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Pramod succeeds Parrikar as CM

BJP's Sawant to be aided by two Deputy CMs from alliance partners

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
BJP MLA Pramod Sawant was on Monday named as the new Goa Chief Minister after party bigwigs, including president Amit Shah and Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, could bring about a consensus on his name by making the other claimants to the post from the alliance partners agreeable to his candidature, according to sources. Sawant was the Speaker of the Goa Assembly. Sawant's name was cleared hours after late Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar's funeral ceremony, also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, concluded at Goa's Capital Panaji. Sawant will be assisted by two Deputy Chief Ministers — Goa Forward Party (GFP) chief Vijai Sardesai and Maharashtra Gomantak Party (MGP) MLA Sudin Dhavalikar. Interestingly, the two who have now been "accommodated" had earlier staked their claim to the top post in the State. There was no Deputy CM post in place when Parrikar was CM. But since the MGP and

the GFP both have 3 MLAs each they hold the key to any Government formation. "We have managed to convince the alliance partners and finalised the formula of two Deputy Chief Ministers for the State," a senior BJP functionary said. Parrikar was heading a coalition Government comprising the BJP, three MLAs each of the GFP, the MGP and three Independents. Shah said it will be hard to fill the void left by Manohar Parrikar even as reports suggested that two MGP MLAs could switch over to the BJP to increase its number in the Assembly from 12 to 14. Sawant has been a prominent presence in Goa's political scene since Parrikar's illness was announced in October 2018. In February, the BJP leader had updated the public about the State of Parrikar's health, after the CM was admitted to AIIMS in Delhi. Sawant represents the Sanquelim constituency and is an Ayurveda practitioner by profession. He was closer to Parrikar, who was understood to have groomed him as a

politician. The Congress is currently the single largest party in the State with 14 MLAs. The BJP has 12 legislators in the 40-member Assembly, whose strength now is 36 after Parrikar's death. The strength of the House has reduced due to demise of BJP MLA Francis D'Souza earlier this year, and Parrikar on Sunday, and resignations of two Congress MLAs Subhash Shirodkar and Dayanand Sopte last year. The NCP has one MLA in the Assembly. Earlier, even as Parrikar's funeral procession was on, the Congress yet again staked an abortive claim to form a Government in the coastal State.

The speculation for alliance between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress came to an end after AAP's Delhi convener Gopal Rai on Monday made it clear that there would neither be any alliance with the Congress nor a rollback of any of its candidates in the national Capital. The statement came a day after the AAP declared its candidate for the seventh Lok Sabha seat in Delhi. Asserting that "enough is enough", Rai said these are the final seven candidates of the party and there is no question of "any roll back". Rai said despite facing stiff opposition from its workers, the party was open to an alliance with the Congress in Delhi but after waiting for so long and constantly hearing conflicting statements from the party, we have decided that now even if the Congress approaches us, there will be no alliance in Delhi. He also said there has been no communication from the Congress and it clearly shows that the grand old party is "not serious" about elections in Delhi. "AAP will fight the Lok Sabha polls on the issue of full Statehood and it is 'late now' for talks on an alliance in Delhi.

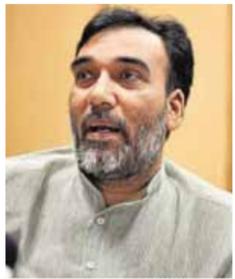
The Congress is confused and everyone is giving different statements," Rai said. The ruling AAP had earlier on March 2 announced the names of its candidates for the six Lok Sabha seats. The AAP declared its seventh candidate for West Delhi Lok Sabha seats on Sunday. The party insiders said the name of Balbir Singh Jhakar was announced after the recalcitrant attitude of the Congress leadership towards forging an alliance in the national Capital. The other six AAP candidates are Atishi from East Delhi, Guggan Singh from North-West Delhi, Raghav Chadha from South, Dilip Pandey from North-East, Pankaj Gupta from Chandni Chowk and Brijesh Goyal from New Delhi seat.

Goa CM Manohar Parrikar was cremated with state honours on Monday, with thousands bidding the affable politician a fond farewell. BJP president Amit Shah, some Union Ministers and CMs of BJP-ruled States attended the funeral. Parrikar's eldest son Utpal lit the funeral pyre. The funeral procession started from the Kala Academy where thousands, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, paid their last respects to the former Defence Minister



It's enough! No ties with Cong, says riled AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



The speculation for alliance between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress came to an end after AAP's Delhi convener Gopal Rai on Monday made it clear that there would neither be any alliance with the Congress nor a rollback of any of its candidates in the national Capital. The statement came a day after the AAP declared its candidate for the seventh Lok Sabha seat in Delhi. Asserting that "enough is enough", Rai said these are the final seven candidates of the party and there is no question of "any roll back". Rai said despite facing stiff opposition from its workers, the party was open to an alliance with the Congress in Delhi but after waiting for so long and constantly hearing conflicting statements from the party, we have decided that now even if the Congress approaches us, there will be no alliance in Delhi. He also said there has been no communication from the Congress and it clearly shows that the grand old party is "not serious" about elections in Delhi. "AAP will fight the Lok Sabha polls on the issue of full Statehood and it is 'late now' for talks on an alliance in Delhi.

Maya dares Cong to fight all 80 seats in UP

SP echoes BSP's view, asks Cong not to spread confusion with 7-seat 'graces'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW
A day after the Congress said it was leaving seven Lok Sabha seats for the SP-BSP-RLD combine in Uttar Pradesh, BSP supremo Mayawati on

Monday asked the Congress not to "spread confusion" and said the alliance was capable of defeating the BJP on its own. Hours later BSP's poll ally Samajwadi Party (SP) too echoed Mayawati's view. In a tweet, SP president Akhilesh Yadav said, "In Uttar Pradesh, the SP, BSP and RLD alliance is capable of defeating the BJP. The Congress party need not spread any kind of confusion." Mayawati even dared the Congress to go ahead and field candidates in all the 80 Lok Sabha seats in the State. The BSP chief in a series of



Dal (RLD) alliance. "The Congress is free to field its candidates on all the 80 seats in UP alone. In other words, our alliance (of SP-BSP-RLD) is capable enough of defeating the BJP. The Congress should refrain from spreading confusion about leaving seven seats for the (SP-BSP-RLD) alliance," Mayawati tweeted. Mayawati also said, "The BSP would like to make it clear once again that there is no alliance or understanding with the Congress in UP and anywhere in the country."

IN A FIRST FOR HIM Naveen to contest from Hinjili and Bijepur



Sources said that in the event of winning both the seats, Patnaik would retain Bijepur, leaving Hinjili for a by-election

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

For the first time, Biju Janata Dal (BJD) supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik would contest from two Assembly constituencies in the elections next month. Patnaik's name figured in the first list of BJD candidates announced by him on Monday. While retaining his four-time-old Hinjili seat in his native Ganjam district, he would also be the party candidate from Bijepur in Bargarh district of western Odisha. Patnaik had on Sunday been urged by several BJD leaders of the western region to offer himself as a candidate in their area apparently to meet a challenge the BJP and the Congress may give to the State's ruling party in the region. Sources said that in the event of winning both the seats, Patnaik would retain Bijepur, leaving Hinjili for a by-election

Priyanka sails, media runs aground

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

In an hilarious turn of events during the boat campaign by Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi on Monday, a boat carrying media persons and some Congress leaders ran aground at Manaya ghat of Allahabad from where Priyanka started sailing to reach Varanasi. As media persons reached the Manaya Ghat, they saw just one steamer all decked up for Priyanka, and no arrangement for another boat to carry them along to cover Priyanka's poll campaign. The drama started as soon as Priyanka — who reached the ghat around 11.30 am — got onto her steamer. There was no room for the media. However, as soon her boat started sailing, media persons and some other Congress found another boat following



Congress General Secretary UP-East Priyanka Gandhi Vadera ride a boat at Prayagraj on Monday

her, and they all jumped into the boat. The boat was soon stuffed beyond its capacity and became unstable. On boatman's frantic instruction, some people aboard had to get off. But as the boat reached the middle of the river it ran aground in low water there. And it could not budge an inch from there. Following which, a boat was called in to take the stuck journalists back to the pier.

FIRST AMONG PARTIES BJD names 9 LS, 54 Assembly candidates

Women get 33% of LS seats

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday announced the party's first list of candidates for nine out of 21 Lok Sabha and 54 out of 147 Assembly seats. Incidentally, the BJD is the first among the parties to come out with poll candidates' lists. The nine Lok Sabha candidates include Chandra Sekhar Sahu (Berhampur), Kousalya Hikaka (Koraput), Achyuta Samanta (Kandhamal), Puspendra Singh Deo (Kalahandi), Ramesh Chandra Majhi (Nabarangpur),

Prasanna Acharya (Bargarh), Sunita Biswal (Sundargarh), Pramila Bisoi (Aska) and Kalikesh Singh Deo (Balangir). As per his earlier announcement, Patnaik has chosen women candidates in 33 per cent of the nine LS seats. Koraput and Sundargarh have got women candidates. The candidates who would be in the first phase poll fray include Jagannath Saraka (Bissam Cuttack), Raghunath Gomango (Gunupur), Lal Bihari Himirika (Rayagada), Raghuram Padal (Koraput), Prabhu Jani (Laxmipur), Rabi Narayan Nanda (Jeypore) under the Koraput LS; Sadashiva Pradhani (Nabarangpur), Subash Gond (Umarkote), Manohar

Randhari (Dabugaon), Padmini Dian (Kotpad) and Purna Chanda Baka under the Nabarangpur LS; Dushmanta Naik (Bhawanipatna), Bhupinder Singh (Narla), Dibya Sankar Mishra (Junagarh), Mausudi Bag (Dharmagarh), Rajendra Dholakia (Nuapada) and Lambodhar Nial (Khariar) under the Kalahandi LS and Bikram Keshari Panda (Berhampur), Dr Pradeep Kumar Panigrahy (Gopalpur), Surjya Narayan Patro (Digapahandi), Usha Devi (Chikiti), Subash Chandra Behera (Chhatrapur), Kalyani Gajapathi (Paralakhemundi) and Purnabasi Nayak (Mohana) under the Berhampur Parliamentary constituency. Continued on page 4

Goa CM Manohar Parrikar was cremated with state honours on Monday, with thousands bidding the affable politician a fond farewell. BJP president Amit Shah, some Union Ministers and CMs of BJP-ruled States attended the funeral. Parrikar's eldest son Utpal lit the funeral pyre. The funeral procession started from the Kala Academy where thousands, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, paid their last respects to the former Defence Minister

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Polls for 4 LS, 28 Assembly seats notified

TO BE HELD ON APRIL 11
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday issued a notification for elections to four Lok Sabha and 28 Assembly seats to be held in the first phase in Odisha on April 11.

While polls would be held for Koraput, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi and Brahmapur Parliamentary seats, the Assembly seats which would go to elections in the first phase are Nuapada, Khariar, Umerkote (ST), Jharigam (ST), Nabarangpur (ST), Dabugam

(ST), Lanjigarh (ST), Junagarh, Dharmgarh, Bhawanipatna (SC), Narla, Chhatrapur (SC), Gopalpur, Brahmapur, Digapahandi, Chikiti, Mohana (ST), Paralakhemundi, Gunupur (ST), Bissam Cuttack (ST), Rayagada (ST), Lakshimpur (ST), Kotpad (ST), Jeppore, Koraput (SC), Pottangi (ST), Malkangiri (ST) and Chitrakonda (ST). As per the notification, poll candidates can file nominations from Monday (April 18) till March 25. The verification process of the nomination papers would take place on March 26. The last date for nomination withdrawal is March 28.

Gunupur MLA Trinath Gomango quits BJD

Ahead of being denied re-nomination
PNS ■ RAYAGADA

Apparently being informed that he would not be re-nominated to contest elections this time, Rayagada district's Gunupur BJD MLA Trinath Gomango on Monday resigned from the primary membership of the party alleging "injustice" meted out to him by the party.

Gomango sent his resignation to BJD supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik alleging that he has been neglected, tortured and subjected to injustice in the party.

He said, "Many senior

leaders are giving patronage to several anti-socials in the district.

When I opposed this, they started hatching a conspiracy against me. When I brought the matter to the notice of party president Naveen Patnai, no action was taken in this regard."

"Besides, I and many honest party workers were not even informed about the party's Misrana Parva (joining ceremony) held recently in Gunupur. This shows the party supremo's step-motherly attitude towards tribal people in the constituency," Gomango further alleged.

Gomango, who had joined the BJD in 2009, was elected from Gunupur on the party ticket in the 2014 Assembly elections.

EX-WORKS SECRETARY TO CONTEST POLLS

Coterie of loyal officials to help Nalini Pradhan

CEO's intervention sought to transfer loyalists
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

There are reports that former Works Secretary Nalini Kanta Pradhan, who took voluntary retirement and joined the BJD recently, is likely to be fielded as a party candidate from the Sambalpur Lok Sabha seat, would utilise the services of a coterie of officials of the department, who are loyal to him.

Sources said the as Pradhan was the Chief Engineer of Works Department for a long time before becoming its Secretary, he can influence the local contractors and the coterie of officials to help him in the elections.

Reliable sources said the Roads and Buildings Central Circle Superintendent Ranjit Sahu and the Division -I, Division-II and Division -III Executive Engineers, R and B Cuttack Superintendent Engineer

Bimal Charan Das are loyalists of Pradhan for which they are continuing posted in the same post for years.

Another close confidante of Pradhan is Sambalpur Superintendent Sanjay Kumar Sahu and Division-I and Division-II Executive Engineers. Even though the tainted Panda Infra has been blacklisted by the State Government and debarred from all projects, it has been allowed to carry out construction of the Sambalpur fly-over with the active support of Sahu and Pradhan.

The R and B Brahmapur Superintendent Engineer and Angul Rand B Executive Engineer are also known to be close to the former Works Secretary.

A section of officials of the Works Department apprehend that if these aforesaid officials continue in their presence posts, they would try to influence the elections in Pradhan's favour. They demanded that the State Government and the Odisha Chief Electoral Officer should transfer these officials to ensure free and fair elections.

BJD lifts expulsion order on Ghadai

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR



Ghadai had been claiming at different public forums that he was still in the BJD and praising the developmental programmes of the Naveen Patnaik Government

Ahead of the elections, BJD supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik lifted the expulsion order on former Minister and former Sukinda MLA Prafulla Chandra Ghadai on Monday.

Party State secretary BJD Nayak informed this in a statement.

Notably, Patnaik had expelled Ghadai in September 2014 for his alleged anti-party activities. However, Ghadai had been claiming at different public forums that he was still in the BJD and praising the developmental programmes of the Naveen Patnaik Government.

Ghadai's son Pritiranjana Ghadai is now representing Sukinda in the Assembly

In Brahmagiri, it is fight between BJD and BJP

Cong in hunt for candidate after Lulu's demise

PNS ■ PURI

In the politically troubled-torn Brahmagiri constituency, there is a clear indication that the fight is mostly between the BJD and the BJP in the upcoming Assembly election.

So far as the Congress is concerned, it is still in search of a suitable candidate when filing of nomination is just a couple of days away. The trouble for Congress is the party lacks a face after the demise of fire-brand leader and two-time MLA Lalatendu Bidyadhar (Lulu) Mohapatra.

Lulu's younger brother Lalitendu Bidyadhar

Mohapatra, who is in the ticket race in the BJP, is going to use all his might to get back his family seat. Hence, the fight would be tough this time, sources said.

Though, tickets in both the BJD and the BJP are yet not finalised, sitting MLA Sanjay Dasburma (BJD) and Lalitendu are ahead in the race in their respective parties. For Dasburma, who is a former Minister and frontline leader of BJD, besides its youth wing leader, the election is a prestige issue.

While Dasburma eyes for a third time victory in Brahmagiri after consecutive

two terms based on developmental works over ten years since 2009, Mohapatra will basically capitalize brother Lulu's fame and sympathy after his demise.

Though the number of applicants for ticket in the BJD is unclear, but sources said that the chairman of Brahmagiri block Krunachandra Roy is also in the race to replace Das Burma. As is learnt, Roy has started lobbying in headquarters for ticket, since Dasburma has already enjoyed 10 years and is surrounded by disputes after the chit fund scam.

People's report on M'nadi, JalaSathi released

ActionAid conducts study on river issues
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Ahead of the International Day of Forest and the World Water Day 2019, the ActionAid launched a "People's Report on Mahanadi" and "JalaSaathi", a volunteer engagement programme on the issue of water, here on Monday.

The ActionAid in association with the Sneha Abhiyan in Jagatsinghpur, Seheda in Jharsuguda, Patang in Sambalpur, Focus Odisha Foundation in Khordha, Abhiyan in Boudh, Sanchar in Nayagarh, Mukti and Rashtriya Yuva Sangathan and the Utkal Gandhi Smarak in Cuttack had conducted a study on issues related to Mahanadi in eight districts in Odisha and two districts in Chhattisgarh.

ActionAid regional manager



er Debabrat Patra, natural resource hub head Bratindi Jena, programme manager Biren Nayak, programme officer BN Durga, scribe Sudarshan Chhotray and development researcher Priyabarat

Satpathy released the report. Patra said the study has covered 36 villages in eight districts like Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Subarnapur, Boudh, Angul, Nayagarh, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur,

Khordha and Puri in the State and four villages in two districts Raigarh and Janjagir Champa of Chhattisgarh.

He also said that the aim of the report was to understand the perspective of the people on

the issue of Mahanadi through group discussion and community consultation.

Besides, about 60 community representatives from 12 districts also shared their feedback and suggestions.

CM's 2nd seat choice based on Intel report: BJP

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJP has alleged that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has opted to fight from a second seat in western Odisha on the basis of a report of the State Intelligence that said he might face a defeat in his old Hinjili constituency due to voters' disenchantment on many counts.

"The Director of the State Intelligence had on March 15 written to the Chief Minister's Office and the Director General of Police mentioning that the CM might not win the Hinjili seat this time and suggesting names of four other seats for his win. On the basis of this report, the CM has opted to fight from a seat in western

Tripathy said people of Hinjili have been dissatisfied over distribution of Cyclone Titli compensation and KALIA assistance

Odisha," said Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha president Tankadhar Tripathy at a Press meet here.

He said the four other seats named by the Intelligence were Rourkela, Bijepur, Balangir and Titilagarh.

Tripathy said people of Hinjili have been dissatisfied over distribution of Cyclone Titli compensation and KALIA assistance.

Patients, attendants create ruckus at Capital Hosp

After failing to get registration tickets

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Tension prevailed at the Capital Hospital here on Monday after patients and their attendants failed to avail registration tickets to visit doctors of various departments of the hospital.

The development took place after the staffs at the computerised central registration counter denied them tickets and stopped working alleging nonpayment of their salaries for the last 11 months.

The move of the employees triggered resentment among patients and their attendants who created ruckus at the hospital premises.

"The staffs are claiming that they have not received salary so they would not work. They should have informed about the stir beforehand. We have been in the queue since



early morning," said an attendant.

When questioned, the employees said four of the five

computers at the registration counter developed a technical snag some five days back and they have been issuing hand-

written tickets since then.

Later, police rushed to the spot and pacified the irate patients and attendants.

Youth held for looting Lingaraj Hundi

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Police on Monday nabbed a person from the Kedargouri area under the Lingaraj police station for allegedly stealing money from the Hundi (donation box) installed at the Lingaraj Temple here.

The accused allegedly stole the money from the donation box and fled from the spot on Sunday. Later, the temple administration filed a complaint with the local Lingaraj police.

Acting on the complaint, police initiated a probe and checked the CCTV surveillance footages of the temple. On the basis of the CCTV footage, police apprehended the accused, who is said to be

The accused allegedly stole the money from the donation box and fled from the spot on Sunday. Later, the temple administration filed a complaint with the local Lingaraj police

a native of Balangir district.

While the accused person is in police custody for interrogations, a case has been registered against him under the appropriate sections of IPC, sources said.

Movie 'Biju Babu' trailer, music released

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The trailer and music of feature film 'Biju Babu' was released at the Maharaja Theatre on Monday.

It is acclaimed movie director Dr Nila Madhab Panda's first feature film in Odia. "Biju Babu was awarded the 'Bintang Jasa Utama' (Son of the soil), the highest national award of Indonesia. I want to take this movie to an international platform. The movie will let us know Bijubabu and his philosophies more closely, and I'm sure it will attract audiences from all age groups and will surely turn out to be a great dose of entertainment for everyone," said Panda.

The music for the film has been creatively designed by renowned music director Prem Anand. Top Ollywood singers like Human Sagar, Ananya



SritamNanda, Diptirekha, Ashutosh Mohanty and others have given their voice to the songs.

According to the debutante director duo Devi Prasad Lenka and Vishal Mourya, the

film has an absolutely commercial format with four fantastic songs, lots of drama, action, romance and comedy. However, it's not a biopic on Biju Patnaik. The film that embodies the ideology, spirit,

and charisma of the great leader, is all set to create history in Ollywood.

The lead actor of the film superstar Anubhav Mohanty, said, "I'm feeling really proud that for the very first time in

The lead actor of the film superstar Anubhav Mohanty, said, "I'm feeling really proud that for the very first time in Odisha, a film is being made on a great personality, that too on our very own Biju Babu and I have been chosen to play the lead in it"

Odisha, a film is being made on a great personality, that too on our very own Biju Babu and I have been chosen to play the lead in it."

"What an amazing experience it was to work in this film 'Biju Babu,' said lead actress Supriya Nayak.

Hold polls by month-end: HC to Bar Council

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Orissa High Court on Monday directed the State Bar Council to ensure elections to form the executive bodies of all the 167 bars in the State by this month-end on the principle of 'one bar, one vote'.

The High Court also quashed the February 24 resolution passed by the Bar Council in which at least 12 bar associations, including the Cuttack Bar Associations, were given the liberty to hold their elections at a later date.

Deciding over a PIL filed in this connection, a Division Bench headed by Chief Justice KS Jhaveri made it clear that the elections to different bars should be made simultane-

The High Court also quashed the February 24 resolution passed by the Bar Council in which at least 12 bar associations, including the Cuttack Bar Associations, were given the liberty to hold their elections at a later date

ously on the principle of one bar, one vote.

Briefing reporters, senior advocate Ashok Mohapatra said the High Court has acted

in accordance with a judgment passed earlier by the Supreme Court. "Even, the Bar Council of India and the State Bar Council have passed similar resolutions," he said.

The 'one bar, one vote' rule was set by the Supreme Court in 2015 to identify the number of genuine advocates practicing in different courts of the country. "The rule allows multiple memberships of different bars but one voting right to a lawyer.

The Bar associations of the State have already been provided with their respective voters' lists indicating the individual advocate's choice of the bar to participate in the annual elections to form its executive body by the end of March.

VIOLENCE AT LANJIGARH VEDANTA

Two killed in lathicharge, 144 clamped by admn

Vedanta says all issues can be resolved amicably through talks

PNS ■ BHAWANIPATNA

The vicinity of Vedanta Alumina here turned into a war zone when Odisha Industrial Security Force (OISF) personnel resorted to a lathi-charge to disperse the factory's contract labourers, who were staging an agitation demanding jobs for locals on Monday.

Two persons were killed and at least 30 others sustained injuries in the lathi-charge.

The labourers were staging a dharna in front of the main

gate of Vedanta Alumina. But when OISF personnel asked them to disperse, the agitators armed with lathis indulged in vandalism and tried to barge into the plant premises. They also torched the security guard shed and vandalised vehicles parked in front of the factory.

Later, the OISF resorted to lathi-charge injuring 30 labourers. Though the injured were rushed to the refinery hospital immediately, a labourer and an OISF staff succumbed to the injuries at the hospital.

As the situation went out of control, the district administration clamped prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPC in front of the factory's main gate.

The Vedanta spokesperson in a release said, "This



morning, some agitators near our Lanjigarh plant staged a protest which led to a violent agitation. The local Odisha Industrial Security Force per-

sonnel (OISF), who intervened, moved to the local hospital. According to the hospital authorities, one protestor and one OISF staff have succumbed to injuries."

"We are deeply saddened by the news and we offer our condolences to the families of the deceased. We would work with full cooperation with the appropriate authorities who would be looking into the incident. We sincerely appeal to the protestors not to resort to such acts when every situation can be resolved amicably through discussions," the release stated.

OISF Inspector Ashok Kumar Roul in a statement said, "There was an agitation at the Vedanta plant in Lanjigarh this morning. Our staffs were brutally attacked by the agitators and we had to act in our

defence and as well as people around us. The agitators attacked us and pelted stones. They were extremely violent and refused to calm down despite several attempts by the OISF personnel."

"When the attack got severe our personnel attempted to push back the crowds and calm the situation. During this act a few people were injured and were moved immediately to the Lanjigarh Government Hospital. According to the local authorities, an OISF staff member and a protestor have died due to their injuries. We would submit our statement to the authorities and provide every support to resolve the matter. We urge the people of Lanjigarh block to maintain peace," said Roul.

INBRIEF

40-KG BOMB, PISTOL SEIZED IN GAJAPATI JUNGLE

Paralakhemundi: Police seized a tiffin bomb and a country-made pistol from a jungle along Paniganda-Toranpani road under the Adaba police limits in Gajapati district on Monday. The security personnel found the ammos during a combing operation expedited ahead of General Elections in the Maoists-hit area. The bomb, weighed about 40 kg, was defused by experts. A case was registered and further investigations were on.



MAN KILLS 75-YR-OLD FATHER, ARRESTED IN BARGARH

Bargarh: A 75-year-old man was allegedly killed by his son over a family dispute at Dabha village under the Jharbandha police limits in Bargarh district on Sunday night. The deceased was identified as Parsuram Sahu. Sources said Kampal Sahu (38) axed his father to death following a verbal duel over some family issue. He later buried the body inside his house to evade arrest. Suspecting his activities, locals informed police, who reached the spot and began an investigation into the incident after arresting Kampal.

NINL POSTS BEST SINTER OUTPUT WITH 11.25L TONE

Bhubaneswar: With 11, 25,770 tonne sinter output till March 16 in the present financial year, the Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) has registered its best ever production figure in a fiscal since inception. The integrated steel plant has surpassed its previous best output of 11, 24,300 ton in 2013-14. On March 11, with 7, 20,803 tonne output in the present financial year, the NINL had posted its best ever hot metal production in a fiscal. The company has planned to adopt Coal Dust Injection (CDI) technology at its blast Furnace which would result in improvement of techno economic parameters and enhance hot metal productivity. The adoption of the technology would also save the company around Rs 200 crore per annum.



State hydropower to get a boost

As sector now gets renewable energy status

BHUBANESWAR: With renewable energy status given to the hydropower sector, Odisha will be reaping benefits in a big way as the State holds vast scope for development of the green energy sources.

Earlier, the State Government had time and again requested the Union Government in this regard and with such a favourable decision, Odisha will be benefitted in a big way, senior officials admit.

The Union Government's recent decision for providing renewable energy status for large hydro projects has come as a boon for the State, which has large numbers of hydel power plants and there is more scope for generation of power from the sector, said a senior official in Department of Energy.

The Odisha Government recently had urged the Union Government in Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to categorize hydro power project with capacity of 25 Mega Watt (MW) and above as renewable energy, which has been conceded.

Officials feel this will boost hydro power generation and by adding hydro power as renewable energy, generation of 25.5 Giga Watt of renewable energy by 2022 will be possible.

At present, hydro power tariff is expensive than other sources of energy and this step will help rationalize the tariff by hydro power projects.

With such a favourable decision, large

hydro power projects would be allowed reduction of tariff after increasing project life to 40 years and increasing debt payment period to 18 years, said official sources.

Earlier, Odisha submitted that as the Union Government is considering the proposal to categorize hydro units with 25MW capacity and above as renewable energy, all the new and up-coming as well as existing hydro projects be kept under Non Solar Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) within renewable energy spectrum.

The State Government had justified that all hydro power projects, new, old, small, medium and large, are renewable in nature.

Under the backdrop, decision taken by the Union Government will promote hydro power generation including providing budgetary support for flood moderating cost and enabling infrastructure cost.

It will help in tariff rationalization measures to reduce tariff and thus the burden will be lessened on consumers, said an official.

Making another request, Odisha had also urged for financial support for small hydro projects, which were provided till March 31, 2017 to be extended for another five years.

Odisha has huge scope for small hydro power projects and due to absence of such financial support, projects were not taking off. Now promoters are upbeat with change of policy by the Union Government, said sources.

Police crack B'pur cement shop loot

Parents of accused held; ₹2.74L, bike recovered

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Brahmapur police cracked the Gourilundi cement shop loot case by arresting parents of the accused, a minor, here on Sunday.

The arrestees were identified as Mahendra Kumar Patro and his wife.

The police have recovered ₹2.74 lakh out of the stolen amount of ₹5.25 lakh and a KTM Duke motorcycle, which was purchased with the looted money. However, the main accused, a minor boy, is still at large.

It may be mentioned here that ₹5.25 lakh had been looted from a cement shop named Siva Shakti Agency here on Friday. Acting on the complaint lodged by the owner, police conducted investigation and found the minor to have committed the loot. Then police made the seizures, amounting to ₹4.45 lakh, and nabbed his parents.

RISING CRIMES IN BALESWAR

Man's body with injury marks seized

In another case, businessman shot at

PNS ■ BALESWAR

Two incidents of crimes that took place on Sunday evening rocked north Baleswar. While in one incident, unidentified miscreants shot at a young trader at Tarini Temple Chhak under Baliapala block, in another incident, a 48-year-old man was found dead in his village with stabbing injuries.

The deceased was identified as Bibhutibhusan Jena of village Khuluda under Jaleswar police limits, the victim which survived bullet attack was identified as Soumyadeep Chakravorty.

