

OPINION 8
NASTY SIDE OF
POWER PLAYS

WORLD 12
CHINA'S AIR PROWESS
ON PAK NATIONAL DAY

SPORT 15
THIEM UPSETS FEDERER
IN INDIAN WELLS FINAL

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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 Dhalavikar. 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 close 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.

Continued on Page 4

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 rollback". 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.

Continued on Page 4

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) the 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



tweets made it clear that the party will not enter into any alliance with the Congress. On Sunday, the Congress announced that it was leaving seven Lok Sabha seats in the state for the SP, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and Rashtriya Lok

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." 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 PTI

CAPSULE

JAWAN MARTYRED AS PAK SHELLS HIT LoC
Jammu: An Army jawan was martyred and four others were injured when the Pakistan Army violated ceasefire for a second day on Monday, resorting to heavy mortar shelling and firing along the LoC in Jammu & Kashmir's Rajouri district.
THREE DEAD, DUTCH POLICE HUNT GUNMAN
Utrecht: A gunman killed three people and wounded nine others on a tram in the central Dutch city of Utrecht on Monday

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Priyanka sails, media runs aground



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

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

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.

Delhi BJP eyes dominant Purvanchalis

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The burgeoning population of Purvanchalis (people from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh) has altered the poll demography of the national Capital. Punjabis, who used to dominate the public discourse and poll outcome in the past, now stand relegated to play the second fiddle to the domineering Purvanchalis. The situation has propelled regional parties to select more leaders, representing Purvanchalis. The BJP is likely to field at least two candidates eyeing sizeable

Purvanchali votes in Delhi. Sources in the Delhi BJP said the party is focusing on Baniya and Purvanchali communities for the Lok Sabha elections. "Party is in the process of deciding the names of two leaders each from the Purvanchali and Baniya community while one candidate each from Jat, Punjabi and Dalit communities will be fielded," said sources. When asked about another Purvanchali leader part from Delhi BJP party president Manoj Tiwari, the party sources hinted at former Congress MP from West Delhi Mahabal

Mishra joining the BJP. "We are learning from past instances, in 2012, during civic elections, the Delhi BJP fielded 18 Purvanchali candidates and 12 managed to win, and in 2017 the party gave tickets to 43 Purvanchalis and out of them 34 won. As the Purvanchali population is growing, one leader is not sufficient to represent the community," said a BJP leader. If one considers voters' calculations in Delhi, the significance of Purvanchali voters in Delhi can be measured by the fact that they form nearly 35 to 40 per cent of votes in the

national Capital. As per the Election Commission data, in Delhi, there are at least 20 Assembly constituencies or 80 municipal wards where Purvanchalis constitute 17 to 47 per cent of the vote. The ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has 13 MLAs from Putvanchal background. Gopal Rai, AAP Delhi convener and a Minister in the Delhi Cabinet, hails from eastern Uttar Pradesh while Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia belongs to neighbouring Ghaziabad. Continued on Page 4

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GDMC readies for MCI visit

Team of the apex body of medical education will arrive any time after Holi

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) administration is waiting for the arrival of the team of Medical Council of India (MCI) for the crucial letter of permission (LoP) for the fourth batch of the MBBS course. It is expected that the team of the apex body of medical education will arrive any time after the festival of Holi. On the report submitted by the MCI, the Union Ministry of medical, health and family planning would grant permission to the medical college to clear decks for the admission to the students for MBSS course. Meanwhile, to fulfil the criteria of MCI, the college administration has increased



the number of beds in the GDMC hospital from 300 to 410. This hospital, in fact, has more than 500 beds for the patients. However, to meet the MCI standards which lists specifications like minimum distance between beds, accompanying facilities and staff, the hospital would show only 410 beds to the MCI team.

When contacted, the principal GDMC Dr Ashutosh Sayana told The Pioneer that

the college is fully geared up for the MCI visit. He further said that the newly appointed assistant professors have started joining the college and claimed that the teaching staff deficiency which earlier was at more than 30 percent has been reduced to less than 20 percent.

It is worth mentioning here that the MCI, the apex body of medical education, had granted the LoP to the GDMC on

June 08 2016 based on which the admission to 150 students was given in the, 1st year MBBS course. Later, the renewal of LoP was done for the college after which students in the II and III batches were granted admission in the year 2017 and 2018. The new LoP would clear the way for the college to take admission in its fourth batch of MBBS course from the merit of NEET in July- August this year.

HC directs State to clear pension dues of late freedom fighter

PNS ■ NAINITAL

Hearing on a special appeal filed by the State Government against the High Court order of Rs 3.50 lakh penalty on the State for not paying pension and other facilities to freedom fighter Sateshwar Sharma during his lifetime, the division Bench of Chief Justice Ramesh Ranganathan and justice NS Dhanik directed the State Government to clear the pension dues within four weeks. The division Bench also clarified that if the Government fails to pay the due pension to the petitioner within four weeks, it will also have to pay the penalty.

In the past, the High Court single Bench had directed the State Government to pay the pension to Sharma's widow Rajeshwari Sharma due from 1981 to the present within one month. However, since the State Government did not pay the pension, the High Court imposed a penalty on the State.

According to the case details, Sateshwar Sharma had played an active role in the Quit India movement during 1942. He was an inter college student at that time and had spent about 40 days in jail. He was also removed from the college due to this. In the petition, his widow had stated that her husband had applied for pension and other facilities under the 1975 pension regulations.

The petitioner had further stated that appeals had been made from levels ranging from the State Government to the then prime minister Indira Gandhi but nothing was done. A certificate of the freedom fighter being jailed was also available. Pensions were awarded in similar cases but not in the case of Sharma, it was stated. Waiting in vain for the pension to be provided, the freedom fighter Sateshwar Sharma passed away last year at the age of 100 years. Taking serious cognisance of the case, the single bench of the high court had earlier directed the State Government to clear the pension dues since 1981 within one month.

HC issues contempt notice to Nainital DM

PNS ■ NAINITAL

For not complying with its earlier orders, the High Court of Uttarakhand served contempt notice on the Nainital district magistrate Vinod Kumar Suman. Last year, the high court had given the municipal corporation one year's time to set up a waste management plant for proper disposal of waste in Haldwani but nothing has been done in this regard so far.

For not implementing the orders of the High Court, the Indiranagar Janvikas Samiti had filed a contempt petition. On this, the single bench of justice Manoj Tiwari issued a contempt notice to the Nainital District Magistrate.

In the past, the Haldwani based Indiranagar Janvikas Samiti

had filed a public interest litigation in the High Court stating that the municipal corporation was dumping medical waste and other garbage in Indiranagar and near Gaula river. Such improper waste dumping was affecting about 30,000 persons living in the surrounding areas, the petitioner had stated.

Earlier, the High Court had ordered a stop on dumping of garbage in the said area. Despite this, the authorities concerned continued to dump garbage from Haldwani, Nainital, Bhawalai and Rudrapur areas at the said location. In its submission to the High Court, the municipal corporation had stated that it had not yet received permission from the forest department for building a trenching ground in the area.

Concern raised at names missing from voters list

PNS ■ NAINITAL

Members of Uttarakhand Lokvahini, expressing concern at the names of voters missing from the voters list have opined that a large number of people will be deprived of their right to vote in these Lok Sabha elections due to administrative carelessness. Addressing the media here on Monday, the Uttarakhand Lokvahini head and senior journalist Rajiv Lochan Sah also informed about the missing voters application developed by Shankar Gopalkrishnan of Chetna Andolan.

