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LUCKNOW, TUESDAY MARCH 19, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹3



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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. Swant's name was cleared hours after late Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar's funeral ceremony, also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, concluded at Goa's Capital Panaji. Sawant will be assisted by two Deputy Chief Ministers — Goa Forward Party (GFP) chief Vijai Sardesai and Maharashtra Gomantak Party (MGP) MLA Sudin Dhavalikar. Interestingly, the two who have now been "accommodated" had earlier staked their claim to the top post in the State.

There was no Deputy CM post in place when Parrikar was CM. But since the MGP and the GFP both have 3 MLAs

each they hold the key to any Government formation. "We have managed to convince the alliance partners and finalised the formula of two Deputy Chief Ministers for the State," a senior BJP functionary said. Parrikar was heading a coalition Government comprising the BJP, three MLAs each of the GFP, the MGP and three Independents. Shah said it will be hard to fill the void left by Manohar Parrikar even as reports suggested that two MGP MLAs could switch over to the BJP to increase its number in the Assembly from 12 to 14.

Sawant has been a prominent presence in Goa's political scene since Parrikar's illness was announced in October 2018. In February, the BJP leader had updated the public about the State of Parrikar's health, after the CM was admitted to AIIMS in Delhi. Sawant represents the Sanquelim constituency and is an Ayurveda practitioner by profession. He was 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 6



## 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-RDL 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 RDL 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-RDL) is capable enough of defeating the BJP. The Congress should refrain from spreading confusion about leaving seven seats for the (SP-BSP-RDL) alliance," Mayawati tweeted.

She 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 6

## 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.

### 3 SHOT IN DUTCH TRAM, POLICE NAB GUNMAN

**Utrecht:** A gunman killed three people and wounded nine others on a tram in the central Dutch city of Utrecht on Monday morning in what the mayor said appeared to be a terror attack. The gunman was nabbed after a manhunt that saw heavily armed officers with dogs zero in on an apartment building.

### CRPF JAWAN KILLED IN NAXAL ATTACK

**Raipur/ New Delhi:** One CRPF jawan was killed and five others were injured in an attack by naxals in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district on Monday, officials said. The naxals first set off an improvised explosive device (IED) and then opened fire on CRPF troopers.

## Priyanka sails, media runs aground



PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

In an hilarious turn of events during the boat campaign by Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi on Monday, a boat carrying media persons and some Congress leaders ran aground at Manaya ghat of Allahabad from where Priyanka started sailing to reach Varanasi.

As media persons reached the Manaya Ghat, they saw just

one steamer all decked up for Priyanka, and no arrangement for another boat to carry them along to cover Priyanka's poll campaign.

The drama started as soon as Priyanka — who reached the ghat around 11.30 am — got onto her steamer. There was no room for the media.

However, as soon her boat started sailing, media persons and some Congress leaders 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 had to alight. But as the boat reached the middle of the river, it ran aground in low water. 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 Purvanchal 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.

Continue on Page 6

## UK court issues warrant against Nirav Modi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A London court has issued an arrest warrant against jewellery designer Nirav Modi, the main accused in the USD 2 billion PNB scam case, in response to an ED request for his extradition in a money laundering case, officials said Monday. They said the investigative agency was recently informed about the issuance of the warrant by the Westminster Magistrate Court and Modi is expected to be put under formal arrest by the local police (London Metropolitan police) soon. The warrant was issued a few days back and the ED was subsequently informed, they said.

After the arrest, Modi will be brought before the court to secure bail and the legal proceedings will begin thereafter, they said.

A similar procedure was followed when absconding liquor businessman Vijay Mallya was arrested by the London police after a warrant was issued based on the ED's request to extradite him to India in a money laundering case pegged at ₹9,000 crore.

Mallya's case is in final stages in that country.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), early this month, had said that United

Kingdom's home secretary Sajid Javid had referred India's request for extraditing Modi to a court for initiating legal proceedings against the diamond-taire.

A British daily had recently published a report and video showing Modi walking in the streets of London and said the fugitive diamond-taire was living in a swanky 8 million pounds apartment in the city's West End and that he was involved in a new diamond business.

The ED and the CBI are investigating Modi, his uncle Mehul Choksi and others for alleged money laundering and corruption to perpetrate the alleged scam in the Brady House branch of the PNB in Mumbai that was unearthed last year.

Modi, 48, is currently living in a three-bedroom flat occupying half of a floor of the landmark Centre Point tower block in London, where rent is estimated to cost 17,000 pounds a month, UK's Telegraph newspaper had reported. Modi has been chargesheeted by both the agencies and the ED has also attached his assets worth ₹1,873.08 crore under the

Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), and has also seized assets linked to him and his family worth ₹489.75 crore.

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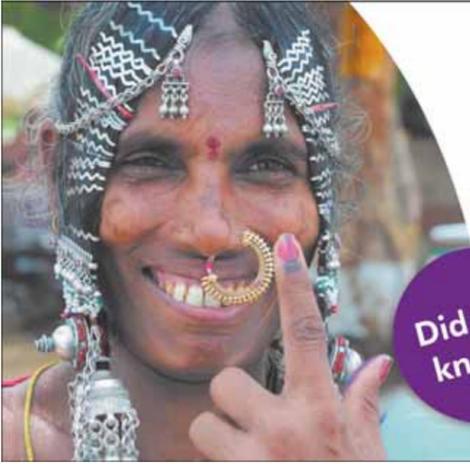
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# Yogi govt completes two years today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Yogi Adityanath government will complete two years in office on Tuesday without any pomp and show as the model code of conduct is in force following declaration of general elections, polling of which will start from April 11 and conclude on May 19.

A senior government official told 'The Pioneer' on Monday that all official functions have been put on hold because of the Election Commission directives but the party may organise some functions.

Yogi Adityanath took oath of office on March 19, 2017. When the parliamentarian Mahant of Gorakhnath temple, clad in saffron, was sworn in as Chief Minister of this politically sensitive state, many eyebrows were raised. But two years down the line, Yogi has proved everyone wrong.

Not only did he streamline government functioning, he also made bureaucrats to slog. Meetings were held to remove the cobweb of indecision so that the benefits of government schemes reached the masses. All sectors moved ahead in unison. Be it crime control, education, health, agriculture et al, projects were made and bud-

gets was sanctioned for quick implementation.

"I want implementation of projects of Central and state governments. Effective implementation of schemes will ensure that benefits reached the identified sections effectively and in a transparent manner," Yogi said during one of his meetings with bureaucrats recently.

The feather in the cap of Yogi was the way the government organised Kumbh Mela early this year in which over 24.20 crore pilgrims took a dip at the holy Sangam.

For the first time, Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas was organised in Varanasi and 5,000 foreign delegates took part in it. Foundation stones of projects worth Rs 65,000 crore were laid in a groundbreaking ceremony as the confidence of investors was back.

Through single window system, Nivesh Mitra, operated to facilitate setting up of industries in UP, 70 services of 20 departments are being made available on-line to the investors.

The government realised what entrepreneurs needed and hence it started spreading network of quality roads across the state and repairing the old ones. Power supply was improved and now quality elec-



tricity is available across the state.

To boost industrial development of eastern Uttar Pradesh (Purvanchal), about 341-km-long Purvanchal Expressway is under construction through the state's own financial resources. A decision has been taken to construct a 91-km-long Gorakhpur Link Expressway to link Gorakhpur with Purvanchal Expressway.

Similarly, construction of 296-km-long Bundelkhand Expressway is also on the anvil. A meeting of UP Cabinet was held in Prayagraj on January

11,27,195 farmers under price support scheme in 2018-19 and on-line payment of Rs 9231.99 crore was made within 72 hours.

UP is the first state where maximum number of farmers (approximately 28 lakh) benefited from the Prime Minister Kisan Samman Yojana. Besides, many closed and sick sugar mills were revived and in one year the government carried out record purchase of sugar cane.

These achievements ended in national awards as the Government UP won 12 awards for the first time for successful execution of scheme implemented by the Union Ministry of Rural Development.

The first year of Yogi's government was a testing time but from the second year, the government started marching on the path of progress. In this election year, the achievements of the Yogi government will be put to test.

"We are going to the people with our report card and asking them to vote for the work we have done as we believe that the BJP government has worked for all sections of society, be it farmers or women," the Chief Minister recently said at a private programme.

# Small is not that small at election time!

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Small is not that small during elections, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, where small parties are much in demand as the major players know that a slight shift of votes can turn their apple cart in the battle of ballots.

Two days back, five small outfits — Eklavya Samaj Party, Bharatiya Samaj Party, Navbharat Samajwadi Dal, Action Party and Ahimsa Party — which were hitherto unknown to a majority of the people announced their support to the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Their importance can be gauged from the fact that BJP state chief Mahendra Nath Pandey, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya and Union Minister of State for Finance, Shiv Pratap Shukla, attended the press meet in which these parties declared their support for BJP.

"You might not have heard their names but they are caste-based and have influence in small pockets. Their support can make our journey a bit comfortable," Keshav Prasad Maurya told this reporter.

The BJP has also entered into an alliance with other

TECHNICALLY, YOU MAY CALL THEM SMALL PARTIES BUT THEY HAVE A LARGE SUPPORT BASE IN VILLAGES. A TILT OF THIS CASTE BASE CAN TURN THE FORTUNE OF ANY PARTY IN THE BATTLE OF BALLOTS.

small parties like Apna Dal (Sonelal) and Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party. The BJP has conceded two seats to Apna Dal (S) while SBSP is asking for five seats.

Even in the Congress, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has stitched alliances with Mahan Dal, Jan Adhikar Party and Apna Dal (Krishna) with the aim to strengthen its caste outreach.

Dr SP Pandey from Dr Govind Ballabh Institute of Studies in Rural Development in Lucknow said that in a state like UP where caste was the only driving force in politics, it was an astute move by parties to ink deals with smaller parties.

"Technically, you may call them small parties but they have a large support base in villages. A tilt of this caste base can turn the fortune of any party in the battle of ballots," he said.

Dr Pandey said that if one

analyses the BJP's rise in UP, the only success mantra is that it formed alliance with smaller parties.

"Even at national level, it is a conglomeration of around 30 small parties. In political scenario where caste is important, such tactical alliances are a must," he opined.

It is not only smaller parties, even castes like Kushwaha, Shukla, Kachhar, Kewat, Mallah, Nishad, Kashyap, Maurya and Rajbhar, who fall in the Most Backward Class (MBC) category, are considered politically sensitive.

Nomita P Kumar of Giri Institute of Development Studies (GIDS) said that in UP, caste is the only force that drives people to cast votes. "Ignoring these castes would mean sure defeat of a party, therefore big parties go for these caste-based small parties," she said.

# Rumblings of discontent in UP Cong over tie-ups

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

AICC general secretary in charge of east UP, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's move to go for alliances with smaller parties like Mahan Dal and Jan Adhikar Party has not gone down well with party workers as the Congress scion faced protests soon after the declaration of tie-ups with these outfits.