In neither of the cases, police have nabbed the culprits. According to sources, Bibhutibhusan's body was found near Gajiani on the road between Jaleswar - Paschimbad.

His body was spotted by the pedestrians on the road. Besides stabbing injuries in his stomach, his throat was slit, suggesting that he was killed with a sharp weapon.

The police have seized a mobile phone near the body and begun investigation to ascertain the reason of murder.

In the shootout case took place at around 5 pm while victim Soumyadeep was in front of his shop.

Two bike-borne miscreants approached him and shot one round of bullet which struck his back, before fleeing away. Soumyadeep, who bled profusely in the attack somehow managed to take a lift from a passer-by biker and reached a nearby hospital riding pillion. He was later shifted to the Baleswar District Headquarters Hospital.

While the cause behind the attack is not known, a past enmity mainly due to sand quarrying and lifting from the Subarnarekha river bed is suspected. However, the police have not clarified the cause yet.

Bagchi resigns as OSDA chief

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

IT firm Mindtree cofounder Subroto Bagchi has resigned as the Chairman of the Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA) to protect the company from a hostile takeover.

Taking to the Twitter on Sunday, Bagchi mentioned about his resignation and his return to Bengaluru to save the Mindtree.

"Mindtree has not been designed as an 'asset' to be bought and sold. It is a national resource. It has a unique culture that humanizes the idea of business. It sets the standards of corporate governance. I need to be there in its time of difficulty. Hence the hard decision



to return," Bagchi posted on Twitter.

Notably, Bagchi had been appointed as OSDA Chairman on May 1, 2016 with a status of the Cabinet rank Minister.

IN SUNDARGARH

2 women among 3 killed in car-truck crash

Another woman seriously injured

PNS ■ SUNDARGARH

Three persons, including two women, were killed and another suffered critical injuries in a collision between a car and a truck on Biju Expressway near Jarangloi village in Sundargarh district on Sunday night.

The deceased were identified as Sajjan Agrawal, Urmila Devi and Nirmala Devi. The injured woman identified as Sangeeta Agrawal was admitted to hospital.

Sources said the four persons hailing from the Birmitrapur area had gone to Sambalpur to attend a cultural event. While returning at around 11 pm, the car by which they were travelling hit



the truck from behind. While three died on the spot, critically injured Sangeeta was first rushed to the Sundargarh

District Headquarters Hospital and later shifted to a Rourkela medical. It was suspected that the

accident occurred due to speedy driving of the car. The driver fled the spot after the accident.

RACE FOR BJD TICKET FOR CHAMPUA

Kusha Apat's show of strength in Naveen Niwas

PNS ■ CHAMPUA

After a report was published in *The Pioneer* on March 17 under the caption "Meenakshi Mahanta might be BJD choice for Champua" as BJD supremo and that CM Naveen Patnaik has agreed to a proposal of Champua MLA (Independent) Santatan Mahakud to field her as BJD candidate, there is a revolt among the cadres of Mahakud.

This was evident on Sunday when Naltu Mahanta, a Councillor of the Barbil Municipality and said to be a close aide of Mahakud, along with his hundreds of supporters went to the Naveen Niwas being led by senior BJD leader Kusha Apat to show their solidarity with Kusha Apat and not with Mahakud. They pleaded that Naveen



Patnaik should give a chance to Kusha Apat to contest the elections from Champua so that BJD would have a better chance of winning. Minister Badri

Narayan Patra, who represents Keonjhar district, was also present when the team met the Chief Minister. Notably, Meenakshi

Mahanta is the wife of Bhakta Mahanta, another close associate of Mahakud, who himself does not want to contest elections this time.

Unconscious man declared dead by doctor in Bhadrak

Family lodges complaint with police

PNS ■ BHADRAK

In a serious case of medical negligence, an unconscious man was allegedly declared dead by a doctor and sent for postmortem at the District Headquarters Hospital on Sunday.

The incident came to light in the morning after the patient Sujit Khatua of Khatuapatna village under the Dhusuri police station, regained consciousness ahead of post-mortem being conducted on him.

Sources said Khatua was admitted to the hospital for treatment on Saturday. But the attending doctor Karunakar Rout allegedly declared him dead and reportedly informed



Khatua's family that his post-mortem would be conducted in the morning.

However, Khatua gained consciousness in morning and was shifted to Medicine Ward for treatment. His condition is reportedly stable, sources said.

Later, Sujit's brother filed a complaint against the attending

doctor Rout at the Bhadrak police station in connection with the incident.

"The doctor was dozing while he was examining the patient and declared him dead. He also referred him for post-mortem. I want the doctor to be punished for his negligence," said Sujit's brother.

Fake currency unit busted at P'khemundi

PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

A fake currency smiting unit, operating from a rented house at Sridharnagar in the town was busted by police on Monday and two persons were arrested in this connection.

Acting on a tipoff, a team of the Paralakhemundi police led by SDPO TP Patra conducted a raid on the house and seized counterfeit currency notes of ₹500 amounting to ₹2.5 lakh, chemicals, paper and other materials used in manufacturing fake currency.



The arrestees were identified as Karunakar Parida (39) of Mahadeipur village in Gajapati district and Santosh Majhi (40) of Basundara village in Srikakulam district of neighbouring Andhra Pradesh. Meanwhile, the duo is being interrogated to ascertain, who else are involved in the racket and other information.

Model Code breach: Cash, vehicle seized in S'pur

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

The district administration has geared up to implement model code of conduct (MCC) in letter and spirit in all the four Assembly constituencies under Sambalpur Lok Sabha seat.

As part of the first exercise, police and a flying squad accompanied by executive magistrates seized vehicles and cash from different persons who have been unable to explain the purpose of carrying cash.

Notably, one has to account for cash in possession if it is more than ₹50, 000.

As per the code of conduct for the election, each vehicle to be used for election has to take prior permission. At the same time, one has to clarify the purpose of carrying cash of ₹50, 000 or more and also explain the source.

"But three cases of irregularities have come to the notice of the officials engaged in checking of vehicles at different locations," informed Sambalpur ADM Ajay Kumar Jena.

In the first case, the police at Jujomura, seized a Bolero bearing No OR 15M 5151 engaged in electioneering for an aspirant BJP candidate. Tehsildar of Jujomura Susanta Nayak seized the vehicle and handed it over to the police there as it had no permission for the purpose, the ADM informed.

"The Tehsildar and team have also made video shooting of the entire episode so that no one can find an escape route in future," he added. Further, the flying squad seized ₹1 lakh from one Anil Kumar Sahu, a resident of Hirakud under Sambalpur Assembly constituency. When

Sahu couldn't give any satisfactory reply as to carrying of the cash, the squad handed over the cash to Dhanupali police and registered a case against him.

In the second case, the flying squad seized ₹2 lakh from Antaryami Pradhan, a resident of Deogarh district. The cash was seized near Ardabahal village coming under Kuchinda constituency. The squad handed over the cash in the nearest police station at Mahulpali. Keeping in view to the general election and the money game by different political parties, the police and flying squad are now making massive checking in important roads and chowks.

"Nobody will be spared from police checking and very stringent action will be taken against those violating the model code of conduction," ADM Jena warned.

Fresh probe begins into D'nal BJP activist murder

Salman Rout was killed during violence in panchayat polls

PNS ■ DHENKANAL

Angul District Additional ASP Jadunath Hansdah on March 16 reached Tarava in Dhenkanal district along with BJP Kishan Morcha leader Er Debashisa Hota to conduct a fresh inquiry into the BJP leader Salman Rout murder case during the last Panchayat election.

by the Dhenkanal SP was not accepted as neutral and fair by complainant Hota whose comments were sought by the Commission.

Hota had prayed the NHRC to discard the report of the Dhenkanal SP and sought payment of compensation and punishment to the then In-charge of Dhenkanal Sadar police station for misuse of power by ordering lathi-charge, falsely implicating and arbitrarily arresting the family members of the deceased.

The Commission considered the matter and directed the DGP Odisha to get a fresh enquiry conducted by a senior police officer of the district other than from Dhenkanal and submit the report within six weeks along with copy of injury report and treatment



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record of the policemen and injured persons. Further NHRC directed for involving Er Hota and his witnesses in the fresh inquiry process. Notably, after the political murder of Salman Rout during

last panchayat elections, the accused had allegedly threatened the eye witnesses in front of the then Dhenkanal Sadar IIC Gyana Ranjan Samal to kill them if they fight for justice.

The police had lathi charged female relatives including mother of slain Rout. Minister and Kamakhyanagar BJD MLA Prafulla Mallick allegedly had pressurized the police and Government machineries to save his close aide who was behind the murder. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had met the parents of deceased at Tarava and suggested them to move the NHRC. Obeying Pradhan, Hota had lodged a case before the NHRC on behalf of the bereaved family members.

Nalco holds Hindi Hasya Kavi Sammelan



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The National Aluminium Company Limited (Nalco)

organised a Hindi Hasya Kavi Sammelan here on Monday. Nalco CMD Dr Tapan Kumar Chand inaugurated the event

by reciting a few lines of his own poetry. Five eminent poets, Chakachoundh Gyanpuri of Varanasi, Sabrasa Mursani, Sringar Malika Poonam Srivastava, Bhushan Tyagi and Salim Shiwali, delighted the

Five eminent poets, Chakachoundh Gyanpuri of Varanasi, Sabrasa Mursani, Sringar Malika Poonam Srivastava, Bhushan Tyagi and Salim Shiwali, delighted the audience with their heart-touching humorous poems.

Eminent persons of Bhubaneswar, officials of PSUs and Hindi lovers of the city along with employees of the Nalco and their family members enjoyed the event. Kamala Nehru Women's College Hindi Department HOD V Ramalaxmi anchored the programme.

Delhi's Odishi danseuse performs Hamsadhvani



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Delhi-based Odishi danseuse Pritika Kalra Gandhi performed Odishi rendition 'Hamsadhvani' at an event, 'Vasant Utsav', held at the Bhanja Kala Mandap here on Monday.

On the occasion, Pritika, a passionate classical dancer since 20 years, was conferred with an appreciation award amidst an august gathering of dance performers, dance lovers as dance critics. Pritika has travelled globally spanning several coun-

tries to share the beauty and rich cultural heritage of India through her dance. While at Delhi, Pritika continues to invest her energies in the youths and children imparting among them a sense of pride in their culture through the medium of dance training.

BJD names 9 LS, 54...

From page 1
The Assembly candidates announced by the BJD for the second phase polls are Manjula Swain (Aska), Purna Chandra Swain (Surada), Nandini Devi (Sanakhemundi), Naveen Patnaik (Hinijili), Srikant Sahu (Polasara), Latika Pradhan (Kabisuryanagar) and KK Suryamani Baidya (Khalikote) under the Aska LS constituency, Chakradhar Kanhar (Baliguda), Saluga Pradhan (G Udaygiri), Pradip Kumar Amat (Boudh), Mahidhar Rana (Kantamal), Bikram Keshari Arukha (Bhanjanagar) and Ramesh Behera (Daspalla) under the Kandhamal LS seat; Tukuni Sahu (Titlagarh), Saroj Meher (Patnagarh), Niranjani Pujari (Sonepur), Ajay Das (Kantabanji) and Padmanabha Behera (Biramaharajpur)

under the Balangir LS seat; Debesh Acharya (Bargarh), Snehangini Chhuria (Attabira), Susanta Singh (Bhatli), Bijay Ranjan Singh Bariha (Padampur), Naveen Patnaik (Bijepur) and Naba Kishore Das (Jharsuda) under the Bargarh LS seat and Jogesh Kumar Singh (Sundargarh), Mangala Kishan (Rajgangpur), Stephen Soren (Talsara), Sarada Prasad Nayak (Rourkela), Subrat Tarai (Raghunathpali) and Ranjit Kishan (Bonai) under the Sundargarh Parliamentary constituency. From the list, it is known that candidates for the four Assembly seats to go to polls in the first phase on April 11 and five candidates for the second phase polls on April 18 have not been announced by the ruling party.

Boudh consumer court Steno held for graft

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Vigilance police on Monday caught Boudh Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum president's Steno Manmath Kumar Gadnayak red-handed while he was accepting a bribe of ₹3,000 from one Satya Pradhan of village Nuapalli in the district. Gadnayak had demanded the bribe for expeditious disposal of the complainant's consumer case against the officials of Southco for arbitrary enhancement of his energy charges.

Gadnayak had demanded the bribe for expeditious disposal of the complainant's consumer case against the officials of Southco for arbitrary enhancement of his energy charges
Based on the complaint, the Vigilance sleuths laid a trap and caught the accused while taking the bribe money. His residential quarter at Boudh was searched. Gadnayak was arrested and forwarded to court.

BJP's 'Main bhi chowkidar' campaign won't give jobs: Capt

PNS ■ PATIALA

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Monday mocked the Bharatiya Janata Party's 'Main Bhi Chowkidar' election campaign as a ridiculous 'jumla', which will not solve any real problems of the people of India. "Such slogans do not help fill the stomachs of our poor people, they do not give jobs to our youth," Capt Amarinder said in an informal chat with media-persons after a meeting with MLAs, zone in-charges and heads of front organizations of Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) from

Patiala, convened to review the party's preparedness from the Patiala constituency. The 'jumla' party failed to deliver on any promise all these years, and was now resorting to more 'jumlebaazi' in a desperate bid to win votes, said the Chief Minister, adding that the people of India were fed up with these hollow slogans and promises. They wanted to know what the BJP-led Government had done for them in the last five years, he added. Declaring the PPCC to be fully prepared for the Lok Sabha polls, Capt Amarinder said that he was confident that the party would win all the 13 seats in Punjab.

LS poll between 'Chowkidar' and 'Baildaar', says BJP

Ranchi: State BJP Spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo today said that the 2019 Lok Sabha election will be fought between the 'Chowkidars', who guarded the country's borders and the 'Beldar' leaders of the Congress, who are roaming out after taking bail from courts. Shahdeo said that the first family of Congress is on bail. "Congress president Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi are on bail in the National Herald case. Robert Vadra is also free on interim bail. The Congress ally RJD is being operated from jail. The entire group of them is of the leaders

who are facing corruption cases. On the other hand, every citizen of the country, under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, is playing the role of alert watchman. Our borders have become safe. The enemy does not look through our eyes. It knows that the main 'Chowkidar' of the country takes revenge of a martyr by 10 enemies." Shahdeo said that the agenda for the forthcoming elections is clear. On one hand, there is an honest watchman and on the other side the 'baildaar' Congress and other Opposition leaders. PNS

BJP may field 3 sitting MPs and 7 new faces in Haryana

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The BJP is likely to field three sitting MPs in Haryana while new faces will be seen on seven other Lok Sabha seats in the state. Haryana BJP election committee in its meeting held in New Delhi on Monday discussed probable candidates on 10 Lok Sabha seats in the state. At present, the BJP has seven MPs in the state. The election committee is believed to have given nod to the candidature of sitting MP Rao Inderjit Singh from

Gurugram, Krishan Pal Gurjar from Faridabad and Rattan Lal Kataria from Ambala. The three MPs were also present during the meeting in New Delhi. Kalraj Mishra, in-charge for the Lok Sabha elections in Haryana, Chief Minister Manohar Lal, party's co-in-charge for Lok Sabha polls in Haryana, Vishwas Sarang, party's Haryana in-charge Anil Jain and Cabinet Ministers were present in the meeting. Sources said that the party is unlikely to field BJP MPs Ramesh Chander and Dharmveer again from

Sonepat and Bhiwani-Mahendragarh constituency respectively and discussed probable candidates for the two seats. Earlier, it was speculated that new faces will be fielded from Karnal and Kurukshetra seats, represented by BJP's Ashwini Kumar Chopra and rebel BJP leader Raj Kumar Saini. However, the party is now gearing to field new faces from Jat dominated seats of Sonepat and Bhiwani-Mahendragarh as well. The names of IAS Brijendra Singh, son of Union Minister Birender Singh, CM's

media advisor Rajiv Jain, party leader Krishna Gahlawat were discussed for Sonepat seat in the meeting. Three-time former MP Arvind Sharma, who had joined the BJP last week is also seen as a contender from Karnal, Rohtak and Sonepat seat. Union Minister Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, the seven-time BJP MP has expressed interest to contest from Karnal constituency while the party also discussed the possibility of her candidature from Kurukshetra constituency. The names of two other contenders for the BJP ticket in

Karnal - Sanjay Bhatia, an aide of Chief Minister and Kiran Chopra, wife of sitting BJP member Ashwani Chopra - were also deliberated upon. For Rohtak seat, names of Arvind Sharma, OP Dhankar, Shamsher Singh Kharkara are under consideration, sources said. Candidature of singer Hans Raj Hans is being considered for Sirsa constituency (reserved), names of MLAs Nayab Saini and Pawan Saini were discussed for Kurukshetra and candidature of Finance Minister Capt Abhimanyu and IAS Brijendra Singh were discussed for Hisar

seat. After the meeting, Anil Jain, in-charge for Haryana party affairs, while talking to the mediapersons said that we have many ticket aspirants for 10 parliamentary seats in the state. Discussion was held on probable candidates on 10 seats and party's campaign strategy for Lok Sabha polls, Jain said. The committee has given the responsibility to Kalraj Mishra, Vishwas Sarang, Haryana CM, Subhash Barala to finalize the candidates and submit the list to the BJP central election committee, he added.

Scions of HP veterans eyeing party nomination

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Dynasty is alive and kicking in the hill state of Himachal Pradesh. Sons and grandsons of political veterans from the state, from both BJP and Congress, are eyeing nomination of their respective parties for the Lok Sabha polls. Former Union Minister Sukhram's grandson Aashray Sharma is eyeing a BJP ticket for Mandi Lok Sabha seat with Himachal's former Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh's son Vikramaditya

Singh hoping to get that of Congress for the 2019 polls. Neither the ruling BJP nor the Congress, however, has yet finalised their candidates for any of the four Himachal Lok Sabha seats - Shimla, Mandi, Hamirpur and Kangra. In a recent Facebook post, Shimla Rural MLA and a scion of erstwhile princely state Bushahar, Vikramaditya Singh, said, "I have not applied for ticket from Mandi seat as my father has taught me to control my ambitions."

Cong plans bus-yatra in Haryana to put up united face in polls

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Congress, which is plagued by factionalism and infighting in Haryana state party unit, is planning to launch a bus yatra to bring all its warring state leaders together in view of Lok Sabha polls. The voting to 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana is scheduled to be held on May 12. The Congress has planned to launch a bus yatra to carry out its election campaign on 10 Lok Sabha seats in the state. "We are hopeful that travelling and dining together during the course of the campaign through bus yatra will help to iron out differences among the state party leaders and put a united front against the BJP in Haryana," said Congress general secretary in-charge of party affairs in Haryana, Ghulam Nabi Azad while talking to the mediapersons on Monday in New Delhi. He was accompanied by Haryana state party chief Ashok Tanwar. Azad also announced that the coordination committee for Lok Sabha polls for

Haryana Congress. He said that the committee is headed by former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and has 15-member as announced in the previous order, which was withdrawn on Friday. The faction-ridden Haryana Congress is at present desperately looking to make a comeback in the state. Haryana Congress is divided in two dominant groups each led by state party chief Ashok Tanwar, a dalit leader and former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, an upper caste Jat. When asked about infighting in the Haryana Congress, Ghulam Nabi Azad said, "I have planned that all party leaders will travel in a bus across the state while campaigning for polls so that the leaders can resolve their differences and the party can present a united face in polls." "The details of the yatra will be finalized. I had started this bus yatra model nearly 20 years ago when I was in charge of the party's affairs in Karnataka and then replicated it successfully in Andhra Pradesh. I am sure that it would work in

Haryana too," Azad said. The senior Congress leader added that his experience in Andhra, back in 2003-2004, was that while the leaders may have their personal feuds, after they travel together for a few days, spend time with each other, the differences disappear. When asked if he is sure that the model will work in Haryana, which is suffering from factionalism since long, Azad said, "Andhra was a bigger state at that time. Haryana is comparatively a smaller state with 10 Lok Sabha seats and 90 assembly seats. After Lok Sabha polls, assembly polls are also scheduled to be held later this year." We have another 6-8 months before the state assembly elections are here and we would try to touch all assembly constituencies during this bus tour and strengthen the party, he added. Azad, who was appointed as in-charge of Haryana Congress unit in January is yet to visit Haryana and conduct a meeting of state party unit in the state. The Congress leader said that his appointment has come a little later but he

is confident that the party will perform well in Haryana in the polls. The parliamentary election in Haryana are much later in the sixth phase and a date for the launch of the poll campaign would be decided soon, he added. Notably, the faction led by former CM Hooda had been demanding to make him the state party chief. Last year, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, along with his 12 loyalists MLAs had carried out a rath yatra to connect with the people of all 90 constituencies while his detractor Ashok Tanwar had kicked off a cycle yatra in the state. Apart from factions of Hooda and Tanwar, senior leaders including Kumari Selja, Randeep Surjewala, Kuldeep Bishnoi, Kiran Choudhry heads other factions within the party. The Congress could retain only one Lok Sabha seats out of 10 in Lok Sabha polls 2014. In assembly polls held later that year, the party was reduced to 15 seats, even losing the status of the main opposition party to the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) in the state assembly.

The number of Congress MLAs had later increased to 17 after Kuldeep Bishnoi's HJC's merger in the party in 2016.

COORDINATION COMMITTEE TO MEET TODAY
Chandigarh: Three days after withdrawing the order of coordination committee list for Haryana Congress, the party on Monday issued the same list. The coordination committee will be headed by two-time former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and have 15 members including state party chief Ashok Tanwar, CLP leader Kiran Choudhry, MLA Randeep Surjewala, Rajya Sabha MP Kumari Selja, MLA Kuldeep Bishnoi, Mahender Pratap Singh, Ajay Singh Yadav, Rohtak MP Deepender Singh Hooda, former MP Navin Jindal, Kailasho Saini, Anil Thakkar, MLA Kuldeep Sharma, MLA Jaivir Singh Balmiki and Sardar Jaipal Singh Lali were members of the committee. While announcing the coordination committee for Lok Sabha for Haryana

Congress, party leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, said the order was withdrawn last week because the party wanted to declare a few other committees for Haryana simultaneously after ensuring that all important leaders of the state representing various castes and parts of Haryana were accommodated. He maintained that the remaining committees including campaign committee, management committee for Lok Sabha will be announced in a few days. The announcement of coordination committee had on Friday last reportedly upset Hooda and his loyalists, who had been demanding his appointment as state party chief. Hooda, however denied such reports and maintained that the party is united. "The coordination committee will meet on Tuesday to chalk out strategy for Lok Sabha polls," he said while talking to the mediapersons in New Delhi. Hooda said that the party is united and is confident of winning all 10 seats in Haryana in general elections 2019.

For Bihar alliance Cong acquiesce with 10 seats

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With stalemate over seat-sharing amongst the Bihar grand alliance partners continuing, the State Congress leadership is believed to have communicated to the high command to take the decision at the earliest keeping in mind the necessity of being in the mahagathbandhan.

The final decision has to be taken by Congress president Rahul Gandhi within a day and that AICC sources said to keep the alliance intact the Congress is ready to accept 10 seats against its persistent demand of 11 Lok Sabha seats of the total of 40 Bihar Lok Sabha seats and thus pave way for the success of the grand alliance to take on the might of NDA.

BPC president Madan Mohan Jha sought to refute reports of a rift, claiming "we have made no demands. Seat-sharing talks are making good progress."

The elections have just begun. Wait for two-three days and you will come to know our formula as well as other details," Jha said who reached Delhi to convey the feelings of Bihar to the central leadership.

The "mahagathbandhan" in Bihar formally acknowl-

edges Congress, RJD, Upendra Kushwaha's RLSP, Jitan Ram Manjhi's HAM, Sharad Yadav's LJD and Mukesh Sahni's VIP as its constituents. Attempts are being made by Madhepura MP Pappu Yadav whose wife Ranjeet Ranjan is a Congress MP to seek entry into the formation though the same is being opposed by the RJD which had fielded him on its ticket five years ago but expelled him later on disciplinary grounds.

Sharing of seats in the grand alliance has been hampered by squabbles between smaller partners like the RLSP and the HAM with each party demanding a share that was bigger than what the other was to get.

Sources also say that things have reached an impasse on account of the Lalu Prasad's RJD asking the Congress to be content with eight seats, but the latter is making a "demand" of not less than 11. Four of the 40 Lok Sabha constituencies in Bihar would go to polls in the first phase, notifications for which have been issued on Monday.

The current impasse surfaced following RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav indicating "fissures" as crisis deepened in the



Bihar mahagathbandhan. Amid hard bargaining by smaller parties, the major players — RJD and Congress — have locked horns over the seat sharing arrangements.

Bihar political sources said RJD supreme Lalu Prasad, who is in jail (currently in hospital), is keeping close watch over the development and determined that the RJD will not contest less than half of the total 40 seats.

RLSP's head Upendra is pressing for not less than four seats while HAM supreme

Jitan Ram Manjhi too is not budging from his demand for equal number of seats.

AICC sources said RJD is not ready to give more than eight to nine Lok Sabha seats to Congress which had already finalised its candidates on 11 seats for the ensuing polls.

In the given scenario, if the Congress too sticks to its position, the RJD will have to sacrifice at least four seats to accommodate others allies of the mahagathbandhan. And this is something Lalu is not

going to accept at any cost, said a senior party leader.

One of the constituent CPI(ML) too has asserted that decisions relating to the state "could not be taken while sitting in New Delhi." "You cannot take a decision about Bihar by holding parleys in New Delhi."

You have to be here, among the people of the state, to assess the situation on the ground and then take a realistic decision," CPI(ML) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya stated.

Notification for first phase of Lok Sabha polls issued

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Setting in motion the high-voltage electoral battle, the Election Commission (EC) on Monday issued a notification for the April 11 first phase poll for 91 Lok Sabha seats in 20 States and Union Territories across the country.

With the issuance of the notification, the nomination process has begun which would continue till March 25. Simultaneously, notification was also issued for Assembly elections in four States - Andhra Pradesh (all 175 constituencies), Odisha (28 of total 147 constituencies), Sikkim (all 32 constituencies) and Arunachal Pradesh (all 60 constituencies).

All the constituencies in both the Telugu-speaking States Andhra Pradesh and Telangana will go to polls on April 11 in the first phase. In the first phase, voting will take place in Andhra Pradesh (25 seats), Telangana (17),

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Uttarakhand (5), Arunachal Pradesh (2), Meghalaya (2), Mizoram (1), Nagaland (1), Sikkim (1), and the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar (1) and Lakshadweep (1), the notification said. Eight constituencies (out of 80) in Uttar Pradesh, two (of 42) in West Bengal, four (of 40) in Bihar and two (of 6) in Jammu & Kashmir will also go to

polls in the first phase. The electorate in five (of 14 constituencies) in Assam, one (of 11) in Chhattisgarh, seven (of 48) in Maharashtra, one (of two) in Manipur, four (of 21) in Odisha and one (of two) in Tripura would also cast their votes in this phase, the notification said.

Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal will see polling in all the seven phases. Saharanpur, Kairana, Muzaffarnagar, Bijnor, Meerut, Baghpat, Ghaziabad (VK Singh) and Gautam Buddha Nagar (Mahesh Sharma) will vote in the first of the seven-phase general elections.

The Jammu and Baramulla seats in Jammu & Kashmir will also go for polling in the first phase.

All the 175 Assembly seats in the Andhra Pradesh assembly, 60 of Arunachal Pradesh, 32 of Sikkim and 28 of Odisha's 28 assembly seats will also cast their vote in the first phase on April 11.

Union Culture Min calls Priyanka 'Pappu ki Pappi', gets slammed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Culture Minister and BJP MP Mahesh Sharma has kicked up an unsavoury controversy by describing Congress president Rahul Gandhi as "Pappu" and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as "Pappu ki Pappi" during a poll campaign in Gautam Buddha Nagar, inviting sharp riposte from the Opposition.

A purported video of Sharma's speech in his parliamentary constituency's Sikandrabad area has gone viral on social media in which he is seen condemning not only Gandhi family politicians, but also other regional leaders including BSP supreme Mayawati, TMC chief Mamata Banerjee and SP president Akhilesh Yadav.

"Pappu kehna hai main prime minister banunga... Mayawati, Akhilesh Yadav, Pappu... Aur ab 'Pappu ki Pappi' bhi aa gayi hai. Wo Priyanka kya pehle hamare desh ki beti nahi thi kya, Congress ki beti nahi thi kya, aage nahi rahegi kya? kya naya leke aayi hai?" (Pappu says he wants to become Prime Minister. Mayawati, Akhilesh Yadav,

Pappu... And now 'Pappu ki Pappi' has also arrived! Wasn't Priyanka already a daughter of this nation, a daughter of the Congress. And would she not remain so in future? What new has she brought in?), he told a crowd of his supporters during his speech delivered on March 16.

Regional politicians like West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee or her Karnataka counterpart H D Kumaraswamy would make no difference to the local people even if they were "to come dance or sing" here, Sharma said.

"If Mamata Banerjee dances Kathak (a classical dance form) here, Kumaraswamy, the CM of Karnataka, comes and sings a song here, who is going to listen to them? They have just 72 seats (in Lok Sabha). How will they get 200 more (for a simple majority)?" the Minister said. Congress national secretary and UP-west co-in-charge Dheeraj Gurjar slammed the Minister for his remarks.

"As are his thoughts, so are his words. Being on such a responsible post, Sharma ji has made such a remark against a

woman! It is condemnable," Gurjar told PTI. "The BJP on its own should take some action against him."

Sharma also claimed opposition leaders do not want a strong Government at the Centre but a weak one. They want to support "Pappu, who has remained a Pappu", he said. He also attacked the Congress party for keeping the Nehru-Gandhi family at the helm.

