



# the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



**NO PARTIALITY  
IN CINEMA:  
AYUSHMANN  
12 VIVACITY**

## Mayawati dumps SP, to go it alone in future

**SP raps Maya as she blames it for political divorce**

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

BSP president Mayawati on Monday declared her party in the future will contest all elections "small and big" on its own, signalling the end of the Bahujan Samaj Party-Samajwadi Party alliance forged for the Lok Sabha polls.

The BSP chief, known to have made and broken many an alliance in her political journey, said her party had adhered to the "gathbandhan" dharma in the interest of the country but was now forced to do a rethink.

Hours after Mayawati announced her plans to go solo in future elections in a series of tweets, a senior SP leader made a caustic reference to "malkin" (woman owner) of the alliance



and accused her of weakening the fight for social justice.

The RLD, a minor partner in the grand alliance, said it had nothing to do with Monday's developments and its alliance was with the SP, not the BSP.

Mayawati's announcement came a day after she held a meeting with party workers to review the BSP's performance in the recent Lok Sabha polls.

"Everyone is aware that

forgetting everything of the past as also the anti-BSP and anti-Dalit decisions like reservation in promotions and bad law and order during the SP rule in 2012-17, the BSP adhered to the 'gathbandhan' dharma' with the Samajwadi Party in the interest of the country," she tweeted in Hindi.

"But the SP's attitude after the elections has forced the BSP to think, will it be possible to

defeat the BJP in the future? This is not possible," she said.

"Therefore, in the interest of the party and the movement, the party will contest all small and big elections on its own strength," Mayawati added.

She did not elaborate on what she meant by the SP's attitude. Soon afterwards, SP national general secretary Ramashankar Vidyarthi told journalists in Balia that Mayawati was speaking against the SP in haste because of the Dalit support to his party and its leader Akhilesh Yadav.

"She is weakening the fight for social justice," he said, adding that Dalit society is getting connected with the SP and Akhilesh in a big way. People know about the reality about what the "malkin" of the alliance has done, he said.

Commenting on the development, Congress spokesperson Dwiendra Tripathi said commitment is most important in politics. "Commitment with

Continued on Page 7

## SC seeks Bihar, Centre's replies on encephalitis care

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said the deaths of more than 100 children in Muzaffarpur due to the outbreak of acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) is a matter of "grave concern" and directed the Centre and the Bihar Government to file their response on medical care facilities there within a week.

A Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and BR Gavai asked the Bihar Government to file an affidavit on the adequacy of medical facilities, nutrition and sanitation and the hygiene conditions in the State.

"This public interest litigation relates to outbreak of acute encephalitis syndrome virus that has caused deaths of about 150 children in different districts in the State of Bihar. The writ petition raises issues of grave concern and importance relating to public medical care facilities, nutrition and sanitation or hygiene.

"The respondents will file their response within seven days specifically dealing with



the question of public medical care facilities, nutrition and sanitation or hygiene. List the writ petition after 10 days," the Bench said.

During the hearing, one of the lawyers informed the court that similar deaths had occurred earlier in Uttar Pradesh. The court took note of it and directed the state government to apprise it on the issue.

The matter has been posted for hearing after 10 days.

The petition was filed by an advocate, Manohar Pratap, who said he was deeply "pained and saddened" by the deaths of more than 126 children, mostly in the age group of one to 10 years, in the past weeks. The figures were rising day by day, the petition stated.

"The deaths of children are a direct result of negligence and

inaction on the part of the respective state governments of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Union of India in handling the epidemic situation which arises every year due to outbreak of AES also called Japanese encephalitis," the plea said.

It claimed that thousands of young children were losing their lives yearly from the disease, but the governments (states and Centre) had done nothing to prevent its spread.

"This year, the epicentre of the said disease is Muzaffarpur in Bihar where more than 126 children have lost their lives in the past one week. Media reports show that there is acute shortage of doctors, medical facilities, intensive care units and other medical equipments in the hospitals in nearby areas and children are dying in hospitals due to lack of required facilities," the petition said.

The petitioner also sought directions for all possible steps to stop the disease outbreak in the earlier epicentre, Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, and to create awareness about

Continued on Page 7

### CAPSULE

**CONGRESS CALLS MODI VERY BIG SALESMAN**  
New Delhi: The Congress party leader in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, on Monday said the BJP returned to power as Prime Minister Narendra Modi was a "very big salesman" and Congress failed to gain grounds in the 2019 LS polls as it could not market its products.

**DERA HEAD PAROLE: SIRSA POLICE TO GIVE REPORT**  
Chandigarh: Sirsa Police is yet to give its report to the deputy commissioner on the parole application of jailed Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, with a senior police official on Monday saying it will be prepared keeping in view merits and demerits of the plea.

**TMC MLA, PARTY LEADERS JOIN BJP**  
New Delhi: Trinamool Congress MLA Wilson Champramary and several other party members, including president of a local body from Dakshin Dinajpur, joined the BJP on Monday as the saffron party continued to poach on the leaders of the West Bengal's ruling party. The TMC leaders joined the BJP at the latter's headquarters in the presence of its senior leaders, including Mukul Roy.

## Viral Acharya quits as RBI Dy Governor

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Viral Acharya, the RBI Deputy Governor who had in October last year brought to light tensions with the Government over independence of the central bank, has resigned six months before the scheduled end of his term in the office.

Acharya, 45, who was the only Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank on the six-member interest rate-setting monetary policy committee, resigned from his position "a few weeks" back citing "unavoidable personal circumstances", the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a brief statement.

In his resignation, he



expressed inability to continue beyond July 23, 2019, it said.

The RBI, which had previously not disclosed the resignation and was forced to do so following a media report, said: "Consequential action arising from his letter is under consideration of the Competent Authority".

Acharya had in a hard-hitting speech in October last year brought to light a growing rift between the BJP-led government and the RBI headed by the then Governor Urjit Patel.

A staunch defender of the central bank's autonomy, he had made public disputes with the government over issues ranging from lending curbs, more cash availability to non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), and who controls the RBI's reserves.

In his speech, he had warned that undermining the central bank's independence could be "potentially catastrophic", a possible indication of the RBI being pushed to relax its policies ahead of general elections.

Patel quit in December last year, weeks after the government used hereto unused power to direct the RBI Governor to discuss contentious issues.

The government replaced Patel with former finance ministry bureaucrat Shaktikanta Das and the RBI has cut interest rates by 25 basis points each in all three monetary policy reviews that have happened subsequently. Acharya had voted against a rate cut in the February and April review but voted for the reduction in this month review but with "some hesitation".

He had also raised red flags over the worsening fiscal picture, according to the minutes of the June monetary pol-

icy committee.

The only time that he had voted for a rate cut was in August 2017.

His departure came in the same week in which a joint government-RBI panel was set to study on excess reserves held by the central bank holds and how much of it can be transferred to the state to help finance the budget. Acharya was said to be opposed to any move to undermine the central bank's reserves.

Acharya, whose three-year term was due to end in January 2020, will reportedly return to New York University in August as an economics professor. He is on leave from NYU's Stern School of Business.

Continued on Page 7

## SIT formed, 4 more held for Jamshedpur lynching

**SHO, another cop suspended**

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

A special investigation team (SIT) was formed in Jamshedpur on Monday to probe the lynching of a 24-year-old man who was thrashed by a mob for alleged theft and seen in a purported video being forced to chant "Jai Shri Ram" and "Jai Hanuman" in. Police arrested four more accused on Monday.

Two policemen — the offi-



cers in charge of the local police station and police outpost — have been suspended for not filing a lynching case on June 18. Sub inspector Chandramohan Oraon and

assistant sub inspector Bipin Bihari Singh "have been suspended for not reporting the seriousness of the issue on June 18 to higher authorities properly and register a case of lynching the very same day," the district police chief said in a statement.

The victim, Tabrez Ansari, a resident of Kharsawan — who was allegedly caught after stealing a motorcycle, a purse, a voter I-card and mobile phone from Dhatkidih along with two of his associates — succumbed to his injuries in hospital on Saturday.

Continued on Page 7

## S Jaishankar joins BJP, fielded from Gujarat for RS



BJP working president JP Nadda presents a membership slip to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar as he formally joins the Bharatiya Janata Party, in New Delhi on Monday

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday named External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar as its candidate for a Rajya Sabha seat from Gujarat, hours after he joined the saffron party in the presence of its working president JP Nadda.

Jaishankar, a career diplomat and former foreign secretary, was inducted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his government and given the high profile ministry in a surprise development.

He was sworn in as a Cabinet minister along with other members of the government on May 30.

A minister who is not a member of Parliament has to be elected as its member within six months of his or her swearing in.

His joining the BJP was a mere formality after he was inducted in the government. He became a party member at a ceremony at its office in Parliament.

Bypolls to two Rajya Sabha seats were necessitated after BJP president Amit Shah and another party leader Smriti Irani were elected to the Lok Sabha, causing the vacancies.

The BJP is set to win both the seats. It has named Jugalji Mathurji Thakor its candidate for the second seat.

## Varanasi Nirman Nigam GM dies in road mishap

Lucknow (PNS): SK Tayal, an Uttar Pradesh bureaucrat on his way to Lucknow for a meeting, died in a road accident about 20 km from Secretariat on Monday. His driver Jai Narayan was also killed in the accident.

Tayal was the senior general manager of the state-run Rajkiya Nirman Nigam at Varanasi. Officials said SK Tayal was headed to Lucknow to participate in a departmental review meeting convened by Deputy CM KP Maurya at 3 pm. His wife Sangeeta, who was travelling with him, is in a serious condition. ■ See Pg 3

## No reliable estimates of black money: House panel

**Unaccounted income highest in real estate, mining, pharma sectors**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance on Monday said there are no reliable estimates of black money generated and held within and outside the country.

In its report titled "Status of Unaccounted Income/Wealth Both Inside and Outside the Country — A Critical Analysis", the standing committee cited the studies conducted by the three premier

institutes — NIPFP, NCAER and NIFM — between 1980 and 2010 — which estimated black money in the range of \$216.48 billion to \$490 billion.

The studies conducted by the three institutes have found that the sectors where unaccounted income is found to be the highest included real estate, mining, pharmaceuticals, pan masala, gutkha, tobacco, bullion, commodity, film, and education.

According to the report, which was tabled in the Lok Sabha on Monday, there are no reliable estimates of black money generation and accurate methodology for making such estimation. The report said the



draft report on demonetisation could not be adopted by the committee due to the lack of consensus among the members.

The committee, headed by M Veerappa Moily, had submitted its report to the Lok Sabha Speaker on March 28, well before the dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha.

The BJP had come to power at the Centre in 2014 on its promises to clean up corruption and get rid of black money. It was also promised that black money stashed abroad would be brought back to the country. In 2016, while announcing the note ban, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said the one of the key objectives was to flush out black money. The Congress has repeatedly targeted the Government over the issue, accusing it of failing to meet its promises.

The committee has asked the Government to continue their efforts "with greater vigour" to unearth and bring to

book unaccounted wealth and income both within and outside the country, including follow-up action on the seven reports of the special investigation team (SIT) constituted on black money as well as the three study reports on estimation of unaccounted money.

The UPA Government had in 2011 commissioned the studies by the Delhi-based National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) and the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and the National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM) in Faridabad.

Continued on Page 7

## Haldia waterways may put Varanasi turtles in deep waters

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

As the Narendra Modi Government embarks on its ambitious Haldia-Varanasi Inland Waterways Project along the Ganga, researchers from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur and Wildlife Institute of India (WII), among others, have red flagged the project over its adverse impact on the Varanasi Turtle Sanctuary (VTS).

The project, National Waterway-1 (NW-1) under the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP), requires dredging of the river, which will severely impact the aquatic life as well as entire biodiversity of the river, said researchers in a study that appeared in the latest edition of "Current Science".

Notified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, way back in 1989, the VTS — a 7-km long stretch from Ramnagar to Malaviya Bridge in Ganga River — is the worlds



only protected area dedicated to freshwater turtles.

Gaurav Kailash Sonkar and Kumar Gaurav from Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhopal, Niladri Dasgupta and Syed Ainal Hussain from Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Rajiv Sinha from Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur examined the eco-geomor-

phology of the VTS for its stability using hydraulic geometry of the channels, such as width, depth and discharge acquired from an acoustic doppler current profiler, and the mapping of planform morphology from remote-sensing images.

"The assessment suggests a well-defined, stable cross-section profile along this stretch of the river. It provides conclusive evidence that the geomorphology of the Ganga river

within the VTS has remained stable for the past 50 years, except for some minor changes in the form of bar growth and erosion both upstream and downstream of the sanctuary," the report said.

However, the researchers warned that any construction activity, which is bound to happen once the National Waterway-1 starts, does not augur well for the tortoise as well as other aquatic animals in the sanctuary.

"Construction activities along the bank, movement of large vessels, sand mining in the sanctuary or dredging of the main channel may destabilise the river geomorphology that will negatively affect the integrity of the VTS as well as the ghats at Varanasi," they cautioned.

A part from turtles, this stretch of the Ganga is important for

other conservation dependent species such as gharials (Gavialis gangeticus), dolphins (Platanista gangetica) and several island nesting birds.

The proposed Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) is aimed at enabling the passage of cargo ships and boats through VTS. After a preliminary analysis of the morphology and hydraulic parameters of the Ganga at VTS, the researchers discuss how the passage of boats and cargo ships through the sanctuary may affect the physical habitat by inducing changes in the channel morphology of the river.

This is expected to disrupt the morphological and ecological sanctity of VTS. In order to evaluate the impacts of these large-scale interventions, it is important to assess the scale of alteration(s) they may cause to the eco-geomorphic attributes of the river, the researchers concluded.

As per the Government plan, NW1 will go from Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh to Haldia in West Bengal along the Ganga and then along its arms — the Bhagirathi and the Hooghly. It will involve the construction of more barrages along the river, and heavy dredging of silt, so that a width of 45 metres and a depth of 3 metres can be maintained throughout. This would enable passage for barges carrying 1,500-2,000 tonnes of cargo.

The 1,620-km long national waterways project will be funded jointly by the Centre and World Bank at an estimated cost of ₹5369.18 crore.

# UP bypolls: BJP eyes all 12 seats

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bharatiya Janata Party's Uttar Pradesh unit is battle-ready to win all the 12 Assembly seats where bypolls will be held soon. Of these seats, one each was held by Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party while the rest were with the BJP.

A high-level meeting was held at the BJP state headquarters in Lucknow on Sunday night, in which party leaders decided to appoint ministers and office-bearers for supervising the bypolls in each Assembly constituency, selection of candidates, overseeing campaigning and related issues.

The meeting was attended by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, BJP state chief and Union minister Mahendra Nath Pandey, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, BJP state general secretary (organisation) Sunil Bansal and leaders of districts where the bypolls will be held.

On Monday, sources in the BJP said that the meeting decided to expedite the membership drive and booth management in the 12 Assembly constituencies with focus on caste equations.

The sources said that it was decided that Maurya and BJP state vice-president Ranjana Upadhyaya would be in-charge of Govindnagar (Kanpur) constituency while Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma and minister Devendra Chaudhary would oversee Rampur seat.

Energy Minister Shrikant Sharma and BJP state vice-president BL Verma will oversee the bypolls in Tundla (Ferozabad), Panchayati Raj Minister Chaudhary Bupendra Singh and BJP secretary YP Singh in Gangoh (Saharanpur), Sugar Development Minister Suresh Rana and BJP vice-president Purshottam Khandelwal in Iglas (Aligarh), Rural Development Minister Mahendra Singh and BJP secretary Prakash Pal in

**The BJP has decided to expedite the membership drive and booth management in the 12 Assembly constituencies where bypolls will be held with focus on caste equations.**

Manikpur (Chitrakoot), UP minister Raghendra Pratap Singh Dhunni and BJP general secretary Ashok Kataria in Hamirpur Assembly constituencies.

Medical Education Minister Ashutosh Tandon and BJP general secretary Vidyasagar Sonkar will oversee the bypolls in Lucknow Cantonment, Forest Minister Dara Singh Chauhan and BJP general secretary Govind Narain Shukla in Zaidpur (Barabanki), Law Minister Brijesh Pathak and Santosh Singh in Jalalpur (Ambedkar Nagar).

Social Welfare Minister Rampati Ram Shastri, Minister of State Upendra Tiwari along with Minister of State Anup Gupta have been

made in-charge of Balha (Bahraich) constituency and Transport Minister Minister Swatantrdev Singh and BJP secretary Tribayank Tripathi of Pratapgarh.

The Hamirpur Assembly seat was declared vacant after sitting BJP member Ashok Singh Chandel was convicted in a murder case by the Allahabad High Court.

The other 11 Assembly seats fell vacant after their members resigned on getting elected to the Lok Sabha recently.

In 2019 LS polls, BJP had fielded four ministers and five legislators. Two legislators of Samajwadi Party and one each of Bahujan Samaj Party and Apna Dal also contested the Lok Sabha elections.

UP minister and MLA from Lucknow Cantonment, Rita Bahuguna Joshi, was elected to Lok Sabha from Allahabad, minister and MLA from Govindnagar, Satyadev Pachauri, from Kanpur and minister SP Singh Baghel from Agra (Reserved) seat.

Besides, BJP MLA from Manikpur Assembly seat, RK Singh Patel, was elected to Lok Sabha from Banda, BJP MLA from Iglas Rajvir Singh Valmiki Diler from Hathras and BJP legislator from Zaidpur, Upendra Rawat, from Barabanki.

Similarly, BJP legislator from Gangoh, Pradeep Chaudhary won the Kairana Lok Sabha seat, MLA from Balha, Akshaywar Lal Gaud, the Bahraich seat.

SP MLA from Rampur Mohammad Azam Khan, won the Rampur Lok Sabha seat, BSP legislator Ritesh Pandey the Ambedkar Nagar seat and Apna Dal MLA from Pratapgarh Sangam Lal Gupta, the Pratapgarh seat on BJP ticket.

# Yogi orders financial aid to kin of 17 killed in rain-related incidents

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath condoled the death of 17 persons in natural calamities across the state and directed officials to ensure release of compensation and other necessary help to the bereaved family at the earliest.

A government spokesman said on Monday that the Chief Minister directed release Rs 4 lakh as compensation to family members of those who died due to natural calamity. The Chief Minister also asked officials to ensure proper medical care to 19 people who were injured in separate incidents.

The spokesman said that the Chief Minister warned officials of stern action if any delay was reported from anywhere in extending help to the victims.



District magistrates were directed to start immediate relief work and restore normalcy without any delay.

Three deaths were reported due to heavy rain, lightning, house collapse etc. in Hardoi, two each in Jalaun, Amethi, Sitapur, Balrampur, Ghazipur, and one each in Fatehpur, Budau, Unnao, and Gonda. Four cattle were also killed in Hardoi while four died in Ayodhya.

# Sharpshooter of slain Munna Bajrang held

Lucknow: A sharpshooter of slain gangster Munna Bajrang was arrested during police checking in Mirzapur district on Monday.

Amjad alias Pintu alias Doctor was arrested during checking in Chilh area and a country-made pistol and four live cartridges were recovered from his possession, police said. PTI

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Be informed that my client Indus Bank Limited, intends to provide finance to one of its client Sri Mohammad Manzar Mirza, Son of Sri Moinuddin Mirza against his property being House No. 529C/024, admeasuring 343.866 sq. mts. only constructed on plot no. 34 being portion of khasra no. 50 situated at Khuram Nagar, Ward-Shankarpur, Lucknow and in chain of title being original sale-deed dated 11.08.2008 favouring Sri Sheikh Atab Alam, sale-deed dated 14.01.2016 favouring (1) Sri Mohammad Ashraf (2) Sri Mohammad Asad Khan & sale-deed dated 28.05.2016 favouring Sri Mohammad Manzar Mirza, son of Sri Moinuddin Mirza are allegedly destroyed out of faire. If any person has any right, title or interest over the said property, he may approach to the undersigned within seven days in writing along with the evidence of his such right, title or interest.  
(Tarun Prakash Srivastava)  
Advocate  
Mob: 9335914262  
Office : Room No. 111, CITI Hotel, 24, B.N. Road, Lalbagh, Lucknow

# UPP making list of lax cops

Lucknow (PNS): Toeing Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's line on dereliction of duty and laxity by cops leading to law and order problems, UPP Police brass issued circular to district officials to identify sloth cops over 50 years of age and hand them compulsory retirement. After the opposition cornered the Bharatiya Janata Party state government over law and order situation, Yogi repeatedly said that his government would take stern action against lax policemen and sack them if required.

In a circular sent to all DGs, ADGs, IGs, DIGs, SSPs/SPs and other departmental heads on June 21, ADG (Establishment) Piyush Anand sought by June 30, the names of policemen who could be given compulsory retirement for laxity.

The circular said that under Rule 56, the government could give compulsory retirement to policemen over 50 years of age for laxity after a three months' notice. "All policemen, who have attained the age of 50 years on March 31, 2019, come under this provision and a list should be sent to police headquarters after screening them thoroughly," the ADG's circular said.

# Two killed in group clash in Shahjahanpur

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Inaction of the police in a dispute over molestation of a Dalit girl led to major violence in Roza area of Shahjahanpur in which two youths from both side were killed on Monday. While one youth was gunned down by the accused, the retaliatory incident witnessed the lynching of the second youth.

The daylight double murder triggered tension in the area and additional forces were rushed to the spot to control the situation. Senior officers also rushed to the spot and were camping to ease the tension.

Like always, the police denied

that the clash was triggered due to molestation and claimed that the incident was sequel to a dispute during a panchayat meeting.

SP (City) Dinesh Tripathi said that the incident took place when groups led by Sonu (25) and Maya Prakash Gupta (55) clashed during a panchayat meeting at Jumai village in Roza area on Monday. After Sonu was shot dead, people from his side started beating Gupta with sticks injuring him seriously. He was rushed to the hospital where he died.

Sources, however, maintained that both groups fought after the molestation of a Dalit girl. The girl's family went to the police station a

week back and pleaded to take action, fearing risk to their lives from the accused.

However, the police refused to act against the accused and asked the victim to 'settle' the matter. Surprisingly, the Shahjahanpur police even ignored Urban Development Minister Suresh Khanna's directive to act against the culprits immediately. Consequently, police apathy led to the bloody clash on Monday.

The girl's family has complained that Sonu threatened them for daring to report the matter to the police. Sonu was going on a motorcycle with cousin Mohit when the victim's cousin Santosh shot him dead at a

petrol pump on Lucknow-Delhi highway on Monday.

Locals rushed to the crime scene and even tried to nab Santosh but he managed to flee.

Later, the angry mob got hold of Santosh's kin Maya Prakash and brutally assaulted him with sticks and rods till he was dead.

Several persons from both sides were also injured.

Later, police along with a section of Provincial Armed Constabulary reached the spot and chased away the troublemakers.

Heavy police force is camping in the area and so far half-a-dozen persons have been detained.

# Alliance with SP will continue, says RLD

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the aim to boost the morale of party cadre after the debacle in the recent Lok Sabha election, Rashtriya Lok Dal held a meeting of workers and office-bearers of all its units at party office in Lucknow on Monday.

Senior RLD leaders, including national general secretary Triloki Singh, state president Masood Ahmad and national spokesman, Anil Dubey, addressed the workers.

The RLD leaders found themselves on a sticky wicket when asked about ongoing tussle between alliance partners Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party, saying they were evaluating the development.

Triloki Singh said RLD had alliance with Samajwadi Party and it would continue. "We will decide who will contest from which seat in the UP Assembly bypolls," he said.

Criticising the Bharatiya Janata Party government in Uttar Pradesh, Singh said, "The BJP came to power on the promise of improving law and order in the state but there was no order and only law remained." He said the government gave the slogan of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao but failed to save them from monsters.

"Wanted criminals have police patronage and they are roaming freely but the government is thumping its back, claiming everything is in apple order in UP," he said.

The RLD leader demanded that realisation of power



arrears from farmers who were yet to get their cane arrears held stopped immediately.

"If the government does not concede this demand we will stage protest at Vidhan Bhawan," Singh warned.

RLD state president Masood Ahmad said the party had started poll preparations for Assembly bypolls and the 2022 Assembly election.

Ahmad said the party leaders had been asked to pull up their socks from now. "We will keep struggling for farmers, unemployed youths, workers and people of lower strata of society and in accordance to the ideology of former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh," he said. RLD spokesman Anil Dubey also spoke in the meeting.

# Sugar production falls marginally in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Sugar production in the just concluded 2018-19 cane crushing season in Uttar Pradesh fell marginally to 11.82 million tons (MT). The sugar output fell nearly 1.9 per cent compared to the production of over 12 MT in the 2017-18 crushing season.

Better sugar recovery, however, saved the day for the sugar industry which partly made up for low crushing of cane by mills this season. Although net cane purchase by all 119 sugar mills in UP fell by 7.25 per cent, yet sugar output dipped by a much lower ratio of 1.9 per cent compared to last year.

Interestingly, sugar production in the state this season was earlier pegged at a much higher level of 12.4 MT due to estimates of higher cane acreage of 2.8 million hectares.

Meanwhile, state mills, especially private ones, are saddled with high arrears

worth ₹10,000 crore. Against total payables of about ₹33,025 crore for 2018-19 season, mills have collectively paid nearly ₹23,000 crore so far with the remaining yet to be cleared.

In November 2018, the state government had kept cane price for common variety unchanged at ₹315 per quintal, thus providing relief to mills amid falling sugar exports, stockpile, mounting arrears and subdued market prices.

Recently, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had asked private mills to settle farmers' dues by August, 2019 and had warned that any further delay would not be tolerated. The payments ratio of government-controlled cooperative mills stands at 85 per cent and that of private units at 70 per cent.

This season, 119 sugar mills, including 94 private, 24 cooperative and a UP State Sugar Corporation unit, had participated in cane crushing.

# Congress dissolves all dist, city committees in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A month after its worst-ever Lok Sabha poll performance in Uttar Pradesh, the Congress dissolved all district and city committees in the state and announced several steps to strengthen the party.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has appointed Congress Legislature Party leader Ajay Kumar Lallu as organisational head of UP East.

The organisational head of UP West would be appointed by Congress general secretary Jyotiraditya Scindia later on.

Interestingly, the party did not dissolve the state unit which implies that Raj Babbar would continue as UP Congress Committee chief

for some time. But, by giving him no role in the appointments of new district level teams, the Congress leadership has made it clear that it is not happy with Babbar and hence has kept him aside from the revamp.

Giving information about the recent decision taken by Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in New Delhi on Monday, UP Congress spokesman Mukesh Chauhan said the party's new district committees would have 50 per cent office-bearers below 40 years of age and at least 33 per cent of them would be women.

Chauhan further said that Congress would also set up two-member committees for each Assembly constituency going to bypolls in UP. "The committee would work in

respective constituencies where bypolls will be held, suggest suitable contestants and later help with their campaign," he said.