Not just protest, the party leaders also forced the AICC general secretary in charge of east UP to make a secret probe into charges of money exchanging hands in ticket allotments

or even striking of alliance with smaller outfits, particularly with Babu Singh Kushwaha's Jan Adhikar Party.

Kushwaha has spent several years in jail after the Congress exposed his role in the multi-crore rupees scam in National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) projects in UP.

Interestingly, a letter and an audio tape of a call on social media also embarrassed the grand old party. The letter showed that Jan Adhikar Party had declared names of five candidates on March 16, a day before it cemented alliance with the Congress. A day after the alliance, on Monday, Kushwaha's party declared four candidates.

A Congress leader said that Kushwaha had already reached a secret pact with a senior Congress leader hence he was confident of the tie-up and went on to release the list of five candidates a day ahead

of the alliance was stitched with Congress.

"It is now for Priyanka to probe as to how a pact was made with Kushwaha without her knowledge and whether she knew about Kushwaha's tainted past," the Congress leader said.

Sources said that in another embarrassment for Congress, an audio tape went viral on social media in which Mahan Dal chief Keshav Dev Maurya, while speaking to another leader, claimed that he decided to end his pact with Congress to save himself from embarrassment of accepting money for stitching an alliance without taking any seat for the party.

"I was confident that the Congress will join the grand alliance and if I fought on their symbol and will become MP and will be able to run my party. I cannot give any clarification now that Congress

has given seven seats to Jan Adhikar Party," Maurya is heard saying.

"I have dispatched a letter to Congress informing them of ending the alliance and any association will be only possible if Congress gives five seats to Mahan Dal," he is further heard saying to his party leader.

Sources claimed that a senior Congress leader also informed Priyanka how a sizeable amount was pocketed by another senior leader by ensuring a Lok Sabha ticket for a seat in east UP. The leader also provided some documents to buttress the charge.

Annoyed at the embarrassing development, Priyanka is said to have asked UP Congress chief Raj Babbar to look into the matter and report to her.

Meanwhile on Monday, Jan Adhikar Party announced four candidates, mostly close

kin of party founder Babu Singh Kushwaha. The party said that Kushwaha, an accused on bail in the NRHM scam, would not contest the election.

The candidates are Kushwaha's wife Shiv Kanya from Chandauli, his younger brother Shiv Sharan Singh from Jhansi and a kin Chandrashekhar Singh from Basti. The party also fielded Suraj Singh Shukla from Etah Lok Sabha seat.

Jan Adhikar Party candidates will contest on the party symbol of 'bowl' from five seats while from two seats — Ghazipur and Ballia — they will fight the election on Congress symbol.

Jan Adhikar Party general secretary IP Singh Kushwaha told the media in Lucknow on Monday that Babu Singh Kushwaha would campaign for Congress candidates and ruled out opposition within the Congress over the alliance.

# Notification for first phase poll issued

Lucknow (PNS): The Election Commission of India (on Monday) formally set the ball rolling for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls in UP by issuing notification for the first phase elections in which eight constituencies will go to polls on April 11. Elections in the state will commence from the western region and gradually move through the central part to conclude in the eastern region of the state in the seven-phase polls covering all 80 Lok Sabha seats. Chief Electoral Officer (UP) L Venkateswarlu said in Lucknow on Monday that notification for the first phase of polls for eight constituencies had been issued. The last date for nominations for the first phase poll will be March 25. Scrutiny of papers will be done the next day and March 28 will be the last date for withdrawal of papers.

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SRDEE-LJN-02-2019 Electrical work in connection to Provision of Lift in Lucknow DRM Office and at Basti & Khalilabad Railway Station.	₹ 404802.56	₹ 8100.00	Completion Period -03 Months
SRDEE-LJN-03-2019 Electrical work in connection to Replacement of overhead line by independent cabling arrangement for feeding emergency power supply to different pump houses at Gonda area and Improvement in platform surface of island passenger Platform No. 2 & 3 at Gonda. Provision of piped/tapped water supply arrangement on Platform & Toilet of 31 No. Station of D and E category in Lucknow Division and Improvement of water filling arrangement for water filling in coaches at Lucknow Junction and Aishwariya.	₹ 6700540.51	₹ 134000.00	Completion Period -06 Months
SRDEE-LJN-04-2019 Electrical work in connection to Replacement of Overhead Line by UG cables at Badshahnagar and Improvement of Power Supply System at Badshahnagar Railway Station and Repair and Improvement of maintenance facilities in coaching complex and Provision of Pre-Cooling points in coaching depot at Lucknow.	₹ 10315005.78	₹ 201600.00	Completion Period -06 Months

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# Fissures surface in RLD west UP unit

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Fissures have started surfacing in the west UP unit of Rashtriya Lok Dal with party in-charge Anil Chaudhary resigning from his post on Saturday.

RLD national spokesman Anil Dubey said that the party had not accepted Chaudhary's resignation as yet.

When asked over phone about his decision, Anil Chaudhary said, "I was not able to adjust myself with workers and in carrying forward the party's poll strategy and so I resigned from the post. But I am still in the party and with all dedication. I am ready to take the responsibility I am given by Chaudhary Ajit Singh

**'The RLD brass ignored the basic issues related to voters of west UP and sidelined the demand for creation of a Harit Pradesh'**

and Jayant Chaudhary." The RLD leader said that he had been heading the west UP unit of the party for a long time but now he found himself to be a little exhausted and was unable to convince workers successfully. "Hence, I felt that I should not stick to the post," he said.

Chaudhary admitted that there were talks in the party that he would be fielded from Mathura Lok Sabha seat. "But this is 4-5-day-old story. I myself declined the offer. I spoke to Ajit Singhji and asked him to field

a dedicated party worker in my place. I feel that the candidate being fielded should not be a parachuted leader and should be from the party."

Chaudhary said that there was growing demand within the party that Jayant Chaudhary's wife Charu Lata be fielded from Mathura Lok Sabha seat. "I will support this if the senior leaders decide in this regard and would definitely campaign for her," he said.

Dr Anil Chaudhary is a powerful leader of west UP with good rapport with RLD

workers. It was his political acumen and his hold over workers that he won the Assembly election from Sadabad seat in adverse political conditions some years back.

RLD sources said that party workers and leaders were unhappy with the decision to agree for three seats offered by the SP-BSP alliance.

"The RLD brass ignored the basic issues related to voters of west UP and sidelined the demand for creation of a Harit Pradesh. Chaudhary has a good hold over voters in Mathura and other districts of west UP. If dissent among leaders of west UP continues, the RLD will have a tough time on the three seats it will be contesting in this election," the RLD sources said.

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Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (OP), North Central Railway, Allahabad, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tender Two packet system (Packet I: Technical Bid and Packet II: Financial Bid) on prescribed form. The details of the tenders are as under:					
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# Yellow slips given to 70% of voters

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Chief development officer Manish Bansal, who is also the nodal officer of SVEEP activities, said they had covered nearly 70 per cent of the population in terms of yellow slips distribution for Lok Sabha elections. Yellow slips which are being given to people carry details of all the family members who are registered voters.

Talking to *The Pioneer*, he said it was the most unique activity which they had conducted under SVEEP activities. He said it was being carried out for the first time in the city. He said that earlier, the slips were distributed by political parties through agents just before the polls. "Since those missing out did not have time to get themselves registered as voters, this exercise has been started earlier. We had also showcased this activity before the Election Commission team and they appreciated it," he said.



District Magistrate conducting inspection of yellow slips distribution at an apartment on Monday

He further pointed out that they were issuing detailed instructions to the mobile service providers to send SMSes to the people asking them

register as voters. "Talks and meetings have already been held with the mobile service providers and instructions will be released now," he added.

Meanwhile, District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma carried out a surprise inspection of the yellow slips distribution campaign in

apartments. The DM, who is also the district election officer, inspected Ashoka Apartments near Butler Palace. The booth-level officer said there were 49 flats in the apartment and all had not been covered under the yellow slips distribution campaign. Expressing anger, the DM said the entire apartment must be covered in the next three days or else departmental action would be taken against those found responsible. The DM also visited Surya Square Apartment where he was informed that there were 40 flats and all had been covered under the campaign. It was confirmed by the apartment president.

Sharma then visited Shalimar Apartment where one BLO was found absent. The DM said that the wages of the BLO in question must be stopped forthwith. When he sought details regarding the distribution of yellow slips, the supervisor was unable to provide any.



Members of Akhil Bharatiya Udyog Vyapar Mandal holding a voter awareness rally in Lucknow on Monday

Pioneer

# Gujhias flood markets ahead of Holi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

With Holi just a few days away, a huge variety of sumptuous gujhias have flooded the markets with sweet shops witnessing brisk sales. Attractively showcased, these gujhias catch the attention of buyers. Chandra Bhan Singh, sales incharge at a popular sweet shop in Mahanagar, said the varieties included golden gujhia (Rs 32,000 per kg), regular gujhia (Rs 740 per kg), regular pagi gujhia (Rs 680 per kg), baby gujhia (Rs 840 per kg), anjeer gujhia (Rs 1,400 per kg), badam gujhia (Rs 2,000 per kg), badampista gujhia (Rs 2,000 per kg), pista gujhia (Rs 2,600 per kg), pista-chilgoza gujhia (Rs 2,800 per kg), kaju gujhia (Rs 1,600 per kg), and sugarfree kaju gujhiya (Rs 1,600 per kg). Besides, there is also sheera gujhia. These gujhias are golden, green, red and white in colour.



Shops selling gujhias are witnessing brisk business in Lucknow

Singh said that with most of the women working these days, gujhia sales were good as people did not have time to go into the tedious process of preparation. He said the best selling gujhias were the regular ones. "Regular gujhias are selling well as compared to the rich varieties primarily because the latter are purchased for gifting," he reasoned. However, he said the high rates of golden gujhias did not deter buyers. With the current season of electioneering, Singh said he felt that the sales would be high. "This is the time when a lot of networking happens and sweets are the best way to reach out to people, hence we are expecting good sales," he added.

At yet another sweet shop, there are different varieties including potli gujhia, samosa gujhia and gujhia made of dry fruits. Incidentally, there are a lot of gujhia varieties available in gifts packs.

Sales incharge of another shop said that a lot of marketing agents were involved in the

run-up to Holi. "These agents help people select sweets and savouries for the festival," he added.

Meanwhile, several women are making gujhias at their homes. A housewife in Gomti Nagar said it was a way through which women bonded with one another in the past. "Since making gujhias is a tedious exercise, women used to assemble in a lighter mood while preparing these items. Some would make the filling with khoya while others would roll the dough and put in the filling. Steaming hot gujhias have always been lapped up by men," she said.

She further pointed out that they still prepared gujhias at home because it added to the traditional touch and also, there was a vast difference between gujhias prepared at home and those purchased from the market. "The gujhias are also called *pidikyas* because when they are fried, they generally flip from one side to another," she added.