"First (Pandit Jawaharlal) Nehru, then (former PM) Rajiv Gandhi, then Sanjay Gandhi, thereafter Rahul (Gandhi) and now Priyanka (Gandhi Vadra)...And if there will be another, it will also be a Gandhi. Are they doing some favour to the country?" he asked.

"If you want to rise above them, you can see only one tiger and that is (Prime Minister) Narendra Modi," he said.

Gautam Buddha Nagar goes to polls on April 11 in the first of the seven-phased Lok Sabha elections. Sikandrabad, which geographically falls in the Bulandshahr district, is a part of the Gautam Buddha Nagar parliamentary seat.

Cong united in Haryana, says Azad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Seeking to scotch speculations about a rift in its State unit, the Congress on Monday said it is united in Haryana and will display this unity when leaders undertake a bus yatra to launch its election campaign there. It denied differences among functionaries over a state coordination committee meeting being called off after being announced.

Congress general secretary in-charge of Haryana Ghulam Nabi Azad's remark came days after a coordination committee in Haryana was withdrawn soon after it was made public.

Reportedly, a section in the state unit expressed resentment over inclusion and exclusion of some leaders in the panel. Two days ago, the party had announced the coordination committee for the State and later withdrew it, but there was no major reason, he said.



Manish Khanduri, BJP leader Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri's son addresses a Press conference after joining Congress, in New Delhi on Monday

The committee is likely to meet on Tuesday with former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda as its chairman, Azad said.

The Congress leader has

denied any resentment or differences over the committee's formation.

In its proposed meeting on Tuesday, it would decide the date for the launch of the "bus

yatra" as part of its Lok Sabha poll campaign in the State, Azad said.

Polling in 10 Lok Sabha seats in the State will be held on May 12.

The bus yatra would also mark the party's campaign for the assembly elections slated later this year, he said. "We will now follow the Andhra-Karnataka model, which I had started about two decades back, to put all the leaders in one bus and take them around," Azad said.

The Congress did it in Karnataka in 1999-2000 and in Andhra Pradesh in 2003-2004, he said.

"They are different before entering the bus, but when they come out of the bus after a few weeks, they are one. Twenty leaders become one. When they speak from one stage, when they eat from the same plate, they become one. So, we are working out this plan for a bus tour," Azad told reporters here. During the yatra, he said, leaders would be laying the foundations of the party's campaign for the Assembly elections.

India, Japan discuss scourge of terrorism threatening world

New Delhi: The scourge of terrorism threatening the world figured prominently during the talks between India and Japan when a parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Chairman Harivansh visited that country recently. Noting that terrorism tops the list of all existential threats that the world faces today, the Deputy Chairman thanked Japan for expressing solidarity with India in its fight against global terror.

The Speaker of House of Representative, Japan with whom the delegation interacted condemned terrorism and assured assistance to India in its fight against terrorism. Deputy Chairman expressed that given the close friendship among

the people of two countries, growing engagement in many fronts, the future of India-Japan bilateral relation is full of promise and potential.

The Indian delegation included Bhubaneswar Kalita, Shamsheer Singh Manhas and Banda Prakash (all Members of Rajya Sabha), the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha and other officials of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, an official press statement from the Rajya Sabha said.

The Indian delegation interacted with their Japanese counterparts under the aegis of Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League (JIPFL). Appreciating the role of JIPFL in providing bipartisan political support for strengthening

relations between Japan and India, Harivansh said it would be ideal if the Upper Houses of the both Parliaments sign an agreement to strengthen parliamentary cooperation for which the work is underway.

Referring to the Summit meeting in 2018 between both the Prime Ministers, which achieved numerous milestones covering areas as diverse as economic cooperation, maritime security, new and digital technologies, agriculture, food processing and healthcare partnership, the Deputy Chairman called upon the Japanese companies to participate in flagship initiatives such as Make in India, Digital India, Skill India and Smart cities.

Acid attack uncivilised, heartless crime, does not deserve any clemency: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has said that acid attack is an "uncivilised and heartless crime" which does not deserve any clemency.

The apex court observed this while asking two convicts, who have already undergone five year jail for throwing acid on a 19-year-old girl in 2004, to pay ₹1.5 lakh each as additional compensation to the victim.

The court also asked the Himachal Pradesh Government to pay compensation to acid attack survivor under the Victim Compensation Scheme.

"Indeed, it cannot be ruled out that in the present case the victim had suffered an uncivilised and heartless crime committed by the respondents (two convicts) and there is no room for leniency which can be conceived," a Bench of Justices

AM Khanwilkar and Ajay Rastogi said.

The bench further said, "A crime of this nature does not deserve any kind of clemency. This court cannot be oblivious of the situation that the victim must have suffered an emotional distress which cannot be compensated either by sentencing the accused or by grant of any compensation."

The court delivered its verdict on an appeal filed by the state challenging the March 24, 2008 judgement of the Himachal Pradesh High Court which had reduced the 10-year jail term awarded to both the men by a trial court to five years.

According to the victim, she was on her way to college on July 12, 2004 when the two men came on a two-wheeler and threw acid on her and fled the spot. She had suffered 16 per cent burn injury in the incident.

Indian Army holds exercise with 17 African nations

New Delhi: With the objective of fostering closer military ties with African nations, the first ever Africa-India Field Training Exercise-2019 called AFINDEX-19 started in Pune on Monday and will end on March 27. At least 17 nations from the African continent are taking part in the exercise to plan and conduct humanitarian mine assistance and peace keeping operations under Chapter seven of the UN Peace Keeping operations.

Giving details of the inaugural conclave, officials said here on Monday the exercise will focus on exchange of best practices between the participating nations, team building and tactical level operations in conduct of United Nations mandated tasks to include establishment of a new mission, siting of a United Nations Headquarters for Peace Keeping operations, siting of Military Observer sites during the peace keeping missions, protection of civilians, nuances of standing combat deployment, convoy protection,

patrolling aspects and aspects related to humanitarian mine assistance.

The participating countries from Africa include Benin, Botswana, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe came together for the opening ceremony along with a contingent of Maratha Light Infantry representing India.

Major General Sanjeev Sharma, General Officer Commanding, Golden Katar Division, who was the Chief Guest for the opening ceremony, reviewed the parade, in presence of a large number of Defence Attaches and other officials of the participating countries. A fly past by a set of Advanced Light Helicopters and Cheetah Helicopter of the Indian Army carrying the flags of United Nations, India and the AFINDEX was the highlight of the opening ceremony.

142 per cent rise in assets of 153 MPs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The average assets of 153 MPs who were re-elected in 2014 grew by 142 per cent, averaging ₹13.32 crore per MP, with Shatrughan Sinha, Pinaki Mishra and Supriya Sule sharing the top honours. Among the MPs, the highest rise of ₹116.73 crore was made by Shatrughan Sinha, who was with the BJP. In 2009, his assets were around ₹15 crore which went upto ₹131 crore in 2014.

Pinaki Mishra of Biju Janata Dal (BJD) showed an increase of ₹107 crore in his assets, to ₹137 crore in 2014. The third highest jump was made by Supriya Sule of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) whose assets climbed from ₹51 crore in 2009 to ₹113 crore in 2014.

According to Election Watch and Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR), average asset growth for 153 MPs in five years (from 2009 to 2014) was ₹7.81 crore.

The independent public research groups compared financial details submitted by 153 MPs who were re-elected in 2014.

The study found that average assets of these MPs in 2009 was ₹5.50 crore which more than doubled to ₹13.32 crore.

Among the top 10 high net worth MPs include Harsimrat Kaur Badal of Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) at number 6 and Varun Gandhi of the BJP at 10th slot. Gandhi had shown his assets to be only ₹4 crore in 2009 which jumped to ₹35 crore in 2014.

At the party level, 72 BJP MPs showed an average jump of ₹7.54 crore while 28 Congress MPs had an average rise of ₹6.35 crore in their assets.

Among top leaders, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's assets went up from ₹2 crore in 2009 to ₹7 crore in 2014.

Ramappa Temple named for World Heritage site tag

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Having been pipped by Jaipur City last year, the 800-year-old Warangal-based Ramappa Temple, the only temple in the country named after its sculptor Rampapa, has been nominated for the UNESCO World Heritage site selection process for 2019. It is India's only entry this year. The Archeological Survey of India (ASI) has written to the UNESCO for its nomination, said sources in the premier conservation agency under the Union Culture Ministry.

Located in Palmapet in Mulugu district, the Ramappa Temple, also known as the

Ramalingeswara Temple, dates back to 1213 AD during the period of the Kakatiya ruler Ganapati Deva. Now the temple, known for its architectural marvel is under the protection of the Kakatiya Heritage Trust (KHT) that has been pushing it for the World Heritage tag since 2012, even before the formation of the Telangana State.

The dossier was submitted to the Centre in 2018 along with the dossier of Jaipur city. Both technically qualified but the Centre chose Jaipur city over Ramappa Temple in 2018. Now, said an official in the ASI, the temple has become the country's only nomination for



the World Heritage site selection process.

While many structures of the 1200 AD era are now in poor status, this temple, dedicated to God Shiva seems to have remain untouched by the vagaries of the weather. For instance, there are cracks from the beams on the temple floor but despite this, the structure has not collapsed. "The temple roof (garbhayam) of the temple is built with bricks which are so light that they can float on water. Also, it is built on the sand box technology, which made it resistant to earthquakes and other natural calamities. Depending on the size and area of the construc-

tion, the earth was dug three meters deep for the foundation. It was then filled with sand and for the sand mixture to become strong, it was mixed with granite, jaggery and Karakkaya (Chebula)," said the ASI official.

Another unique feature of the temple is that it was carved with dolomite rocks, which are so intricate that even a hair can pass through it. The pillars have 13 significant carvings, probably indicating the thirteenth century during which the temple was built. Every Shivratri, a Hindu festival dedicated to Lord Shiva, the temple witnesses huge congregation of Hindu devotees.

Bengal heads for 4-corner LS poll fight

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With alliance talks between the Congress and the Left Front almost crumbling down, Bengal tended to head for a four-corner fight in the general elections. Leaders from both the parties said they had not been approached by the other side after Saturday evening.

Subsequently Pradesh Congress president Somen Mitra on Sunday night flew to Delhi with a list of 42 probable candidates for party president Rahul Gandhi's approval. PCC leaders on Monday said Gandhi had "given his go-ahead and anytime soon the AICC may declare a preliminary list of 12 or 15 candidates."

Even as Congress on Monday went ahead with its decision to announce its candidates' list the Left tended to take a cautious approach withholding its decision for the remaining 17 seats which it had left out pending seat-sharing discussions between the two sides. Amidst talk process the Left had earlier announced its list of 25 candidates.

There has considerable

pressure from subaltern ranks in both the sides party source said. "We want an alliance. The leaders should shun their personal ego and look at the interests of the common people who have been suffering at the hands of TMC," said Abu Akhtar a Congress worker from Kolkata said.

"We want an alliance to resist both the TMC and BJP as both are the two sides of the same coin," said Samarpan another Congress worker from Kasba blaming party MP Pradip Bhattacharya and Deep Dasmunshi for the failure of talks.

CPI(M)'s Dilip Jana wanted the party to "shed its big-brother attitude and follow the path shown by the great Jyoti Basu to sew up the alliance."

The Congress had been asking for 18 seats while the Left was not willing to part with 13-14 seats. Out of the 18 seats the major bones of contention was Purulia --- from where the Congress had in 2014 polled about 2.5 lakh votes whereas the Left had got 3.25 lakh votes---and Basirhat where the Left and Congress got about 2.84 lakh and 1.20 lakh votes

"WE WANT AN ALLIANCE TO RESIST BOTH THE TMC AND BJP AS BOTH ARE THE TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN"
— CONG

respectively.

The Congress had also been asking for Raiganj seat where former Union Minister Deepa Dasmunshi had in 2014 lost out to the Left Front's Md Salim by a wafer-thin margin of 1,300 votes. With the "CPI(M) trying to dictate its terms on us" and with Rahul Gandhi categorically asking the State party units "not to make compromise on the party's prestige we had no other way but to stop the talks."

Both the parties had jointly contested the Assembly elections in 2016 with the Left Front managing to get nearly 90 percent of its votes transferred to the Congress whereas the latter managing to transfer about 74 percent of its votes transferred to the Left. "Had the Congress been able to transfer its votes like we did we would have formed the Government," said a senior PCC member adding "Though out of 294 the Alliance got 77 seats we lost out to the Trinamool Congress in 70 seats by small margins of 150 to 4,000 votes."

Keeping that prospect in mind a number of leaders on both sides had been asking for alliance between "particularly because the Election Commission looks more serious beginning its area domination exercise pretty early."

While the Congress was almost ready with its list of 12 candidates sources told your reporter that the party could field Priya Roy Chowdhury from Coochbehar, Sukh Bilas Burma from Jalpaiguri, Shankar Malakar from Darjeeling, Deepa Dasmunshi

from Raiganj, Isha Khan Chowdhury from Malda North, his uncle AH Khan Chowdhury from Malda South, Adhir Chowdhury from Behrampore, Abhijeet Mukherjee from Jangipur, Abu Hena from Murshidabad, Nepal Chandra Mahato from Purulia.

The Left Front however was holding a marathon meeting on its next strategy. Insiders said that one group in the Front was for leaving the 17 seats to the Congress irrespective of the other party's stance which would not only save the CPI(M) from allegations of spoiling the alliance but also keep doors of talks open.

The second groups wanted to go it all out to give the Congress the real feel of its strength in the State. The third opinion wanted to leave 11-13 seats --- including the 4 seats the party had won in 2014 --- for the Congress.

The BJP which had fast come up as the prime opposition party in the State on the other hand was likely to announce its own list of candidates on Tuesday, party sources said.

On campaign trail from Didi's home constituency

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Untimely spells of squalls over the past a few days seem to have given the Trinamool Congress' candidates a respite from early summer heat which is easily visible from the face South Kolkata party nominee Mala Roy.

Taking advantage of the "extended Spring," Roy the Chairman (equivalent to Speaker of a State Assembly) of Kolkata Municipal Corporation and a "homemaker to the hilt" has drawn forward the fervor of Holi by a few days even as she plays with colour while in election trail.

"Everyone has a child hidden inside. I too am no different. So when I have found this opportunity to play with Aabir" or Gulal (dry colours), "particularly with the children of the neighbourhood," she says liberally smearing faces with green Aabir.

And why does she use green only? "There is no hard and fast rule about colours. Spring is the season of colours. Any colour can be used. Green however is more favourite because it carries a meaning. It is more akin to nature," she

sounds philosophical adding her party has no problem with colours as "we use blue, pink, yellow and many other hues."

Roy and her husband a former TMC MLA and a scholar have been in and out of the party on more than one occasions. The couple had left the Congress to join Mamata Banerjee's battle against the Left Front before coming back to the parent party. Subsequently she joined the TMC again in 2015 to become a councillor and then the Chairman of KMC. Ever since, she has been loyal to the party.

"I am a loyal soldier of Mamata Banerjee. She has asked me to go, contest and win the polls from a constituency one represented by herself. I will try my level best to do that" she says in the midst of taking a mid-day leave of a couple of hours when she goes back home to have a light dinner with rice, fish, curry, neem-brinjal fry and some chutney. "I take plenty of water during my campaigns," she says aware that her constituency was once represented by the likes of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee.

She contesting against

CPI(M) candidate Dr Nandini Mukherjee a professor of computer science from neighbouring Jadavpur University.

"Yes South Kolkata is a highly conscious political constituency," she says adding however the people here "are traditionally Congress-Trinamool Congress and lately Mamata Banerjee-oriented. So I am confident that I will win."

Banerjee had once won this seat by a huge margin of 2.35 lakh votes she reminds not forgetting however that BJP candidate Tathagata Roy had in 2014 elections come second taking a lead from a couple of Assembly segments.

On the possible Left-Congress alliance she says, "I don't consume rejected stuffs," and on BJP one of her party men says "western disturbances do come occasionally only to fade away with time," reminding the "people of Bengal are largely not communally oriented. You can firm up some support by confusing nationalist and communal ideas but permanently the fight will remain between Left ideology and the one preached by Mamata Banerjee."

AIADMK re-nominates just six of its 37 MPs

KUMAR CHELAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Stage is set for the 'mother of all battles' in Tamil Nadu. Both the DMK and the AIADMK, the two main protagonists, announced the names of candidates and constituencies from where the parties would lock horns for controlling the State as well as the Centre.

Voters in Tamil Nadu will decide on April 18 which political formation should rule not only the country but also the fate of the Edappadi Palaniswamy government in the State. This is because the by-polls to be held on the same day to 18 assembly constituencies is crucial as well as critical for both the AIADMK and the DMK.

There are two more fonts in the State in addition to the two fronts led by the traditional rivals, the AADMK and the DMK. The AMMK led by TTV Dhinakaran (who was eased out of the AIADMK along with his aunt and former Jayalalithaa aide V K Sasikala) and film actor-turned politician Kamal Haasan too are in the fray in all the constituencies. While the AMMK is having an electoral alliance with the SDPI, an Islamic extremist outfit, the Makkal Neethi Maaiam of Kamal Haasan is fighting all the

39 seats on its own.

Though Tamil Nadu will see four-cornered contests in all the 39 Lok Sabha constituencies and the 18 assembly by-polls (this may go up to 21 by-polls as the apex court would decide by this weekend the pleas by the opposition DMK to conduct the by-polls in three more vacant seats which are enmeshed in legal imbroglio), the main fight would be between the fronts led by the AIADMK and the DMK.

The AIADMK leadership had shown that it is no different from the DMK in dynasty and family politics. The list of AIADMK candidates include P Raveendranatha Kumar (son of deputy chief minister O Panneerselvam), Manoj Pandian (son of former Speaker Paul Pandian) and VVR Rajan Sathyan (son of Madirai MLA Rajan Chellappa) who will contest from Theni and Madurai respectively. J Jayavardhan, who is seeking re-election from Chennai South is the son of AIADMK senior minister D Jayakumar.

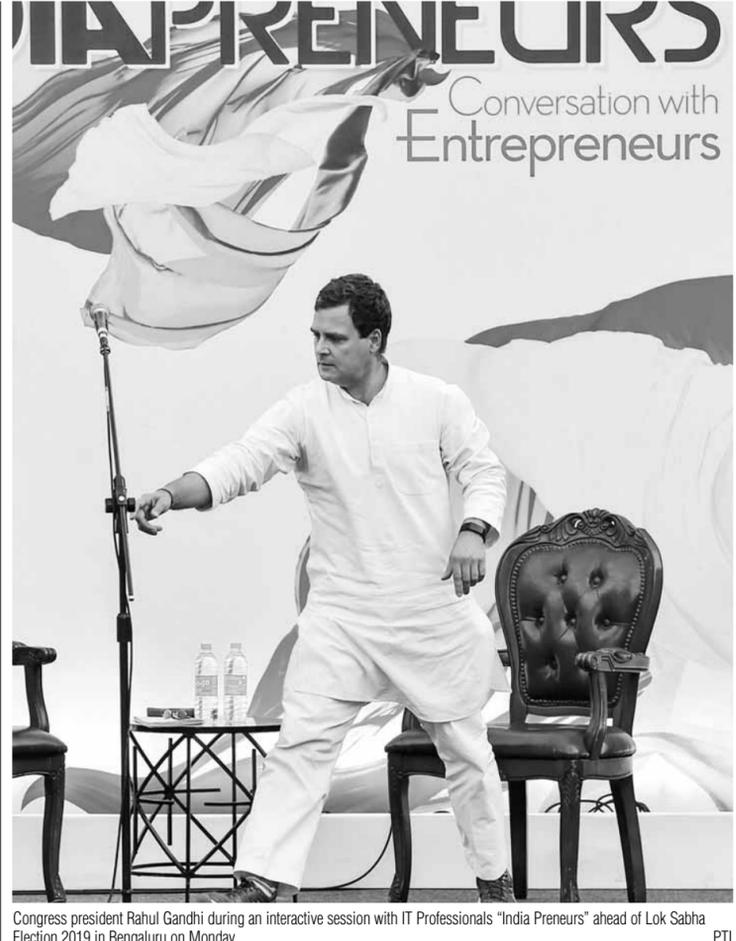
Interestingly, only six of sitting 37 MPs who won the 2014 Lok Sabha election have been re-nominated to contest this time. The party leadership has brought in the old war horses like KP Munusamy and Agri SS Krishnamurthi to take on the

challenge posed by the break-away AMMK faction.

While the AMMK is sure to erode the strength of AIADMK in some of the constituencies dominated by the Thevar community (the community to which Dhinakaran, Sasikala belong), what type of damage the MNM would cause is yet to be seen. Kamal Haasan, who prefers to be addressed as Ulaga Nayakan (Global Hero) is yet to declare the ideology of the party though it has seen many leaders making an exit.

The AMMK would contest from 38 constituencies in the State leaving one seat to the SDPI. "It is certain that the AMMK and the MNM would end up as also ran in this battle. These parties are unlikely to make any impact in this election. The DMK is having an overall advantage in this election," said Sam Rajappa, veteran commentator.

But T Ramakrishnan, author and columnist is of the view that one should not underestimate the AIADMK led front. "TTV Dhinakaran will pose problems. But Eda Palaniswamy and Panneerselvam are seasoned politicians who are capable of springing surprises. This is an open match in spite of the fact that DMK-led front has a slight edge," said Ramakrishnan.



Congress president Rahul Gandhi during an interactive session with IT Professionals "India Preneurs" ahead of Lok Sabha Election 2019 in Bengaluru on Monday

Attempt made to fuel communal hatred ahead of elections in Gorakhpur

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the first phase of Lok Sabha polls inching closer, some unidentified miscreants tried to fuel communal hatred in the sensitive Gorakhpur by throwing broken idols in Padri Bazaar area on Monday morning.

Luckily, the local police responded to an SOS in time and assured the agitated people of initiating stern action against the perpetrators.

A heavy police force was later deployed to avert any untoward incident.

The police also registered a case against unknown persons and started investigation.

As per reports, residents of Padri Bazaar area in Gorakhpur where shocked to find at least 12 broken idols strewn at the roadside on Monday morning. The idols from Natveer Baba temple and other roadside places of worship were dumped there after damaging them.

As the news of recovery of broken idols spread, hundreds of local residents converged on the spot within no time and raised slogans against the police and one community, alleging its hand in the mischief.

On learning about the

incident and the protest, a police team led by senior officers rushed to the spot and defused the situation. They assured the agitated mob that the idols would be repaired or replaced and the culprits would be brought to justice in the shortest possible time.

Circle officer of Gorakhnath, Pravin Singh, said that prima facie it appeared to be an act of mischief and a probe was underway.

The police were trying to identify those responsible for the incident.

Meanwhile, in Muzaffarnagar, a 17-year-old Dalit girl was gang-raped by five youths at Phulat village under Ratanpuri police station on Sunday evening and the entire act was filmed by the miscreants. After a case was registered, the police arrested three of the accused.

As per the report lodged by the girl's brother, she had gone to the field on Sunday afternoon to collect fodder for cattle when the five accused forcibly dragged her to a secluded place and took turns with her.

The miscreants filmed the entire act and threatened to make the video public if she reported the matter to anyone.

Advantage Chidambaram as his adversary joins DMK

KUMAR CHELAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

In what could be a major relief to Congress strongman and former union finance minister P Chidambaram, AIADMK leader Raja Kannappan quit the party and joined the DMK on Monday. Raja Kannappan had filed an election petition in Madras High Court challenging the election of Chidambaram from the Sivaganga Lok Sabha constituency in the 2009 General Election. Though it is more than decade since he filed the petition, the case is getting dragged on much to the relief of Chidambaram.

The victory of Chidambaram in the 2009 election was shrouded in controversy from the day the results were announced. Though the returning officer initially declared that Chidambaram lost the election, the former had to retract the announcement. At the end of the day Chidambaram was declared elected by a wafer thin majority of 3354 votes, the lowest margin of victory from south India.

Raja Kannappan's argument was that the data entry operators employed in the counting station by the then DMK government entered the votes polled by him in the account of Chidambaram and vice versa. J Jayalithaa, the then Leader of the Opposition

herself wrote to the Chief Election Commissioner stating that Chidambaram's win was by fraudulent means and not based on the votes cast by the electorate.

Chief minister J Jayalithaa, in a letter to the chief election commissioner in 2011 had said that during counting of votes in the 2009 Lok Sabha election, 'blatant irregularities' were committed by the Data Entry Officers at Sivaganga to further the poll prospects of Chidambaram.

Jayalithaa said in the letter that 3400 votes polled by Kannappan from 11 polling stations were entered in favour of Chidambaram and 1617 votes polled by the later were entered in favour of the AIADMK candidate. She said this was done by the DEOs at the behest of the then DMK government and no action was taken against the operators who indulged in such grave offences.

"The votes that were physically entered by the counting agents/ counting officers of Kannappan were deliberately changed by the DEOs at the time of making entries in Form-20. A comparison of the hand written entries made by the counting agents of Kannappan and the entries made by the Data Entry Operators in Form 20 would clearly reveal that the votes polled in favour of Kannappan were entered with mala fide intention to favour

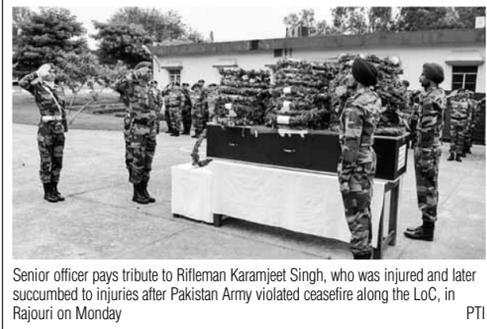
Chidambaram and facilitate his fraudulent victory," Jayalithaa had told the CEC.

Though the case was filed in 2009, the court is yet to complete the hearing. "For five years, Chidambaram played all tricks to get the case derailed. Once the court agreed to take up the case, it took us nearly three years to collect the evidences and submit the evidences. Then there were the routine delays due to retirement of judges and court holidays," explained Saravana Kumar, the Madras High Court lawyer pursuing the case.

He said though Raja Kannappan had crossed over to the DMK, it would not affect the case. "He would not be able to withdraw the case as that stage is over. We expect the court to pronounce the verdict in this year itself" said Saraana Kumar.

Raja Kannappan jumped the fence on Monday and went to the DMK camp as the AIADMK leadership overlooked him while selecting the candidates for the Lok Sabha election. Chances are that his case against Chidambaram may remain as the longest fought election petition in the country. Tamil Nadu electorate are electing their MPs on April 18 and there is no possibility of any verdict in this case by that time. As tennis commentators say, it is Advantage Chidambaram.

Jawan martyred in LoC crossfire



Senior officer pays tribute to Rifleman Karamjeet Singh, who was injured and later succumbed to injuries after Pakistani Army violated ceasefire along the LoC, in Rajouri on Monday



Rifleman Karamjeet Singh

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A 24 year old Rifleman Attained martyrdom in a fresh incident of ceasefire violation along the line of control in Keeri Battal area of Sunderbani sector of Rajouri district early Monday morning. Three other soldiers of the Indian army also received injuries and were rushed to the nearby army hospital.

Tension prevailed in the area following fresh escalation since late Sunday evening.

According to Lt- Col Devender Anand, Ministry of Defence Spokesman in Jammu, "Pakistan army initiated 'unprovoked' ceasefire violation by shelling forward areas and targeting Indian posts along the line of control in Sunderbani sector Sunday evening at around 6.30 p.m." The firing continued in the area for about four hours, local reports claimed.

After a brief lull, Pakistan army once again resorted to heavy shelling early Monday morning in the same sector at around 5.30 a.m. In response, Indian army retaliated strongly and effectively. As the firing continued Rifleman Karamjeet Singh received critical injuries and later he succumbed to his injuries. Lt Col Devender Anand said, "martyred army jawan hailed from Janer village of Dharam Kot tehsil in Moga district of Punjab and is survived by his parents".

Unarmed youth killed by terrorists in Pulwama

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Terrorists shot dead another 'unarmed' youth outside his home in Reshipora area of Tral in South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Monday evening.

The deceased has been identified as Mohsin Ahmad Wani son of Gh Mohammad Wani.

According to ground reports, "Wani was shot at by terrorists outside his home in Reshipora village of Tral on Monday evening". He was shifted to sub district hospital in the area where doctors declared

him brought dead.

This is the fifth incident since past week in which civilians were targeted by terrorists and four among them later succumbed to their injuries.

A civilian, a woman SPO and an army deserter were killed and a National Conference (NC) leader was injured in these firing incidents.

On Saturday, a woman Special Police Officer, Khusboo Jan, was killed by terrorists in Shopian inside her house.

On Thursday terrorists abducted 40-year-old Manzoor

Ahmad Lone from his home in Dogripora village, Awantipora in Pulwama and later dumped his body in an adjoining village.

Same day terrorists shot at and injured National Conference block president Mohammad Ismail Wani outside his home at Bibheara in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

On Wednesday, terrorists killed 37-year-old youth Showkat Ahmad Naik outside his home at Pinglina village in Pulwama district. Naik had joined the Army but deserted during training in September last year.



An artist applies colours on a foreign tourist during Holi festival celebrations in Pushkar on Saturday

Parrikar cremated with state honours

IAN S ■ PANAJI

The last rites of Goa Chief Minister and former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar, who died on Sunday after suffering from pancreatic cancer for over a year, were held with full military and state honours at the Miramar beach here on Monday evening.

Thousands of supporters and BJP workers accompanied the funeral cortege from the Kala Academy Arts and Cultural Centre, where the remains had been kept throughout the day for the public to pay last respects to the newly Miramar beach.

The mortal remains of Parrikar, wrapped in the national tri-colour, were placed on a pyre amid a 21 gun salute at the beach and his elder son Utpal Parrikar consigned it to flames.