Chauhan said the party would also set up two disciplinary committees — one each for East and West UP — to address complaints about indiscipline/anti-party activities during 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Each committee would have three members.

In the recent Lok Sabha polls, Congress won only the Rae Bareilly seat. It could not save even its traditional Amethi seat where party chief Rahul Gandhi lost to Bharatiya Janata Party's Smriti Irani.

Congress had contested 67 seats in the recent Lok Sabha polls and it's vote share dipped to 6 per cent.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT (REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NORTHERN REGION)  
In the matter of sub-section (3) of section 13 of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 and Rule 17 of LLP Rules, 2009  
AND  
In the matter of ZAKIN INFRA LLP (LLPIN-AG 5508) having its registered office at "44/114 Mahesh Nagar, Vikas Nagar, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)-226022".  
Petitioner Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the LLP proposes to make a petition to the Central Government, Regional Director, Northern Region, New Delhi, under section 13 (3) of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 and in terms of resolution passed at the meeting of designated partners/partners of LLP held on 22nd June 2019 at its registered office, seeking permission to change its Registered office from the "State of Uttar Pradesh" to the "state of Haryana".  
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the LLP may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by Registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition supported by an affidavit to the Regional Director, Northern Region at the address, B-2 Wing, 2nd Floor, Pt. Dindyal Antodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003 (email id: rd.north@mca.gov.in) within twenty one days (21 days) from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the petitioner LLP at its registered office at the address mentioned above.  
For and on Behalf of Zakin Infra LLP  
Sd/-  
Authorized Signatory  
DIN: 07510965  
Date: 25th June 2019  
Place: Lucknow (UP)

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
First Corrigendum To Tender Notice  
The Tender Notice No. 287-Sig/C/LKO/Tender/06/19 dated 24.06.2019 invited by Dy.CSTE/C/LKO may now find with the following corrigendum:  
S.N. Points Existing Revised  
1 Approximate Cost of work Rs. 52,82,035.98 Rs. 52,74,041.01  
2 Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 1,05,700/- (Rupees) Rs. 1,05,500/- (Rupees) One Lakh Five Thousand Seven Hundred only One Lakh Five Thousand Five Hundred only  
All other terms and conditions in the tender will remain the same.  
No. 287-Sig/C/LKO/Tender/06/19 Dated : 22.06.2019 2021/2019  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**NAVAL SHIP REPAIR YARD, KOCHI APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING**  
Applications for 172 vacancies are invited from ITI (NCVT) qualified candidates for undergoing Apprenticeship Training at Apprentice Training School, Naval Ship Repair Yard, Naval Base, Kochi-682004 under Apprenticeship Act-1961. Complete details published in "Employment News" of 22 Jun 19 "Rozgar Samachar" of 22 Jun 19.  
Davp/10702/11/0060/1920

**TEMPORARY SHORT TERMINATION / SHORT ORIGATION / DIVERSION OF TRAINS DUE TO TRAFFIC BLOCKS**  
In part supersession to Public Notice published on 22.06.2019, regarding 15 days traffic block for construction of Ballasted Track in Moradabad division from 25.06.2019 to 09.07.2019 and 18 days traffic block for repair of Washable Apron at Platform No. 1 at Lucknow station of Lucknow Division from 25.06.2019 to 12.07.2019, the following changes have been made :-  
**SHORT TERMINATION / SHORT ORIGATION OF TRAINS**  
Train No. & Train Name Train to short terminate at / originate from Date from Originating Station  
14211/14212 Agra Cantt - New Delhi - Agra Cantt Intercity Express at /from Hazrat Nizamuddin 25.06.2019  
**DIVERSION OF TRAINS**  
Train No. & Name Diverted Route Date(s) (from originating stn.)  
14673 Jaynagar - Amritsar Shaheed Express via Burhwal - Sitapur City - Roza Jn 26.06.2019 to 08.07.2019  
14674 Amritsar - Jaynagar Shaheed Express via Roza Jn - Sitapur City - Burhwal 25.06.2019 to 07.07.2019  
19269 Porbandar - Muzaffarpur Jn Express via Roza Jn - Sitapur City - Burhwal 27.06.2019 to 11.07.2019  
19270 Muzaffarpur Jn - Porbandar Express via Burhwal - Sitapur City - Roza Jn 30.06.2019 to 08.07.2019  
Note: - In this regard the rest of information published vide Public Notice at 22.06.2019 hold good.  
Note: - For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in  
Security Helpline No. 182 and Passengers Complaint Helpline No. 138  
Beware of Touts Always buy your tickets from Railway Counters or authorised rail travel agents only.  
Please join us on  
2029/2019  
NORTHERN RAILWAY  
visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

# Sreedharan resigns from Lucknow Metro

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Sreedharan, popularly known as 'Metro Man' has put in his resignation papers as the principal adviser of Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation (LMRC) citing old age and deteriorating health. Talking to *The Pioneer*, Sreedharan said that he would, however, be available for any guidance sought by managing director Kumar Keshav for projects in Uttar Pradesh. The 'Metro Man' said that in the future, he would be engaged in the initiation of Metro systems in Jammu & Srinagar and in the exercise of cleaning the Dal Lake in Kashmir.

Sreedharan said that at the age of 88 years, he found it difficult to move from one end of the country to another. He said that the Jammu & Kashmir High Court had appointed him in October 2018 as the Principal Consultant of the Committee of Experts which would help in the restoration of Dal Lake to its original pristine glory. He said that he had written to the court that he was too old to travel and would like to be excused but the court did not accept his

submission. "The lake has been encroached by 7,000 people who have to be removed and also 60 per cent of the sewage which was flowing into it has to be tackled," he said.

The Jammu & Kashmir government has sought his assistance in the construction of the metro system in Srinagar and Jammu. Sreedharan said that he had told the government of Jammu & Kashmir that he would only help in the initial stages and would not be able to continue for the final commissioning of the Metro. On being asked how he had been selected for the cleaning of the Dal Lake, he said that there was a back-ground to the whole scene.

"This problem was going on since 2002. On public litigation by a very prominent person saying that Dal Lake was dying and something should be done, various directions were issued by the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir to the state government but nothing happened. In 2009 the High Court adopted the Dal Lake saying that it would look after it and it started issuing directions to the state government. Even then things were not improving so



in October 2018 they appointed experts from outside," he said. Regarding his association with the Lucknow Metro, he said, that it was in April 2014 that the state government had sought his help for the construction of the Lucknow Metro. "It was the then Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav who called me and said that he wanted my assistance in the construction of Metro and sent one of his secretaries all the way to Pattambi in Kerala where I live, and he also arranged for me to view the inauguration of the Metro in

Lucknow to show that I was a part of the project. Later, I was appointed as the principal consultant," he said. He admitted that they did not know how to go about it.

"When I visited Lucknow I told them very clearly that if they wanted to finish the project on time and within the estimated cost then they would have to appoint a technocrat and not a bureaucrat at the helm of affairs. The then state government was open to the suggestion but asked me to appoint the proper person. I told them let the applications

come and then they asked me to give inputs regarding the qualification of the managing director and I wrote everything by hand," said Sreedharan.

He said that the state government asked him to give the qualifications for the directors also but he told them that the managing director, when appointed, should have a say in this. "In the selection process, I also insisted that apart from the then Chief Secretary and myself, there should be an officer from railways too," he added. He said that he had made a commitment that the first line of Metro in Lucknow would be opened in three years and the whole line would be completed in four years' time. "This is what happened. The first line from Transportnagar to Charbagh opened in two years and eight months and the whole line in three years," he added. He said later his guidance was also sought for the other Metros in Uttar Pradesh such as Kanpur, Agra, Meerut and Varanasi to which he gave his assent. "Now a full team is available and is experienced and knows how to go about the project. I accomplished my task on time," he said.

# Lack of local systems makes monsoon movement sluggish

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The southwest monsoon has gone sluggish and it is not expected to reach the state capital in the next 48 hours. MeT director JP Gupta said that the slow movement of monsoons was because of lack of local systems to support it.

"It cannot be stated clearly when the monsoon will arrive but it is not expected in the next two to three days," said Gupta. On Monday, high humidity levels made the residents sweat even as the maximum temperature was recorded at 39 degree Celsius, which was just a notch below normal. The minimum temperature of 27.6 degree Celsius was one degree above normal. Gupta said whatever rains



High humidity levels made people sweat on Monday while the maximum temperature was recorded at 39 degree Celsius

Pioneer

the city was receiving were the pre-monsoon showers. In the state, Kanpur was the hottest on Monday 40.4 degree Celsius. The forecast for Lucknow

and neighbourhood is partly cloudy sky while the maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to be around 40 degree Celsius and 28 degree Celsius respectively.

# HC judges's house in Gomti Nagar burgled

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Unidentified miscreants stole cash and jewellery worth several lakh from the house of Allahabad High Court's judge Justice Aniruddha Singh in Gomti Nagar Extension on Sunday night. The incident exposed police tall claim about night patrolling in posh localities of the state capital and its cosmetic measures to keep the record up to the mark.

Gomti Nagar SHO RS Sonkar said the judge is presently serving in Allahabad and was at his workplace. "Singh's wife and his daughter Abha, an advocate at Lucknow High Court, live on the 11th floor of Ganga apartment in Gomti Nagar Extension," he said. He said police were scanning the footages of CCTVs installed at the apartment and in the area to track the miscreants. "In one of the footages, the image of a suspect had been captured and we are looking for the suspect," he said.

The SHO said Abha, her mother and the judge had gone out of the city on June 9 and the flat was locked. "They got a call from their neighbour when they were on their way to Lucknow and reached the flat around 8 am only to find the house burgled," he said.

It surfaced that the miscreants had unlocked the metal gate even and they had rummaged through each and every corner of the flat to collect booty from the house. It also surfaced that the wily miscreants had bolted the doors of house of the judge's neighbours from outside to stop them from coming out on hearing commotion.

Police found that the unidentified miscreants took staircase to reach the 11th floor. The cops, however, did not find any footage of the mis-



**THEFT AT THE HOUSE OF THE JUDGE LENGTHENED THE LIST OF BURGLARIES THOSE TOOK PLACE IN THE GOMTI NAGAR PLACING IT AS THE FIRST CHOICE OF THIEVES**

creants when they were climbing the stairs. Police said the suspect whose image was captured was barefooted and had covered his face with a scarf.

Theft at the house of the judge lengthened the list of burglaries those took place in the Gomti Nagar placing it as the first choice of thieves.

"From January 1 to June 10, scores of incidents of house burglaries were reported to have taken place in different parts of Gomti Nagar," the sources said. They said the burglars had targeted the house of High Court judge in Vishal Khand, a flat of government engineer SK Rai in Vigyan Khand, the flat of retired IAS officer Ram Bahadur Singh in a premium residential society in Vipul Khand, a flat owned by joint director in Agriculture department Omvir Singh in Vishesh Khand and house of senior telecom executive in Vipul Khand in the past. "A spurt by nearly 30 per cent was noticed in theft cases which took place in Gomti Nagar in the current year," the sources dealing in police dossiers said.

# Varanasi Nirman Nigam GM, driver killed in road accident

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

General manager of UP Rajkiya Nirman Nigam (UPRNN), Varanasi, Sudhir Kumar, who was coming to Lucknow to attend an official meeting, was killed in a road mishap in Mohanlalganj on Monday noon.

His driver also died in the mishap while his wife Sunita suffered critical injuries and is admitted to Trauma Centre of KGMU. The deceased driver was identified as Jay Narayan (49). As per reports, Sudhir Kumar (59) of Manas Enclave in Indira Nagar was on way to Lucknow and when reached Gaura village of Mohanlalganj (near Surya Institute), the car rammed into a truck parked wrongly on the road around 12 noon. His wife Sunita was accompanying him as she had to go to their house in Indira Nagar. The impact was so intense that the bonnet was badly dented causing Sudhir and his driver to suffer head injuries. His wife, who was sitting on a rear seat, also suffered



injuries as her head banged against the car's body.

The commuters called the police and also tried to pull out the victims so that they could be rushed to hospital but in vain. Meanwhile, a police team reached the place for rescuing the victims.

The cops rushed all the injured to Trauma Centre where Sudhir and Jay Narayan were declared "brought dead". Police spokesman AK Dwivedi said the truck had been taken into custody and the police were investigating the case. "It is an unfortunate incident. The driver probably dozed off while driving and so the car rammed into the truck from behind," he said. He said the police were investigating if the truck driver had wrongly parked the truck.

Sudhir was to retire after six months. He had to attend a meeting in which GMs of UPRNN from all of the 75 districts of the state were called to the capital. "The GM and his wife were travelling by a private car. Due to heavy impact, the GM and the driver got their rib cages smashed in the incident," said Mohanlalganj SHO Gaudhin Shukla.

Additional SP (Vidhan Sabha) Sarvesh Mishra, who is also holding the charge of (rural region), said a technical team inspected the crime scene and found that truck was parked wrongly. "As per opinion of technical experts, the car crashed into the truck as the driver misjudged its position," the officer said.

The kin of the GM said the couple had a plan to settle in Lucknow after Sudhir's retirement. On the other hand, son of the driver (Jay Narayan) Sumit told newsman that his father had wished to donate his eyes. "I will fulfill the wish of my father," Sumit said.

# Youth murdered over old rivalry

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Unidentified miscreants killed a 24-year-old youth and dumped his body under a culvert in Nigoha on Sunday night. His blood-stained body bearing deep cut wounds around the neck, as per victim's family claim, was recovered on Monday morning. Police sent the body for autopsy and an investigation was underway.

The deceased was identified as Yashish Tiwari of Sherpur Lawal village in the area. As per reports, Yashish left his house saying he had to meet some persons on Sunday night and did not return since then.

His family waited for him round the night and in the morning on Monday they were told of Yashish's murder.

Deceased's brother Manish Tiwari told police that Yashish was murdered. "He had deep cut wounds around his neck when we saw the body which was dumped under the culvert," he said. The police said a case of murder was registered in the light of circumstantial evidence and complaint of the deceased's brother. "The body had been sent for autopsy and further investigations are underway," the police said. The police suspect old rivalry as a motive for the murder.

# ASI director general gives assent to restoration of Rumi Darwaza

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has got permission from the director general to go ahead with renovation of the Rumi Darwaza. Talking to *The Pioneer*, a senior official from ASI said they would now submit the estimated cost required for the restoration.

The iconic Rumi Darwaza has been crying for attention for the past several years and any kind of restoration will require traffic passing through it to be diverted from behind Teele Wali Masjid.

When pointed out that the conservation of Rumi Darwaza was an issue pending for a long time and asked as to why did they need to take any permis-



sion now, the official said at the end of every financial year, there were lapses of projects which had not been taken up and fresh proposals had to be

made. When asked if they were taking help from the administration regarding the diversion of traffic for conservation of the

Rumi Darwaza, he said that when they get the estimate approved they would approach the district administration.

The ASI has also geared up for monsoon. The senior official said that over a century-old monuments might have portions which could not bear the impact of heavy rains.

"We have cleared the drains in the monuments so that the water does not collect anywhere," he added.

Meanwhile, the unit of film 'Gulabo Sitabo' starring Amitabh Bachchan has sought permission for shooting at the Residency. "The permission is given by the ASI director general. We are intimated once the permission is given. For every shoot per day, we are paid Rs 50,000," he said.

**MAHINDRA RURAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD.**  
Corporate Office:- Sadhana House, 2nd Floor, 570, P.B. Marg, Worli, Mumbai 400 018, India  
Tel: 22 66523500, Fax: +91 22 24972741, CIN - U6592MH2007PLC169791  
Regional Office address : LDA Colony, B2/B70 Kanpur Road, Near Phoenix Mall, Lucknow-226005

**POSSESSION NOTICE**

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd, under the securitization and reconstruction of financial assets an enforcement of security interest act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the security interest (enforcement) rules 2002 issued demand notices to the Borrower/s as detailed hereunder, calling upon the respective borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the said notices with all costs, charges and expenses till actual date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the same. The said Borrowers/Co-Borrowers have failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described hereunder in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said act/rule 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned along-with. The borrowers in particular and public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd., for the amount specified therein with future interest, costs and charges from the respective dates. Details of the Borrowers, Co-borrowers, And Guarantors, scheduled property, outstanding dues, demand notices sent under section 13(2) and amounts claimed there under, date of possession is given herein below:

S. No.	Name and Address of the Borrower, Co-Borrower, Loan Account No. Loan Amount	Details of the Immovable Property	1. Date of Possession 2. Demand Notice Date 3. Amount Due in Rs.
1	XSEMCLK00304282 DEEPU DILEEP VERMA, UMAN VERMA	Grampanchayat Property No.545, Admeasuring. 723 Sq.Ft., Assessment register-Plot No.8, On Khasra No. 545 Situated At Gram- Paikramau, Pargana-Mahona, Tehsil Bakshi Ka Talab Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	1.19-06-2019 2.29-11-2018 3. Rs. 618205/-
2	XSEMCLK00420943 SHIV BARAN YADAV, ANJU YADAV	Grampanchayat Property No.738, Admeasuring. 1800 Sq.Ft., Assessment register-P NO.1 2,GATA NO.738 Ka Min Gram-bhaisamau, Pargana-Mahona, Teh Bakshi, Kataliab, Dist Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-226024	1.18-06-2019 2.29-11-2018 3. Rs. 1201857/-
3	XSEMCLK00477343 AHAKAM RAZA FALAK NAAZ	Grampanchayat Property No.644649646, Admeasuring. 700 Sq.Ft., Assessment register-Bhukhand No-17, Khasra No-700, Mirji, Jarhara, Ward-Priyadarshini, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-226016	1.19-06-2019 2.29-11-2018 3. Rs. 911337/-
4	XSEMCLK00531351 UPASNA MISHRA, SHESH DUTT MISHRA	Grampanchayat Property No.700, Admeasuring. 1500 Sq.Ft., Assessment register-Plot No.-104, Khasra No-700, Mirji, Jarhara, Ward-Priyadarshini, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-226016	1.18-06-2019 2.29-11-2018 3. Rs. 770348/-
5	XSEMCLK00532523 MAHESH PRASAD BARANLAL, RADHA DEVI, JAI VERMA	Grampanchayat Property No.495, Admeasuring. 600 Sq.Ft., Assessment register-Plot On Khasra No.495 Sa, Gram-Nandpur, Saraisnekh Pargana- Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226016	1.18-06-2019 2.29-11-2018 3. Rs. 1153381/-
6	XSEMCLK00529425 SANDEEP SINGH DIPALI SINGH	Grampanchayat Property No.180, Admeasuring. 550 Sq.Ft., Assessment register-Plot No-17, Khasra No-180,, Gourbheet, Ward-Faizullaganj, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-226021	1.18-06-2019 2.29-11-2018 3. Rs. 1200000/-
7	XSEMCLK00455455 RATAN KUMAR, POONAM, RAKESH SRIVASTAVA	Grampanchayat Property No.1330, Admeasuring. 1000 Sq.Ft., Assessment register-Plot On Khasra No-1330, Kanousi Kesari Kheda, Para Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-226012	1.19-06-2019 2.29-11-2018 3. Rs. 175583/-
8	XSEMCLK00433813 AMIT SINGH MENIKA SINGH	Grampanchayat Property No.1330, Admeasuring. 1000 Sq.Ft., Assessment register- Plot On Khasra No 1330, Gram Keshri Kheda, Kanousi, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-226005	1.19-06-2019 2.29-11-2018 3. Rs. 1452312/-
9	XSEMKNP00558372 RAHUL MISHRA, RAJUANA MISHRA	Grampanchayat Property No.41, Admeasuring. 915 Sq.Ft., Assessment register-Bhumi No 2 K/6 Part Of Bhumi No- 41, Min And New 6 Mohalla Gram Katri Hadha, Katri Piper Khera, Unnao Uttar Pradesh-209801	1.20-06-2019 2.29-11-2018 3. Rs. 1526910/-
10	XSEMKNP00630177 QAMRUDDEN, HUSN BANO	Grampanchayat Property No.889, Admeasuring. 899 Sq.Ft., Assessment register-Part Of Arazi No- 889 Min MaujaBairi, Akbarpur Bangar, Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-209870	1.20-06-2019 2.29-11-2018 3. Rs. 1619790/-

Place: Lucknow  
Date : 25.06.2019

(FAHAD KHAN) Authorised Officer  
For Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd.

**भारतीय सेना में शामिल हों**  
**JOIN INDIAN ARMY**  
RECRUITING DIRECTORATE WEBSITE: [www.joinindianarmy.nic.in](http://www.joinindianarmy.nic.in)

**अधिकारी प्रवृत्तियाँ**

- निम्नलिखित कोर्सों के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं :-  
(क) अल्पसेवा कमीशन (गैर तकनीकी) एन.सी.सी. विशेष भर्ती योजना 47वां पाठ्यक्रम अप्रैल 2020 पुरुष एवं महिला तथा युद्ध में हाताहत सेना कार्मिकों के आश्रितों (पुरुष और महिला) के लिए।  
(ख) अल्पकालिक सेवा कमीशन (गैर तकनीकी) जे.ए.जी. भर्ती योजना 24वां पाठ्यक्रम अप्रैल 2020 पाठ्यक्रम कानून में स्नातक पुरुष और महिला अभ्यर्थियों के लिए।  
(ग) 54वां अल्पकालिक सेवा कमीशन (तकनीकी) पुरुष एवं 25वां अल्पकालिक सेवा कमीशन (तकनीकी) महिला पाठ्यक्रम अप्रैल 2020।
- ऑनलाइन आवेदन निम्नलिखित अवधि तक खुले रहेंगे :-  
(क) एन.सी.सी. विशेष - पुरुष और महिला - 10 जुलाई से 08 अगस्त 2019  
(ख) जे.ए.जी. - पुरुष और महिला - 16 जुलाई से 14 अगस्त 2019  
(ग) अल्पकालिक सेवा कमीशन (तकनीकी) - पुरुष और महिला - 24 जुलाई से 22 अगस्त 2019

**OFFICER ENTRIES**

- Applications are invited for the following courses:-  
(a) Short Service Commission (NT) NCC Special Entry Scheme 47<sup>th</sup> Course Apr 2020 for Men & Women (including Wards of Battle Casualties of Army personnel).  
(b) Short Service Commission (NT) JAG Entry Scheme 24<sup>th</sup> Course (Men & Women) Apr 2020 course for Law Graduates.  
(c) 54<sup>th</sup> Short Service Commission (Tech) Men and 25<sup>th</sup> Short Service Commission (Tech) Women Courses Apr 2020.
- Online applications will open as under:-  
(a) NCC (Special) - Men & Women - 10 Jul to 08 Aug 2019  
(b) JAG - Men & Women - 16 Jul to 14 Aug 2019  
(c) SSC (Tech) - Men & Women - 24 Jul to 22 Aug 2019

**नोट:**

- सेना में भर्ती पूर्णतया पारदर्शी और मुफ्त है। दलालों से सावधान रहें।
- ऑनलाइन आवेदन खुलने और बंद होने की तारीखों में परिस्थितियों के अनुसार परिवर्तन हो सकता है।
- विस्तृत नोटिफिकेशन के लिए कृपया [www.joinindianarmy.nic.in](http://www.joinindianarmy.nic.in) पर जाएं।

**Note:**

- Recruitment in the Army is totally transparent and free. Beware of touts.
- The dates of opening and closing of online application are liable to alteration, if the circumstances so warrant.
- For detailed Notification, visit [www.joinindianarmy.nic.in](http://www.joinindianarmy.nic.in).

davp/10601/11/0013/1920



# CONGRESS CALLS MODI SALESMAN

Adhir: Cong failed to sell

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday said the comeback of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to power was the result of his "salesmanship" and asserted its primary role in the nation-building, even as the BJP insisted that it was the ten-year-long "policy paralysis" of the Congress rule which made the country realise the importance of strong leadership.

Initiating the debate on the motion of thanks on President's address, Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury launched a blistering attack on the Modi Government as the chair expunged some of his comments against the ruling dispensation.

Lashing out at the BJP for alleging a scam in the sale of 2G spectrum, he said if there was a wrongdoing why are UP chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Congress president Rahul Gandhi not in jail. "Why are they still in Parliament," he said and challenged the Modi Government to walk the talk.

He charged the BJP Government has developed "political plagiarism" syndrome and is only a "travesty of truth", saying it only tries to highlight its achievements ignoring the foundation laid down by his party.

Recalling former Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, Chowdhury listed out the achievements under the Congress Government and accused the BJP of just renaming 19 of the 23 schemes of the Congress party.

"This Government has developed a new syndrome called political plagiarism... Congress party has been contributing to growth (since Independence), but one morning you suddenly say the Congress has done nothing and you are doing all development work. It is nothing but travesty of truth..."

"You are a Government which can be called compliment addicted Government driven by manipulation," said Chowdhury who was the first speaker from Opposition to



BJP Govt has developed "political plagiarism" syndrome and is only a "travesty of truth"... Congress has been contributing to growth  
**ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY**



Policy paralysis was a new norm during those ten years. And it was Congress which made us realise the importance of strong leadership  
**PRATAP SARANGI**

initiate discussion on the Motion of Thanks.

Congress leader Sonia Gandhi continued to prompt Chowdhury while he was attacking the BJP in his speech. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were present in the House.

Stating it was the Congress party which initiated revolution like Green Revolution, White Revolution and Technology Revolution in the country, and increased GDP growth, Chowdhury said it was under the Congress that host of CPSEs like ONGC, IOC, NTPC, SBI and HAL were set up.

"The Congress is the soul of the nation. The Congress is synonymous with India... For us, country is ahead of the party... Although we have 52 members in the House, but we will continue to fight for the common man," he said.

He said the BJP rode-back to power as Modi is a "very big salesman" while the Congress failed to market its product in the Lok Sabha polls, he said, adding he accepted this fact.

"Our Prime Minister is a very big salesman. We (Congress) have been unable to sell our product, that is why we lost (Lok Sabha elections)," he said.

Taking a dig at Union Minister Pratap Sarangi, who had initiated the discussion for the Government, he said Sarangi crossed limits in his praise of Modi. This invited sharp reactions from the Treasury Benches as they referred to "India is Indira, Indira is India" remarks made by Congress leaders when Indira Gandhi was Prime Minister.

He said BJP MPs did not take steps to mitigate miseries of the people as they think

Modi will do everything. "They think that praising Modi is sufficient, he will help them sail through (Modi baba paar lagayenge)," he said.

Opening the debate for the Government, Sarangi hit out at what he called the Congress Government of "policy Paralysis", "accidental Prime Minister" and "Tukde-tukde-gang".

In his address, which barely touched on the contents of President's address, Sarangi was effusive in his praise for Modi and his leadership. Sarangi said he is grateful to Modi for making a man like him, who hails from a humble background, a Minister. Sarangi's long speech was replete with "Sanskrit slokas" and interspersed with Bangla, Odiya, Hindi and English quotes.