Speaking on the occasion, Sah said that not much time is left for polling in the Lok Sabha election. Every aware voter want to use his or her right to vote in these elections. However, the names of a considerable number of people are missing from the voters list.



RL Sah of Uttarakhand Lokvahini addresses the media in Nainital. Pioneer photo

He said that those who are attempting to get this issue resolved at the local level are being told that their names cannot be added to the voters list now. Sah further said that Shankar Gopalkrishnan of Chetna Andolan in Dehradun along with his team members had conducted a sample survey

on the basis of which it was claimed that the names of about 37 per cent voters are missing from the voters list. The bulk of people whose names are missing from the voters list are either from the minority communities or from Dalit segment of society, he averred.

Ahead of Holi and polls, security forces conduct flag marches

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In view of the upcoming Holi festival and then the Lok Sabha election, the personnel of police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and PAC conducted flag marches in different police station areas of Dehradun to instil confidence in the residents on Monday. The senior superintendent of police (SSP) D e h r a d u n Nivedita Kukreti had given order for the flag march. The march passed through Vidhan Sabha trijunction, Shah Nagar, Deepnagar, Bypass police post, Mothorowala, Sapera Basti, Mahalaxmipuram and Jogiwala in the Nehru Colony police station area.

In the Rajpur police station, the flag march meandered through Johdi, Jakhan, Malsi, Kuthal Gate, Sai Chowk, Dhak Pati, Inder Baba Marg, Canal Road and IT Park areas. Similar flag marches were held in Raiwala and Sahaspur police station areas.



During these flag marches, using loudhailers mounted over the vehicles, the security personnel appealed to the people to maintain peace during the festival and the elections. They asked the people not to be intimidated by the anti-socials and inform police about their activity. An appeal to adhere to the model code of conduct for elections was also made by the officers of the security forces.



A view of Naini lake with an overcast sky in Nainital that saw spells of light rain during the afternoon. Pioneer photo

Light snow, rain likely in hills of U'khand today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State Meteorological Centre has forecast very light to light snowfall, rainfall and thunderstorm in some places of the State on Tuesday. Some isolated areas in the hills are likely to experience a wet climate on the day, says the forecast. The climate is likely to be dry in the rest of the state,

though the sky would remain partly overcast.

In Dehradun, the climate is to remain mainly clear to partly cloudy on the day, though there is little possibility of rain. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be hovering around in the neighbourhood of 29 degree Celsius and 13 degree Celsius respectively.

The maximum and the minimum temperatures recorded at various towns of the state on Monday were 29.0 degree Celsius and 11.9 degree Celsius in Dehradun, 28.9 degree Celsius and 10.7 degree Celsius in Pantnagar, 16.8 degree Celsius and 6.2 degree Celsius in Mukteshwar and 19.4 degree Celsius and 6.2 degree Celsius in New Tehri.

Property dealer murdered

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A property dealer was found murdered at Shuklapur area of Vasant Vihar on Monday morning. The body of the deceased, Jai Karan Rautela with five gunshot wounds was found in the Shuklapur village.

Rautela was a cousin of the in-charge of Kotwali police station, S S Negi. A large number of police personnel, including SP Rural Sweta Chaubey, arrived on the spot for investigation.

As per the police investigation, the deceased had some dispute with his business partner. The family members of the deceased are learnt to have told police that he had gone to Prem Nagar market on Sunday night

from where one Bablu Godiyal, who was also his partner in property business, had met him along with some others. The SP Rural said that a man hunt has been launched to nab the culprits.



International Day of Forests to be marked today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The national celebration of the International Day of Forests this year will be commemorated by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) at the Forest Research Institute (FRI) here today.

The International Day of Forests is celebrated worldwide on March 21 every year in order to raise public awareness on the values, significance and contributions of all types of forests. This year the theme of the day is 'Forestry and Education: Learn to Love Forests' aiming to promote the importance of education at all levels in achieving the goals of sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation.

The programme will be presided over by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change secretary CK Mishra with noted environmentalist Chandni Prasad Bhatt as the keynote speaker. Representatives of various organisations of the ministry including the ICFRE, FRI, Indira Gandhi National Forest



Academy, Directorate of Forest Education (DFE), Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFoS), Forest Survey of India, Wildlife Institute of India, Botanical Survey of India, Zoological Survey of India, State Forest Department and others will

also be participating in the event. Painting and essay competition for students of Dehradun based Kendriya and Navodaya Vidyalayas, photography competition for various forestry organisations and debate competition for FRI Deemed University students

will also be organised on the occasion. Prize distribution to the winners of these competitions along with the ICFRE excellence awards will also be presented during the event.

Two publications — a coffee table book on 'Biodiversity of New Forest Campus' and

'Compiled Profile of ICFRE Scientists' will also be released. On this occasion an exhibition will also be organised to showcase the forest products, eco-friendly technologies, publications, artifacts, organic produce and other livelihood options promoted by NGOs and governmental organisations/departments. It is pertinent to mention here that forestry education is imparted by the ICFRE, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutes, central and state agricultural universities. There are 21 agricultural universities conducting forestry programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level which are accredited by the ICFRE. FRI Deemed University also conducts various post graduate level courses and doctoral programme in forestry. Forestry training is imparted by the IGNEA and DFE in Dehradun through CASFoS, Central Academy for Forest Education and six Rangers colleges under State Governments located in different parts of country.

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2.	Roshan Thapa/ Poonam Thapa/ LBDEH00003754665	Plot No. 1911, Khasra No 2050- D, Mothrowala, Pachwadoon, Dehradun/ March 13, 2019	September 29, 2018 / Rs.13,85,789/-	UP
3.	Indu Jagga / Vanshaj Jagga / LBDEH00003486102	Khasra No 297, Village Chunhati Gada, Saharanpur / March 13, 2019	September 29, 2018 / Rs. 38,86,977/-	UP

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1st day of nomination: 48 papers procured

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Not a single nomination was filed on the first day of filing nominations for the Lok Sabha elections. However, a total of 48 nomination papers were procured from the five Lok Sabha constituencies in the state. Now, only three days are left for purchase and submission of nomination papers- March 19, 22 and 25 since these tasks can be done only on working days.

According to information provided by officials, the maximum number of nomination papers- 13 were sold in Tehri parliamentary constituency, followed by 11 in Haridwar constituency, 10 in Nainital-Udham Singh Nagar constituency, nine in Garhwal constituency and five in Almora-Pithoragarh constituency.

In the Garhwal constituency, those who procured the nomination papers from Pauri collectorate included Tirath Singh Rawat of the BJP, Manish Khanduri of the

In the Garhwal constituency, those who procured the nomination papers from Pauri collectorate included Tirath Singh Rawat of the BJP, Manish Khanduri of the Congress, Shiv Singh and six others.

Congress, Shiv Singh and six others. Similarly, in the Nainital-Udham Singh Nagar constituency, those who procured the nomination papers from the collectorate in Rudrapur included Rajesh Kumar Dwivedi of the BSP and other independent candidates. In the Almora-

Pithoragarh constituency a total of five persons procured nomination papers. These included Sundar Dhauni of BSP, Draupadi Verma of UKD(D), Vimla of Parivartan Party, Pradeep Tamta of the Congress and Mahesh Chandra Arya of RPI (Athawale).