# Awareness campaign by FSDA concludes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

An awareness campaign was carried out by the Food Safety and Drug Administration (FSDA) in the run-up to Holi. The campaign which kicked off on March 1 was monitored on a daily basis by the department till it concluded on Monday. Principal Secretary, FSDA, Anita Bhatnagar Jain said in reports that were analysed, 258 lakh kg foodstuff and 10,562 litres of oil were found without label and was seized & destroyed. The oil was worth Rs 1.60 crore.

In addition, she said 2,000 kg of gram flour in Agra, 2,000 litres palm oil in Ferozabad, 2,200 litres of palm oil in Mau, 1,100 kg refined flour in Shahjahanpur, 35,000 kg coloured kachri in Kanpur,

and 5,000 kg coloured kachri in Allahabad were seized. She said that food material worth Rs 90 lakh was seized. Apart from this, 71,000 kg of foodstuff, 819 kg masala, biscuit, porridge and savouries were destroyed.

Jain said they had secured 381 samples of oil, 608 samples of khoya, 653 samples of papad and 905 samples of milk, sweets and cottage cheese. She said that a total of 2,547 samples were taken. The maximum samples were taken from Lucknow, Varanasi, Meerut and Kanpur. She said that the samples were analysed in six different labs of the state and reports provided on a daily basis. "The reports were collected through e-mails and notices were issued in terms of action taken" she pointed out.

# Woman duped of ornaments by conmen posing as CB-CID sleuths

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Two conmen posing as CB-CID sleuths forced a woman in Vikas Nagar to put off her jewellery which they later took from her and disappeared on Monday afternoon. Police registered a case in this connection but said that the woman was not harassed to take her ornaments off.

As per reports, Kiran Agarwal (52) of Vikas Nagar (sector 3) was going for shopping. After she reached the main road near her house, the bike-borne conmen screamed to a halt near her. "They told me that they were CB-CID sleuths and asked why I was wearing ornaments. They intimidated me into putting the ornaments off and keeping them in a piece of paper which

they gave to me. After I put my two gold bangles, a gold chain and a ring in the paper sachet, they took it from me without my consent and returned it to me after checking it," the woman told the police.

She said that as she was frightened, she dropped the idea of shopping. "I returned home and checked my jewellery again. I was shocked to see that there were small pieces of stones inside the packet," she said. Her family later contacted the police but getting help from the police, preoccupied in view of the approaching elections, was not easy. "The police reached us late and then showered a volley of questions on us. They sought details about the conmen and then accepted the complaint," her family said. A relative said

getting an FIR registered was not an easy task. "First explain the police every minute details related to the incident and then make rounds of the police station," he said. A police spokesman said a case was being registered and investigations were on.

"The woman was conned by the miscreants who posed as CB-CID. But they tricked the woman. The police are scanning CCTV footages in area to track down the miscreants," he said.

Meanwhile, two miscreants posing as policemen looted jewellery from a woman, who was travelling to Engineering College crossing in Jankipuram along with her husband on Monday evening. Reports said Arjun Acharya, along with his wife Ratnamala

(both of Jankipuram) had gone to LIC office for some work and were returning home by an autorickshaw. When they got down from the auto, a youth told them that a sub-inspector had summoned them for checking. "I saw a man standing few yards away from the tempo stand. When we reached near him, we saw that a man was putting off his gold chain and giving it to the cop. The miscreant howled at my wife for wearing ornaments at a time when there is a spate in loot cases. We gave him two gold bangles and a gold chain which he wrapped in a piece of paper and then returned it to us. Upon reaching home, we opened the packet only to find fake ornaments inside," Arjun told the police.

# Vrindavan widows not to celebrate Holi this year

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Hundreds of widows of Vrindavan have decided not to celebrate Holi this time to mourn the sad demise of Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar. Hundreds of widow sisters, mothers and people gathered on Monday at the historic Gopinath temple of Vrindavan and paid their last respects to the departed soul and offered condolences.

Social organisation Sulabh International had planned to organise Holi celebrations for the widows but it was cancelled due to the death of the Goa Chief Minister.

To pay respect to the departed soul, a prayer meeting was organised at Gopinath temple where the widows lit candles and chanted bhajans.

"As a mark of respect to the departed soul, we have decided not to celebrate Holi this time. All widows mourn the sad demise of our beloved leader and statesman," said Sulabh International founder Dr Bindeshwar Pathak in Lucknow on Monday.

Vrindavan's Holi celebrations in recent years have become memorable occasions for thousands of widows, who until recently used to face humiliation. Their lives, however, changed for the better when the Supreme Court intervened and asked non-governmental organisation Sulabh International to take care of the widows in despair in the last stages of their lives.

# Investigation into cash loot by cops an eyewash

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The probe into the Gosainganj cash loot involving three cops, including two sub-inspectors of Lucknow police, has proved to be an eyewash as only a paltry sum has been recovered against the whopping amount (Rs 1.85 crore) which was looted.

"On the fifth day of his PCR, prime accused Madhukar Mishra did not reveal anything significant. He will be sent to jail on Tuesday," the Gosainganj SHO said. He said the police recovered Rs 12.86 lakh in cash on Sunday. "Earlier, the police had recovered more than Rs 2 lakh from constable Pradeep Bhadauriya and his driver," he added.

Three cheques of Rs 30.92 lakh were also recovered from the thickets near the residence of Yashkant, who has been named in the case and is absconding.

The police had arrested sub-inspectors Pawan Kumar Mishra & Ashish Kumar Tiwari, constable Pradeep Bhadauriya and his driver Anand Yadav on March 9, soon after the incident came to light. However, Madhukar remained elusive and he surrendered in the court on March 13. Left red-faced, the cops then moved court seeking PCR (police custody remand) of Madhukar and it was granted for a period of five days. On March 14, Madhukar was taken on remand but he

# Youth crushed to death under tree felled by him

Lucknow (PNS): A youth (22) died after a tree that he was cutting fell on him in Gosainganj on Monday. His parents accused the contractor, who had hired him, of forcing him into the work which he was not familiar with. As per reports, two contractors Rahim and Shahid of Mohanalganj hired Mithun of Mohanalganj and took him to Rampur village of Gosainganj on Monday morning.

"Around noon, we got a call from the contractors who asked us to reach the community health centre. They said Mithun had taken sick. When

we reached the hospital, we were told that Mithun died after he came under a tree which he was felling," victims' father Satyanarayan alleged.

He said the contractors fled the scene when he and his kin demanded an explanation. A police spokesman said that a complaint had been given by the deceased's father. "Sub-inspector Gyanesh Kumar has been assigned the probe and the body has been sent for autopsy," he said. He was clueless when asked if the contractors had taken permission for felling the tree. Later, he said it was also being investigated.

# Drink and drive at your own risk!

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Traffic department has made arrangements for checking drunk driving and speeding of vehicles on the occasion of Holi. ASP, Traffic, said that over 50 cops would be deployed throughout the day on the day of Holi for vehicle checking.

He said they were currently in the process of identifying the zones in the city checkings would be carried out. "A few of the areas which we have identified are Lohia Path and Riverfront where there are more chances of speeding," he said. The ASP (Traffic) said volunteers would also be deployed along with the police staff. He said they had over 150 breath analysers which would be used for the exercise.

RTO AK Singh said the Transport department would also be carrying out checking through breath analysers at some points of the city. "We have five breath analysers which we will be using for few hours in the day for checking drunk drivers," he said.

KGUMU doctors have also appealed to people to not drink



A shop selling colours and sprinklers in city

Pioneer

and drive as it leads to the maximum number of accidents in the city. Co-media incharge Dr Sudhir Singh said triple-riding during Holi when people were drunk resulted in maximum head injury cases. "The high mood in which they drive also increases the chances of acci-

dents. Accidents also occur because children throw balloons filled with water or colours on commuters," he pointed out. He said people should be specific about the colours which they use because those allergic to colours might end up with damage to their

eyes and skin. "Synthetic colours can also damage hair also and hence one should be careful," he added.

He said that in cases coming to the Trauma Centre, doctors found the wounds with difficulty as patients were usually smeared with colours.

# Cleric dismayed at muted response to NZ mosque attack

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Prominent cleric and Imam of Aishbagh Eidgah, Maulana Khalid Rashid Farangi Mahali, expressed dismay at the muted response of secular parties to massacre of 50 Muslims who were praying in Al Noor mosque in Christchurch (New Zealand).

The Maulana also accused the media of adopting double standards in this case. "I am at my wits end to

comprehend the response of secular parties to the New Zealand tragedy. The same parties condemned the incident when two Muslim gunmen in Paris attacked the office of French satirical weekly magazine Charlie Hebdo, killing 12 people and injuring 11 on January, 2015. The secular parties vied with each other in condemning the incident in strongest possible terms but they have maintained studied silence over the Christchurch



incident," Farangi Mahali said on Monday. The Maulana, also a member of the All-India Muslim Personal Law Board,

said, "We should have a uniform approach in condemning acts of terror. If a Muslim is involved in the act of terror, he is immediately dubbed as terrorist while non-Muslims indulging in such acts are described as 'gunmen' and 'shooter.'" Farangi Mahali added, "Anybody killing innocent person is a terrorist and those having soft corner for terrorists are mentally sick. I feel that the root cause of terrorism is Islamophobia."

CITYBRIEFS

**INVITED**  
Mahrukh Mirza, Vice-Chancellor of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Urdu-Arabi-Farsi University, has been invited as chief guest to 'Ali Day' celebrations

**उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, ई-निविदा सूचना**  
इस कार्यालय के द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य/सामग्री की आपूर्ति सम्पादन हेतु अनुमती, दक्ष एवं जी0एस0टी0 में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है जिसका विस्तृत विवरण ई-टेंडर वेबसाइट [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) site पर उपलब्ध है। ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-282/वि0प्र0म0प0क0/2018-19 विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम के अन्तर्गत 220 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बिदूर पर मस्तीफायर सिस्टम के वार्षिक अनुरक्षण का कार्य। ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-283/वि0प्र0म0प0क0/2018-19 विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम के अन्तर्गत 220 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र आर0पी0एच0 पर मस्तीफायर सिस्टम के वार्षिक अनुरक्षण का कार्य। ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-284/वि0प्र0म0प0क0/2018-19 विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र पुखरायां पर विभिन्न अनुक्षण सम्बन्धी कार्य। ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-285/वि0प्र0म0प0क0/2018-19 विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम के अन्तर्गत 220 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र पनकी के अन्तर्गत 220 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र पनकी पर 220 के0वी0, पनकी-आर0पी0एच0 व पनकी बिदूर लाइन पर उपकरणों के बदलने सम्बन्धी कार्य। अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-286/वि0प्र0म0प0क0/2018-19 विद्युत प्रेषण मण्डल प्रथम के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न खण्डों में कम्प्यूटर आउपरेटर उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल प्रथम, पनकी, कानपुर पत्रांक: 205 दिनांक 18.03.2019 "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाय" उपमोता सेवा हेतु समर्क करें - [www.upcl.org](http://www.upcl.org).