Sarangi's jibe at the Congress on its refusal to accept people's mandate to Modi, made the Prime Minister smile. Taking on the Opposition party, Sarangi said the Congress made the BJP realise the importance of strong leadership as policy paralysis was a "new norm" during the ten-year rule of the party with the "accidental Prime Minister" at the helm.

"Policy paralysis was a new norm during those ten years. And it was Congress which made us realise the importance of strong leadership," he said.

Without naming former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, he said even the Congress Prime Minister was an "accidental Prime Minister."

Emphasising that both Modi and his Government are committed to the welfare of the poor and downtrodden, Sarangi said by 2022 every poor person will have a "pucca" house with toilet.

# Return old India where there was culture of love: Azad

Keep New India to yourself and give the old India where there was no lynching and no hatred...Where Hindu and Muslims used to feel the pain of each other, says LoP in RS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Ghulam Nabi Azad, on Monday said the BJP won the Lok Sabha polls by practicing divisive policies, but in the process the 'nation stood defeated'.

Unleashing a fierce attack on the Government, Azad said under the 'New India', humans dreaded humans, glorifiers of killers of Mahatma Gandhi were in the ruling party, and incidents of mob lynchings were rampant.

Speaking on the motion of thanks to the President's address in the Rajya Sabha, Azad said unemployment is at all time high and heinous crime like rape on minors are abnormally on the rise.

Launching a scathing attack on the Government and its policies, Azad said a party could win elections on divisive policies but the "Nation stood defeated".

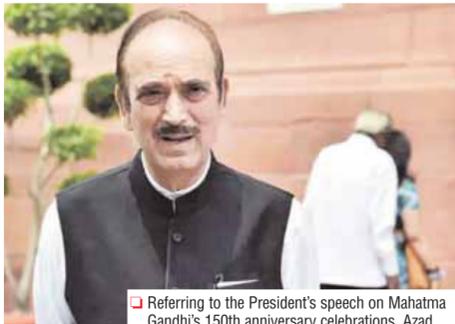
"Keep your New India to yourself but return our old India where there was a culture of love and... Where there was no lynching and no hatred...Where Hindu and Muslims used to feel the pain of each other," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was present in the House during Azad's address.

Referring to the President's speech on Mahatma Gandhi's 150th anniversary celebrations, Azad said unfortunately a candidate of the ruling party called the killer of the Father of the Nation a patriot and no action was taken and the candidate was a parliamentarian now.

"My tongue will burn...I cannot repeat the remarks...I have a complaint to the Prime Minister, why didn't you take action. Mahatma Gandhi may be Congress President but he was Father of the Nation...I would not have mentioned it here but President's speech mentions his birth anniversary celebrations...BJP should take action...It still has time till October..." Azad said.

While attacking BJP for defending 2008 Malegaon blast accused Sadhvi Pragya Thakur, Azad, however did not mention her by name and said: "How is this possible and how someone can defend this? Though it doesn't make any difference to us, this is a blot on



Ghulam Nabi Azad said unemployment is at all time high and heinous crime like rape on minors are abnormally on the rise  
**GHULAM NABI AZAD**

the face of the ruling party which cannot be wiped out."

He also referred to how former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on complaints about a Congress candidate in 1952 had instead urged people to vote for an Independent candidate who had a clean image.

On New India, he said it was full of hatred where people were afraid of people and not afraid while being in jungle.

"In old India, there was no hatred, anger or lynching. New India is one where humans are enemies of each other. You won't be scared of animals in a jungle but you'll be scared of humans here. Give us India where Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians live for each other."

Reacting to a recent case of lynching in Jharkhand, he said, "Jharkhand has become a factory of lynching and violence. Dalits and Muslims are being killed there every week. PM Modi, we are with you in the fight of 'Sabka saath sabka vikas' but it should be there for people to see it. We can't see it anywhere."

In a recent lynching incident, Tabrez Ansari, 22, died in a Jharkhand hospital on Sunday, days after he was brutally thrashed by a mob at Dhatkidih village in Seraikela district on suspicion of stealing a bike.

"We prefer to remain in opposition for 1,000 years but

cannot adopt your path...We cannot run government through TV. We can afford to be out of Parliament...A party can win on decisive policies but the Nation has lost...We want victory of the country," he said.

He said rapes were at all time high including heinous crimes like rapes on minor and that "Beti Padhao and Beti Bachao" was just plain talks.

Azad said crime against women have risen manifold and urged government to ensure 50 per cent reservation to women in Parliament as it was having absolute majority.

He said Congress's attempts were thwarted last time though the Women's reservation Bill was passed in Rajya Sabha. Unemployment, he said was at its peak with government trying to curb reports by various agencies and that the youth who voted for BJP needed justice. He said as per NSSO report, the unemployment was highest in the last five years.

On triple Talaq legislation, he said, the Opposition was also in favour but the government's intent should be clear.

He also attacked the BJP saying if the former Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri and Rajiv Gandhi did not do anything then who laid the foundation of power plants, dams and hydro-electric projects, and cautioned the government to not be so callous.

# Nadda reaches out to Opp for smooth RS run

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reaching out to the Opposition parties and seeking their cooperation in smooth conduct of the House, BJP working president JP Nadda on Monday asked the Opposition to realise that disruption affected them the most.

Initiating a debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address in Rajya Sabha, Nadda said, "We should agree to disagree in the House. But we should not disagree just for the sake of disagreement. I appeal. I need all of yours support. There were many disruption in the House in the past. This (disruption affects) the opposition the most."

Outlining the direction of newly formed Modi 2.0, he told the House that this Government would work toward improving ease of living in the next five years to further reach out to the commoners in the country.

On Prime Minister Narendra Modi getting several international awards, he said: "These are all awards for India. Now India is not just a spectator but also a player in the international scene."

Seconding the motion, BJP member Sampatiya Uikey lauded the NDA Government for working for women's progress and improving their lives through various social sector schemes and policies during the past five years.

Speaking on the motion, SR Balasubramoniyam of the AIADMK suggested that elections which stretch too long should be avoided in the future, citing the example of the recently concluded general elections spread over seven phases across the country.

Referring to electronic voting machines (EVMs), he said, of late, there have a number of demonstrations by a political party that it can be tampered with on a booth level. Many advanced economies have paper ballot system. We must also go back to the paper ballot system, he said.

On the suggestion of hold-



ing Lok Sabha and State polls simultaneously, Balasubramoniyam said he does not know how feasible such a proposition is as reports so far suggest it is impractical.

Observing that funds which have to be disbursed to states must be given in time, he claimed that Central Government owes thousands of crores to Tamil Nadu which must be released at the earliest as otherwise the implementation of schemes would suffer.

Ram Gopal Yadav of the Samajwadi Party said some of the schemes cited in the President's address seem unachievable based on their proposed size and scale.

He alleged that fake encounters were taking place in the country on a large scale and FIRs are also not being lodged in such cases.

"If the country is safe then why our borders are shrinking," Yadav said, asking if it is not true that China is doing something or the other on our borders regularly.

"You (Government) can always raise your eyebrows against Pakistan but what happens when it comes to China," Yadav said.

He claimed that there was discrimination being practiced on the basis of religion and caste and alleged that some Samajwadi Party workers had been killed in Uttar Pradesh after the BJP-led Government came to power in the State.

Referring to the situation of jobs in the country, Yadav said the youth are disgruntled and disappointed.

# Opp protests against EVMs, cheers for ballot paper

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

TMC leader Saugata Roy on Monday demanded avoiding of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and bring back the ballot system to ensure "transparency" in election process. BSP leader Danish Ali also questioned the reliability of EVMs. Both MPs were speaking on the Motion of Thanks to President's address in Lok Sabha.

"EVMs should be jettisoned. I am opposed to EVMs. Ballot papers should be brought back," Roy said in the Lok Sabha. He questioned how BJP leadership "knew" in advance the number of seats they were going to win in the Lok Sabha elections.

Roy said BJP president, a day before the election results were announced, declared that his party will win 300 seats. "How is it possible?" His speech was interrupted by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey who objected to Roy raising the issue of EVMs in the House saying that Election Commission cannot be questioned. On point of order raised by Dubey, the Chair said that whatever is objectionable would be removed from records.

Danish Ali (BSP) said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should have convened an all-party meeting on the issue of EVMs and not simultaneous

polls. He claimed that the EVMs have helped the BJP return to power. Several BJP members hit back, saying that he, along with several other opposition members have also won the polls. He also alleged that the electoral bonds were used to help parties like BJP get funds from corporate houses.

Ali said corporate houses do not fund parties like the BSP, hence the electoral bond scheme was aimed at helping parties like the BJP.

Saugata Roy also charged that BJP is dividing the nation and has created mayhem in West Bengal. "They are dividing the country. We shall resist NRC tooth and nail," he said, regretting that former pracharak of RSS outfit, which was banned in 1948 for murder of Gandhi, has become the Prime Minister. "We will resist with all our might to save secularism".

Earlier in the morning, TMC MPs are holding a sit-in in front of Mahatma Gandhi's statue on the Parliament's premises, demanding election be held by ballot paper instead of electronic voting machines (EVMs).

The party, which has been crying foul over the use of EVMs in the recently-concluded Lok Sabha polls, on Monday said their agenda for the protest was — "No to EVMs, Yes to paper ballots."



TMC MPs stage a protest against the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) in elections, at Parliament complex, in New Delhi, on Monday

# Bill proposing voluntary use of Aadhaar as ID proof tabled

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday introduced the Bill to allow voluntary use of Aadhaar as identity proof and reservations in jobs at Jammu & Kashmir to replace the Ordinances. Opposing the Aadhaar Bill, RSP MP NK Premchandaran said it was a "grave violation" of the Supreme Court's judgement on Aadhaar. He argued that private entities can get hold of Aadhaar data and violate fundamental rights especially the Right of Privacy.

Responding to the RSP MP, Union Information and Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said Aadhaar is a valid law, it is in national interest and doesn't violate privacy. He said so far more than 60 crore people have taken mobile SIM cards through Aadhaar and now it is not mandatory. Suggesting the Bill is in line with the apex court judgement, Prasad said people of India have accepted Aadhaar.

The Jammu & Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced by Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy on behalf of Home Minister Amit Shah who was present in the House. People living along the International Border (IB) in Jammu & Kashmir will get benefits of reservation in direct recruitment, promotion and admission in professional courses on par with those living along the Actual Line of Control (ALoC).

60 crore people have taken mobile SIM cards through Aadhaar and now it is not mandatory. Suggesting the Bill is in line with the apex court judgement, Prasad said people of India have accepted Aadhaar.

The Bill proposes to allow voluntary use of Aadhaar number for authentication and

identity proof in opening of bank accounts and procuring of mobile phone connections. The Bill also seeks to give a child an option to exit from the biometric ID programme on attaining 18 years of age, while stipulating stiff penalties for violation of norms set for use of Aadhaar and violation of privacy.

The move is aimed at making Aadhaar people-friendly. It also paves the way for use of alternative virtual identity number to conceal actual Aadhaar number of an individual, said Prasad.

The Bill also proposes deletion of section 57 of the Aadhaar Act relating to use of biometric identifier by private entities. This amendment will also prevent denial of services for refusing to, or being unable to, undergo authentication.

Besides this, the proposed amendments provide for establishment of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), and confer enhanced regulator-like power on the UIDAI.

The Jammu & Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced by Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy on behalf of Home Minister Amit Shah who was present in the House. People living along the International Border (IB) in Jammu & Kashmir will get benefits of reservation in direct recruitment, promotion and admission in professional courses on par with those living along the Actual Line of Control (ALoC), according to a Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha.

The Bill seeks to provide relief to people living in areas adjoining the International Border in Jammu & Kashmir. They can now avail benefits of reservation in direct recruitment, promotion and admission in different professional courses. People living in areas adjoining the IB in Jammu & Kashmir were not included in the ambit of the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004 and Rules, 2005.

Due to continuous cross-border tensions, persons living along the IB suffer from socio-economic and educational backwardness. Shelling from across the border often compels residents to move to safer places, which adversely impacts their education as schools and colleges remain closed for long periods.

# Disclosure of Lavasa's dissent note may 'endanger life' of individual: EC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has refused to disclose under the RTI Act the dissent notes of its Commissioner Ashok Lavasa on decisions pertaining to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speeches which were alleged to have violated model code, saying it was exempted information which may "endanger the life or physical safety" of an individual.

The EC was responding to Pune-based RTI activist Vihar Durve who had demanded Lavasa's dissent notes, pertaining to speeches given by Modi in rallies at Wardha on April 1, Latur on April 9, Patan and Barmer on April 21 and Varanasi on April 25.

The full commission of the panel, comprising Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora and members — Lavasa

and Sushil Chandra — had deliberated on the contentious issue, after which the EC said dissent notes and minority views would remain part of records but would not be part of its order.

"In the meeting of the Election Commission held today regarding the issue of MCC (Model Code of Conduct), it was, inter alia, decided that proceedings of the commission's meetings would be drawn, including the views of all the commission members," the EC had said in a statement after the meeting on May 21.

In the meeting, Lavasa is learnt to have stuck to his ground, pressing for his demand to include dissenting views in the orders. Since copies of the orders are sent to the complainant and respondents, they become public even if the commission does not share it with media.

EC was responding to Pune-based RTI activist Vihar Durve who had demanded Lavasa's dissent notes, pertaining to speeches given by Modi in rallies at Wardha on April 1, Latur on April 9, Patan and Barmer on April 21 and Varanasi on April 25.

EC was responding to Pune-based RTI activist Vihar Durve who had demanded Lavasa's dissent notes, pertaining to speeches given by Modi in rallies at Wardha on April 1, Latur on April 9, Patan and Barmer on April 21 and Varanasi on April 25.

# Raj BJP chief Madan Lal Saini passes away

Jaipur/New Delhi: Rajasthan BJP president Madan Lal Saini died on Monday while undergoing treatment at AIIMS in Delhi, a party spokesperson said. Saini, also a Rajya Sabha MP, was 75.

He was diagnosed with infection in lungs and was admitted at a private hospital in Jaipur. On Saturday, he was shifted to Delhi owing to his deteriorating health and was being treated under the Hematology Department at AIIMS. "He was later shifted to the ICU after his condition further deteriorated. He passed away today around 7.09 pm," a source at AIIMS said.

Saini, who hailed from Sikar district, was appointed BJP state president last year. He was a former MLA and RSS volunteer who held vari-

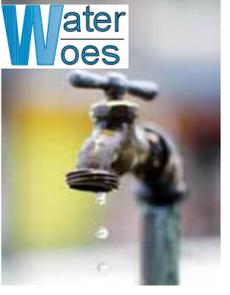
ous posts in the Bhartiya Kisan Morcha as well. A pall of gloom descended at the party's state headquarters in Jaipur where a large number of BJP leaders and workers gathered after hearing the news of Saini's death.

His body will be kept at the party office in Jaipur for visitors on Tuesday morning.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief and said Saini's death was a major loss for the BJP. "The passing away of Madanlal Saini Ji is a major loss for the BJP family. He contributed to strengthening the party in Rajasthan. He was widely respected for his congenial nature and community service efforts. My thoughts are with his family and supporters. Om Shanti," he tweeted. PTI

# ADMK, DMK in water war

## Opp says it won't allow transportation of water from Jolarpettai in Vellore district to Chennai



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI



DMK chief MK Stalin addresses protesters (below) during protest against AIADMK Government over water crisis in Tamil Nadu, in Chennai, on Monday

The water crisis plaguing Tamil Nadu has turned out to be a full blown out water war between the ruling AIADMK and the Opposition DMK. As part of its efforts to unseat the AIADMK Government, the DMK leadership declared on Monday that it would not allow transportation of water from Jolarpettai in Vellore district to Chennai.

Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami had announced on Friday that a 50 wagon train would be pressed into service to transport 10 million litres water per day from Jolarpettai to Chennai. The Government has set apart Rs 65 crore to meet the cost of transporting the water and other expenses, Palaniswami told mediapersons after a Cabinet meeting which was convened to discuss the water shortage in Chennai.

But Durai Murugan, treasurer, DMK, declared that his party would oppose the State Government's move to transport water from Jolarpettai to Chennai. Murugan who was the Minister for Public Works Department in the previous DMK Government disclosed



that at present the Tamil Nadu Government was bringing stagnant and polluted water from quarries. "I have seen people dumping carcasses of animals in these quarries. The AIADMK Government is supplying water through tanker lorries so that it could get commission from lorry owners," alleged Murugan.

The declaration of Murugan that his party would prevent transporting water from Jolarpettai to Chennai has

# BJP warns TMC goons of 'encounter' and 'UP model'

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In what the Trinamool Congress promptly saw a "saffron roadmap to paint Bengal in blood," two senior BJP leaders from the State on Monday said their party would chart the Uttar Pradesh model should they come to power in order to teach the TMC's "Tolaba" (extortionist) and criminal brigade a lesson.

The BJP leaders' statements came against the backdrop of one more shootout death at Mathurapur in South 24 Parganas where a person was shot dead by alleged TMC goons and three others were received serious bullet injuries during a political clash.

Senior State party leader Sayantan Basu said "if the

TMC goons do not chart the right path and come back to their senses then the police will be told to either arrest them or shoot them in encounter."

Most of these "TMC goons have created havoc in their regions by extorting money from the people and spreading violence," he said, adding when the BJP would come to power it would follow the UP model. "I warn you TMC goons we will chart the UP model and ask the police either to arrest the goons or if they try to flee away to Bangladesh then simply kill them through encounters before they can cross the border."

Basu who lost from Basirhat parliamentary seat to TMC's actress-turned-politician Nusrat Jahan was pulled up by the Election Commission when he

appealed to the CRPF to "shoot through the TMC goons chests instead of aiming at their legs."

Echoing Basu's statements another State party general secretary Raju Banerjee warned the Trinamool men who were extorting money from the people to "watch out and mend your ways or else when we will come to power we will not stop the police from dealing with you in encounters."

He said "after BJP comes to power you (TMC goons) will be seen standing in front of your houses with placards asking for pardon and saying 'spare us and we will never do it again'," Banerjee said adding "we will not intervene if the police dealt you in encounters."

Reacting sharply to the BJP leaders' statements senior



BJP activists protest in front of the office of Superintendent of Police, Birbhum, against the deterioration of law & order, on Monday

Trinamool leader Firhad Hakim said "what they are telling now only speaks of their character... This only speaks about the encounter ideology that their party, particularly their former party president and present Home Minister Amit Shah fol-

# Another setback for TMC as more leaders, MLA join BJP

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress suffered yet another setback as BJP on Monday filched a whole district board, an MLA and a district Trinamool president from the Bengal ruling party while its senior leader Mukul Roy said what the people saw on Monday was only a trailer of the movie that was going to be enacted in seven stages.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's recent endeavours to revive her party in North Bengal suffered a major setback as former South Dinajpur district TMC party president Biplob Mitra joined the BJP along with local Zilla Parishad president Lipika Roy who switched over to the saffron outfit with a team of 10 ZP members.

A third blow to the TMC came from Kachini further deep inside North Bengal's Dooras area from where sitting party MLA Wilson Champramary joined the saffron outfit. With Champramary's joining the BJP the total number of Trinamool MLAs joining the saffron outfit post general elections went up to five.

All the TMC leaders joined the BJP in Delhi in presence of Kailash Vijabargiya the party's observer for Bengal and Mukul Roy.

With the South Dinajpur 10 ZP members joining the BJP the 18-member district board will naturally go into the hands of the saffron outfit. Former TMC MP and present TMC district president Arpita Ghosh who replaced Mitra in the wake of the general elections that saw South Dinajpur (Balurghat seat) going to the BJP however said at least four out of the 10 ZP members who had joined the BJP would soon come back to the TMC.

"They told me that they were forcibly taken to Delhi and promised to rejoin the Trinamool after they return to Balurghat," she said.

In Delhi, Roy told reporters, "this is only a part of the first phase of the seven stages in which the TMC leaders will join the BJP... by the end of the seventh phase Mamata Banerjee Government will fall from power," reminding "yeh to abhi trailer hei, pura picture abhi baki hei (this is

only the trailer and the whole film is to come)."

On why he joined the BJP Champramary said "Mamata Banerjee has converted TMC a one-man party. She runs it according to her own whims and fancies. No one has any voice in the party as everyone must carry out her orders. She suppresses the voices of the people in a manner that today her party is trying to impose Bengali language on the people. They are telling that if anyone has to live in Bengal he has to read Bengali. This is unacceptable." The turncoat MLA further said, "TMC is charting the CPI(M)'s path with more ferocity."

Mitra once TMC's charge de affairs in North Bengal and a powerful organiser too echoed Champramary's voice saying "people have come to know about Mamata

Banerjee's dictatorial ways even as she tries to win all the elections by putting her photograph in display. But people like us do not rely on her picture because we have our own organisational support base. We will not submit anymore to her dictation."

# TN CM seeks Modi's intervention on Mokedatu issue

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Government on Monday sought the Centre's 'urgent' intervention on the Mokedatu reservoir issue, saying Karnataka seeking environ-

mental clearance for the project was in violation of an award of the Cauvery Water disputes tribunal and a Supreme Court judgment.

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister K Palaniswami requested him to direct the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to "reject outright" Karnataka's proposal.

Palaniswami sought Modi's "urgent personal intervention" to deny permission to the proposal of Karnataka's Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Niyamita

seeking environmental clearance for the Mokedatu Balancing Reservoir and Drinking water project.

The neighbouring State seeking such clearance was in "utter violation" of the final order of the Cauvery water disputes tribunal and a judgment of the apex court in February 2018, he said. Palaniswami said the Tamil Nadu Government has been conveying its strong objections and been urging the Centre to reject outright and return the Detailed Project Report of the Mokedatu project.

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत** / पावर मण्डल गोष्ठा ३-६-२०१९ / निविदा सूचना अनुमती फर्म / टेकेंडरिंग निविदा सूचना अनुमती फर्म / टेकेंडरिंग से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु सौलभ निविदायें दो भागों में दिनांक 04.07.2019 को 14.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। (1) अखिल-राज्य ३-निविदा संख्या 46 / ई-टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बरसाइच के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र बरसाइच पर 132 केवीओ गोष्ठा-बहस्राइच लाइन के लीलो हेतु टायर पार्ट्स की ड्रलाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 04.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। (2) अखिल-राज्य ३-निविदा संख्या 47 / ई-टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 132 केवीओ उपकेंद्र-भुमरिगामगंज लीलो लाइन की वैद्युतीकरण सम्बन्धी एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 04.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा का प्रथम भाग दिनांक 04.07.2019 को 14.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। (3) अखिल-राज्य ३-निविदा संख्या 48 / ई-टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 132 केवीओ उपकेंद्र-भुमरिगामगंज लीलो लाइन की वैद्युतीकरण सम्बन्धी एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 04.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा का प्रथम भाग दिनांक 04.07.2019 को 14.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। (4) अखिल-राज्य ३-निविदा संख्या 49 / ई-टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर दैनिक आधार पर 245 केवीओ एवं 145 केवीओ सर्किट ब्रेकरों के अनुक्षण सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। (5) ई-निविदा संख्या 50 / ई-टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर दैनिक आधार पर 110 वोल्ट डेट्री की व डेट्री चार्जर सिस्टम के अनुक्षण सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। (6) ई-निविदा संख्या 51 / ई-टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर दैनिक आधार पर 110 वोल्ट डेट्री की व डेट्री चार्जर सिस्टम के अनुक्षण सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। (7) ई-निविदा संख्या 52 / ई-टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 132 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर 3 सेट पिट के निर्माण सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। (8) ई-निविदा संख्या 53 / ई-टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर विनिंग 33 केवीओ साइड के उपकरणों के अनुक्षण सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। (9) ई-निविदा संख्या 54 / ई-टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा पर विनिंग 33 केवीओ साइड के उपकरणों के अनुक्षण सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। (10) ई-निविदा संख्या 55 / ई-टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र गोष्ठा पर घास कटाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.07.2019 को 15.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 236.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र सूचनात्मक रिफ्लेक्टिव एवं ई-गोष्ठा/टीसीओ (गोष्ठा) / 2019-20 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोष्ठा के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र

# Barmer tragedy toll reaches 15

PTI ■ BARMER (RAJASTHAN)

The death toll in the Barmer 'pandal' collapse tragedy in Rajasthan has climbed to 15, whereas the number of people injured in the incident stood at 71, officials said on Monday. The incident took place on Sunday when a pandal fell on the people due to strong winds and heavy rains during a religious programme here.

"With the death of a man Pokar Ram, the death toll has increased to 15. We have information that 71 people are admitted to various private and government hospital in Barmer," Sub Inspector, Balotara police station, Shantanu Singh said. He said the number of people injured could be higher as some of them had left Barmer for Jodhpur and Ajmer, adding that their information was being collected. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Health Minister Raghu Sharma, Revenue Minister Harish Chaudhary and others Monday met the grieving families of those killed in the incident.

Gehlot also visited the accident site in Jasol village and spoke to locals. He paid floral tributes to those who lost their



lives and visited the injured in hospitals. "The incident is very unfortunate and a proper inquiry will be conducted," he said. The Chief Minister also appreciated constables Gomaram and Daularam for their prompt action in provid-

ing rescue and relief to the distressed. Earlier, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Barmer MP Kailash Chaudhary visited hospitals to enquire about the condition of the injured. Governor Kalyan Singh also expressed grief

over the incident. "He prayed for the God for the peace of departed souls," a release quoted him on Monday. A 'Ram Katha' was organised at a school ground near Rani Bhatiyani temple in Jasol village of the district on Sunday.

The pandal was uprooted by strong winds, trapping the people sitting under it.

More than 1,000 devotees were attending the villages of Barmer district, including Jasol village, about 460 km from state capital Jaipur, police said. The state government has announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh each to the kin of those killed and up to Rs 2 lakh to the injured. An inquiry led by Jodhpur Divisional Commissioner BL Kothari has also been ordered. Eyewitnesses claimed that the tent got uprooted due to the winds and hovered for a few seconds for several feet in the air before collapsing.

Murliidhar Maharaj, who was leading the 'Ram Katha', stopped midway and asked people to leave as the pandal started to collapse. He scurried from the stage within seconds as the structure came down, leading to a stampede-like situation, police said. The religious programme was organised by the Rani Bhatiyani Mandir Sansthan. It started on Saturday and was to continue till June 30.

# Murder spurts torment Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The issue of law and order in the national Capital in the wake of nine murders in the last 24 hours has created an atmosphere of unease among Delhiites, particularly senior citizens. The latest being the sensational murder of a septuagenarian couple and their domestic help in their South Delhi house.

The issue reverberated in the Upper House of Parliament after Sanjay Singh of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) raised it. Singh said Delhi is emerging as the "crime capital" of the country and urged the Home Ministry to convene a meeting to discuss the issue.

Meanwhile, a day after his party held the BJP responsible for a spurt in crimes in the national Capital, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, "I will fully cooperate with the Centre to improve the law and order situation in the city."

"The city has reported nine murders since Saturday. We need to work together to improve the law and order situation in Delhi," Kejriwal said.