In the Haridwar constituency, those who procured the nomination papers on Monday included Antariksh Saini of the BSP and 10 candidates from other parties and independents. In the Tehri parliamentary constituency the 13 nomination papers were procured for BJP's Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah, Asha Manorama Dobriyal of the Congress, Rajendra Purohit of the Communist Party of India, Ashok Panwar of BSP, independents and candidates from other parties. It is pertinent to mention here that the two national parties BJP and Congress have not yet announced the names of their candidates from the five parliamentary constituencies.

Many BJP, Cong heavyweights fighting shy of contesting poll

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Inconsistent with the line of their parties which are trying hard to field heavyweights in the high-stake electoral battle, many prominent leaders of both Congress and BJP have publically stated their reluctance to contest the election.

In the battle field of Uttarakhand where five Lok Sabha constituencies are at stake, both BJP and Congress, the principal political players of the state, appear to be playing a studied wait and watch game on releasing the list of their candidates for the election.

Till Monday evening, both the parties kept the release of the lists on hold.

Things look a bit murky as some senior leaders of Congress and BJP have clearly stated that they are not interested to contest the election. BJP stalwarts- Major General B C Khanduri (RTD) and Bhagat Singh Koshiyari- both sitting MPs from Garhwal and Nainital- Udham Singh Nagar seats respectively, have consistently maintained their reluctance to face the electoral battle.

However, their stance notwithstanding, the state BJP chief Ajay Bhatt had recently averred that the party had sent their names as the first

THINGS LOOK A BIT MURKY AS SOME SENIOR LEADERS OF CONGRESS AND BJP HAVE CLEARLY STATED THAT THEY ARE NOT INTERESTED TO CONTEST THE ELECTION. BJP STALWARTS- MAJOR GENERAL B C KHANDURI (RTD) AND BHAGAT SINGH KOSHIYARI- BOTH SITTING MPS FROM GARHWAL AND NAINITAL-UDHAM SINGH NAGAR SEATS RESPECTIVELY, HAVE CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED THEIR RELUCTANCE TO FACE THE ELECTORAL BATTLE

choice candidates in the panel sent to the central leadership.

The buzz going around in the BJP circles is that considering his advanced age and deteriorating health, the party would not field Khanduri. But things are different for Koshiyari. The latter is sure to be re-nominated from Nainital- Udham Singh Nagar constituency, as per the party insiders.

In Congress too, the former chief minister and All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary Harish Rawat who is supposed to

be in the race for the party ticket for both Haridwar and Nainital- Udham Singh Nagar constituencies said that he is not too keen to contest. Similarly, the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Pritam Singh shocked everyone when on Sunday he emphatically stated that he is not in the contest.

The state screening committee of which Pritam was also a member has put his name in the panel of the candidates for Tehri Lok Sabha seat.

The leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Uttarakhand Assembly Indira Hridayesh too has expressed her unwillingness to contest Lok Sabha election.

Given the mood of the heavyweights to stay away from the contest, the political pundits are of the view that apart from Khanduri, other senior leaders who have publically shown reluctance to contest are playing a tactical game with their respective parties and their followers.

By showing that they are not keen, they are sending barely concealed messages that they are willing to leave the stage in favour of the younger leaders. In most of the cases, the young leaders they are pitching for are their protégés," says a long-time political analyst.

Public grievances swiftly resolved: CM

State Govt completes 2 years in office

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said that the State Government had completed two years in office.

During this time, the state government had ensured transparency and affixed responsibility to facilitate good governance.

Rawat said that prime minister Narendra Modi has a special connection with Uttarakhand which is why he has visited the state seven times since becoming the PM. For the development of the state, he didn't give only assurances but also lent concrete

shape to them.

Referring to the speech of Congress national president Rahul Gandhi in Dehradun recently, Rawat said that it seems he had forgotten even basic civility. His using abusive words for the prime minister displays his political immaturity.

Regarding his two years in office so far, Rawat said that the state government had worked on swift redressal of public grievances through good governance. Further, the state had progressed considerably on the path of development. The chief minister said that during these two years about 2.5 lakh youth had been provided employment through government jobs, outsourcing, contract and in the private sector.

"When we had assumed office, corruption in the state was a major challenge facing us. This is why we adopted the prime minister's mantra of zero tolerance for corruption. Strict steps were taken in

scams pertaining to national highway 74, scholarship scam in social welfare department and scams in various departments. Whereas transfer posting was almost an industry in the state, we brought in the Transfer Act to put an end to this. I assure the people that our government will not make any compromise with corruption. We all have to fight together against corruption, only then will we be able to keep our future secure," he said.

Referring to measures taken in the health sector he said that taking inspiration from the Ayushman Bharat Yojana of the Union Government, the State had launched Atal Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana to provide free health cover of upto Rs five lakh to every family in the state. So far about ₹13 crore has been spent on facilitating free treatment to about 14,000 persons under this scheme, said Rawat. Similarly, 2,160 persons have taken the

benefit of Ayushman Bharat Yojana in the state so far.

Due to lack of political will about ₹40,000 crore was invested during past 17 years in Uttarakhand whereas MoUs worth ₹1,20,000 crore were signed in the investors summit held last year. Work on projects worth ₹13,000 crore has started while projects worth Rs 20,000 crore will be on the ground by the end of this year which will provide major employment opportunities and facilitate development. Major infrastructure development projects are also underway in the state including ₹12,000 crore all-weather road project, ₹12,000 crore Bharat Mala project, ₹16,000 crore Rishikesh-Karnprayag rail project and other works. Citing the various works done by the State government in the past two years, Rawat said that the government had moved ahead towards building a prosperous Uttarakhand.

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

While the BJP leaders are busy flaunting the huge achievements of the party- helmed government on completion of its first two years in office, the deputy leader of the Congress legislature party Karan Mahra alleged that Uttarakhand has been downgraded by at least 15 years during the two-year BJP rule in the state.

Terming the two-year saffron rule as very disappointing, he said that during the 2017 Assembly election canvassing, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi had conjured up a dream of double engine government helping the state stride forward.

"But the people are now feeling cheated," he said.

He further claimed that the BJP's promise of waiving off farm loans within 15 days on assuming charge of office has remained unfulfilled, leaving the farmers shocked. "Even the dues of the sugarcane growers

'2 yrs of BJP rule disaster for U'khand'

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Terming the two-year saffron rule as very disappointing, he said that during the 2017 Assembly election canvassing, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi had conjured up a dream of double engine government helping the state stride forward

remain unpaid till date," he said.

"As many as 13 farmers have committed suicide in the state, something which is unprecedented in the 18-year history of the state." The Congress leader said.

He also referred to the CBI inquiry into the NH -74 scam fiasco. "Besides, it was also for the first time that the address of the Governor was pre-poned by seven minutes, the objective behind it being to

keep the Congress MLAs away from it," he said.

Launching an acid-dripping attack on the BJP government, the Congress leader said that the health services have crumbled down completely. "The women are being forced to deliver babies in the toilets. The 108 ambulance service in the state is in jeopardy," he said and added that the illicit liquor trade and illegal mining are going on in full swing while the law and order

is plunging to its nadir.

"Besides, the BJP government has stopped 16 types of pensions in the past two years and reduced the quantity of ration supplied at the fair price shops," he said.

The Congress leader also took a swipe at the government's failure to bring Lokayukt within 100 days on assuming office. "The state government has put the proposal in the cold storage," he said.

Charging the state government with experimenting with the education system too often, Mahra said that the quality of education has deteriorated. He also attacked the state government for poor financial management and said that the state government has to seek loan for even paying the salaries of the employees. "The smart city is still an elusive dream. People are feeling themselves cheated and it appears there is nothing like governance in the government," he quipped.

