'Household Survey on India's Citizen Environment & Consumer Economy' (ICE 360° survey) by the People Research on India's Consumer Economy (PRICE) for the year 2015-16 — when seen in juxtaposition with the income tax data for that financial year — for every person with an income more than ₹5 crore paying tax, there are 13 people earning that much but they don't pay.

Bringing the latter under the tax net is a big challenge that the Modi Government must address (if this is not done, then the former will have a reason to grudge).

The resultant boost to tax collection will help the Government fund the galloping expenditure on building infrastructure. Physical: Rail, road, highways, port, airport and waterways among others. Social: Schools, colleges, hospitals and wellness centers among others. Besides it can also fund a host of welfare schemes such as toilets, homes, electricity, gas connections, subsidised food and mid-day meals for school kids.

Money spent in this manner can contribute to generation of widespread demand (both by way of creating more jobs as well as augmenting capacity of the people to spend more) and in turn spur growth. It will also help in reviving a potent engine of growth, namely private consumption, which has been sagging for the last couple of years even as the Government has relied mostly on boosting public expenditure.

Had the surplus money remained with a few rich, this would be of little help in boost-

ing demand as there are inherent limits to spending by any/group of individuals. Even if those few were to deposit the money in a bank, who lends it to industries and businesses, the impact will be much less than if it gets distributed among millions of people under welfare schemes or as wages to workers employed on projects undertaken by the Government with additional tax.

Another potent way of helping the poor is for industrialists to cut prices, which will leave more money in the hands of the former. This will be inclusive development in the true sense of the term instead of the current focus on "tokenism" such as corporate social responsibility (CSR) or philanthropic initiatives.

In so far as the FPIs are concerned, the Government needs to follow a policy of taxing all wealthy people "uniformly", irrespective of where they come from. Merely because a wealthy person is from a foreign land, he/she can't be spared the levy of additional surcharge. This would have been outright discriminatory. Besides, it will have unintended implications of Indian residents moving their funds to foreign shores

and bringing back ('round tripping' as it is known in common parlance) to benefit from the lower tax incidence on FPIs.

Only 40 per cent of the FPIs registered as AOP or trust are affected by the increase in surcharge (as they are treated as individuals for taxation purpose) even as the balance 60 per cent registered as corporates need not worry. The former had chosen that route to avoid the hassles of registering a company; besides escaping the minimum alternate tax (MAT) that the latter has to pay. Having decided to go for AOP/trust, they should live with its pluses and minuses. They can't do cherry picking.

Even so, for AOP/trust earning more than ₹5 crore, the hike in surcharge will increase the effective tax on long-term capital gains from 12 per cent to 14.2 per cent; whereas on short-term capital gains, this will be 21.3 per cent, up from 17.9 per cent. This isn't the kind of blow that ought to affect foreign inflow. Nirmala Sitharaman has rightly dismissed the demand for roll-back or any dilution of the extra tax on super-rich in her reply to discussion on the Finance Bill.

(The writer is a policy analyst)

## SOUNDBITE

Kashmir is in my heart and the Government wants it to become not only paradise of India but tourist paradise of the world.



Union Minister —Rajnath Singh

The TV industry has evolved and there is work for actors across all age groups. What matters is a lot of talent, hard work and luck.



TV star —Urvasi Dholakia

The two neighbours (India and China) should not allow any individual case at certain time to disrupt the bilateral relations.



China's Ambassador to India —Sun Weidong

I am devastated to hear about the passing away of Sheila Dikshitji, a beloved daughter of the Congress with whom I shared a close personal bond.



Congress leader —Rahul Gandhi

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Half victory

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Breather for Jadhav" (July 19). Pakistan can proclaim that it has been vindicated by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) but there is a pregnant message though in the court's directive, ordering Pakistan to review the death penalty awarded to Kulbhushan Jadhav in 2017.

This also reflects on the conduct of military courts and their rough-and-ready justice. While the court has stayed Jadhav's execution pending a reconsideration of his conviction and sentence, the exhaustive list of remedies requested by India has not been entertained — ie, our request to annul the military court verdict, appeal for the release and safe passage of Jadhav and plea for a retrial in civilian courts.

The ICJ verdict did not acquit Jadhav as it did not have the jurisdiction to examine the evidence for and against the accused. Now that the ICJ has ruled on this matter, India and Pakistan must move forward with maturity and avoid hyperbole, which may cause hin-

### Privatisation is a big ask for railways

After the Modi Government took over for a second term, shrill cries over the privatisation of the Indian railways were heard from some quarters. And when the Government mulled new projects and technology for private players, cries grew even louder. It is believed that privatisation will bring some semblance of order in an elephantine public sector unit mired in disorder. That the employees and trade unions are vehemently against handing over the railways to private players is well-known. The railways is a huge employment generator and privatisation poses serious threats to job security and opportunities. On this count, the Government has not done much to allay the apprehensions of trade unions. One also cannot vouch for the fact that wholesale privatisation will do wonders. Specific operations like manufacture, sanitisation and freight train routes can be given to private players.

Massive efforts have also been put by successive Ministers to provide a facelift to the railways through a slew of schemes. It goes without saying that the Government alone cannot initiate and sustain projects that cost a fortune to the exchequer. Railways Minister Piyush Goyal has clarified that the Government is not



in favour of privatisation and is only keen in forging partnership with private players, domestic and abroad. Obviously, investment is the key to technology. No one can dispute that the Modi Government has infused a new vigour in the railways. By the same logic, one cannot say that the railways will transform to become one of the new wonders of the world by wholesale privatisation. Careful planning, unbiased cooperation between the Government and trade unions bode well.

Ganapathi Bhat Akola

drance in the judicial process. India must now build on this reluctant yet affirmative action shown by Pakistan and, thus, secure an honourable release of Jadhav.

KS Jayatheertha Bengaluru

### Change for the better

Sir — Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla must be complimented for bringing several positive changes in the working of the House. Even members in the Opposition are

happy with his conduct. Birla is trying to make the Lok Sabha function in truly 'Indian style' by conducting proceedings in Hindi rather than traditional till-now English. He has even asked the members to not talk when proceedings of the House are on, say-

ing it was unacceptable. It is to be hoped that his efforts to enforce strict discipline will make the House more productive.

Madhu Agrawal Delhi

### Surprising verdict

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Breather for Jadhav" (July 19). The verdict given by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), directing Pakistan to "review and reconsider" the conviction and death sentence of Kulbhushan Jadhav is surprising. While the court admitted that Pakistan had violated both the Vienna Convention and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, it did not annul the death sentence given to Jadhav by a military court. Given the strained relationship between India and Pakistan, it will be difficult to release Jadhav. But India must put all efforts, including using the diplomatic channel, to secure his release.

SK Gupta Via email

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

**FIRST COLUMN**

## Nurture neglected businesses

The world of possibilities is so large that one institution cannot possibly plug the gap. We need to widen the ambit of R&D in a manner which is a win-win situation for all



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

Forest wealth is one of the biggest assets for India. It needs application of principles, creativity and innovation in the same scale and intensity as has been done in the larger R&D section of manufacturing and services. Application of the principles of subtraction, modification, addition, alteration and more of the creativity process to the sequence of modification of the produce will add value to the product. To illustrate, subtracting the content of sulphur in hydro carbon products makes the petrol less polluting. The principles of creativity and innovation do not end with such transformations alone. They include practices of attribute listing, forced matching, synergetics and the list can be long.

The inability to institutionalise these interventions on forest products like tamarind and chiraunji among others has come in the way of product value addition. It is everyone's loss — from the general public, who would have gained from the medicinal property of tamarind to the gatherer, who gets less remunerative prices.

It does not need a genius to realise that Sal leaf can be used for dona making or indeed peeling together all petals for popular use. This would have been hygienic and economical for the user and remunerative to those who collect. In fact, Sal seed, which is generally used for oil extraction, can be used as a bio fuel. Putting together cow dung on shafts of the corn plant or the bare paddy plants and drying them has served useful service in bringing light to areas where electricity may not have reached. Local innovation plays a crucial role in making life not only more bearable but also joyful. Organised R&D, which is often a fallout of formal education, has by and large not shown much awareness for such interventions of innovation at the grassroot level. It does not need a genius to know that tamarind seed powder is an input in the medical sector and can also be used for talc and starch purposes.

Similar is the story of Mahua seeds, which can yield bio fuel. They can have good usage, say in proportion of 20 per cent in petroleum fuel for vehicles. There is nothing against Western paradigm of research. Similarly, there can be nothing against R&D efforts. But the plea in these lines is to widen the ambit of R&D in a manner which is a win-win situation for all. The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) is trying to attempt at this. However, the world of possibilities is so large that resource of one institution cannot possibly plug the gap. Indeed, it will be very difficult even for an institution, which is commercially oriented. To do this, R&D is needed. This will give large-scale benefits to make it not just commercially viable but remunerative for all stakeholders. For some strange reason, businesses do not see this as an opportunity.

This is not the only sector which has defaulted in larger processes of Indian industry and business. A young graduating engineer with a management degree will not seek employment in a unit manufacturing, say of the industrial alcohol in the rural sector. Even though he may be given a sprawling farm house or extensive club facilities and support to commutations to towns and more, he will still be reluctant. His first choice will remain employment in the larger sector say of FMCG, IT or finance division in a metropolis. It does not matter to him that living conditions over there are often harsh, requiring him to travel long distances and long hours in inhospitable conditions. Daily chores keep gnawing at whatever cushion time he can snatch from ever expanding office hours.

**Such is human nature:** It is often riddled with contradictions and attracted towards the incoherent. Trying to keep up with the trend, many keep chasing at a mirage of comfort. These are subtler issues of orientation and acclimatisation of value systems which gain approval. Social climbing in circles, where one seeks acceptability, is a push factor. Tribal welfare and interventions may even make business sense but being bereft of social glamour, they have very little pull factor. The argument of going to the tribal areas to do some good to the communities is a facetious one — it is neither true nor fair to the tribal world. So the talent in dominant percentages does not move in the right direction in significant numbers. Without this talent intervention, communities in not so fashionable areas don't reap the harvest of technology at a sufficient scale. This needs serious thought. Unfortunately, snazzy economist paradigms and a large percentage in corridors of power have found little time to address these issues.

Indeed, many of the tribal products can fuel favourites of the urban communities, for example chiraunji seed, which is popular in many areas, including Jharkhand and is a useful input to the ice cream industry. Perhaps in the business of the linkages indicated above, all are left the poorer by the neglect.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant)

**POINTCOUNTERPOINT**

**SEC144 IS IMPOSED IN SONABHADRA. IF YOU GO TO FULFILL POLITICAL INTENTIONS, IT'S NOT RIGHT. NO ONE SHOULD DO POLITICS ON SENSITIVE ISSUES.**

—UTTAR PRADESH DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER  
**DINESH SHARMA**



**I HAVE COME HERE NOT TO VIOLATE ANY LAW BUT TO MEET THE VICTIMS. THEY (OFFICIALS) DID NOT TELL ME THE GROUND OF DETENTION.**

—CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY  
**PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA**

# The bridge to Asean

Expanding bilateral ties with Myanmar is vital for India's 'Act East' targets. With a creative blend of diplomacy and culture, both nations can only scale new heights, says **VIKAS KALYANI**

India has emerged as the fastest growing economy in the world. It believes in forging multilateral relations and not in unilateral favouritism. Equivocally, it does not agree to a uni-polar or bi-polar world order. It believes in mutual growth by means of cooperation in all fields with as many countries as possible, given that understanding is mutual.

Towards this, the country has been part of multilateral forums that are growth oriented. Being one of the key players in the South Asia as well as the Indian Ocean region, India has been engaging with many Asian and littoral countries on a regular basis. It realised the importance of East Asian countries in the 1990s and, thus, started active dialogue process with members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Putting the Indian perspective for the Indian Ocean region — of mutual growth in a secured environment as a priority — India also has a shared vision, the Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR), with all its oceanic neighbours.

Through the "neighbourhood first" policy, India has been according top priority to South Asia and countries in the adjoining region. Out of the 10 ASEAN countries, Myanmar is the only one which shares its borders with four Indian States and, hence, is of great importance as it acts as a bridge to the ASEAN-India future relationship.

India shares a long land border of over 1,600 kms with Myanmar and a maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal. Four North-eastern States, viz, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram, share a boundary with Myanmar. Both nations share a heritage of religious, linguistic and ethnic ties.

**Present relations with Myanmar**  
**Trade cooperation:** India is the fifth largest trading partner of Myanmar — its fifth largest destination for exports and the sixth largest source of imports. The agriculture sector dominates trade, particularly the supply of beans and pulses (\$809million, 2016-17) and timber (\$ 156 million) to India. Indian exports to Myanmar include sugar and pharmaceuticals among others. Bilateral trade between the two countries has been growing steadily and reached \$1.257 billion as of January 2018.

**Defence cooperation:** Defence ties between the two countries continues to strengthen. Exchanges of high-level visits, enhanced training cooperation, capacity building and support in provision of specific equipment and technology have led to a more wholesome relationship between the two and the development of better understanding in matters related to mutual security concerns.

**Disaster relief:** India has always responded promptly and effectively in rendering assistance following natural calamities in Myanmar like Cyclone Mora (2017), Komen (2015), earthquake in Shan State (2010), Cyclone Nargis in 2008 and the recent outbreak of influenza virus in Yangon in July-August 2017.

**Development cooperation:** India has extended development assistance to Myanmar on generous terms and our assistance portfolio is now over \$1.75 billion. Projects include the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMMP); the Trilateral Highway Project, which is an East-West corridor connecting the North-east with Myanmar and Thailand; the Rhi-Tiddim road; assistance for border area development in Chin State and the Naga Self-Administered Zone.

**Ongoing projects**  
 According to a statement issued by the Indian Embassy in Myanmar, "The landmark Land Border Crossing Agreement between



India and Myanmar, signed on May 11, 2018, has been brought into effect with the simultaneous opening of international entry-exit checkpoints at the Tamu-Moreh and the Rihkhawdar-Zowkhawtar border between Myanmar and India."

The idea is to have better connectivity by all means. Like India, Myanmar, too, does not support China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Infrastructure cooperation between the two can counter Chinese debt-oriented approach to run over countries. Similarly, the India-funded Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMMP), a \$484 million project connecting the eastern Indian seaport of Kolkata with Sittwe seaport in Rakhine State, Myanmar, by sea will allow sea access for landlocked Northeastern States of India via the Kaladan River in Myanmar.

As far as air connectivity is concerned, there is hardly any direct flight to Yangon from any Indian city.

**Way forward**  
**Air connectivity:** With the Indian aviation sector emerging as one of the fastest growing industries, it is bound to prosper in the near future. Investment in North-east aviation sector will not only connect local people better but also will offer faster and convenient passage to travelers from the eastern neighbourhood. Improved infrastructure and air connectivity is the need of the hour.

**Bus services:** Other than developing better trade opportunities at the two border opening points (mentioned earlier), we can also improve bus services to connect local villagers/commuters to deepen the cultural bond.

**Port connectivity:** There is a need to actively pursue the timely construction of ports. Deepening of port-to-port services will provide a much shorter sea route to the economically vibrant Southeast Asian region and help boost trade.

**WITH A CREATIVE BLEND OF DIPLOMACY AND CULTURE, INDIA-MYANMAR RELATIONS CAN ONLY SCALE NEW HEIGHTS IN THE DAYS TO COME. WE NEED TO 'ACT EAST' USING THE 'SAGAR' VISION TO HAVE CREDIBLE AND RELIABLE RELATION WITH THIS STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT NEIGHBOUR, WHICH IS A KEY LINK BETWEEN INDIA AND ASEAN PARTNERSHIP**

**Medical tourism:** India, in particular Delhi and Mumbai, has grown as a prominent exporter of speciality health services for nations across the world. Similarly, for the East Asian countries, the North-east can become a medical tourism hub.