It may be noted that the AAP Government has started installing CCTV cameras at a

large scale. "This will help a lot in controlling crimes in the Capital. We will get the feed of any crime taking place in the city. It will help in taking necessary steps immediately," the Delhi CM said. "All agencies, Governments and residents of Delhi need to work together. We will fully cooperate with the Central Government. Keeping politics aside, we need to work together to improve the law and order situation in the city," Kejriwal said.

The CM's remarks came a few days after he assured Prime Minister Narendra Modi of his Government's cooperation to develop Delhi. At a meeting with the PM recently, he had said he would examine the possibility of integrating the Centre's Ayushman Bharat programme with his Government's health scheme in Delhi. Since the AAP came to power in 2015, the Delhi Government has been at loggerheads with the Centre over several issues. Kejriwal, his Ministers and party leaders have often accused the Modi Government of creating hurdles for the city Government.

Facing flak for the deteriorating law and order situation and an increase in crime rate,

Delhi Police top brass came claimed the crime situation is well under control in the city. However, the murder of elderly couple Vishnu Mathur and his wife Shashi Mathur, along with their domestic help Khushbu Nautiyal in their South Delhi house, has sent shock waves.

All the nine murders were committed within of the confines of homes and the perpetrators were either family members or known to the victims. "The job of police is to investigate and then prevent crime and the force is committed to do so," said a top police official of the Delhi Police on the condition of anonymity.

The official said private tutor Upendra Shukla had killed his wife and three children at their Mehrauli home on Saturday morning. Some wrappers of medicines were also recovered from the house and two handwritten notes in Hindi and English in which Shukla confessed to killing his wife and children. He, however, did not give any reason for it, said the police official, adding that Shukla is suspected to be suffering from depression.

# 'MEA proposed manufacture of e-passports on priority'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday said his ministry has proposed manufacture of e-passports on priority so that the travel document with advanced security features can be rolled out in the near future. Speaking at the seventh Passport Seva Divas, Jaishankar said the ministry has initiated discussions with the 'India Security Press' regarding the project for issuing chip-enabled e-passports to the citizens. "We propose to pursue the manufacture of e-passports on priority so that a new passport booklet with advanced security features can be rolled out in the near future," the minister

said. He said that in line with the commitment made by the government in its previous tenure, the ministry shall continue with the process of opening new Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSK) in every Lok Sabha Constituency where no seva kendras exist today.

"Both our ministries (MEA and Ministry of Communications) are completing the necessary formalities for early inauguration of the POPSK already announced. We would also be announcing more locations for setting-up POPSK after completing the feasibility studies," he said.

"Last five years of passport services delivered by

the ministry constituted a passport revolution. The mandate of the MEA is to ensure good governance and a transparent, efficient, timely, effective, reliable, assured and accountable public service delivery system," he said.

Noting that on average, more than one crore passports are issued every year, Jaishankar thanked Communications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad for enabling opening of 412 POPSKs since January 2017.

"Together with the 93 Passport Seva Kendras which are already functional, this has taken the total number of PSKs in the country to 505 today. The common man of the country now has a

Passport Seva Kendra near his or her residence and is not required to travel too far to submit the passport application," he said. Jaishankar said the partnership between MEA and Department of Posts is a wonderful example of the best practice in citizen-centric governance. He said optimal use of the technology should be made along with the tools provided by the government's initiatives under Digital India.

"During the passport seva diwas last year, the mppassport seva mobile app and apply for a passport from anywhere scheme were launched. These two initiatives demonstrate how technology can help applicants," he said.

Jaishankar also gave awards at the function to the best performing passport offices. Jalandar Passport Office got the first prize followed by Cochin Passport Office and Coimbatore Passport Office at second and third position respectively. He said the state police authorities have an important role in the timely delivery of passports. "The average time taken for police verification has come down to 19 days in 2018, and we would like to bring this down further. In this context, the performance of states like Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala has been exemplary and their award today is well deserved," he said.

# CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MAYAWATI DUMPS SP...

the people as well as among political parties is very important... If people feel that politicians cannot keep their words while dealing with each other, they will not be able to keep their promises made to the people," Tripthi said.

The problem that we are seeing now is an outcome of lack of commitment, he remarked. The BJP was equally scathing. "BSP chief Mayawati had sought votes from the Dalits, and had marginalised them. She cannot think about anyone beyond her family. Her history is full of betrayals..." "Akhilesh should have thought 100 times before joining hands with Mayawati for opportunistic and selfish politics," BJP's UP spokesperson Harish Srivastava said in a statement.

An inkling of what was to come was available immediately after the Lok Sabha poll results were out on May 23. Mayawati then said her party would go it alone in the upcoming bypolls to a dozen Assembly seats in UP. Mayawati, according to party sources, had said the alliance was useless and Yadav votes were not transferred to the BSP. For the record, however, she said at the time that electoral ties with the SP would continue. In a statement 10 days after the defeat of the alliance in the Lok Sabha elections, Mayawati had said she can work with the SP in future if Yadav is able to "fulfil his duties". The often mercurial leader has patchy loyalty record with her party known to make and break alliances with more than one party.

SC SEEMS...

preventive steps and first aid. He has asked for a compensation of Rs 10 lakh to members of the family of the deceased who have died due to negligence of the state machinery. The petitioner sought a direction to the Centre for constituting a board of medical experts and immediately sending it to Muzaffarpur. He asked the apex court to direct the Centre and the Bihar government for immediately arranging 500 stationary and 100 mobile intensive care units

with required medical professionals to deal with the patients from the remote areas and the emergency situation which occurred due to the AES outbreak. Symptoms of AES include high fever, convulsions and extremely low blood sugar levels. Among the factors said to trigger the syndrome are malnutrition. There were more than 44,000 cases and nearly 6,000 deaths from encephalitis in India between 2008 and 2014, said a 2017 study published in The Indian Journal of Medical Research (IJMR). Researchers said the patients often report acute onset of fever and altered consciousness, with a rapidly deteriorating clinical course, leading to death within hours. Litchis grown in Muzaffarpur, the country's largest litchi cultivation region, are said to contain a toxin which can cause a drop in blood sugar levels if consumed by a malnourished child.

VIRAL ACHARYA...

Opposition Congress party was quick to hit out at the government saying Acharya has added his name to the long list of experts who attempted to show the "mirror of truth" to the BJP regime. "RBI Dy Guv, Viral Acharya adds his name to the long list of experts who attempted to show the 'Mirror of Truth' to BJP regime. 4 Economic Advisors, 2 RBI Guvs & a Niti Aayog VC has resigned earlier!" party chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala tweeted. The Congress, on its official Twitter handle, said, "could his abrupt decision have anything to do with his stance on reaffirming the RBI's independence from the current government".

He is the third top-ranking official at the RBI to have quit or declined to seek a second term during the BJP rule. Governor Raghuram Rajan had in 2016 decided not to seek a second term following tensions with the government. His comment likening the Indian economy in the global situation to that of a one-eyed king in the land of blind had not gone down well, with the then Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman criticising him. BJP's Rajya Sabha MP

Subramanian Swamy too had run an active campaign to remove him.

Patel in December became the first RBI governor to have resigned since the 1990s. Since Acharya was appointed by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the resignation would also be accepted by the panel. With Acharya quitting, the RBI will be left with three deputy governors N S Vishwanathan, B P Kanungo and M K Jain. Acharya, CV Starr Professor of Economics, Department of Finance, New York University - Stern School of Business, was appointed RBI Deputy Governor for three years in December 2016. He joined the RBI in January 2017.

He had joined the central bank at a time when it was facing criticism for repeated changes in the rules related to deposit and withdrawal of money, post-demonetisation. Acharya was looking at the monetary and research cluster at the Reserve Bank.

As an independent-minded economist, Acharya had on several occasions courted controversy by criticising the government and the finance ministry and raising the question of central bank's autonomy. Acharya, who once called himself the "poor man's Raghuram Rajan", had delivering A D Shroff Memorial Lecture in October last year, stated that undermining RBI's independence can trigger a crisis of confidence in capital markets and that "attrition of central bank powers results in attrition of its human capital and deterioration of its efficiency and expertise over time". Speculation about Acharya's exit had started on the day Patel quit.

NO RELIABLE...

As per the report, the NIPFP study said that during the period 1997-2009 illicit financial flows out of the country have been in the range of 0.2 per cent to 7.4 per cent of Gross Domestic Products of the country. "NCAER in its study said unaccounted wealth accumulated outside India is estimated to exist between USD 384 billion and USD 490

billion between 1980 and 2010 period while the NIFM's study said that results of estimation suggest that total illicit outflow at the present value (including opportunity cost) from India in the reform period (1990-2008) is Rs 94,1837 crore (USD 216.48 billion). Importantly, illicit outflows from the country are estimated on average to 10 per cent of the estimated unaccounted income," the report says.

"It appears that the reliable estimation of unaccounted income and wealth inside and outside the country is a difficult task, this inference is validated by the widely varying estimates of the unaccounted income arrived at by these three institutes. "The Chief Economic Adviser has opined that there is no scope for arriving at a common estimate of unaccounted income by combining estimates from the three reports (studies)," the report said. The committee also noted that as only a "limited number of stakeholders" could be examined by it, owing to the paucity of time, "this report might be considered as a preliminary report", pending examination of other witnesses including non-official witnesses or experts on the subject and after evidence replies of the Finance Ministry which are awaited. The committee, the report added, would thus expect more fruitful outcomes on this count, both in terms of much wider tax base as well as actual tax yield. In the context, it also desires that the long-delayed direct tax code should also be finalised at the earliest and reintroduced in Parliament with a view to simplify and rationalise the direct tax laws in the country.

SIT FORMED...

He was declared "brought dead" by doctors at the Tata Main Hospital in Jamshedpur on June 22, said police. S e r a i k e l a - K h a r s a w a n Superintendent of Police (SP) Karthik S said on June 17, Ansari and two others had entered a house in Seraikela village at night allegedly with an intention to commit theft.

However, the occupants of the house woke up and raised an alarm, following which vil-

lagers caught hold of Ansari and "manhandled" him, while his accomplices managed to flee, the SP told reporters. "We are investigating the incident. We have, so far, arrested five persons in this connection but have, at the same time, set up a high-level team to probe the entire matter meticulously," said Karthik. Ansari was found to be in possession of valuables, which he and his associates had allegedly stolen from other villages, the officer said.

Police reached the spot in the morning and took Ansari to jail on the basis of a complaint from villagers, after administering first aid to him. However, when his condition deteriorated in jail on the same day, he was taken to the Sadar Hospital, where he was diagnosed with multiple injuries, the SP said.

Ansari was subsequently referred to the Tata Main Hospital in Jamshedpur. However, locals of Dhatkidih village came out with a different version. "As per our understanding, Ansari died at the hospital four days after he was thrashed up by the villagers. During the probe, it was found that Ansari and two of his associates, Noomar Ali (19) and Seikh Irfan (18) had first committed a theft at the house of Rajesh Pramanik at Mahalimurup and Fulchand Pradhan at Murup villages, before committing theft at Sagar Pradhan, also in Murup," said locals.

After theft at the three houses, the trio had climbed on the roof top of Bishnu Pradhan's house at Dhatkidih, but incidentally as Pradhan's son was awake on the roof top, he raised an alarm, leading the three to flee, they said. While Noomar and Irfan managed to escape by jumping down the building, Ansari sustained grievous injury in his left ankle in course of the jump.

While the people were searching for the thieves here and there, Ansari kept on hiding in the bush and could be traced only by two women who had gone there to respond nature's call at about 1 am. It was after the women found Ansari there that they raised an alarm and villagers turned up and caught him.

# Man who raped, killed minor nabbed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 28-year-old man who had allegedly raped and then strangled a seven-year-old to death in outer Delhi's Narela area. The incident had occurred on June 14. The accused Imran a resident of Swarn Jayanti Vihar, Tikri Khurd, after offering 'frooti' took the girl to a sewage plant at a park in Tikri Khurd where he strangled the minor girl with bare hands after raping her. The accused was arrested on Sunday.

According to Gaurav Sharma, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Outer North district, the minor girl was reported missing on June 15. "The next day, the body of the girl was found at an abandoned water sewage plant in Swarn Jayanti Vihar in outer Delhi's Narela. The post-mortem report confirmed that the girl was raped and then strangled to death," said the DCP. "Investigation revealed the involvement of the neighbour in connection with the incident following which he was apprehended," said the DCP. "During interrogation, the accused told the police that his wife was not home since couple of days. He was under the influence of alcohol. When he spotted the girl, he offered



her 'frooti' and took her to a water sewage plant and raped her," said the DCP.

"The families of seven-old old girl and accused have known to each other since long as both the families shifted

from Shahadra (where they were neighbours) to Swarn Jayanti Vihar," the DCP added.

"The minor girl often spoke to accused and called him Mama. The accused also used to give her toffees and eatables. The father of girl was in an illicit relationship with the sister of accused and both were caught red handed earlier," the DCP said. "The accused is a driver by profession but since the last few months he was working at a pickle manufacturing factory where he used to cut mangoes. The father of the deceased sells spices at Seelampur," the DCP added.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Notification No. 102/2019					
It is notified for information of the general public that train no. 05105/05106 Gorakhpur-Basti-Gorakhpur Special express will run daily on the following stoppages and timings w.e.f. 01.07.2019 given below :					
05105		STATION		05106	
Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.
—	11.30	Gorakhpur	15.35	—	—
12.00	12.02	Sahjanva	14.47	14.49	—
12.28	12.30	Khalilabad	14.30	14.32	—
13.30	—	Basti	—	14.00	—

Note—Train no. 15105/15106 (Chhapra-Nautanwa-Chhapra) will run with one Number w.e.f. 01.07.2019.  
CPROT-23 Chief Pass. Trans. Manager/N.E.Railway/Gorakhpur  
About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955  
"DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN"

# कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद, मीरजापुर

पत्रांक - 196/ज0क0/2019-20 दिनांक : 24.06.2019

## (अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना)

नगर पालिका परिषद, मीरजापुर के पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों/फर्मों को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर पालिका निधि के अन्तर्गत अध्यक्ष महोदय के स्वीकृत आदेशानुपालन में दिनांक 5/7/19 को अपराह्न 1.00 बजे से 3.00 बजे तक कार्यालय जलकल अभियन्ता, लालडिग्री, मीरजापुर में रखे गये निविदा बाक्स में डाली जायेंगी, जो उसी दिन अपराह्न 3.30 बजे उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के समक्ष, सक्षम अधिकारी द्वारा खोली जायेगी। निविदाप्रपत्र किसी भी कार्य दिवस में दिनांक- 4/7/19 ..... तक निर्धारित मूल्य जमाकर निविदा प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। निविदा के सम्बन्ध में विस्तृत शर्तें एवं जानकारी कार्यालय दिवस में सम्बन्धित पटल से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

क्र० सं०	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रुपये में)	2% धरोहर धनराशि (रुपये में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (रुपये में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने का समय
1.	नगर के गनेशगंज वार्ड में धर्मशाला के पास।	116301.00	2442.00	120.00	07 दिन
2.	नगर के चेतगंज वार्ड में मन्दिर के पास।	116301.00	2442.00	120.00	07 दिन
3.	नगर के कोतवाली वार्ड में मन्दिर के पास।	116301.00	2442.00	120.00	07 दिन
4.	नगर के बसनही बाजार वार्ड में मन्दिर के पास।	116301.00	2442.00	120.00	07 दिन

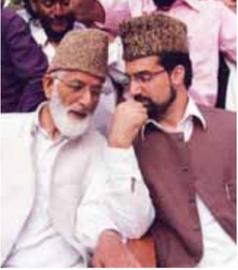
शर्तें :-

- निविदा हेतु जलकल विभाग, नगर पालिका परिषद मीरजापुर में वर्ष 2019-20 हेतु पंजीकृत/नवीनीकृत वैध संविदाकार ही निविदा में हिस्सा ले सकते हैं। पंजीकृत/नवीनीकृत प्रमाण पत्र की स्वप्रमाणित छायाप्रति निविदा प्रपत्र के साथ संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- कार्य की गारन्टी/वारन्टी संविदाकार को 24 माह के लिये देनी होगी। गारन्टी/वारन्टी समयावधि में सामग्री/कार्यों में किसी प्रकार की कोई कमी/खराबी आने पर संविदाकार को स्वयं अपने खर्च पर सामग्री/कार्यों को पुनः सही कराना होगा अथवा नयी सामग्री की आपूर्ति करनी होगी।
- निविदादाता का आयकर व व्यापार कर में पंजीकरण होना आवश्यक है। निविदा प्रपत्र के साथ सम्बन्धित प्रमाण पत्र की स्वप्रमाणित छायाप्रति संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- निविदा प्रपत्र के साथ पी0डब्ल्यू0डी0 टी-4, पी0डब्ल्यू0डी0 टी-5, निविदा शुल्क जमा रसीद की स्वप्रमाणित छायाप्रति संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- धरोहर धनराशि एन0एस0सी0 या बैंक एफ0डी0आर0 के रूप में जमा करनी होगी जो कि अधिशासी अधिकारी, नगर पालिका परिषद मीरजापुर के पदनाम बन्धक होगी। धरोहर धनराशि के रूप में चेक, ड्राफ्ट अथवा अन्य कोई माध्यम स्वीकार्य नहीं होगा एवं प्रत्येक कार्य की निविदा के साथ अलग-अलग धरोहर धनराशि संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा। सम्मिलित रूप से धरोहर धनराशि मान्य नहीं होगी।
- बिना धरोहर राशि के किसी भी निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।
- निविदा स्वीकृत होने के उपरान्त संविदाकार को अवशेष 8 प्रतिशत तथा विभागीय दर से कम निविदा दर होने की स्थिति में शासनादेश सं0-622/23-12-2012-2 आडिट/08 टीसी-2 दिनांक 08/06/2012 के क्रम में नियमानुसार अतिरिक्त जमानत धनराशि एफ0डी0आर0 के साथ अनुबन्ध करना होगा।
- नियमानुसार अतिरिक्त टैक्स देय होगा।
- अध्यक्ष नगरपालिका परिषद, मीरजापुर को बगैर कारण बताये किसी भी निविदा/समस्त निविदाओं को निरस्त करने का अधिकार होगा।
- सशर्त निविदायें स्वीकार नहीं होंगी।

(मुकेश कुमार) अधिशासी अधिकारी नगरपालिका परिषद, मीरजापुर (मनोज जायसवाल) अध्यक्ष नगरपालिका परिषद, मीरजापुर

## Will talks take off?

J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik and Hurriyat's Mirwaiz Umar Farooq may yet find a salve to a seriously damaged Valley



**G**iven the shadow of the worst militant attacks in Pulwama and the ice-cold freeze on talks between India and Pakistan following the Balakot airstrikes, one had not expected this reciprocity. But the relentless overtures of Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik in reaching out to the Valley's youth, village communities and now even the Hurriyat Conference for talks and dialogue have clearly got things moving. Hurriyat's moderate face and chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has confirmed being part of the talks,

saying a government with a massive mandate should initiate a political process and end the cycle of violence. At least the acquiescence to the Governor's olive branch assumes significance at a time when Hurriyat leaders are being watched closely and have certain security restrictions in place. It is no secret that the Government is cracking down severely on Pakistan's funding of militant activity, a move that has affected the Hurriyat, too. This squeeze perhaps explains the willingness of its leaders to sit across the table. But practically speaking, it seems the Hurriyat doesn't want to be seen as a deal-breaker either. Of course, the bigger question is whether the talks will indeed take place or just be reduced to another round of tokenism as it has happened before.

Looking at the offer through the post-Balakot prism, which redefined the dynamic of deterrence for Pakistan-exported terrorism for good, there are new realities to be confronted by both sides. The most worrying aspect of the Pulwama attack was that the suicide attacker was a local youth who had been drafted in by the Jaish-e-Mohammad. The government can hardly afford more young men falling into the snare set by Pakistan-sponsored militant networks and trainers. And the hostile environment cannot be allowed to fester. So it is looking for ways and means to mainstream the dispossessed youth, the village contact programme breaking the status quo of the local leadership, which had almost taken this section of society for granted. Besides, unlike the flagrant belligerence of tall claims made by the central leadership of the ruling BJP, the Governor has been prudent, staying away from committing himself to any talk on Article 371 and Article 35 A, declaring how the flag of Kashmir was being placed next to the national flag on his car, publicising his earnestness to settle the anger of the younger generation and pledging to fight the drug menace in the State, a plank raised by the Mirwaiz, too. Further, by announcing the distribution of free-to-air *Doodarshan* set-top boxes to residents of border areas in Jammu and Kashmir, Malik has also neutralised the one-way information propaganda rather tidily. Even before Pulwama, the government had been insisting on talks with locals, acknowledging separatists as stakeholders in the dialogue process in its earlier term. By making the right noises, the government is trying to steer the Hurriyat away from the Pakistan-dictated narrative and reminding its leadership that its appeal too would be lost without a connect with the local youth. At the same time, by trying to heal the disturbed youth, it is reaching out to a society that is clearly tired of the violence and whose members do not have it in them to send more martyrs to a lost cause. The common Kashmiri now wants peace, stability and anchorage and does not want to consider being a migratory species. Already the apolitical Kashmiri talent pool has all but left the Valley. Even the Hurriyat realises that it cannot lose its social endorsement. And though it is still in the Government's calipers, it doesn't want to lose its psychological hold over the locals or risk their weariness. Particularly at a time when Pakistan is under global pressure to tone down its adventurism. This is the reason why the pathological hatred of the hawkish Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani towards any peace move, which has been scuttling the talks process for years, is no longer relevant. And though the Hurriyat has been a collective identity, individually Mirwaiz and Yasin Malik had taken divergent positions. While there is no dilution of the Government's "no talks without terror" line with Pakistan, Governor Malik's non-adversarial, velvet glove approach has clearly softened the edges. Trust takes time to develop and the Government has to tread the ground cautiously without fanning jingoistic irritants and avoid missteps like the rubber pellet firing at children instead of stone pelters.

## Delhi crimes

The easy availability and influx of illegal arms is a serious matter and should not be politicised



**I**t would be easy enough to dismiss Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's claim of the city soaring high on the crime graph and the Delhi Police refuting his claim of nine murders in 24 hours as another bout of the persistent Centre-State duel. Some would even argue that the heightened rhetoric was geared towards the Assembly elections at the end of the year or early 2020 and that the Chief Minister was busy building a case for full statehood and handing over of policing powers to the State government. But that would be facetious for cold

facts seldom lie. So it is that 1,169 crimes have already been recorded till May 2019 as against 842 in 2018. At least 220 bullets have been fired on the streets in 43 incidents over the last 30 days, resulting in 16 deaths. Of course, these do not include cases where victims were held at gunpoint or were waylaid, accosted, stabbed or bludgeoned. The crime map is uniform, equally prevalent in east, west, north and south. Worst, the shootings are not the result of gangland rivalries but triggered by petty issues of personal enmity, attempted robbery or snatching, even extortion, and have all taken place in the public eye.

There is no doubt about growing criminality in a stressed society as a tool for negotiation, considering that the justice redressal system is horribly compromised. But to get killed at the drop of a hat, either by strangers or friendlies, clearly is a major anomaly in the country's capital. Except, a surgical analysis clearly shows that street crimes have proportionately increased with the entry of illegally manufactured and procured weapons. Sleuths have actually narrowed down on illegal supplier networks. These retailers are safely ensconced in the Mewat region of Haryana, Aligarh in West Uttar Pradesh, Khargone in Madhya Pradesh and Bhawani Mandi in Rajasthan. Surprisingly, retired engineers and craftsmen, too, have been drafted into the illicit trade of arms manufacturing. For example, the Government owned British-era gun factory in Munger was shut down four decades ago and left hundreds of workers unemployed. They took to arms manufacturing in illegal units as they knew no other work. Besides, Delhi itself is fast emerging as a transit hub for arms. These illegal manufacturers have built factories, taking cover in forested areas or non-descript residential complexes. Though Delhi Police might be defending itself, let it not be forgotten that the High Court has been pulling it up for not evolving an effective pan-city mechanism of crime control and instead selectively addressing complaints and more recently, scaring citizens with brutalisation. Clearly, there is a security breach.

## Delimitation debate

In no other State has 'political reservation' of seats taken place as in J&K. Governor Malik must use legislative powers to set up a commission and fix glaring anomalies



SANDHYA JAIN

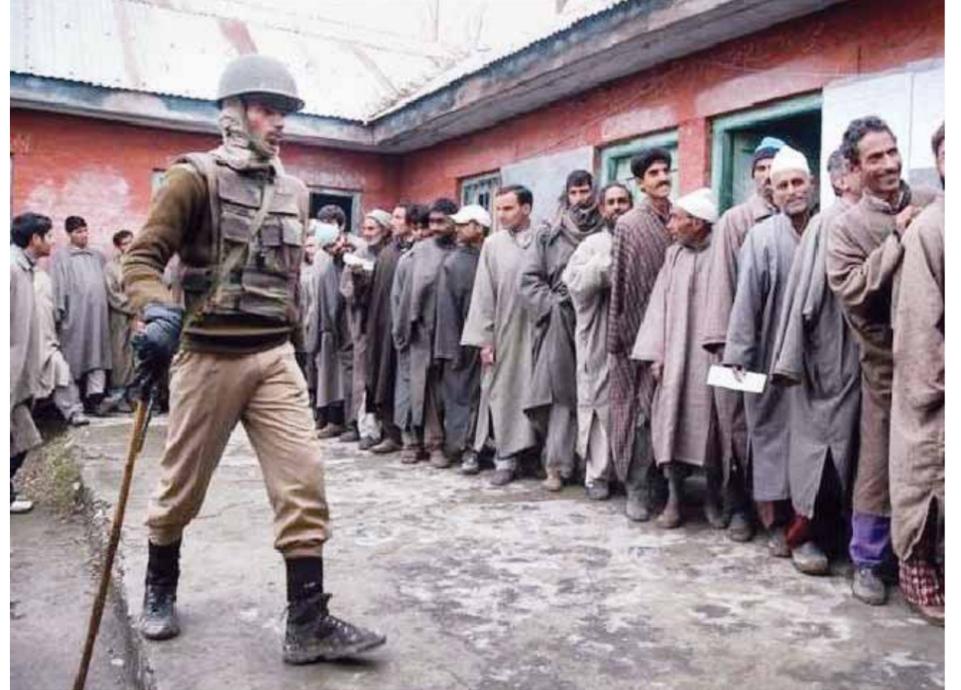
**T**he recent euphoria over a fresh delimitation exercise to restructure the lopsided constituencies in Jammu & Kashmir quickly dissipated as the Centre denied media reports that Home Minister Amit Shah is considering such a move. Since then, Governor Satya Pal Malik has earned the public ire for asserting that the Government has no intention of scrapping Articles 370 and 35-A; his recommendation that the time is ripe for talks with separatist Hurriyat leaders has further inflamed some passions. Perhaps these are straws in the wind that suggest some changes are in the offing.