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, गोण्डा ई-टेंडरिंग निविदा सूचना**  
अनुमती फर्म/ ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु सीलबन्ध निविदायें मांगे जाने में दिनांक 28.03.2019 को 14.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। (1) अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या 251/ई0टी0सी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, बहराइच के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र, नामगान पर पुराने 40 एम0वी0पर0 परिवर्तक के विस्थापन सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि रू0 2000.00 निविदा मांग-1 खुलने की तिथि 29.03.2019 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू0 236.00 (कर सहित)। (2) अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या 252/ई0टी0सी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, बहराइच के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न उपकेन्द्रों हेतु कन्ट्रोल कैबिल की दुलाई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि रू0 2000.00 निविदा मांग-1 खुलने की तिथि 29.03.2019 को 12:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू0 236.00 (कर सहित)। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क(नान रिफंडेबल) एवं ई0एम0डी0 अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोण्डा के बैंक खाते में (बैंक का नाम- पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, खाता सं- 0181002100120697, आईएफएससी कोड- PUNB0018100) आर0पी0एच0/एनईएफटी के माध्यम से निविदा की अंतिम अपलोड तिथि से एक दिन पूर्व तक जमा की जायेगी तथा बैंक में जमा किये जाने का साक्ष्य तथा योज्य यूटीआर सं0, खाते का नाम निर्गतकर्ता बैंक अधिकारी द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित एवं निविदादाता द्वारा प्रतिहस्ताक्षरित पे-डून रिक्वायर्ड प्रोविडेंट, ईएमपी के लिए बैंक गारंटी की स्कैन कॉपी, जारीकर्ता बैंक के कन्फर्मेशन लेटर की प्रति भी निविदा प्रपत्रों के साथ इलेक्ट्रॉनिकली साफ व पठनीय अपलोड की जायेगी, अन्यथा की स्थिति में निविदादाता द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा को स्वतः निरस्त समझा जायेगा। साक्ष्य ही निविदा के मांग-1 में तकनीकी डिड (पैन कार्ड, इन्कमटैक्स रिटर्न, जी0एस0टी0 पंजीकरण की स्वयं प्रमाणित छायाप्रति एवं तकनीकी अनुभव इत्यादि), संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है। धरोहर राशि/निविदा शुल्क जमा न होने अथवा किसी प्रकार की त्रुटि होने पर निविदा का मांग-2 जिसमें दर्द दी जायेगी है, नहीं खोली जायेगी। मांग-2 में दर्द एवं वाणिज्यिक नियम व शर्तें होनी चाहिये। तथा हार्ड कॉपी कार्यालय में जमा करने की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी। किसी भी स्थिति में निविदा के Retender होने पर निविदा की निविदा शुल्क(नान रिफंडेबल) एवं धरोहर धनराशि पुनः जमा की जानी अनिवार्य होगी, अन्यथा कि स्थिति में निविदादाता द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा को स्वतः निरस्त समझा जायेगा। निविदा का मांग प्रथम एवं द्वितीय-(प्राइजबिड दर्द एवं शर्त) दिन, एक 28.03.2019 को 14.00 बजे तक [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर अपलोड की जा सकती है। निविदा का प्रथम मांग दिनांक 29.03.2019 को 12.00 बजे एवं मांग-2 (प्राइज पाई) निविदा शुल्क एवं धरोहर धनराशि प्राप्ति की पुष्टि होने के पश्चात सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। निविदा खुलने की तिथि पर अवकाश होने की स्थिति में निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस पर निर्धारित समय पर खोली जायेगी। निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताये निविदा/निविदाओं को अस्वीकार/बिनामतित करने का अधिकार अधोस्ताक्षरकर्ता के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। धरोहर/निविदा राशि रहित व सरात निविदायें स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए, डाउन लोड, अन्य संशोधन एवं निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में कृपया [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) की वेबसाइट पर लॉग इन करें। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल गोण्डा संख्या, 2771/वि0प0म0/गोण्डा/ई-टेंडरिंग नं0-251 से 252/2018-19 कलर 16.03.2019 "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाय"

at Aligarh Muslim University. AMU celebrates the birth Anniversary of Hazrat Ali on 13th day of Rajab (Islamic lunar calendar month) every year. An array of activities like essay writing, article writing and speech competitions are held with a view to highlighting the significant dimensions of Hazrat Ali's life and promoting his teachings for humanity. Mirza will be presiding over Ali Day celebrations at Aligarh Muslim University and sharing his views on the life and teachings of Hazrat Ali and their relevance in the contemporary world. The program will be held on March 22.

**WORKSHOP**  
A one-day workshop and learning programme was carried out at Abdul Kalam Technical University on Monday. It was presided over by V-C Vinay Kumar Pathak. The workshop was organised with the purpose of using modern means for boosting research on artificial intelligence, soft robotics, and 3D designs in the affiliated colleges. A grant of Rs 2,20,000 will be given to the universities as financial aid.

**उपग्रह पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, ई-निविदा तिथि विस्तार सूचना**  
इस कार्यालय की ई-निविदा संख्या 237 व 240 -वि.म.प्र.ल./2018-19 जो कि पूर्व निर्धारित दिनांक में किसी अपरिहार्य कारणों से परिवर्तन होने के कारण अब दिनांक 28.03.2019 को 16.00 बजे तक अपलोड की जायेगी एवं दिनांक 29.03.2019 को क्रमशः 13.00 व 13.30 बजे खोली जायेगी। ई-टेंडरिंग निविदा की अन्य नियम व शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेगी। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल-प्रथम, उपग्रह पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि0 कलर सं0-111 से 114, नू-तल, पारेषण भवन, विक्रि लखंड-11, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ। पत्रांक 536 दिनांक 18.03.2019 "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाय"

**उपग्रह पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि0 बुद्धि पत्र**  
इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा संख्या 230/वि0प0म0/गोण्डा/2018-19, जो दिनांक 19.03.2019 को खोली जानी थी, के सम्बन्ध में निम्न सुद्धि पत्र जारी किया जाता है। निविदा संख्या 230/वि0प0म0/गोण्डा/2018-19 के खुलने की तिथि रखावतित कर दी गयी है, अब यह निविदाएं दिनांक 22.03.2019 को 14.00 बजे तक अपलोड एवं स्वीकार की जायेगी एवं दिनांक 23.03.2019 को 12:00 बजे सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। निविदा की अन्य नियम व शर्तें रखावतित रहेगी। निविदा के अन्य विवरण [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर देखे जा सकते हैं। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल 220 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र परिसर, जेल रोड, गोण्डा संख्या 2779/वि0प0म0/गोण्डा/Dt. 18.03.2019 "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाय" साधारण बल्ब के स्थान पर एल0ई0डी0 बल्ब का प्रयोग करें

**उपग्रह पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि0 लि0 खुली निविदा आमन्त्रण सूचना**  
अधोस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु अनुमती ठेकेदारों/फर्मों से मोडरन बन्ध निविदा मांगे में निविदा संख्या-253, दिनांक 28-03-2019 को 14.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो उसी दिन 15.00 बजे सार्वजनिक रूप से उपस्थित इच्छुक निविदादाताओं अथवा उनके प्रतिनिधियों की उपस्थिति में अधोस्ताक्षरों अथवा अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि द्वारा खोली जायेगी। निविदा के प्रथम मांग में धरोहर धनराशि, अनुभव का विवरण, व्यापार कर/आयकर/सेवाकर का रजिस्ट्रेशन प्रमाणक तथा दूसरे मांग में दर्द एवं वाणिज्यिक नियम व शर्तें होंगी। निविदा की वैधता खुलने की तिथि से 90 दिन होगी। धरोहर राशि भी प्रत्येक निविदा के अनुसार होगी, जो बैंक ड्राफ्ट/सी0डी0आर0/एफ0डी0आर0 के रूप में अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोण्डा के पदनाम में बन्धक होगी अथवा निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क एवं ई0एम0डी0 अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोण्डा के बैंक खाते में (बैंक का नाम- पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, खाता सं- 0181002100120697, आईएफएससी कोड- PUNB0018100) आर0पी0एच0/एनईएफटी के माध्यम से जमा कराई जा सकती है तथा बैंक में जमा किये जाने का साक्ष्य तथा योज्य यूटीआर संख्या, खाते का नाम, निर्गतकर्ता बैंक अधिकारी द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित एवं निविदादाता द्वारा प्रतिहस्ताक्षरित पे-डून रिक्वायर्ड प्रोविडेंट, ईएमपी के लिए बैंक गारंटी की स्कैन कॉपी, जारीकर्ता बैंक के कन्फर्मेशन लेटर की प्रति प्रति टेंडर प्रपत्रों के साथ जमा किया जाना अनिवार्य है। धरोहर धनराशि के बिना एवं सरात निविदाएं स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र नकद या बैंक ड्राफ्ट अथवा आर0पी0एच0/एनईएफटी द्वारा मुगतान कर निविदा खुलने की तिथि को 12.00 बजे तक अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोण्डा के कार्यालय से कथ/प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। निविदा का मूल्य रू0 236/- (कर सहित)। निविदा खुलने की तिथि को अवकाश की स्थिति में, निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस में निर्धारित समय तक प्राप्त कर खोली जायेगी। अधोस्ताक्षरों को किसी या समस्त निविदाओं को निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। विस्तृत विवरण [www.upptcl.org](http://www.upptcl.org) वेबसाइट पर भी देखा जा सकता है एवं निविदायें डाउनलोड करके उसके साथ निविदा मूल्य का ड्राफ्ट संलग्न कर भी स्वीकार्य है। 1. अल्पकालिक निविदा सं0-253/वि0प0म0/गोण्डा/2018-19: विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बहराइच के अन्तर्गत उपखण्ड अधिशासी, विद्युत पारेषण उपखण्ड, गोण्डा हेतु 01 अदर एवं नान उपलब्ध कराने सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि रू0 2,000/-मात्र। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल 220 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र परिसर जेल रोड, गोण्डा संख्या- 2770/वि0प0म0/गोण्डा/टेंडरिंग नं0-253 ई0टी0सी0(गोण्डा)/2018-19 दिनांक- 16.03.2019 "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाय" साधारण बल्ब के स्थान पर एल0ई0डी0 बल्ब का प्रयोग करें "

# Dogs pose threat to visitors at parks in Gomti Nagar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Beware of dogs at Janeshwar Mishra and Ram Manohar Parks in Gomti Nagar. The canines have the visitors, especially the morning walkers, scared. The Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) administration is worried over the menace and is engaged in devising a strategy to do away with the threat.