**Educational tourism:** Many students from Myanmar prefer studying in China because of its proximity. China, too, has made a few concessions for the students like easing visa rules for Myanmar. Comparatively, India, too, has affordable and well-reputed educational institutes — not only in metropolitan cities but cities in the North-east as well. But we must give a boost to this sector so as to attract students from Myanmar and other South East Asian countries and, hence, help young minds grow, thus ensuring a long lasting relationship in the years to come.

**Defence interaction:** Camps of insurgent groups operating in the North-eastern border areas often hamper the timely completion of connectivity projects as well as the economic growth of the region. Joint operations against such groups can be conducted to rein in the problem.

**In conclusion**  
 Ever since Myanmar underwent a political transition, it has been "opening up", which has helped the country grow to emerge as a 'new player' among the established team of old players in the region. The democratisation, along with economic reforms, has unleashed new opportunities for India, which is determined to make up for lost time. With a creative blend of diplomacy and culture, India-Myanmar relations can only scale new heights in the days to come. We need to 'Act East' using the 'SAGAR' vision to have credible and reliable relation with this strategically important neighbour, which is a key link between India and ASEAN partnership.

(The writer is a senior research fellow at the India Foundation)

# A bitter pill to swallow

While historical, religious and socio-economic disparities may have forced us to adopt caste-based reservation policies, these very moves have been detrimental to the promotion of meritocracy. India's loss in the World Cup is an apt example



DEEPAK SINHA

Poet Robert Browning had once said, "Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for." Unfortunately, grasping excellence seems to be absent from the DNA of not just an average Indian but even those who excel. Of course, we simply refer to this as the 'chalta hai' culture that permeates almost every aspect of our life — be it social, cultural or professional.

Take the recent performance of the Indian cricket team at the International Cricket Council (ICC) World Cup held in the UK. Not only was it the odds-on favorite to win but apart from a couple of hiccups, the team played a superlative

game of cricket and got into the semi-finals as the top team. Therefore, the Indian team's loss to New Zealand was not only unexpected but shocking, given the relatively modest total that it confronted despite the loss of its front line batsmen scoring in single digits.

It goes without saying that defeat and victory are part and parcel of sports and one cannot but admire the manner in which the fans accepted the unexpected knock out gracefully — undoubtedly a sure sign of growing maturity.

Interestingly, both the coach and the captain accepted responsibility for the loss with equanimity. Captain Virat Kohli even went on to make the point that "45 minutes of bad cricket put you out of the tournament." Coach Ravi Shastri echoed the captains' sentiments and said, "Walk out with your heads held high. Be proud. Those 30 minutes can't erase the fact that you guys have been the best team in the last couple of years... One tournament, one series and that, too, 30 minutes of play can't decide



that..."

Undoubtedly, both made an excellent point but there's a catch: It wasn't really the "30 or 45 minutes" that mattered but the manner in which the team played for the rest of the time in the game subsequently. While the batsmen did put up a fight, it was just not comparable to the manner in which the English recovered from similar circumstances to go on and win the

trophy. Clearly, there was an excellent display of skill, acumen, sheer grit and above all, exemplary determination.

Therefore, such a mindset on the part of the Indian team reflects not just its unwillingness to accept any weakness but what is worse is complacency that is totally uncalculated, given that loss and complacency make strange bedfellows. Obviously, it is here that our

DNA is at play, for that allows us to accept the selection of some players for reasons other than form and their inability to deliver under pressure. Moreover, it isn't as if this came as a complete surprise to those involved in team selection. This is exactly what they are paid to foresee but they preferred to ignore. It is this very fact that makes the "45 minutes bad cricket" answer glib and utterly dishonest.

That brings us to the larger question: Do we, as a country — and not just in sports — hope to progress, to become a "great power"? And if we do, can it be done without focussing on the very lynchpins of excellence, meritocracy and integrity?

While historical, religious and socio-economic disparities may well have forced us to adopt caste-based reservation policies as a necessity, these very moves have been detrimental to the promotion of meritocracy. Instead of providing equal opportunity and inclusiveness, the state has promoted divisiveness and a culture of enti-

tlement. Wherever we have been able to avoid these pitfalls, results have been overwhelmingly positive.

Take the Army for instance, where apart from regional quotas for each State to ensure diversity, only merit counts in selection. Surely, that must have an exceedingly important part to play in ensuring that their performance, over the years, has been outstanding.

Though, it must be added that defeat here is wholly unpalatable. Surely, it behooves our political leadership not to accede to protests by those wanting to be included in the reservation pie, such as the Jats, Gujjars and Marathas. Instead, they must push us towards a more equitable and just society that places great value on skills, integrity and merit. Without this transformation in attitude we will only continue to grope for leftovers in the undergrowth.

(The writer, a military veteran, a consultant with the Observer Research Foundation and Senior Visiting Fellow with The Peninsula Foundation, Chennai)



**FOREIGN EYE**



## A NEW RACE FOR SPACE

Space isn't what it used to be. But one image of what happened on the way to the moon in 1969 needs celebrating. In celebrating the lunar landing, let's remember that it wasn't only buzz-cut white men who had the right stuff: behind the scenes were female mathematicians, several of them African-American, tasked with plotting the route to the moon. Without them, Mr Armstrong would never have got there. (The Guardian editorial)

Scheme	NAV	1Yr%	SBI PSU Fund-Reg(G)	10.36	4.52	Aditya Birla SL Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	28.72	1.13	Franklin India Equity Fund(G)	567.92	-0.83	VII-Reg(G)		
DSP World Gold Fund-Reg(G)	13.93	24.73	ICICI Pru Nifty Index Fund(G)	110.34	4.49	Axis Long Term Equity Fund(G)	44.54	1.12	Sundaram LT Tax Adv Fund-Sr I-Reg(G)	13.05	-0.92	Principal Global Opportunities Fund(G)	28.75	-6.09
DHFL Pramerica Global Equity Opp Fund(G)	19.20	15.80	ICICI Pru Large & Mid Cap Fund(G)	317.55	4.49	UTI Dividend Yield Fund-Reg(G)	62.45	1.10	BNP Paribas Mid Cap Fund(G)	30.67	-0.94	Tata Equity P/E Fund(G)	129.90	-6.18
ICICI Pru Growth Fund-1(DP)	11.35	14.76	Aditya Birla SL Sensex ETF	357.42	4.44	UTI Focussed Equity Fund-IV(G)	9.28	1.08	DSP Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	52.14	-0.99	Templeton India Value Fund(G)	238.36	-6.24
SBI Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	18.33	14.56	SBI Magnum TaxGain'93-Reg(G)	139.07	4.37	UTI LT Adv Fund-IV(G)	9.99	1.07	IDFC Core Equity Fund-Reg(G)	43.38	-1.18	Aditya Birla SL Resurgent India Fund-4-Reg(G)	9.24	-6.29
Kotak World Gold Fund(G)	9.88	13.94	Reliance Index Fund - Nifty Plan(G)	19.11	4.35	ICICI Pru LT Wealth Enhancement Fund(G)	10.55	1.05	Edelweiss Long Term Equity Fund (Tax Savings)-Reg(G)	45.26	-1.22	L&T Emerging Opp Fund-II-Reg(D)	9.34	-6.29
HDFC Top 100 Fund(G)	494.15	12.99	Tata Digital India Fund-Reg(G)	14.87	4.34	DSP Focus Fund-Reg(G)	22.76	1.04	IDFC Tax Advt(ELSS) Fund-Reg(G)	53.81	-1.30	Kotak Small Cap Fund(G)	67.36	-6.33
HDFC Equity Fund(G)	665.75	12.96	Tata Mid Cap Growth Fund(G)	132.13	4.33	DHFL Pramerica Tax Plan(G)	30.76	0.98	Canara Rob Emerg Equities Fund-Reg(G)	89.69	-1.43	Aditya Birla SL Equity Advantage Fund(G)	388.17	-6.33
ICICI Pru Banking & Fin Serv Fund(G)	65.70	12.79	IDBI Nifty Index Fund(G)	21.07	4.31	DHFL Pramerica Large Cap Fund-2-Reg(G)	12.34	0.98	BNP Paribas Focused 25 Equity Fund-Reg(G)	9.45	-1.45	Reliance Small Cap Fund(G)	37.11	-6.35
SBI Tax Advantage Fund-II(G)	36.54	11.93	BNP Paribas Long Term Equity Fund(G)	37.87	4.30	Parag Parikh Long Term Equity Fund-Reg(G)	24.86	0.97	Aditya Birla SL Intl. Equity Fund-B(G)	17.92	-1.47	DSP Small Cap Fund-Reg(G)	51.54	-6.65
SBI Tax Advantage Fund-III-Reg(G)	24.88	11.86	ICICI Pru Global Stable Equity Fund(G)	15.30	4.29	SBI Magnum Comma Fund-Reg(G)	35.74	0.86	Reliance Capital Builder Fund-IV-B(G)	7.38	-1.49	Aditya Birla SL Midcap Fund(G)	271.95	-6.73
ICICI Pru Value Fund-15(G)	10.74	11.76	Sundaram Select Focus(G)	179.02	4.29	Consumption Fund-3-(G)	10.05	0.80	Edelweiss Gr China Equity Off-Shore Fund-Reg(G)	27.44	-1.56	HDFC Mid-Cap Opportunities Fund(G)	51.13	-6.85
Reliance US Equity Opp Fund(G)	15.95	11.62	Canara Rob Bluechip Equity Fund-Reg(G)	24.73	4.26	UTI LT Adv Fund-V(G)	9.17	0.78	ICICI Pru Bharat Consumption Fund-2-(G)	9.67	-1.63	Edelweiss Eur Dynamic Equity Off-shr Fund-Reg(G)	16.57	-7.02
Edelweiss ETF - Nifty Bank Sundaram Fin Serv Opp Fund(G)	3028.26	11.51	Franklin India Index Fund-NSE Nifty(G)	90.42	4.21	ICICI Pru Smallcap Fund(G)	24.58	0.74	Reliance Pharma Fund(G)	140.18	0.72	Motilal Oswal Long Term Equity Fund-Reg(G)	16.57	-7.02
Franklin India Focused Equity Fund(G)	41.19	11.13	Aditya Birla SL Index Fund-Reg(G)	111.88	4.17	IDBI India Top 100 Equity Fund(G)	23.56	0.73	Sundaram Value Fund-II-Reg(G)	15.40	0.69	Edelweiss Mid Cap Fund-Reg(G)	25.14	-7.10
Baroda Banking & Fin Serv Fund(G)	23.78	10.81	SBI LT Advantage Fund-V-Reg(G)	9.99	4.16	Sundaram Value Fund-III-Reg(G)	16.03	0.58	Edelweiss Tax Advantage Fund-Reg(G)	39.61	-1.70	Sundaram Mid Cap Fund(G)	437.12	-7.22
ICICI Pru Growth Fund-2(DP)	12.20	10.41	ICICI Pru LT Equity Fund (Tax Saving)(G)	370.02	4.09	Franklin India Bluechip Fund(G)	448.71	0.57	SBI Healthcare Opp Fund-Reg(G)	107.81	-1.75	Aditya Birla SL Dividend Yield Fund(G)	151.39	-7.26
ICICI Pru Value Fund-18(G)	11.31	10.34	L&T India Large Cap Fund-Reg(G)	27.11	4.01	Sundaram Global Advt(G)	16.80	0.57	Invesco India Tax Plan(G)	49.19	-1.76	L&T Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	125.03	-7.43
SBI LT Advantage Fund-III-Reg(G)	13.53	10.27	Canara Rob Equity Diver Fund-Reg(G)	131.63	3.93	ICICI Pru Nifty Low Vol 30 ETF	87.16	0.52	UTI-Nifty Next 50 ETF	272.21	-1.86	L&T Emerging Opp Fund-I-Reg(D)	9.01	-7.44
Reliance Multi Cap Fund(G)	95.68	10.14	SBI BlueChip Fund-Reg(G)	39.07	3.89	UTI Focussed Equity Fund-I(G)	12.88	0.49	Sundaram Value Fund-X-Reg(G)	8.79	-1.95	UTI MNC Fund-Reg(G)	181.88	-7.58
Mirae Asset Emerging Bluechip-Reg(G)	52.13	9.73	Axis Bluechip Fund(G)	29.04	3.79	L&T India Value Fund-Reg(G)	34.92	0.41	Franklin India Prima Fund(G)	915.19	-2.13	UTI Mid Cap Fund-Reg(G)	93.77	-7.73
Tata Large & Mid Cap Fund(G)	203.57	9.36	Tata India Pharma & Healthcare Fund-Reg(G)	8.76	3.70	DSP A.C.E. Fund-Sr 2-Reg(G)	9.55	0.38	UTI Focussed Equity Fund-VI(G)	9.39	-2.15	Baroda Mid-cap Fund(G)	8.57	-7.85
Reliance Large Cap Fund(G)	34.31	9.09	Kotak Infra & Eco Reform Fund(G)	19.94	3.69	Sundaram Select Small Cap Series-III-Reg(G)	13.67	0.38	ICICI Pru R.I.G.H.T Fund(G)	41.21	-2.32	Aditya Birla SL Resurgent India Fund-3-Reg(G)	10.91	-7.93
ICICI Pru Value Fund-16(G)	10.87	9.03	Kotak Equity Opp Fund(G)	116.48	3.60	Sundaram Select Small Cap Series-IV-Reg(G)	13.70	0.35	DSP Equal Nifty 50 Fund-Reg(G)	9.58	-2.45	Motilal Oswal Midcap 30 Fund-Reg(G)	23.49	-7.95
Mirae Asset Tax Saver Fund-Reg(G)	17.52	9.00	DSP World Agriculture Fund-Reg(G)	16.35	3.54	Invesco India Largecap Fund(G)	28.17	0.32	Sundaram Smart NIFTY 100 Eq Weight Fund-Reg(G)	11.30	-2.45	Kotak India Growth Fund-Sr 5(G)	9.13	-8.38
Invesco India Financial Services Fund(G)	57.41	8.88	Kotak US Equity Fund(G)	16.77	3.49	ICICI Pru Bharat Consumption Fund-1-(G)	9.95	0.30	L&T Equity Fund-Reg(G)	79.83	-2.46	Aditya Birla SL Emerging Leaders Fund-4-Reg(G)	13.62	-8.53
ICICI Pru Value Fund-17(G)	10.51	8.80	HDFC Focused 30 Fund(G)	76.25	3.46	ICICI Pru Focused Equity Fund(G)	29.33	0.27	Motilal Oswal Focused 25 Fund-Reg(G)	21.35	-2.47	Aditya Birla SL Mfg. Equity Fund-Reg(G)	12.11	-8.74
ICICI Pru Value Fund-9(G)	12.48	8.62	DSP Equity Fund-Reg(G)	38.25	3.42	UTI MEPUS	105.35	0.25	Sundaram Diversified Equity(G)	96.98	-2.73	SBI Consumption Opp Fund-Reg(G)	105.89	-8.81
Franklin Build India Fund(G)	41.39	8.52	SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)	10.34	3.37	HDFC Infrastructure Fund(G)	15.98	0.25	IDBI Nifty Junior Index Fund(G)	20.10	-2.74	IDFC Sterling Value Fund-Reg(G)	47.19	-8.95
ICICI Pru Value Fund-14(G)	10.69	8.42	Axis Multicap Fund-Reg(G)	11.53	3.32	ICICI Pru FMCG Fund(G)	233.23	3.28	ICICI Pru Midcap Fund(G)	91.16	-2.76	Franklin India Smaller Cos Fund(G)	50.18	-9.50
Mirae Asset Large Cap Fund-Reg(G)	50.53	8.08	ICICI Pru TaxSaver(G)	507.68	3.19	HDFC TaxSaver(G)	507.68	3.19	Axis Focused 25 Fund(G)	27.56	-2.79	Sundaram Emerging Small Cap-Sr-IV-Reg(G)	23.82	-9.57
Reliance Banking Fund(G)	282.02	8.01	DHFL Pramerica Large Cap Fund(G)	168.00	3.12	Axis Capital Builder Fund-1-Reg(G)	10.01	0.20	ICICI Pru Nifty Next 50 Index Fund(G)	23.59	-2.82	Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series VIII-Reg(G)	12.53	-9.79
ICICI Pru Infrastructure Fund(G)	50.65	7.97	Invesco India Infrastructure Fund(G)	16.65	2.97	ICICI Pru Exports & Services Fund(G)	56.06	0.14	UTI Nifty Next 50 Index Fund-Reg(G)	9.47	-2.91	Sundaram LT Tax Adv Fund-Sr IV-Reg(G)	9.02	-9.79
SBI Focused Equity Fund-Reg(G)	141.81	7.92	Reliance Vision Fund(G)	511.46	2.96	DSP A.C.E. Fund-Sr 1-Reg(G)	9.60	0.13	IDBI Diversified Equity Fund(G)	20.12	-2.94	Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series IX-Reg(G)	12.45	-9.95
Franklin India Feeder - Franklin U.S. Opportunities Fund(G)	32.46	7.80	Aditya Birla SL Equity Fund(G)	703.12	2.90	DSP 3Y Close Ended Equity Fund-Reg(G)	14.42	0.12	UTI LT Adv Fund-III(G)	12.80	-2.94	Sundaram Emerging Small Cap-Sr-III-Reg(G)	8.59	-9.95
ICICI Pru US Bluechip Equity Fund(G)	27.72	7.73	Aditya Birla SL Frontline Equity Fund(G)	220.84	2.87	Edelweiss Large Cap Fund(G)	35.00	0.11	SBI Equity Opp Fund-Sr IV-Reg(G)	15.00	-2.97	IDBI Midcap Fund(G)	9.97	-10.02
Tata India Tax Savings Fund-Reg(G)	18.06	7.59						Principal Dividend Yield Fund(G)	50.21	-3.05	UTI LT Adv Fund-VIII(G)	8.25	-10.19	
SBI LT Advantage Fund-II-Reg(G)	13.92	7.43						Invesco India Feeder - Invesco Global Equity Income Fund(G)	12.57	-3.13	L&T Emerging Businesses Fund-Reg(G)	22.67	-10.27	
ICICI Pru Value Fund-13(D)	10.33	7.38						Templeton India Equity Income Fund(G)	45.44	-3.16	IDFC Equity Opportunity-5-Reg(G)	9.29	-10.50	
HDFC Equity Opp Fund-Sr 2-1126D-May 2017(1)-Reg(G)	10.36	7.29						JM Value Fund(G)	30.46	-3.18	DHFL Pramerica Midcap Opp Fund-Reg(G)	16.90	-10.53	
ICICI Pru Value Fund-11(G)	12.09	7.18						Principal Nifty 100 Equal Weight Fund(G)	68.47	-3.23	Sundaram Emerging Small Cap-Sr-III-Reg(G)	7.75	-10.77	
Kotak Tax Saver Scheme(G)	43.60	7.15						Axis Emerging Opp Fund-1-Reg(G)	11.65	-3.32	Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series X-Reg(G)	12.28	-10.93	
DSP World Mining Fund-Reg(G)	8.81	6.95						UTI Healthcare Fund-Reg(G)	78.12	-4.04	UTI LT Adv Fund-VI(G)	8.02	-10.95	
Tata Large Cap Fund(G)	220.78	6.89						Axis Emerging Opp Fund-2-Reg(G)	11.17	-4.12	Tata India Consumer Fund-Reg(G)	15.83	-11.03	
SBI Large & Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	216.52	6.73						SBI Magnum Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	68.09	-4.14	Sundaram Emerging Small Cap-Sr-II-Reg(G)	7.98	-11.09	
HDFC Sensex ETF	4021.38	6.68						SBI Magnum Global Fund-Reg(G)	160.48	-4.18	Aditya Birla SL Resurgent India Fund-2-Reg(G)	11.37	-11.59	
IDFC Sensex ETF	394.72	6.64						ICICI Pru Dividend Yield Equity Fund(G)	15.94	-4.21	India Fund-2-Reg(G)	47.76	-11.59	
Sundaram World Brand Fund-Sr II-Reg(G)	15.51	6.58						Edelweiss ETF - Nifty 100 Quality 30	267.24	-4.22	Value Fund(G)			
Sundaram World Brand Fund-Sr III-Reg(G)	15.69	6.54						Aditya Birla SL Infrastructure Fund(G)	30.41	-3.34	Invesco India Feeder - Invesco Pan European Equity Fund-Reg(G)	10.04	-12.04	
ICICI Pru NV20 ETF	54.33	6.32						Tata Ethical Fund(G)	149.21	-3.57	DSP World Energy Fund-Reg(G)	12.69	-12.21	
HDFC Index Fund-Sensex(G)	340.42	6.18						Reliance Capital Builder Fund-IV-A(G)	9.34	-3.63	Sundaram Small Cap Fund(G)	74.48	-12.81	
Tata Index Fund-Sensex Plan(G)	94.49	6.12						HDFC Capital Builder Value Fund(G)	278.24	-3.97	Reliance Capital	7.10	-13.01	
SBI Magnum Equity ESG Fund-Reg(G)	104.21	6.01						Motilal Oswal Multicap 35 Fund-Reg(G)	25.31	-3.97	India Fund-7-Reg(G)	9.36	-16.86	
Tata Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)	54.85	6.01						SBI Contra Fund-Reg(G)	102.43	-3.98	Sundaram LT Micro Cap Tax Adv Fund-Sr III-Reg(G)	7.97	-17.37	
Aditya Birla SL Focused Equity Fund(G)	59.46	6.00						UTI Healthcare Fund-Reg(G)	78.12	-4.04	Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series XIV-Reg(G)	7.71	-17.84	
Aditya Birla SL Global Real Estate Fund(G)	19.71	5.99						Axis Emerging Opp Fund-1-Reg(G)	11.17	-4.12	Sundaram LT Micro Cap Tax Adv Fund-Sr V-Reg(G)	11.50	-17.86	
UTI Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)	52.70	5.98						SBI Magnum Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	68.09	-4.14	Aditya Birla SL Emerging Leaders Fund-7-Reg(G)	7.91	-17.88	
SBI Technology Opp Fund-Reg(G)	65.03	5.96						SBI Magnum Global Fund-Reg(G)	160.48	-4.18	Sundaram LT Micro Cap Tax Adv Fund-Sr VI-Reg(G)	7.30	-18.77	
BNP Paribas Large Cap Fund(G)	89.19	5.93						ICICI Pru Dividend Yield Equity Fund(G)	15.94	-4.21	Cap-Series XVI-Reg(G)	7.21	-18.82	
DSP India T.I.G.E.R. Fund-Reg(G)	90.48	5.90						Edelweiss ETF - Nifty 100 Quality 30	267.24	-4.22	Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series XVII-Reg(G)	6.92	-19.15	
DSP Tax Saver Fund-Reg(G)	47.17	5.82						Aditya Birla SL Tax Relief '96 (ELSS U/S 80C of IT ACT)(G)	29.55	-4.28	UTI Transportation & Logistics Fund-Reg(G)	84.28	-28.07	
ICICI Pru Sensex Index Fund(G)	11.91	5.70						Aditya Birla SL Tax Relief '96(G)	29.55	-4.28				
SBI Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)	15.18	5.54						L&T Tax Advt Fund-Reg(G)	52.13	-4.28				
Axis Nifty ETF	1171.46	5.53						UTI Equity Fund-Reg(G)	135.51	-4.30				
HDFC Nifty 50 ETF	1192.90	5.43						Sundaram Rural and Consumption Fund(G)	38.96	-4.34				
IDFC Nifty ETF	117.64	5.40						IDFC Multi Cap Fund-Reg(G)	88.67	-4.38				
ICICI Pru Multicap Fund(G)	286.98	5.38						Kotak Global Emerging Mkt Fund(G)	15.82	-4.45				
Reliance Index Fund - Sensex Plan(G)	18.87	5.31						IDBI Focused 30 Equity Fund-Reg(G)	9.57	-4.49				
UTI Nifty Index Fund-Reg(G)	74.65	5.21						Kotak India Growth Fund-Sr 4(G)	9.06	-4.58				
ICICI Pru Bluechip Fund(G)	41.66	5.20						L&T Large and Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	44.90	-4.61				
SBI Magnum Multicap Fund-Reg(G)	48.40	5.18						Principal Emerging Bluechip Fund(G)	98.69	-4.62				
IDFC Nifty Fund-Reg(G)	23.63	5.13						Aditya Birla SL MNC Fund(G)	700.89	-4.64				
HDFC Index Fund-NIFTY 50 Plan(G)	104.01	5.03						IDFC Equity Opportunity-4-Reg(G)	7.65	-4.85				
Edelweiss Emerging Markets Opp Eq. Offshore Fund-Reg(G)	12.77	4.99						Aditya Birla SL Global Emerging Opp Fund(G)	12.75	-4.90				
Tata Index Fund-Nifty Plan(G)	69.05	4.97						Baroda ELSS 96(G)	42.79	-5.00				
Canara Rob Equity Tax Saver Fund-Reg(G)	64.02	4.93						IDFC Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)	14.55	-5.27				
SBI LT Advantage Fund-I-Reg(G)	13.39	4.83						HDFC Small Cap Fund-Reg(G)	40.14	-5.29				
ICICI Pru Technology Fund(G)	58.78	4.81												