In a little-noted development, on June 16, the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir unit passed a resolution seeking fresh delimitation of Assembly constituencies and de-freezing of at least eight of the 24 seats reserved for Pakistan-occupied territories. It lamented the "gross injustice done to Ladakh and Jammu regions" by previous National Conference (NC) Governments that gave undue weightage to the Kashmir valley and proposed that the eight seats be allotted to the Jammu region, for families that fled Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) in 1947-48, currently estimated at 12-13 lakh.

It bears stating that the BJP has tried to ensure Indian citizenship to Hindus fleeing religious persecution in Pakistan. Under the first Modi Government, refugees settled in Rajasthan were granted citizenship and the trend continues. On World Refugee Day (June 20), 19 Pakistani migrants in the border district of Barmer received citizenship and another 10 people in Pali and five in Jalore were promised citizenship. Reports suggest that there are thousands of Pakistani Hindus in Rajasthan who are likely to receive citizenship soon. It is difficult to believe that the Centre will indefinitely ignore the plight of West Pakistan refugees in Jammu & Kashmir.

The BJP State unit also urged political reservation for Scheduled Tribes (Gujjars, Bakarwals, Gaddis and Sippis), who were given Schedule Tribe (ST) status in 1991, but denied reserved seats. Further, it objected to the law requiring Kashmiri Pandit migrants to fill the "M Form" for voting in the Valley. The regional angst over Kashmiri domination over the State is valid. After Maharaja Hari Singh's accession to India, the Constituent Assembly was set up but Sheikh Abdullah used the political weightage gifted to him by former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to unilaterally declare the delimitation: Kashmir (43), Jammu (30) and Ladakh (2). This became the entrenched orthodoxy that was later only tinkered with: Kashmir (46), Jammu (37) and Ladakh (4). Abdullah reserved 25 seats for the occupied regions, which was subsequently reduced to 24.

When the delimitation controversy broke out on June 4, former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, in a number of tweets, offered the "legal position" on delimitation in Jammu & Kashmir. The freeze, he claimed, was imple-



mented only to bring the State at par with the rest of the country after the Constitution (84th Amendment) Act 2001 froze delimitation throughout India, until the first census is taken after the year 2026. The truth is a little more complex.

During Emergency, the Congress moved the Constitution (42nd Amendment) Act 1976, to freeze fresh delimitation after Census 2001, on the plea that changing the number of seats according to population punished States that had controlled their population growth. This protected the number of seats of southern States like Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka in the Lok Sabha and was generally viewed as fair by the rest of the country. In 1977, the Congress fared well in precisely these States.

A quarter century later, the Constitution (84th Amendment) Act 2001, postponed delimitation and prevented reallocation of seats to the States to reflect their growing population until the Census after 2026, ie, Census 2031. However, the 84th amendment permitted redrawing of boundaries of constituencies within the States to mitigate large differences and enable constituencies of more or less equal population strength.

The problem in Jammu & Kashmir begins with the arbitrary and partisan allocation of seats on provincial basis by

“  
**IT SEEMS DOABLE TO USE THE LEEWAY GRANTED BY THE 84TH AMENDMENT ACT TO REDRAW THE CONSTITUENCIES WITHIN JAMMU & KASHMIR AFRESH, WITHOUT A PREDETERMINED WEIGHTAGE TO ANY PROVINCE, GIVING DUE REGARD TO POPULATION ON THE BASIS OF CENSUS 2011**  
 ”

Sheikh Abdullah, long before the fig-leaf of Article 370 bestowed a special political protection to the actions of the State leadership. In no other Indian State has this kind of "political reservation" of seats taken place to preserve the ethno-religious supremacy of one group.

Consider the recently divided Andhra Pradesh — there was no *en bloc* reservation of seats for any district or division before or after the separation of Telangana. Previously, the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government divided the States of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and here, too, there was never any rigid and arbitrary allotment of seats to any region. Take Maharashtra, where demand for a separate Vidarbha has been simmering for decades — there is no fixed allocation of seats for the region.

This astonishing development is exclusive to Jammu & Kashmir and gave the Muslim-dominated Valley undue power over the State. Strangely, Jammu activists, who rail against Kashmiri domination, have never fought to do away with this artificial division and to treat the entire State as a single unit, with delimitation on the basis of population. Instead, they have validated this artifice by demanding trifurcation (and sometimes quadrifurcation) of the State along these lines — a cause that does not find much

resonance in the rest of the country. Many citizens feel that once Article 370 is removed, many sources of discrimination will simply vanish.

It seems doable to use the leeway granted by the 84th Amendment Act to redraw the constituencies within Jammu & Kashmir afresh, without a predetermined weightage to any province, giving due regard to population on the basis of Census 2011. As the last delimitation of Jammu & Kashmir was in 1995, it would be an abominable injustice to wait 60 years till Census 2031 for a fresh delimitation.

It is also unconscionable to continue to deny reservations to the STs. Moreover, the seven Schedule Caste seats have been stagnant in Jammu Pradesh since 1996, viz, Chhamb, Domana, RS Pura (Jammu district); Samba, Hiranagar (Kathua district); Chenani (Udhampur district) and Ramban. There is no merit in freezing this rotation until 2031 and denying the SC population in other constituencies (in both Jammu & Kashmir provinces) of representation in the Assembly. Nor is this system followed in any other State. Under President's rule, the Governor enjoys all legislative authority and can set up a delimitation commission to fix these glaring anomalies.

(The writer is Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; the views expressed are personal)

### SOUNDBITE

We can survive if we have to do without a Nehru-Gandhi as the titular head of the party, provided they remain active.



**Congress leader**  
—Mani Shankar Aiyar

My autobiography can be perceived as an inspiration for those who live in small towns or even big cities. If I can reach here, then they can, too.



**Actor**  
—Anupam Kher

They (Pakistan) have closed their airspace that is their problem. Our economy is vibrant and air traffic is a very important part.



**Air Chief Marshal**  
—BS Dhanoa

I request you (Prime Minister Modi) to keep New India to yourself and give us our Old India where there was love and culture.



**Congress leader**  
—Ghulam Nabi Azad

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Afghan shocker

**Sir** — In Saturday's nail-biting encounter between India and Afghanistan, it was Mohammed Shami who ensured India's victory. He produced a brilliant hat-trick, thereby becoming the second Indian after Chetan Sharma to achieve this feat at the World Cup. Afghanistan put up a brave fight till the last over. The collapse of India's middle order is a cause for concern. This needs to be worked upon.

**Sravana Ramachandran**  
Chennai

#### Not mending ways

**Sir** — This refers to the editorial, "Financial pressure" (June 24). Pakistan's bluff has been called many a time in the recent past. So this time, its failure to act against terrorism will not find any takers on world fora. India has done well to reiterate its position time and again that talks and terrorism cannot go hand-in-hand. But this alone has not pushed Islamabad into taking demonstrable action.

Now, Pakistan has been told by the Financial Action Task Force

#### India's 'shameful' malnutrition crisis

**I**n Bihar, more than 150 children lost their lives to the outbreak of encephalitis. Still, the avoidable mass deaths — a national tragedy and disgrace — do not seem to have galvanised the nation into action to mitigate malnutrition. Skeletons found adjacent to a hospital made a statement about the value attached to human life. Medical scientists have found out that malnourished children, who eat the litchi fruit during the day and go to bed on empty stomach, are more vulnerable and less immune than well-nourished children who miss the supper after eating the fruit.

The real killer is not the fruit but malnutrition — a by-product of dehumanising poverty. Malnutrition, like caste status, is inherited and can be eliminated by bringing about radical changes in political, social and economic order. The chance of that happening in the foreseeable future looks bleak. At the same time, it is practically possible 'here and now' to strengthen the public distribution system and provide guaranteed



minimum income to those living at or below the poverty line so as to combat hunger and starvation and avoid deaths. We are such an unequal society that we are faced with tackling the twin dialectical problems of obesity and malnutrition.

**G David Milton**  
Maruthancode

Afghanistan's star leg-spinner Rashid Khan, who conceded 110 runs in his nine overs against England, also made a good comeback during the match with India. Had Mohammed Shami not accomplished his hat-trick in the final over, things for both the teams could have been entirely different.

**Tushar Anand**  
Patna

#### Precarious situation

**Sir** — It is a sorry state of affairs in Chennai that water tankers take up to a month to deliver the volume you have booked. Consequently, people have to be dependent on private operators, who demand ₹3,000-₹5,000 for one tanker. Certainly, things would not have reached such alarming proportions had the water bodies been maintained properly and if sewage and garbage had not been dumped into them.

**Shashank**  
Via email

#### Luck by chance

**Sir** — India's thrilling win over Afghanistan at Southampton by just 11 runs has sent the message loud and clear — no team should be underestimated. All rounder Mohammed Nabi, who played exceptionally well, deserves compliments for performing consistently so far.

**Bal Govind**  
Noida

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

FIRST COLUMN

A real solution to water woes

The Chennai water crisis calls for the establishment of a National Water Committee, consisting of scientists, administrators and domain experts



MARKANDEY KATJU

The country is witnessing acute water shortage in many areas either due to the failure of rains or inadequate rainfall. The crisis has been brewing in many States like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat and even the national capital of Delhi because of which people are suffering terribly.

In Chennai, women were seen lining up in queues, holding plastic buckets and waiting for tankers, some of which are reportedly fleeing the public. IT firms, restaurants and the construction industry have all admitted that they are struggling without water. Violent clashes between residents on the issue of water sharing, too, have been reported. Meanwhile, reservoirs supplying water to Chennai have all dried up.

A BBC report said, "India is facing its worst water crisis in its history." *India Today* stated that "50 per cent" of the country is staring at "drought." In this connection, this writer had written an article titled, "Water Woes", which was published recently in *The Hindu*. I also issued an appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to immediately set up a 'National Water Committee' consisting of scientists, administrators and other eminent people to deal with the problem on a war footing.

This writer had set up a similar committee by a judicial order as a judge of the Supreme Court in *MK Balakrishnan vs Union of India* (2009) case under the chairmanship of former Secretary in the Union Ministry of Science and Technology, Thirumalachari Ramasami. In the case of *Delhi Water Supply & Sewage Disposal Undertaking vs State of Haryana* (1996), the Supreme Court observed, "Water is a gift of nature. Human hand cannot be permitted to convert this bounty into a curse, an oppression." However, scant notice was given to this admonition and the natural resource has been converted into precisely that.

When this writer was the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court (2004-2005), a Bench, presided over by him in *L Krishnan v. State of Tamil Nadu* (2005), noticed that most of the lands marked in the revenue records of the State as ponds or lakes had been encroached upon. Many houses and illegal shops were built on them. The Bench directed the removal of all illegal encroachments. It is doubtful if the order was effectively implemented by the authorities. In Karnataka last year, a piquant situation cropped up. While in the coastal and Malnad region as also some districts of the State, the rain fury wreaked havoc, other regions, especially the northern part of the State, witnessed drought-like situation during the same time. This was unbelievable.

China, too, experienced a similar situation before the 1949 Revolution. Some areas (those next to Hwang He, also known as the 'river of sorrow') experienced frequent floods, while others experienced drought. After the Chinese Revolution of 1949, the authorities constructed huge dams on these rivers. Canals were built to carry excess water to drought-hit areas. This way, flood as well as the drought problem was solved. Why could this not have been done in India, too?

States along the coastal lines have access to unlimited sea water but it needs to be desalinated. Desalination methods like reverse osmosis are extremely expensive. But with the help of scientific research, inexpensive methods can be found out. The Himalayas, too, have almost unlimited water in the form of snow but it needs to be harnessed properly. Other techniques like rain water harvesting must be made mandatory in all human settlements. All such efforts call for a strong political will — on the part of the Central as well as State Governments — using scientists (both Indian and foreign). Unfortunately, this will was missing until now.

Now that his Government has a mandate, it is hoped that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not miss this opportunity. He should immediately set up the National Water Committee, giving it adequate funds and other support.

(The writer is a former Judge of the Supreme Court)



THE BJP RETURNED TO POWER AS MODI WAS A VERY BIG SALESMAN WHILE THE CONGRESS FAILED TO MARKET ITS PRODUCTS IN THE LOK SABHA POLLS.

—CONGRESS LEADER  
 ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY



THE OPPOSITION SHOULD RESPECT PEOPLE'S MANDATE FOR A MAN WITH HUMBLE BACKGROUND LIKE MODI AND AGAINST DYNASTY.

—UNION MINISTER  
 PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI

The Emergency saga

Successive failures of the Congress are stern lessons for those in power as well as the Opposition. Perhaps one can find succour by reading the *Jnanappana*, which is still relevant



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

The 44th anniversary of the Emergency is an ideal occasion to recall what George Santayana, the Spain-born essayist, poet and novelist had said: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Santayana may not have studied much about Indian politics or democracy but what he said is relevant even today. He was brought to the Indian narrative by the legendary Nanabhoy Palkhivala. He was the one who gave us back our democracy from the very people who robbed us of it. The Emergency declared by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on June 26, 1975, remains a blot on the nation. Fundamental rights were suspended by Indira Gandhi to safeguard her authority and power from marauders in the Congress itself for which there was no dearth.

The run-up to the declaration of the Emergency had begun immediately after the 1971 general election, which returned the Congress to power with a record number of 352 seats. Raj Narain, the Opposition candidate who was defeated by Indira Gandhi from Rae Bareilly constituency, challenged her victory by filing a complaint in the Allahabad High Court. Narain's contention was that Indira Gandhi had violated all norms mentioned in the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and had even misused official powers during the election campaign. Interestingly, the truth was that she would have won the election even if she had not used her official position because the Rae Bareilly constituency was the home-turf of the Nehru-Gandhi clan.

Justice Jagmohanlal Sinha, who heard the petition filed by Narain, was convinced that Indira Gandhi had committed Constitutional impropriety by misusing the services of her officials as well as senior pilots of the Indian Air Force, who ferried her from one place to the other for campaign meetings. On June 12, 1975, Justice Sinha, in a landmark judgement, set aside the election of Indira Gandhi and disqualified her for six years from contesting elections. Once the court delivered its verdict, a race for the top post began in the Congress, which threatened the Gandhi clan's hitherto unchallenged supremacy in the party and in the Government. It was to quell this rebellion that Indira declared internal Emergency by subverting the Constitution.

Chroniclers attribute the advice to declare Emergency to Siddhartha Shankar Ray, the then Chief Minister of West Bengal, who was an eminent jurist and trouble-shooter for the Congress. The rest is history as the party resorted to blatant misuse of official machinery and throttled civil rights. The media was subjugated to suit the convenience of Indira Gandhi and her second son, Sanjay Gandhi, who was in a hurry to occupy the chair of the Prime Minister. Those, who now cry from the rooftops over the violation of media freedom, should also focus on historicity and analyse why it is so easy to coerce the media today. Sadly, the Emergency doesn't have a discernible recall in recent memory simply because there was no internet or 24x7 news channels back then.

The official national media, the *All India Radio*, ended up as *All Indira Radio*, broadcasting the speeches made by her and singing paeans in her support. People started whispering that *akashvani* has degenerated into *Indirawani*. Newspapers and magazines had to get news reports and features cleared by the official censor appointed by the Government. The management of the anti-establishment *Indian Express* was usurped by the

“ JNANAPPANA HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HINDUTVA, SECULARISTS, COMMUNALISTS AND RATIONALISTS WILL GAIN A LOT BY READING THIS POETRY. IT IS AN IDEAL FOUNDATION STONE THROUGH WHICH ONE CAN BUILD A SELFLESS AND DEDICATED CAREER. IT IS WRITTEN IN CHASTE MALAYALAM SO THAT EVEN ILLITERATE MASSES CAN UNDERSTAND THE FOLLIES BEHIND PRIDE AND THE TRUE WORTH OF WEALTH ”



Government of the day. But what shook the conscience of the nation and the world was the scant disregard shown by Indira Gandhi towards the titans of India's freedom movement.

Opposition leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan, Morarji Desai, Piloo Mody, George Fernandes, Biju Patnaik, Charan Singh and hundreds of leaders like them were arrested and put behind bars under the provisions of the dreaded Maintenance of Internal Security Act. But the Communist Party of India stood like a solid rock behind Indira's misadventure. Many activists in Kerala were taken into custody by the police and subjected to third degree torturing, which resulted in them losing their health and source of livelihood. Members of the Association of Emergency Victims, who are still around in Kerala, recount the police brutalities experienced by them during the dark days.

As she came under international pressure, Indira Gandhi was forced to call for the general election in March 1977. As per the norms, the general election should have been held in 1976 after the customary five-year tenure. But Indira Gandhi had got the Constitution subverted and managed to prolong the tenure of her Government. The 1977 election saw the Congress getting decimated by the Janata Party, a hastily formed conglomerate of Opposition parties, many of whom hated each other. The Indian voters gave a befitting reply to the high-handed behaviour of the rulers. It was a warning to the dictators that however hard they suppress the people and keep them subjugated, the voters would repudiate and reject them at the first available opportunity. The 1977 results were a reminder that *ahimsa* was still alive. But rulers failed to learn the cardinal law about democracy that people are the king-makers.

Though the Janata Party was formed under the guidance of Jayaprakash Narayan, by merging a number of political outfits, it did not last long because of a turf war between some prominent lead-

ers and their insatiable thirst for power and wealth. Instead of fighting against anti-democratic forces and those undermining the country from inside, the Janata *parivar* fought among themselves. "Divided we fought, united we fell" was the moral of the Janata story. In the 1980 general election, voters were left with no alternative other than Indira Gandhi, who approached the voters with slogans like "Government that works" and "Indira bulao, desh bachao."

She was given a huge mandate with 353 seats. It is doubtful whether Indira Gandhi or her party, the Congress (yes, it was Indira's Congress. DK Barooah, former Congress president had declared that Indira was India and India was Indira), had learnt anything from the ignominy of the 1977 defeat. For thereafter, corruption reached new levels. When her detractors cried foul, Indira Gandhi retorted that corruption was a global phenomenon and India could not stay insulated from its impact.

While a decimated Opposition looked on helplessly, Chief Ministers were ousted in quick succession. State Governments led by the Janata Party were made to defect *en masse* to the Congress and declare support to Indira Gandhi. The likes of Bhajan Lal, the then Haryana Chief Minister, were the 'mascots' of Indian politics. The name of Bhajan Lal cropped up recently when one saw the defection of four Telugu Desam Party MPs to the BJP under the guise of merger. These were the same MPs who had stalled the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha for days in 2018, demanding special category status to Andhra Pradesh. Isn't this a repetition of history?

Neither Indira Gandhi nor her son Rajiv Gandhi learnt from past mistakes. To a question from the media whether he would resort to internal Emergency, Rajiv Gandhi, who succeeded Indira after her assassination, replied that he would declare Emergency if the situation demanded. The then Prime Minister went

to the extent of describing the Opposition as limpets and parasites. Victory had gone to Rajiv's head and there was no return from that "exalted" position.

Successive failures of the Congress are a stern reminder to those in power as well as the Opposition. Poonthanam Nambudiri, the great Malayalam poet (1547-1640) wrote in *Jnanappana* (the *Song of Divine Wisdom*) that "Maalikamukal Eriya Mammante Tholil Maarappu Kettunnathum Bhawan", meaning: "God can make the King who is sitting in his palace to end up as a beggar with a dirty bag hanging from his shoulders." *Jnanappana*, written in chaste Malayalam so that even illiterate masses could understand the follies behind pride and arrogance and the meaninglessness of wealth, is a mirror where we can see the reflections of modern-day life.

No, it has nothing to do with Hindutva. Secularists, communalists and rationalists will gain a lot by reading this poetry. It is an ideal foundation stone through which one can build a selfless and dedicated career. In modern times, dirty bags might have given way to smart phones as we find any number of opportunists in Tamil Nadu and Kerala operating with connectivity provided by telcos. *Jnanappana's* relevance to modern-day politics increases when one sees MK Stalin of the DMK calling for the coronation of Rahul Gandhi as the Prime Minister of India. It was Indira Gandhi who summarily dismissed the democratically elected DMK Government headed by M Karunanidhi in 1976 and that too during the days of internal Emergency. The English version of *Jnanappana* is still available around. People can approach Swami Chidanandapuri of Kulathur Ashram in Kerala for a discourse on the same. Listening to *Jnanappana* is a refreshing experience and can help us to stay firmly with our foot fixed on the ground.

(The writer is Special Correspondent, *The Pioneer*)

Some merit in 'one poll' idea

Both the Centre and States should focus on governance for a full five years without any distraction and implement structural reforms for sustainable development besides saving tens of thousands of crores in election expenses. Let's at least debate the idea



UTTAM GUPTA

The Prime Minister's idea of "one nation, one election" is being staunchly opposed by many political parties, mainly on the grounds of it being undemocratic and an assault on the federal polity and, hence, unconstitutional. Opposition parties have argued that in the case of simultaneous poll to both Parliament and State Assemblies, national issues will dominate over State-specific subjects. This may yield fortuitous benefit to the dominant national party as the voter won't be able to clearly articulate his/her choice while casting the vote to elect members to the Assembly.

Thus, a national party, which gets a clear majority in the Lok Sabha and

which does not enjoy the confidence of the State subjects on local issues, will get to rule the States, too. Most parties fear that in the pursuit of "one party rule," the Modi-Shah duo intends to use the "one nation, one election" idea to install and perpetuate the BJP-led Government across the country.

Frankly, the political apprehensions need to be dispelled. One might argue that while voting at the same time for the Parliament and the Assembly, the choice of the voter will get obliterated. Yes the centrist party stands to benefit from a nationalist swell, particularly if it is in a dominant position in the State. And unless the voter is able to make educated and informed choices on local and national issues, things could go its way. But we should not underestimate the voter as is implied corroborated by the just-concluded Lok Sabha polls. Elections to some State Assemblies, viz Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, were held co-terminus. Despite an overriding national narrative favouring Prime Minister Modi, voters in these States showed clear preference for regional parties, namely the YSR Congress and the Biju Janata Dal, who



got an absolute majority. Just because the voters exercised franchise at the same time for both the Lok Sabha and the State did not deter them from giving overriding importance to local issues. Nevertheless, one cannot write off the possibility that there could be uniformity of narratives.

Critics have also raised doubts about uncertainties that could arise if the ruling party loses the vote of confidence before its mandated term. But they need to recognise that these can

at best be a rare situation and not a matter of routine (public gives mandate to a Government to run its full-term and all stakeholders should ensure that this is honoured). Still, such a scenario (albeit rare) can be addressed by either electing a new leader (who enjoys the confidence of the House) or holding fresh election for the "residual" term.

Even so, our forefathers had contemplated simultaneous elections only. Things were on the right track till the mid-1960s, when the then ruling dis-

pensation disturbed the appellation by "premature" dissolution of some State Assemblies (1968/1969) and the Lok Sabha (1970). With the dismissal of many more elected Governments (courtesy, misuse of Article 356 on most occasions) thereafter, the mismatch got aggravated.

At present, a State Assembly goes to polls almost every other year. Of course, this does jeopardise the continuity and implementation of Central policies in a continuous manner. This imposes unprecedented social and economic cost on the nation. It is not just the official expense of conducting elections (in a big state like Maharashtra, it can go up to ₹1,000 of crores) but also several thousand crores being spent by political parties. In turn, this gives boost to corruption and other unethical practices even as parties seek to raise funds to support the mammoth expenditure.

The bigger damage, however, arises due to distraction from issues of governance (as parties are in election mode all through) even as the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) — each time an election exercise is taken

up — leads to stoppage of all major policy decisions which impede development (a case in point is delay in completion of the dedicated freight corridor project).

Furthermore, with almost every political party prone to promising more and more sops/subsidies to win elections, no incumbent Government has the gumption to implement hard reforms, which would entail withdrawal of certain subsidies like fertilisers and power among others, not even to the better-off sections of the society or not so poor. Forget that, it can't even take harsh measures needed to rein in power theft due to the fear of losing its vote bank in *jhuggis*/slums.

This subsisting chaotic system needs attention. Both the Centre and States should focus on governance for a full five years without any distraction and implement structural reforms for sustainable development besides saving tens of thousands of crores in election expenses. It would also pave the way for electoral reforms. Of course, the ball has just got rolling. Let there be a comprehensive debate.

(The writer is a policy analyst)



FOREIGN EYE



LOST GROUND

In the case of trade with China and North Korea's nuclear weapons development, getting deals that Obama couldn't would be welcome. But without a road map, Trump's brinkmanship with China could still escalate into a mutually ruinous trade war, and Kim might decide that North Korea's only option is to accelerate its nuclear programme. The G-20 meeting will be Trump's chance to show that he has learned what friends are for. (The *New York Times*)

Sensex ends 72 pts lower; oil, metal stocks drag

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex Monday slipped by another 72 points, dragged by losses in oil and gas and metal stocks amid rising US-Iran tensions.

After swinging nearly 300 points in a volatile session, the BSE gauge settled 71.53 points, or 0.18 per cent, lower at 39,122.96. The index hit an intra-day low of 39,021.70 and a high of 39,300.02.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty dropped 24.45 points, or 0.21 per cent, to 11,699.65. During the day, the index touched a low of 11,670.20 and a high of 11,754.

ONGC was the top loser in the Sensex pack, ending 3.48 per cent lower.

Tata Steel, Vedanta, Bajaj Auto, TechM, RIL, Hero MotoCorp, Kotak Bank, Axis Bank, and Infosys too fell up to 2.33 per cent.

On the other hand, Yes Bank, M&M, TCS, SBI, IndusInd Bank, Maruti and ITC rose up to 2.19 per cent.

The US on Monday was due to tighten sanctions on Iran as the two countries traded barbs in a tense standoff sparked by Washington's withdrawal from a nuclear deal.

According to traders, domestic bourses turned choppy as crude oil prices kept rising amid rising tensions between the US and Iran.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.16 per cent to USD 64.55 per barrel.

Meanwhile, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended on a positive note, equity markets in Europe were trading in the red in early deals.

On the currency front, the Indian rupee appreciated 15 paise to 69.43 against the US dollar intra-day.

UAE assures India to cover oil supplies' shortfall

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The UAE has assured India that it will cover any shortfall in oil supplies following the US sanctions on Iran, United Arab Emirates Ambassador to India Ahmed Al Banna said Monday. India has expressed concern over developments in the Strait of Hormuz impacting oil prices and sought OPEC kingpin Saudi Arabia's active role in keeping rates at reasonable levels.

This comes after tensions ran high in the region after US President Donald Trump approved and then later called off military strikes against Tehran following shooting down of an American Navy drone over the

strait by Iranian forces.

"UAE has promised and assured India that they will cover any shortage of oil that it might face because of the situation (US sanctions on Iran). It has been done in the past and we commit to the Government of India the same thing now," he said.

India stopped importing oil from Iran after American waivers granted to eight buyers expired in May this year.