Parrikar, 63, is survived by two sons, two daughter-in-laws and a grandson.

Top BJP leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP President Amit Shah, Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Nitin Gadkari, Smriti Irani, Suresh Prabhu and Ramdas Athawale offered



Mortal remains of Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar being taken to BJP office from his residence in Panaji on Monday PTI

The mortal remains of Parrikar, wrapped in the tri-colour, were placed on a pyre amid a 21-gun salute at the beach and his elder son Utpal Parrikar consigned it to flames

floral tributes to Parrikar.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis also paid his last respects.

Parrikar was Chief

Minister of Goa on four separate occasions, but could not complete a single term in office.

He served as Defence Minister in the Narendra Modi cabinet from 2014-17 before returning to state politics.

His death has triggered a political crisis in Goa, with the BJP being unable to come up with an alternative Chief Ministerial candidate, who is acceptable to coalition allies.

IIT-Bombay to hold condolence meet for alumnus Manohar Parrikar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) will hold a condolence meet on Monday evening to pay tributes to their alumnus, Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar, who died after a long illness.

The meeting will be held at 5 pm at the institute's P C Saxena auditorium here, an IIT-B spokesperson said.

Parrikar, 63, who had also been the defence minister, died on Sunday evening at his private residence in Goa after battling a pancreatic ailment since over a year.

In 2017, he addressed the 55th convocation of the Mumbai-based institute where he told the graduates to take up jobs in social and development sectors.

An alumnus of the famed institute, he also asked students to join politics and the Army, said a former IIT-B student who was present at the convocation ceremony.

Modi reaches Goa to pay last tribute to ex-Def Minister

PTI ■ PANAJI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday paid tribute to Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar, who died of pancreatic cancer on Sunday.

After arriving in the coastal state, Modi reached the Kala Academy in Panaji where he paid his last respect to the 63-year-old senior leader. He met Parrikar's family members and offered his condolences to them.

Defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman also met Parrikar's family members. Earlier in New Delhi, a Union Cabinet meeting was convened to condole the demise of Parrikar, following which Modi left for Goa.

BJP president Amit Shah will also be in the coastal state to take part in the funeral procession of the late leader, the party said.

The chief minister's body has been kept at the Kala Academy to allow the public

pay their tributes.

Earlier in the morning, his mortal remains were kept the BJP office in Panaji, located around three km from the Kala Bhawan, for the party leaders and workers to pay their last respects.

Parrikar, a four-time chief minister, died at his private residence Sunday evening after battling the pancreatic ailment since February last year. The IIT graduate represented Panaji Assembly seat in the state for over two decades.

Parrikar's final journey will begin after 4 pm.

His last rites will be performed at 5 pm at the Miramar beach here, next to the memorial of Goa's first chief minister Dayanand Bhandodkar, who was also cremated there.

Parrikar would be accorded a state funeral with full military honours, according to the home ministry. The central government has announced national mourning on Monday.

Cabinet: Goa CM will be remembered for simplicity

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Monday condoled the demise of Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar, saying he will be remembered for his simplicity and as an exceptional administrator. Terming Parrikar as Chief Minister of commoners, the Cabinet resolution remembered his contribution to the welfare of armed forces and ex-service men.

After observing a two-minute silence, the Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi passed a resolution which said, in his death the country has lost an able administrator who was affectionately called the "chief minister of commoners".

"Shri Parrikar will be remembered for his simplicity and his abilities as an exceptional administrator. His contribution to the building of modern Goa and to the modernization of India's Armed Forces as well as improvement to the lives of ex-Servicemen will never be forgotten," the resolution read. **PNS**

When Manohar Parrikar helped shooter Tejaswini take aim

Mumbai: When a young and little known Tejaswini Sawant was in urgent need of financial help to participate in a shooting world championship in Germany, Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar came as her ray of hope.

The support not only enabled the shooter from Kolhapur in Maharashtra to participate in the competition in 2005, but also became a turning point in her career as she scaled new heights thereafter, Sawant said.

Her only regret now is that she could not thank the chief minister enough for his generosity which made a big contribution in her life and shooting career.

"It was a brief meeting with Parrikar along with family friend and senior BJP leader Chandrakant Patil. He just listened about my performance and estimated the expenditure. He then signed a cheque for me immediately," the ace

shooter recalled while talking to PTI over phone.

"The amount was around Rs 1 lakh and it was the most needed help for me that changed my entire career," she said.

It helped Sawant move ahead as she scored 397 and 396 out of 400 in two rounds of the event, comfortably securing a place among the mainstream shooters to represent India.

The boost further helped her in improving her performance game by game, and she subsequently became the first Indian woman shooter to win a gold medal at the World Championships, with a world-record equalling score in the 50m rifle prone event in 2010 in Germany.

"I could do it only because of two people. First, Manohar Parrikar for his trust and financial support, and then Chandrakant Patil, who took my case to Parrikar," she said.

Since 2006, Sawant won several gold and other medals

in international championships.

She said after the early success in her career, she received offers for a job in the Goa government and financial help for travel and training expenses till she wanted to play.

"I regret that I could never thank Parrikar properly for his contribution in my life and career," the shooter said while expressing her grief over his demise.

When contacted, Patil, who is currently Maharashtra's revenue minister, said he shared close ties with Parrikar.

He said when Sawant approached him, Parrikar's name came to his mind and he called up his number for help.

"He was like that (generous). In case of Tejaswini, Parrikar helped her in his own capacity. He didn't use the government money. Though he spent from his pocket, he never brought up the issue in our subsequent conversations," Patil said. **PTI**

PEOPLE THROUGH PANAJI STREETS TO PAY LAST RESPECT TO PARRIKAR

Panaji: Thousands of people thronged the streets of the state capital Monday to catch a final glimpse of Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar, who died of a pancreatic ailment, as his mortal remains were brought to the BJP office here for party workers to pay their last respect.

His remains would be taken to Kala Academy, around three km from the BJP office, later on Monday, to allow the public pay their tribute to him.

A pall of gloom descended on the BJP office and hundreds of Parrikar supporters turned emotional when his mortal remains, wrapped in the tricolour, was brought there.

The truck carrying the 63-year-old chief minister's body travelled 5 km from his private residence in Dona Paula to Panaji, as people tried to catch sight of the popular leader, who rose from the small coastal state to become the country's defence minister. **PTI**



Sand artist Manas Sahoo makes a sand art to pay homage to Goa's Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar, who passed away battling pancreatic ailment yesterday, in Puri, Monday **PTI**



An artist paints graffiti at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST) railway station platform as a part of Swachhha Bharat Abhiyan in Mumbai on Monday **PTI**

6 sailors rescued from capsized tug off Mumbai coast

Search is on for one remaining crew member

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A team of Indian Coast Guard (ICG) personnel rescued six members on board a tug "Revti" after it capsized in the Arabian Sea off the Worli Seaface in south-central Mumbai on Monday.

The ICG personnel were continuing their search one missing crew member from the capsized tug.

"Revti" was on way from Mumbai to Tarapur when the mishap took place. There were in all seven members on board the ill-fated vessel.

Acting on a distress call from "Revti", the authorities diverted the Indian Coast Guard Ship Amartya, a fast patrol vessel on surveillance mission, to undertake search and rescue mission.



The six sailors rescued by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) personnel from a capsized tug "Revti" off the Worli Seaface in south-central Mumbai on Monday **PNS**

"CG ship responded to the distress call and reached position of Tug at 10.54 am and rescued six from the sinking vessel. The recovered crew has been provided with necessary first aid and their condition is

presently stable," an ICG press release said.

"In addition to the surface search by two ships to find one missing crew, two helo sorties by chetak helicopter have been launched to undertake sea-air

coordinated search," the release added.

The authorities identified the rescued sailors as Rashid Quasim Sorathiya (38), Tonoy Chalak (22), both from Midnapur, West Bengal,

Ramesh J Keni (55), Dilip Yadav(29), both from Mumbai, Shanu Kumar (19), from Mumbai and Salem Siddiqui. The missing crew member was identified as one Abdul Azeez (53).

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited

Registered Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390007, Gujarat.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051
Branch Office: ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext, New Delhi-110055

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Rakesh Malik/ Nalini Malik/ LBGUR00002066206	Flat No 904, 9th Floor, Liberty Tower, Omaxe North Avenue, Sector 15, Bahadurgarh, Jhajhar, Haryana 124507/ March 15, 2019	October 31, 2018 Rs. 24,47,521/-	Dehli /Ncr

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 days Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : 19-03-2019
Place: Delhi/NCR

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that I, Ashwani Kumar, Jaswal residing at H.No. 1010 Sector 14 Gurgaon Haryana have lost / misplaced the share certificate no. 1000332 distinctive nos. 5807401 to 5807800 for 400 no. Equity shares of face value Re. 5/- paid up under folio no. 400026, registered in the name of Ashwani K. Jaswal & in the books of silicon cast alloy ltd having registered office at gate no. 1426, Vii, Shikarpur, Taku Shinar, Pune Di Maharashtra-412208 and have applied to the company for issue of duplicate share certificate(s). Any person having claim/objection can write to the company within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice else the company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate(s) in my/our favour.

Date : 18.03.2019, Place : Gurgaon

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that, my client Sh. Partap Singh S/o Late Savinder Singh & Mrs. Amrit Pal Kaur W/o Mr. Partap Singh R/o H. No.16, Gali No-2, Chak 3-E Choti, Sriganaganagar Rajasthan have severed all their relations from their son Sh. Nishan Singh Chahal because of his uncontrolled attitude and behavior & debarred him from all their moveable & immovable properties. Henceforth whosoever deals with him monetarily, legally or otherwise shall do on their own risk and responsibilities and my client shall not be responsible for any of his activities.

Raman Chhatwal (Advocate)
Ch. No-G-623, Karkardooma Court, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Rakesh @ Rocky** S/o Amar Singh R/o Jhuggi No. B-854, Jhuggi Bengali Camp, Meera Bagh, Delhi have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence FIR No. 319/10 u/s 452/506/323/325/34 IPC P.S. Paschim Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Rakesh @ Rocky** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Rakesh @ Rocky** absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Rakesh @ Rocky** accused of FIR No. 319/10 u/s 452/506/323/325/34 is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **24.04.2019**.

By Order: **Ms. Sonam Gupta, Metropolitan Magistrate, Mahila Court-02 (West Dist.) Room No. 158, 1st Floor, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi**

DP/2028/OD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Poonam W/o Santosh Kumar, R/o H.No. 17/22, Nathan Vihar, Ranhola, Delhi, Age : 20 yrs., Height : 5'1", Face : Long, Complexion : Shallow, ID Mark : A Mole on Left Side of Shoulder, Wearing : Purple Suit, Red Pajama, Yellow Sweater and Black Chappal in Feet**, has been missing / kidnapped since **28.02.2019** alongwith her son Namely : **Krishana, Age : 01 yrs. 6 months, Height : 2', Face : Round, Complexion : Shallow, Wearing : Red Shirt-Pant and White Shoes in Feet**. In this regard a case **DD. No. 60-A dated 28.02.2019** has been lodged at PS. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped female but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing / kidnapped female please inform undersigned Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in, Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368638

SHO PS. Nihal Vihar, Delhi Ph.: 011-25946700, 25946710

Poonam

Krishana

DP/2018/OD/19.

PAPER WITH PASSION

Death of an icon

Manohar Parrikar was a model politician. In his passing, India and Goa have lost a good son



Usually when a high-profile politician passes away, particularly in these times of over-sharing on social media, some people tend to reflect on the negative aspects of the person in assessing his legacy. Even if everyone might not share these anecdotes publicly, often gossip and innuendo make it to private conversations, particularly among reporters, who tailed that politician as part of their jobs. Manohar Parrikar, however, was not that kind of politician. Every

correspondent, who spoke with him during his brief tenure as Defence Minister as well as the corps of journalists in Goa, mourned the man with nary a bad word to say. Because there really was nothing negative to say about Parrikar, who was a committed nationalist and a concerned Goan, who genuinely joined politics to make a difference instead of enjoying the trappings of power. There is no doubt that he was born to a certain level of privilege, being a Goud Saraswat Brahmin, and further cracked the hyper-competitive Joint Entrance Examination to join the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. But once he dedicated his life to politics, he became a model politician. He still used his Scooty, eschewing official transportation, travelled economy class and remained approachable and affable. Most importantly, he did use the media to build himself up as a man of the common people because he truly was an *aam admi*.

Despite being a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), he had incredible popularity in a State where Roman Catholics form a significant proportion of the electorate and led the BJP to power. That was his pragmatism, a man who grew out of the RSS, became a technocrat and armed with practical logic and his love for Goan food, convinced the people that no ideology was untouchable provided it allowed common people to live and grow fairly. Despite being close to Nagpur, he went out of his way to be inclusive of minorities, tribals and OBCs. In that sense, he may have well laid the rainbow coalition template for the BJP. For the intelligentsia, which finds itself at odds with the current dispensation, he was the first IITian Chief Minister, who never changed his attire of simple bush shirt and trousers, and came much before the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Arvind Kejriwal brought in more IITians for a citizens' movement. Many consider his elevation to the role of Defence Minister a reason the BJP did not do well in the last Goa Assembly polls, and in the confusion of the hung legislative Assembly, it was felt that Parrikar was the only man who could possibly lead a BJP Government. In fact, he is the reason that the party could not only consolidate itself, considering its scattered dots in the early 1990s, but could guarantee stability in a State that had become famous for its easy tradeoffs by politicians. This is already evident with the BJP compelled to create two posts of deputy Chief Ministers for holding on to its allies and not cede the turf to the Congress. Despite the first indications of suffering from a pancreatic disease, Parrikar went back to the hustle and bustle of running the small State. His tremendous work in developing a sleepy Goa — and he hated *susegad* — despite setbacks such as the mining ban, has propelled it forward as an industrial and tourism powerhouse. In the past few years, despite knowing that he almost certainly had a terminal disease, he kept working, swearing to the people of Goa that he would serve them till his last breath, and he fulfilled his oath. The building of the impressive Atal Setu over the Mapusa river outside Panjim after several years as well as the massive highway projects that will connect the small State, that is still hobbled by small, narrow roads, will always be his legacy. Unfortunately he could not stay for the new airport being built in Mopa to be inaugurated. This newspaper suggests that the new airport that should be opened within the next two years be named after Manohar Parrikar as a tribute to his incredible legacy.

Sending it underground

Will the government's move against electronic nicotine delivery systems achieve anything?



The Union Health Ministry does not like smoking and with millions of tobacco-related deaths annually, that is a good thing. There is no doubt that smoking is a bad, dirty and expensive habit — even if it does not kill you, it can leave you with debilitating health consequences later on in life such as heart disease, high blood pressure and neurological problems such as strokes. There is ample evidence connecting the consumption of tobacco with health issues, yet no country has ever banned

smoking outright. But the tobacco industry realises that it is in a pickle with fewer younger persons taking up the habit. So in order to appear cool, several start-ups in the past few years have introduced new "electronic nicotine delivery systems" (ENDS), commonly called "vaping" as the nicotine is vapourised and not burnt in the process. There are several ENDS products in the market, the most popular being Juul, an American brand that was planning to enter India later this year but now has been stymied because of health concerns. This is not peculiar to India. Several health authorities are worried about the high concentration of nicotine in products like Juul and the fact that the nicotine refills are available in all sorts of flavours, including seemingly innocuous ones like "bubblegum," that not only mask the amount of nicotine consumed by users but easily attract new users. The Health Ministry, therefore, wants Juul and other ENDS devices banned and even though such attempts have been thrown out by the courts, they want the import of such devices controlled.

The simple fact is that there are several things that are banned in India but are still easily available, something that will be highlighted by the large-scale consumption of the psychotropic substance *bhaang* on Holi by a large number of people. Most vaping devices are extremely expensive and banning them will serve little purpose since many users will bring in the devices as personal items from abroad. Controlling vaping products as well as regulating the type of refills sold and the concentration of nicotine available will be far easier to monitor. At the same time, tobacco control in India should not miss the woods for the trees. Instead of looking at the very top of the market, tobacco control advocates have to continue the fight against chewing tobacco, crack down on *bidis*, which still form a majority of the tobacco consumed in India, and work out a rehabilitation plan for those impacted by disease from tobacco-related issues.

Nasty side of power plays

Kuldip Nayar's recollections in his book, *On Leaders and Icons: From Jinnah to Modi*, about leaders of pre and post-independent India make some startling revelations



SANDHYA JAIN

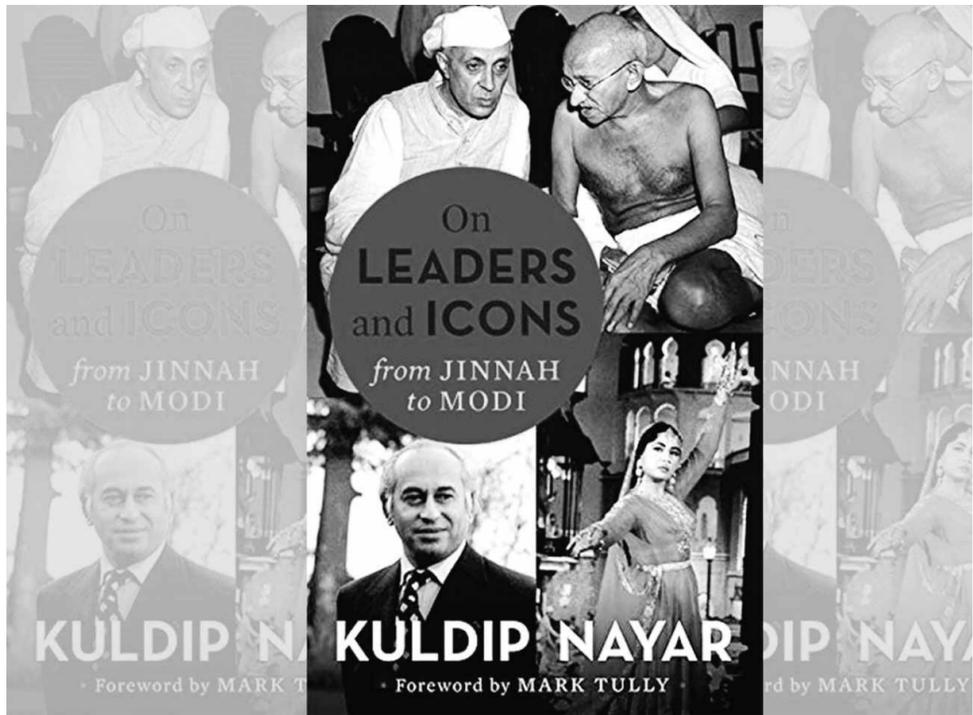
Declining to release Kuldip Nayar's posthumously published book, *On Leaders and Icons: From Jinnah to Modi*, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh informed the veteran journalist's wife that on perusing the book, "I found a reference on page 172 that during my prime ministership, Government files would go to Sonia Gandhi's house. This statement is not true and Kuldip did not check with me about its truth. In this background, I would find it embarrassing to attend the book release function on February 8, 2019." Raconteur par excellence, Nayar wrote that Singh's lack of a popular base helped his political career. Selected as Prime Minister, for 10 years, he served as a "convenient front man for Sonia Gandhi and her dynasty." Government files would go to her residence where senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel guided her in day-to-day Government affairs.

This is hardly news for most Indians. What is startling is the revelation that when former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru suffered a stroke in January 1964, Indira Gandhi ruled the country in the name of her ailing father. Lal Bahadur Shastri, as Minister without portfolio, "began quietly dealing with the files marked to Nehru. Indira Gandhi did not like this. She would insist on seeing important files herself before sending them to Shastri. The latter learnt of this but did not protest."

Nehru's ambition to make Indira Gandhi his successor was visible to all. In 1959, UN Dhebar stepped down as Congress president and aware of Nehru's desire, proposed Indira Gandhi as next president. Aghast, Home Minister Govind Ballabh Pant protested that her frail health would hinder the extensive travels required of a Congress president. But Nehru raised his voice: "she is healthier than both of us — and could put in longer hours of work." With that, Indira Gandhi was unanimously elected and cleared the first hurdle to prime ministership.

Indira Gandhi's name came up after Nehru died but Morarji Desai's ambition thwarted a consensus and the mantle fell on Shastri, who died of a heart attack less than two years later in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Nayar, who was in the media delegation, recounts that Shastri retired slightly agitated as the accompanying Indian media had badgered him about the return of Haji Pir and Tithal to Pakistan after the 1965 war. Angered over the concession, his wife, Lalita, had refused to speak to him over the telephone.

At the *dacha*, Swaran Singh asked Nayar, "Who do you think the next Prime Minister will be?" Nayar repeated what Shastri had told him a few months earlier: "If I die in the next two years, my successor will be Indira Gandhi. If I survive, it will be YB Chavan (then Defence Minister)". In Delhi, he recalls, Lalita Shastri asked him, "Where were you? Can't you see he has been poisoned, his whole body is blue?" There was distressing politics over the cre-



mation. Indira Gandhi wanted Shastri cremated in his home town, Allahabad, away from Raj Ghat where Mahatma Gandhi and Nehru had *samadhis*. She had already (though Nayar omits to mention it) denied him the Prime Minister's residence at Teen Murti by turning it into a memorial. An enraged Lalita trounced Indira Gandhi by threatening a fast-unto-death. Indira Gandhi then opposed inscribing Shastri's famous slogan, "*Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan*" on his *samadhi* at Vijay Ghat; Lalita threatened self-immolation. Later, searching for an appropriate prime ministerial bungalow, Indira Gandhi inspected the Shastri home, sneered at his "middle class living" and left the place to the family.

Despite his gargantuan memory, Nayar states that Jinnah joined the Indian National Conference in 1906. Actually, the Conference had merged with the Indian National Congress (INC) in 1886; Jinnah joined INC in 1906. He recalls Jinnah's first speech as President of Pakistan, wherein he admits the intractable problem of minorities in both countries: "...All the same, in this division it was impossible to avoid the question of minorities being in one Dominion or the other." Clearly, Jinnah knew the problem he was creating but went ahead. More tellingly, the Quaid-e-Azam's speech was not broadcast by Radio Pakistan: A reali-

ty byte regarding his power in the country he created. Interestingly, Nayar recounts that when he met Louis Mountbatten near London on October 1, 1971, the latter recalled a conversation with Jinnah at the Viceroy House in Delhi on April 9, 1947: "I told Jinnah that his moth-eaten Pakistan would not last more than 25 years." Mountbatten claimed he told Jinnah that East Pakistan would become an independent country in 25-30 years. However, his former Press adviser, Alan Campbell-Johnson, told Nayar, "Mountbatten's memory probably fails him. I should have known if he had made such a remark." Cyril Radcliffe, who delineated the border, concurred with Campbell-Johnson: "You are the first person to tell me this. I had never heard it before."

One wonders why Mountbatten, who presided over the bloody Partition and decapitation of India's northern frontier to serve the West in the emerging Cold War, embellished the truth. Speaking to Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre in 1972, Mountbatten claimed, "I was always convinced East Pakistan would never work. The whole concept of two different peoples being held together over all those miles by the same religion was absolute nonsense. But West Pakistan was something else, I wanted it to work... I wanted

Kashmir with them, I did not muck up my own creation..." (*Mountbatten and Independent India*, Vikas: 1998: 56)

Nayar says Jinnah sowed the seeds of separation when, during his first official visit to East Pakistan, he insisted that Bengalis would have to learn Urdu, Pakistan's national language. Yet, in India, Nehru allowed Sheikh Abdullah to impose Urdu on Jammu & Kashmir, when Kashmiri has a rich literary tradition.

Nayar reveals that Nehru had said, "Even if Kashmir were to be handed over to Pakistan on a platter, Pakistan would think of some other way to keep its quarrel with India alive, because Kashmir is only a symptom of a disease and that disease is hatred of India." Surely Nehru realised that the object of hatred was India's Hindu majority. Though he does not say so overtly, Nayar places the burden of maintaining plurality solely on the Hindu community. His ode to Noor Jehan should have queried why famous artists in cosmopolitan Mumbai went to Pakistan. Why, when Maharaja Hari Singh ran a secular Government, did his court artist, Malika Pukhraj, go to Pakistan? Above all, why did Saadat Hasan Manto? (*The writer is Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; the views expressed are personal*)

SOUNDBITE

For many years I had been sitting at home but I have come out because the country and the Constitution are in danger.



Congress general secretary —Priyanka Gandhi

I hope I can be an inspiration to girls who aren't normal or feel like they (don't) belong, because I definitely don't a lot of the time.



Actor-supermodel —Cara Delevingne

I am sure this matter (listing of Azhar by the UN) will be resolved. This is only a technical hold and can be resolved through consultation.



Chinese Envoy —Luo Zhaohui

For the Gandhi family, every election is a picnic. They come, they see and resort to rhetorical speeches. After elections are over, they head towards Switzerland or Italy.



Senior BJP leader —Dinesh Sharma

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bad air woes

Sir — Flagging the deadly impact of air and water pollution, that annually claims at least nine million lives globally, a new UN report termed air pollution as the "single biggest environmental health risk in the world" and called for urgent action to save humanity from the disastrous consequences of environmental degradation. It is rather unfortunate that many children and aged people in our country suffer from diseases caused due to air and water pollution. The Government must take urgent steps to address the problem.

Najmul Huda
 Mumbai

Revisit travel norms

Sir — A huge amount of public money is being wasted in allowing senior officials in the legislature, judiciary, bureaucracy and public sector undertakings to travel in business class rather than economy class in domestic flights. All airlines may be directed to reserve the first two rows of the economy class for those

officials entitled to travel in business class. However, those desirous of travelling in business class can do so by paying the difference in fares. Frequent-flier-points earned should go into the accounts of the Government department concerned rather than in the names of individuals.

SC Agrawal
 New Delhi

Further reforms

Sir — The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched a new 'Citizens Vigil' or CVIGIL app for the benefit of voters ahead of the general election. The app has been launched with a primary focus to enable the citizens report any instances related to non-com-

pliance of Model Code of Conduct during the elections. The app further acts as an effective feedback mechanism for a voter to reach out directly to the ECI.

The effort made by the ECI to monitor voter feedback effectively through apps is welcome but it benefits only smartphone-savvy users, especially in urban and semi-urban areas. A novice

A chronicle of two distinct responses

This refers to the editorial, "Terror has no religion" (March 16). The sickening mass shooting in New Zealand, that killed more than 49 people besides injuring others, is a reminder about the growing threats of global terrorism. Remarkably forthright was the response of New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who emphatically declared that the victims, many of whom may be migrants or refugees, "are us" and the shooter "is not." The overriding theme of Ardern's statements was that her country represents "diversity, compassion and refuge."

If terrorism bound Christchurch and Pulwama together in senseless bloodshed, the golden-hour responses from the top in India and New Zealand charted dramatically different courses. Circumstances surrounding the immediate aftermath of the Pulwama attack were shrouded in controversy. Allegations, vigorously denied by the Government, that the Indian Prime Minister was shooting for a film at the Jim Corbett Park gained traction because Narendra Modi reserved his most vocal com-



ments for the campaign trail. Barring a tweet, Modi neither addressed the nation nor the media. The visible podium of national leadership was left vacant by a Prime Minister who had made spectacular gains from his communication skills in 2014 and who used to mock his predecessor as "*Maun-mohan*." Terrorism of every stripe, in every nation, must be collectively rejected using the same language of unequivocal condemnation.

Meghna A
 New South Wales

voter has no other way to reach out to ECI other than the newly launched app. The electoral body should now strive to open all possible digital and offline modes of communication to further strengthen the voter feedback mechanism. It should also initiate various effective communication tools like a dedicated postal mail box, an (nodal officer based) email id, toll-free SMS feedback mechanism, social media handles and also a new single window website to register only the feedback (similar to CPGRAMS portal).

Varun SD
 Bengaluru

No let-up on terror

Sir — China has once again blocked India's bid to declare Masood Azhar as a global terrorist. But we must not be disheartened as placing terrorists on such lists does little to combat terrorism. India must strengthen its internal security mechanism to prevent any future attacks.

Shivansh
 Via email

Send your feedback to:
 letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Time to fix the missing link

While we must acknowledge the MSME sector's contribution to the economy, the challenges surrounding it are many and must not be ignored



RANJEET MEHTA

The significance of 65 million Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), who create about 120 million jobs and account for 30 per cent of the country's economic output, cannot be underestimated as it forms the backbone of the country's industrial landscape, contributing about 49 per cent to exports and 45 per cent to the manufacturing sector. It is also responsible for 30 per cent of the total employment generation in India. The implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017 defined the economic discourse for the country. This transformational reform measure helped bring many MSMEs, which earlier belonged to the informal economy, into the formal sector. A remarkable 30-mark jump up in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business to rank 100 among 190 countries and a much-awaited sovereign credit rating upgrade by Moody's Investors Service confirmed the reform credentials of the Government like nothing else.

Around 95 per cent of the total industrial products in the world are produced in small workshops run by less than 100 people. For instance, Japan is a developed country but has 84 per cent of small and medium scale industries, which supply all over the world. Why can't Indian MSMEs supply their products globally? MSMEs in India still face huge challenges and one of them pertains to accessing the market. Most of the manufacturing units are located in rural and small towns and there is a huge market potential in all Indian cities and abroad.

One of the easiest and cost-effective methods of reaching out to international markets is internet. It's almost unbelievable to know what happens in a minute on the internet. In just about a minute on the web, 46,200 photos are shared on Instagram, a total of \$751,522 is spent online, 1.8 million snaps are created and there are 990,000 swipes on Tinder. Google performs 3.5 million searches each minute while 4.1 million videos are viewed on YouTube within the space of 60 seconds. In a social media universe where there are no barriers to entry and almost infinite amounts of competition. The content game has tilted to become a "winner take all" scenario. Since people don't have the time to look at the 452,200 tweets sent every minute, they naturally settle to things that already have social proof.