## Strong rupee, lower GDP to tame inflation to 4.1%: ADB



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has lowered the inflation forecast for India during the current financial year to 4.1 per cent, on the back of gain in rupee and cut in the country's GDP projection. India will be the main driver to lower the inflation for the South Asian region, ADB said in a supplement to Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2019. South Asia's inflation forecast for 2019, was revised down from 4.7 per cent to 4.5 per cent, mainly reflecting lowered forecasts for India, the ADO supplement said. The ADO supplement has lowered India's GDP growth

forecast by 0.2 percentage points from April outlook to 7 per cent in 2019-20. "In light of a smaller-than-expected uptick in food inflation, a strengthening Indian rupee since October 2018, and a lower GDP growth forecast, this Supplement revises down inflation forecasts for India by 0.2 percentage points to 4.1 per cent in FY2019 (fiscal ending in March 2020) and 4.4 per cent in FY2020 (ending March 2021)," ADB said. As per the ADO supplement, inflation projections for developing Asia were revised up a notch from 2.5 per cent to 2.6 per cent in both 2019 and 2020, reflecting higher oil prices and several domestic factors. Price fluctuations for Brent crude oil continue amid various concerns affecting both supply and demand, it added. Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank in its last monetary policy review in June had raised the retail inflation forecast marginally to 3-3.1 per cent for the first half of the current fiscal citing reasons of uptick in food prices — mainly vegetables, despite expectations of a normal monsoon this season. However, the retail inflation projection for the second half of 2019-20 has been cut to 3.4-3.7 per cent as against RBI's previous projection of 3.5-3.8 per cent. The RBI will review the monetary policy in its upcoming meeting in early August.

## AI freezes promotions, new appointments amid stake sale preparations

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Air India has stopped giving promotions for its employees and recruiting new personnel as the Government prepares for the disinvestment of the debt-laden airline, an official said Sunday. The Government is expected to soon start the disinvestment process for Air India, which has a debt burden of more than ₹50,000 crore. For the disinvestment process, the official said the airline's books of accounts till July 15, have been closed and those financials would be used while seeking bids. Promotions and fresh appointments have also been frozen ahead of the stake sale for Air India, the official added. The airline has around 10,000 permanent employees. There was no immediate comment from Air India. Query sent to Civil Aviation Secretary Pradeep Singh Kharola remained unanswered. Sources said Air India has also asked all department heads to ensure that there is no recovery pending against any of the employees. The message was conveyed to the heads of departments by the airline's HR Director Amrita Sharan during a conference call last week, they added. The Government is looking to complete the Air India stake sale in the next four to five months. Air India is currently making a revenue of ₹15 crore

everyday. Efforts to sell 76 per cent stake in the national carrier failed to take off in 2018. Then transaction adviser EY in its report had cited the government retaining 24 per cent stake and corresponding rights and high debt as reasons for the failure of the disinvestment process. On July 3, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri told the Rajya Sabha that the government is committed to the disinvestment of Air India and the plan is to make it more operationally viable before stake sale. "It (Air India) will be sold when the buyer ultimately gives the cheque and there are certain prerequisites before any sale, those also have to be met. I do expect that to be finished in 4-5 months but nevertheless to provide for that exigency, we have not accounted for Air India sale proceeds (in budgeted disinvestment proceeds). "We will try to finish it off by Diwali, if not before," Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Atanu Chakraborty said on July 7. In her Budget speech on July 5, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that in view of current macro-economic parameters, the Government would not only reinstate the process of strategic disinvestment of Air India, but would offer more central public sector enterprises for strategic participation by the private sector.

## IL&FS case: Sebi widens probe into role of rating agencies

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Market regulator Sebi has expanded its probe into the role of five credit rating agencies after a forensic audit mandated by the new board of crisis-ridden IL&FS flagged serious lapses and their possible complicity with the former top brass of the group in giving top ratings despite weak financials. While CEOs of two rating agencies have already been forced to go on leave pending completion of the probe on the advice of Sebi, officials said the regulator is now looking into possible systemic lapses at all five rating agencies and also into the role of multiple people suspected to have intentionally manipulated the rating procedures. The special audit conducted by Grant Thornton found that its review of emails exchanged by the former key executives of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) group and the top officials of rating agencies showed that they were aware of the serious liquidity concerns and weakening financials of the group. "However, various strategies deployed by the then key officials of IL&FS group and certain favours/gifts provided to rating agency officials suggest the possible reasons for consistent good ratings provided to IL&FS group during the period June 2012 to June 2018," an interim report of the special audit said. The report has also high-

lighted instances where CRAs had "initially decided to downgrade the ratings, but a combination of tactics employed by then key employees of IL&FS and favours/gifts extended to key officials of CRAs resulted in either consistent/good ratings or avoidance of rating downgrade". The new board of IL&FS, which was appointed in October last year after massive defaults by the group post its debt burden ballooning to over Rs 90,000 crore and suspected wrong-doings by the former top management, had mandated Grant Thornton to carry out a special audit for all high-value transactions undertaken by IL&FS Ltd and some of its group companies for the period between April 2013 and September 2018. The audit is aimed at identifying siphoning or misuse of funds, fraudulent transactions, their modus operandi, the quantum of the financial loss and fixing of responsibility. Grant Thornton was also asked to review the ratings provided by various credit rating agencies (CRAs) to IL&FS Transportation Networks Ltd (ITNL), IL&FS Financial Services Ltd (IFIN) and IL&FS Ltd. In its interim report, Grant Thornton said it appears CRAs had consistently provided and maintained good ratings over the years until in July/August 2018 when they downgraded ratings for the first time for ITNL due to a default of repayment of commercial papers. During the review period,

IL&FS Group had availed rating services from Crisil Ltd, CARE Ratings, ICRA, India Ratings (a Fitch group company) and Brickwork. Officials at the rating agencies denied any lapses on their part and some even said the interim report seems to suggest limited knowledge of the rating process and was based on one-sided information. A higher rating typically helps a borrower get a lower rate of interest and is aimed at assuring investors about the creditworthiness of the company. Besides, it helps create a wider borrowing landscape for the company and is also often used as a marketing tool in the form of a better image in dealing with customers. Grant Thornton said it identified multiple e-mails over the period from 2008 to 2018 which indicate that the IL&FS group was under stress or faced liquidity issues since 2015. The main reasons for the liquidity crunch have been identified as a significant increase in debt in the various group companies, majorly ITNL, high capital requirement for ITNL and its various SPVs, decreasing profit of IL&FS group and support to weaker group companies. It has also identified instances which suggest that CRAs had multiple concerns for the last 6-7 years on the operations of the IL&FS group, but the ratings assigned by them remained consistently high until they were reversed or downgraded after June-July 2018.