Besides, Al Banna said India and the UAE are to hold talks within the next couple of months on revising a 2007 air services pact and four sectoral agreements that will allow an increase in the number of flights between the two countries, which

currently stands at 1,068 a week.

"I had a meeting with the Minister of Civil Aviation and other officials and I think there is an understanding that both sides will meet soon to visit the agreement and four sectoral agreements and reach a final understanding on the capacity," the Ambassador said.

Al Banna said the four sectoral agreements under the air services pact will be revisited. He expressed hope that negotiations for revisiting the pacts will begin in a couple of months. He was speaking on the sidelines of an event organised by the Dubai Chamber of Commerce on the first-ever Dubai start-up hub road show to India.

Cong slams govt over BSNL, MTNL losses

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday hit out at the Centre over state-owned telecom firms MTNL and BSNL reeling under losses, alleging that the Modi dispensation was helping private telecom companies at the cost of public sector undertakings.

Both state-run telecom firms BSNL and MTNL have been reporting losses since the time they were asked to pay auction determined spectrum price in 2010 for all the circles where they operate.

"Problem is not with #BSNL & #MTNL. Problem is malice of BJP government to help pvt telcos at the cost of PSU's,"

Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala tweeted.

He alleged that the BJP government did not allot BSNL and MTNL 4G and all private telecom firms are pumping in finance but BSNL is barred from taking loans. There has been zero capital investment by government and no investment in towers, he alleged.

"Each countrymen must also think: 1. In Congress government in 2013-14 MTNL posted a Net Profit of Rs 7,838 crore. In BJP government in 2019, MTNL is reeling under a Net Loss of Rs 3,390 crore.

"2. If BJP government can help pvt entities like ILFS, IDBI & GSPC by investing public

funds, why not BSNL/MTNL?"

Surjewala said. MTNL operates in Delhi and Mumbai and BSNL in rest of the 20 telecom circles. While MTNL has been continuously posting loss and has showed no signs of revival, BSNL posted operating profits of Rs 672 crore in 2014-15, Rs 3,885 crore in 2015-16 and Rs 1,684 crore in 2016-17. Citing lower debt and a continuous increase in market share, an association comprising engineers and account professionals at BSNL has sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention for the revival of the state-run firm and also said that non-performing employees should be held accountable.

Sterlite Power doubles transmission capacity in Lucknow

New Delhi (PTI): Sterlite Power Monday said it has updated and commissioned five 132 kv lines in Lucknow, the Capital of Uttar Pradesh. Transmission capacity of these five existing lines were doubled without any major change to existing infrastructure, a Sterlite Power statement said.

According to the statement, these lines, which normally carry 80-85 MW load, will now be able to carry a load of over 160 MW after the update. "Our solutions of upgrade and

upgrade of transmission lines solve key constraints around time, space and capital. These solutions have the potential to solve transmission congestion challenges in all states including Uttar Pradesh towards ensuring 24x7 reliable power," Manish Agarwal, CEO, Solutions Business, Sterlite Power, said.

Sterlite Power is a developer of power transmission infrastructure with projects of over 12,816 circuit kms and 22,044 MVA in India and Brazil.

Google took down 3 mn fake profiles last year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tech giant Google took down over three million fake business profiles last year from Google Maps that could potentially defraud customers, according to a company blog-post. Google, which helps people connect with businesses by offering information like contact details and directions to the establishments, said business scammers occasionally take advantage of local listings to make a profit.

These scammers charge business owners for services that are actually free, defraud customers by posing as real businesses, and impersonate real businesses to secure leads and then sell them, Google Maps Product Director Ethan Russell said in a recent blog-post.

He added that the company has been using a wide array of techniques and approaches to limit abuse on its platforms.

"(Last year), we took down more than three million fake

business profiles -- and more than 90 per cent of those business profiles were removed before a user could even see the profile. Our internal systems were responsible for more than 85 per cent of these removals," he said.

More than 250,000 of fake business profiles that it removed were reported to Google by users, and the company disabled more than 150,000 user accounts that were found to be abusive (up 50 per cent from 2017).

"It is a constant balancing act and we're continually working on new and better ways to fight these scams using a variety of ever-evolving manual and automated systems," Russell noted.

Google said over the years, it has added more than 200 million places to Google Maps and every month, it connects people to businesses more than nine billion times, including over one billion phone calls and three billion requests for directions.

NIFTY 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top 50 Nifty stocks including UPL, YESBANK, M&M, TCS, SRIN, ADANPORTS, etc.

BSE 500

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top 50 BSE 500 stocks including EmamiLTD, JPASSOCIAT, SUZLON, etc.

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top 50 BSE 500 stocks including RCOM, NATIONALUM, MINDTREE, etc.

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top 50 BSE 500 stocks including GUJFLUORO, NSE Nifty, etc.

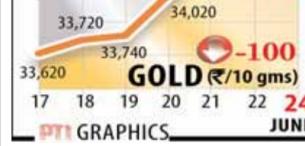
Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top 50 BSE 500 stocks including BALMLAWRIE, TVSSRICHAQ, SANOFI, etc.

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top 50 BSE 500 stocks including TVSSRICHAQ, SANOFI, PGGH, etc.

NIFTY NEXT 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top 50 Nifty Next 50 stocks including BHEL, HDFCAMC, MARICO, etc.

BULLION | Last 7 Days



PTI GRAPHICS

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top 50 BSE 500 stocks including IBVENTURES, ADWSTEEL, etc.

PTI GRAPHICS

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top 50 BSE 500 stocks including PFC, CEATLTD, etc.

PTI GRAPHICS

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top 50 BSE 500 stocks including PFC, CEATLTD, etc.

PTI GRAPHICS

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top 50 BSE 500 stocks including PFC, CEATLTD, etc.

# Pompeo meets Saudi king on Iran crisis

AFF ■ JEDDAH

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met Monday with the king of Saudi Arabia as he sought to coordinate with allies over soaring tensions with Iran.

On a day trip scheduled after Iran shot down a US drone, Pompeo flew into the Red Sea city of Jeddah and met with King Salman at his palace. "You are a dear friend," the king told Pompeo as he shook hands with the top US diplomat and his aides.

Pompeo is later due to meet the powerful crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, before flying for talks in the United Arab Emirates, US officials said.

Both Saudi and Emirati leaders advocate a tough US approach against regional rival Iran, whose downing of the unmanned drone prompted President Donald Trump to order a military strike before changing his mind.

Pompeo, speaking to reporters as he left Washington, called Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates "two great allies in the challenge that Iran presents."

"We'll be talking with them about how to make sure that we are all strategically aligned and how we can build out a global coalition," Pompeo said.

He said the United States sought a coalition "not only throughout the Gulf states but in Asia and in Europe that understands this challenge and that is prepared to push back against the world's largest state



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo meets with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, at Al Salam Palace in Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) on Monday

sponsor of terror".

But the hawkish US stance has drawn limited support among its allies in Europe, which still support a de-escalation deal negotiated under former president Barack Obama from which Trump pulled out last year, triggering tensions. Iran says that the US drone encroached its airspace — a charge that Washington denies — and accuses Washington of waging economic warfare by unilaterally

imposing sanctions, including trying to stop all its oil exports.

The US pointman on Iran, Brian Hook, on Monday held his own talks in Oman, which has often served as a go-between for Washington and Tehran.

Pompeo's trip comes despite growing controversy inside the United States over the Trump administration's cosy relationship with Mohammed bin Salman after US-based dissident writer

Jamal Khashoggi was killed and dismembered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul last year.

Pompeo used rare emergency powers, citing Iran as a threat, to authorise USD 8.1 billion in weapons sales to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, despite concerns in the US Congress that the arms will go to kill civilians in the devastating war in Yemen.

Pompeo added the Middle East stops on his way to a previously scheduled visit to India.

# Erdogan's party loses re-run of Istanbul mayor election

AFF ■ ISTANBUL

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan suffered a bruising defeat on Sunday as the opposition candidate in Istanbul's controversial mayoral election re-run romped to victory.

Ekmek Imamoğlu had won the first mayoral vote in March by a slim margin of 13,000 votes over Erdogan's chosen candidate, Binali Yıldırım, who contested the results and a new election was ordered.

After being stripped of that victory over disputed claims of fraud, Imamoğlu vowed a "battle for democracy" that turned him into a household name. With some 99 percent of ballots counted by Sunday night, Imamoğlu was winning by more than 775,000 votes — 54 percent, with Yıldırım on 45 percent, the Anadolu state news agency reported.

"It was not a single group or party, but the whole of Istanbul and Turkey that won this election," Imamoğlu said in his victory speech as scenes of his ecstatic supporters broke out across the city of 15 million.

"Mr President, I am ready to work in harmony with you. I convey from here my request to meet with you in the shortest time possible," he added.

Critics had accused Erdogan of refusing to give up control of Istanbul, Turkey's economic powerhouse and a crucial source of patronage for Islamic conservatives since he won the mayorship himself a quarter of a century ago.

But the Turkish leader conceded defeat this time, writing



Ekmek Imamoğlu, candidate of Turkey's secular opposition Republican People's Party, makes a statement after his election victory in Istanbul on Sunday. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has congratulated Imamoğlu who won a repeat mayoral election in Istanbul and defeated Erdogan's candidate for the second time

on Twitter: "I congratulate Ekmek Imamoğlu who has won the election based on preliminary results."

Imamoğlu, a little-known district mayor at the start of the year, galvanised voters with a relentlessly positive campaign under the slogan, "Everything will be fine."

That was in stark contrast to the usual aggressive name-calling of Turkish politics and struck a chord with voters.

"Our happiness has just started. We will celebrate till morning. We have been waiting 17 years (for a win). We believed in him and he believed in us," said 29-year-old Imamoğlu supporter Eda Alday, as cars honked and fans waved Turkish flags in the street.

Imamoğlu faced the jug-

ernaut of Erdogan's ruling AKP party, which has been in power in Turkey since 2002 and remains the most popular political force nationwide.

AKP candidate Yıldırım, a mild-mannered Erdogan loyalist who oversaw several huge transport projects and served as prime minister, this time quickly conceded defeat.

He had already struck a conciliatory tone earlier on Sunday, saying "if we have wronged, knowingly or unknowingly, one of our fellow Istanbulites or our challengers, if we have done something unjust, I ask for your forgiveness." As the city of Istanbul erupted in spontaneous celebrations over Imamoğlu's victory, commentators noted that this was more than a municipal vote — Erdogan himself once said: "Whoever wins

Istanbul, wins Turkey." "It's a colossal defeat for Yıldırım but also Erdogan. His gamble (in calling for a replay of the election) backfired," Berk Esen, assistant professor of international relations at Ankara's Bilkent University, told AFP.

It comes as an economic slump and rising prices have dented the president's reputation for economic stewardship, with the AKP also losing the capital Ankara in March.

"The AKP elites will probably try to de-emphasise the election and act like it's no big deal," said Esen.

Erdogan has already played down the importance of the re-run, saying last week that the choice of mayor was "only a change in the shop window" since the AKP controls almost two-thirds of the city's districts.

# Iran denies being hit by US cyber attack

AFF ■ TEHRAN

Iran said Monday that no cyber attack against the Islamic republic has ever succeeded, after American media reported the US launched one last week amid a standoff between the two countries.

"The media are asking about the veracity of the alleged cyber attack against Iran. No successful attack has been carried out by them, although they are making a lot of effort," telecommunications minister Mohammad Javad Azarari Jahromi said on Twitter without referring to any US attack.

US media on Saturday said Washington launched cyber attacks against Iranian missile control systems and a spy network this week after Tehran downed an American surveillance drone.

The Washington Post said that after the drone shooting US President Donald Trump authorised US Cyber Command to carry out a retaliatory cyber attack on Iran.

The attack crippled computers used to control rocket and missile launches but caused no casualties, according to the Post, which cited people familiar with the matter.

Yahoo cited two former intelligence officials as saying the US targeted a spying group responsible for tracking ships in the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

The Iranian telecommuni-

cations minister acknowledged that Iran has "been facing cyber terrorism — such as Stuxnet — and unilateralism — such as sanctions".

The Stuxnet virus, discovered in 2010, is believed to have been engineered by Israel and the US to damage nuclear facilities in Iran.

And Tehran is believed to have stepped up its own cyber capabilities in the face of US efforts to isolate the Islamic republic.

"We foiled last year not one attack but 33 million attacks with Dejpha shield," Azari Jahromi said referring to a new internet defence system.

Tensions between Iran and the United States have been high since Trump last year unilaterally withdrew from the multinational 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran.

The accord sought to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions in exchange for sanctions relief.

After leaving the accord Trump imposed biting sanctions on Iran to choke off its oil sales and cripple its economy, and his administration is expected to announce more sanctions on Iran later Monday.

The tensions between Iran and the US were exacerbated in recent weeks after Washington accused Tehran of being behind a series of attacks on tankers in the strategic Gulf.

Iran has denied any involvement.

# Pak ex-foreign minister Abdul Sattar dies: FO

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's former foreign minister Abdul Sattar, who accompanied then military dictator Pervez Musharraf as the country's top diplomat during the historic Agra summit, has died at the age of 88.

Sattar, a career diplomat and two-time foreign minister, passed away on Sunday, according to the Foreign Office.

He served as Pakistan's foreign minister under then president and military dictator Musharraf from 1999 to 2002.

He was with Musharraf during the historic Agra summit between the Pakistani leader and then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2001. Sattar also served as Pakistan's ambassador to India, Austria and Soviet Union.

"We are deeply saddened to announce that former Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar has passed away," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

Besides serving as foreign minister for two non-consecutive terms in 1993 as caretaker and later from 1999 to 2002, Sattar had also served as Pakistan's foreign secretary from 1986 to 1988.

The FO said that he was an illustrious diplomat and an accomplished author. Sattar was also a writer and authored a book of foreign policy of Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi expressed grief over the death of Sattar.

# China says both US, China should make compromises

PTI ■ BEIJING

Ahead of President Xi Jinping's meeting with his American counterpart Donald Trump this week, China on Monday said that it would not agree to any trade deal with the US at the expense of its sovereignty and both sides should make compromises to break the deadlock over the issue.

Xi and Trump will meet in Osaka, Japan on the sidelines of the G-20 summit on June 28-29. Trump, who kicked off the

trade war last year, is demanding China to reduce the massive trade deficit which climbed to over USD 539 billion last year. He is also insisting on China to work out verifiable measures for protection of intellectual property rights (IPR), technology transfer and more access to American goods to Chinese markets.

Both the countries have imposed additional tariffs on billions of dollars worth of their exports to each other.

Trump last week threat-

ened to "immediately" jack up tariffs on the remaining USD 300 billion Chinese exports to US should President Xi fail to show up at the meeting. The US already has 25 per cent duties on more than USD 250 billion of imports from China.

Trump and Xi held a detailed telephone talk on June 18 preparing ground to resolve differences impeding the deal to end the year long trade war between the world's two largest economies.

Addressing the media here

ahead of Xi-Trump meeting, China's Vice Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwei said talks between teams from the US and China are underway to make preparations for the meeting.

Outlining China's stand for a deal to end the bruising trade war, he said Beijing insists the any agreement would be based on mutual respect, which meant respecting sovereignty, treating each other as equals and win-win outcomes benefiting both the countries.

"Compromises should be made by both sides. It should be a two-way street. China and the US are member states of World Trade Organisation (WTO), so the agreement should be keeping in principles of the WTO," he said.

Trump is demanding China to reduce massive trade deficit which last year climbed to over USD 539 billion.

Special teams from both the sides headed by high level officials held 11 rounds of talks to end the tariff war.

# Top Sri Lanka defence official faces charges

AFF ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's most senior defence official on Monday became the latest government figure to face possible criminal charges over "major lapses" linked to the Easter Sunday bombings that killed 258 people.

Hemasiri Fernando, who was defence secretary before the April 21 bombing of three churches and three hotels, should be investigated for his failure to prevent or minimise the attacks, Attorney General Dappula de Livera said.

The attorney general said in a letter to Sri Lanka's acting police chief that a presidential commission of inquiry had found "major lapses" by Fernando, who

## EASTER ATTACKS

has since resigned from his top job. While Fernando is the most senior defence official to face action, President Maithripala Sirisena also suspended police chief Pujith Jayasundara after he refused to step down over the handling of the attacks.

Jayasundara and Fernando have testified before a Parliamentary inquiry and accused Sirisena of failing to follow established protocols in assessing threats to national security. Last week, the attorney general ordered investigations against nine police officers for failing to act on warnings ahead of the bombings, carried out by Islamic State-backed local jihadists.

All nine were senior officers in the districts where the attacks were carried out and have now been transferred from their posts pending disciplinary action and criminal investigations.

Authorities have admitted that warnings sent by India of an impending attack by a local group, the National Thowtheeth Jamaath (NTJ), were ignored. Some 45 foreign nationals were among the dead and 500 people were injured in the attacks. The tourist hotspot has been under a state of emergency since.

Sri Lanka's State Intelligence Service (SIS) has also been criticised for failing to act on the Indian warnings, but no-one from the state spy service has been put under investigation.

# Trump to visit Seoul after letters with Kim

AFF ■ SEOUL

US President Donald Trump will visit South Korea at the weekend after the G20 summit to discuss deadlocked nuclear talks with the North with President Moon Jae-in, Seoul's presidential office said Monday.

Trump will fly to the South Korean capital on Saturday after attending the G20 summit in Japan, officials said, prompting speculation he could try to visit the Demilitarized Zone that divides the peninsula.

The visit comes after Trump exchanged letters with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who said the US president's letter to him had "excellent content", according to the North state-run media Sunday. Trump received a missive from Kim earlier this

month and called it a "beautiful letter". The letter exchange comes after their second summit in Hanoi in February ended without an agreement — on sanctions relief and what the North might give up in return — and since then the negotiation process has stalled, with minimal contact.

Kim last week hosted Chinese President Xi Jinping for two days of fanfare in Pyongyang — the first visit by a Chinese president in 14 years — showcasing a decades-old alliance they called "invincible" and "forged in blood".

Analysts say Xi's meeting with Kim — ahead of talks with Trump on the sidelines of the G20 summit — is intended to demonstrate and reinforce Beijing's influence in the North, which is heavily reliant economically on its neighbour.

# Saudi women use wedding contracts to assert right to drive

AFF ■ DAMMAM

Saudi salesman Majd had just begun his wedding preparations when his fiancée sought to enshrine in their marriage contract a condition already guaranteed by law — her right to drive.

Wedding contracts have long been a safety net for brides in the deeply patriarchal society, used to guarantee demands that are often otherwise vulnerable to the whims of the husband or his family.

Such legally binding contracts typically codify anything from the woman's right to have her own house, hire a maid, or to study or work.

But after the kingdom last year lifted a decades-long ban on female motorists, a popular new condition in the contracts is the right to own and drive a car, according to documents seen by AFP and interviews

with wedding clerics.

Majd, 29, who is due to marry this month in his native Dammam in eastern Saudi Arabia, signed off on two demands from his 21-year-old fiancée — the right to drive and to work after marriage, according to the contract he shared with AFP. "She said she (would) like to be independent," explained Majd, who requested his last name be withheld as the discussion was a private family matter.

"I replied: 'sure, why not?'" Overturning the world's only ban on women drivers is the most palpable social change in the ultra-conservative kingdom, which is pursuing a wide-ranging liberalisation drive.

To drive, women do not require the explicit approval of their male "guardians" — husbands, fathers and other male relatives, whose permission is needed by women to study, get

married and even leave prison.

But it remains unclear whether women have any legal recourse should their guardians prevent them from taking the wheel.

And many in the kingdom appear to be trapped in this troubling scenario.

"Some women prefer to include the driving condition in their contract to avoid any marital conflicts" over the issue, said Abdulmohsen al-Ajemi, a Riyadh wedding cleric who received his first such enquiry from the family of an engaged woman last week.

"It's a way to guarantee the husband will keep his promise." A breach of wedding conditions can be used by women as grounds for divorce, clerics say.

There are no official statistics on the number of such contracts. Saudi Arabia's justice and media ministries did not



respond to AFP's request for comment.

But Munirah al-Sinani, a 72-year-old housewife in Dhahran, a city in the king-

dom's east, said she had come across two such cases recently among her acquaintances.

"If you don't let me drive, if you say 'no', then khallas (fin-

ished) — I don't want you," Sinani quoted one of the women as telling her potential spouse.

The trend underscores how

women appear to be using the contracts to side-step patriarchy — and the conditions appear to be getting bolder.

A man in eastern Al-Ahsa city told AFP that during a marriage within his extended family, the bride demanded that her husband-to-be give up smoking. Another woman asked that her husband have no access to her salary and another stipulated that she should not fall pregnant in the first year of marriage, according to cleric Ajemi.

A Saudi woman took social media by storm recently when she posted her wedding contract online.

The document prohibited her husband from taking a second wife, even though polygamy is legal in Islam.

Angry online trolls rebuked her husband as "unmanly" for accepting the condition.

Men also sometimes use wedding contracts to stipulate that the "wife will never work" or that she must agree to live with his mother, senior cleric Adel al-Kalbani told AFP.

The new conditions are a sign of the kingdom's social transformation that appears to be granting women more rights, Kalbani and Ajemi said.

But they could also cause strains in marriages in a traditional society where such conditions may be deemed insulting or signify a lack of trust in the husband, typically the head of a household.

Saudi media has already reported a spike in divorce cases in recent years.

"In the past, society did not listen to women. Husbands would turn around and firmly say 'No,' cleric Ajemi said.

"But now they are listening to the aspirations of women, adapting to their demands."

**Trend**  
*Slazer*

**Alia, all smiles in RK's family photo**

Actress **ALIA BHATT** is all smiles in a photograph featuring actor **Ranbir Kapoor's** family. Actress **Neetu Kapoor** shared a series of photographs on social media. The first image features veteran actor **Rishi Kapoor**, **Riddhima Kapoor Sahni**, **Ranbir**, **Alia** and **Neetu** posing for the camera.

Neetu captioned the image, "Your family is your whole world. So so many loves in these beautiful moments." Alia's mother and veteran actress **Soni Razdan** commented, "All looking so well and happy."



**'I play a popular model from a local city in Lucknow in Bala. Unlike a lot of characters shown on the screen so far, my character is a local model who's famous in a local town. There are basics I understand of the character. Of course this character is very different and something I haven't done before.'**

—**Yami Gautam**



Actor **SALMAN KHAN** is giving major fitness goals as he flaunts a perfect 180 degree split. This is not the first time the star has shared his workout routine.

The *Bharat* star, who is praised for his well-chiselled body, had previously shared videos showing his workouts to stay fit and flexible, how his security team helps in his fitness regime and a clip of him doing a back flip into a pool.

His forthcoming projects include the next season of TV reality show *Bigg Boss*, Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Inshallah* and another instalment of his popular franchise *Dabangg 3*.

**'Love having career as a songwriter'**

Swedish singer **TOVE LO**, who received a Grammy nomination for co-writing **Ellie Goulding's** chart-topper *Love me like you do*, takes a lot of pride in having a big pop star sing a song co-written by her. She says it's an amazing feeling.

Tove along with **Max Martin**, **Ali Payami**, **Savan Kotecha** and **Ilya** had co-written the 2015 song that had featured in the film *Fifty Shades of Grey*. Didn't she feel like singing that song instead of letting Ellie go behind the mic for it? "No, I mean it's funny with that song. I helped out with the lyrics a little bit and I think it was always meant for her. I really love having a career as a songwriter too, so I take a lot of pride in having a big pop star sing a song that I have co-written," Tove said.



# 'Everyone can see the irony'

Amid controversies, **SUNAINA ROSHAN's** boyfriend **RUHAIL AMIN** talks about how Roshans had put a security ring around her when she told them about their inter-religion relationship

**R**uhail Amin's name had hit the headlines when **Sunaina Roshan**, **Hrithik Roshan's** sister and his alleged girlfriend, said that her family was not accepting him for being a Muslim. Ruhail said in an interview with a TV news channel, "This incident has once again exposed the dark underbelly of identity politics at play in today's liberal times which are totally uncalled for."

Sunaina had earlier called her life as "hell" and talked about how her family has been making her life unbearable. In an interview with an entertainment website, she revealed that she had asked **Kangana Ranaut** and **Rangoli Chandel** to help her fight for justice.

Talking about the love jihad angle their story has taken, **Ruhail**

called it as unfortunate. "Labelling someone extremist just because he/she belongs to a certain religion is simply outrageous and needs to be condemned in strongest words," he said.

Ruhail said that the two had lost touch for some time while he was covering entertainment for news channel, and only reconnected through social media.

Ruhail said that when he first spoke to **Sunaina's** family, they were not happy about their bond. He added, "They did not approve of our friendship. I also got to know that her parents put a security ring around her post our friendship and when she told me about it, my first reaction was of disbelief and later a good laugh."

In a previous interview, **Sunaina** had revealed that she fell in love with **Ruhail**, a journalist,



a year ago. Her father **Rakesh Roshan**, however, slapped her and allegedly called **Ruhail** a 'terrorist'.

"Calling someone a terrorist just because of his Islamic identity is unjustified. Religions and geographies should not become the cornerstones of defining extremism. We need to move beyond that mindset. Most importantly, we need to stand up against ignorant viewpoints, whoever has them," said he.

Ruhail said that he has been in touch with **Sunaina**. "She wants to restart her life on a positive note and wants her family to support her decisions," he said.

When asked why is there a problem now even though **Hrithik Roshan** was married to **Suzanne**, a Muslim, **Ruhail** said, "Everyone can see the irony here."

Earlier, actor **Hrithik Roshan's** former wife **Sussanne Khan** had come to his defence amid ongoing family tensions regarding his sister **Sunaina Roshan**, whom she had called a loving and a warm person.

**Sussanne** had written on social media, "As a part of my experiences with all concerned and in my lifespan of being a part of this close knit family, I know **Sunaina**, to be an extremely loving, warm, caring person, who is in an unfortunate situation. **Sunaina's** father is undergoing a major health crisis. Her mother is herself vulnerable to say the least. Please respect the families tough period, each family goes through such times. I needed to say this as someone who has been a part of this family for long."

—Agencies

As they say your gender preference does not define you. Your spirit does. **Ajit Arora** made his foray into film production through *377 Ab Normal*, which vividly portrayed the journey of hardships that members of LGBTQ community had undergone. He is all set to bring its second edition soon. His commitment to the cause prompted him to step beyond the horizons and venture into cinema. He said enthusiastically, "Whenever the instance on *377* will be recalled, ours will be the first film on it."

On being questioned about commencing his journey through this film, he said, "When the Supreme Court gave the verdict that they are to decriminalise section 377, it was one enough reason to start with. This film was just a portrayal of what people had gone through before the verdict. So many people had lived their lives the way they shouldn't have had."

This landmark verdict had put across that this is not a crime and the film portrayed the same, the real-life captivating journey of emotional display of people who suffered and are now happy about how things are being accepted in the country.