The number of visitors is said to have decreased in the past three months due to the menace. It is also seen that people visit these parks in groups avoid attacks by dogs. Incharge of the parks SS Sisodia said the LDA administration was aware of the menace and was preparing a plan to eliminate the menace. He said big posters and banners informing the visitors of the dog menace would be put up at sensitive points already identified. An exercise in this regard will begin after Holi.

**THE NUMBER OF VISITORS IS SAID TO HAVE DECREASED IN THE PAST THREE MONTHS DUE TO THE MENACE. IT IS ALSO SEEN THAT PEOPLE VISIT THESE PARKS IN GROUPS AVOID ATTACKS BY DOGS**

The visitors will be advised through posters and placards to move and walk in groups and to be careful about safety of their children. Over a dozen dog bite cases have been reported from Janeshwar Mishra Park and nine from Lohia Park since December last year. The VVIPs coming to

the parks used to walk alone in the parks but the situation has changed. Now, they are accompanied by armed constable. The last attack by dogs was reported on last Saturday morning when a family was walking in Janeshwar Mishra Park. Luckily, no one was injured, thanks to timely intervention of security guards. Sisodia said the LDA administration would seek the help of Lucknow Municipal Corporation. He said no force or any other means would be adopted to catch the stray dogs so as to ensure they are not injured.

# Oppn has no knowledge of Indian traditions: CM

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has attacked his rivals for criticising the government for renaming this year's Ardh Kumbh as Kumbh, saying the opposition does not have an "iota of knowledge" about Indian traditions.

## CRITICISM OVER RENAMING ARDH KUMBH



Modi, saying it was a "swachh (clean) and surakshit (safe) Kumbh".

inspiration and he "guided us from the beginning, and he has said a safe and clean Kumbh had been organised", Adityanath said. "When the world is facing the menace of terrorism and living in an atmosphere of fear, we were able to successfully organise a surakshit Kumbh in which more than 24 crore devotees came," the chief minister said.

The state government had renamed the Ardh Kumbh as Kumbh and the Kumbh as Maha Kumbh in 2017. The Kumbh was held in Allahabad from January 15 to March 4 at the Sangam — the confluence of the Yamuna, Ganga and the mythical Saraswati rivers — and as per government data, it was attended by over 24 crore people. "When the entire country feels proud about the valour and heroic deeds of the armed forces, they (opposition) seeks evidence of surgical strikes and air strikes. "When the entire world praises the divya (divine) and bhavya (grand) Kumbh, then they do not feel proud and express sadness as to why Ardh Kumbh was made Kumbh," Adityanath told PTI in an interview on Saturday.

"If they (opposition) had even an iota of knowledge pertaining to Indian traditions, then I would have told them something. But, it is futile to make them understand, and the public will eventually and in time teach them a lesson," he said. There was a "saatvik taakat (pious force)" that wanted "faith and trust" to prevail come what may in the Kumbh, Adityanath said. "But, there was also a big section, that was spreading disinformation about India, Indianness and the Sanatan Dharma. Disregarding all of them, we moved ahead and achieved our mission," he said. Prime Minister Modi was a source of

He said with the prime minister's efforts and motivation, India's biggest spiritual and cultural gathering was recognised by the UNESCO as an "intangible cultural heritage of humanity". On the issue of stray cattle in the state, the chief minister said it is an "manmade problem (kritrim aapda)". "This problem is not caused by nature, but by the society, and the society should come forward to redress the problem. In some of the districts, members of the society have come forward and contributed," he said. In January this year, the state government had cleared a plan to levy cow welfare cess to help generate funds for its plans to build cow shelters for stray cows. The new cess is applicable on excise items, road toll plazas and Mandi Parishads.

The chief minister attributed the success of the recently culminated Kumbh to Prime Minister Narendra

# Bid to fuel communal hatred in Gkp

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ 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.

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 Phul 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. Efforts are on to nab the remaining two accused.

# ₹1.23 lakh looted from pvt bank

Allahabad (PNS): In a daring incident four armed miscreants barged into the branch of a private bank situated in Kotwali area in Pratapgarh evening and looted Rs 1.23 lakh from there during evening hours.

## SCHOOLSCAN



## DIVINE EDUCATION CONFERENCE

At the Divine Education Conferences, organised by City Montessori School, Aliganj Campus II and Ashrafabad Campus, the students showcased their talents through singing, dancing, skits etc. They presented a panorama of thoughts on religions before parents conveying the message that all

religions lead to one god. They skillfully presented an example of value-based education which they received at school throughout the year. On this occasion, the students, who performed brilliantly in academics, co-curricular activities and sports throughout the year, were honoured.



Preparation is are underway for a food festival called 'Aroma of Avadh' which will be held at Renaissance Lucknow from March 22

# Realme phones to be available in 600 retail stores in UP

Lucknow: Smartphone brand Realme will now be available in top 600 retail-stores in Uttar Pradesh as part of its regional sales strategy, the company said in a release. Realme has already sold 1 lakh smartphones in Uttar Pradesh through offline stores, said Realme India CEO Madhav Sheth. "In Uttar Pradesh we

have 39 service centres to ensure customer satisfaction," he said, adding that the brand will now be available in top 600 retail-stores in UP as part of our regional #realmeforeveryUPite sales strategy. Sheth claimed that the brand has been performing successfully on e-commerce platforms since May 2018.



**NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE**  
Sr. DCM/NR/LKO acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites following E-Tenders closing date 15.04.2019 upto 15:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto 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.

N.I.T. No.	C-12237-FSLR-II/2019/KS dt. 18.03.19
Name of work	Tender for allotment of FSLR-II parcel space in Train no. 12237originating from Varanasi station of Lucknow Division having carrying capacity of 04/3.9 tonnes for a period of five (05) years.
Reserve Price (per day)	Rs. 6781 (Rs. Six Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty One only)
Earnest Money	Rs. 1,00,000/- Rs. One lacs only
Completion Period	05 years
Bidding Start date	26.03.19
Tender Closing Date and Time	15.04.19 at 15:00 hrs.
Tender Opening Date and Time	15.04.19 at 15:30 hrs.
Website	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>
Cost of Tender document form	Rs. 1,180/- (Rs. One Thousand One Hundred Eighty only) inclusive of GST @ 18%
Eligibility criteria	As detailed in Tender Document

Note :- "No post tender correspondence for submission of additional documents shall be entertained after opening of offers. Even suo-moto post letters of the tenders shall be treated as NULL & Void". 867/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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N.I.T. No.	C-14265-FSLR-II/2019/KS dt. 18.03.19
Name of work	Tender for allotment of FSLR-II parcel space in Train no. 14265 originating from Varanasi station of Lucknow Division having carrying capacity of 04/3.9 tonnes for a period of five (05) years.
Reserve Price (per day)	Rs. 9477 (Rs. Nine Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Seven only)
Earnest Money	Rs. 1,00,000/- Rs. One lacs only
Completion Period	05 years
Bidding Start date	26.03.19
Tender Closing Date and Time	15.04.19 at 15:00 hrs.
Tender Opening Date and Time	15.04.19 at 15:30 hrs.
Website	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>
Cost of Tender document form	Rs. 1,180/- (Rs. One Thousand One Hundred Eighty only) inclusive of GST @ 18%
Eligibility criteria	As detailed in Tender Document

Note :- "No post tender correspondence for submission of additional documents shall be entertained after opening of offers. Even suo-moto post letters of the tenders shall be treated as NULL & Void". 864/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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N.I.T. No.	C-12237-RSLR-I/2019/KS dt. 18.03.19
Name of work	Tender for allotment of RSLR-I parcel space in Train no. 12237originating from Varanasi station of Lucknow Division having carrying capacity of 04/3.9 tonnes for a period of five (05) years.
Reserve Price (per day)	Rs. 6781 (Rs. Six Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty One only)
Earnest Money	Rs. 1,00,000/- Rs. One lacs only
Completion Period	05 years
Bidding Start date	26.03.19
Tender Closing Date and Time	15.04.19 at 15:00 hrs.
Tender Opening Date and Time	15.04.19 at 15:30 hrs.
Website	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>
Cost of Tender document form	Rs. 1,180/- (Rs. One Thousand One Hundred Eighty only) inclusive of GST @ 18%
Eligibility criteria	As detailed in Tender Document

Note :- "No post tender correspondence for submission of additional documents shall be entertained after opening of offers. Even suo-moto post letters of the tenders shall be treated as NULL & Void". 866/2019

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.

BPCP 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 candidatures 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),

**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, Odisha (28 of total 147 constituencies), Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh**

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, four (of 42) in West Bengal, four (of 40) in Bihar and two (of 6) in Jammu & Kashmir will also go to

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

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

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

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

## Union 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 ayi 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-in-charge Dheeraj Gurjar slammed the Minister for his remarks.

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

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

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

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

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

Gautam Buddha Nagar goes to polls on April 11 in the first of the seven-phased Lok Sabha elections. Sikandrabad, which geographically falls in 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 Gulam 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 Bhopinder Singh Hooda as its chairman, Azad said.

The Congress leader has

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## India, Japan discuss scourge of terrorism threatening world

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

The Speaker of House of 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, Harivansh said it would be ideal if the Upper Houses of the both Parliaments sign an agreement to strengthen parliamentary cooperation for which the work is underway.

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

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 level operations in conduct of United Nations mandated tasks to include establishment of a new mission, siting of a United Nations Headquarters for Peace Keeping operations, siting of Military Observer sites during the peace keeping missions, protection of civilians, nuances of standing combat deployment, convoy protection,

patrolling aspects and aspects related to humanitarian mine assistance.

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

Major General Sanjeev Sharma, General Officer Commanding, Golden Katif Division, who was the Chief Guest for the opening ceremony, reviewed the parade, in presence of a large number of Defence Attaches and other officials of the participating countries. A fly past by a set of Advanced Light Helicopters and Cheetah Helicopter of the Indian Army carrying the flags of United Nations, India and the AFINDEX was the highlight of the opening ceremony. 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 upto ₹131 crore in 2014.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Ramappa Temple named for World Heritage site tag

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Ramalingshwara 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 construc-

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

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

# Parrikar cremated with state honours

PIANS ■ 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 Fadnavis also paid his last respects.

Parrikar was Chief Minister of Goa for 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 con-

tribution 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.

# Man accused of murder held with two aides

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Monday claimed to have arrested a 30-year-old history-sheeter along with his two associates. The accused was wanted in six cases of robbery, carjacking, attempt to murder, kidnapping, molestation, extortion and criminal intimidation.

The accused has identified as Ajay (30) who live in Qutabgarh, Delhi and his partners were Manish and Sunny who are also residents of Holambi Kalan in Delhi.