The setting up of Government e-Marketplace (GeM) by the Government of India, which facilitates procurement in minimum time at a lower cost with better quality, is one of the most prominent steps to provide market access to MSMEs. It will boost this sector as all central public sector enterprises will have to take membership of GeM to facilitate online procurement of common use goods and services by various Government departments and organisations. By facilitating business between the Government, industry and entrepreneurs online, GeM helps in improving the quality and efficiency of the products and services on offer, particularly the ones sourced from the MSME sector. MSMEs can bid for market tenders free of cost through the e-Procurement portal. This would allow MSMEs to actively participate in various Government Procurement programmes. This would also enable Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) to achieve the mandatory 25 per cent procurement from MSMEs as stipulated in the procurement policy and further contribute to the growth of MSMEs. Further, it will bring new competitive dynamics and competitiveness in the economic system.

Everyone will agree that the MSME sector has been instrumental in the growth of the nation, leveraging exports, creating huge employment opportunities for the unskilled, fresh graduates and underemployed and extending opportunities to banks to give more credit to enterprises in this sector. Internet can be one of the tools that these small businesses can easily adopt to capitalise on Digital India and leverage the internet to market themselves and build an identity; and lead the digital transformation for India. Digital should be able to democratise globalisation — MSMEs with vision should now reach customers all over the world. The online space can open up a whole new avenue of doing business which was just not available earlier. This in turn will lead to a growth of entrepreneurs as well as giving MSMEs an importance in our economy — something that simply is the need of hour.

MSMEs still lack awareness, they need to be completely aware of the various initiatives by the Government and correctly utilise them to their advantage. The key constraining factor needs to be understood by key policy-makers at the State level. Further, Government schemes must be monitored and effectively modified to suit the needs of the MSME industry. Limited outreach of policies and programmes across areas of operations of MSME needs to be addressed by engaging the district administration all over the country and create linkages among stakeholders as well as between firms and end-users.

(The writer is Principal Director, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi)

COMPULSIONS OF SEAT-SHARING MAY BE THERE. BUT I WISH TO EMPHASISE THAT NO OTHER UNION MINISTER FROM BIHAR MAY HAVE TO GIVE UP HIS SITTING SEAT.

—UNION MINISTER GIRIRAJ SINGH

POINT COUNTERPOINT



I GOT TO KNOW THROUGH MEDIA THAT HE (GIRIRAJ) IS UPSET. I WILL CALL HIM AND ASK HIM IF IT IS SO. AND IF HE IS, I WILL TRY TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE.

—LJP LEADER CHIRAG PASWAN

The politics of Balakot

Notwithstanding Pakistan's best efforts to steer the Pulwama narrative to its advantage, what should worry us is the political orchestration that has not ceased yet



DEEPAK SINHA

There is something about old proverbs. Take, for example, an old adage by Abraham Lincoln: "You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time". Certainly, this maxim is spot-on with regards to the Pulwama tragedy and its repercussions. Despite Pakistan's best efforts to steer the narrative to its advantage, the truth that is emerging — though in dribs and drabs — paints a very different picture from what it would have wanted us to believe.

For example, take a look at perceptions in Pakistan about the suicide attack itself. Not only most of us, but also much of the world, especially analysts focussing on this region, had little hesitation in accepting the involvement of Pakistan-based terrorist group, Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), in the suicide bombing attack, especially since the JeM itself publicly claimed responsibility. Yet, let alone the Pakistani establishment, not even one respected journalist or analyst over there uttered a word of condemnation against the JeM for this heinous act. Instead, they insisted that the attack was motivated by the brutal treatment meted out to Kashmiri locals by the Indian security forces.

This is contrary to what has widely been reported about Pakistani Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, a senior politician and former Cabinet minister, who quite categorically stated that "what happened in Pulwama in February, in my view, was Pakistan's finest hour after the nuclear tests of 1998." Moreover, while Pakistan's Foreign Minister acknowledged JeM chief Masood Azhar's presence in Pakistan, the Director-General of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) blandly contradicted him a day later, unequivocally stating that the JeM does not exist in Pakistan as it is a "proscribed terrorist organisation".

Similarly, with regard to the Indian response, the ISPR spokesperson was the first one to admit that the Indian Air Force (IAF) had crossed the Line of Control (LoC) and carried out a strike in the vicinity of Balakot. He, however, attempted to mislead and obfuscate the issue by hinting that this attack was in the vicinity of the village, in close proximity to the LoC in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), and not the town by that name in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, deep inside Pakistan, where it actually struck. While the IAF claimed to have hit the terrorist training camp, the spokesman insisted that no damage or casualty was inflicted to the "seminary" located over there. However, the cordoning of the area by the Pakistani Army and its refusal till date to allow any access raises questions and suggests an attempt to cover up.

Finally, there was the confusion about two Indian fighter aircraft having been shot down with both pilots taken prisoners. It, however, turned out that the IAF's claim at that time of having lost one MIG-21, piloted by Wing Commander Abhinandan after he had downed a Pakistani F-16, was correct. Bizarrely, not only has Pakistan continued to deny the loss of its own aircraft, it even insists that the F-



16s in its possession were not involved in operations in this sector. This despite the IAF having produced evidence.

Clearly, obfuscation and deceit are embedded in the DNA of Pakistan, especially in the manner it deals with India and the international community. We have been experiencing this since decades. Remember, Pakistan denied any connection to the so-called "raiders", who nearly captured Srinagar in 1948 or to the "militants", who occupied the Kargil heights in 1999, only to recant and accept its involvement subsequently. It isn't as if it reserved such treatment for India alone as Iran and Afghanistan have also found to their cost. Therefore, in the present instance, to have expected Pakistan to behave any differently was sheer fantasy, especially given that the military uses proxy war to retain its pre-eminent role within the country and the region.

The sad truth is that its very foundation was built on the British construct — that it was religious antagonism and not its requirement for a pliable state that would help protect its interests in the region — which resulted in the horrors of partition. The formation of Bangladesh put paid to the two-nation theory and secret Cabinet documents in the UK, subsequently declassified, showed up the deceitful lengths the British had gone to in furthering their own interests.

Leaving aside Pakistan's desperate attempts to change perceptions what should be of immense concern to all right-thinking people, here is the horrendous manner in which this issue is being used by politicians and the media to gain attention for their selfish agenda even if it is at the cost of the nation's interests. Neither free speech nor the looming elections justify such crass behaviour, especially since it is impacting the credibility and apolitical nature of our armed forces.

NEITHER FREE SPEECH NOR THE LOOMING ELECTIONS JUSTIFY SUCH CRASS BEHAVIOUR, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT IS IMPACTING THE CREDIBILITY AND APOLITICAL NATURE OF OUR ARMED FORCES. WHILE WE MAY BE UNCERTAIN OF WHO WILL SUCCEED AT THE HUSTINGS, THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBT THAT OUR MILITARY HAS LOST OUT YET AGAIN

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi deserves credit for his bold decision to aggressively respond in the manner that he did, it is no excuse for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to use the strike to tom-tom its nationalistic credentials, going so far as to shamefully depict Wing Commander Abhinandan in posters used for election rallies. Prime Minister Modi may well scream 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' from the rooftops but it has not in any way stopped his Government from refusing to grant One Rank One Pension (OROP) to military veterans or opposing the grant of Non Functional Upgrade (NFU) in the Supreme Court using all manner of lies. That the NFU is already authorised to the Civil Services and the Central Armed Police Forces, thereby changing long-standing civil-military parity, has been deliberately ignored. Their efforts to humiliate and lower the prestige and standing of the armed forces continues unhindered.

It isn't as if other political parties, including the Congress, have behaved any less hypocritically. On the one hand, they have "officially" supported and praised the action of the IAF, while at the same time senior leaders of these very parties have questioned the efficacy of the attack, despite the Air Chief having clearly stated that the targets selected were destroyed as they had planned. It appears that they believe that the only manner in which the steadfastness and strength of character 'Modi' displayed on this occasion can be negated is by deliberately destroying the credibility of our military's achievements. While we may be uncertain of who will succeed at the hustings, there is absolutely no doubt that our armed forces have lost out yet again.

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

Another shot at keeping Ganga clean

With an allocation of a dedicated budget for five years and adopting a hybrid annuity-based PPP model, the National Mission for Clean Ganga hopes to achieve the so-far elusive objective of cleaning the holy river. Hopefully, it will emerge victorious



RC ACHARYA

A renewed effort to cleanse the Ganga was made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi under the Namami Gange programme, more than three decades after a similar attempt was made by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at Varanasi. Pursuing this seemingly elusive objective, another round of foundation stone-laying ceremony for projects in Bihar, estimated to cost a whopping ₹700 crore, was taken up with much fanfare, this time in Patna.

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, plans to spend ₹452.24 to prevent

flow of 670 mld (million litres per day) of sewage into Ganga while ₹243.27 has been earmarked for improving the Patna riverfront involving construction of new ghats, promenade and community-cultural centre among others.

The Namami Gange programme, which is undertaking this massive task as an Integrated Conservation Mission, was approved as a flagship programme by the Union Government in June 2014. With a budget outlay of ₹20,000 crore, it has the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of the national river, Ganga.

Additionally, under the Ganga Gram project, the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation has identified 1,674 gram panchayats situated on the bank of river Ganga in five States (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal). A sum of ₹829 crore has been released to the Ministry for the construction of toilets in 1,674 gram panchayats of five Ganga basin States.

NMCG is developing infrastructure for sewage treatment, surface cleaning, afforestation along the river bank, monitoring industrial effluents, development of river front, saving biodiversity and improving public awareness. With seven thrust areas and 21 action points, it has enough on its plate to qualify as a separate Ministry.

Efforts to clean up Ganga had started as early as in 1979, when the Central Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution was directed to undertake a comprehensive survey, and its report ultimately formed the basis for setting up of the Central Ganga Authority (CGA) in February 1985. The Ganga Project Directorate (GPD) was established as a wing of the Department of Environment, with a budget of ₹350 crore to administer the cleaning up of Ganga and to restore it to pristine condition, with the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) launched on June 14, 1986, by Rajiv Gandhi in Varanasi.

From 1993 onwards, GAP-1 was extended as GAP-2 to cover

four major tributaries of Ganga — the Yamuna, Gomati, Damodar and Mahananda — and further broad-based in 1995 with the inclusion of other rivers and renamed as the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). Also, 34 other rivers were taken up for cleaning with the same model of GAP.

However, while GAP has managed to spend less than ₹4,000 crore in three decades, the reconstituted body (NMCG) has already spent ₹5,650 crore, and for year ending March 31, 2019, projects worth ₹2,295 crore are expected to be completed. With an outlay of ₹20,000 crore for the period 2015-20, NMCG is aiming big with 267 projects sanctioned so far costing ₹26,360 crore, of which 82 have been completed.

A comprehensive management plan for Ganga was the result of a brain storming report by a consortium of seven IITs in January 2015. Adopting a comprehensive approach, NMCG has brought Ganga and its tributaries under one umbrella.

Declared as an authority in October 2016 under the Environment Protection Act of 1986, NMCG has since then taken a collaborative approach, converging multiple agencies at both the Central and State level under one roof with an aim to achieve the goal of clean Ganga within the next decade or so.

With a catchment area of 8,61,494 square km, the Ganga basin covers no less than 11 States, five of them being on the mainstem. The river itself is 2,525 km long with a 1,000 km long stretch in Uttar Pradesh alone. Around 43 per cent of India's population depends on it while it makes 57 per cent of the nation's agricultural land fertile.

Ninety seven towns on the main river stem have 155 drains discharging 2,853 mld of sewage into it. In addition, 1,109 gross polluting industries, mainly tanneries, paper, pulp, sugar, textile, dyeing and distilleries are discharging toxic effluents into it. Tributaries such as Ramganga and Kali also contribute to the polluting load. Its elimination

is indeed a gargantuan task.

Realising that the scores of interception and diversion drains, sewage treatment plants and sewage pumping stations need to be operated and maintained efficiently — which has been one of the weak links in the efforts made to clean the river over the last three decades — it has opted to award Operation and Maintenance contract for a period of 15 years to SPVs, which involve various stake holders.

With an allocation of a dedicated budget for five years and adopting a hybrid annuity-based PPP model, NMCG hopes to achieve the so far elusive objective, especially as these funds are non-lapsable. NMCG has already attracted notice as one of the four short-listed initiatives — which includes Ofwat of the UK, Water and Electricity Company of Saudi Arabia and Water Services Regulatory Board of Kenya — for the Public Water Agency of the Year Award of 2019. Hopefully it would emerge as the winner.

(The writer is former member, railway board)



FOREIGN EYE



CHINA'S SHAME

As many as 1.5 million Uighurs and other Muslims are or have been held in camps in China's Xinjiang region without charge or trial, a leading researcher believes. True, the US has stepped up criticism, saying it would consider targeted measures against individuals responsible for rights violations. These demands should be made much more loudly, and far more broadly. The camps are China's shame; the indifference is the world's.

(The Guardian editorial)

Jet Airways grounds four more planes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Cash-strapped Jet Airways on Monday said it has grounded four more planes, taking the number of aircraft that are non-operational due to non-payment of lease rentals to 41.

Grappling with financial woes, the carrier has been looking at ways to raise fresh funds.

"... An additional four aircraft have been grounded due to non-payment of amounts outstanding to lessors under their respective lease agreements," the airline said in a filing to the stock exchanges.

As mentioned earlier, the company is actively engaged with all its aircraft lessors and regularly providing them with updates on the efforts taken to improve the liquidity, it said.

"Aircraft lessors have been supportive of the company's efforts in this regard," it said, adding that all efforts are being made to minimise disruption to its network.

Meanwhile, the shares of the company closed at ₹237, up 0.87 per cent on the BSE. During the day, it touched a high of ₹238 and a low of ₹233.40.

At the NSE, the shares closed 0.68 per cent higher at ₹236.75.

Earlier this month, Jet Airways Chairman Naresh Goyal said that more than 50 of its aircraft were not operating.

As per its website, the airline has a fleet of 119 planes.

"The payment of interest due on March 19, 2019, to the debenture holder will be delayed owing to temporary liquidity constraints," it said in a separate filing.

Naresh Goyal writes to staff, assures early resolution

PTI ■ MUMBAI

With the clouds of uncertainty darkening over the survival of his 25-year-old airline, Jet Airways chairman Naresh Goyal on Monday sought to reassure the 16,000-strong staff of the efforts to restore the "much needed stability" in its operations at the earliest.

Since a larger number of its over 100-fleet are grounded leading to drastically curtailed operations, the airline is struggling to prevent a nose-dive somehow.

Goyal, in a communication to employees Monday evening also said talks with the airline's strategic partner Etihad Airways and SBI-led lenders are going on. The UAE carrier owns 24 per cent in the airline.

"Once again I assure you that I am personally committed to have the resolution process completed as soon as possible and restore the much-needed stability to our operations at the earliest," Goyal said in a letter to the staff who are apprehensive of their future with the airline.

The airline is sitting on a debt pile of over ₹8,200 crore and has defaulted thrice since January, including on some forex debt.

On 14 February, its board had approved a bank-led-resolution plan, whereby the SBI-consortium of lenders will become the largest shareholders in the airline and Goyal would exit the management as the chairman and board member.

₹ spurts 57 paise to scale new 7-mth peak on strong fund flows

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian rupee on Monday surged by 57 paise to close at an over seven-month high of 68.53 against the US dollar, also marking a sixth straight session of gains, driven by sustained foreign fund inflows and narrowing trade deficit.

Besides, weakness in the greenback against major global currencies and a heavy buying in domestic equities aided the forex market sentiment domestically.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.20 per cent to 96.40.

At the Interbank Foreign Exchange, the rupee opened at 68.92 and advanced to a high of 68.45 during the day. It finally settled at 68.53, a rise of 57 paise against the dollar over its previous close.

This was the highest closing level for the rupee since August 1, 2018 — when it ended at 68.43.

On Friday, the domestic currency had closed at 69.10 against the US dollar.

In the last six trading sessions, the rupee has appreciated by 161 paise.

"Indian rupee continues advancing for the sixth day in

a row, marking the best performer among the Asian currencies in today's trade amid better than expected trade data and foreign fund flows," said V K Sharma, Head PCG & Capital Markets Strategy, HDFC Securities.

According to data released by the Commerce Ministry, the marginal 2.44 per cent rise in exports as well as lower imports of gold and petroleum products in February significantly narrowed the country's trade deficit to \$9.6 billion.

Meanwhile, the Financial Benchmark India Private Ltd (FBIL) set the reference rate for the rupee/dollar at 68.6088 and for rupee/euro at 77.7827. The reference rate for rupee/British pound was fixed at 91.1184 and for rupee/100 Japanese yen at 61.50.

Further lifting market sentiment, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) put in ₹1,822.99 crore on a net basis on Monday, provisional data showed.

"Overseas investors have bought \$2.4 billion in equities this month, taking net foreign purchases to \$4.7 billion, the highest in Asia. Global funds have raised holdings of rupee-denominated bonds by \$833 million this month, HDFC Securities' Sharma said citing exchange data.

Sensex, Nifty end higher for 6th straight session

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Extending its winning streak to the sixth consecutive session, the BSE Sensex gained over 70 points on Monday as stocks made further headway powered by unabated foreign fund inflows and narrowing country's trade deficit amid positive global cues.

The 30-share benchmark advanced to hit a high of 38,369.59 as buying activity gathered momentum. However, investors locked in gains pushing the key index into the negative zone to hit a low of 37,952.10 before bouncing back to end 70.75 points, or 0.19 per cent, higher at 38,095.07.

Likewise, the 50-stock NSE Nifty finished 35.35 points, or 0.31 per cent, higher at 11,462.20 after hitting the day's high of 11,530.15 and a low of 11,412.50. Among Sensex components, Bajaj Finance topped the gainers list by surging 2.84 per cent.

Other winners were PowerGrid, RIL, Axis Bank, Tata Steel, Kotak Bank, IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors, NTPC, HDFC Bank, Asian Paints, ICICI Bank, ITC, Sun Pharma and Yes Bank, rising up to 2.29 per cent.

On the other hand, Maruti Suzuki, Hero MotoCorp, Bharti Airtel, HCL Tech, M&M, L&T,

Infosys, Vedanta Ltd, Bajaj Auto, TCS, HDFC, ONGC, Coal India and HUL, retreated up to 2.56 per cent.

A 15 per cent or 1,500-point rally has ensued in the Nifty 50 since October 2018. The market's internals are the healthiest they have been since 2017, said Sunil Sharma, Chief Investment Officer, Sanctum Wealth Management.

"First and obviously, dramatic inflows have come in from FIIs. Capitulation by retail has happened, and short covering by the bears seems to be underway. Next, capital sitting on the sidelines that is waiting out the elections, is going to start feeling the pull of runaway equity prices against idle cash," he said.

On a net basis, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) bought shares worth a net of ₹4,323.49 crore on Friday, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were net sellers to the tune of ₹2,130.36 crore, provisional data available with BSE showed.

"What we are witnessing and what markets seem to be telegraphing is a tilt back towards synchronised stimulative policy at some point in the medium term future by the Fed, ECB, Japan and Chinese central banks," he said, adding that these environments are

pro-emerging market assets and pro emerging currencies." During the day, BSE rally gained the most rising 2.46 per cent, oil and gas 1.55 per cent, PSU 0.94 per cent, bankex 0.88 per cent, metal 0.79 per cent and FMCG index up 0.42 per cent.

However, auto index, capital goods, IT, tech and healthcare indices ended lower by up to 1.36 per cent.

Investor sentiment also remained upbeat on narrowing trade deficit, according to market experts.

The marginal 2.44 per cent increase in exports as well as lower imports of gold and petroleum products in February significantly narrowed the country's trade deficit to \$9.6 billion, data released by the commerce ministry Friday showed.

Strengthening gains, the rupee appreciated 54 paise to 68.56 against the US dollar intraday. Global crude benchmark Brent crude futures fell 0.15 per cent to \$67.06 per barrel.

Investor sentiment also buoyed tracking a firming trend in most Asian bourses and a higher opening in European shares on speculation that the US Federal policy makers will lower interest rate forecast after weaker-than-forecast economic data on Friday.

Anil Ambani thanks Mukesh, Nita for timely support in clearing RCom dues

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Billionaire Anil Ambani on Monday thanked his brother Mukesh and his wife Nita for extending "timely support" after his debt-laden firm Reliance Communication cleared payments due to a service



Govt cautions against fraudulent websites for KUSUM scheme registration

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday cautioned against fake websites claiming to be registration portal for Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM) scheme and said such websites may be misusing the collected data.

The scheme, formulated by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), aims to promote use of solar energy among the farmers.

"It has been noticed that few websites have cropped up claiming to be registration portal for KUSUM scheme. Such websites are potentially duping general public and misusing data captured through fake registration portal," the ministry said in a statement.

The MNRE further said that DISCOMs or electricity distribution companies and state nodal agencies shall implement the KUSUM scheme for which the detailed guidelines will be issued soon.



All potential beneficiaries must avoid depositing any registration fee or sharing important data on fake websites, it said, adding "they can contact their DISCOMs/state renewable energy nodal agencies or can visit official portal of the ministry for necessary information related to the scheme."

Last month, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved launch of

RBI panel on MSME seeks public views on various aspects

PTI ■ MUMBAI

An RBI-appointed panel on Monday sought suggestions from the public on long-term solutions for economic and financial sustainability of MSME sector, including ways to improve credit rating mechanism to help them raise funds at competitive rates.

The panel is undertaking a comprehensive review of the sector to identify causes and propose long-term solutions for its development, the central bank said in a statement.

The committee was set up in January under former Sebi chairman U K Sinha.

MSMEs contribute about 45 per cent of the manufacturing output, over 40 per cent of total exports of the country, and around 8 per cent of the country's GDP.

FAME-II: Govt sets up inter-ministerial panel for monitoring, sanctioning of projects

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has constituted an inter-ministerial Panel for monitoring, sanctioning and implementation of projects under the ₹10,000-crore FAME-II programme, aimed at incentivising clean mobility.

The Project Implementation and Sanctioning Committee will be chaired by the secretary in the Department of Heavy Industries and will have other members including NITI Aayog CEO, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade secretary, Department of Economic Affairs secretary and secretaries in the power and new and renewable energy ministry, among others.

The Department of Heavy Industries, in an order, said the committee is constituted "for the purpose of overall monitoring, sanctioning and implementation of the scheme, with immediate effect and until further orders".

The panel's terms of reference includes modifying coverage parameters for various components and sub-components of the scheme, reviewing demand incentives annually or earlier based on price and technology trends, modifying limits of fund allocations among different segments and types of vehicles, reviewing the cap for maximum incentive per vehicle, and deciding other scheme parameters for its smooth roll out.

FARMERS HONOURED AT MAHINDRA SAMRIDDI INDIA AGRI AWARDS 2019

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mahindra & Mahindra's Farm Equipment Sector, India's tractor manufacturer and a part of the \$20.7 billion Mahindra Group, on Monday announced the winners of the Mahindra Samridhi India Agri Awards (MSIAA) 2019. Instituted in 2011, the Mahindra Samridhi India Agri Awards are bestowed upon farmers and institutions to recognize their noteworthy and purposeful contributions in the field of agriculture, the backbone of the Indian economy.

The Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant was the Chief Guest at the awards ceremony. Shri Sanjay Agarwal, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Government of India was also present at the awards ceremony.

At the awards, Mahindra reinforced its commitment to Farming 3.0, the new age in agriculture defined by Innovation and Technology.

MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one person, **Name:** Balbir Singh, **S/o:** Niranjan Singhal, **R/o:** 503/01, Devli Village, New Delhi, has been missing since 19.08.2019 from the area of PS Neb Sarai, New Delhi. In this regard, a **Missing Report DD No. 33A, Dated 15.02.2019** has been lodged at P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi. Investigations has been carried out but despite best efforts, the person could not be traced. The description of the missing person is as under:

Name: Balbir Singh, **S/o:** Niranjan Singhal, **R/o:** 503/01, Devli Village, New Delhi, **Age:** 50 years, **Height:** 5'7" Feet, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Medium, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing:** White Shirt and Black Pant. If anyone has any information about the missing boy, then please inform P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi.

email: cic@cbi.gov.in S.H.O
 Fax: No.011-24368639
 Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi
 DP/5300/SD/19. Ph. 011-29551326, 29551597, 8750870835

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one lady namely **Kunti D/o Ishwar R/o** Sarde Colony, Village-Bakhtawarpur, Opposite Fatehpur, Alipur, Delhi has been missing / kidnapped since 10.10.2018 from the area of P.S. Alipur, Delhi. In this regard a case vides **DD No. 20-A dated 04.12.2018** has been registered at P.S. Alipur, Delhi.

The description of missing/kidnapped lady is as under:

Name: Kunti, **Father's Name:** Ishwar, **Age:** 32 years, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Long, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing:** Orange Colour Suit & Salwar and White Chappal in feet.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

SHO
P.S., Alipur, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27202290
27202265

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
 e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
 Fax: 011-24368639
 Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
 DP/109/ON/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that this person (depicted in the photo) namely: **Surjeet S/o Ram Bahal R/o A-45, Shiv Puri, Samaipur, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 17.02.2019 from the area of P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi in this regard a DD No. 61-A dated 25.02.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far.

His physical description is as under:-

Sex: Male, **Age:** 37 years, **Height:** 5'5" ft., **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Blue Check Shirt, & Blue Colour Jeans Pant, Black Colour Jacket and Sports Shoes in feet.

Any person is having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO
P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph. No.: 011-27854757, 27854799
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641
Fax No.: 011-24368639
DP/112/ON/19

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited

Registered Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390007.
 Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051
 Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., 2nd Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext., New Delhi- 110055

Whereas
 The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Prashant Agarwal/ Shivani Agrawal / LBDEL00001415371	Shop No. VPL-08, Shipra Krishna, Ahinsa Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad / 14-03-2019	February 28, 2017 Rs. 12,55,295/-	Ghaziabad

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 days Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: 19-03-2019
 Place: Delhi/ NCR
 Sd/-
 Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

TP Singh General Manager Northern Railway along with principal head of departments conducted an extensive annual inspection of Abohar-Bhatinda-Dhuri section of Ambala Division. Prior to the day long extensive inspection, TP Singh planted a sapling in the newly developed Children Park at Abohar railway station and started the inspection. He communicated with the railway passengers, representative of passenger Unions/Associations and the Media representatives. He shared the ongoing and future department plans of Ambala Division with Media. On Pakki-Malout Section, Singh inspected Manned Level crossing No. 39 and the curve no. 8 having 0.5 curve

HDFC BANK
 We understand your world

Legal Cell
 2nd Floor, Indian Express Building, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002

POSSESSION NOTICE [RULE 8(1)] (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of the HDFC Bank Ltd. under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notices, and calling upon to pay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. Details are given as under:-

Customer Name	13(2) Notice Date	Notice Amt.	Possession Date & Time	Description of Property
1. M/s Happy Deal Store Through Its Proprietors Mrs. Asha Arora 2. M/s Arora Traders Through Its Proprietors Mr. Ramesh Kumar Arora 3. Mrs. Asha Arora W/o Sh. Ramesh Kumar Arora 4. Mr. Ramesh Kumar Arora S/o Sh. R.R Arora	26-Dec-2018	Rs. 46,90,788/-	14-Mar-2019	Dda Built Up Freehold SFS Flat Bearing No. 19, On Ground Floor, Cat-II, Situated At Nagin Lake Apartment, Peeria Garti, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi. Bounded As Under - North : Flat No. 28, East : Passage, South : Open, West : Entry
1. M/s Ashva Energy Private Limited Through Its Director Mr. Neeraj Gupta 2. Mr. Neeraj Gupta S/o Sh. Jagat Kishor Gupta 3. Mrs. Arti Gupta W/o Sh. Neeraj Gupta	29-Dec-2018	Rs. 25,82,785/- & Rs. 5,58,354/- Total = Rs. 31,41,139/-	15-Mar-2019	House Bearing No. 6-N/139, Typing Duplex Flat, Sector-05, Situated At Rajender Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad. Bounded As Under - East : Staircase, West : Open, North : Open+Road, South : Park

The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules, on above mentioned dates. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to charge of the HDFC Bank Ltd. for an amount of notices mentioned above and interest thereon together with expenses and charges etc. less amount paid, if any. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DATE :- 14/03/2019 & 15/03/2019
 PLACE :- DELHI & GHAZIABAD (UP)
 Authorised Officer
HDFC Bank Ltd.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person (depicted in the photo) name: **Unknown** residence and family is **unknown** about **25 years** of age was found dead at Main Chandni Chowk Road, Opposite Gurudwara Sheesh Ganj, Kotwali, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 12-A, dated 27.02.2019 has been registered at Police Station **Kotwali, Delhi**.

His physical description is as under:-

Sex: Male, **Age:** 25 years, **Height:** 5'6" ft., **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** White Colour Shirt, Blue Colour Jeans & Bare Footed.

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

SHO
P.S. Kotwali, Delhi
Ph. No.- 011-23977100
Mob. No- 8750870121
DP/9768/N/19

HEALTH

HeartRhythm

Researchers have developed a novel electrocardiogram (ECG) method that uses signals from the ear to check heart rhythm, making it easy for drivers, athletes and persons in the military to scan their own heart beat



DOCYARD

DR AJAY PHADKE

Centre Head
SLR DR AVINASH PHADKE PATH LABS,
MUMBAI



Forewarned is forearmed

The incidence of type I Diabetes is rising by three per cent every year, with nearly 75,000 new children being diagnosed to have T1DM every year. Type I Diabetes is also known as Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus (IDDM) and Juvenile Onset Diabetes Mellitus. As of 2018, there were at least 97,000 cases of juvenile Diabetes reported in India alone, which is alarming.