## World Bank ready to finance other projects in AP: Official

PTI ■ AMARAVATI

The World Bank has apprised the Andhra Pradesh government of its readiness to finance other projects in the state in spite of its refusal to a \$300 million Amaravati project, an official said. World Bank officials communicated this to the state government after the \$300 million loan proposal for Amaravati was dropped at the behest of the Centre, a top official in the Chief Minister's Office said. "The Washington-based Bank is now not averse to extending loan to AP government according to the latter's priorities. The possibility of increasing the quantum of loan was also not ruled out by the Bank," the official said. He indicated that the Government might seek World Bank assistance for funding the flagship Navaratnalu programme that was aimed at improving the living standards of citizens in tune with the Sustainable Development Goals. World Bank officials informed the state government officials that the loan proposal

was dropped mainly due to "non-compliance of its policies," particularly those related to settlement of affected people. Also, alleged rampant corruption and flouting of various socio-economic norms were cited as other reasons, the CMO official said. The Independent Accountability Mechanism (teams) of the World Bank conducted an extensive study in the field after touring the capital region in September 2017. The Bank teams found "many irregularities in the tender process which were heavily loaded in favour of contractors." They also detected many irregularities in land pooling, utilisation of verdant agricultural land for other purposes, agriculture workers losing livelihood, serious environmental violations, the plan of the new proposed capital affecting the course of Krishna River and other issues. The World Bank, based on field-level investigations, sought an explanation from the Capital Region Development Authority over these issues but the explanation was "unsatisfactory."

## Govt sweetens deal to attract bidders for Pawan Hans

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Having failed to privatise Pawan Hans last fiscal, the Government has significantly diluted the terms of sale pertaining to employee retrenchment, asset sale and tax liability to attract bidders this time around, sources said. As per the revised terms of sale proposed by the Government, the successful bidder would be required to retain all permanent employees for a period of at least one year, as against two years stipulated earlier. The Government has also decided to indemnify the buyer against ₹577 crore worth tax liability of Pawan Hans in case an ongoing tax dispute is decided against the company. The revised terms of sale have also reduced the time period for stripping of assets of Pawan Hans by the buyer to two years, from three years specified earlier. The relaxation in norms will provide greater freedom to the successful bidder to manage Pawan Hans, the sources said. The Government had last fiscal tried to sell the helicopter service provider but no buyer came forward. The Government holds 51 per cent stake in Pawan Hans, which has a fleet of 43 helicopters. The remaining 49 per cent is with ONGC.

After the new Government took over, it decided to sweeten the deal by diluting certain crucial terms of sale in view of the concerns raised by potential bidders when Pawan Hans was first put on the block. As of April 30, 2019, Pawan Hans had 718 employees, of which 415 were regular and 303 on contract. The company's manpower comprises 116 pilots, 101 aircraft maintenance engineers (AMEs), 52 executives, 157 technicians and 292 other technical and non-technical employees. The firm posted revenues of ₹410 crore in 2018-19, while employee cost was about ₹180 crore. According to the revised sale terms, the successful bidder would be permitted to provide voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) to existing Pawan Hans employees as per the terms specified by the Department of Public Enterprises. As regards stripping of assets held by Pawan Hans, the successful bidder would be permitted to sell, transfer or lease the assets two years after consummation of the transaction. The Government on July 11 had come out with a fresh Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM), a document inviting bids from companies having minimum net



worth of ₹350 crore. The last date for submission of Expression of Interest (EOI) is August 22, 2019, and the short-listed bidder will be intimated on September 12. If the Pawan Hans sale goes through, it would add to the disinvestment kitty and kickstart the process of privatisation. The Budget has set a disinvestment target of ₹1.05 lakh crore for current fiscal, up from ₹85,000 crore raised last fiscal. The Government had first floated an offer to sell its 51 per cent stake in Pawan Hans in October 2017, but in view of subdued response from bidders, the EOI was withdrawn in April 2018. At that time, some investors had suggested that the Government and ONGC should sell their stakes together. Later in April, 2018, the

Government again issued an information memorandum for 51 per cent strategic stake sale in Pawan Hans and had sought EOI from interested bidders by June 18, 2018. On July 2, 2018, ONGC wrote to the Government saying its board has resolved that it would prefer to exit Pawan Hans simultaneously with the Government, following which the Centre came out with a fresh PIM in August 2018, putting 100 per cent stake in the helicopter company on the block. When the financial bid process concluded on March 6, 2019, only one investor had put in a "conditional bid", which was not accepted. The Pawan Hans sale process was then put on hold till the new Government took charge post the general elections.

## GST Council to decide on tax cut on EVs this week



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, will meet on July 25 and decide on lowering tax rates for electric vehicles, officials said. The 36th meeting of the Council, which will happen through video conferencing, is also likely to decide the valuation of goods and services in solar power generating systems and wind turbine projects for the purposes of levying GST. The Council, which has State Finance Ministers as members, in its meeting last month, had referred the issue relating to Goods and Services Tax (GST) concessions on electric vehicle, electric chargers and hiring of electric vehicles, to an officers committee. The recommendations of the officers committee is likely to be placed before the Council on July 25, officials said. To push domestic manufacturing of e-vehicles, the Centre proposed to the Council to slash GST rates to 5 per cent

from 12 per cent. GST rate for petrol and diesel cars and hybrid vehicles is already at the highest bracket of 28 per cent plus cess. The Council will also consider tax structure for solar power projects. The Delhi High Court had in May asked the GST council to take a relook at the taxation structure following industry petition. The Government had earlier this year said that for the purpose of taxing solar power projects, 70 per cent of contract value would be treated as goods — taxable at 5 per cent, and balance 30 per cent as services — taxable at 18 per cent. The solar industry has been pitching for a different ratio for splitting goods and services for levying GST. Further, the Council may also look at taxation of lotteries. In the previous meeting, the Council had decided to seek legal opinion of the Attorney General for levying GST. Currently, a State-organised lottery attracts 12 per cent GST, while a state-authorised lottery attracts 28 per cent tax.

## 345 infra projects show cost overruns of ₹3.28 lakh crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 345 infrastructure projects, each worth ₹150 crore or more, have shown cost overruns to the tune of over ₹3.28 lakh crore owing to delays and other reasons, a report said. "Total original cost of implementation of the 1453 projects was ₹18,32,579.17 crore and their anticipated completion cost is likely to be ₹21,61,313.18 crore, which reflects overall cost overruns of ₹3,28,734.01 crore (17.94% of original cost)," the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's latest report for April 2019 said. The ministry monitors infrastructure projects worth ₹150 crore and above. Of these 1,453 projects, 345 reported cost overruns and 388 time escalation. According to the report, the expenditure incurred on these projects till April 2019 is ₹8,84,906.88 crore, which is 40.94 per cent of the anticipated

cost of the projects. However, it said the number of delayed projects decreases to 317 if delay is calculated on the basis of latest schedule of completion. For 749 projects, neither the year of commissioning nor the tentative gestation period has been reported. Out of 388 delayed projects, 121 projects have overall delay in the range of 1 to 12 months, 78 projects have been delayed by 13 to 24 months, 98 projects reflect delay in the range of 25 to 60 months and 91 projects show 61 months and above delay. The average time overrun in these 388 delayed projects is 40.28 months. The brief reasons for time overruns, as reported by various project implementing agencies, are delays in land acquisition, forest clearance



and supply of equipment. Besides, there are other reasons like fund constraints, geological surprises, geo-mining conditions, slow progress in civil works, shortage of labour, inadequate mobilisation by the contractor, Maoist problems, court cases, contractual issues, ROU/ROW (right of use/right of way) problems, law and order situation, among others, the report said. It also observed that project agencies are not reporting revised cost estimates and commissioning schedules for many projects, which suggests that time/cost overrun figures are under-reported. The two economic giants have hit each other with puni-

## China importers seek to lift tariffs on US farm goods: State media

AFP ■ SHANGHAI

Chinese importers are applying to their government to lift tariffs on some US agricultural imports, state media reported on Sunday, three weeks after the two sides reached a truce in their trade war. The unnamed importers were talking to US suppliers about potential pricing and have applied to a Chinese government body with oversight of tariffs to lift the levies, the nearly identical reports in various media outlets said. The importers were acting "according to the needs of the domestic market," the reports said. No further details were given, such as which products might be affected. The move may be a goodwill gesture after the United States earlier this month was reported to have removed 110 Chinese export items from its own tariffs list. The two economic giants have hit each other with puni-

tive tariffs covering more than \$360 billion in two-way trade since US President Donald Trump launched a trade war last year, damaging manufacturers on both sides of the Pacific. But Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to a truce and to revive fractious trade negotiations when they met on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Japan on June 29. The Chinese media outlets on Sunday did not cite a specific source for the reported request to lift the tariffs on US goods. The reports come just a few days after Trump accused China of backsliding on promises to increase purchases of American farm exports. Following the Osaka summit, Trump announced that, in return for Washington's pledge to suspend a planned tariff increase on \$300 billion in Chinese imports, Beijing had offered to buy "a tremendous amount of food and agriculture product" from the United States.

## FPIs withdraw ₹7,712 crore from stocks in July so far

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Foreign portfolio investors pulled out around ₹7,712 crore from Indian equities in this month so far following the 'super-rich' tax announced in the budget for 2019-20, according to analysts. FPIs had been net investors in the equity segment in the previous five months. According to the latest data available with depositories, a net sum of ₹7,712.12 crore has been pulled out from equities during July 1-19. However, foreign portfolio investors (FPI) pumped in ₹9,371.12 crore in the debt segment during the period. This has translated into a net investment of around ₹1,659 crore in July so far into the capital markets (both equity and debt). He further added that from an investment perspective, the current scenario is clearly "unfavourable" for FPIs to invest in Indian equities.



The conclave on Orthopaedic Oncology was organised by Delhi Orthopaedic Association and co-hosted by Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre (RGIRC) and IMSOS. The conclave termed Orthopaedic Oncology CME (Continuing Medical Education) had distinguished faculty including Dr Ajay Puri (Tata Memorial Centre), Dr Ashish Gulia (Tata Memorial Centre), Dr Anand Raja (Arya Institute) and Dr Gauri Kapoor (RGIRC). Around 100 orthopaedic surgeons participated in the event. There is urgent need to raise awareness about Sarcoma, to save life and limbs of young who are falling prey to this cancer

# Hong Kong protesters egg China office

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Masked protesters threw eggs at China's office in Hong Kong on Sunday night following another massive rally, focusing anger towards the embodiment of Beijing's rule with no end in sight to the turmoil engulfing the finance hub.

The city has been plunged into its worst crisis in recent history by weeks of marches and sporadic violent confrontations between police and pockets of hardcore protesters.

The initial protests were lit by a now-suspended bill that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China.

But they have since evolved into a wider movement calling for democratic reforms, universal suffrage and a halt to sliding freedoms in the semi-autonomous territory.

Police have fired tear gas and rubber bullets, while the parliament has been trashed by protesters as Beijing's authority faces its most serious challenge since Hong Kong was handed back to China in 1997. On Sunday tens of thousands of anti-government protesters marched through the streets -- the seventh weekend in-a-row that residents have



Protesters gesture while holding placards reads 'Form an independent investigation on legislative committee' during a march in Hong Kong on Sunday

come out en-masse.

Police ordered protesters to follow a shorter route than normal, but the designated finish line was widely ignored as crowds headed towards the Liaison Office -- the department that represents China's central government.

Thousands of masked

demonstrators then seized the road outside the imposing skyscraper, erected barricades and began targeting the building with eggs, projectiles, laser lights and graffiti.

"We are here to declare that Beijing is the one violating our governing values and judicial procedures," a 19-year-old pro-

tester who gave his first name as Tony, told AFP.

A man wearing a black mask and bicycle helmet later read out a list of demands on a loudspeaker.

"There is no violent protesters or rioters, there is only tyranny, we will protect our homeland by any means," he

said. "We urge the government to stop leading Hong Kong towards the brink of destruction."

Police were nowhere to be seen outside Beijing's office on Sunday evening, but there were widespread expectations among the protesters there that riot officers would soon respond.

Generally the marches have passed off peacefully, but some have been followed by violence between riot police and small groups of more hardcore protesters who feel years of peaceful demonstrations have achieved little.

Six weeks of huge protests have done little to persuade the city's unelected leaders -- or Beijing -- to change tack on the hub's future.

Under the 1997 handover deal with Britain, China promised to allow Hong Kong to keep key liberties such as its independent judiciary and freedom of speech.

But many say those provisions are already being curtailed, citing the disappearance into mainland custody of dissident booksellers, the disqualification of prominent politicians and the jailing of pro-democracy protest leaders.

# Minority congresswomen should apologise to America: US Prez

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump renewed attacks on Sunday on four Democratic congresswomen he launched xenophobic tweets against last week, demanding they apologise "for the horrible (hateful) things they have said."

"I don't believe the four Congresswomen are capable of loving our Country," Trump tweeted of ethnic-minority first-term Democrats

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar and Ayanna Pressley.

"They should apologise to America (and Israel) for the horrible (hateful) things they have said. They are destroying the Democrat Party, but are weak & insecure people who can never destroy our great Nation!" the president tweeted.

The comments come a week after Trump sparked a firestorm of outrage when he attacked the left-leaning lawmakers with a series of tweets, saying they should "go back" to their countries of origin.

The group -- three of whom were born in the United



States -- are of Hispanic, Arab, Somali and African-American descent.

In a rare move, Trump was rebuked by the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives on Tuesday for "racist comments" against the women, who are known as the "Squad."

The following day chants of "Send her back!" broke out at the president's "Make America Great Again" rally in Greenville, North Carolina, when he again attacked the women.

To the delight of his thou-

sands of supporters, Trump described Omar and the other Democrats as "left-wing ideologues (who) see our nation as a force of evil."

Trump later said there was "great energy" at the rally but claimed he was not pleased by the taunts. "I was not happy when I heard that chant," he said. "I didn't like that they did it, and I started speaking quickly" to move on with his speech.

Television footage showed, however, that Trump let the chant continue for more than 13 seconds, only resuming speaking as they died down.

# Iran says its tanker held in Saudi Arabia released

AFP ■ TEHRAN

An Iranian tanker held in Saudi Arabia since being forced to seek repairs at Jeddah port has been released and is returning to the Islamic republic, a minister said Sunday.

The Happiness 1 tanker "has been released following negotiations and is now moving toward Persian Gulf waters," said transport minister Mohammad Eslami, quoted by state news agency IRNA.

The ship had been forced to seek repairs in Saudi Arabia in early May after suffering "engine failure and loss of control," the Iranian oil ministry's SHANA news agency said at the time.

The rare docking came despite escalating tensions between staunch enemies Iran and Saudi Arabia.

"Yesterday, with follow-ups from the ports and maritime authority the issue was resolved," Eslami said.

"The tanker is moving towards the Persian Gulf with

the permission of the Jeddah port, towed by two Iranian tug boats."

Iran's national tanker company said in a statement that on top of "political and diplomatic negotiations" the tanker's release required "the payment of related costs" demanded by Saudi Arabia.

According to a July 2 report by Mehr News Agency, Iran paid "over \$10 million to Jeddah port for repairs and maintenance" of the tanker.

Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic ties with Iran in 2016, after its missions in the country were attacked in demonstrations over the kingdom executing prominent Shiite cleric Nimr al-Nimr.

They still lack direct diplomatic channels, and Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi on Sunday thanked "Switzerland and Oman as well as related Saudi parties for offering services and facilities" to resolve the issue.

# UK navy heard in audio trying to thwart Iran ship seizure

AP ■ DUBAI

In an audio recording released Sunday, a British naval officer can be heard saying the transit of a British-flagged vessel through the Strait of Hormuz must not be impaired under international law as Iranian naval forces warn the vessel to change course.

The audio, released by maritime security risk firm Dryad Global, shows how the British navy was unable to prevent the ship's seizure by Iranian Revolutionary Guard forces on Friday.

The seizure has prompted condemnation from the UK and its European allies as they continue to call for a de-escalation of tensions in the critical waterway.

In the recording, an Iranian officer can be heard telling the Stena Impero to change course, saying: "You obey, you will be safe."

"Alter your course to 360

degrees immediately, over," the officer says, before saying the ship is wanted for security reasons.

A British naval officer from the HMS Montrose frigate patrolling the area around the Strait of Hormuz is heard telling the Stena Impero, which had a crew of 23 on board, that its passage must be allowed.