"Acting on a tip off on March 15 a trap was laid by the police team near Sector-16 in Delhi's Rohini and at about 9:20 PM, the accused Ajay was nabbed by the police team. On the spot police also recovered a loaded 7.65 mm country made pistol and five live rounds. He was arrested under 25 Arms Act," said Rajiv Ranjan, the Additional Commissioner of Police, Crime Branch.

"During interrogation, the accused Ajay revealed that he remained in jail for 3 years and when he came out he met Manish and Sunny and together they committed a number of crimes in Delhi and its neighboring Haryana," said the Additional CP.

# 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 Seafac 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.

"CG ship responded to the distress call and reached position of Tug at 10.54 am and rescued six from the sink-



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

ing 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 Qasim Sorathia (38), Tonyo Chalak (22), both from

Midnapur, West Bengal, Ramesh J Keni (55), Dilip Yadav (29), both from Mumbai, Shanu Kumar (19), from Mumbai and Saleem Siddiqui

The missing crew member was identified as one Abdul Azeez (53).

**उपरो पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, ई-निविदा विधि विस्तार सूचना**  
कार्यालय की ई-निविदा सूचना 232 इस प.मं.प्र.ल./2018-19 जो कि पूर्व निर्धारित दिनांक में किन्हीं अपरिहार्य कारणों से परिवर्तन होने के कारण अब दिनांक 28.03.2019 को 16.00 बजे तक अपलॉड की जायेगी एवं दिनांक 29.03.2019 को क्रमशः 14.00 बजे खोली जायेगी। ई-टेंडरिंग निविदा की अन्य नियम व शर्त पूर्ववत् रहेंगी।  
**अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारिषद**  
महकल-ग्रथम, उपरो पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, ई-निविदा से 114, बू-टल, पारिषद भवन, विद्युत खण्ड-11, मोदी नगर, लखनऊ। फ़ोन: 535 दिनांक 18.03.2019 "राष्ट्रहित में विजिली बचाये।"

**NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE**  
Sr.DCM/NR/LKO acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites following E-Tenders closing date **15.04.19 upto 15:00 hrs.** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto 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.  
**NIT No.:** C-1108-RSLR-1/2019/KS Dated: 18.03.19. **Name of work:** Tender for allotment of RSLR-II parcel space in Train no. 11108 originating from Varanasi station of Lucknow Division having carrying capacity of 04/3.9 tonnes for a period of five (05) years **Reserve Price (per day):** Rs. 7258 (Rs. Seven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Eight only) **Earnest Money :** Rs. 1,00,000/- Rs. One lacs only **Completion Period:** 05 years **Bidding Start date:** 26.03.19 **Tender Closing Date and Time:** 15.04.19 at 15:00 hrs. **Tender Opening Date and Time:** 15.04.19 at 15:30 hrs. **Website:** www.ireps.gov.in **Cost of Tender document form:** Rs. 1,180/- (Rs. One Thousand One Hundred Eighty only) inclusive of GST@ 18%. **Eligibility criteria:** As detailed in Tender Document Note. "No post tender correspondence for submission of additional documents shall be entertained after opening of offers. Even suo-moto post letters of the tenders shall be treated as NULL & Void." **857/19**  
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**NIT No.:** C-1108-RSLR-1/2019/KS Dated: 18.03.19. **Name of work:** Tender for allotment of RSLR-II parcel space in Train no. 12231 originating from Lucknow station of Lucknow Division having carrying capacity of 04/3.9 tonnes for a period of five (05) years **Reserve Price (per day):** Rs. 7258 (Rs. Seven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Eight only) **Earnest Money :** Rs. 1,00,000/- Rs. One lacs only **Completion Period:** 05 years **Bidding Start date:** 26.03.19 **Tender Closing Date and Time:** 15.04.19 at 15:00 hrs. **Tender Opening Date and Time:** 15.04.19 at 15:30 hrs. **Website:** www.ireps.gov.in **Cost of Tender document form:** Rs. 1,180/- (Rs. One Thousand One Hundred Eighty only) inclusive of GST@ 18%. **Eligibility criteria:** As detailed in Tender Document Note. "No post tender correspondence for submission of additional documents shall be entertained after opening of offers. Even suo-moto post letters of the tenders shall be treated as NULL & Void." **858/19**  
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# It's enough! No ties with Cong, says riled AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The speculation for alliance between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress came to an end after AAP's Delhi convener Gopal Rai on Monday made it clear that there would neither be any alliance with the Congress nor a rollback of any of its candidates in the national Capital.

The statement came a day after the AAP declared its candidate for the seventh Lok Sabha seat in Delhi. Asserting that "enough is enough", Rai said these are the final seven candidates of the party and there is no question of "any roll back".

Rai said despite facing stiff opposition from its workers, the party was open to an alliance with the Congress in Delhi but after waiting for so long and constantly hearing conflicting statements from the party, we have decided that now even if the Congress approaches us, there will be no alliance in Delhi.

He also said there has been no communication from the Congress and it clearly shows that the grand old party is "not serious" about elections in Delhi. "AAP will fight the Lok Sabha polls on the issue of full Statehood and it is 'late now' for talks on an alliance in Delhi. 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.

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. The results will be declared with the rest of the country on May 23.

# Speeding vehicle mows down 3 in Delhi

New Delhi (PNS): 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 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.

Bhojpuri language - the effective tool to connect to large Purvanchali population. Addressing BJP booth workers in Delhi on December 23, in the presence of Shah and other senior BJP leader, Goel who comes from Baniya community, sought to strike a chord with the dominant Purvanchali lobby in the party, saying, "jab tak Vijay bhaiya ba, kauno ke majaan naikhe ki Purnvanchal ke bhai logan ke baal bhi banka kar sake, (nobody in Delhi could dare cause even a little harm to any Purvanchali in Delhi as long as Vijay Bhaiya was there)".

Recalling his years-long agitation to bring lottery to end, Goel, said people living in slums still remembered him for this. "Jab hum jhuggi jhopdi me jayeen, aur sunai padela ki Vijay bhaiya dila me lottery khatm kar dila, uu kabi bhulayi na jayee, hamra man gadgad ho jayee" (It fills me with immense joy and pride when I see people remembering the struggle of Vijay bhaiya to bring lottery to an end in Delhi).

Goel also mentioned about BJP's Purvanchali leader and said, "jab hamara Manoj Tiwari bhaiya bhi baitha hua, (not to forget, Manoj Tiwari bhaiya is also here in Delhi), Goel said in Bhojpuri. Feeling connected with Goel, BJP workers too applauded him with loud cheers as BJP president Shah smiled at the surprise sprung by Goel.

# CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

PRAMOD SUCCEEDS...

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. He said he has sacrificed many times by supporting the BJP and now, he has put in his demand, but the BJP will not agree to that," Michael Lobo, BJP MLA and Deputy Speaker of the Goa Assembly, told reporters. Earlier, GFP chief Vijai Sardesai also staked his claim for the post.

MAYA DARES...

"Our party wrokers 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 Bareilly) 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 Bareilly (held by UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi) and Amethi (held by Congress president Rahul Gandhi) for it.

DELHI BJP EYES...

Interestingly, in the 2015 Delhi Assembly elections, these voters had shifted their loyalty to AAP. All 13 Purvanchali candidates fielded by AAP won with thumping majority in 2015 Assembly polls. In the 2013 Assembly polls, BJP had won 14 of these 20 seats while AAP bagged six seats. However, Tiwari did some damage control by bringing Purvanchali voters back to BJP fold in 2017 municipal elections winning all three civic bodies. Significantly, large population of Purvanchali community forced a Baniya leader to demonstrate his political speech in popular Bhojpuri language. The incumbent Delhi BJP president and Bhojpuri superstar Tiwari remains undisputed leader of the Purvanchalis but Union Minister and a Delhi BJP veterans, Vijay Goel also projected himself as the new mass leader of Baniya and Purvanchali combine.

# Bengal heads for 4-corner LS poll fight

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

There has considerable

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

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

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

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

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

respectively.

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

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

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

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

from Raiganj, Isha Khan Chowdhury from Malda North, his uncle AH Khan Chowdhury from Malda South, Adhir Chowdhury from Behrampur, 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 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 Aabit or Gulaal (dry colours), "particularly with the children of the neighbourhood," she says liberally smearing faces with green Aabit.

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 look horns for controlling the State as well as the Centre.

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

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

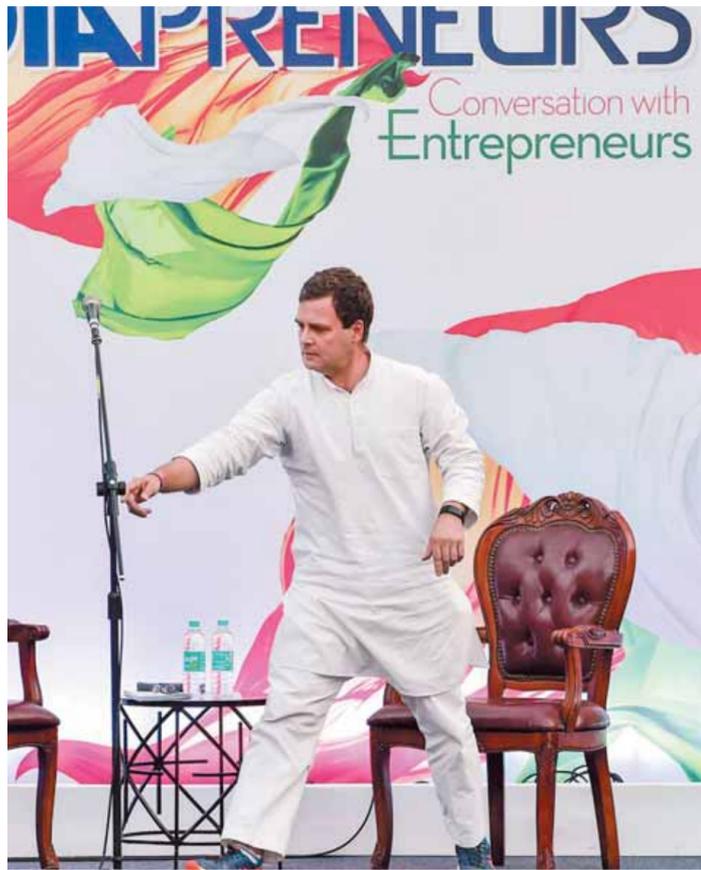
Interestingly, only six of sitting 37 MPs who won the 2014 Lok Sabha election have been re-nominated to contest this time. The party leadership has brought in the old war horses like KP Munusamy and Agri SS Krishnamurthi to take on the

challenge posed by the break-away AMMK faction.

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

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

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



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

# Attempt made to fuel communal hatred ahead of elections in Gorakhpur

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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

On learning about the

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Advantage Chidambaram as his adversary joins DMK

KUMAR CHELAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

Jayalalithaa 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," Jayalalithaa 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



Rifleman Karamjeet Singh

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

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

# Unarmed youth killed by terrorists in Pulwama

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

him brought dead.