UKD's tentative candidates list for 5 constituencies out

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Kranti Dal (UKD) has announced a tentative list of its candidates at a press conference held on Monday. The state president of the party Diwakar Bhatt said that his party would raise the people-related issues forcefully in course of the campaigning.

"We have been doing so since the time the party came up and the same would continue in this election too," he said. Notably, the regional party is contesting all the five seats up for grab in the state. He further said that they had recently taken feedback from the party members about the candidates and prepared a tentative list on the basis of the feedbacks received. Addressing the media persons, Bhatt said that they were releasing the list which contained names of two candidates for each of the five seats. "The final list would be released by March 22," he added.

For Tehri, the list has two names- B D Raturi and Pankaj Vyas while for Pauri, Shanti



Bhatt and Avtar Singh Rana feature in the list. For Haridwar, Ashok Negi and Vijay Kumar Boda are in the list while for Nainital, B D Kandpal and Kashi Singh figure and the list for Almora has Jivan Bharti and K L Arya.

Dwelling on the principal

poll pitch of the party for the upcoming election, Bhatt said, "Our party will highlight the main issues of the state which are unemployment and migration aside from the demand for green bonus."

He admitted the party's inability to build the right con-

nect with the people.

"We have been unable to gain the people's confidence and hence our organisational weakness. However, the party is less bothered about how to come to power than how to build the state. We are focused on giving a better life to the

people," he said.

Stressing on unity among those who professed by the UKD ideology, Bhatt said that they were united this time. "The party faced problems in the past. Factions drifted away. But this time we would fight the election together," he added.

Champion backtracks after attacking Nishank

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

Known for his penchant to stoke rows, the voluble MLA had called the sitting MP from Haridwar a 'Pravasi' who came to seek votes just before the election while ignoring the constituency throughout his stint while addressing a meeting on Sunday

He had poured ridicule on the projects the MP had laid foundation stones for. He had alleged that none of

them was taking shape. He further said that the MP had done nothing for the Laksar area of the district.

As expected, the MLA's comment on the MP had spawned strong reactions from the BJP leaders, including the MLA from Rural Haridwar Swami Yatiswarananda.

However, on Monday, 'Champion' said that he would abide by whatever the party decides regarding the candidate. "I will work hard for the

person the party chooses for the Haridwar seat," he said. Observers say that 'Champion' is strongly pitching for his wife Devyani Singh to be the BJP candidate for the seat.

"Hence his attack on Nishank. He has made his preference quite clear in public. However, the saffron party brass is most unlikely to fall in line as it has already declared that the sitting MPs are its first preference," said an observer.

First-time voters excited about participating in LS polls

MONISHA BAHUGUNA ■ DEHRADUN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the chief election commissioner Sunil Arora have been stressing on the importance of the first-time voters participating in the election as being the future of the participatory democracy. In view of the focus being trained on them, it is interesting to know how the youngsters who are going to exercise their franchise for the first time are feeling now, less than a month left for the election.

The Pioneer has talked to some of the first-time voters living in the city to know their views on the matter.

A majority of them sounded excited.

They said they are eagerly looking up to the day when



they would through the booths to cast vote for the first time.

Asked about his expectation from the election, Vivek Singh, a student and a first-time voter, said, "I do not have much expectation from the parties. However, I like the way



Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) is trying to connect with the people through an intelligently crafted campaigning machinery. They seem to be far ahead of others in terms of their ability to strike the right chord with the electorate."



Another first-time voter Komal Preet Kaur said, "I am very much excited about voting for the first time. I have no confusion regarding how to cast vote. I know about the process of voting through the electronic voting machine," she



said. Asked about her preference for the election, she said, "I would vote for the party which can safeguard the nation's interests best in the face of the Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. The deterrent air strike is the right step in the right



direction," she said seriously. Shivani Semwal, another student set to cast vote for the first time, said, "I am really excited over going out to cast my vote for the first time. I would vote for the party which is serious about development,



in general, and education, in particular. Education should gain precedence over other things. I will decide at the right time which party to vote for."

Nikita Bisht, another such voter, said, "It is a good feeling to vote for the first time. I will

vote for the party which has done something good in the past and which can foresee a bright future of the nation and strive to make it a reality." Prashant Bathwal said, "I am going to vote for a candidate who is just not a face of a political party. He or she must have some original ideas to solve the ground-level problems. I will read the manifestos of the contending parties as to whether they are giving grass-root development the place it deserves and then I will decide." Kirti Sharma, a student, said, "Yes I am very excited about voting for the first time. Once I will cast my first vote it will make me a legally responsible citizen of the nation. I will vote for the party which values development of the youth and generation of employment opportunities for us."

Speeding vehicle mows down 3 in Shastri Park

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Three men died after they were allegedly hit by a speeding Light Goods Vehicle (LGV) in national Capital North-east district's Shastri Park area. The incident occurred on late Monday night at Dharampura red light.

The deceased have been identified as Chander (53) a resident of New Seelampur, Zahid Hussain (40) and Jamil Ahmed (45) both residents of Delhi's Shastri Park. They all used to work as labourer in the area.

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), North-East district, a police control room (PCR) call was received regarding the incident at about 12.15 am on Monday following which a police team rushed to the

'On spot, the trio injured was rushed to nearby hospital where Chander and Zahid were declared brought dead by the doctors whereas Jamil was referred to Trauma Center where he succumbed to his injuries during the treatment'

spot. "On spot, the trio injured was rushed to nearby hospital where Chander and Zahid were declared brought dead by the doctors whereas Jamil was referred to Trauma Center where he succumbed to his injuries during the treatment," said the DCP. "During initial investigation it was revealed there was a collision between two unidentified car with a TSR. The crash attracted people from the vicinity. While they were engrossed in sorting out the issue, the tragedy struck as a rashly driven LGV just ran them over near Dharampura red light. Three men who were standing there, were crushed below the wheels. The erring vehicle's movement has been traced to Nazafgarh area in outer Delhi, said the DCP.

"The driver of the canter, identified as Manohar (35) was caught by police and handed over to the local police. A case of rash and negligent driving causing death under section 304 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered at Shastri Park police station. The bodies have been sent for autopsy," the DCP added.

NCERT drops chapters on caste conflict from Class IX history books

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Certain chapters on caste conflict will be removed from the NCERT history textbooks for Class 9 as part of curriculum rationalisation exercise initiated by HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar to reduce burden on students. "Of the the chapters that are to be deleted include one on clothing and how social movements influenced how we dressed," the National Council of Educational Research and Training official said.

"The second chapter is on the history of cricket in India and its connection to the politics of caste, region and community while the third focuses on the growth of capitalism and how colonialism altered the lives of peasants and farmers," the official added.

In 2016, the CBSE had issued a circular to all its affili-

"Of the the chapters that are to be deleted include one on clothing and how social movements influenced how we dressed," the National Council of Educational Research and Training official said

ated schools informing them that the section 'Caste Conflict and Dress Change' was omitted from the curriculum and no questions from this section should be asked in 2017.

However, this section remained part of the textbook until NCERT's curriculum rationalisation exercise was initiated under which the complete chapter was dropped.

Naveen to contest from Hinjili and Bijepur

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

1 more dengue case reported; doctors advise Delhiites to take precautionary measures

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi has reported one more dengue case even though the vector-borne disease is usually reported between July and November.