"Sir, I reiterate that as you are conducting transit passage in a recognised international strait, under international law your passage must not be impaired, intruded, obstructed or hampered," the British officer says.

The British officer then tells an Iranian patrol boat: "Please confirm that you are not intending to violate international law by unlawfully attempting to board the MV Stena."

Iranian officials say the seizure of the British oil tanker was a response to Britain's role in impounding an Iranian supertanker two weeks earlier.

Friday's incident comes

amid heightened tensions between the US and Iran stemming from President Donald Trump's decision last year to pull the US from Iran's nuclear accord with world powers and reinstate sweeping sanctions.

The US has expanded its military presence in the region, while Iran has begun openly exceeding uranium enrichment levels set in the nuclear accord to pressure Europe to alleviate the pain caused by the sanctions.

Britain's Defense Secretary Tobias Ellwood reiterated calls for de-escalation on Sunday in an interview with Sky News.

"Well, firstly we need to try and de-escalate this. There has been a ratcheting up of tensions in the Middle East," he said, before adding that Friday's seizure is "a hostile act" by Iran.

Ellwood also noted that the British Royal Navy "is too small to manage our interests across the globe" and that this would be an issue for the next prime minister to recognize.

# Ukraine's Zelensky aims to consolidate power in parliament polls

AFP ■ KIEV

Ukrainians on Sunday went to the polls to elect a new parliament as comedian-turned-president Volodymyr Zelensky seeks to bring in political newcomers and consolidate power.

Zelensky's newly-created party is expected to win the largest share of the votes in the early polls expected to usher in a new era in the country dominated up to now by politicians who grew up in the Soviet Union.

The leader's party Servant of the People -- named after a sitcom in which he played a president -- is predicted to get roughly half of the vote even though it barely existed before Zelensky won a landslide victory in an April presidential vote.

Zelensky, however, may not secure a majority and would need to form a coalition, possibly with rock star Svyatoslav Vakarchuk's newly-created party

Golos (Voice).

After casting his ballot, the 41-year-old leader said he would make a decision about possible coalition partners after the results of the vote are out.

"We do not see a coalition with the old authorities," Zelensky said in the capital Kiev, wearing a casual blue shirt.

The outgoing parliament, dominated by Zelensky's predecessor Petro Poroshenko, has been hostile to the actor, who called a snap election during his swearing-in as president.

The Ukrainian president must share power with parliament, which will nominate a prime minister and form a government.

Many said they voted for the leader's party. "He was elected but he can't do anything. They (lawmakers) constantly put sticks in his wheels and dump his ideas," Valentyna, an 82-year-old pensioner told AFP in central Kiev.

# 1.3K firefighters battle Portugal wildfires

AFP ■ AMENDOA (PORTUGAL)

Planes and helicopters joined more than a thousand firefighters in central Portugal Sunday to battle huge wildfires in a mountainous region where over 100 people died in huge blazes in 2017.

By 9:30 am (0830 GMT), one of the biggest mobilisations ever seen in the area -- including 1,100 firefighters and 340 vehicles -- had been deployed to fight the blazes in the heavily forested Castelo Branco region, 200 kilometres north of Lisbon, the rescue services said.

The biggest effort -- 760 firefighters, 230 vehicles and 11 planes and helicopters -- battled to douse flames in the municipality of Vila de Rei, which had spread nearly 25 kilometres. One seriously injured civilian was evacuated by helicopter to Lisbon, the commander of the Civil Protection for the region, Luis Belo Costa, told a news conference.

# 9 killed in gun, suicide attack in northwest Pak

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

At least nine persons, including six policemen, were killed and around 40 others injured in northwest Pakistan on Sunday in a terror strike on a checkpoint and a subsequent suicide blast by a burqa-clad woman at a hospital where the victims of the first attack were shifted.

Both the attacks took place in Dera Ismail Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a day after the first-ever successful election was held in the newly merged tribal areas of the province.

Four unidentified armed men riding two motor-bikes opened fire on two policemen, who were on duty at the Kotla Syedan checkpoint, and killed

them, District police chief Saleem Riaz told the media.

When the bodies of the slain policemen were brought to the district hospital, a burqa-clad suicide bomber, already sitting there, targeted the people who gathered around the ambulance, the official said.

Seven people, including four policemen, were killed in the suicide blast, police said.

He said the suicide bombing by a female was first ever and unexpected incident in the region.

According to eye witnesses, the bomber was wearing a head-to-toe veil. Police also recovered hairs and feet of the attacker and sent them for forensic examination.

The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed respon-

sibility for the attack.

The seriously injured people were shifted to the Combine Military Hospital for medical cover. The police and civil administration reached the spot immediately after the explosion.

Riaz said that 7 to 8 kg explosive was used in the suicide explosion. He confirmed seven fatalities, in both the terror act. The death toll could rise as the majority of the victims were in critical condition, he said.

He said that security check is done by the police on the entry of people into the hospital. But due to tradition and customs of the area females are exempted. He said the suicide bombing by a female was first ever and unexpected incident in the region.

# Pak PM Imran Khan arrives in US, will meet Trump today

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan arrived here on his maiden trip to the US during which he will hold talks with Donald Trump and reboot bilateral ties that were hit after the US president publicly criticised Islamabad, cancelled military aid and asked it to do more to fight terrorism.

Khan, 66, is scheduled to meet President Trump at the White House on Monday during which the American leadership is likely to press him to take "decisive and irreversible" actions against terrorist and militant groups operating from Pakistani soil and facilitate peace talks with the Taliban.

The cricketer-turned-politician arrived here on Saturday afternoon aboard a commercial Qatar Airways flight and is staying at the official residence of the Pakistani Ambassador to the US, Asad Majeed Khan.

He was welcomed at the airport by his foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi. A large number of Pakistani Americans also welcomed him.

Nawaz Sharif was the last Pakistani prime minister to visit the US on an official trip in October 2015.

During his three-day visit, Khan, in addition to his meeting with Trump, is also scheduled to meet IMF acting chief David Lipton and World Bank President David Malpass.

# US concerned over reports on China's 'interference' in SCS

AP ■ HANOI

The United States said it's concerned by reports of China's interference with oil and gas activities in the disputed waters of the South China Sea (SCS), where Vietnam accuses Beijing of violating its sovereignty.

State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortugus said in a statement that China's "repeated provocative actions aimed at the offshore oil and gas development of other claimant states threaten regional energy security and undermine the free and open Indo-Pacific energy market."

Vietnam on Friday demanded China remove a survey ship from Vanguard Bank, which it says lies with-

in Vietnam's 200-mile exclusive economic zone. China claims the South China Sea almost in its entirety and has rattled smaller neighbours by constructing seven man-made islands in the disputed waters and equipped them with military runways and outposts.

Chinese coast guard vessels also have been reported near a drilling rig in the same Vanguard Bank area where Vietnam has contracted Russia's Rosneft to develop gas fields. "Vietnam has made contact with China on multiple occasions via different channels, delivered diplomatic notes to oppose China's violations, and staunchly demanded China to stop all unlawful activities and withdraw its

ships from Vietnamese waters," Vietnam's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Le Thi Thu Hang said in a statement Friday.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang earlier in the week urged Hanoi to respect China's sovereign rights and jurisdiction, "and not to take any move that may complicate matters."

In May 2014, Chinese and Vietnamese vessels engaged in a dangerous confrontation when China's national oil company moved its oil platform into waters Vietnam considers its territory.

Ortugus calls on China to "cease its bullying behaviour and refrain from engaging in this type of provocative and destabilizing activities."

# Japan's ruling coalition secures upper house majority

AP ■ TOKYO

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling coalition secured a majority in Japan's upper house of parliament in elections Sunday, according to vote counts by public television and other media.

Exit polls indicated Abe could even close in on the super-majority needed to propose constitutional revisions.

NHK public television said Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and its junior partner Komeito had won 64 seats in the upper house after two hours of vote counting.

The two-thirds majority needed for constitutional revision could be within reach if the ruling bloc can gain support from members of another conservative party and independents.

Up for grabs were 124 seats in the less powerful of Japan's two parliamentary chambers.

There are 245 seats in the upper house -- which does not choose the prime minister -- about half of which are elected every three years.

The results appeared to match or even exceed pre-election polls that indicated Abe's ruling bloc was to keep ground in the upper house, with most voters considering it a safer choice over an opposition with an uncertain track record.

To reach the two-thirds majority, or 164 seats, Abe needs 85 more seats by his ruling bloc and supporters of a charter change.

Opposition parties have focused on concerns over household finances, such as the

impact from an upcoming 10 per cent sales tax increase and strains on the public pension system amid Japan's aging population.

Abe has led his Liberal Democratic Party to five consecutive parliamentary election victories since 2012.

He has prioritised revitalising Japan's economy and has steadily bolstered the country's defenses in the backdrop of North Korea's missile and nuclear threats and China's growing military presence.

He also has showcased his diplomatic skills by cultivating warm ties with President Donald Trump.

Abe was hoping to gain enough upper house seats to boost his chances for constitutional revision, his long-cherished goal before his term ends

in 2021.

Abe needs approval by a two-thirds majority in both houses to propose a revision and seek a national referendum.

His ruling bloc already has a two-thirds majority in the more powerful lower house.

But Abe and his conservative backers face challenges because voters seem more concerned about their jobs, the economy and social security.

The main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan and three other liberal-leaning parties teamed up in some districts.

They stressed support for gender equality and LGBT issues -- areas Abe's ultra-conservative lawmakers are reluctant to back.

At a polling station in

Tokyo's Chuo district on Sunday, voters were divided over Abe's 6 1/2-year rule.

A voter who identified himself only as a company worker in his 40s said he chose a candidate and a party that have demonstrated an ability to get things done, suggesting he voted for Abe's ruling party and its candidate, as "there is no point in casting my vote for a party or a politician who has no such abilities."

Another voter, Katsunori Takeuchi, a 57-year-old fish market worker, said it was time to change the dominance of Abe and his ultra-conservative policies.

"I think the ruling party has been dominating politics for far too long and it is causing damage," he said.

# Israeli Minister boasts his country has been 'killing Iranians'

AFP ■ JERUSALEM

An Israeli Minister boasted Sunday that his country was the only one that "has been killing Iranians", after tensions between Britain and Iran rose in the Gulf.

Regional Cooperation Minister Tzachi Hanegbi's comments to public radio were a reference to Israeli strikes in neighbouring Syria against Iranian and Lebanese Hezbollah movement's military targets.

But they came after Iran seized a British-flagged tanker on Friday, adding to tensions between Washington and Tehran linked to a 2015 nuclear deal.

Hanegbi accused Iran, Israel's main enemy, of seeking

to create "chaos" and "harm freedom of navigation." Asked if he feared that Israel would not receive the backing of the United States in the case of a conflict with Iran, Hanegbi suggested that Tehran would avoid such a scenario.

"Israel is the only country in the world that has been killing Iranians for two years," he said.

"We strike the Iranians hundreds of times in Syria. Sometimes we acknowledge it and sometimes foreign reports reveal it."

He added that the Iranians "understand that Israel means business." Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes in Syria against what it says are Iranian and Hezbollah military targets.

It has vowed to keep Iran from entrenching itself militarily there.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke in a similar vein last week with cadets at the national security college.

"At the moment, the only army in the world to fight Iran is the Israeli army," he said.

Earlier this month, Netanyahu warned that Israeli fighter jets "can reach anywhere in the Middle East, including Iran". Iran's seizure of a British-flagged tanker in the Strait of Hormuz for breaking "international maritime rules" came some two weeks after Britain seized an Iranian tanker at the mouth of the Mediterranean on allegations of breaching UN sanctions against Syria.



## Swaraj: Dream of every Indian

The stability and success of the government is possible only after moral and spiritual cleansing, says RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Recently, an article, written by the chief economic advisor of the Government of India, *Towards a \$5trillion economy*, which was published in a leading English daily raised a lot of questions and hopes and made headlines across global media. However, even after the media hype, the common man remains as confused as before. The political fraternity must understand that in the 21st century, where the average voters of India are aged between 18-35, a mere enunciation of national policy objectives, which reads like a wish-list, would no longer work out in their favour.

The approach, however laudable, has to be backed by giving up political and personal antagonism and animus and must be supported by substance and records. The methods of governance have to provide a framework in which the complete political class, undividedly, can work on national issues like poverty, illiteracy, disease, pollution, unemployment and numerous others. Let the politicians bid adieu to personal prejudices and beliefs that have proved to be debilitating and costly for the country to the extent that *Swaraj* has become a distant dream.

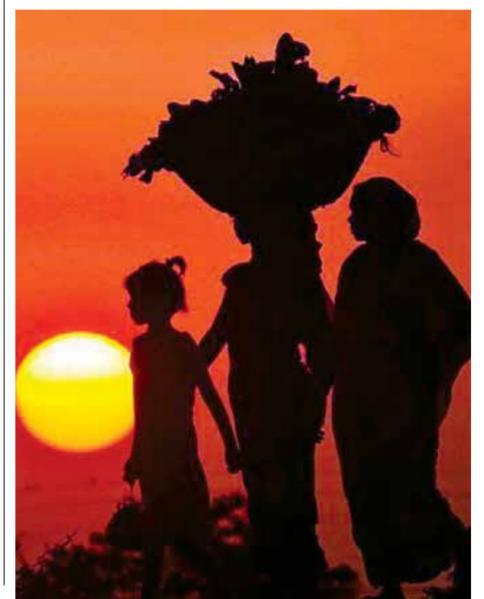


Can politicians, who always claim to be the 'servants of people', not make some sacrifices for their motherland? Can't they save their country from sliding down further into the morass of divisionism, ill-will and energy-draining activities, returning to co-operation in constructive and consensual ways? However, is it possible to end the morass and bring back social transparency and accountability without morally educating the masses?

When news channels show that the new government will be building more houses, creating opportunities for employment in rural areas, making primary education compulsory, providing free drinking water to the citizens, and making India a hunger-free nation in the next five years and so on — the news is welcomed by all. But one must first question where would the money for these schemes come from. How would these be funded? Also, even though in such cases money is usually raised by broadening the tax-base, would it be possible to make these benefits reachable to the deprived masses? That too, without delays or any kind of inefficiency from the bureaucracy, which has led to leakage of the funds. So is it really possible?

We all wish that these goals should be achieved and that the new government attains stability and success. But with a small note of caution — without moral and spiritual cleansing, *Swaraj* would remain a far-off goal.

Today, every Indian, rich or poor, hopes for a political leader who could act as a role model. The recent past has turned out to be horrific for the country as politics has become synonymous with corruption, exploitation and discrimination on the basis of caste and religion, hypocrisy and double-speak, egoism, lust for power, and some false promises. Some small alliances have also become tools of big parties for swinging them back to power, for toppling the state governments that have been formed by a different party or for ruining the chances of an opposing party from gaining power. So, it is time that we clear this corrupt, stained image of politics as it needs to regain its lost respect and faith among the people so that they don't lose the remaining interest in the government and their methods.



Every week, on an appointed day, a steady stream of women with children in tow can be seen making their way from Yavatmal's Bahlugaon block towards the anganwadi centre in Kopara, Maharashtra. As the women of this quiet rural hamlet gather around in the *baithak* (living room), the little ones get busy playing games.

These mothers' meets are an opportunity for young mothers and mothers-to-be to lean on each other for friendship and support. Together, they seek some sound advice on childcare and indulge in creative problem-solving for the well-being of their offsprings.

Prabha Sudhkar Navade, anganwadi worker, conducts the meeting and invites participants to speak one by one. Gradually, it turns into a full-blown discussion on different aspects of motherhood. "The meetings take place every week so that the women can exchange notes on the health problems that their children face and collectively offer some practical solutions to each other," says she.