Citing his reasons for choosing *377* over any other topic, he said, "We would have only shown the cause but not the solution. Here, we got the chance to portray the solution as well. The court is coming to take the action. So the bracket is closed, right?"

On the forthcoming series, he merely hinted, "It is an extension of the first film. I am leaving it on the audience to decide whether it is the same linear story which will continue or is it the futuristic thing?"

Emphasising on the community further, he said that as human beings, they also have the right to move around without having the fear of going behind bars. "I am glad that this personal choice was respected by the law," said he.

**Ajit** apprised us that people will evolve with time. As they say change is the only constant thing in this world. Decades ago inter-caste marriages were not

# Halfway there

Producer **AJIT ARORA** tells **SAKSHI SHARMA** that just like inter-caste marriages took a long time to be accepted in society, embracing the LGBTQ community is an emotional change, which demands time and patience



of the platform, he said that web has a longer shelf life as compared to cinema. One can watch it even after 10 days. This has taken the space of TV viewers and given it a big time dent. India has been fortunate enough to be the youngest populated country. People have evolved, the new generation is completely young at heart and mind at the same time. They are so well aware of the happenings in the world. We are lucky enough that such content is coming to our route. It offers the option of watching any genre and 500-1,000 things at a time."

He apprised us that powerful content is important, it can not always be driven by social causes but by a regular person's dream too. Good content has to be supported by the treatment of how you show it on screen.

**Ajit** laid stress on portraying reality. "I can't fabricate the content to make it larger than life or blow it out of proportion so that everyone likes it. It is not the way reality should be shown. If tomorrow people say that the law has put a big embargo on the Haryana panchayat then I will be happy to make a film right then and there. We should not think about the verdict or the film as supportive of one community. We are supportive of social cause, it is something which was a landmark."

He is currently working on many verticals, one of which is a common person's journey to achieve a goal. It's a film which conveys a social message. Through this, he is trying to portray social causes coupled with regular life content. It might drown you in a pool of emotions to ignite some thought.

prevalent. If people did, they were disowned. Eventually, things changed with time. They broadened their mindsets. This is an emotional change, which is why it demands time for people to adapt to changes.

Talking about the impact of the film, **Ajit** said, "People were asking, 'Acha ye crime tha kya, iske liye jail ho sakti thi kya?' (Was this a crime? Could somebody be imprisoned for this?)" They were not aware of the fact that *377* was a crime and the bearer were these people. They did not know that it was legalised by the High Court earlier and then reversed by the Supreme Court."

His first film was streamed on **ZEE5**, an online channel. Hence, talking about the intricacies

# 'No discrimination in film industry'

Discrimination has been a burning topic in the country. Actor **Ayushmann Khurrana**, who is continuing on the path of backing groundbreaking content with *Article 15*, says the film industry is a secular world where no one discriminates on the basis of caste or religion.

**Ayushmann**, whose filmography is dotted with unconventional stories, features as a police officer in **Anubhav Sinha's** *Article 15*, a film which emphasises on prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, which finds a mention in the Indian Constitution.

As for the film industry, **Ayushmann** said, "There is no discrimination in the industry. It is purely on the basis of merit. Nobody discusses caste and religion in the industry. If you are good, you are applauded and rewarded. The industry is very secular and democratic."

The actor has a knack for working on quirky and unconventional stories such as *Dum Laga Ke Haisha*, *Bareilly Ki Barfi*, *Shubh Mangal Saavdhan* and *Badhaai Ho*, which also give out a social message.

What attracted him to *Article 15*? "I have always aspired to do something different and *Article 15* is a film which has never been tried by filmmakers in the mainstream space. I am glad this is happening right now as this is the time where we can be courageous with the subjects

of our films. This is the era where we can do different stuff and still command credibility at the box office at the same time," he said.

After *Article 15* **Ayushmann**, who will be seen as a gay man in *Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan*, says he never thought about the "box office game" while shooting *Article 15*.

"This is something very close to my heart and I completely believe in it," said **Ayushmann**.

The film, releasing on June 28, has earned the ire of the Brahmin community in Uttar Pradesh over the fact that the story has been "tweaked". With the intention of portraying the accused men as Brahmins, they feel it will defame the community. It depicts how caste equations are prevalent in the area.

**Ayushmann** is sure that the film does not take any sides and has no intention to show any community in a bad light.

"As of now, they are reacting to the trailer but with the film we have not offended anybody. The censor board has cleared the film. They are the ones who should be taken seriously. Like the particular community who are getting offended, when they will see the film, they will realise that whatever they are doing is a redundant exercise as there is nothing like that in the film," he said.

He also said the film is not based on a particular event. "It is an amalgam of different events which keep on happening in our country."

—IANS



# Breaking old chains

Actress **KAMYA PANJABI** tells **JAYESH PAWAR** that television and theatre are like her children. While one is of 15 years, the other is a new-born



pendent." While everybody on the team had a lot of time for rehearsing for the play, **Kamya** had to manage the shooting schedule of *Shakti* and the rehearsal of the play. Speaking about what she used to do to make the most out of the short practise sessions, she says, "I made sure that I knew my lines by heart, not just my lines, in fact I knew other actor's lines as well. By doing this I had the whole play in my mind. Now when you have memorised everything then you actually know what is happening in which

scene, like after my dialogue, I knew who will speak and even what are they going to speak. So the whole situation became a bit easy."

**Kamya** feels that there is a huge risk that one takes while improvising in theatre, whether the other actor can handle the improvisation or not, that's a chance that one takes. "In television if I improvised something and if the other actor didn't understand it, the scene can be cut but in theatre there are no cuts. Even if you have handled the situation by improvising it and still the



other actor cannot deliver his dialogues then it'll still be a big mess," she adds while comparing the process of improvisation in television to that in theatre.

Further talking about the theme of the play, **Kamya** shares that what does it mean to be a modern Indian woman. "In our society people are really judgemental and everybody is worried about the fact that what will people think. This thought of what would people think or say is the biggest worry. Sometimes in the fear of this thought, we don't share our views, opinions and our pain with our family also. So, we need to stop that and stand up to express ourselves. I mean it is literally the high time that we start taking a stand. This is the time when kids and women are being abused both physically as well as mentally. The things that are happening in today's era must come to an end and this can only be done by taking a firm stand for ourselves. The concept of modern Indian women for me is to speak for yourself and stand up against wrong because if you can't take a stand for yourself then nobody else will."

Apprising us about her experience of the time spend in the world of theatre, the newbie says, "I have realised that there's still a lot to learn and it's a never-ending process. The world of theatre has a lot to offer and I am looking forward to learn new things as well as performing better. Television and theatre are like children to me, while one is of 15 years, the other is a newborn. Although I want to keep on doing television for the rest of my life but theatre has got a different kind of high in it."

(The play will be staged on June 29 at Sri Ram Centre for Arts.)

**CRICKETCRADLE**

**TODAY LIVE**  
STAR SPORTS

England vs Australia  
3:00 pm IST  
VENUE: Lord's, London

# It's not coming home

Bumrah, Warner to decide World Cup fate as Clarke rules out England as favourites

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Jasprit Bumrah's amazing skill-set gives India a realistic chance of winning the World Cup but a "freak" called David Warner might just retain it for Australia, feels 2015 World Cup-winning captain Michael Clarke.

Former Aussie skipper Clarke explained why India and Australia are top three contenders while making it clear that the coveted Cup may not "come home" for the hosts contrary to what the likes of Kevin Pietersen and Michael Vaughan are wishing.

One of the most delightful batsmen to have played the game, Clarke is in awe of the legend of Bumrah which has been on the upswing for two years now.

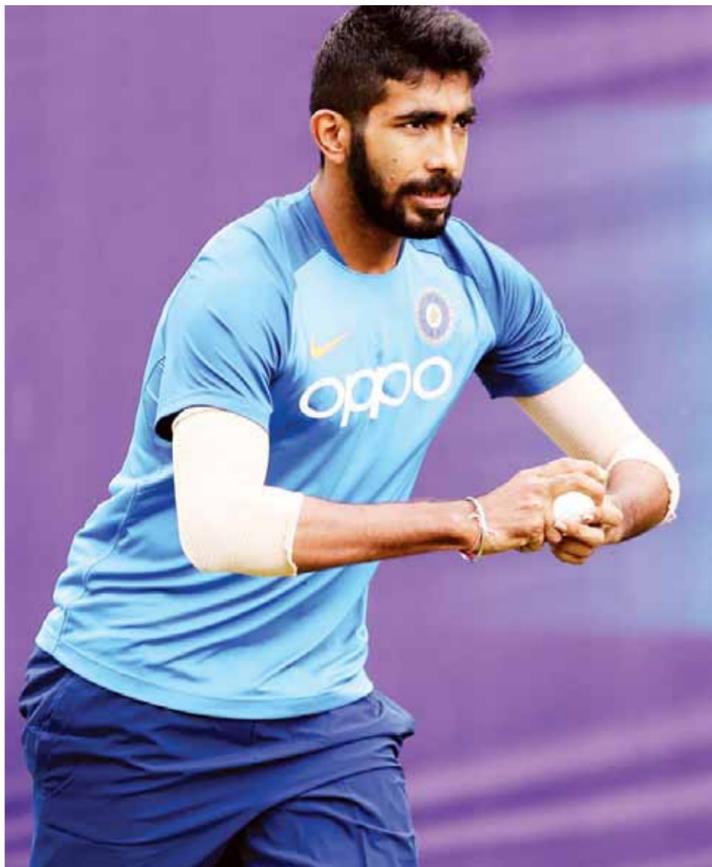
"I think there is nothing that he (Bumrah) doesn't have. He is fit and healthy. I hope he stays that way as he would play a big part in India's success in this World Cup," Clarke observed.

But Bumrah will face quite a challenge from Australia, especially Warner, who has already scored 447 runs in six games with two hundreds.

"I did expect an exceptional performance from David because he is an exceptional player. He is a freak. He is the X-factor in this team. If Australia go on to win the World Cup, David Warner will be the highest run-getter in my opinion," opined Clarke and then went on to separately analyse what made the two individuals special.

Questioned as to what makes Bumrah such a difficult proposition for batsmen, Clarke elaborated, "With the brand new ball, he can swing and seam it. When the ball is doing nothing in the middle overs, he has the extra pace to trouble batsmen."

"He can bowl close to 150 clicks and then at the death, he bowls those yorkers as good as anyone else. And if there is reverse swing, he is a genius," the former Australian cap-



Jasprit Bumrah prepares to bowl in the nets during a training session ahead of their World Cup match against Afghanistan AP

tain summed up the Indian pace spearhead in a nutshell.

Virat Kohli or for that matter no captain could have asked for a better 'Go To' option than Bumrah, according to Clarke.

"As a captain, probably, you need someone like him to throw the ball to when you need wickets. He can open the bowling, bowl that 35th over when nothing is happening or bowl those last four overs at the death, which can win India a World Cup final," said

the veteran of 115 Tests and 245 ODIs.

Would Bumrah be as good as Wasim Akram had there been just one new ball instead of two?

"I think he would have. He is that good that he would have found out ways to adapt," the former Australian skipper said.

Nothing makes Clarke more happier than to see Warner in prime form putting all the controversies behind him.

Warner was roundly criticised for his slow batting against India but that is the approach which is now giving Australia a real chance against a lot of other teams.

"ODI is different from T20s and it has taken him a bit of time to get back into ODI format. He has been patient at the start of his innings."

"People are saying David Warner is not at his best. But he has had two scores of 150. That shows how good a player he is and he is now a lead-

THERE IS NOTHING THAT BUMRAH DOESN'T HAVE. HE IS FIT AND HEALTHY. I HOPE HE STAYS THAT WAY AS HE WOULD PLAY A BIG PART IN INDIA'S SUCCESS IN THIS WORLD CUP

— MICHAEL CLARKE

ing run-scorer in the tournament," Clarke looked excited and happy speaking about his former teammate.

"David has probably played a little bit differently to what everybody expected at the start of the World Cup. But he has played smart. He has battled for a period of time. Remember before he got back into ODI cricket, he was back in T20 cricket after a 12-month lay-off."

As far as captaincy is concerned, Aaron Finch's leadership has been "impressive" according to Clarke, who lauded Kohli for using two wrist spinners, which he termed both "positive and aggressive".

"India is a very skilful team and I think they have made the right decision in going in with two wrist spinners. That's the aggressive approach and that probably made the difference with two-wicket taking bowlers in those middle overs."

"Virat's captaincy has been very good so far in the tournament. They are playing unbelievable cricket at the moment," said Clarke, who has always rated the Indian captain highly.

The Australian humour comes out when asked if he, like the England fans, thought that the "Cup is coming home."

"Well, I am not sure if everyone was thinking that. I know Kevin Pietersen and Michael Vaughan were thinking that. I wonder if they will change their mind now. It's still a long way to go," he grinned. "We will find out how good an ODI team England are now because they will probably need to win 2 out of the next 3 games and they have got Australia, India and New Zealand to play."

"If they do it and go on to win the World Cup, it will be a fantastic achievement. I would be commenting on the June 25th game (England vs Australia) at Lord's. I can't wait for that game to begin," he said.



Pakistan fan holds a banner that proclaims that Pakistan recovered from India defeat at Manchester during Pakistan-South Africa World Cup game in London on Sunday ICC/Twitter

## Win not an answer

Pakistan were desperate for a positive result after enduring a "difficult" week following a below-par performance against India in the World Cup but the win over South Africa is "not an answer to the critics", says skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed. Pakistan faced severe criticism from fans and former players alike after their seventh World Cup defeat to arch-rivals India on June 16 but the team bounced back to outwit South Africa by 49 runs on Sunday, reviving their semi-final hopes. "Our win is not an answer to the critics. We are here to play cricket, and like any other side, believe we can win the World Cup," said Sarfaraz in an interview released to the Pakistani media by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). The under-fire Pakistan skipper insisted that the mantra of the team was "we lose as a team and we win as a team". "This has been the mantra of the Pakistan cricket team," he said. "The win over South Africa was the result of a complete team effort. We badly needed a positive result following a difficult last week, when our below-par performance against India was followed by severe criticism, some justified and some unjustified."

## Jr Sachin at nets

India Under-19 pacer Arjun Tendulkar, son of cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar, was seen helping England batsman at the nets ahead of their crunch World Cup tie against Australia here on Tuesday. Arjun, who impressed with his bowling in the three-day Second-XI Championship contest in High Wycombe, was seen bowling in full tilt to English batsmen, who are all set to take on fellow favourites Aussies at Lord's. Playing for MCC Young Cricketers, Arjun recently took two wickets against Surrey Second XI, including one off a beautiful delivery that was shown on a video on Twitter via Lord's Cricket Ground. It made quite a buzz on the social media platform. Arjun ended his spell with figures of 2 for 50 in 11 overs.

## Mohsin returns

Former Test batsman and head coach Mohsin Hasan Khan is set to return in an important role in Pakistan cricket either as chief selector or national team manager after the ongoing World Cup. Mohsin, who was head coach and also the chief selector in 2012, recently stepped down as head of the PCB's Cricket Committee. But a reliable source said Mohsin is being considered for an important responsibility after the World Cup. "Mohsin is being considered for the job of chief selector or manager of the Pakistan team," the source said. Mohsin, 64, was chief selector in 2010 and 2011 before the PCB made him the interim head coach of the national team. But after Zaka Ashraf took over as PCB Chairman, Mohsin was replaced for a foreign coach, Dave Whatmore despite the fact that Pakistan white-washed England in the Test series in early 2012 in the UAE. The PCB has announced that after the World Cup its Cricket Committee, which until now was dormant, would hold a robust inquiry into the team's and support staff's performances in the last three years before making recommendations to the Chairman and Board of Governors.

Agencies

**PRELIMINARY STAGE**

Pos	Team	P	W	L	N/R	Net RR	Pts
1	NZ	6	5	0	1	+1.306	11
2	AUS	6	5	1	0	+0.849	10
3	IND	5	4	0	1	+0.809	9
4	ENG	6	4	2	0	+1.457	8
5	SL	6	2	2	2	-1.119	6
6	B'DESH	6	2	3	1	-0.407	5
7	PAK	6	2	3	1	-1.265	5
8	WI	6	1	4	1	+0.190	3
9	RSA	7	1	5	1	-0.324	3
10	AFG	6	0	6	0	-1.712	0

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

West Indies were dealt a severe blow ahead of their crucial match against India after all-rounder Andre Russell was ruled out of the remainder of the World Cup with a knee injury.

Russell, who had a terrific IPL prior to the mega-event, has been replaced by Sunil Ambris for the remaining three matches of West Indies.

"The International Cricket Council has confirmed that the Event Technical Committee of the ICC World Cup 2019 has approved Sunil Ambris as a replacement player for Andre Russell in the West Indies

## Russell ruled out

INFIRMARY



Russell gets up before walking off the field of play with an injury AP

squad for the remainder of the tournament," the ICC said in a statement.

"All-rounder Russell has been ruled out of further participation in the event due to an injury to his left knee. The 26-year-old Ambris, a top-order batsman, has played six Tests and six ODIs for the West Indies," it added.

The replacement of a player requires the approval of the Event Technical Committee before the replacement player can be officially added to the squad.

Much was expected from Russell

in the World Cup, especially after his stupendous show in this year's IPL, but Russell was far from his best in the quadrennial event while struggling with chronic knee issues.

In the four matches out of six he played in the World Cup, Russell managed just 36 runs at an average of 12.

With the ball in hand, he had picked up five wickets at an economy rate of 5.31.

West Indies are all but out of the World Cup as they are languishing at the eighth spot in the 10-team competition with just three points from six games.

West Indies take on favourites India here on Thursday.

# Actions speak louder than words

CaribSe



By CLIVE LLOYD  
Former WI Captain

I'm hoping that after his hundred against New Zealand, Carlos Brathwaite realises that he can be as good as any all-rounder in the world.

He hits the ball so well and is a top-class cricketer; he's not a T20 player alone, as his performance at Old Trafford demonstrated.

There's no doubt in my mind that Carlos can make big scores and win games for the West Indies, but now he needs to turn his potential into reality.

West Indies could be one of the best teams around - they have the talent. Had the West Indies batsmen turned some of those 50s 60s & 70s 80s into hundreds they would have been in a better position in the points standing. As for the bowlers with a better understanding of the English conditions and better homework done on the opposing players they could have performed much better.

A team with Darren Bravo sat on the bench is a team with some talented cricketers. They weren't outplayed in at least three of their games that they lost (New Zealand, Australia, Bangladesh) it's just that they're not putting the clinical finishing touches necessary to win games.

Against New Zealand, they were well aware of the asking rate; all they had to do was knock it around. It wasn't about playing big shots.



Carlos Brathwaite celebrates after scoring a century against New Zealand AP

It's just reading the game properly, however it was a great team effort when you think about it they can be proud of some of their performances.

I just hope that they've learned from their mistakes and that they can rectify them because they are talented Cricketers. Ultimately, the difference has been that the West Indies just aren't settling in and making big scores.

Everyone in this tournament is making hundreds, but it says a lot that

but he's a swing bowler — and when he swings the ball he takes wickets.

In previous games, West Indies tried to bounce people out. This was an improvement, but only time will tell if they have learned those lessons.

There's also no spin option there when the rest of the sides have two or three. Now, they have to try to produce a spinner capable of playing in the ODI format and in Test matches.

Roston Chase could play the same role as Moeen Ali does with England, and they also need someone who can hold the fort in the way Kane Williamson is doing for New Zealand.

West Indies have a lot of good strikers of the ball, but they don't have a player like Larry Gomes to stick around or Royston Chase who can also do that job. Shai Hope is the type of player they need to produce more of. If he hadn't made the 96 against Bangladesh, the West Indies wouldn't have made runs.

For all the criticism over his strike rate, if someone had stuck around with him against Bangladesh, Jason Holder's side would have made 360 or above.

With three games left, the West Indies now have to focus on leaving here with some sort of pride, because they started well enough.

Courtesy: © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2019

Sheldon Cottrell wants to bowl fast,



# nacasta ENGLAND



WE ARE ALIVE AND KICKING, WITHOUT A DOUBT, AND IF WE PLAY OUR BEST GAME, WE CAN BEAT ANYBODY. WHETHER THAT'S NEW ZEALAND, AFGHANISTAN OR BANGLADESH — MICKEY ARTHUR

## Play as a unit

### ReverseSwing



By WAQAR YUNIS Former Pakistan Captain

It was all about the positive intent for Pakistan against South Africa.

Today, they played fearless cricket and weren't really worried about losing the match, which in turn gave them the freedom to play their natural game.

Coming after the disappointment of Old Trafford, Pakistan badly needed such a win.

They have been criticised a lot and the last week has been hard on them, so coming out of that and producing such a performance was particularly pleasing.

Haris Sohail, in particular, was a breath of fresh air. He played magnificently well, and ultimately, his innings of 89 off just 59 balls was the difference.

Others got runs but his knock was the icing on the cake because Pakistan have needed someone to come in at five or six and up the ante.

He really batted well, and it's probably a different Haris Sohail to the one I've seen before.

Haris has always been a very conservative and technically sound batsman but against South Africa, he took the mantle and played in a very different fashion.

For me, he's my No 4 batsman in the team because he's technically sound and you can give him more overs to build that innings.

He and Babar Azam could



Pakistan players celebrate after Mohammed Amir dismissed Faf Du Plessis

ICC/Twitter

really complement each other. They both have a habit of making hundreds and could push the run rate also.

Haris is one for the future, for sure. We've also started to get the

old Mohammad Amir back, where he's got that mojo of swinging the ball back into the right-hander.

It's not swinging massively, but the line is right and that's his strength.

Amir is picking up wickets on a regular basis now and that really gives him that confidence to go out and be himself.

Whenever Pakistan get early wickets, Wahab Riaz and the rest

“ HARIS IS ONE FOR THE FUTURE, FOR SURE. WE'VE ALSO STARTED TO GET THE OLD MOHAMMAD AMIR BACK, WHERE HE'S GOT THAT MOJO OF SWINGING THE BALL BACK INTO THE RIGHT-HANDER. AMIR IS PICKING UP WICKETS ON A REGULAR BASIS NOW AND THAT REALLY GIVES HIM THAT CONFIDENCE TO GO OUT AND BE HIMSELF ”

will follow up. In the middle overs, when the ball is reversing, that's where Wahab comes into his own.

It's about bowling as a unit, which Pakistan did at Lord's, but the ones I actually enjoyed watching the most were Shadab Khan and Imad Wasim as they controlled the middle overs while also picking up wickets.

They never allowed the South African batsmen to settle, and as a result the Proteas were always under pressure.

Qualification is still up in the air, but I'd really like to see them play the same way in the coming matches.

There's not much time between now and the next game against New Zealand, but I think they'll stick to the same team unless there's a real difference in the pitch.

If Pakistan keep playing with that freedom, you never know what can happen.

Before going to Birmingham, I think Pakistan will be closely watching England against Australia on Tuesday.

That will be crucial, particularly if Australia beat England.

Pakistan will be hoping and praying for an Australia win as that would be best for their own qualification hopes.

Courtesy: © ICC Business Corporation LLC 2019

## Cover it like Kohli



Babar Azam plays a shot during his 69-run innings against South Africa during a World Cup match at Lord's on Sunday

AP

PTI ■ LONDON

Former Pakistan speedster Shoaib Akhtar Monday said Virat Kohli fan Babar Azam should learn to play like his "idol" and convert good starts into big knocks by adapting to match situations the way the Indian captain does.

Akhtar said while Azam has been scoring some crucial runs for Pakistan, he fails to go the full distance.

"I would like to tell Babar Azam that when you consider Virat Kohli your idol then you should also learn to play like him. Virat has scored runs in very difficult situations. Babar

should learn to take singles like Virat," Akhtar said in a video posted on his YouTube channel.

"If you look at players like Virat, Rohit Sharma, Kane Williamson...All these guys accelerate their scoring after reaching fifty. Babar should learn from them. He should

have more range of shots," he added.

Akhtar, however, showered praise on Haris Sohail, who scored a 59-ball 89 during Pakistan's convincing 49-run win over South Africa in their crucial World Cup fixture here on Sunday. Babar chipped in with 69 off 80 deliveries.

"I was constantly saying that Haris Sohail should be included in the playing XI because he is a very compact player. Against South Africa, he showed how to score runs. In fact he looked better than Babar Azam.

"Haris provided the thrust and helped Pakistan get a total in excess of 300. Haris Sohail was a great addition and Shoaib Malik was dropped which was a fair call," said Akhtar.

The 'Rawalpindi Express' hoped that Pakistan will continue to play fearless cricket in the remaining games of the World Cup and somehow sneak into the semi-finals.

"I recommend Pakistan to hold their ground, play pressure-free cricket, play according to the best of their abilities and display their talent.

"Pakistan have a good chance of making it to the semi-finals. They need to play fearless cricket without any pressure. If England lose their three matches against Australia, India and New Zealand, Pakistan can come through," said Akhtar.

With five points from six games, Pakistan still have an outside chance of making the last four stage. They will next be playing New Zealand, followed by Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

If Pakistan manage to win all three of their remaining matches and results of other teams go in their favour, they could make the cut.

The 43-year-old applauded Pakistan's bowling against South Africa, saying the attacks managed to get the ball to reverse swing.

"Pakistan's bowling was very good. (Mohammad) Amir picked up wickets upfront and that was crucial. Pakistan have raised alarming bells for other teams as their bowlers - Wahab Riaz and Amir - have been able to get the ball reverse swing."

Akhtar, however, was critical of Pakistan's fielding.

"They dropped as many as seven catches. They dropped fairly easy catches and that needs to be rectified. The fielding needs to be improved," he insisted.

## English lessons



Faf Du Plessis, center, David Miller, left, and Rassie van der Dussen trains during South Africa practice session

ICC/Twitter

AFP ■ LONDON

South Africa great Jacques Kallis has urged the Proteas to learn lessons from England's one-day international revival following the team's miserable early exit from the World Cup.

A 49-run defeat by Pakistan at Lord's on Sunday ensured that, with two games in the 10-team round-robin phase still to play, there is no way South Africa can qualify for the semi-finals.

Faf du Plessis, the South Africa captain, did not pull any punches, labelling his side's 259-9 in response to Pakistan's 308-7 as "borderline embarrassing".

But Kallis, the outstanding all-rounder of his generation, said South Africa should take heart from the way England recovered after suffering an equally woeful first-round exit at the 2015 World Cup.

Eoin Morgan's side have since risen to the top of the ODI rankings and are among the leading contenders to lift the trophy this year.

"England used the disap-

“ ENGLAND NOW PLAY WITHOUT FEAR AND AREN'T AFRAID TO MAKE MISTAKES. FOR ME, SOUTH AFRICA HAVE APPROACHED THINGS TOO DEFENSIVELY AT THIS TOURNAMENT AND THEY NEED TO ATTACK EACH MATCH WITH MUCH MORE POSITIVITY GOING FORWARD ”

pointment of their performances in 2015 to rebuild their team and totally change their mentality and approach to one-day cricket," wrote Kallis in an International Cricket Council column.