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

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

On Saturday, a woman Special Police Officer, Khushboo 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

## 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 IITian Chief Minister, who never changed his attire of simple bush shirt and trousers, and came much before the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Arvind Kejriwal brought in more IITians for a citizens' movement. Many consider his elevation to the role of Defence Minister a reason the BJP did not do well in the last Goa Assembly polls, and in the confusion of the hung legislative Assembly, it was felt that Parrikar was the only man who could possibly lead a BJP Government. In fact, he is the reason that the party could not only consolidate itself, considering its scattered dots in the early 1990s, but could guarantee stability in a State that had become famous for its easy tradeoffs by politicians. This is already evident with the BJP compelled to create two posts of deputy Chief Ministers for holding on to its allies and not cede the turf to the Congress. Despite the first indications of suffering from a pancreatic disease, Parrikar went back to the hustle and bustle of running the small State. His tremendous work in developing a sleepy Goa — and he hated *susegad* — despite setbacks such as the mining ban, has propelled it forward as an industrial and tourism powerhouse. In the past few years, despite knowing that he almost certainly had a terminal disease, he kept working, swearing to the people of Goa that he would serve them till his last breath, and he fulfilled his oath. The building of the impressive Atal Setu over the Mapusa river outside Panjim after several years as well as the massive highway projects that will connect the small State, that is still hobbled by small, narrow roads, will always be his legacy. Unfortunately he could not stay for the new airport being built in Mopa to be inaugurated. This newspaper suggests that the new airport that should be opened within the next two years be named after Manohar Parrikar as a tribute to his incredible legacy.

## Sending it underground

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



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

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

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

# Nasty side of power plays

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



SANDHYA JAIN

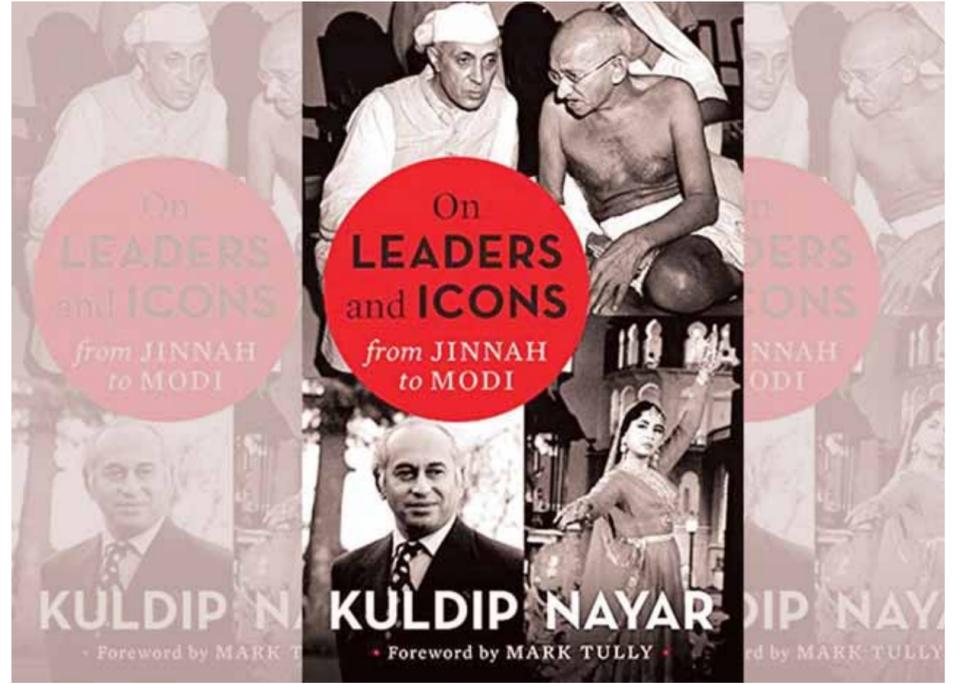
Declining to release Kuldip Nayar's posthumously published book, *On Leaders and Icons: From Jinnah to Modi*, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh informed the veteran journalist's wife that on perusing the book, "I found a reference on page 172 that during my prime ministership, Government files would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

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

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

Indira Gandhi's name came up after Nehru died but Morarji Desai's ambition thwarted a consensus and the mantle fell on Shastri, who died of a heart attack less than two years later in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Nayar, who was in the media delegation, recounts that Shastri retired slightly agitated as the accompanying Indian media had badgered him about the return of Haji Pir and 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-



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

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

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 will be directed to reserve the first two rows of the economy class for those

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

SC Agrawal  
New Delhi

### Further reforms

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

pliance of Model Code of Conduct during the elections. The app further acts as an effective feedback mechanism for a voter to reach out directly to the ECI. The effort made by the ECI to monitor voter feedback effectively through apps is welcome but it benefits only smartphone-savvy users, especially in urban and semi-urban areas. A novice

### A chronicle of two distinct responses

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

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



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

Meghna A  
New South Wales

voter has no other way to reach out to ECI other than the newly launched app. The electoral body should now strive to open all possible digital and offline modes of communication to further strengthen the voter feedback mechanism. It should also initiate various effective communication tools like a dedicated postal mail box, a (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](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

**FIRST COLUMN**

## Time to fix the missing link

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



**RANJEET MEHTA**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**



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

# The politics of Balakot

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



**DEEPAK SINHA**

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

The sad truth is that its very foundation was built on the British construct — that is 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 paid to the two-nation theory and secret Cabinet documents in the UK, subsequently declassified, showed up the deceitful lengths the British had gone to in furthering their own interests.

Leaving aside Pakistan's desperate attempts to change perceptions what should be of immense concern to all right-thinking people, here is the horrendous manner in which this issue is being used by politicians and the media to gain attention for their selfish agenda even if it is at the cost of the nation's 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-cultural centre among others.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

is indeed a gargantuan task.

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

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

(The writer is former member, railway board)



**FOREIGN EYE**



**CHINA'S SHAME**

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

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 back-side 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.

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

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 poses a great threat to one's eyes. The artificial green colour used on Holi comes from copper sulphate, which can cause several eye infections and allergy.

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

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



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

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

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

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

SKIN CARE

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

First, have a bath in lukewarm or normal water to remove the dry colours from the skin. Do not use soaps as it is alkaline in nature and can be harsh on the skin, and can cause further dryness. For face, choosing cleansing cream over 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.

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 festive of colours. Here are tips that one can follow:

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

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

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

the hair from damage.

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

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

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

TIPTOP

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

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

"This conference shows Indian doctors and scientists collaborating on new

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

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

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

SLIMLINE

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

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

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

WATCH THE SCALES

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

■ Cooking fiesta during festivals is a stress buster for many. However, empty stomach cooking might result in snacking on each and every stuff your eyes get hold on. To avoid this, it is best 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.



# 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 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 really 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 health-care 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 USD 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 intra-day. Global crude benchmark Brent crude futures fell 0.15 per cent to USD 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.

# Govt sets up 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.

The ₹10,000-crore programme under the second phase of the FAME India scheme will be implemented over a period of three years with effect from April 1, 2019.

Under phase-II of Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles

**FAME-II will offer an incentive of ₹1.5 lakh each to 35,000 electric four-wheelers with an ex-factory price of up to ₹15 lakh, and incentive of Rs 13,000 each to 20,000 strong hybrid four-wheelers with ex-factory price of upto ₹15 lakh**

in India (FAME-II) scheme, 10 lakh registered electric two-wheelers with a maximum ex-factory price will be eligible to avail incentive of ₹20,000 each.

It will also support 5 lakh e-rickshaws having ex-factory price of up to ₹5 lakh with an incentive of ₹50,000 each.

FAME-II will offer an incentive of ₹1.5 lakh each to 35,000 electric four-wheelers with an ex-factory price of up to ₹15 lakh, and incentive of Rs 13,000 each to 20,000 strong hybrid four-wheelers with ex-factory price of upto ₹15 lakh. It will support 7,090 e-buses with an incentive of up to ₹50 lakh each having ex-factory price of upto Rs 2 crore. The scheme will have a Rs 1,500-crore outlay in 2019-20; ₹5,000 crore in 2020-21 and ₹3,500 crore in 2021-22. It will cover buses with EV technology; electric, plug-in hybrid and strong hybrid four wheelers; electric three-wheelers including e-rickshaws and electric two-wheelers.

FAME-II also proposes support for setting up of charging infrastructure whereby about 2,700 charging stations will be set up in metropolitan cities, other million-plus cities, smart cities and cities of hilly states across India.

# BUSINESS CORNER

## MARUTI CUTS VEHICLE PRODUCTION BY OVER 8% IN FEBRUARY

New Delhi: The country's largest car maker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) cut production by over 8 per cent in February on account of subdued demand. The auto major produced a total of 1,48,959 units, including Super Carry LCV, across its factories last month, down 8.3 per cent from 1,62,524 units produced in the year-ago period, the company said in a regulatory filing. The production of passenger vehicles, including Alto, Swift, Dzire and Vitara Brezza, declined by 8.4 per cent to 1,47,550 units as compared with 1,61,116 units in February 2018. However, the production of vans — Ecco, Omni — was up by 22.1 per cent to 16,898 units last month as compared with 13,827 units in February 2018. Production of Super Carry LCV was up by just one unit last month. When contacted, MSI declined to comment on the reasons for taking this production cut. In January, MSI had reported a total production of 1,83,064 units, up 15.6 per cent from 1,58,396 units produced in January 2018. Production of passenger vehicles rose 14.3 per cent to 1,78,459 units in January as compared with 1,56,168 units in the year-ago period. In February, MSI had reported a dip of 0.9 per cent in domestic sales at 1,39,100 units as compared with 1,37,900 units in the year ago period. In January, however, it had reported an increase of 1.1 per cent in its domestic sales at 1,42,150 units as compared with 1,40,600 units in January 2018. Hit by lower offtake by end customers, passenger vehicles (PV) retail sales declined by 8.25 per cent to 2,15,276 units in February as compared with the same period last year, automobile dealers' body FADA said last week. The company's installed manufacturing capacity from its two plants in Gurgaon and Manesar stands at 15.5 lakh units per annum. Besides, Suzuki-owned Hansalpur (Gujarat) plant also has an installed capacity of 2.5 lakh units from the first line. The second production line has been commissioned at the plant, but is yet to reach its peak capacity of 2.5 lakh units per annum. The third production line at the Gujarat plant would give an additional capacity of 2.5 lakh units per annum to the company.