The unique feature of these gatherings is that the groups have been formed on the basis of children's age. For example, expectant women gather on the first Saturday of every month, mothers of toddlers come on the third Saturday and so on. "This approach enables them to easily share their experiences since their children are going through similar milestones and difficulties. Very

## Mothering mothers

Women in a small district of Maharashtra have found a refuge in the anganwadi centres where they discuss the health and problems of children, says DARSHNA DAWDA

often they find solutions amongst themselves by tapping into collective wisdom," reveals Navade.

This, indeed, is a sustainable and participatory initiative that not only helps in building the confidence of the women but also enables them to safeguard the health of their little ones. For expert opinion and assistance, mothers can always reach out to the anganwadi worker or the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA).

During the *Poshan Pakhwada* celebrations, held in March to mark the first anniversary of the *Poshan Abhiyan*, Navade had called a mothers' meet to discuss nutrition, immu-

nisation and other key elements of childcare. The participating mothers discussed the varied and unpredictable food habits of their children.

Aparna, mother of Aditi Ganesh Mehekar, confessed that earlier she was unaware that she should give vegetables and fruits to her children everyday. She says, "Also, I had no idea how frequently growing children had to be fed". Aradhya Santosh Patil's mother, Seema candidly told everyone, "Earlier, my daughter ate very little at home but now she has learnt to eat everything in the company of other children as they share food. Now she also asks me to cook a variety of vegetables."



Navade is really proud that the mothers associated with anganwadi have understood the value of holistic, healthy living and achieving all-round growth for young ones.

An hour-and-a-half's drive away, in the neighbouring block of Digras, there is a village called Harsul. The anganwadi worker and her assistant there have found a unique way to ensure that the children are excited to come to the centre. The health workers have transformed the off-white cloth bag, which was used to provide families with fortified Take Home Ration (THR), into a craft bag for the children. Each bag displays their I-card and this creates a sense

of ownership among children. It also enables friendly competition among them. When they come for classes, they take out time to draw, colour or make something from rough paper and crayons that they have brought from home. When it's time for them to go back, they neatly put their creations back into their bags.

When the children come along with their mothers for weekly meetings at the centre or for some special programmes, the anganwadi-tai asks them to show off their art work. Such display of talent encourages them to learn and grow. Not surprisingly, the mothers can't stop gushing.

—Charkha Features

It is said that life is all about learning and expanding your horizons. Business writer Tom Peters once said, "A career is a portfolio of projects that teaches you new skills, gains you new expertise, develops new capabilities, grows your colleague set and constantly reinvents yourself as a brand." While all these words of wisdom define the depth of learning, simultaneously there is the debate whether education ever stops or it continues throughout life.

Our entire life is a learning experience that never ends. From classroom lectures to real-life experiences, it is a combination of everything that defines your existence. In the current scenario, it is an ongoing process where an individual acquires skills and competence in the formal and non-formal learning set-up throughout his life. Today, education is a highly time-dependent and cumulative process that requires you to move slowly and go deeper to make the best of it.

According to scholars, education or learning is a part of life, which takes place at all times in all places. The lifelong process begins at home with family and friends and gradually moves to society, commu-

## A lifelong process

A technological change demands stronger and continuous connection between education and employment. And that is the reason people should strive to learn more to improve the meaning of their existence, says PANKAJ KUMAR SINGH

nities, schools, religious institutions and workplaces. The best part of this ongoing process is that you evolve as a better individual, who understands the deeper meaning of life and existence. Also, through continuous learning one can become a 'provider' rather than just being a 'receiver'. It has been proven that learning helps in developing the business-oriented mindset that can result in making you a 'job provider'. It enhances the understanding of the world around us, provide us with better opportunities and improves the quality of life.

*Master It Faster* by Colin Rose has described the six stages of learning that are believed to be the key to become an effective learner. These stages can be applied to any type of learning, either formal or informal. The first stage in this process is 'motiva-



tion'. It is believed that it is essential for an individual to have this so that the learning reflects in his personality. Forceful learning is always in

vain. The next stage is called 'acquire'. During effective learning, you are required to read, listen, observe, practice, experiment and experience. The trick is to acquire relevant and meaningful information and develop this into knowledge and skills. The next stage is described as 'search'. At this stage, one needs to search for personal meaning in the information s/he is acquiring. It often happens that we find it hard to remember facts without understanding them or being able to put them into context. Next comes, the stage of 'trigger'. It is the time when you need to make notes of everything you learn as it is difficult to remember everything. You need to examine your knowledge to help reinforce what you have learned. And finally, one needs to reflect on the learning. It is necessary to think about how and why you learned, including how you felt about a particular topic or situation. That is how you develop and evolve your skills.

If you are wondering why it is important, you need to understand that it's also about passion and satisfaction that it offers. When you are passionate about learning, it gives you a kick and an incomparable sense of satisfaction. Also, it skills up your functionality as an individual. From learning a new process at work to using a new app, it is a new world of knowledge every day that makes you an efficient individual. It has been proven that learning is becoming an economic imperative. A technological change demands stronger and continuous connection between education and employment. And that's the reason people in the corporate sector are always striving to learn more in order to improve their existence.

Apart from all this, learning also adds value to your daily life. It makes it more practical, helps you handle everything — right from home to office and from society to nature. In simple words, it makes you an asset to the world. So are you ready to be a part of the process that has no end?

(The author is the managing director of a company engaged in bridging the education gap.)

“ People who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world, are the ones who do. ”

—Steve Jobs

### TESTOSTERONE THERAPY UPS STROKE RISK

Ageing men with low testosterone levels who take testosterone replacement therapy (TRT) are at a high risk of experiencing an ischemic stroke or a cardiac arrest especially during the first two years of use, warns a study.



Published in *The American Journal of Medicine*, the findings confirm concerns voiced by many health agencies about the potential risks associated with the treatment. "Our research shows that the use of TRT was associated with an increased risk of stroke, transient ischemic attack or cardiac arrest during the first two years of use," said Christel Renoux from the McGill University, Canada.

As per researchers, there is limited evidence on long-term clinical benefits of TRT to effectively treat the decline of endogenous testosterone levels of ageing but healthy men. "We strongly recommend that clinicians proceed with caution when prescribing TRT and first discuss the potential benefits and risks with patients," he added.

### TAKING HOT BATH BEFORE BED IMPROVES SLEEP

Taking hot bath at least 90 minutes before bedtime is your ticket to sound sleep. Just remember that the water temperature should be around 40-42 degrees celsius, else you may not get better shuteye.

Biomedical engineers at University of Texas-Austin reached this conclusion after analysing thousands of studies linking water-based passive body heating or bathing and showering with warm/hot water, with improved sleep quality.

"When we looked through all known studies, we noticed significant disparities in terms of approaches and findings," said Shahab Haghayegh, lead author on the paper. "The only way to make an accurate

determination of whether sleep can, in fact, be improved was to combine all the past data and look at it through a new lens." Meta-analytical tools were used to assess the consistency between relevant studies and showed that an optimum temperature of 40-42 degrees celsius improved sleep quality.

### EXERCISE AND HYDRATION MAY TACKLE LOW BP

Suffering from low blood pressure? Exercise for an hour or more and stay hydrated to improve the condition and control fainting or dizziness episodes, finds a NASA-funded study on astronauts.

The study is the first to examine the condition called "orthostatic intolerance" during daily activities when the astronauts returned home.

The researchers found that exercise regimens during space flight, followed by saline injections after landing, were sufficient to prevent the condition from occurring.

"Daily exercise of an hour or so was sufficient to prevent loss of heart muscle and when it was combined with receiving hydration on their return, the condition was prevented entirely. We expected to see up to two-thirds of the space crew faint. Instead, no one fainted," said cardiologist Dr Benjamin Levine from UT Southwestern Medical Center. A similar condition is diagnosed in patients as Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome, which is mainly found in women.



### FRENCH KISS MAY GET YOU GONORRHOEA

If you thought gonorrhoea — the most antibiotic-resistant of all the sexually-transmitted infections — can spread through only oral, anal or vaginal sex with someone with the disease, hold on. New research suggests mouth kissing can also be a risk factor in spread of the infection and a good-quality antibacterial mouthwash can help.

The global sexual health community "needs to recognise that gonorrhoea is on the rise and there should be an increased awareness of the risks of kissing as a route of transmission," said one of the researchers Christopher Fairley, professor at Monash University, Australia.

"Understanding how it is transmitted is the key to learn how to control it — if transmission by kissing is a key route of transmission then it is important to investigate new

methods of control, such as anti-bacterial mouthwash. Kissing can also cause gonorrhoea though the chances are less. Saliva is also a reason," he added.



### CIGARETTE BUTTS DAMAGE PLANT GROWTH

Cigarette butts significantly reduce plant growth as their presence in the soil affects the germination success and shoot length, find researchers.



The researchers from Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) found that the presence of cigarette butts in the soil reduces the germination success and shoot length of clover by 27 per cent and 28 per cent, respectively, while root biomass (root weight) reduced by 57 per cent. For grass, germination success reduced by 10 per cent and shoot length by 13 per cent.

The study, published in the journal *Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety*, is the first to show the damage that cigarette butts can cause to plants. It is estimated that around 4.5 trillion cigarette butts are littered every year, making them the most pervasive form of plastic pollution on the planet. Most cigarette butts contain a filter made of cellulose acetate fibre.

Trend Blazer

Apar joins Pati, Patni Aur Woh

Actor APARSHAKTI KHURANA has been roped in to play a pivotal part in the forthcoming film *Pati Patni Aur Woh*.

"It's amazing to join hands with Bhusharji one more time. After *Luka Chuppi*, Kartik and I are quite compatible. So, you will see the chemistry going between us in this one too," Aparshakti said.

"The two pretty girls — Bhumi (Pednekar) and Ananya (Panday) — make the team warmer, I totally love what they are doing in front of the camera and the captain of the ship, Mudassar (Aziz) is leading with full conviction," he added.

The film is an adaptation of BR Chopra's 1978 film with the same title.



'Conscious sobriety is what I chose two and a half years ago and I now have a new life. Addiction comes in many forms — alcohol, substance, love, work, power... the list goes on. Strength lies in sharing frailties and embracing vulnerability. I just want people to know they are not alone.'

—Pooja Bhatt



Although the recently-launched trailer of *MISSION MANGAL* is seeing numerous hilarious memes on the internet, it has garnered praise from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

The space research organisation lauded the film as an effort to beautifully depict the emotions and passion that it invests in its missions.

Directed by Jagan Shakti, the film is based on the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), launched by ISRO in November 2013, to put a space probe in planet Mars' orbit.

'Actors are misunderstood'

For BRIAN COX, an actor's job is to reflect the truth. The *X-Men* star, however, feels people don't really understand actors.

"People don't understand actors very much. I constantly find that actors are misunderstood," said Cox.

"People think that actors do some kind of magic. I'd go back to William Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' quote, 'twere, the mirror up to nature' to describe my job as an actor," he added. Cox says he finds the journey of exploring human experiences through his work fascinating. He pointed out that my job is to tell the truth about situations, about why people come to be what they are which is endlessly fascinating.



# MAKING BUSTARD GREAT AGAIN

The bird has been rescued from the brink of extinction. YASHNA SHETTY talks to the experts to understand how the mission is bringing about an improvement in their population as well as a change in mindsets

From far, it looks like an ordinary bird as it moves its spindly legs to roam around the grassland in search of a mate. But what makes this Great Indian Bustard (GIB) unusual is that this is the last male left in Gujarat. While some might despair at the news, others take heart at the birth of an artificially hatched chick in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

The GIB that lost the battle to be crowned the national bird of India is fighting another battle, this time around for survival. However, it is not alone as the decline in bird and animal species has been catastrophic as over the last 100 years more than 500 species have been lost instead of the nine that would have been expected at natural rates.

With less than 130 left in the country, the Centre has decided to step in and has initiated a project worth ₹33.85 crore for their conservation and protection, according to the Environment Ministry.

India is spending ₹100 crores over five years to bring four species back from the brink of extinction. They are the Great Indian Bustard, the Gangetic Dolphin, the Manipur Deer and the sea cow or Dugong. Almost a third of the money under the Species Recovery Programme is going towards the conservation of the GIB, the state bird of Rajasthan.

Arjun Awasthi, project associate of The Great Indian Bustard Conservation, Breeding and Habitat Project, Wildlife Institute of India says, "Power line collisions are the biggest issue. The power agencies need to install bird diverters. These devices make the power lines 70 per cent more visible to the birds and have reduced collisions in Europe and South Africa. Other threats to the bustard include loss of their grassland habitat, predation of their eggs by stray dogs and, in some parts, illegal hunting. My job, as someone who has worked closely with other species of bustards and other wild birds, is to facilitate the captive breeding of the birds and to ensure they have a safe, healthy and enriching environment to grow in."

However, the Indian govern-

RADIO TAGGING BUSTARD FEMALES, FIGURING OUT THEIR NESTING SITES, COLLECTING EGGS SO THAT WE HAVE ONE CHICK IN CAPTIVITY AND ANOTHER IN THE WILD ARE SOME STEPS TO IMPROVE THEIR POPULATION



ment is steadfastly developing a conservation-breeding programme to improve these numbers. "This involves radio tagging bustard females, figuring out their nesting sites, collecting eggs so that we have one chick in captivity and another in the wild and setting up a natural breeding population in a captive environment. All of this, with the hope to restore their natural habitat so that they can be released in the wild in the future," adds Arjun, who has been working on this project for the last two years in Rajasthan. "The programme has seen success mainly in Jaisalmer. Our efforts are not only focussed on the ex-situ (captive breeding) component but there is also a significant push for the in-situ (on site; bustard habitat) conservation." However, just captive breeding to push up the numbers is not the end of the process. Arjun highlights that "the first step in this whole process is completed but the ultimate goal is to release these birds into places where they can live, safely." As

always happens in any conservation programme, the attempt is to involve people and sensitise them, which is a long drawn process. The issue has also been highlighted at WWF.

Asad Rahmani, former director of Bombay Natural History Society and former chairman, Department of Wildlife Sciences says, "We shouldn't be negative about the future of the GIB. The Wildlife Institute, Dehradun, has done a commendable job. For the last 30 to

40 years, things haven't gone well and we are now left with very few birds but the first step of the conservation programme in Rajasthan has been successful. After breeding them in captivity, we would want to safely release them into the wild, in the future. We basically need to have a breeding stock."

He goes on to add, "These birds cross the border and fly to Pakistan where they are hunted and people proudly post pictures of themselves with the bird as trophies on social media platforms." Ask him whether people are aware about how serious the issue is, he says, "The need of the hour is sensitising the new generation to the concern as well."

There is a larger issue involved as well which are related to how human beings are overtaking the planet and changing its demographics. Jai Dhar Gupta, environmentalist and founder of Nirvana Being, says, "Threats to most species are caused because of loss

of habitat, which is due to land grab in the country. Even the insects that the bustard eats are poisonous because of the pesticides in them. All our environment-related issues are caused by greed. People like to grab every bit of land available and this is destroying our eco systems, completely." A good example of this, he says, was people wanting to build a highway through the Aravali Hills, which he termed "crazy". "Everything, from the air pollution to the loss of habitat in the country is harming our environment. The bustard almost becoming extinct, is a visible example of the harm being caused and we have literally reached a state of emergency" he concluded. The plan is to successfully complete the conservation programme for the GIB so it is out of the danger zone. While the process will take some time before we can see results, a more holistic approach to conserving all creatures big and small is needed rather than the belief of the survival of the fittest.



TECH TALK

## How many likes did you get?



A photo-sharing app hides 'likes' on its posts so that people don't feel hurt while comparing themselves to others

3,200 followers, added that he understands why Instagram is doing this. Hilton said his younger sister, who is in high school, is "obsessed" with likes.

"It's mostly for the younger generation, people in high school and stuff," he said. "There is a lot of pressure. If someone has 1,000 likes and someone has two likes, that probably makes them feel not very nice."

While Hilton said the change will probably slow down the influencer world a little bit, he pointed out that a lot of young influencers now are using live videos, not static photos, to build their following. Here, likes are still visible.

Guy Avigdor, co-founder and chief operating officer of influencer marketing company Klear, said many marketers are also moving toward Story, Instagram's disappearing video and photo feature.