With this the total number of cases of vector-borne diseases has reached to 20 this year, according to a data released by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation on Monday. Out of these cases, 14 cases diagnosed belong from other States. Doctors have advised the people to take precautionary measures to ensure there was no breeding of mosquito larvae and urged them to wear full-sleeves and use mosquito nets.

The report said domestic breeding checkers found mosquito breeding in 1,147 households in the city till March 16. It said that 1,814 legal notices have been served

for various violations and 63 prosecutions initiated.

Last year, 2,798 dengue cases and four related deaths were recorded by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), which tabulates data on vector-borne diseases in the city.

These diseases are usually reported between July and November, but the period may stretch to mid-December. The dengue victims last year included a minor boy. Water coolers should be dried when not in use as dengue infection-carrying mosquitoes breed there, a doctor said.

According to the SDMC, 10 people had died due to dengue in Delhi in 2017, of which five were not residents of the national capital. Overall, the vector-borne disease had affected 9,271 people in the city last year.

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."

"If the Congress leadership gives me this responsibility, I am ready for that as my father has also taught me to fight for the party and the country in every situation," he added.

The five-member committee of Congress for selection of the candidates in the

state is headed by AICC general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal. The panel is to meet soon to shortlist candidates for the central election committee (CEC) to take a decision. Former Union Telecom Minister in PV Narasimha Rao-led Congress government, Sukhram's grandson Aashray Sharma has not only expressed his willingness to contest from Mandi but has even begun electioneering here.

BJP's Himachal unit president Satpal Singh, however, said, "Sharma is not even a primary member of the party. What we have to say, we will say when we will be called at

Delhi (by senior BJP leaders for parliamentary board meeting)."

Responding to Singh's statement, Aashray retorted, "If I am not member of the BJP, my father Anil Sharma (who is a minister in Jai Ram Thakur-led BJP government in Himachal) Pradesh too is not a BJP member."

"I along with my father met (BJP president) Amit Shah in Delhi in October before the Himachal assembly elections in 2017 and joined the BJP," he added.

"It was for the first time in the Himachal politics that the BJP performed so well in Mandi in last assembly elec-

tion after our family, having its hold in this region, joined the BJP just 21 days before the state polls," he claimed.

Sharma expressed optimism that he would get a BJP ticket from Mandi.

"The party will surely honour his family, which helped the BJP's perform better in Mandi district. I'm fully optimistic about the party allocating me a ticket for the Mandi Lok Sabha seat," he said.

"Moreover, I am campaigning on directions of (senior party leaders from) Delhi. Nowadays the winnability is the sole criteria all parties in selecting candi-

dates. All surveys too have also gone in my favour," he claimed.

BJP is apparently in favour of reallocating the seat to its sitting MP Ram Swaroop Sharma, who had won the seat by a margin of nearly 40,000 votes.

Sharma had secured 3,62,824 votes in 2014, defeating Congress candidate Virbhadra Singh's wife Pratibha Singh, who had got 3,22,968 votes.

Sukhram, 91, has represented Mandi in Lok Sabha thrice in 1984, 1991 and 1996, Virbhadra Singh thrice in 1971, 1980, 2009 and his wife twice in 2004 and 2013.

Maya dares Cong to fight all 80 seats in UP

From page 1

"Our party wokers should not succumb to confusion being spread almost everyday by the Congress," she said.

The Congress on Sunday said it will leave two seats for the Apna Dal (Krishna), and entered into an electoral agreement with the lesser known Jan Adhikar Party.

The SP and the BSP had forged an alliance on 80 Lok Sabha seats in the State.

As per the deal, the SP will contest 37 Lok Sabha seats in UP and the BSP 38, leaving three for the Ajit Singh-led Rashtriya Lok Dal and two for

Sonia Gandhi (Rae Bareli) and Rahul Gandhi (Amethi).

The seats offered by the Congress include Mainpuri, Kannauj and Firozabad, all held by the SP, and those likely to be contested by the BSP chief and RLD chief Ajit Singh and his son Jayant Chaudhary, UP Congress chief Raj Babbar told reporters here Sunday.

He said that the Congress was reciprocating the gesture of the alliance which has left Rae Bareli (held by UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi) and Amethi (held by Congress president Rahul Gandhi) for it.

It's enough...

From Page 1

The BJP and Congress have not yet declared their candidates for elections in Delhi.

There were rumours of an alliance between Congress-AAP last week when the Congress decided to seek feedback from its booth-level workers on a tie-up with the AAP. "There are many leaders and workers in Delhi Congress who are in favour of alliance with AAP. But a final call in this regard will be taken by party president Rahul," P C Chacko, a senior Congress leader, had said earlier. Elections to the seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi will be held on May 12.

BJP may field 3 sitting MPs, 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, incharge for the Lok Sabha elections in Haryana, Chief Minister Manohar Lal, party's co-incharge for Lok Sabha

polls in Haryana, Vishwas Sarang, party's Haryana incharge 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 Sonapat 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 Sonapat and Bhiwani-Mahendragarh as well.

The names of IAS Brijendra Singh, son of Union Minister Birender Singh, CM's media advisor Rajiv Jain, party

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

leader Krishna Gahlawat were discussed for Sonapat 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 Sonapat 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, Shamsheer 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, incharge 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.

The election committee is likely to meet on March 22, when the candidates will be finalized and the list will be submitted to the party high command.

BJP's 'Main bhi chowkidar' campaign won't give jobs, says Punjab CM

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 mediapersons after a meeting with MLAs, zone in-charges and heads of frontal 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.

"The Congress is in a very strong position in the state," he said, reiterating his earlier stand that the party did not need any alliance and would go it alone in the state.

Asked if the recent Indian Air Force (IAF) air strikes would make a difference to the poll-scrape, the Chief Minister said that was not likely to happen as what the BJP government did was nothing exceptional.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Original sale deed of Khasra No. 1 Area 63.00 Sq. Mtr Sanjay colony, Guru Road Dehradun, dated 23.01.2004 executed by Chander Prakash S/o Asa Ram through his attorney Surendra Bagla S/o Hari Ram R/o 37, Shiv Colony, Patel Nagar, Dehradun in favour of Usha Kiran W/o Surender Kumar Bagla R/o 37, Shiv Colony, Patel Nagar, Dehradun duly registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Dehradun in book no. 1 volume 1337 on page 49 and in additional file book no. 1 volume 1346 on pages 265 to 284 at serial no. 283 dated 23.01.2004.

and Original sale deed of Khasra No. 1 Area 63.00 Sq. Mtr Sanjay colony, Guru Road Dehradun, dated 24.02.2006 executed by Smt. Usha Kiran w/o Surender Kumar Bagla R/o 37, Shiv Colony, Patel Nagar, Dehradun in favour of Neeraj Sharma S/o Chandra Prakash Sharma and Vandana Sharma W/o Neeraj Sharma R/o 97, Nai Basti, Patel Nagar, Dehradun duly registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Dehradun in book no. 1 volume 1547 on page 118 and in additional file book no. 1 volume 1569 on pages 671 to 684 at serial no. 1304 dated 24.02.2006 has been actually lost on 26.02.2019 if it is found by anyone please contact Sanjeev Mohan Joshi (Advocate) Ph: 0135-2654222, 2650422

Manoj Kumar, S/o Late Suraj Prakash, R/o-69, Shiv Colony, Patel Nagar, Dehradun

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

No.: 305-DRM-MB-18-19 Dated: 15.03.2019

SRDEN/CMB acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. 305-DRM-MB-18-19 closing date 25.04.2019, 16.00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net Banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

NTT HEADER

Name of work	Provision of Limited Height Sub Way (LHS) in lieu of L-Xing No. 20, 32 in BE-CH sec under Sr. DEN/III/MB (5th time)
Bidding Type	Normal Tender
Tender Type	Open
Tender Closing Date & Time	25.04.2019 16.00 hrs.
Pre-Bid Conference required	No
Advised Value (Rs.)	4,13,80,587.91
Bidding Style*	Single Rate for Each Schedule
Earnest Money (Rs.)	356900.00
Tender Doc. Cost (Rs.)	10,000.00
Contract Type	Works
Bidding Start date	11.04.2019
Ranking Order For bids	Lowest to Highest
Bidding System	Single Packet
Date, Time of Uploading Tender	15.03.2019 13.50 hrs.
Pre-Bid Conference Date, Time	Not Applicable
Sr DEN III/MB	
% above/below /at par	
Validity of Offer (Days)	45 Days
Period of Completion	08 Months
Contract Category	Expenditure
Are Joint Venture (JV) firms allowed to bid	No

845/2019

Serving Customers with a Smile

Pramod...