"England now play without fear and aren't afraid to make mistakes. For me, South Africa

have approached things too defensively at this tournament and they need to attack each match with much more positivity going forward."

Kallis said altering their approach did not mean the Proteas had to start from scratch with a new squad.

"You don't need to make wholesale changes, England are still captained by Eoin Morgan, as they were four years ago," he said.

"A total clean-out is just not the way ahead. We need to be more considered and thoughtful.

"South Africa have some great young players in their 20s (Kagiso Rabada, 24, Lungi Ngidi, 23, Andile Phehlukwayo, 23, and Aiden Markram, 24) and they can be the foundation for the future."

Kallis added: "The first thing that needs to be looked at is the brand of cricket South Africa are playing."

"England are proof how quickly things can change in four years, so long as you have the right approach."

■ LONDON

South Africa's premier leg-spinner dived slow to his right and plucked the ball just millimetres from the ground.

It was as athletic a caught & bowled as you'll see this tournament and sent a disbelieving Imam-ul-Haq back to the hutch for 44.

Immediately after the catch, for a South African record 39th time in a World Cup match, the Tahir train left the station and chugged excitedly around the Lord's infield.

At 40 years of age, Imran Tahir is the oldest player at this World Cup. For context, the competition's youngest cricketer — 18-year-old Mujeeb Ur Rahman of Afghanistan — was born more than four years after Tahir made his first-class debut.

So, it's almost poetic that he celebrates wickets with more unadulterated, childlike glee than every one of his younger contemporaries.

The enthusiastic manner in which he wheels away and sprints, endearingly aimlessly but with arms spread wide, further than most quick bowlers' run-ups, is infectious.

Just ask Babar Azam — who couldn't help but smile from the non-striker's end at his opponent's jubilation.

But even by Tahir's standards, this celebration seemed to contain more vim and vigour than normal.

Perhaps it was because he had just pulled off a reaction catch with a high degree of difficulty that most 20 or 30-year-olds, let alone 40-year-olds, would struggle to make.

Perhaps it was because the wicket came against Pakistan — the country of his birth and team for which he played Under-19 and A-grade cricket in a previous century.

Perhaps it was because, having announced his retirement from ODI cricket at the end of this World Cup, he knows there won't be many more moments like this on the grandest stage.

## Age no bar

Or perhaps it was because he had just surpassed the great Allan Donald's to become the leading South African wicket-taker of all-time at World Cups with 39.

Most likely, it was a combination of all these and as he prepares to ride off into the sunset, it's worth reflecting on just how remarkable it is that Tahir became a South African record-breaker.

Some players are earmarked for greatness from an early age but the leg-spinner didn't make his ODI debut until February 2011 — just a month before his 32nd birthday.

It's fair to say he swiftly made up for lost time. He was the quickest South African bowler to reach 100 ODI wickets, taking just

58 matches, and is still the only spinner to do so.

He became his country's first player to take a seven-for in a one-day international when he ended with 7/45 against West Indies in 2016 and perhaps his finest moment in a Proteas jersey was the man-of-the-match-winning 4/26 in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2015 quarter-final with Sri Lanka.

In England this summer, he has continued to rack up the milestones: the oldest South African to appear in a World Cup match, playing his 100th ODI against Bangladesh, the first spinner — of any nationality — to bowl the first over of a World Cup match, and now leapfrogging



Imran Tahir reacts after dismissing Fakhar Zaman

every one of his countrymen atop the World Cup wickets ranking.

At Lord's, in addition to his athletic exploits to remove Imam, Tahir also had Pakistan's other opener, Fakhar Zaman, caught at first slip attempting an ill-advised ramp shot to end with figures of 2/41.

His ninth and tenth victims of the competition mean he currently has the most wickets of any wrist-spinner at the event — just another record to add to his CV.

His efforts ultimately weren't enough to stop Pakistan racking up an intimidating total of 308/7 that South Africa were unable to chase down — and defeat means their chances of reaching the knockout stages are now over.

As a result, the Tahir train will only have two final chances to get up to speed, so make sure you catch it while you still can.

— Courtesy © ICC Business Corporation LLC 2019

# First of the summer

Hosts England take on Aussies in World Cup game before fierce Ashes battle



Joe Root smiles as he arrives for a training session at Lord's cricket ground in London on Monday

**UPNEXT**

VS

**LIVE ON**

3:00 pm IST

STAR SPORTS

AFP ■ LONDON

Are England just a bunch of "flat-track bullies"? That's the uncomfortable question facing Eoin Morgan's side as they look to get their World Cup campaign back on track against arch-rivals Australia.

Today's match at Lord's was always going to be a showpiece occasion, but it has been given added spice by England's 20-run loss to Sri Lanka.

Faced with a relatively modest target of 233 on a tricky Headingley pitch, England slumped to 212 all out.

Despite their second defeat of the pool phase following an earlier loss to Pakistan, the tournament hosts remained in the top four and on course for a semi-final spot.

But England, bidding to win the World Cup for the first time, cannot afford many more slip-ups in their remaining pool fixtures against fellow title contenders Australia, India and New Zealand — teams they have not defeated at a World Cup since 1992.

England's rise to the top of the one-day international rankings since their woe-filled first-round exit at the 2015 World Cup has been based on aggressive batting.

They have twice posted a world record score at this level in the intervening four years, including the current mark of 481-6 against Australia at Trent Bridge just over 12 months ago.

Doubts, however, persist about England's ability to bat in less than ideal conditions for shot-making.

Their problems were summed up against Sri Lanka when Moeen Ali marked his 100th ODI by hitting a six, only to try to repeat the shot next ball and hole out to leave England 170-6.

Former England captain Michael Vaughan was unimpressed, writing in Britain's *Daily Telegraph*: "He (Moeen) was there to try to repeat the shot next ball and hole out to leave England 170-6."

According to research by cricket statisticians *CricViz*, on the 11 toughest one-day pitches for batting England have played on since losing to Pakistan in the

**HEAD TO HEAD**

	Played	Eng	Aus	Tied/NR
Matches	147	61	81	2/3
Day matches	77	36	38	2/1
In World Cup	7	2	5	-
Last 5 matches	5	5	-	-

**HIGHEST TOTALS**

<b>Australia</b>	342-9 in 50 overs	14-02-2015
	at Melbourne	
<b>England</b>	481-6 in 5 overs	19-06-2018
	at Nottingham	

**PERFORMANCE IN WC**

Team	P	W	L	T	N/R	Success%
England	78	45	31	1	1	58.97
Australia	90	67	21	1	1	75.55

FAISEL FEATURES

**XFACTOR**

- English pace attack
- Eoin Morgan's leadership
- Aaron Finch and David Warner's opening stand
- Ben Stokes and Maxwell's all-round performance
- Mitchell Starc's opening spell
- Jos Buttler's power hitting
- Usman Khawaja and Steve Smith's batting in middle overs

bowlers who are decisive. "The game will be won and lost in the bowling," he wrote in an *ICC column*.

"If Australia can hold their ground against the onslaught and put pressure back on England, that'll be key."

**SQUADS**

**England:** Eoin Morgan (c), Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Jonny Bairstow, Jos Buttler (wk), Tom Curran, Liam Dawson, Liam Plunkett, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Jason Roy, Ben Stokes, James Vince, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.

**Australia:** Aaron Finch (c), David Warner, Usman Khawaja, Steve Smith, Shaun Marsh, Alex Carey (wk), Marcus Stoinis, Glenn Maxwell, Mitchell Starc, Kane Richardson, Pat Cummins, Jason Behrendorff, Nathan Coulter-Nile, Adam Zampa, Nathan Lyon.

**MEN WHO MATTER**

**JOS BUTTLER (ENGLAND)**

The wicket-keeper batsman has the potential to change the course of any match with his exemplary batting skills. Buttler, who scored a match-winning 110\* in his last outing against Australia, will once again be an important player for the hosts, against an in-form Australian bowling unit.



**AARON FINCH (AUSTRALIA)**

The Australia captain has been leading from the front in this tournament, having amassed 396 runs in six innings so far. Finch, who set the tone for Australia's World Cup campaign in 2015 with a stroke-filled 135 against England, will once again look to play a long innings on Tuesday.



**UNDER THE COVERS**

Though lingering overnight rain is expected to ease out by morning, the day is expected to be largely cloudy. Heavy and thundery showers might develop, leading to a delayed start. Teams batting first have won three of the last four games at Lord's, which makes the toss crucial.

Courtesy: © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 18

## Team to beat

AFP ■ LONDON

Australia coach Justin Langer says England are still the team to beat at the World Cup despite their surprise loss to Sri Lanka.

England's seemingly assured path to the semi-finals now looks a lot less smooth after a 20-run reverse at Headingley followed an earlier group-stage defeat by Pakistan.

They next face arch-rivals Australia at Lord's, with the reigning champions in fine form after winning five of their six pool games so far — the only blot on their record a defeat by title rivals India.

But Langer said England fully deserved their place at the top of the one-day international rankings, having climbed to the summit from the ruins of a woeful first-round exit at the 2015 World Cup.

"They are the best team in the world. Just look at their team... Nothing has changed in a week," Langer said on Sunday.

"I can't wait for Tuesday (today) — England at Lord's, World Cup. That is what we are thinking about," added the former Australia opening batsman.

Langer had a stint in the English domestic game with southwest side Somerset, where he first encountered a young Jos Buttler.

The England vice-captain is now regarded as one of the quickest-scoring and most innovative batsmen in the game today, with Langer nominating the wicket-keeper-batsman as the natural successor to veteran India great MS Dhoni.

"Jos is an unbelievable player. I love watching him bat. He is the new Dhoni of world cricket," said Langer.

"I hope he gets a duck in this (Tuesday's)



Liam Plunkett, centre, stretches with team mates during a training session at Lord's cricket ground

game obviously, but I saw him at Somerset and he is an unbelievable athlete and an incredible finisher.

"They (England) have a very strong batting unit and we will have to be right on it."

But Australia have several in-form batsmen of their own, notably opener David Warner, who is the tournament's current leading run-scorer with 447 from six innings. Both Warner and former captain Steve Smith are making their comebacks from year-long ball-tampering bans, with the pair roundly booed when they faced England in a World Cup warm-up match in Southampton.

Langer, asked if he expected more of the same even from the traditionally polite spectators at Lord's, replied: "Yes, probably but that is okay. "There is nothing we can do about the crowds or the opposition. We will just go about our business."

"I did not know Davey that well (before being appointed as Australia coach) but he is good company."

"His runs speak for themselves. He is smiling a lot. He is hungry. He is playing well. He loves his family."

"Like Steve, the return has been seamless and they are playing well too, which is pleasing," Langer added.

AFP ■ LONDON

England fast bowler Jofra Archer has told his Australian Indian Premier League teammate Steve Smith there will be "nothing friendly" when the teams meet in the World Cup today.

Archer, together with England colleagues Jos Buttler and Ben Stokes, played in the same Rajasthan Royals side as Smith during this year's IPL.

But the England trio and Smith will be on opposite sides for the rest of the season, starting at Lord's this week — a fixture that takes place ahead of an Ashes series.

Tuesday's game has added significance for England after a surprise loss to Sri Lanka left them with little wiggle room in their quest to reach the semi-finals.

Asked if he thought of Smith as a friend, Archer said Sunday: "Yes, and I'd like to think he considers me the same way as well."

"He's a really good guy. But cricket is cricket and I guess it's time to be friends after. Until the game is over, there will be nothing friendly about it."

Smith and fellow Australia batsman David Warner have already received plenty of predictable crowd taunts following their returns from year-long ball-tampering bans.

But they have shrugged off the jeers, with Warner in particular finding his best form, with

## Friendship on hold



Steve Smith shake hands with Ben Stokes after end of warm up game

two centuries so far.

Archer hopes his rapid pace and some inside knowledge could prove useful at Lord's, even though he playfully suggested Smith had not been keen to face him in the nets during their time at Rajasthan.

"To be honest, I didn't bowl at him much," said Archer.

"A lot of the guys probably don't want to face me or (West Indies quick) Oshane Thomas in

the nets. They like the side-arm and the throw downs."

"But when you play with them you pick up on things you won't normally notice when you're just playing against them."

"So hopefully me and Ben can get together, I think we might bowl together at some point as well. We probably know what to do when he's in."

Barbados-born Archer only qualified for England in March,

**Smith is a good guy. But cricket is cricket and I guess it's time to be friends after. Until the game is over, there will be nothing friendly about it — Jofra Archer**

meaning Tuesday will be the first time he has played against Australia in a competitive international.

"Just from watching the Ashes and stuff I know it is a pretty intense game between them," he said.

"I'm not too sure if it will affect me coming in without having experienced it before. It could be an advantage, me not being part of what happened before."

Opening batsman Jason Roy was absent from training on Sunday, suggesting he may not recover in time from a torn hamstring to play against Australia but paceman Liam Plunkett did take part after a recent virus.

**captainspeak**

EOIN MORGAN, ENG



■ **What's the latest on Roy?**  
He went for a scan. Positive news. He won't be fit for today. We'll monitor his progress during the week and assess him then as that unfolds.

■ **Will he be back for the India game? And how big a loss is he?**  
Let's just see how it goes. He's Jason Roy. Of course he's a big loss. He's an outstanding performer before us. Epitomises the way we play as a group.

■ **Concerns that Vince hasn't gone on yet.**  
No, not at all. We have every faith in him to go on and get a score at some stage, to continue playing in his own way. It's important that he does that.

■ **Is it a must-win game?**  
No, it's not must-win yet. We don't need to win every game to get to the semis. It's another game where we try and produce a performance that's worthy.

■ **Is confidence affected by defeats?**  
Naturally guys are upset. They are very excited about getting back on the park today to try and produce something that everybody's used to seeing us play, and if that means that we win the game, great.

■ **What reception do you expect Smith and Warner to get?**

I'm not expecting anything. I think fans and supporters up and down the country will have different reactions, as they will around the world. Let's just see.

■ **Do you have to prove that you can win matches under pressure in the WC?**

No. We've done that throughout the WC already. Guys have performed under pressure for a very long time. They have performed under pressure of being favourites for the last two years in series that we've gone in, both away from home and at home, and have no question mark about producing under pressure.

■ **Will the pitch make you to play the extra seamer?**

There's a chance. Day before yesterday, the pitch was quite green, as well. I don't know if you watched the game, but certainly today it did look a little bit green. I think there's a lovely covering of grass over it. Probably a little more consistent than has been in previous years, and depending on the weather overnight, because there is weather expected, it will probably affect the decision today, yeah.

■ **Do you think this is a decent match-up — England-Australia fixture?**

It's a good match-up for both teams. It's normally a really good game. The games we've played against them in the last two years, probably the score line hasn't been as fair as both sides have played. I think the way that both sides play lends itself to a good game of cricket, as well. So it will be a challenge for both sides I think.

■ **How much of a difference does it make to have Jofra this time?**

Like Mark Wood, very similar roles. Both give you flexibility, with the new ball or first change, and at the end and in the middle, give you options to change the pace of the game. Similar to the way Australia use theirs, use them as wicket-taking options and I think we look to do the same. We have done throughout the tournament so far.

■ **You told the players to embrace when things are different. Will it be the same against Australia?**

Playing against Australia is different, but the feeling of playing against Australia is nullified because we played them so often. If guys had not of played against them a lot over the last, say, three years or four years, it would feel different, and it would feel, you know, a little bit unknown.

Courtesy: © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2018



# nacosta ENGLAND

I'M A VERY PROUD PLAYER AND CAPTAIN. PLAYING FOR SOUTH AFRICA MEANS A LOT TO ME. THERE ARE PEOPLE RIGHTLY AND FAIRLY CRITICISING TEAM BECAUSE WE ARE NOT PLAYING THE WAY WE SHOULD — FAF DU PLESSIS

# Shakib keeps B'desh in fray

## CHASING 263 FOR FIRST WIN, AFGHANISTAN FALL SHORT OF TARGET BY 62

**Shakib, who became the tournament's leading run-getter, was also exceptional with the ball.**

AP ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Shakib Al Hasan came up with a special all-round performance, steering Bangladesh to a 62-run win over Afghanistan here on Monday and keeping their semifinal hopes alive in the World Cup.

Mushfiqur Rahim (83 off 87 balls) and Shakib (51 off 69) showed their class on a difficult surface to help Bangladesh post a competitive 262 for seven after Afghanistan opted to field at the Hampshire Bowl.

Shakib, who also became the tournament's leading run getter on way to his half-century, was also exceptional with the ball. The left-arm spinner ended with figures of five for 29 for in 10 overs, his best in ODI cricket.

With this incredible effort, Shakib also became only the second cricketer after India's Yuvraj Singh to score a fifty and take a five-wicket haul in a World Cup match.

Chasing 263 was always going to be tough for a fragile Afghanistan batting line-up but 48



Mushfiqur Rahim plays a shot during his 83-run innings against Afghanistan at Hampshire Bowl stadium in Southampton on Monday

ICC/Twitter

SHAKIB AL HASAN'S BATTING PERFORMANCE IN WORLD CUP							
Year	Venue	M	Runs	AVG	H.S	S/R	100/50
2007	West Indies	9	202	28.85	57*	57.22	-/2
2011	India/SL/Bang	6	142	23.66	55	71.00	-/1
2015	Australia/NZ	6	196	39.20	63	93.77	-/2
2019	England	6	476	95.20	124*	99.16	2/3
<b>Total</b>	<b>(4 World Cups)</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1016</b>	<b>44.17</b>	<b>124*</b>	<b>81.80</b>	<b>2/8</b>

Faisal Features

for no loss in 10 overs raised hopes that the Gulbadin Naib-led side might just get its first win of the tournament after six losses in a row.

However, the batting fell apart after Shakib removed Rahmat Shah (24) and from 49 for no loss, Afghanistan were reeling at 132 for six. The seventh wicket stand for 56 runs between Samiullah Shinwari (49 not out) and Najibullah Zadran (23) saved them the blushes. Afghanistan were eventually all out for 200 in 47 overs.

Bangladesh's third win in seven games took them to seven points and if they win their remaining fixtures against India and Pakistan, the Mashrafe Mortaza-led unit will end the league stage with 11 points.

Earlier, Rahim and Shakib shared a 61-run partnership laying the foundation for a decent score on a slow surface. The India-Afghanistan game here on Saturday also saw batsmen struggle to score freely.

Mosaddek Hossain (35 off 24) provided the much-needed fireworks in the death overs, taking the total past 250. The stand-

out bowler for Afghanistan was spinner Mujeeb Ur-Rahman (3/39), troubling the batsmen with his variations.

Liton Das (16) was promoted to open the innings alongside Tamim Iqbal (36) with Soumya Sarkar pushed down the order. Das could not make the opportunity count and was caught at cover off Mujeeb.

Iqbal and star all-rounder Shakib then shared a 59-run stand before Mohammad Nabi hit the former's stumps, leaving Bangladesh at 82 for two in 17 overs.

Shakib, who surpassed David Warner to become the tournament's leading run-getter, played a gritty knock that included just one four.

The world's premier all-rounder has so far scored two hundreds and three half-centuries in the competition.

Rahim, who too has been in sublime form like Shakib, played another valuable knock for his team. Had he not fired, Bangladesh would have struggled to go beyond 225. His innings comprised four boundaries and a six.

## OTHER SPORTS

### Messi's birthday present



Sergio Aguero, left, celebrates with Lionel Messi after scoring Argentina's second goal against Qatar

AFP ■ PORTO ALEGRE

An early goal by Lautaro Martinez and Sergio Aguero's late second gave Argentina a 2-0 win over Qatar on Sunday that qualified them for the Copa America quarter-finals.

Already-qualified Colombia beat Paraguay 1-0 in the other Group B match to secure a place in the last eight for both Peru, who finished third in Group A, and Uruguay, currently second in Group C.

Argentina, who finish second in Group B behind Colombia, will play Venezuela at Rio de Janeiro's iconic Maracana stadium in the quarter-finals, while tournament debutants and guests Qatar are out.

Paraguay, on two points, must wait and see what happens in Monday's Group C clash between Japan and Ecuador before finding out if they qualify as one of the two best third-place finishers.

Peru, with four points, are sure of that while only a draw between Japan and Ecuador would see Paraguay progress.

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni recalled Manchester City forward Aguero for the crunch tie while Martinez kept his place at the expense of Angel Di Maria.

Asian champions Qatar made a calamitous start when a weak headed clearance from Tarek Salman fell to Martinez 12 yards out, but the Inter Milan forward sent his volley

over the top.

He didn't have to wait long for another chance though as Bassam Hisham played a ball across his box and straight to the feet of the Argentina forward, who scuffed a shot into the bottom corner after just four minutes.

With the weight was lifted from Argentina's shoulders, they played with a freedom expected of a side boasting talents such as Aguero and five-time Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi.

Qatar played with limited ambition but their talented forwards looked dangerous when they did venture into the final third.

Hasan Khalid Al Haydos got in behind the Argentina backline and tried to chip Franco Armani but the goalkeeper got a touch to divert the ball behind, although the linesman's flag was up and it wouldn't have counted.

Messi burst into life with an acceleration towards Qatar's area before slipping a pass to Aguero, who dragged his left-footed shot wide under pressure.

Qatar were sporadically dangerous on the break and Portuguese-born Ro-Ro stole in at the back post to meet a Karim Boudiaf cross but couldn't direct his volley on target.

Up the other end, Nicolas Otamendi headed over from close range when it looked easier to score. Argentina almost scored a second after Qatar goalkeeper

Saad Al-Sheeb spilled a header by Martinez causing a scramble in the box, but neither Aguero nor Martinez could poke the ball home.

Iraq-born Hisham almost made amends for his earlier gaffe with a free-kick at the end of the half but his shot, which passed through the Argentina wall, clipped the outside of the upright.

Another direct Messi run set up Aguero but his shot was deflected over by Algeria-born Boualem Khoukhi.

Aguero then drew a save from Al-Sheeb with a shot from outside the area.

Qatar made few chances but when they did, Akram Afif snatched at his effort from distance when a smarter move would have been to play in a runner from midfield.

Aguero finally scored the goal his industry deserved with a purposeful run past two defenders before sending a cross-shot into the far bottom corner eight minutes from time.

Already guaranteed of winning the group, Colombia's Portuguese coach Carlos Queiroz made 10 changes to his line-up, with only Juventus forward Juan Cuadrado retaining his place.

They took the lead just after the half-hour mark when Gustavo Cuellar scored through goalkeeper Roberto Fernandez's legs from a tight angle.

In the second half Colombia had a goal and a penalty award chalked off by VAR.

### Murray mulls over US Open singles return

AFP ■ LONDON

Former world number one Andy Murray says he could resurrect his singles career at this year's US Open following a remarkable return to tennis with victory in the men's doubles at the Queen's Club tournament on Sunday.

The 32-year-old Scotsman teamed up with Spanish partner Feliciano Lopez to take a 7-6 (8/6), 5-7, 10-5 win over Britain's Joe Salisbury and Rajeev Ram of the United States.

The three-time Grand Slam champion's triumph comes after what he described as "life-changing" hip surgery earlier this year.

Murray said that while he had not made up his mind about a

return to singles, the US Open would be the tournament where it could happen.

If so, it would be a remarkable turnaround for a man who was tearfully pondering retirement in January and has seen his singles ranking tumble to 215 in the world.

"I mean, potentially, yeah," he said when pressed as to whether the US Open — where he won his first Grand Slam title in 2012 — could be the place to resume his singles career.

"But I don't care, really, either way. Like, it would be nice to play at the US Open, but if I don't -- look, I got so much enjoyment and happiness

after winning a first round doubles match here that, you know, that's enough.

"I don't have to be getting to the US Open this year and be really competitive and have to win the tournament for me to enjoy it."

Murray, also a two-time Olympic singles champion, said he had to be mindful about his hip, although he came through the week at Queen's pain free.



Newcastle United's manager Rafael Benitez in a file picture

### Benitez to leave Newcastle Utd

AFP ■ LONDON

Rafael Benitez's three-year reign as Newcastle manager will come to an end next week after failing to agree terms on a new contract, the club confirmed on Monday.

Benitez was a hugely popular figure among the Newcastle support after stabilising the Magpies in the Premier League and the news is likely to spark more protests aimed at the club's owner Mike Ashley.

"It is with disappoint-

ment that we announce manager Rafael Benitez will leave Newcastle United upon the expiry of his contract on 30th June 2019," Newcastle said in a statement.

"We have worked hard to extend Rafa's contract over a significant period of time, however it has not been - and will not be - possible to reach an agreement with Rafa and his representatives."

Despite failing to keep Newcastle in the top flight shortly after taking over in March 2016, Benitez earned hero

status on Tyneside as he led Newcastle back to the Premier League at the first time of asking. He then comfortably secured survival by finishing 10th and 13th in the last two seasons. However, the Spaniard did not hide his displeasure at the lack of backing he was afforded by Ashley and was looking for assurances over the budget he would have to work with before committing his future to the club.

"I have been trying to win titles everywhere, in different countries, and we have to have a team that can compete," the former Liverpool, Inter Milan and Real Madrid manager told Sky Sports in April.

"The city, the club, everyone in Newcastle is supporting the team so it's massive. I'm not saying £200m but doing a little bit more, doing the right things, we can compete against the teams that are now maybe between seventh and 12th. But we have to do things right."

Benitez, who won the Champions League when in charge of Liverpool in 2005, has been reportedly offered a contract worth £12 million-a-year at Chinese club Dalian Yifang.

### F1 needs dramatic overhaul



Lewis Hamilton celebrates with the winners trophy after winning French GP

a constant cycle of F1 for years and years. And before I got to F1. It's because the way Bernie (Ecclestone) had it set up and the decisions they made then.

"Until that structure changes, it will be the same in my opinion."

As Hamilton and Mercedes continue their relentless destruction of the records, it is unreasonable to ask his team to slow down, as the president of the sport's ruling body, the International Motoring Federation (FIA) Jean Todt, once the boss of the all-conquering team that powered Michael Schumacher to five of his seven titles, has pointed out.

"It is beautiful to see 20 cars at a marvellous circuit, truly modern, a real motor racing circuit, with the best teams and the best drivers in the world," he said.

"Then, if one team is better, and you see this in all

sports, it is because it is the strongest."

He suggested there are not the same complaints at seeing tennis star Rafael Nadal dominate at Roland Garros and said that Mercedes rivals should work harder to overhaul them.

Hamilton, meanwhile, will have to ignore the noise and carry on winning as he closes in on Schumacher's record of 91 wins — his victory on Sunday was his 79th — and a potential sixth world title.

"I definitely didn't expect to have six wins at this point and it doesn't feel real," he admitted after his pole-to-flag win, his second in succession at Le Castellet.

It also brought Mercedes their 10th consecutive victory and brought into prospect an 11th at this weekend's Austrian Grand Prix, a total that would be a record in the sport's modern era.