"If anything, now is a time for the industry to adapt more adequate metrics for measuring influencer impact and reduce reliance on likes," Avigdor said. —AP

their own photos but won't see counts for other people's posts. Rather, they could tap to see a list of all the accounts that liked the other posts but would have to count the total manually. It's a task few people would both- er with. Likewise, though

Instagram isn't hiding the number of followers on an account, it still requires an extra tap or two to find that.

"It makes it hard to find who the influencers are," said Ryan Hilton, a 27-year old Canadian who works in social

media and has been part of the no-likes test for months. "It's hard to know who to follow because everyone looks the same."

Hilton, who has a personal account as well as one for his dog, the latter with more than

W E B B E D

THE BOYS



The series presents an irreverent take on what happens when superheroes, as popular as celebrities, as influential as politicians and as revered as gods, abuse their super-powers rather than utilising them to do good. The story plots the super

powerful against the powerless as the 'boys' embark on a heroic quest to expose the truth about *The Seven*, and their formidable backing. The sci-fi releases on July 26 on Amazon Prime.

ANOTHER LIFE: SEASON 1



After a massive alien artifact lands on the Earth, Niko Breckinridge leads an interstellar mission to track down its source and make first contact.

Created by Aaron Martin, the series stars Katee Sackhoff, Justin Chatwin, Samuel Anderson. It will release on July 25 on Netflix.

OTHERHOOD



Feeling forgotten and alienated on Mother's Day, three mothers and best friends leave the suburbs and drive to the New York to surprise their adult sons. The film presents a light-hearted take on life after motherhood.

Starring Angela Bassett, Patricia Arquette and Felicity Huffman, the film releases on August 2 on Netflix.

Woman of substance

You may have been born rich or have an illustrious and a wealthy family legacy but in order to be successful and create a unique reputation, you need vision and hardwork, or so believes entrepreneur and philanthropist Priya Jain, who has been listed in the 50 most influential women in India. "In order to attain personal success, you need to set your own goal, pave your own path, believe in yourself and think through a thousand times before taking any decision. And once you have begun your journey, never look back," said she.

Giver her belief, it was not surprising that Priya was one of the 50 women who were felicitated for being the most influential Indian women worldwide. These women call countries like Britain, India, Spain, America, Scotland their home where they have made a mark in their own fields.

At the award ceremony at the House of Lords, British Parliament, Priya dedicated her success and award to her late father DK Jain, who is considered to be a pioneer in the field of education.

She added, "Prime Minister Narendar Modi's new theory *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas* (company of all, development of all and trust of all) has been guiding the world leaders. His welfare measures for

Muslims, especially for women are unparalleled in the history of India. His vision to create a new India has had an everlasting impact on me. Also, schemes such as *Ujjwala Yojana, Swachh Shauchalya, Mudra Yojana* and Skill India have changed the mindset of so many people in the country, and especially women."

The entrepreneur revealed that one of her major ongoing projects is a book about Narendar Modi. She said, "The book will not portray his life events and political activities rather, it will be a documented work. It aims to present the views of beneficiaries of different programmes announced by the PM."



# SINDHU FALTERS IN FINAL

Yamaguchi beats Pusarla 21-15, 21-16 to win Indonesia crown; Chou Tien-chen bags men's title

PTI ■ JAKARTA

PV Sindhu's hopes of breaking a seven-month title drought came crashing down as the Indian lost in straight games to Akane Yamaguchi in the finals of Indonesia Open BWF Tour Super 1000 tournament here on Sunday.

Seven months after becoming the first Indian to win the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals in December, Olympic Silver medallist Sindhu had an opportunity to finally lay her hands on another crown only to squander, losing 15-21, 16-21 to the Japanese in a lop-sided summit clash that lasted 51 minutes here.

Playing her first final of the season, Sindhu looked a bit anxious and failed to match the brilliance of the 22-year-old Yamaguchi, whom she had beaten in the last four meetings.

"She played really well and there were long rallies. I was leading in the first game by 2-3 points but I made a few mistakes and then she finished it off. If I could have won the first game, it could have been a bit different," Sindhu told reporters.

"In the second I gave her a huge lead like 5-6 points and was left to cover it. But overall, I think it was a good tournament for me and I hope I can take the confidence going forward. Next I am playing Japan and I hope to do well there."

This was Sindhu's fifth loss to Yamaguchi in 15 meetings. The last time the Indian lost to the Japanese was at the semifinals of the All England Championship last year.

The defeat added to Sindhu's list of runners-up finishes, which include Silvers at the World Championships, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Thailand Open and India Open last year.

It was Yamaguchi's third title of the season after claiming crowns at German Open and Asian Championship.

Prior to this in 2019, Sindhu reached the semifinals of Singapore Open and India Open.

Sindhu had a forgettable start in the



PV Sindhu and Akane Yamaguchi pose with the runners up and winners medal respectively at the podium after Indonesia Open women's final match



BWF/Twitter

opening game as she lagged 0-3 but soon the Indian controlled the proceedings, making Yamaguchi run across the court and finishing with her precise returns to take a 5-4 lead.

Yamaguchi took the lead at 7-7 when Sindhu went wide. But the Indian managed to grab a three-point advantage at the break

after the Japanese went wide twice. Yamaguchi then displayed good retrieval skills and grabbed three straight points when Sindhu miscued her strokes.

A delicate net shot took Yamaguchi to 12-13 but she again missed the line. The Japanese levelled par at 14-14 when the Indian went long.

Yamaguchi attacked Sindhu's long backhand corner and soon eked out a 16-14 lead. An attacking game helped the Japanese to widen the gap as Sindhu once again sent a shuttle wide.

A lapse in backhand defence and then one shot going long from Sindhu gave Yamaguchi six game points. The Indian

saved one before a smash to a return of serve helped the Japanese to seal the opening game.

In the second game, Yamaguchi made a good start again, moving to a 4-1 lead before stretching it to 8-5 with Sindhu struggling to control the shuttle. The Indian won a few points because of unforced errors by Yamaguchi.

The Japanese sent one at Sindhu's body during a flat exchange before entering the interval with a 11-8 advantage, when the Indian hit out.

Sindhu unleashed a cross court smash and pushed one at the backcourt to leave Yamaguchi off balance, but the Japanese rode on the Indian's unforced errors to move to a 15-10 lead.

At 15-11, the duo played a 51-shot rally that ended with Sindhu making a judgement error.

Two unforced errors by Yamaguchi took Sindhu to 13-16 before she moved to 15-18. After a treatment on her right knee, Yamaguchi was back on the court and produced a smash to make it 19-15.

The Japanese held four match points when Sindhu went long and she sealed it with another smash to claim the biggest title of her career.

## INDIA IN QUARTERS DESPITE DEFEAT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India set up a quarter-final clash with Indonesia despite losing their last group match to Korea at the Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2019 (Mixed Team Event) in Suzhou, China on Sunday.

Maisnam Meiraba's great effort was the silver lining of the day for the Indian contingent in their 1-4 loss but by finishing second to Korea in Group C, they made it to the last-eight.

On the first day of the continental event, India blanked both Mongolia and Macau China by an identical score of 5-0.

Manipur's Meiraba had been in sterling form of late and he even won his first international tournament at the White Night Russian Junior International earlier this month. Meiraba refused to give up and fought for 1 hour 32 minutes to subdue Korea's Hyeon Seung Park.

While that was the solitary win of the day for Team India, there were encouraging performances from others. The doubles teams, especially, stood out for their gutsy displays in a losing cause.

The mixed doubles pair of Dingku Singh Konthoujam and Ritika Thaker fought for 56 minutes before going down 21-19, 12-21, 12-21 to Dong Ju Ki and Eun Ji Lee. Goa's Tanisha Crasto and Kerala's Treasa Jolly were equally impressive in their 16-21, 12-16, 12-21 girls' doubles loss to Young Bin Ji and Eun Ji Lee.

The boys' doubles combine of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Vishnu Vardhan Goud Panjala found Korea's Dong Ju Ki and Joon Young Kim too strong in their 17-21, 15-21 defeat. In girls' singles, Malvika Bansod suffered a 10-21, 8-21 defeat to Ga Lam Kim.

## Enter-kaned!

AFF ■ SINGAPORE

Harry Kane scored a stunning 93rd minute winner from the halfway line as Tottenham Hotspur edged Juventus 3-2 in an entertaining pre-season friendly in Singapore on Sunday.

The England captain latched onto Lucas Moura's short pass and launched a first-time shot high over a scrambling substitute keeper Wojciech Szczesny as Spurs rallied past new manager Maurizio Sarri's Italian champions in front of a delighted National Stadium crowd.

"It's probably one of the best goals of my career. I noticed the keeper was often off of his line and thought if I get a chance to shoot I will and it just went in," Kane said in a post-match interview.

A youthful Spurs dominated the first half as Juventus struggled to adapt to their new coach's "Sarri-ball" tactic of playing out from the back with short, quick passes.

Instead of moving the ball forward, Juventus often found themselves defending desperately after being caught in possession as Spurs pressed high up the pitch with the Premier League side going on to take a deserved lead on the half-hour mark.

Son Heung-min started the move by holding up play and feeding Troy Parrott for a clear run at Gianluigi Buffon in the Juventus goal, with the 17-year-old forward's low strike parried by the veteran keeper straight into the path of an unmarked Erik Lamela for a routine tap-in.

"It was a very good game, very competitive. To be honest, we are still short on our preparations and I wasn't planning to play this way so early in the pre-season ... We were still hoping to give some players more rest after a long campaign," Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino said.

"The result was not the most important thing today, the performance was and how we continue our preparations for the upcoming season."

Juventus had more success after the break when they increased their tempo and went more direct, and half-time substitute Gonzalo Higuain levelled the score in the 56th minute with a drilled strike after exchanging neat passes with Federico Bernardeschi.

Buoyed by the equaliser, Juventus were soon ahead when Cristiano Ronaldo arrived late to drive home Mattia De Sciglio's cutback four minutes later, leaving to rapturous applause by an adoring crowd when he was substituted immediately after scoring.

Spurs were level in the 65th minute, however, when Champions League semi-final hero Lucas fired home record signing Tanguy Ndombele's low cross, the French midfielder finding the Brazilian with his first touch after coming on as a substitute.

Kane and Higuain both squandered good chances to score winning goals in the final 10 minutes before the England striker prevented the contest going to a penalty shootout with the most brilliant of strikes.



De Lig and Harry Kane battles for ball AP

# Sathiyam-Archana win mixed gold

PTI ■ CUTTACK

India added another golden chapter to the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships when its mixed doubles pair of G Sathiyam and Archana Kamath defeated Singapore's Peng Yu En Koen-Goi Rui Xuan 3-0 in the final here on Sunday.

The Gold count, on the penultimate day of the championships, stood at three.

This had, in a way, avenged the earlier loss of A Sharath Kamal and Sreeja Akula in the semifinal by the same Singaporean pair as well as the defeat of Sharath in men's singles quarterfinals by Peng.

The Indian pair was on top in the final as they piled on the agony of their rivals, particularly on a tired Peng who could not cope with the pressure applied by the top-seeded duo.

But the second-seeded Sharath Kamal squandered three match points and then the quarterfinal match, shattering his men's singles medal hope. Though Sharath failed to go past the semifinals in mixed doubles, he would definitely rue the sin-



G Sathiyam and Archana Kamath pose with their medals after winning the mixed-doubles finals at 21st Commonwealth TT PTI

gles loss to the younger legs of Peng in the quarters.

The other Indians that made the grade included top-seeded G Sathiyam, who beat Nigerian Bode Abiodun 4-0 and Harmeet Desai who accounted for fellow Indian Sushmit Sriram 4-1. Sanil Shetty

joined Sharath when he went down to England's Thomas Jarvis 1-4.

Earlier, the top-seeded Ho Tin-Tin of England beat the unseeded Archana Kamath, the reigning national champion, 4-1 to enter the women's singles semifinals.

But the second-seeded Madhurika Patkar and fourth seed Ayhika Mukerjee easily followed the English woman in the last-four stages while in a marathon battle, Sreeja Akula defeated Sutirtha Mukherjee 4-2 even as Madhurika downed Krittiwika Sinha Roy 4-1 and

## COMMONWEALTH TT

Ayhika beat Mousumi Paul in straight games.

Archana, who played well until this point, was unable to find her feet against the attacking Ho who cashed in on several unforced errors committed by the Indian. After losing the first game, the Bengaluru girl came back to level 1-1 but lost her rhythm from there to lose tamely.

Madhurika had a good measure of Krittiwika, the national runner-up and despite losing a game she punished her rival when the opportunities presented themselves.

Indeed, Krittiwika had a slight advantage in the fourth game but lost it 10-12 and then the steam. However, for Ayhika it was rather easy as Mousumi could not cope with her rival's quick returns and excellent placements.

Two extended games must have sapped the energy of both Sreeja and Sutirtha but the former held her nerves despite squandering five match-points

to romp home winners.

The scratch pair of Sharath Kamal and Sreeja Akula, in the absence of Manika Batra, had little problem up to the semifinals. But once there, the mismatch became more palpable when the Indian duo took on Singapore's Yu En Koen Pang and Rui Xuan Goi, who play together more regularly.

In men's doubles, two Indian pairs — Sharath and Sathiyam and Anthony Amalraj and Manav Thakkar — made it to the semifinals while the two other pairs that will challenge the Indian domination will be Pang Yu En and Chua Shao Han from Singapore and the English duo of Samuel Walker and Thomas Jarvis, respectively, on Monday.

In women's doubles, Pooja Sahasrabudhe and Krittiwika Singha Roy, Sreeja Akula and Mousumi Paul and Sutirtha Mukherjee and Ayhika Mukherjee entered the semifinal while the fourth pair, top-seeded Madhurika Patkar and Archana Kamath went down to Singapore's Goi Rui Xuan and Won Xin Ru 2-3 (5-11, 8-11, 11-8, 11-7, 9-11).

## Bayern spoil Hazard's Real debut

AFF ■ LOS ANGELES

Bayern Munich spoiled Eden Hazard's Real Madrid debut, downing the Spanish giants 3-1 in a friendly in Houston on Saturday despite goalkeeper Sven Ulreich's sending off.

Corentin Tolisso, Robert Lewandowski and Serge Gnabry had given Bundesliga champions Bayern a comfortable 3-0 lead before recent Real Madrid signing Rodrigo grabbed a consolation goal with a brilliant free kick.

That followed Ulreich's departure in the 81st for a foul on Brazilian teen Rodrigo outside the area.

Rodrygo, Luka Jovic and Ferland Mendy all made their debuts for rebuilding Real Madrid — all coming on at halftime as Zinedine Zidane changed his entire side.

Hazard's first outing in a Madrid jersey since his high-priced move from Chelsea had dominated the headlines.

But despite getting a starting nod he made little



Bayern players celebrate after Lewandowski scored second goal FCB

impact at the NRG Stadium — home of the NFL's Houston Texans, where the European giants produced plenty of lively end-to-end action from the kickoff.

It needed a stellar display from Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer to keep Real Madrid at bay.

Bayern led at the interval thanks to Tolisso's 15th-minute strike.

Thomas Muller freed Kingsley Coman whose cross made it to Tolisso — who was denied by Real

Courtois fended off a blast from Coman in first-half injury time to keep Bayern from stretching their advantage before the break.

While Real Madrid applied plenty of pressure, Hazard was circumspect, often opting to pass off to his new teammates.

The closest the 28-year-old Belgian came to his first Real Madrid goal was in the 39th minute, when he found space on the left and bent a shot toward the far post only for Neuer to punch it away.

Zidane's wholesale changes at the interval did nothing to further Real Madrid's cause, even though they controlled possession early in the second half.

Lewandowski doubled Bayern's lead in the 67th controlling a high ball from Niklas Sule, turning and firing into the bottom corner.

Two minutes later Madrid gave the ball away deep in their own end and an unmarked Gnabry was able to control the ball and fire past Keylor Navas in goal.