From Page 1

The MLAs, led by Leader of the Opposition Chandrakant Kavlekar, went to Raj Bhawan and handed over a letter to Governor Mridula Sinha, saying it was the single largest party in the Assembly and should be allowed to form the government. They said unlike two years ago when they were "denied" the opportunity, the Governor must offer them a chance to form the Government in the state.

For his part, Gadkari, who had landed in Goa midnight, led the BJP charge to ensure the party continues to rule the coastal State. But, expectedly, the BJP's allies upped the ante with Dhavalikar and Sardesai staking claim to the top post.

Besides Sawant, BJP's Vishwajit Rane's name too did

the rounds initially.

As different claimants refused a clarity to the scene, Shah took charge of the situation and held discussions with the alliance partners.

The BJP president met alliance partners - the GFP, MGP and Independents at a star hotel at Dona Paula near Panaji and was able to convince them on Sawant's candidature for the Chief Ministerial post," sources said. The BJP chief also attended the funeral of Parrikar at the Miramar beach. Gadkari, who was coordinating for the BJP, also continued to hold parleys with alliance partners.

Parrikar, 63, was heading a coalition Government comprising the BJP, the GFP, the MGP and Independents. During a meeting with Gadkari, Dhavalikar expressed his willingness to become the Chief Minister of Goa.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Notice for Shortlisting of Products/Brands

For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Moradabad invites applications on the prescribed form from the manufacturers of the renowned brands of the below mentioned items for bringing these items on the list of approved/short listed brands for use/Sale/Service over Moradabad Division. The manufacturers who are desirous of having their brands shortlisted for use/Sale/Service over Moradabad Division may submit their applications on the prescribed form for the first phase of shortlisting latest by 14 Hrs. on 16.04.2019 in the office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Room no. 18, DRM Office, Moradabad. In case this date is declared holiday the applications will be received on next working day. The applications received after the prescribed date shall be considered for second phase short listing. The short listing will be valid for a period of Two (2) years, thereafter the firms desirous to continue to have their Products/Brands on the approved list of Moradabad Division will have to apply a fresh on the prescribed form well in the advance which will be considered in supplementary short listing. Shortlisting is a continuous process, and the firms desirous of getting their brands of products shortlisted can apply even after the date mentioned in this notice. However, the validity of the product will remain the same as per the initial validity date for that product category. The application form can be obtained from the office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Room no. 18, DRM Office, Moradabad on any working day between 10:00 hrs. to 17:00 hrs. on payment of Rs. 11800/- (Rs. Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred only) to be deposited in cash with Divisional Cashier, Moradabad or by way of Demand Draft in favour of Sr.DFM/Moradabad Division payable at Moradabad. The application form can also be downloaded from the official website of Northern Railway www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and while submitting the application demand draft of Rs. 11800/- (Rs. Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred only) in favour of Sr. DFM/Moradabad Division payable at Moradabad has to be attached with the application towards the cost of the form. The cost of the form is non refundable.

S. No.	Item	S. No.	Item
1	Aerated Drink in glass, Pet bottles and Cans	16	Tomato Ketchup
2	Fruit Juice in Tetra Pack, Glass/Pet Bottles	17	Dairy creamer in Sachet
3	Fruit Drink in Tetra Pack, Glass/Pet Bottles	18	Butter in Blister pack/foil
4	Flavored Milk/Milk products in Tetra Pack, Glass/Pet Bottles	19	Pickle - in blister pack
5	Namkeen	20	Fruit Jam in blister pack
6	Ice Cream	21	Salt Sachet
7	Biscuits	22	Pepper Sachet
8	Cakes	23	Dry Fruits all variety in small packs
9	Chips	24	Curd in Sealed cups.
10	Coffee Powder (Bulk pack in packets & Sachet)	25	Spices- Haldi (Turmeric), Dhania (Coriander Powder) Mirch (Red ChilliPwd), Garam Masala (Hot Spice) etc. (Must comply with AGMARK standards)
11	Tea (Bulk pack in packets & Tea Bags)	26	Refined Oil
12	Confectionery including Toffee and Chocolate	27	Basmati Rice
13	Sweets - packet in sealed boxes & Cans	28	Atta (Wheat Flour)
14	Packaged Drinking Water	29	Bread (Slice)
15	Sugar Sachet		

It is also clarified that this is not a Tender Notice but application for Shortlisting of Brands of above mentioned items for further process of procurement after calling tender/quotation.

840/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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.

BPCC 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 Sahn'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 supremo 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 supremo

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 other 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 2) 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, Bagpat, Ghaziabad (VK Singh) and Gautam Buddha Nagar (Mahesh Sharma) will vote in the first of the seven-phase general elections.

The Jammu and Kashmir 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 Cultural 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 supremo Mayawati, TMC chief Mamata Banerjee and SP president Akhilesh Yadav.

"Pappu kehta 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's 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-incharge 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 Hariwansh 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 Representatives, 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, Hariwansh 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. PNS

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 top 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 field 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 Indian Army carrying the flags of United Nations, India and the AFINDEX was the highlight of the opening ceremony. PNS

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 up to ₹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 Badaal 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 Ramappa, 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 remained 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 construction,

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 with holding 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 Gulaal (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 fronts 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 Maiam 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.

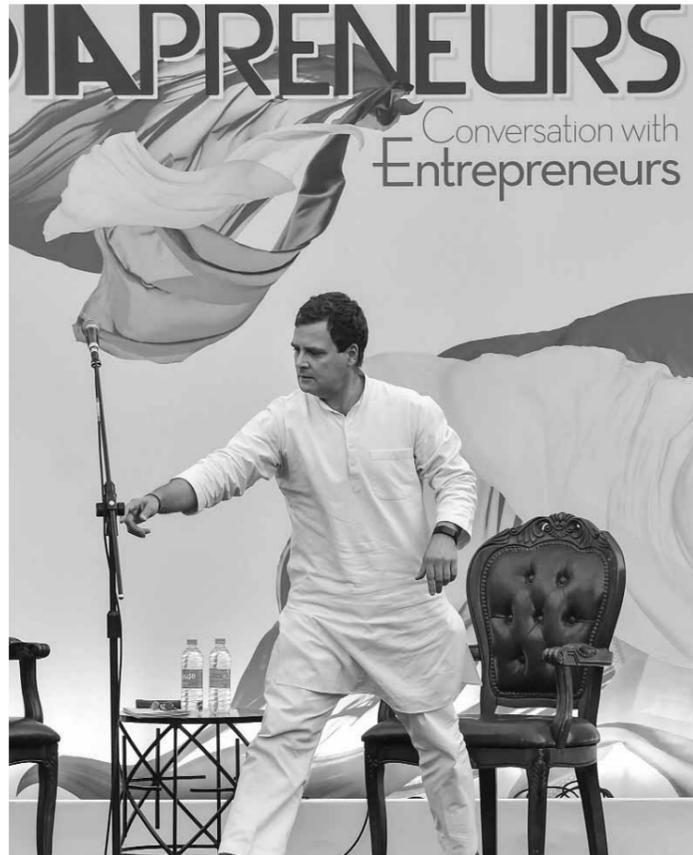
Interestingly, only six of sitting 37 MPs who won the 2014 Lok Sabha election have been re-nominated to contest this time. The party leadership has brought in the old war horses like KP Munusamy and AgriSS Krishnamurthi to take on the