Type I Diabetes is an autoimmune disorder which affects the pancreas, and stops the production of insulin. Insulin is a hormone which plays a number of roles in the body's metabolism. Insulin regulates how the body uses and stores glucose and fat. Many of the body's cells rely on insulin to take glucose from the blood for energy. The hampering of the production of insulin leads to laboured functioning of other internal systems. The circulatory system, nervous system, skin, eyes, feet and others, are all impacted by Diabetes.

Juvenile Diabetes has been connected to viral infections like mumps, rubella, and even in-utero enteroviral infections, along with early stage nutrition. However, one of the most direct and apparent causes till date has been genetics. Men and women with type I Diabetes tend to stand a greater chance of passing on the disease to their children.

In case of women with type I Diabetes, the risk is higher in case of pregnancies after the age of 25. About one in every seven people with type I Diabetes have a condition called Type II Polyglandular Autoimmune Syndrome. This condition leads to thyroid and malfunctioning of adrenal gland. The child's risk of developing Diabetes in this case is as high as 50 per cent.

It is crucial for families to be aware of the risk factors, and the possible impact on their children. The best way to prevent/prepare for possibility of the disease is regular screening, regardless.

Type I Diabetes is determined by the presence of one or more autoimmune markers. One can get tested to assess the levels of these

There are tests that can accurately assess risk of Diabetes, bifurcated below.

- **Glycosylated Hemoglobin:** Which tells us the average blood sugar level over the last two to three months, to identify whether we are at a risk of developing diabetes or already have Diabetes.
- **Post-diabetes:** After being detected with diabetes.
- **Insulin level:** The main anabolic hormone of the body, regulating the metabolism of carbohydrates, fats and protein.
- **C peptide level:** As a means of distinguishing type I diabetes from type II.

■ **Antibodies, GAD and other pancreatic antigens**
■ **Glutamic Acid Decarboxylase Antibodies (GADA or Anti-GAD):** This test looks for antibodies built against a specific enzyme in the pancreatic beta cells that produce insulin and Insulin Auto Antibodies (IAA).

In addition to attacking beta cells, the immune system in people with type I Diabetes also targets insulin. This test thereby, looks for those antibodies that target insulin.

While, these are tests that directly indicate diabetes, there are certain other tests can also prove to be indicators of developing diabetes and should be regularly monitored like lipid profile, kidney profile tests, thyroid tests, skin & eyes

Additionally, there are molecular tests which can be undertaken to assess the genetic root. Type I Diabetes is determined by the presence of one or more autoimmune markers. One can get tested to assess the levels of these, to determine the possibility of developing type I diabetes, or complications thereof.

Diabetes can't be cured (yet), but it can be controlled. Growing with Diabetes can be quite challenging for kids, from physical as well as an emotional point of view. Children with Diabetes require balanced nutrition, exercise, and most importantly, support from those close to them.

Medical science is striving endlessly to ensure easier management of the disease, to enable young patients of type I Diabetes to lead fulfilling lives. In a situation with so much at stake, forewarned is definitely forearmed, and it falls on parents, doctors, and the adults in their lives to ensure that we take this responsibility.

WARMFOODS

CAYENNE PEPPER: Cayenne peppers are a type of chili pepper. They belong to the nightshade family of flowering plants and are closely related to bell peppers and jalapenos. Cayenne peppers are a popular spice used in many different regional styles of cooking, and they have been used medicinally for thousands of years.

The capsaicin in cayenne peppers has metabolism-boosting properties. It helps increase the amount of heat your body produces, making you burn more calories per day.

Cayenne pepper may help boost the stomach's defense against infections, increase digestive fluid production and help deliver enzymes to the stomach, aiding digestion

It is full of beta carotene and anti-oxidants that support your immune system. It aids in breaking up and moving congested mucus and once this nasty mucus will leave the body, the symptoms of the flu or cold will diminish.



Holi grail

Skin and eyecare experts share tips that can be followed this Holi

While it's a pleasure playing with colours on Holi, it's always quite a difficult task to get rid of the same after the festive party. Here are few of the tips which you can consider for post-holi cleansing of your skin, hair and nails:

First, you can opt for cleaning up after Holi is to shampoo generously, and wash off the colours from the hair. It is also advised to oil the hair again after the shampoo in an order to lock the moisture in the hair. Second, you should clean your skin after Holi celebration with a face wash which is gentle, and not harsh on the skin.

Third, you can put some aloe vera gel on the areas affected by the colors or sun burn caused due to the long exposure in sunlight. It can also be helpful to reduce the itching on the skin, caused due to the mixing of glass into the Holi colours.

Fourth, you can clean up after playing holi. Gently massage on your face and body with sesame seed oil as it helps in protecting the skin along with helping in removing the residues of the colours.

The final measure which you can take to clean up after playing holi is to apply a hair mask or hair pack. It can be well prepared by using the domestic remedies like making a mixture of henna powder, lemon juice and curd. Apply it on the hair and wash after an hour, it will make your hair free from harmful chemicals of the Holi colours and will ensure that your scalp is completely clean, while locking back the nourishment in the hair.

Ensure that if you find any serious issue popping up, then you need to consult a rightly qualified dermatologist for the same.

LOOK BEFORE YOU PLAY

Holi — the festival of colours is finally here, bringing a lot of fun and joy with itself. It's a great amuse to drench into the hues of colours but at the same time it can be hazardous to our skin, nails as well as hair, as it can result into acne, rashes and many other skin diseases. It's quite an important thing to make yourself prepared well in advance for the same, you can do so by keeping the points in mind.

First, apply ice cubes and massage with the same for around ten minutes as it will close the open skin pores thereby, preventing the acne to appear on the skin. Second, you can put almond oil on your whole body as it acts as a wall between the skin and the color, preventing the colour sticking onto the body. It's also enriched with Vitamin E, providing nourishment to the body. The third thing which you can do to prepare yourself before indulging into the colours is to put sunscreen on the whole body to shield your skin from the exposure to the perilous UV Rays, which can also lead to tanning.

The fourth thing which you can do for a safe Holi is to put petroleum jelly around the fingertips, nails, in between the fingers, at the backside of ears, and on the lips as well. The final measure which you can take for a hassle free Holi is to shampoo as well as condition your hair well before playing Holi too, because if the pre-dirt of the hair mixes with the colours, it can damage your hair at a great extent resulting into rough and dry hair, which can further lead to a huge amount of hair-fall.

BE AWARE OF EYE INFECTIONS

Our eyes are among those body parts, which are extremely susceptible during Holi. Uses of synthetic colours that are composed of chemicals possess a great threat to one's eyes. The artificial green colour used on Holi comes from copper sulphate, which can cause several eye infections and allergy.

Eye infections are caused by bacteria, chemicals or other microbiological agents. There are different types of eye infections with different causes and treatments. Most common eye infections are conjunctivitis/pink eye, keratitis, endophthalmitis, blepharitis, sty, uveitis, cellulitis and ocular herpes.

■ **EYE ALLERGY:** Eye allergy post-Holi is fairly common. Symptoms of eye allergy include redness of the eye, itching, tearing, burning, sting-



ing and watery discharge. Eyelids become inflamed and, sometimes, you may experience blurred vision. The longer the synthetic colour is in the eye, the more damage it will cause.

You can save yourself from eye allergy post Holi by washing your eye immediately with plain water and continue washing for at least ten minutes. The particles of the chemical will wash away and you will feel relaxed. There are a number of eye drops that can help you relieve eye allergy.

■ **TESTS TO DIAGNOSE EYE INFECTION:** Tests for diagnosis of eye infections like viral retinitis, endophthalmitis, and Fuch's uveitis. Molecular panels for diagnosing these conditions are based on advanced molecular methods and provide greater than 90 per cent sensitivity with the assurance of 100 per cent specificity, leading to faster and effective treatment.

The writer is Dr Aparna Kotekar HOD, Molecular Department, iGenetic Diagnostics

SKIN CARE

Playing Holi is fun, but it's hectic to get back your skin in the very same condition as Holi colours grasp the nourishment of the skin and thereby, turn it dry. Here are some of the tips which you can adapt for a healthy skin, post Holi celebration. One should also consult a qualified dermatologist for taking extra special care. Follow the following steps and get rid of all your jitters.

First, have a bath in lukewarm or normal water to remove the dry colours from the skin. Do not use soaps as it is alkaline in nature and can be harsh on the skin, and can cause further dryness. For face, choosing cleansing cream over face wash is a better option as it will soothe the skin and won't be causing any itching or irritation. Gently massage the cleansing lotion all over the skin and remove it with a moist cotton.

Second, after washing the facepack, you can apply moisturiser all over the body.

Third, coconut oil can be used as a skin cleanser and to lock the moisture in the skin.

Fourth, to remove the colours from the fingertips, or around the nails you can mix the rose water into the warm water and dip your hands and feet in the same.

Fifth, you can do to take care of your skin is not to use any body or face scrub, exfoliators, after at least 48 hours of playing holi.

Finally, you can adapt to take care of your skin is to avoid going out in much exposure to the sun.

TREATMENT

Holi colours can lead to skin rashes or skin infection which can result into severe burning and itching that can be very much harmful to

skin. What you can do as a measure of precaution is to keep a first-aid box, or medicine pouch handy with yourself so that if any emergency strikes, it can be helpful. In that you can keep some antiseptic powder, solution, cream, and lotion, bandage, anti-burning cream, band aid, anti-allergic tablets, body oil, moisturiser, petroleum jelly, face and hand cream, sunscreen to protect the skin from sunburn. These solutions can act as a saviour for your skin from any kind of hazardous skin diseases or rashes that can be caused due to the Holi colours.

AVOID

Many skin treatments should be avoided during the festive season of Holi as it can affect adversely to our skin as there is colour mixed in the air and everywhere throughout the atmosphere. It can cause severe skin diseases like skin peeling, rashes, itching, or irritation and others. Skin treatments which involve exfoliation in any of the forms like scrub, peel, or dermabrasion should be avoided before or just after Holi, instead you should go for mild hydrating and oxygen infusion rejuvenation treatments to prep your skin and make it healthy from within. You can use home based remedies like aloe vera as it moisturises the skin, reduces inflammation, and thereby, turning the skin cool, it also helps in reducing the peeling of the skin. It soothes the irritated skin and helps in reducing sunburn, and areas which feel hot and painful.

However, the best way to take precaution of skincare during Holi is to consult a qualified dermatologist for the same.

The writer is Dr Rohit Batra, Dermatologist, Sri Ganga Ram Hospital & Dr Neha Mittal, Cosmetic Physician, Dermaworld Skin & Hair care

DadiKaKehna

The weather is just right to play Holi. While most people take care of the skin and nails when they play with colours, many forget that haircare is just as important. ROISHANI DEVI shares tips to prevent damage to them



When you are playing Holi, you forget the damage the colours can do to your skin, eyes and hair. But that doesn't mean that you can't enjoy this festival of colours. Here are tips that one can follow:

Putting lots of hair oil is an age-old trick to prevent the hair from getting damaged. Ensure that you oil them at least an hour before you start playing with colours. One can use almond oil.

Drink lots of fluids. Keep yourself well hydrated this will prevent your hair from getting dry and more vulnerable to harsh colours.

Ensure that you tie your hair properly, braid them. A better way would be to use a scarf to tie your hair. This will prevent

the hair from damage.

After you have finished playing with colours, it is important to wash your hair properly. First, thoroughly wash your hair with plain water to get rid of the colour.

Use a mild shampoo. Leave it on for about 10 minutes. Rinse and apply a conditioner. You can make your own shampoo using shikakai, reetha and orange or lemon peel. If your hair feel dry, oil your hair again and leave it overnight. Wash off, the next day.

Apply a deep cleansing conditioner. Apply a hair mask using lemon, eggs, yogurt and amla after two to three days to treat the damage done to your hair.



TIPTOP

Recently Pharmazz India Pvt Ltd presented its nine years of research done for developing life saving drugs at a conference. These drugs will be helpful in cases of accidents, maternal mortality, diarrhoea and burns as these can control excessive blood loss or fluid loss from the patient's body to such an extent that doctors can effectively get extra time of 6-7 hours to save the life. The event was attended by medical researchers from India and the US.

Twenty highly-credentialed Indians are executing human trial tests in 25 major Indian medical institutions, that address shock from serious blood loss, stroke from reduced blood supply to the brain, Alzheimer's disease and injuries to the spinal cord.

"This conference shows Indian doctors and scientists collaborating on new

technological answers to life-threatening challenges faced by millions of Indians," Pharmazz Co-founder Anil Gulati, PhD, MD, said.

Millions of Indians are afflicted by these injuries and diseases every year. For instance, we have very high rates of car crashes. People are injured and bleed. Millions have lost their lives from the blood loss. Our drug has already saved lives in clinical trials, and we hope it will be successful and save more," Dr Gulati said.

Considering the preclinical and clinical data till date, the chances of survival are very high. The drug has shown remarkable effects in patients of hypovolemic shock. Three important surrogate clinical endpoints for hypovolemic shock are blood pressure, blood lactate and base-deficit. The results demonstrate all three points significantly (P<0.001) improved.

SLIMLINE

Increased use of digital media may be partly responsible for the growth in the percentage of young adults experiencing certain types of mental health disorders in the US over the past decade, suggests new research.

"More US adolescents and young adults in the late 2010s, versus the mid-2000s, experienced serious psychological distress, major depression or suicidal thoughts, and more attempted suicide," said lead study

author Jean Twenge, Professor of Psychology at San Diego State University in the US. These trends are weak or non-existent among adults 26 years and over, suggesting a generational shift in mood disorders instead of an overall increase across all ages. Cultural trends in the last 10 years may have had a larger effect on mood disorders and suicide-related outcomes among younger generations compared with older generations

WATCH THE SCALES

SATKAM DIVYA tells you how to keep yourself healthy this festive season



Can diet alter your health happiness? The answer to this is a certain yes. One has to be thoughtful while eating if you love to be healthy and in shape. Festivals are a sweet delight we all know. However, too much of sweetness comes hand in hand with excessive calories which can hamper your body's weight and health as well.

Festivals like Holi in which sweet indulgence is a must with no escape formula, it becomes hard to avoid sweet as well as its cravings. Certainly, there is no fixed diet which can be followed during a festive season. Also, each person will have their different set of rules. Like for example a diet suggestion by our grandma and a plan given by a gym instructor will match nowhere during these festivities. But it is an individual's responsibility to kill those little sweet craving monsters jumping inside or to satisfy them with a little or optional indulgence. It has to be you and only you who can decide what and how much you are going to eat by following your ming or a heart.

■ **What are the basics of diet which need to be kept in mind during festivals?**

Festive season diet is very essential and a beginning to the basics is by stocking the right type of food to munch on during celebrations. Getting your hands on the right ingredients is the best to watch your calories and keeping your diet healthy even amidst the celebrations.

You can choose to go nutty over the nuts since they contain the healthy fats which can help your skin and hair without any further harming to weight. A handful of dry fruits like raisins, almonds, figs, pistachio, apricots, and cashews, are few healthy eating as well as gifting options during this Holi. Dried fruits can also be added to several home-made low-calorie sweets during the festival as well.

It is also important to avoid deep ghee indulgence along with white sugar and instead, switching over to sweets made from jaggery or dark chocolate with dry fruits will be a far better option. Sweets made from white flour, sugar, and ghee must be minimised to keep excessive calories at bay. Eating healthy as well as gifting healthy items must be a proper mantra this Holi.

Spicing of healthy festivals can be done with savory and sweet foods by adding cloves, saffron, cinnamon, cardamom, and black peppercorns and others. Besides giving a good flavour to foods these are enriched with several biological properties to help the health with several benefits. These are also readily available in our Indian kitchens as well.

To keep yourself healthy and fit you can rely on the following tips:

■ **Try to stick to your daily workout regime if you follow any.** Because little more food indulgence with a break of workout regime can trigger a sudden weight put on.

■ **Cooking fiesta during festivals is a stress buster for many.** However, empty stomach cooking might result in snacking on each and every stuff your eyes get hold on. To avoid this, it is best is either to cook while you are not too hungry or keeping unhealthy snacks out of your easy reach in kitchen closets.

■ **Grocery shopping during pre-festival preparations must be linked with some principles to follow.** Like opting for only healthy foods to store and avoiding unhealthy stuff from the beginning.

■ **Refrain from non-veg meals and opt for more natural vegetables and fruits in meals.** Else opt a mantra to keep a balance between veg and non-veg diet with mindful diet instead of bingeing on non-veg entirely giving the festival a reason to yourself for overeating.

■ **Always remember to stay hydrated and have plenty of water and other fluids.**

The writer is CEO, KlinicApp

STUDYCENTRE

A WHO indicate that there are about 466 million people across the world with disabling hearing loss. This number is likely to increase to 900 million by 2050 if no action is taken. The need of the hour is to lay emphasis on early identification and intervention for hearing loss. More than one billion young adults aged between 12 and 35 years are at risk of hearing loss due to exposure to higher recreational noise levels. Around one-third of people over 65 years of age are affected by disabling hearing loss.

It is recommended that people who are continuously exposed to a noise level of greater than 85 dB should be provided hearing protection. Tips from Heart Care Foundation of India:

■ **Traffic flow around areas like schools and hospitals should be minimised as much as possible.** Signboards displaying 'Silence zone', 'No honking' must be placed near them.

■ **Ban the use of horns with jarring sounds, motorbikes with damaged exhaust pipes, and noisy trucks.**

■ **The use of loudspeakers in parties and discos, as well as public announcements systems should be checked and discouraged.**

■ **Noise rules must be stringent and strictly enforced near such silence zones.**

■ **Plant trees along roads and in residential areas is a good way to reduce noise pollution as they absorb sound.**

May in last-minute push to win Brexit support

AP ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Theresa May was making a last-minute push on Monday to win support for her European Union divorce deal, warning opponents that failure to approve would mean a long — and possibly indefinite — delay to Brexit.



Parliament has rejected the agreement twice, but May aims to try a third time this week if she can persuade enough lawmakers to change their minds. Her aim is to have the deal agreed before EU leaders meet Thursday for a summit in Brussels.

But there was no sign of a breakthrough, and the government faces a deadline of the end of Tuesday to decide whether they have enough votes to pass the deal, so that a vote can be held on Wednesday.

May's spokesman, James Slack, said Monday that the government would only hold a vote if there is "a realistic prospect of success." May is likely to ask for a delay to Brexit at the Brussels summit. If a deal is approved, she says she will ask the EU to extend the deadline until June 30 so that Parliament has time to approve the necessary legislation.

If it isn't, she will have to seek a longer extension that would mean Britain participating in May 23-26 elections for the European Parliament — something the government is keen to avoid.

May's goal is to win over Northern Ireland's small, power-brokered Democratic Unionist Party. The DUP's 10 lawmakers prop up May's Conservative government, and their support could influence pro-Brexit Conservatives to drop their opposition to the deal.

Still, May faces a struggle to reverse the huge margins of defeat for the agreement in Parliament. It was rejected by 230 votes in January and by 149 votes last week.

Influential Conservative Brexititeer Jacob Rees-Mogg said he would wait to see what the DUP decided before making up his mind on whether to support May's deal.

"No deal is better than a bad deal, but a bad deal is better than

remaining in the European Union," he told LBC radio.

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said Monday he saw "cautious signs of encouragement" that the deal might make it through Parliament this week.

After months of political deadlock, British lawmakers voted last week to seek to postpone Brexit. That will likely avert a chaotic British withdrawal on the scheduled exit date of March 29 — although the power to approve or reject a Brexit extension lies with the EU, whose leaders are fed up with British prevarication. EU leaders say they will only grant it if Britain has a solid plan for what to do with the extra time.

"We have to know what the British want: How long, what is the reason supposed to be, how it should go, what is actually the aim of the extension?" German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told reporters in Brussels.

"The longer it is delayed, the more difficult it will certainly be," Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders agreed, saying: "We are not against an extension in Belgium, but the problem is — to do what?" Opposition to May's deal centers on a measure designed to ensure there is no hard border between the U.K.'s Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland after Brexit.

China's air prowess on Pak Day

PTI ■ BEIJING

The J-10 fighter jets of the Chinese air force will participate in Pakistan's National Day parade on March 23, state-media reported Monday.

The J-10 fighter jets of the People's Liberation Army Air Force's Bayi Aerobatic Team arrived in Pakistan on Saturday in preparation for a flight performance there, Global Times reported.

Contingents from countries including China, Saudi

PAKISTAN'S NATIONAL DAY PARADE

Arabia and Turkey will participate in the parade, with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad being the guest of honour, the report said.

Hu Zhiyong, a research fellow at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of International Relations, told the daily that China sending fighter jets to celebrate Pakistan Day is symbolic of the friendship between the two countries

warning aircraft, which is developed by China and is reportedly capable of aerial detection and sharing real time battlefield information.

Recently China announced plans to upgrade the JF-17 fighter jet being jointly produced by both the countries.

In addition to the J-10's flight performance, Chinese analysts expect more Chinese elements at Pakistan Day parade as the country operates a variety of Chinese weapons.

The Pakistan Air Force also operates the ZDK-03 early

GLOBE TROTTER

6 KILLED IN POLL VIOLENCE IN B'DESH
Dhaka: Six people, including a presiding officer, were shot dead on Monday by unidentified gunmen in Bangladesh's southeastern hills on the second phase of a nationwide sub-district polls, police said. Eight others, including some policemen, were injured in the shootings at Baghaichhari sub-district headquarters in Rangamati district.

DR CONGO TRAIN DERAILMENT KILLS 24
Kinshasa: At least 24 people were killed and 31 injured when a freight train carrying stowaways derailed in the Democratic Republic of Congo, police and medical services said. The accident occurred Sunday in Kasai province, in the centre-west of the central African country. "We have retrieved 24 bodies, mostly children. It is a provisional toll because the wagons are still overturned," a railway police official in Bena Leka, 140 kilometres (90 miles) north of Kananga, one of the main towns in Kasai, told AFP.

21 DEAD AS GUNMEN STORM MALI ARMY CAMP
Bamako: Suspected jihadists have killed 21 Malian soldiers in a raid on an army camp in central Mali, military sources said, after a dawn attack that the armed forces believe was led by a deserter.

Musharraf admitted to Dubai hospital after reaction from rare disease: Party

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's former military ruler Pervez Musharraf has been admitted to a hospital in Dubai after suffering a reaction from a rare disease that has weakened his nervous system, his party has said.

General (ret'd) Musharraf, 75, who has been living in Dubai since March 2016, is facing the treason case for suspending the Constitution in 2007, a punishable offence for which he was indicted in 2014.

A conviction for high treason carries the death penalty or life imprisonment.

Aus police raid properties linked to New Zealand terror suspect

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australian counter-terrorism police on Monday searched two homes linked to the family members of the gunman accused of killing 50 people at two mosques in Christchurch to obtain material that may assist New Zealand Police in their investigation into the terror attack.

The attacker, identified by authorities as Australia-born Brenton Tarrant, 28, targeted immigrants during Friday prayers. Witnesses said victims were shot at close range.

He was arrested shortly after entering two mosques -- Masjid Al Noor and Linwood

- with high-powered weapons and shooting dead 50 people, including five Indians.

The New South Wales (NSW) Joint Counter Terrorism Team on Monday searched two properties on the state's mid-north coast. One of the properties being searched belongs to Sharon Tarrant, the mother of the attacker.

"Around 8.30 this morning (local time) officers from the NSW JCTT executed a search warrant at a home in the town of Sandy Beach, near Coffs Harbour. A short time later, a second search warrant was executed at another home in Lawrence near Maclean," the statement said.

"The primary aim of the activity is to formally obtain material that may assist New Zealand Police in their ongoing investigation," it said adding "the family of the Australian man arrested in Christchurch continues to assist police with their inquiries."

Police further assured the community that that there was no information to suggest a current or impending threat related to this search warrants.

The NSW JCTT comprises representatives from the Australian Federal Police, NSW Police Force, the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) and the NSW Crime Commission.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED FEMALE

General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) namely Saroj D/o Kannu R/o H. No. C-2/16, Nangli Vihar Extn., Baprola, Delhi Aged - 20 Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 20.02.2019 from the area of P.S. Ranhola, Delhi vide DD No. 17-A Dated 21.02.2019 registered at Police Station Ranhola, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-



Saroj

Complexion: Fair, **Height:** 5'3", **Face:** Round, **Clothing:** Golden coloured suit, black coloured salwar and sandal in feet.
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped female, may inform SHO, Ranhola, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/-
FAX No. : 011-24368639 SHO, Ranhola, Delhi
DP/2007/OD/19 Tel.: 011-28363001, 28363002, 28363003

Will remain sensitive towards India's security, strategic concerns: Maldives

PTI ■ MALE

The Maldives on Monday reaffirmed its "India-First Policy", saying it looks forward to working closely with India on all issues and will remain sensitive towards its security and strategic concerns as External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj held talks with the country's top leadership.

The Maldivian leaders also expressed commitment to support India's efforts to combat terrorism, particularly cross-border terrorism, and crimes such as piracy, organised crime, narcotic drugs and human trafficking.

Swaraj arrived here on Sunday on a two-day visit, the first full-fledged bilateral trip from India to the strategically located Indian Ocean island nation after the government of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih came to power in November last year.

She held talks with President Solih, Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid, former President Mohamed Nasheed and other top leaders.

The External Affairs Minister and Solih took stock of the progress made in bilateral relations since his visit to India in December 2018.

Swaraj and her Maldivian counterpart Shahid during their meeting on Sunday discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and also noted the number of high level exchanges, between the two countries over the past three months.

They recalled the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the swearing-in ceremony of President Solih in November as well as his visit to India in December.

The bilateral talks between the Foreign Ministers was followed by a joint ministerial meeting in which Swaraj held

discussions with Shahid, Defence Minister Mariya Ahmed Didi, Finance Minister Ibrahim Ameer and other ministers.

She also met Maldivian Home Minister Imran Abdulla on Monday and discussed steps to continue the upward trajectory in bilateral relationship.

"Foreign Minister Shahid reiterated his government's "India-First Policy" and said that his Government looks forward to working closely with the Government of India on all issues.

He also reiterated that the Government of Maldives would remain sensitive towards India's security and strategic concerns, "according to a joint statement.

Gunman kills three on Dutch tram, mayor says terror likely

AP ■ UTRECHT

A gunman killed three people and wounded nine others on a tram in the central Dutch city of Utrecht, sparking a manhunt that saw heavily armed officers with sniffer dogs zero in on an apartment building close to the shooting.

Authorities immediately raised the terror alert for the area to the maximum level, and the city's mayor said a "terror motive" was the most likely theory.

Dutch military police went on extra alert at Dutch airports and at key buildings in the country as the Utrecht manhunt took place.

A few hours after the shooting, Utrecht police released a photo of a 37-year-old man born in Turkey who they said was "associated with the incident." The photo showed a bearded man on board a tram, dressed in a dark

blue hooded top. Police warned citizens not to approach the man, whom they identified as Gokmen Tanis, but call authorities instead.

The Utrecht attack came three days after 50 people were

killed when an immigrant-hating white nationalist opened fire at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand during Friday prayers. There was no immediate indication of any link between the two events.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Public that the Original Registered Lease Deed dated 13.11.1997 executed between U.P. State Industrial Development Corporation Limited and Ved Ram & Sons (now as VRS Foods Limited) for the Property bearing address at B-56, Site-IV, Sahibabad Industrial Area, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, U.P., duly Registered with Sub Registrar having Bahi No.1, Jild-4632, Page-226/232, Number 4131/32 dated 20.11.1997, has been lost/misplaced.

An FIR/NCR to this effect has already been lodged in the Police Station; Crime Branch, Delhi Vide LR No. 749429/2019 dated 01.03.2019. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone else on the basis of the said lost documents and anyone dealing based on the said original Registered Lease Deed will be doing so at their own risk and consequence. Any person claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of the Original Documents may kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Sd/-
VRS FOOD LIMITED
(Earlier known as VED RAM & SONS)
THE MIRA CORPORATE SUITS
Place: Delhi B1 & B2, ISHWAR NAGAR,
Date: 01.03.2019 MATHURA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110065

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Expression of Interest (EOI)
Delhi Division, Northern Railway invites "Expression of Interest" from reputed Hospitals setting up, operating and maintaining "Free Emergency Medical Facility Centre" at New Delhi, Delhi, Hazrat Nizamuddin & Ghaziabad railway stations for a period of five years for providing free emergency medical assistance to the bonafide railway passengers holding valid tickets. The detailed information regarding EOI is available on the official website of Northern Railway www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in Last date for submission of EOI is up to 1500 hrs on 22.04.2019.
File No.: 7PUB/Emergency Medical Centre/2018 853/19
Serving Customers With A Smile

PUBLIC NOTICE
Mr. Vijay Kumar is the Owner of the Property, H. No. C-8, Naraina Vihar, New Delhi-28, & a Part of the lease deed dated 09.11.1972 has been lost/ misplaced for which a F.I.R has been done on 10.3.2019. If anybody has any claim on this property please report within 7 days on the following email & the phone number.
vaneetsehgal2007@gmail.com
#011-25771406, 9312284729

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited
Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakri Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara - 390 007.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400051.
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan, New Delhi - 110055

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
[See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Notice for sale of immovable properties
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder ;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrowers / Guarantors / Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured assets with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding (In ₹)	Reserve Price (In ₹)	Earned Money Deposit (In ₹)	Date of Property Inspection and Time	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)
1.	Mr. Atul lamba (Borrower), Bishamber Lal lamba/ Rupal Lamba (Co-Borrower) - LBCB700001490991	Flat No. A- 2, 306, Third Floor Of Silver State, Plot No. F 29, Sector 50, Noida. Area Is 1735 Sq. Ft.	45,51,494/- as on March 11, 2019	1,08,00,000/-	10,80,000/-	March 27, 2019, From 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM	April 9, 2019, From 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM

The online auction will take place on the website of auction agency **Shriram Automall India Ltd. (URL Link - "https://eauctions.samil.in")**. The Mortgagee/ Noticee are given last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **April 8, 2019, before 5:00 P.M** failing which, this/these secured asset/s will be sold as per schedule.
The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with aforesaid earnest money deposit (as referred in column No. (F)) in a sealed envelope superscribed "offer for purchase of property" so as to reach at **ICICI Bank Limited, 2nd Floor Videocon Tower, Block E-1, Jhandewalan Extension, Rani Jhansi Road, Delhi-110055** or our marketing agents **Shriram Automall India Ltd** having their office at **2nd Floor, Best Sky Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi - 110034** on or before **April 8, 2019 before 5:00 P.M.** The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. EMD DD / PO should be from a Nationalised / Scheduled Bank favouring **"ICICI Bank Limited"** payable at **Delhi**.
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact on Mobile no. **8584874809/ 8657476284** of ICICI Bank Limited or **9910453434** of Shriram Automall India Ltd. The tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank/e-auction vendor official and registered before the cut off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction.
The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any reasons therefor. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit **ICICI Bank Ltd website at <https://www.icicibank.com/notice-board/properties-for-sale/properties.page?>**
Sd/-
Authorised Officer
ICICI Bank Limited.
Date : March 19, 2019
Place : Delhi/ NCR

Convicted French cardinal expected to resign at meeting with pope

AFP ■ VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis met Monday with Cardinal Philippe Barbarin, France's highest-ranking Catholic official, who was expected to tender his resignation after receiving a six-month suspended jail sentence for failing to report sex abuse by a priest under his authority.