## BALE'S AGENT CALLS ZIDANE A 'DISGRACE'

AFF ■ LOS ANGELES

Gareth Bale's agent has branded Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane a "disgrace" after the Frenchman revealed that the La Liga giants were ready to offload the Wales star in a matter of days.

Zidane left Bale out of the Real squad for Saturday's 3-1 exhibition loss to Bayern Munich, and after the match he revealed he had been dropped because the club were "working on his departure", adding that he hoped it happens soon, "for everyone's sake".

"Zidane is a disgrace, he shows no respect for a player that has done so much for Real Madrid," Bale's agent Jonathan Barnett said.

Asked whether Bale is close to leaving Madrid, Barnett added: "We are working on it."

After Zidane's reappointment, Bale played 90 minutes in just three of the remaining 11 matches, was left out completely four times and frequently substituted when he did play.

He was denied a chance to say goodbye at the end of last season when he was left on the bench in a 2-0 loss to Real Betis that saw Zidane's side submerged with boos and whistles.



Gareth Bale trains during training session Bale/Twitter

"There comes a time when things are done because they need to be done," Zidane added after the Bayern defeat.

"I've not got anything against him. We have to make decisions and change things, that's all there is to it."

"I don't know if this will happen in 24 or 48 hours' time. The situation will change and it's for the best for everyone."

Bale joined Real Madrid to much fanfare, a blockbuster transfer fee and a big salary that may prove to be an obstacle for all but the richest teams.

He has three seasons left on his deal and has been linked to Tottenham, Manchester United and Bayern.

# Dhawan, No.4 & new pace

Fit again Shikhar back in limited overs side, Bumrah rested as newbies highlight Caribbean tour squad

- Saha back in Test side; Rahul Chahar, Navdeep Saini gets maiden call-up
- Jadhav retained for ODIs, Kuldeep-Chahal left out of T20 squad
- Hardik Pandya rested, Bumrah to feature only in Tests
- Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey considered for No 4 spot

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Opener Shikhar Dhawan on Sunday returned to India's limited overs squad after recovering from a thumb injury while Rishabh Pant was picked in all three formats for the West Indies tour as the selectors braced up for life beyond Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Former India captain Dhoni, who is at the business end of his illustrious career, has made himself "unavailable" for the West Indies tour but ruled out immediate retirement.

Speculations over Captain Virat Kohli being rested for the tour were put to rest as the batting mainstay will lead India across formats.

Rookie leg-spinner Rahul Chahar emerged as the lone new face across three formats for the upcoming overseas assignments, while all-rounder Hardik Pandya has been rested for the tour. Also coming back into the ODI squad are Shreyas Iyer and Manish Pandey.

Promising batsman Shubman Gill, though, missed out on selection.

The squads for the T20, ODI and Test series were announced by the MSK Prasad-led selection committee.

A notable inclusion was veteran keeper-batsman Wriddhiman Saha, who is back in the Test squad after undergoing a shoulder surgery for an injury, sustained during the 2018 IPL.

Saha last played a Test match in South Africa in January 2018.

Rajasthan leg-spinner Chahar has



Shikhar Dhawan returns to pavilion after getting dismissed during World Cup game against Australia

been rewarded for his consistent show in the IPL and domestic cricket with a berth in the Twenty20 squad. He is the younger cousin of seamer Deepak, who is also in the T20 squad.

From the World Cup squad, the prominent player to be dropped is Dinesh Karthik, while Hardik and Jasprit Bumrah have been rested as a part of the board's workload management programme.



MI's Rahul Chahar celebrates with Rohit Sharma after taking wicket during IPL game

Bumrah, though, is part of the Test squad.

Quite a few of the players were picked based on their performance for India A recently.

"We have taken India A performances into consideration. In the longer format, KS Bharat was very, very close to get selected. We have an unwritten norm that when an established cricketer is injured, he should get a comeback opportunity. That's what we have given to Saha, chief selector Prasad said.

Pant, who was included in India's World Cup campaign after Vijay Shankar's toe injury, has been named in the squad across all three formats.

Dhawan, whose World Cup journey was cut short due to a thumb fracture during the second group game against Australia, has been declared fit.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar will spearhead

the attack in the shortest format with Mohammed Shami joining him for the three ODIs. Delhi pacer Navdeep Saini has been included in the limited overs side while Deepak Chahar was picked for the T20Is.

The selection panel also went for left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed for the limited overs leg.

"Rishabh, Wriddhiman and K S Bharat are some of the players we will be looking ahead for Test cricket."

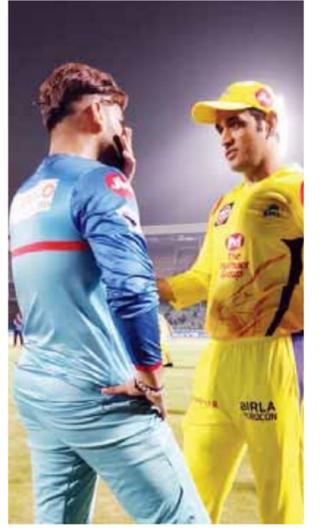
"We had certain plans for the World Cup but after that we have to give opportunities to youngsters who will go on to play for long," Prasad said of the young faces in the limited overs squads.

The young Prithvi Shaw was not part of the squad as he is recovering from an injury.

The tour will kick off with a three-match Twenty20 series (August 3, 4, 6) and will be followed by a three-match ODI series (August 8, 11, 14). The tour will conclude with a two-Test series (August 22-26 and August 30- September 3).

## SQUADS

**T20Is:** Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma (vc), Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant (wk), Krunal Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Rahul Chahar, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed, Deepak Chahar, Navdeep Saini  
**ODIs:** Virat Kohli (Captain), Rohit Sharma (vc), Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kedar Jadhav, Mohammed Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed, Navdeep Saini  
**TESTS:** Virat Kohli (Captain), Ajinkya Rahane (vc), Mayank Agarwal, KL Rahul, C Pujara, Hanuma Vihari, Rohit Sharma, Rishabh Pant (wk) Wriddhiman Saha (wk), R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Umesh Yadav.



Rishabh Pant chats with MS Dhoni during IPL

## Pant backed for all 3 formats

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Retirement is solely Mahendra Singh Dhoni's prerogative but chairman of selectors MSK Prasad on Sunday clearly stated that young Rishabh Pant will be "groomed" as India's first choice keeper across formats in the coming days.

Dhoni has not announced his retirement from international cricket amid widespread speculations but has made himself unavailable for the next two months as he will be serving his regiment in paramilitary forces.

Without divulging much on two-time World Cup winning captain's future plans, Prasad said that a legend like Dhoni knows when to retire but the future course of Indian cricket will be charted by the selectors.

"Retirement is purely individual (decision). A legendary cricketer like Dhoni, he knows when to retire. What is the future course of action, that is in the hands of the selection committee. I don't think we need to discuss anything more on it. First of all he is not available. Second, we have already started grooming youngsters," Prasad said at the media conference.

The former India Test keeper wants Pant to get as many opportunities as he gets ready to fill in the big shoes of Dhoni in the coming days.

"He (Dhoni) is unavailable for the series. He has expressed his unavailability. Having said that we had a certain roadmap and plans till the World Cup. Post World Cup, we have laid down a few more plans and we thought of giving as many opportunities as possible to Rishabh Pant and to see, he is groomed. That is our plan right now and we did discuss this with him (Dhoni)," said Prasad.

Pant was already the number one choice in Tests and now with uncertainty over Dhoni's future, he has become the preferred choice in all three formats.

The 21-year-old is a powerhouse of talent but at times, his shot selection in crucial moments have been questioned including in India's World Cup semifinal loss to New Zealand.

However, Prasad praised Pant for his innings of 32 against the Black Caps after India lost three wickets for five runs chasing 240.

"He played well. Especially in those conditions, he batted really well," he added.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Ambati Rayudu's sarcasm-laden 3D tweet might have hastened his international retirement but chairman of selectors MSK Prasad defended the recently-retired Hyderabad's omission from the World Cup squad, asserting that his panel cannot be accused of bias.

Prasad explained that Mayank Agarwal was summoned as a replacement for injured Vijay Shankar instead of Rayudu because opener KL Rahul's on-field injury during the England game had prompted the team management to seek an opener as "cover".

However Prasad's logic of Agarwal's inclusion was far from convincing as Rahul played three games (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and semi-final) after that.

After being ignored, Rayudu had posted a cryptic tweet, which was certainly directed at the selection committee, which had termed Shankar as a "three dimensional player".

"Just Ordered a new set of 3d glasses to watch the world cup," he tweeted and was widely believed to be the reason behind Rishabh Pant and Agarwal's inclusion as replacements.

# No bias against Rayudu: MSK

Rayudu announced his retirement from all forms of cricket just days after Agarwal's selection.

"It was a lovely tweet. Very timely one. I really enjoyed the tweet. It was fantastic. I don't know how it struck him," Prasad's answer had everyone laughing when asked about Rayudu's tweet.

However he wanted to clear the air that Rayudu couldn't be included purely because of the permutations and combinations and the selection committee didn't resort to any favouritism.

When Agarwal came in, it was more about having a cover for Rahul. In fact, he revealed that it was team management asked for an opener in writing.

"At that juncture, a written communication was given to us on the back-up opener. We looked at some of the openers working out on certain permutations and combinations. Some were not in form, others were injured, so that's when we went to Mayank Agarwal. There is



Ambati Rayudu in a file picture

no confusion on this and by the end of the day, all speculations should be clear," he further added.

But the chairman empathised with Rayudu.



"How much emotions anybody (Rayudu) has gone through, the selection committee has gone through the same emotions," Prasad said.

"When we pick any player and he does well, we feel so happy for him. Similarly when somebody who goes out in this way, the selection committee also feels for it. But having said that, with regards to the decision taken, it has been completely devoid of any bias or any favouritism into why we have picked Vijay Shankar, Rishabh Pant or Mayank Agarwal also," the former stumper said in his committee's defence.

While Rayudu has every reason to be aggrieved, Prasad reminded that when he had failed a fitness test after being picked on the basis of his T20 performances, his panel had backed the Hyderabad man.

"I will give you a small example about Rayudu. When Rayudu was picked, on the basis of 17-18 T20s (2018 IPL performance), we picked him in ODI side. There was a lot of criticism but we had some thoughts about him subsequently.

"When he failed the fitness (Yo Yo) test (before England away ODIs), this selection committee

backed him and we put him through a fitness programme for a month, ensured that he gets fit and comes into the side.

"Once he came into the side, we backed him but due to certain permutations and combinations in the side, we couldn't pick him," Prasad reasoned why Rayudu was overlooked even after Shankar got injured.

But he made it clear that his committee can't be accused of "bias or favouritism."

"That (Rayudu's exclusion) doesn't make the selection committee or me biased about any particular person. We know how emotional Rayudu is, we are also emotional. We as ex-cricketers, also feel for him," he said.

He explained how Pant and Agarwal came in as replacements.

"The team management requested for a left-hander and we had no other choice than Rishabh Pant. We are very, very clear on that. We know what he is capable of. That's the reason we had to bring in a left-hander, which confused many people as to why a middle-order batsman has been selected in place of an opener," he said.

# Dharmasena admits to 'judgemental error' in WC final

PTI ■ COLOMBO

It indeed was a judgement error to award six runs to England from an overthrow in the World Cup final admitted umpire Kumar Dharmasena but the Sri Lankan will never "regret" the decision.

Dharmasena had signalled to add six runs to England's total, instead of five, when Martin Guptill's throw from the deep raced to the boundary ropes after being deflected off a diving Ben Stokes' bat.

The match was stretched to a Super Over which also remained inconclusive and eventually hosts England were declared champions on better boundary count, leaving New Zealand players in disbelief.

"It's easy for people to comment after seeing TV replays," Dharmasena told *Sunday Times*.

"I agree that there was a judgment error when I see it on TV replays now. But we did not have the luxury of TV replays at the ground and I will never regret the decision I made. Besides, the ICC praised me for the decision I made at that time."

The TV replays showed that Adil Rashid and Stokes had not completed the second run



Kumar Dharmasena

**"It's easy for people to comment after seeing TV replays. I agree that there was a judgment error when I see it on TV replays now. But we did not have the luxury of TV replays at the ground and I will never regret the decision I made. Besides, the ICC praised me for the decision I made at that time."**

—Kumar Dharmasena

England needed nine from the final three balls. This changed to three off two balls.

The 48-year-old added that according to the law, there was no provision to consult the third umpire on the incident.

"There is no provision in the law to refer this to the third umpire as no dismissal was involved," he said.

"So, I did consult the leg umpire through the communication system which is heard by all other umpires and the match referee. And, while they cannot check TV replays, they all confirmed that the batsmen had completed the run. This is when I made my decision." Former international

umpires Simon Taufel and K Hariharan had also come out and said the officials standing in the World Cup final erred by awarding six runs.

Law 19.8 of the ICC rules, pertaining to 'Overthrow or wilful act of fielder', states: "If the boundary results from an overthrow or from the wilful act of a fielder, the runs scored shall be any runs for penalties awarded to either side, and the allowance for the boundary, and the runs completed by the batsmen, together with the run in progress if they had already crossed at the instant of the throw or act."

"One must understand that there were too many things on our plate. We had to watch the batsmen complete the first run, the ball being fielded, how it was handled by the fielder and whether the batsmen completed the second run. And where the throw would come from, the striker's end or non-striker's end."

"In this case, we were all happy that the batsmen had completed the second run because the ball ricocheted off Stokes' bat at the time of him completing the second run. So, we assumed that they had crossed each other at the time of fielder releasing the ball," Dharmasena said.

# PCB mulling split captaincy, coaching

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan could have separate captains and head coaches for Test and limited overs cricket following its failure to qualify for the World Cup semifinals in England.

A well-placed source in the Pakistan Cricket Board said that when the Cricket Committee meets later this month, a proposal to split the captaincy and coaching for the different formats would be up for discussion.

"Since Pakistan has to play eight Tests of the World Test Championship against Sri Lanka, Australia, Bangladesh and England before the T20 World Cup in Australia next year, the PCB is pretty concerned about how to improve performance of the team in Tests," the source said.

Pakistan will be playing only three ODIs but nine to 10 T20s before the T20 Asia Cup



Sarfraz Ahmad chats with head coach Mickey Arthur during indoor nets

and T20 World Cup next year, prompting PCB to consider separate captains and coaches for red and white-ball cricket," he said.

He said PCB Managing Director Wasim Khan met with Wasim Akram, who is a member of the Cricket

Committee, in London earlier this month. The former captain and fast bowler had advised the MD that the board should retain Sarfraz and Mickey Arthur for the limited overs cricket until the T20 World Cup.

"But the board is now con-

sidering the option of having separate captains and head coaches for Test and limited overs cricket with the support staff i.e., manager, bowling coach, batting coach, trainer, fielding coach, physiotherapist remaining the same for all formats."

Pakistan is presently sixth in the ODI rankings and number one in T20s but it is in Test cricket where Sarfraz and Arthur have failed to achieve anything notable in last two and half years. The Test team is languishing at number seven in the ICC rankings having lost home series to Sri Lanka, New Zealand before being outclassed in South Africa.

The source said if the board decides to split the red ball and white ball captains and head coach positions than senior batsmen Asad Shafiq and Azhar Ali are likely to be the top candidates for the captaincy.

# WOOD EYES ASHES ROLE DESPITE INJURY

AFP ■ LONDON

England paceman Mark Wood has set his sights on recovering from injury in time to play a role in the Ashes against Australia.

Wood will be out for up to six weeks after suffering a side strain during last Sunday's World Cup final. The 29-year-old won't

play in next week's one-off Test against Ireland at Lord's or the first Test against Australia when the Ashes get under way on August 1.

But Durham star Wood still hopes he can get back to full fitness in time for the last two Tests in the five-match series.

"I might make the last couple (of Tests). It all depends on

selection," Wood told *BBC 5 Live's Sportsweek* on Sunday.

"My side injury is four to six weeks, so hopefully I'll still play a part towards the end of the season, but if not it's been a fantastic summer so far for English cricket.

"There's still plenty more to go and hopefully for me there's still a bit more cricket to play."