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 ceasefire



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



MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A 24 year old Rifleman attained martyrdom in a fresh incident of ceasefire violation along the line of control in Keeri Battalion 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 Bijbehara 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

FIANS ■ 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 nearby 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 Fadnis 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 condoned 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 THROG 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 Swachh 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 Seafare 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 Seafare 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

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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/-	Dehil /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, Ashwini Kumar Jaiswal residing at H.No. 1010 Sector 14 Gurgaon Haryana have lost / misplaced the share certificate no. 1000022 distinctive nos. 5897401 to 5897800 for 400 no. Equity shares of face value Re. 5/- paid up under folio no. A00026, registered in the name of Ashwani K. Jaiswal & in the books of a/can castality ltd having registered office at gate no. 1426, Vill. Shigarua, Taluk Shigar, Para Di Maharastra-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 certificates in my/four 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, Sirganganagar Rajasthan have severed all their relations from their son Sh. Nishan Singh Chahal because of his uncontrolled attitude and behavior & debared him from all their moveable & immovable properties. Henceforth whosoever deals with him monetary, 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 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, Rahnola, 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: cbc@cbi.gov.in, Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

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

DP/2018/OD/19.

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 aadmi*.

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 ITian 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 ITians 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.

opinion 08

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.

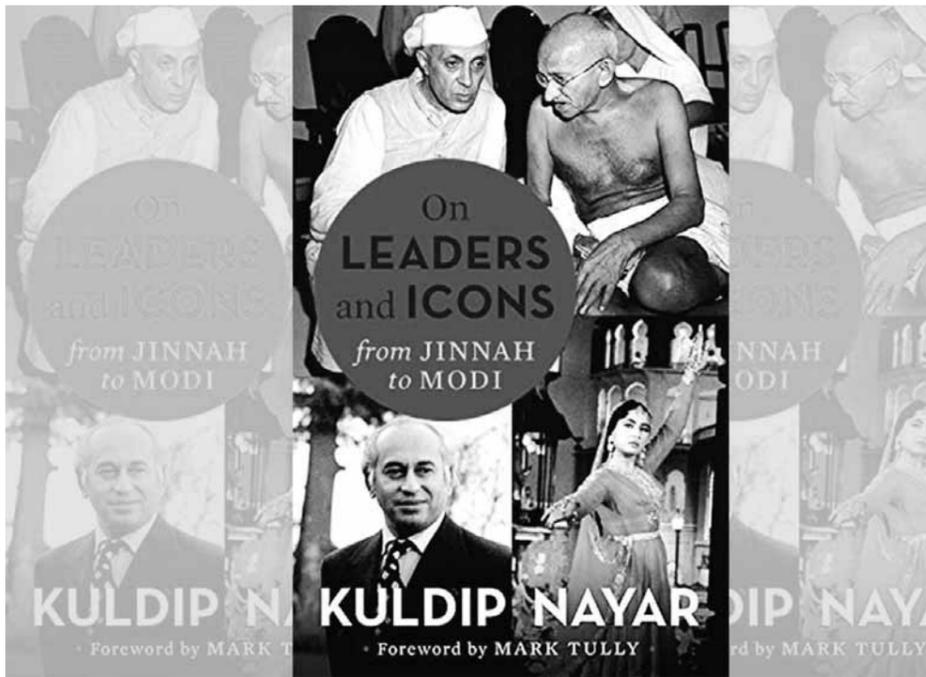
This is hardly news for most Indians. What is startling is the revelation that when former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru suffered a stroke in January 1964, Indira Gandhi ruled the country in the name of her ailing father. Lal Bahadur Shastri, as Minister without portfolio, "began quietly dealing with 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 Tithwal 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-



ation. 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-

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 artistes 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

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

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



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 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 interest. 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-cum-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 Mahanada — and further of 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 stakeholders.

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 Realty 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 was 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, **Namely: Balbir Singh, S/o: Niranjan Singhal, R/o: 503/01, Devi 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:

Namely: Balbir Singh, S/o: Niranjan Singhal, R/o: 503/01, Devi 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

provider just a day before expiry of deadline set by the Supreme Court.

"My sincere and heartfelt thanks to my respected elder brother, Mukesh and Nita, for standing by me during these trying times, and demonstrating the importance of staying true to our strong family values by extending this timely support. I and my family are grateful we have moved beyond the past, and are deeply touched with this gesture," he said in a brief statement issued through the company spokesperson.

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

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	Name of Branch
1.	Prashant Agarwal/ Shivani Agrawal / LBDEL00001415371	Shop No. VPL-08, Shipra Krishna, Ahinsa Khand, Indrapuram, 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

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is here by 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 Mob. No: 7065036326
 Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/112/ON/19

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 House Bearing No. 19, On Ground Floor, Cat-II, Situated At Nagin Lake Apartment, Peera Garh, 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. Aarti 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-h/139, Typing Duplex Flat, Sector-06, Situated At Rajender Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad. Bounded As Under:- East : Starcase, 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)

Authorized Officer
 HDFC Bank Ltd.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is here by informed that an unidentified person (depicted in the photo) name: **Unknown** residence and family is **unknown** about 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



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.

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

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

- **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, stinging and watery discharge.



■ **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 facewash 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:

Put lots of hair oil in an ageold 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 mind 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 work out 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 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, KlinikApp

STUDYCENTRE

Statistics by the 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 Brexiters 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

noting that Pakistan is an "all-weather friend" of China.

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

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

The MBT-2000 main battle tank developed by China North Industries Corporation (Norinco) is designated the Al-Khalid in the Pakistan Army, the report said.

Pakistan also operates the likes of China's HJ-8 anti-tank missile and FM-90 air defence missile, according to China Military Online.

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 Coff's 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 Kanna 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

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
B1 & B2, ISHWAR NAGAR,
MATHURA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110065

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

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 (₹)	Reserve Price (₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	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/ Rupali Lamba (Co-Borrower) - LBCB00001490991	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/-	1,08,00,000/-	Rs. 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 Mortgagors/ Noticees 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 thereof. 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?>

Date : March 19, 2019
Place : Delhi/ NCR

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

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.

Maldives is an important country for India's maritime security and there have been concerns in India over China's growing influence over the country in the last few years.

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.

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)
DP/2029/OD/19 Room No. 105, 1st floor, Rohini Courts, Delhi
(Court Notice)

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 boy scouts in the Lyon area in the 1980s and 1990s.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified body of a male named **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/W/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, 08750870123

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

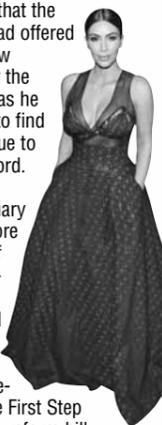


Actress **JANHVI KAPOOR** says her films are more important to her than earning fame as she has experienced fame since her childhood. "Fame is important for every actor and whatever fame I have earned is all because of my family. I have been getting recognised more after my first film so, I am very grateful 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.