The Vatican confirmed the meeting took place within the city state but did not provide any details.

Barbarin, 68, is the most senior French cleric caught up in the global paedophilia scandal that has rocked the Catholic Church. He said after his March 7 conviction that he would travel to Rome to tender his resignation. If accepted, Barbarin would become "bishop emeritus" of the southeastern French city of Lyon but remain cardinal, meaning he could still vote on a new pope.

The Argentine pontiff could take several weeks to decide whether to accept the resignation. The pope has previously defended the cardinal, saying in 2016 that his resignation before a trial would be "an error, imprudent."

But Francis said in February that "no abuse must ever be covered up, as has happened in the past", or be underestimated. A court in Lyon found Barbarin guilty of failing to report allegations that a priest, Bernard Preynat, had abused boys scouts in the Lyon area in the 1980s and 1990s.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Sagar S/o Pritam Singh R/o Y-142, Mangol Puri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 180/18, u/s 379/411/34 IPC** at P.S. Mangol Puri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said **Sagar** could not be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Sagar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sagar** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **01.08.2019**.
By Order
Sh. Rakesh Kumar -II
Metropolitan Magistrate (North-West)
Room No. 105, 1st floor, Rohini Courts, Delhi

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an **unidentified body of a male** namely **Unknown (Nickname: Apple @ Mithun), S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, was found 10.03.2019 at 03.00 PM on Community Center, Behind Janak Cinema, Janak Puri, Delhi.** In this regard DD No. 46-A, dated 10.03.2019 has been lodged at Police Station, Janakpuri, New Delhi. Dead Body has been preserved 72 Hrs. at mortuary, DDU Hospital, Hari Nagar, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:
Name: Unknown, Age: 30-35 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Normal, Wearing: Blue Jeans, Full Black T-Shirt and Black Shoes. If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.
SHO
Police Station, Janakpuri, New Delhi
DP/8163/WD/19 Ph.: 011-25551410, 8750871129

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an **unknown dead body was found at under hanuman Setu, Yamuna Bazaar, Kashmiri Gate, Delhi, dated 05.03.2019.** In this regard a DD No. 52-A dated 05.03.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Kashmiri Gate, Delhi.
The Description of the dead body is given as under: **Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Sex: Male, Age: 40 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Grey Colour T-Shirt, Grey Jacket, Blue Jeans Pant and Bare Footed.**
Sincere efforts have been made by the local Police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone having any information about this dead person, please inform undersigned.
SHO
P.S. Kashmiri Gate, Delhi
DP/9772/N/19 Ph: 011-23968730, 0875087123

GTB NAGAR BRANCH
Kingsway camp, GTB Nagar, New Delhi-110009
E-mail: br.9033@syndicatebank.co.in

Ref No. 9537 Date: 28-02-2019

To Borrowers:
1) MAYA W/O MUNIM CHAND NANDA- 54-B, ANEVAR CHANRAM PARK, KRISHNA NAGAR, DELHI-110051
2) MUNIM CHAND- 54-ARAM PARK NEAR, CHANDU PARK KRISHNA NAGAR, DELHI-110051

On the North by OTHER PROPERTY
On the South by GALI 20FT
On the East by REMAINING PORTION
On the West by REMAINING PORTION

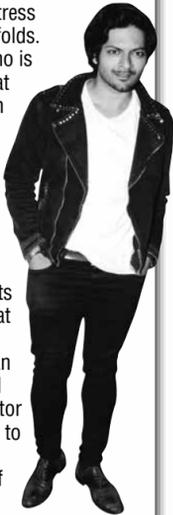
6) For the reasons stated, we hereby call upon all of you to discharge in full your liabilities to us within a period of 60 Days from the date of this notice, failing which, we will be exercising the powers under Sec.13 of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.
7) The amount realised from exercising of the powers mentioned above, will first be applied in payment of all costs, charges and expenses, which in the opinion of us have been properly incurred by us, or any expenses incidental thereto, and secondly applied in discharge of the dues of us as mentioned above with contractual interest from the date of this notice till the date of actual realisation, and the residue of the money, if any, shall be paid to you.
8) Please take note that after receipt of this notice, you shall not transfer by way of sale lease or otherwise any of the secured assets mentioned in this notice, without prior written consent of the Bank (Secured Creditor). If Done it is an offence punishable under Section-2 of the act.
9) Your attention is also invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the act, respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
10) Please take further note that this is without prejudice to the rights of the bank against all of you before the DRT / Competent Court for recovery of the entire balance amount outstanding or any part there of along with interest payable and costs till the date of realisation.
Date: 18.03.2019 (Authorized Officer)
Place: New Delhi Syndicate Bank

HAVE MONEY, WILL FLY

Trend Blazer

'Being in love helps onscreen'

It is a happy co-incidence that actor **ALI FAZAL** has done his first full-fledged romantic film *Milan Talkies* right when his own love story with actress **Richa Chadha** unfolds. Reluctantly Ali, who is currently looking at the second season of his successful digital series *Mirzapur*, admits that being in love does make celluloid love more interesting. "I am sure it affects the way you look at love. How can it not? But more than my own feelings, I relied on my director **Tigmanshu Dhulia** to guide me through the conventions of love in *Milan Talkies*. He had never done a full-on love story. Neither had I."



'Wild Edens: South Asia will devote an entire episode to my native country of India. With this, millions of people will have the opportunity to see my country as an exotic mix of wild nature, rare animal life, unique wildlife sanctuaries and magnificent landscapes that are mesmerising and are also under the threat of dangers of climate change.'
—**Freida Pinto**

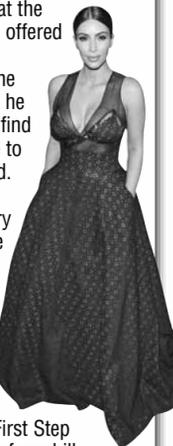


Actress **JANHVI KAPOOR** says her films are more important to her than earning fame as she has experienced fame since her childhood. "Fame is important for every actor and whatever fame I have earned is all because of my family. I have been getting recognised more after my first film so, I am very grateful for love and support which I received from the media and the audience. I have experienced fame since my childhood so now my work, acting and films are more important to me than fame," Janhvi said. She is currently working on the untitled biopic of **Gunjan Saxena**, the Indian Air Force's female combat pilot.



Kim helps rehouse an ex-prisoner

Reality TV star **KIM KARDASHIAN** has issued a plea on social media after her deal to rehouse a former prisoner fell through. It was revealed that the beauty mogul had offered to cover **Matthew Charles'** rent for the next five years, as he was struggling to find a place to live due to his criminal record. Matthew was released in January after serving more than 20 years of his 35-year sentence for non-violent drug and weapons charges, following the implementation of the First Step Act, a US prison reform bill. *The Keeping Up with the Kardashians* star reached out to him privately and made the generous offer in an effort to get him back on his feet following his release.



Millennials are availing loans to finance travel to their dream destinations. By TEAM VIVA

More than a perfect house or balcony, it is the number of stamps on passports that millennials save for today. With India estimated to become the youngest country by 2022, the Indian millennials are majorly influencing the country's travel trends, which show that travel has become a way of life for many young Indians and they are structuring their work and financial plans to ensure frequent get-aways. They don't share their parents' interest of investing in commodities. Keeping in mind that Indians are travelling more than the global average, **Nalini Gupta**, head of **Costa Cruise, India**, says that the trend of travel loans has emerged and now many fin tech companies are offering personal and retail loans for people to sponsor their travel packages. "However, the young Indian and especially the Gen Z, which grew in the midst of the great recession,

have also become fiscally conscious travellers, who will pre book to save money and unlike their parents do not make last minute travel decisions," she says. According to **Karan Anand**, head relationships, **Cox & Kings**, "The trend of taking more than one holiday by millennials has led to many of them opting for travel loans. These are for destinations such as the Far East and Europe. Even those who take short breaks to Dubai any Abu Dhabi fall in this bracket. These loans have a tenure of 18 to 24 months which make them attractive." **Heena J Akhtar**, co founder, **TripXOXO** says, "Travel loans have become prevalent in the last three years. Patrons are opting for their dream trips because they can upgrade the trips



'Patrons can upgrade to international destinations especially for their honeymoons. They are also exploring experiences such as a balloon flight with breakfast, falcon show and a helicopter ride'

to international destinations especially for their honeymoons. Travellers are also exploring high-end experiences such as a balloon flight with breakfast and falcon show, a helicopter ride, Abu Dhabi Formula 1 or a skydive which make their holidays memorable. People do pre-bookings for summers before prices increase." The cruise industry in India is also expanding rapidly. This is

because the cruise product meets many of the requirements of travellers, who want good food, well-planned entertainment activities, Instagrammable experiences and visiting unique ports. **Nalini** says, "Cruise options provide great value for money propositions and more than anything are hassle-free. Given the growing demand of Indians wanting to cruise, it is estimated they will exceed Chinese cruise passengers soon. The major cruise destinations are Singapore, Europe, Dubai and Maldives." Since cruises don't come cheap, finance offers a good option to travellers.

Anand Menon, brand leader, **FCM Travel Solutions**, points towards the summers as the season for the maximum number of vacations. He says, "There's an increase in demand and therefore the cost of travel packages is bound to go

up due to the rise in airfares and the rate of exchange (ROE). However, the rate of interest (ROI) for travel loans doesn't fluctuate significantly throughout the year, unlike ROE which can witness fluctuations dramatically."

For instance, he says, on a given day the rate for one euro could be ₹80 and after a few months, it could be ₹87. Thus, the cost of travel packages can only be affected by the ROE. Also, this year, since the holiday season is approaching, we have witnessed an increase in queries by 38 to 39 per cent in March vis-à-vis January and February. Customers who book early always benefit.

People usually take loans between ₹2.5 lakh and ₹5 lakh for international destinations. The most common destinations are Europe, Australia and South Africa to travellers who might otherwise choose regular haunts in Goa, Thailand or Sri Lanka.



Bollywood bids goodbye

Top names from the film industry took to social media to mourn the demise of the former Goa CM, **MANOHAR PARRIKAR**, calling him the finest example of simple living and high thinking

Bollywood names such as **Amitabh Bachchan**, **Akshay Kumar** and **Anupam Kher** have mourned the death of Goa Chief Minister **Manohar Parrikar**, who died at the age of 63.

A slew of actors remembered **Parrikar** and called him a "gentleman, intelligent and a good soul."

Parrikar died at his private residence on Sunday after a prolonged battle with pancreatic cancer. He was diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer in February last year and in and out of hospitals in Goa, Mumbai, Delhi and New York since then, had turned "extremely critical" on Sunday, the Chief Minister's Office wrote on social media.

Here's what the entertainment celebrities have wrote on twitter:

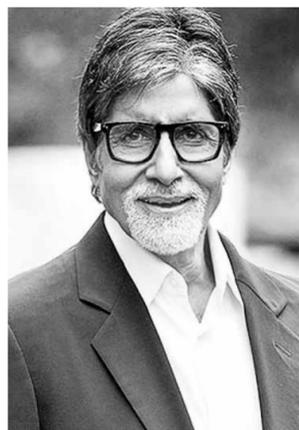
Amitabh Bachchan: Manohar Parrikar CM Goa, passes away. A gentleman to the core, simple in demeanour and well respected. Spent few short moments with him... very dignified, fought his illness bravely. Prayers and condolences.

Anupam Kher: Deeply deeply saddened to know about the untimely demise of Manohar Parrikarji. He was one of the most real, dignified, intelligent, warm, down-to-earth and honest person I had met. He had a great quality of inspiring people so effortlessly. Will miss him. Om Shanti.

Akshay Kumar: Extremely sad at hearing about the demise of Manohar Parrikarji. I feel blessed to have had the fortune of meeting and knowing a sincere and good soul as he was. Heartfelt condolences to his family.

Kay Kay Menon: Manohar Parrikar, a fine example of 'simple living, high thinking'. A personality that inspired confidence in every position that he served for the Nation. RIP Sir.

Randeep Hooda: Man of few words, simple, epitome of integrity and efficiency, a straight shooter, defence minister,



three-time chief minister of Goa, away from the trappings of a person in power, IITian, well mannered, a true servant of the nation, an example to follow for one and all... Salute Manohar Parrikar.

Swara Bhasker: RIP Manohar Parrikar. Condolences and strength to the family in this tragic time of grief.

Shankar Mahadevan: A big void which can never be filled. An extremely sad day for India as we have lost one of the finest leaders, Manohar Parrikar. My heartfelt condolences and prayers for the family.

—IANS



Mahesh meets cancer patient

Actor **Mahesh Babu** who never shies away from giving it back to the society, especially to his fans, reached out immediately to his ardent fan from **Srikakulam** who's suffering from cancer and had a wish of meeting his favorite actor.

A source reveals, "Mahesh believes that the position at which he is today is because of their loyalty and love. His heart melted when he came across this request. Amidst shooting for his forthcoming *Maharshi*, he tried every possible way to reach out to the official authorities and set up a meeting with his fan (**Parvin Bybi**) at the earliest.

"Mahesh didn't want to inform anyone before going. He wanted to keep it as smooth as possible. He met her early in the morning and spent quality time. He's now in touch with her parents as well to constantly know about her health and help them out in every way possible."

A recent study revealed that over 93 per cent of Indians are sleep deprived. By TEAM VIVA

It's scientifically proven that children who don't get adequate amount of sleep, develop cognitive and behavioral problems years later. Getting less sleep hurts these cognitive processes in many ways. First, it impairs attention, alertness, concentration, reasoning, and problem solving. This makes it more difficult to learn efficiently. Second, during the night, various sleep cycles play a role in consolidating memories in the mind. If you don't get enough sleep, you won't be able to remember what you learnt and experienced during the day. Teenagers are also prone to depression. Lack of sleep can also have negative effects on children's performance in school, during extracurricular activities and even in social relationships as it plays a critical role in thinking and learning. Conditions like attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), lack of concentration and high risk of obesity are linked to too little sleep in children. Everyone needs at least nine hours of sleep per night.

THE BEST MEDITATION

A recent study conducted by **Godrej Interio** revealed that children are one of most sleep-deprived segments in India. They launched the **sleep@10** campaign in 2017 that focused on addressing the rising concern over sleep deprivation. It was found that over 93 per cent of Indians are sleep-deprived.

The study is based on the insights sourced from Indians that have taken their sleep test on the **sleep-o-meter**. Over 3.5 lakh Indians have taken the sleep test and Delhi was found to be one of most sleep-deprived city in India. The study revealed that the problem of not sleeping on time wasn't only restricted to the adults in Delhi but kids as well wherein only 60 per cent of respondents below 18 years feel drowsy and tired after waking up which shows that sleep deprivation is on a rampant rise among the next generation. Around 45 per cent of the children respondents admitted that 'screen time', including television and phone, could be delaying their sleep hours while 41 per cent of the children respondents



said they slept after midnight while the ideal time would be around 10 pm.

According to the **sleep-o-meter** data, respondents between 18-25 age group, 29 per cent go to sleep between 12 midnight to 2 am while 58 per cent rarely sleep at 10 pm which is declared as an apt time for sleeping. Among respondents between 26-54 age group, 36 per cent get less than six hours of shut eye while only eight per cent respondents are able to sleep at 10 pm. For the respondents above the age of 55 years, 41 per cent sleep after 10 pm but before 12 am while 40.4 per cent rarely sleep around that time.

The exam times are stressful not only for children but everyone around them and especially for parents. One of the first steps parents must take to tackle anxiety and stress related to exams is to ensure that children are getting enough sleep. Getting adequate sleep is highly essential during exams as it helps them to focus, retain, and recall information better.

HOW THEY PAINTED HISTORY

SAIMI SATTAR takes a walk through *Drishyakala*, an exhibition at the Red Fort, which documents the period from the 16th century to Independence

One gets a feeling of travelling back in time. The image is familiar, yet it is not, for it has been stripped of any appearance of modernity, including the chaos that becomes normal when there is an abundance of human population. An elephant cart pulling a load next to the footsteps of Delhi's Jama Masjid has the possibility of holding the viewer enthralled. Then there are the chariots of Mahabalipuram, no longer placed within the sanitised surroundings of today but rather appearing to be straight out of Mowgli's world akin to the old, abandoned palace inhabited by King Louie.

The 144 prints by Thomas and William Daniel, which featured in the six volumes of *Oriental Scenery* published between 1795 and 1808, occupy the top floor of the *Drishyakala* exhibition, which is being displayed at Barrack number 4 inside the Red Fort, a monument which can be considered to be the heart of Shahjahanabad. Put together by the DAG, these works are a part of one of the four exhibitions done with the Archaeological Survey of India as part of the public-private partnership. They represent the story of India between the 16th century to the Independence.

These exhibitions, which have works from private collections, museums and more, took more than six months to put together. "We got in touch with curators from outside DAG in 2017 and started towards the end of the same year. But it was in the last six or seven months that work started on it in full swing," says Poonam Baid, Researcher and Project Coordinator, Exhibitions & Publications, DAG.

There was a definite idea behind putting this up at a central place which does not fall into the realm of a traditional art gallery. "The idea behind putting these up at the Red Fort, which features on the list of must-visit for everyone and not just art aficionados, is to cater to the common people who would not otherwise visit something like the Art Fair. Besides, it would give them a sense of belonging to their heritage. This would enable them to see the national art treasures together, which have never been seen before," says Poonam. The effort seems to be bearing fruit as about 2,000-3,000 people are coming in every day. The way they browse and even the discussions that they have among themselves make it apparent that this is their first brush with art at close quarters. "We want to hold their attention. Our primary motivation was to reach out to



them with important art works," she says.

So, while the ground floor has the works of nine National Art Treasures, Abanindranath Tagore, Amrita Sher-Gil, Gaganendranath Tagore, Jamini Roy, Nandalal Bose, Nicholas Roerich, Rabindranath Tagore, Raja Ravi Varma, and Sailoz Mookherjee, the first floor is dedicated to portraits, which include those which are academic as well as royal, by impressionists and expressionists, and also popular prints during the period of freedom struggle and Independence. "Many of these canvases and water colours were done to build a momentum towards popularising art in that period and that is how prints came in the picture," says Poonam. It is on the third level that the works of Daniels feature.

However, there are also overlaps. So while Raja Ravi Verma made paintings, he also set up the lithographic press and became the first person to print a picture in India. "He was a pioneer who set up a press and churned out oleographs and lithographs of his paintings so that every home had a Raja Ravi Verma as these

were representation of divinities," she points out. However it is not just the prints which make the cut at the exhibition. Verma was a master draughtsman and so his sketchbooks too have been put on display.

At the entrance itself, flanked on either side by rooms that display the works of the nine artists, is the Indian Constitution adopted on January 26, 1950 which was not a printed document. It was entirely handcrafted by the artists of Shantiniketan under the guidance of one of the national treasures, Acharya Nandalal Bose, with the calligraphy texts done by Prem Behari Narain Raizada in Delhi.

Another important work by the artist is the Haripura that Nandalal did for the 1938 Congress session. "We felt that this was important due to its historical context and people should see it. But there is also a mythological print as well as nature studies that he did in Shantiniketan and some collages. So all the genres of the artist and what all of them represent can be seen," says Poonam.

An early work of Jamini Roy for instance does not show the influence of the *Kalighat Pat* (Kalighat paint-



"PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED IN ROYALTY. A LOT OF THOUGHT PROCESS HAS GONE INTO WHAT THEY'D LIKE TO SEE. YOU CAN ENGAGE WITH AN ACADEMIC PORTRAIT AND LOOK AT THE ORNAMENTAL JEWELLERY WHILE BEING EXPOSED TO A LEGACY WHICH HAS BEEN PUT TOGETHER"

ing), which was a style of art with bold sweeping brush-strokes, that the artist is known for. On the contrary, it can be classified more in the genre of an impressionist landscape which is representative of his early works.

Similarly Amrita Sher-Gil's works are showcased not just by her paintings but also by a sculpture of two wild cats — one of the few done by the artist.

"The works of these nine artists cannot be exported," informs Poonam. She also says that this is one of the biggest exhibitions which has works of all of the nine artists under one roof. "We selected the paintings on the basis of every genre, different kinds of work and when it was done by the artist. It also includes unseen works," she adds.

As an aside to this particular show, there are also timelines of each of the artists which highlight the important dates in their lives. Additionally, there are also films on each of the exhibitions to enable the public to better understand the idea, the artist as well as the works on display.

Moving on to the next floor, there are portraits of all sizes and clas-

sifications. "People are interested in the *rajas* and the royalty. A lot of thought process has gone into what would people like to see. You can engage with an academic portrait and look at the ornamental jewellery while being exposed to a legacy which has been put together," she says.

Many of these paintings look like they have been done in a studio setting. Poonam explains the reason for this. "These paintings often took off from photographs. The artists would imagine a studio with drapes and cushions and include these in the paintings."

There is also an interesting story behind how Indian artists started doing portraits. Poonam says, "When travelling European artist like Frank Brooks were given commissions to paint portraits, the Indian artists realised that the foreigner is getting good money for painting the maharaja. Moreover, making a life-size portraits was royal and regal which added more value to their art which the Indian artist was quick to understand. As a result, they too started doing commissioned works during the 18th and 19th century." Interestingly, while the subjects are documented, often there is no trace of the artists who remain anonymous since they were doing commissioned portraits and did not sign it.

A really massive painting made by Bourn and Shepard shows Nawab Mohammad Ali Khan Bahadur

(1881-1947) of Malerkotla, Punjab done in the 1930s. An oil on canvas, it shows him in his regalia. The colours are fresh and well-preserved, including greens which have tendency to fade away. "It still has its original frame which weighs 380 kg and it required 12 people to carry it. The massive 108.0 x 60.0 inch painting was brought in separately and framed here," says Poonam.

However, it was not just the royalty which was getting their likeness painted. There is an entire section on Parsis, who were the first people who got into trades and businesses. "The royalty and the *rajas* were getting their portraits done and since the Parsis considered themselves next to royalty, they too commissioned artworks. They used to sit in the studio settings and got these made by artists like Pithawala or Pestonji Bomanji as they had the money to get it done."

Another section is devoted to artists who have made self-portraits like the ones by Pestonji Bomanji or Kishori Roy. There is also a photograph which has been hand-tinted to make it look like a painting.

On this floor, there are more prints, all of which are again anonymous. Most of the time, it is only the name of the press that one comes to know of, while the artists would be and large remain anonymous. The prints are divided into sections, so there is a representation of the heads of each of the princely states, a recreation of the 1911 Coronation or even one of George V and the royal consort Queen Mary in the one which pertains to the time of the British Raj. There is a separate section on the freedom struggle, which is rich in its representation of the heroes of the time, primarily Mahatma Gandhi and Subhash Chandra Bose. What is interesting to note is that while the ones from the British Raj are more formal and stiff, these are more of a representation that is rooted in popular culture. "A lot of literature was being written, which included caricature and sarcasm, during the freedom struggle. It was important to give representation through means of visual media as people can associate this easily with what they were reading," says Poonam.

The post-Independence section includes not just calendars but advertisements as well. The changing mood in the country can best be summed up by the addition of "Shri" which is considered auspicious to the name of what was essentially a British company.

"We have tried to put together the prints according to how it was happening. These prints started with British era and go on to the Freedom Struggle and Independence. So while being divided into sections, it is also chronological but then some of the events were happening simultaneously. So overlaps are obviously there are many things were happening simultaneously," says Poonam.

Two smaller rooms also have newspapers, many of which have since then shut, on display. However, it is the third section on the second floor which is really captivating. The Daniels — William and Thomas — who were uncle and nephew were also artists who travelled across India starting from Calcutta in 1788. They did a series of prints. "The Daniels did something which was interesting. They started at one point and finished at another and whatever they saw, they documented. So it is essentially a documentation of India at that time," she says. Not surprisingly, these have become an important historical document. As has the exhibition.

(The *Drishyakala* exhibition is on display till July 31 at the Red Fort.)

Emails and messages have altered the way we sit and communicate with people today. Purchasing stamps to post letters has become a bygone practice. We have lost the art of detailing and the pleasure of waiting to instant communication. Nevertheless, nostalgia continues to be the favourite among the ones who lived it, and as well the ones who have only heard of it through their ancestors.

Presented by the Guiral Foundation, *Property of a Gentleman, Stamps from the Nizam of Hyderabad's Dominions*, a US-based collector Hanut Ewari has inherited a collection of rare stamps and stamp sheets from his grandfather, Nawab Iqbal Hussain, who also served as the postmaster general of Hyderabad under the reign of seventh and last ruling Nizam of Hyderabad, Mir Osman Ali Khan. The exhibition, curated by Pramod Kumar KG, showcases the collection that has grown under the stewardship of Ewari with a plethora of stamps from across the globe.

Says Pramod, "The oldest stamp in the Ewari collection is from 1866. The collection consists of more than three million stamps and valuable, unusual and representative pieces from across what were called the princely states, including related paraphernalia such as blind and wet stamps, invitation cards, original letters, calligraphy art, postcards, revenue stamps of the region, erroneous stamps, seals and monograms."

Given that the stamps hail from the 1860s, they were in a very good shape

Letters from the past

A collection of three million rare stamps from the dominion of the Nizam of Hyderabad takes one back to the bygone era, says CHAHAK MITTAL



and properly maintained when he first looked at them. He says that it is also an evidence of how the paper used for these stamps has yellowed but didn't decay through the years. "They were properly maintained and in a healthy condition. We didn't have to restore any of it," informs Pramod.

Well, archives and repositories are much more than just shelves stacked with historical records. They are a crucial collection of the different kinds of material cultures inherited over the ages. The curator, who has been associated with a few national archives since a long time,

believes that India, being a country with vast diversity and history, can easily use and develop more archives for a deeper understanding of history and hence, a better development of the future. He feels that we don't know how to use our archives appropriately and effectively. "Museums and archives are a record that this existed and in a particular way. If we look at them closely, we will learn about things that are completely forgotten or ignored in the modern-day advancements. I feel that archives should be more than just about oral histories or past incidents. There is a lot to record for future

references like poetry, transition in language, artifacts, writings, graphic art and various other things not talked about today," says he.

He narrates that when the Ewari family approached him for the curation and presentation of their collection, he felt it was important since it "is something that will talk about the print history of India. These stamps reflect the postal history and transition of visual and graphic arts in the country. With the technological advancement, these objects, which once played an essential role in the communication network,

seem insignificant." He says that it important to make the current generation realise that they were originally used as modes of payment to transfer messages and facilitate revenue collection, and taxation.

The exhibition also aims to help people take into account that apart from their fiscal purposes, many states also utilised them as a way of celebrating the material heritage and culture of their region. The stamps show the use of exquisite calligraphy in diverse languages and architectural tropes that existed in the erstwhile Hyderabad.

Well, one of the most special elements of the exhibition, Pramod says, is the "focus on the architecture of the Nizam's dominion" on the stamps. The collection also includes the first stamp ever issued by the Nizam government in the city; a wide range of postage stamps in different colours, values, inscriptions and sizes; stamps featuring monuments from across the Nizam's dominion as well as the last stamp issued by the princely state, with the most special one being the rare stamps issued in the city to commemorate the victory of the Allied Powers in the Second World War.

"There is also Penny Black (the first adhesive postage stamp in the world in 1840), and a King George VI series of Indian postage stamps depicting different modes of transportation used to deliver mail," he adds.

(The exhibition is on till March 24 at Bikaner House.)

Kolkata heritage buildings under scanner

The chunk of cement that fell from the ceiling of a heritage building missed an octogenarian former Union Minister — a tenant — but has brought to the fore the poor upkeep of the historic structures in the city, mainly due to the absence of proper laws.

Ironically, the 109-year-old Park Mansion on the iconic Park Street had received a prestigious heritage award for restoration of the colonial era structure from the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) and the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) in 2013.

West Bengal Heritage Commission (WBHC) Chairman and artist Shuvaprasanna Bhattacharya said on an average two buildings of heritage value were being destroyed every day in Kolkata, the first capital of colonial India where the British East India Company had set up its base.

"It is unfortunate that in Kolkata, almost two buildings of heritage importance are destroyed every day due to the lack of proper law. I have no idea if the people are aware of this," Bhattacharya said.