HAVE MONEY, WILL FLY

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 of 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:

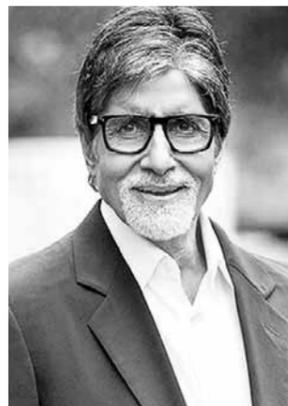
Amitabh Bachchan: Manohar Parrikar CM Goa, passes away. A gentleman to the core, simple in demeanour and well respected. Spent few short moments with him... very dignified, fought his illness bravely. Prayers and condolences.

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 any one 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**

THE BEST MEDITATION

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.

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 canvasses 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 Varma 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 Varma 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 sketch-books 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 *rajās* 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 royals and the rajās 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 by 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 Gujral 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 Shuvprasad 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.

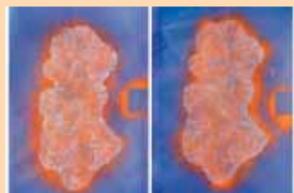
The city has as many as 1,475 heritage buildings. Bhattacharya said due to complex ownership a huge ancestral property, which upholds the city's culture and heritage, remains stuck in legal limbo.

"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.

—IANS

WATCH OUT

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 Sharma 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.



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.

ANDREESCU TOPPLES KERBER

Wildcard teen Bianca upstages Wimbledon champion 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 to win maiden WTA title

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



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

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 Elina 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."



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."

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 Nedunchezhian touched a new career-high of 64 and was third highest-ranked player 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 larger 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 match BWF/File Photo

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 Sanayam Shukla

Eleven teams have been divided into four groups in this six-day biennial competition.

The India team has been placed in Group B alongside 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 cricketing 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're 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 cricketing ties with Pakistan, including multi-lateral events, or engage with the arch-rivals at every level as "there can't be conditional bans".

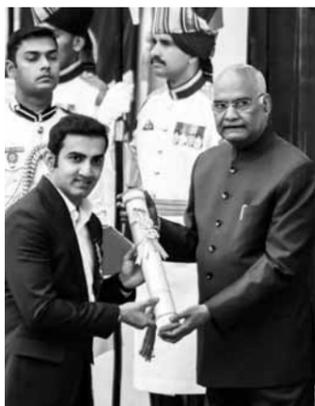
Gambhir, who called for snapping ties with Pakistan after the Pulwama terror attack, said the Indian Board has to decide and be prepared for the consequences.

"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 terrorism emanates in a veiled reference to Pakistan.



Gautam Gambhir receives Padma Shri award from President Ram Nath Kovind

"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 Jaws 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 foresee 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 cricketing 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

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.

Bernardo Silva eyeing football history

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Bernardo Silva has said he wants to make history at Manchester City after helping the Premier League leaders move a step closer to an unprecedented quadruple.

Silva played a key role in keeping City's four-pronged pursuit of honours on track by sparking a thrilling fight-back as Pep Guardiola's side overcome a two-goal deficit to beat Swansea City 3-2 in their FA Cup quarter-final on Saturday.

Not only did Silva score City's first goal at Swansea's Liberty Stadium but he also set up Sergio Aguerro's late winner in south Wales to keep alive hopes of adding the FA Cup, Premier League and Champions League titles this season to the League Cup that is already in their trophy cabinet.

"All the players feel that this season can be special," said Silva.

"Last season was special in the way we won the Premier League; this season can be special because we've already won one competition, we're still playing for three, the 24-year-old added.

"We can win three or lose all of them as well, so it will be very tough, so yeah, we know that the last month-



and-a-half will be very tough.

"It will be crucial, to make something special and to try to write an important page in the history of this club, and that's what we'll try to do."

In the meantime, the Portuguese midfielder was buoyed by the manner of City's victory over Swansea.

"It's very important to win these kinds of games as well, not only the games you win four or five-nil, but

these games where you have to show character," explained Silva.

"We could have been out after arriving at half-time losing 2-0, so we have to keep our focus, knowing our opponents are very strong."

"There are no perfect teams, so we try to improve, we know that in some moments of the game we're not as good as some teams, and we try to improve that."

Wanted to win title badly: Chhetri

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Renowned Bengaluru FC skipper Sunil Chhetri termed his team's maiden Indian Super League victory against FC Goa as a "sweet one" especially after his side had faltered in the summit clash last season against Chennaiyin FC.

Courtesy Rahul Bheke's championship-winning header in the second extra time, Bengaluru defeated FC Goa 1-0 in an edge of a seat thriller on Sunday night to win their maiden ISL title. Bengaluru had last year lost last year's final to Chennaiyin FC.

"Last year after the final, I said next year we'll come back. Right from the ball boy to Carles Cuadrat — the coach, everyone wanted this. We wanted to win it (the title) badly. When you lose the way we did last year, it's sweet

to win this one. Asia, we are back," Chhetri said at the post match media conference late Sunday night.

Now by winning the ISL, Bengaluru FC will play in the AFC Asian Cup next year.

Chhetri also said it is "commendable" that a player like Ferran Corominas, who bagged the Golden Boot award, did not get any chance against his team on all the three occasions when the two teams clashed.

"The message from the coach was that we should try to attack but as soon as we lose the ball, we should fall back and defend and have numbers (at the back). For players like me, Miku and Udanta (Singh), it was not easy because we are attacking minded people," Chhetri said.

"I am happy we did it because



Bengaluru FC skipper Sunil Chhetri returns to Bangalore with the ISL trophy on Monday

Nishu (Kumar) and (Harmanjot) Khabra got that security when Udanta and I traced back. It is commendable that a player like Coro (Corominas) did not get

open chances against us in three games," he said.

"Last year, we conceded off set pieces and we were dominant until those two goal, so we were

sure on not letting it happen today," he added.

Asked where he would rate this win, Chhetri quipped, "Two-two. Number 2."

The winning coach Carles Cuadrat said that the team was trying not to take the game to the penalties as then it can be anybody's game.

"We were trying not to get into tie-breaker as it then becomes a lottery a lot of times. We are happy that one ball in the box gave us the victory. This is the seventh goal done by a set-piece and it shows how important set pieces are in the game," Cuadrat said.

Meanwhile, FC Goa coach Sergio Lobera termed Ahmed Jahouh being sent off the field after earning a red card as the key moment of the match.

"The key moment was when were reduced to 10-men in the first half of extra time. It was a very tight game was going to be

a matter of small details and the sending off was a big handicap for us," Lobera said.

Despite the loss, the FC Goa head coach said he was "proud of his players".

"Till today, we were focused today only on this game (the final). From tomorrow onwards, we will start working towards the (upcoming) Super Cup. I said to my players in the dressing room that I am proud of them and (what) they have done in the season."

"I am thankful to the players and they have been very professional. It is sad that we cannot take the trophy to Goa," he noted.

Meanwhile, Lobera's name has been 'linked to' the vacant India coach job and specifically asked about it, the Spaniard said, "(It is) always nice to be linked to national team of a great country like India, but I have one more year contract with FC Goa."