The city has as many as 1,475 heritage buildings. Bhattacharya said due to complex ownership a huge ancestral property, which upholds the city's culture and heritage, remains stuck in legal limbo.

"Due to this, we also cannot take up the property. Some amendments should be made to the existing laws to safeguard the heritage properties. There should be a committee to look after the interest of all the parties," Bhattacharya said.



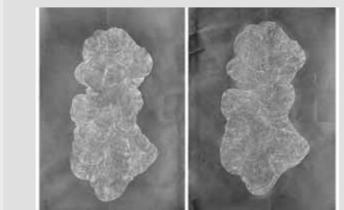
—IANIS

WATCH OUT



Gallery Espace presents *Un-practiced Frugality*, artist Akshay Raj Singh Rathore's solo exhibition, which will showcase around 20 of his artworks on paper taking into account his personal journey over the last four years. WHEN: Till April 13 TIME: 11 am to 7 pm WHERE: Gallery Espace, 16, Community Centre.

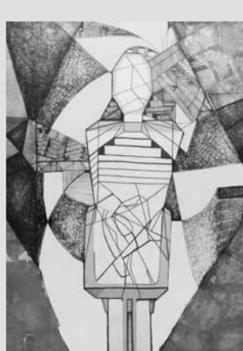
Kala Ghoda-based online auction *AstaGuru* will present its first modern Indian art auction for the year, featuring artworks by modern Indian artists such as Nandalal Bose, F N Souza, Jehangir Sabavala, M F Husain, S H Raza, Ganesh Pyne, Manjit Bawa, to name a few. WHEN: March 27-28



Vadehra Art Gallery presents *Fear of a New Dawn*, a solo exhibition of artist Ranbir Kaleka's artworks that offers an experience of abjection that blurs the borders between the conscious and the subconscious, and the self and the other. WHEN: April 6 WHERE: Vadehra Art Gallery.



The *Erratic Beats of my heart*, artist Deepa Shad's first solo exhibition, features her paintings as well as archival photographs, videos and diary pieces collected over a span of 21 years. WHEN: March 23 to 26 TIME: 11 am to 6 pm WHERE: The Academy of Fine Art and Literature



Akshara Theatre presents *Kashmir Stories*, an intense stage drama that relives the encounters and issues experienced by theatre and television artistes Gopal Sharman and Jalabala Vaidya, through a decade of travelling and filming in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. It gives voice to the tragedy and beauty of Kashmir, with hope for a peaceable future. WHEN: March 23 and 24 TIME: 7 pm WHERE: Akshara Theatre.



ANDREESCU TOPPLES KERBER

Wildcard teen Bianca upstages Wimbledon champion 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 to win maiden WTA title



Thiem spoils Federer's party

AFP ■ INDIAN WELLS

Dominic Thiem denied Roger Federer a record sixth Indian Wells title, beating the Swiss great 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 on Sunday to claim his first ATP Masters 1000 crown.

The 25-year-old Austrian, ranked eighth in the world, had fallen in two prior Masters finals, both in Madrid.

But he rallied for a third career win over Federer in five meetings, his first over the Swiss on hard courts.

Thiem earned the crucial break in the 11th game of the final set, connecting on two sharply angled passing winners to give himself a break point which he converted with a stinging forehand winner.

He sealed the match after two hours and two minutes when Federer's backhand found the net and will now return to a career-high ranking of fourth in the world.

It was the second year in a row that Federer was denied in the Indian Wells final. In 2018 he missed out on three championship points as he fell to Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro in the title match.

Federer, fresh off a remarkable 100th career title in Dubai, remains tied with Novak Djokovic for the most Indian Wells victories with five.

"I think it's not my right to congratulate you, you have 88 more titles than me," Thiem told Federer as he accepted the trophy.

He's the first Austrian to win a Masters 1000 title since Thomas Muster in Miami in 1997.

"It's been a great week for me, even though it didn't work out," Federer said. "Congratulations to Dominic — wonderful week and great play at the end. You deserved it."

the WTA's prestigious Premier Mandatory tournaments.

"It's crazy. Crazy is the word of the tournament for me. Just crazy."

It's another giant step in a breakout season for Andreescu, who finished 2018 ranked 178th in the world.

She has racked up 28 match wins in 2019 across all levels, including qualifying and challenger circuit wins — but Sunday's triumph was a cut above.

Andreescu's run to the final included rallying from 3-1 down in the third set to beat Irina-Camelia Begu in the first round and a 6-0, 6-1 rout of former world number one Garbine Muguruza of Spain, with a three-set win over sixth-ranked Elna Svitolina putting her into the title match.

She showed no sign of nerves as she opened the match with a break of Kerber's serve. It would be all she

needed to take the set without facing a break point herself.

Kerber's consistency and power from the baseline kept the less predictable Andreescu at bay in the second. The German came up with a massive hold for 2-1, saving two break points before taking a 3-1 lead with her first break of the Andreescu serve and from there forced the decisive set.

Andreescu follows in the footsteps of 2018 champion Naomi Osaka, who won her first WTA title at Indian Wells to launch a stellar season that has seen her capture the US Open and Australian Open titles and rise to number one in the world.

She becomes the fourth unseeded champion after Serena Williams in 1999, Kim Clijsters in 2005 and Osaka. "Naomi did this last year," Andreescu said. "Now to be able to have my name beside so many amazing champions it means the world to me."



ANDREESCU FOLLOWS IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF 2018 CHAMPION NAOMI OSAKA, WHO WON HER FIRST WTA TITLE AT INDIAN WELLS TO LAUNCH A STELLAR SEASON THAT HAS SEEN HER CAPTURE THE US OPEN AND AUSTRALIAN OPEN TITLES AND RISE TO NUMBER ONE IN THE WORLD



AFP ■ INDIAN WELLS

Canadian sensation Bianca Andreescu became the first wildcard to win the WTA title at Indian Wells on Sunday with a gritty 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 victory over Wimbledon champion Angelique Kerber.

Andreescu, 18, shook off fatigue and rallied from a break down in the third set to topple the eighth-ranked German, who hasn't won a title since she beat Serena Williams in last year's Wimbledon final for her third Grand Slam crown.

Ranked 60th coming into the tournament, Andreescu will rise to 24th in the world with her first WTA title.

When she finally converted her fourth match point she kissed the sun-baked court and flopped spread-eagled on her back.

'IT'S CRAZY'

"If you believe in yourself, anything is possible," Andreescu said as she hoisted the crystal trophy as the youngest player ever to win one of

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

PRAJNESH RISES TO CAREER-HIGH 84

The breakthrough run at the Indian Wells has propelled India's Prajnesh Gunneswaran to career-high rank of 84 but injured Yuki Bhambri on Monday dropped out of top-200 for the first time in almost two years.

In the recently released ATP rankings, Prajnesh had collected 61 points after reaching the third round, where he beat world

number 18 Nikoloz Basilashvili to register the biggest win of his career.

The performance helped him zoom 13 places to his new career-best ranking.

He was followed by Ramkumar Ramanathan (139), who dropped three places.

Both of them will try to

qualify for the singles main draw of the Miami Masters this week.

Yuki, who is nursing a knee injury, slid 36 places to 207. The last time the Delhi player was placed outside the top-200 bracket was in July 2017.

The next best in the singles chart were Saketh Myneni (251,



-5) and Sasi Kumar Mukund (268, +2). Mukund did not figure in even top-400 five months back and has shown good progress in this time period.

In the doubles, left-handed Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan touched a new career-high of 64 and was third highest-ranked played of the country after Rohan Bopanna

(36,+2) and Divij Sharan (41, -1).

Purav Raja (80, -1) and veteran Leander Paes (94, +2) complete the top-five.

In the WTA rankings, Ankita Raina continues to be India's top-ranked player at 168 (-2) and was followed by Karman Kaur Thandi, who jumped seven places to 203.

Skipped Asian C'ships to prepare for Olympics: Mary

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian boxing star M C Mary Kom says her decision to skip the Asian Championships is part of a long plan to enhance her chances of Olympic qualification at a time when the competition in her weight category has become significantly "difficult".

Mary Kom, who claimed her sixth world title last year in Delhi, will be looking to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in the World Championships in Yekaterinburg, Russia. The Asian Championship is scheduled to be held next month in Thailand.

"This year is very important for me. Qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics is my main aim. Without competing in any competition I cannot qualify for the Olympics. It would be difficult. I have to know all the opponents in my category (51kg) and judge how strong they are compared to me," Mary Kom said.

"I have to first compete in the India Open and then slowly choose my tournaments in the 51kg category. I am looking to qualify for the Olympics at the Worlds and that is why I have decided to skip the Asian Championships to prepare myself best for the Worlds."

"Without proper planning I cannot qualify for the Olympics. India Open is also very important for me. So I have decided to choose some important tournaments to qualify for the Olympics," added the 2012 London Olympics Bronze-medallist.

The 2019 AIBA World Boxing Championships will be held from September 7 to 21.

Mary Kom would be competing in the 51kg category after her preferred 48kg divisions did not make the Olympic programme. The Manipuri had competed in the 51kg category in Germany during a training stint earlier this month and came back undefeated.

"I have already been competing in the 51kg category in last one year. I now know the areas where I have to work upon but fitness wise there are no issues. I just have to work upon strength, power and stamina," she said.



Prannoy to lead in Asia Mixed Team C'ships

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

World No 24 H S Prannoy will lead a 13-member Indian badminton team at the Tong Yun Kai Cup 2019, the second edition of the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships to be held at Hong Kong from March 19-24.

In the absence of top shuttlers Saina Nehwal, P V Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth, all of whom have been rested, Prannoy has been entrusted with the responsibility to lead a young Indian team.

The trio of Saina, Sindhu and Srikanth have been rested ahead of the upcoming India Open.

In its bid to give exposure to talented youngsters, the Badminton Association of India (BAI) has selected seven young shuttlers in the women's squad for the upcoming event, to be headed by Assam's wonderkid Ashmita Chaliha.

The 19-year-old prodigy from Assam already has a couple of BWF titles under her name and even reached the semi-finals of the Nationals this year.

She will be supported by Nagpur shuttler Vaishnavi Bhale, who was in last year's Uber Cup team.

Shikha Gautam and Ashwini K Bhat have also made it to the team by virtue of their fine show at the Nationals, where the duo won the women's doubles title.

Rutaparna Panda, Arathi Sara Sunil and UK Mithula are the other selected members in the women's team.

Among men, 2018 Asian Championships Bronze medallist Prannoy has the three-time national champion Sourabh Verma for company, in the six-member squad.

World No 45 pair of MR Arjun and



HS Prannoy returns a shot during BWF/File Picture

Shlok Ramchandran, who won the Silver medal at the Nationals, will be spearheading the Indian challenge in men's doubles along with Arun George and Sanyam Shukla

Eleven teams have been divided into four groups in this six-day biennial competition.

The India team has been placed in Group B along side Chinese Taipei and Singapore. The top two teams from each group will advance to the quarter-finals.

India reached the quarter-finals in the last edition where they lost narrowly to Thailand.

AFGHANS RECORD MAIDEN TEST WIN

AFP ■ DEHRADUN

Afghanistan claimed their first ever victory in Test cricket on Monday, beating fellow newcomers Ireland in what captain Asghar Afghan hailed as a historic day for the war-torn country.

Afghanistan and Ireland both achieved full member status of the International Cricket Council in 2017, becoming only the 11th and 12th teams to play the long format of the sport beloved of purists.

Rahmat Shah and Ihsanullah Janat scored fifties as Afghanistan chased down 147 to beat Ireland by seven wickets on day four of the one-off game in the north Indian city of Dehradun.

"It's a historic day for Afghanistan, for our team and our people," Afghan said.

"We have been playing for a while, we have been playing first-class cricket, so we have that composure. The bowlers were very good, Rashid (Khan), Yamin (Ahmadzai)," he added.

Afghanistan were steered to their target by a 139-run partnership between Shah, who made 76, and debutant Janat, who hit an unbeaten 65.

Shah, a top-order batsman, registered his second fifty of the match after making 98 in Afghanistan's first innings score of 314.



With three needed to win, Afghanistan lost Shah and then Mohammad Nabi in successive deliveries before Hashmatullah Shahidi came to the crease and hit the winning boundary.

"I want to congratulate all the lads in the team, they have been absolutely brilliant," said Afghan.

"We have got a few games before the World Cup and we want to make every opportunity count," the captain added.

NATIONAL SPORT

Cricket has become the national sport of Afghanistan, torn apart by decades of war, with many of the Afghan players cutting their crick-eting teeth in refugee camps in Pakistan.

The country gained one-day

international status in 2009 and have qualified for their second 50-over World Cup in England and Wales, due to begin on May 30. They have also been part of four Twenty20 World Cups.

They have made India their base since 2015, far away from the guns and bombs of their home country. Last year they made the leap to Test cricket, taking on India in Bangalore, but were thrashed inside two days.

It was Ireland's second Test too. They played their debut Test against Pakistan in Dublin last year, losing by five wickets.

"It's been a long tour, but the lads have been very good. You are never tired to play Test cricket, it's always a special feeling," said Ireland captain William Porterfield.

'There can't be conditional bans'

Gambhir calls on BCCI to go for all or nothing with Pak

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India opener Gautam Gambhir on Monday said the BCCI should either snap all crick-eting ties with Pakistan, including multi-lateral events, or engage with the arch-rivals at every level as "there can't be conditional bans".

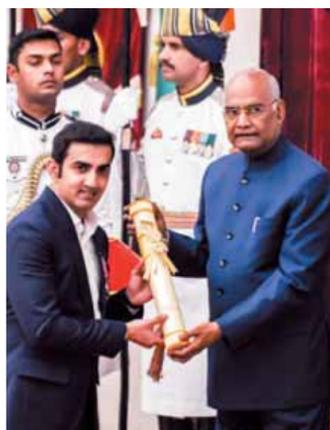
Gambhir, who called for snapping ties with Pakistan after the Pulwama terror attack, said the Indian Board has to decide and be prepared for the consequences.

"There can't be conditional bans. Either you ban everything with Pakistan or open everything with Pakistan. What has happened in Pulwama is absolutely not acceptable," Gambhir, who was recently conferred the Padma Shri, said.

"I am sure it's going to be difficult for India to boycott them in ICC tournaments but stop playing Pakistan in the Asia Cup," said the left-hander.

Outspoken in his support for the armed forces on social media, Gambhir reiterated that there should be a blanket ban on engagement with Pakistan even if it comes at the cost of being ostracised by the sporting community.

The BCCI had appealed to the ICC to snap ties with countries from where terror emanates in a veiled reference to Pakistan.



Gautam Gambhir receives Padma Shri award from President Ram Nath Kovind PTI

But the request was turned down at the ICC Board meeting in Dubai.

Gambhir cited England's forfeiture of their 2003 World Cup round-robin fixture against Zimbabwe in protest of the Robert Mugabe regime.

"England decided in 2003 and they wouldn't go to Zimbabwe, they forfeited. If BCCI decides not to play against Pakistan, everyone should be mentally ready to give those two points," he said.

"There could be repercussions and we may not qualify for the semi-finals. No media should blame the Indian team if they plan to boycott playing Pakistan," he said.

Asked what should be done if the two teams meet in the final, Gambhir said in that case, India should forfeit the final.

"Two points are not that important. Country is important, those 40 soldiers who lost their lives are far more important than a cricket match. If we let go of a World Cup final, the country should be ready for it."

"Certain section of society says that don't mix sports with politics but Jawans are far more important than a game of cricket."

India drew the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) ire after Pakistani shooters were denied visas for the Delhi World Cup owing to the Pulwama attack. The IOC suspended all discussion on hosting of major events in India and told other international federations to halt interactions with the country.

The IOC demanded that the Indian Olympic Association must provide government assurance that none of the participating countries would be denied visa in case India host any event. Recently, wrestling world body withdrew the Asian junior championship from India owing to the unresolved matter.

Asked if India's stand could lead to a sporting boycott of the nation in the near future, Gambhir said that he wouldn't mind that.

Don't forsee threat to Indo-Pak WC match, they are bound by ICC agreement: Richardson

PTI ■ KARACHI

International Cricket Council CEO Dave Richardson on Monday said he doesn't forsee any threat to the high-profile India-Pakistan World Cup match, insisting that the two teams are bound by an ICC agreement to show up.

"For ICC events, all teams have signed a members' participation agreement which requires them to participate in all the matches of the tournament and (in case of) any unjustified non-compliance with that provision, the playing conditions will kick in and the points will be awarded accordingly (to the other team)," he said when asked about the matter.

There were demands that India should boycott the game against Pakistan in the World Cup in Manchester on June 16 in the wake of last month's Pulwama terror attack.

"The ICC's motto is clear we don't want to mix politics with sports."

Asked about the ICC's role in the resumption of bilateral ties between



India and Pakistan, Richardson said it is completely up to the two crick-eting boards.

The ICC CEO said the perception about Pakistan among the rest of the world is slowly changing and the world body is supporting its member board to bring back international cricket to the nation.

He also said that the successful hosting of Pakistan Super League (PSL) matches will do a world of good towards achieving the goal.

Richardson also thanked foreign players, who made the trip to Pakistan for PSL.

"Step-by-step, certainly Pakistan is on the right path," he said, assuring ICC's support to the PCB in its efforts to encourage foreign teams to visit Pakistan.

'NO COMPLACENCY ON WC SECURITY'

AFP ■ KARACHI

The deadly New Zealand shootings which Bangladesh cricketers narrowly avoided means security will remain an "absolute priority" going into the World Cup, the head of cricket's governing body said on Sunday.

Fifty people died in attacks on two mosques in Christchurch on Friday, in what is believed to be the worst assault on Muslims in a Western country.

Bangladesh's Test cricketers were just a few minutes from being caught up in the massacre, arriving in a bus at one of the mosques as shooting began.

The third Test between Bangladesh and New Zealand which was due to start in Wellington on Saturday was cancelled and the team returned home.

Speaking on the sidelines of Pakistan Super League (PSL) final in Karachi, the International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive David Richardson said security had to remain "an absolute priority".

"I don't think security is anything new, obviously something happening in New Zealand probably took a lot of people by surprise and it emphasised the need not to be complacent, especially going into the World Cup," Richardson said.

"I know the work has already been done by the security director together with all the security agencies in the UK and they are leaving no stone unturned," he added.

Messi steals show & supporters

Leo completes 51st career hat-trick as Barca romp Real Betis 4-1 to go 10 points clear at top

AFP ■ SEVILLE

Even the Real Betis fans were applauding by the end as Lionel Messi scored another spectacular hat-trick to fire Barcelona to a 4-1 victory on Sunday and leave them with one hand on the La Liga trophy.

Messi's treble, his second in a month in Seville, fourth of the season and 51st of his career, moves Barca 10 points clear of Atletico Madrid with 10 games left to play, a gap surely too big to close.

"We had a great opportunity to increase the gap on Atletico," Messi said. "We had to take it tonight."

Luis Suarez, whose superb flick set up Messi's second, scored his own brilliant goal after a scintillating solo run but it was ultimately reduced to a footnote, in what became another night all about his Argentinian partner.

The only blot was the sight of Suarez limping off late on, with what coach Ernesto Valverde suspected was a "bad sprain" to his ankle.

Messi now has 29 league goals this season, 39 in all competitions, and together with Suarez's 18 their joint-total of 47 is more than all but two of the other teams in the division.

A simple finish from Suarez's exquisite assist came between a free-kick perfectly planted into the top corner and a bending lob that grazed the crossbar and dropped in.

The Betis fans left at the Benito Villamarin, and most of them were, felt compelled to stand and applaud.

"I don't remember the opposition cheering me for a goal, I am very grateful," Messi said.

This was supposed to be one of the more awkward tests in Barcelona's run-in, which includes Atletico Madrid at home and fifth-placed Alaves away.

All the rest of their opponents currently sit 10th or lower.

But regardless of the fixtures, Barca seem to be saving their best for the home straight, which bodes badly for Manchester United, whom they face in the Champions League quarter-finals next month.

Already in the final of the Copa del Rey, where Barca will return to this stadium to face Valencia in May, a treble is certainly not beyond the realms of possibility.

Barca were fortunate to earn the free-kick



for Messi's opener as Canales obstructed Arthur Melo just outside the area, to the right of centre.

But there was no luck in Messi's shot, which flew like a dart over the ducking head of Gerard Pique, past the hand of Pau Lopez, and into the top left-hand corner.

Betis came again, Arthur twice scrambling the ball away from Canales in the box, before Suarez missed a sitter after being teed up by Messi.

He made amends just before half-time. Messi fired into the feet of the Uruguayan, who took the ball one way and flicked it the other, behind his leg and into the path of Messi, who did the rest.

Betis could have been four down by the hour as Suarez missed two more, but the chances kept coming, and he finally hit the mark.

There were four defenders ahead when he began his run from the halfway line but Suarez sped past one and between two more, each of them colliding into the other before being left sprawled on the ground.

Aissa Mandi made one final lunge but Suarez skipped through to finish.

Loren Moron curled in a consolation for Betis but Messi had the final say. Ivan Rakitic rolled the ball back and he clipped a sumptuous chip over Lopez, off the crossbar and in.

Suarez limped off injured in the final minutes and Messi could have added a fifth, only for the post to rescue Betis. Four was enough.



James' night in Munich

AFP ■ MUNICH

Bayern Munich took out their Champions League frustrations on Mainz as James Rodriguez claimed his first Bundesliga hat-trick on Sunday in a 6-0 romp to fire the Bavarians back to the top of the table.

After Wednesday's Champions League exit, following a 3-1 home defeat by Liverpool in the last 16, Mainz bore the brunt of the backlash at Munich's Allianz Arena.

"We showed the disappointment of the Liverpool defeat is behind us, it was important to react," said Bayern coach Niko Kovac.

Rodriguez, on loan until the end of the season from Real Madrid, came off to a standing ovation with 20 minutes left after arguably his best display in the famous red shirt.

"I am pleased for him, he deserved the applause," added Kovac, who declined to comment on whether Rodriguez's loan deal will be extended.

Canadian wunderkind Alphonso Davies, 18, scored his first Bayern goal on only his fifth appearance after coming off the bench.

The thumping win saw Bayern reclaim top spot in the Bundesliga from Borussia Dortmund, who briefly usurped them with a nervy 3-2 win at Hertha Berlin on Saturday, with eight games left.



James Rodriguez poses after completing his hat-trick against Mainz in Munich. AP

RACE TO THE FINISH

"We had planned a lot because of what happened on Wednesday, our focus is now on the league," said Thomas Mueller.

Dortmund and Bayern are level on 60 points, but the Bavarians hold a superior goal difference of seven.

"We wanted to fight back after Dortmund's victory. The last three games are a marker," Mueller added, with Bayern having smashed in 17 goals in winning their last three league games.

Poland striker Robert Lewandowski, the Bundesliga's top scorer, claimed his 18th league goal this season, tapping in a David Alaba cross on three minutes.

Leon Goretzka laid on the second goal, chesting down into

Rodriguez's path and the Colombian opened his account on 33 minutes.

French winger Kingsley Coman gave Mainz goalkeeper Florian Mueller no chance with his shot six minutes before the break to make it 3-0 at half-time.

Rodriguez wrapped up his hat-trick with two goals in four breathtaking minutes, hitting the top corner past Mueller's reach on 51 minutes, then chipping the despairing Mainz goalkeeper moments later.

Just 11 minutes after coming on, Davies claimed his first Bundesliga goal, netting the rebound from a saved Lewandowski shot.

Bayern have now won 13 of their last 14 league matches.

UEFA probe CR7 for 'cojones' goal celebration

AFP ■ TURIN



UEFA on Monday opened an investigation into Cristiano Ronaldo's goal celebration after scoring a hat-trick in Juventus' Champions League comeback win against Atletico Madrid last week.

European football's governing body said Ronaldo is facing charges of "improper conduct" after he mimicked Diego Simeone's crotch-grabbing 'cojones' gesture in last Tuesday's 3-0 win that sent Juventus through 3-2 on aggregate.

After scoring the decisive penalty four minutes from time, Ronaldo turned towards the Atletico fans and replicated Simeone's gesture after the

Spaniards' 2-0 first leg win by grasping his genitals and thrusting out his groin.

A decision will be taken by UEFA on March 21.

Juventus take on Dutch club Ajax in the Champions League quarter-finals over two legs, on April 10 in Amsterdam and April 16 in Turin.

Coach Massimiliano Allegri has said he is confident Ronaldo will not be fined or suspended.

"I think everyone celebrated their own way on the field and in the stands. I saw nothing strange, just a celebration. There won't be a ban," said Allegri.

Simeone was fined 20,000 euros by UEFA for his gesture.



Inter Milan players celebrate after beating AC Milan in Serie A clash

FIVE-GOAL CLASSIC DERBY

AFP ■ MILAN

AC Milan coach Gennaro Gattuso on Sunday said that he is more upset by an "unacceptable" bust-up between midfielders Franck Kessie and Lucas Biglia on the sidelines at the San Siro than his team's 3-2 derby defeat to Inter.

Ivorian Kessie, 22, and Argentina midfielder Biglia, 33, had to be pulled apart by teammates amid drama on and off the pitch in the "Derby Della Madonnina" between the Milan city rivals in northern Italy.

Kessie, who had been substituted, was furious at something said by Biglia on the bench and had to be held back by teammates as he repeatedly lunged at the Argentine.

"The defeat that hurts me the most was Kessie and seeing what happened on the bench," said Gattuso, after his team's five-match winning run in the league was ended.

"That is something I cannot accept with the way I see football, the way I see the team and the group ethic. There has to be respect for everyone in the dressing room and it was just unacceptable.

"This means the world to me and that is why it is a double defeat. I will have my say over the next few days," he warned.

Both players later apologised. Tensions were also high on the pitch, with Andrea Conti who had come on for Kessie after 69 minutes seeing red for a tackle on Inter striker Lautaro Martinez, but a VAR review saw the referee change it to yellow, to the fury of Inter coach Luciano Spalletti, who was sent off for dissent.

Matias Vecino scored after just three minutes for Inter, days after his team's Europa League exit, with Stefan de Vrij adding the second on 51 minutes, to give Inter a two-goal advantage.

For Milan, Tiemoue Bakayoko headed in after 57 minutes with Mateo Musacchio reacting quickly to finish off a rebound (71), just after Lautaro Martinez slotted in the third from the penalty spot for Inter.

"We've found the young striker who can put things right for us," Spalletti said of Martinez.

Inter goalkeeper Samir Handanovic cleared a late Samuel Castillejo header with Patrick Cutrone also denied a last-gasp equaliser with Danilo D'Ambrosio clearing on the line. Inter leapfrog AC Milan and are two points ahead in third with Roma on fifth.

PSG continue routine romp

AFP ■ PARIS

Angel Di Maria scored twice as Paris Saint-Germain eased to a 3-1 victory over Marseille on Sunday to extend their long unbeaten run against their arch rivals and move 20 points clear at the Ligue 1 summit.

A group of PSG ultras were boycotting the opening stages of the game over the team's shock Champions League defeat by Manchester United, but when they arrived they were given a 16th win in 19 meetings with Marseille, alongside three draws, to cheer.

Banners reading "We don't forget", "respect the establishment" and "banknotes in place of a heart" were hung in a section behind the goal to make clear supporters' unhappiness at PSG's 3-1 home loss to United on March 6.

"There are some things we can't change, we have to accept that we had a very, very sad defeat — very, very bad for us. But we started again at Dijon (last week) and even today the guys showed their character," said PSG coach Thomas Tuchel.

"I'm glad we could show that today, because it's important for our supporters and for us." Kylian Mbappe put PSG in front on the stroke of half-time with his 26th league goal of the season, but Valere Germain equalised in the first minute of the second period.

Argentine Di Maria restored the home team's advantage, though, and Marseille keeper Steve Mandanda was sent off for a clear handball 30 yards from goal.

Di Maria's wonderful free-kick added further gloss to the scoreline, although Mbappe saw a late penalty saved by visiting substitute Yohann Pele.

The capital giants have not lost to Marseille since a 3-0 defeat at the Stade Velodrome in November 2011.

With the Ligue 1 title effectively secured, the

only competition left for PSG to play for this season is the French Cup, in which they face Nantes in the semi-finals next month.

BALOTELLI GOES CLOSE

Mario Balotelli had the first shot in anger, shrugging off the PSG defence before seeing his long-range drive well held by home goalkeeper Alphonse Areola.

The missing ultras did not miss much goalmouth action early on, but many rushed to their seats when they thought Di Maria had put the hosts in front, only to see the effort ruled out for offside by VAR.

Marseille did well to keep their rivals at arm's length for the opening 45 minutes, although injuries which forced the substitutions of PSG full-backs Thomas Meunier and Dani Alves contributed to the game's scrappy nature.

But PSG forged ahead in the second minute of first-half injury time, as they broke at pace from a Marseille corner and Di Maria played in Mbappe to sweep the ball past Mandanda.

Rudi Garcia's away side stunned the Parc des Princes just seconds after the restart, though, as Lucas Ocampos raced clear and squared for Germain to slot into the bottom corner.

Marseille grew in confidence, but that left space for PSG to exploit, and Di Maria cut inside from the right and curled a fantastic 55th-minute finish past Mandanda to score his fifth goal in six matches.

The match was all but ended as a contest just after the hour mark when Mandanda raced from his line and dived to handle yards outside of his area in a moment of madness which left his side a man down.

Di Maria ensured PSG did not wait long to take advantage, hammering a swerving strike from the resulting free-kick past Pele, who was brought on for the ineffective Balotelli, and in off the post.

Mbappe missed the chance to score a second himself in added time, as his penalty was saved by Pele after the World Cup winner was bundled over by Hiroki Sakai.



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