## SUGAR OUTPUT UP 6% AT 273.47 LAKH TONNE TILL MAR 15 THIS SEASON

New Delhi: Sugar production rose by 6 per cent to 273.47 lakh tonne till March 15 of the current marketing year ending September 2019, helped by higher output in Maharashtra and Karnataka where mills started their operations early, according to industry data. The country had produced 258.20 lakh tonne sugar in the year-ago period, the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) said in a statement. "During 2018-19 sugar season, 527 sugar mills were in operation and they have produced 273.47 lakh tonne of sugar till March 15, 2019," the ISMA said. As many as 154 mills have stopped crushing and 373 sugar mills are continuing their crushing operations. Mills in Maharashtra and Karnataka are closing fast and their crushing season is on the verge of closing. According to the ISMA, sugar production in Maharashtra till March 15 was 100.08 lakh tonne as against 93.84 lakh tonne in the year-ago period. In Uttar Pradesh, production was almost flat at 84.14 lakh tonne compared with 84.39 lakh tonnes in the corresponding period of the 2017-18 marketing year.

## NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	11473.85	11530.15	11412.50	11462.20	35.35
IOC	159.95	166.20	157.85	162.10	5.75
HINDPETRO	278.35	287.75	276.55	286.50	9.55
BAJFINANCE	2872.00	2941.10	2845.00	2940.00	79.25
RELIANCE	1331.00	1357.95	1329.00	1356.50	34.85
AXISBANK	741.00	756.00	740.25	754.10	19.30
RPL	398.00	408.90	398.00	406.60	10.30
JSWSTEEL	290.00	296.00	286.55	295.45	7.00
POWERGRID	194.15	197.80	193.25	197.40	4.15
TATASTEEL	519.50	526.75	515.25	526.00	10.55
INDUSINDBK	1708.00	1734.45	1702.60	1729.00	25.75
KOTAKBANK	1340.00	1360.00	1330.80	1345.00	19.90
ULTRACEMCO	3949.00	3979.00	3918.05	3972.00	55.90
BAJAJFINSV	6970.00	7044.90	6880.05	7021.00	93.05
TATAMOTORS	181.00	184.70	179.50	182.20	2.20
INFRAEATL	317.00	321.60	310.85	317.00	3.80
ICICIBANK	396.25	399.00	393.50	399.65	4.35
ASIANPAINT	1446.00	1460.60	1436.60	1446.85	14.30
ZEE	455.70	463.70	451.60	458.15	3.90
ITC	292.00	294.20	291.30	293.20	2.40
HDFCBANK	226.90	229.65	224.70	227.00	17.00
YESBANK	247.00	248.55	241.80	246.80	1.75
UPL	923.50	935.95	916.80	929.00	5.55
ADANIPORIS	365.05	375.80	365.05	368.95	1.85
CPIA	533.05	535.80	529.00	535.00	2.40
HINDALCO	200.70	201.00	197.50	199.85	0.80
TITAN	1105.00	1108.90	1092.10	1101.05	3.80
SBN	298.90	300.90	294.65	299.30	0.90
SUNPHARMA	466.00	469.90	458.65	465.65	1.30
GAIL	362.00	362.90	357.60	359.90	0.55
IBULHSGHN	711.70	713.45	691.40	705.00	0.45
DREDDIT	2658.40	2674.30	2643.15	2660.00	1.10
COALINDIA	243.95	245.60	242.00	242.10	-0.15
HINDUNILVR	1710.00	1710.95	1686.90	1697.00	-1.40
NTPC	157.85	160.80	155.75	157.65	-0.40
HDFC	1982.00	1994.95	1953.10	1967.00	-7.65
TCS	2030.00	2064.60	2011.00	2023.85	-16.10
BAJAJ-AUTO	3026.90	3047.80	2992.10	2999.60	-24.20
ONGC	155.00	157.30	153.60	154.55	-1.45
TECHM	804.95	805.70	782.25	790.50	-8.80
GRASIM	816.50	823.50	806.10	819.70	-10.15
INFY	721.55	723.70	705.35	709.50	-9.05
LT	1397.00	1411.70	1370.35	1378.00	-18.50
HCLTECH	1032.10	1039.95	1008.15	1017.10	-13.60
VEDL	175.00	175.00	171.85	173.35	-2.35
M&M	696.00	704.20	682.05	685.00	-9.60
EICHERMOT	2260.00	2279.90	2210.20	2225.00	-327.35
BHARTIARTL	338.00	343.65	329.30	329.85	-7.85
WIPRO	264.75	267.45	256.05	257.30	-6.15
HEROMOTOCO	2745.00	2763.15	2662.00	2671.00	-64.85
MARUTI	7077.45	7077.45	6776.60	6902.00	-182.00

## NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	27995.55	28079.80	27841.10	27970.70	63.05
SAIL	52.15	54.30	51.05	54.10	2.55
PETRONET	236.00	245.00	235.85	245.00	8.45
BANKBARODA	118.25	121.40	117.90	121.30	3.05
ABCAPITAL	98.90	102.70	98.10	102.00	2.50
GODREJCP	706.00	720.00	705.35	717.00	15.40
ICICI	968.00	991.85	968.00	989.00	21.05
INDIGO	1300.00	1329.00	1300.00	1323.25	27.20
BRITANNIA	3090.00	3134.90	3066.10	3129.50	62.95
PGHH	1039.85	1045.00	1026.35	1045.00	181.20
SHREECEM	17620.00	1784.00	17607.05	17780.10	259.40
LICHSGFIN	512.90	519.90	512.15	516.30	6.45
COLPAL	1280.00	1302.75	1278.45	1288.70	15.85
NHPC	25.40	25.50	25.15	25.45	0.30
L&TFH	147.55	150.30	146.50	148.30	1.65
ACC	1541.90	1560.00	1532.70	1547.55	15.70
BIOCEN	625.00	632.00	620.20	629.05	6.05
SUNTV	623.65	626.55	613.05	622.95	5.45
NMDC	115.00	116.65	114.60	115.60	1.00
ICICIPRULI	341.00	349.80	340.25	343.35	2.80
PIDILITIND	1167.50	1181.70	1161.00	1175.90	9.55
HAVELLS	745.85	756.00	741.00	750.50	5.40
BOSCHLTD	18480.00	18510.40	18365.25	18498.00	132.75
MARICO	338.65	341.95	336.00	341.00	2.35
AUROPHARMA	776.00	780.70	764.40	776.90	5.30
HINDZINC	275.00	278.70	271.40	277.00	1.90
DABUR	426.75	429.80	422.20	427.55	2.10
DLF	198.45	201.20	195.25	197.85	0.40
ABB	1315.00	1325.00	1300.00	1305.80	2.00
AMBUJACEM	226.90	229.25	225.65	230.00	3.00
DMART	1484.40	1484.40	1456.65	1479.70	1.20
OFSS	3367.30	3399.00	3338.00	3355.00	-1.15
MRF	57998.00	57998.00	57244.00	57500.00	-109.50
OIL	179.80	180.70	178.00	180.10	-0.40
PEL	2650.00	2685.60	2627.90	2638.10	-5.80
SIEMENS	1037.00	1046.85	1025.20	1032.00	-3.85
SBIIFE	616.05	620.90	606.05	612.55	-2.50
HDFCLIFE	372.00	374.30	366.15	367.50	-2.60
BHEL	68.20	69.15	66.45	67.25	-0.55
CADILAHC	345.45	345.45	337.80	339.30	-3.15
BEL	95.60	96.15	93.40	94.00	-0.95
CONCOR	515.90	519.70	509.55	512.25	-5.20
MOTHERSUMI	166.00	167.00	161.15	162.40	-2.80
ASHOKLEY	94.30	94.45	91.15	92.50	-1.60
MCDOWELL-N	585.00	585.75	571.00	574.45	-10.00
SRTRANSFIN	1279.80	1285.00	1230.00	1235.05	-29.05
NIACL	197.00	198.50	190.05	191.05	-4.65
GICRE	252.00	254.90	245.55	249.55	-8.00
LUPIN	762.20	762.85	740.00	753.90	-31.25
BANDHANBNK	508.00	508.00	490.10	490.80	-20.85
IDEA	33.95	34.10	32.00	32.30	-1.65

## BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	Change
ROCM	4.26	4.39	3.96	4.00	0.00
SUZLON	6.81	7.23	6.80	7.11	HEG
BOMBDEYNG	134.35	149.30	134.00	145.30	RADICO
JUSTDIAL	610.00	664.90	609.95	654.85	INDIGO
DHFL	137.80	139.90	134.35	135.55	UJIVAN
RELCAPITAL					

## Xi to visit Italy, France as Rome joins 'Silk Road'

AFP ■ BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping will travel to Italy, Monaco and France this week, the foreign ministry said Monday, with Rome expected to join his global trade infrastructure programme despite reservations in other European countries.

Beijing has financed infrastructure, maritime, rail and road projects in Asia, Africa and Europe, but critics warn that it mainly benefits Chinese firms while setting up a "debt trap" in more financially vulnerable countries. Xi will pay state visits from Thursday to March 26, according to the foreign ministry.

An Italian official said last week Rome would sign a non-binding memorandum of understanding with Beijing to officially support Xi's massive USD 1 trillion Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), also known as the New Silk Road.

In Italy, Xi will hold talks with President Sergio Mattarella and Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, as well as parliamentary leaders, foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a regular press briefing. "The cooperation between China and Italy under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative is mutually beneficial," Geng said when asked about US criticism of BRI. Following Italy's announcement, French President Emmanuel Macron said European Union



countries should have a "coordinated approach" to Beijing.

"It's a good thing that China is participating in the development of many countries, but I believe in the spirit of equality, reciprocity. The spirit of equality means respecting the sovereignty of nations," Macron said.

Xi will be the first Chinese president to visit Monaco and will hold talks with Prince Albert II during the trip, Geng said. The visit to the Mediterranean principality is of "historic significance to the development of China-Monaco relations," he added.

In France, Xi will meet with Macron, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe and parliamentary leaders, Geng said. "The two sides have been maintaining close communication and coordination on maintaining multilateralism, improving global governance, and addressing major issues such as climate change," he added.

## India-Pak tensions to figure in Qureshi-Wang talks: China

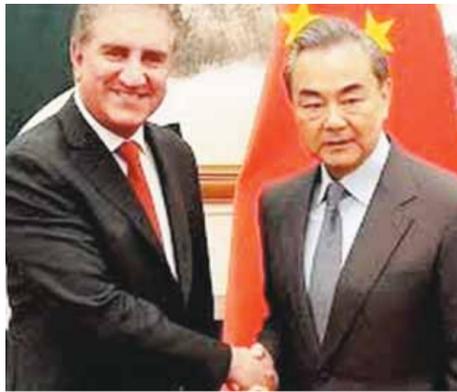
PTI ■ BEIJING

China said on Monday that tensions between India and Pakistan following the Pulwama terrorist attack would figure in the first strategic dialogue between Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Tuesday.

Qureshi is visiting China, days after Beijing for the fourth time blocked a bid in the United Nations (UN) Security Council on Wednesday to designate Pakistan-based chief of Jaish-e-Mohammed terror group Masood Azhar as a "global terrorist" by putting a technical hold on the proposal, a move India termed as disappointing.

The JeM has claimed responsibility for the February 14 Pulwama attack that left 40 CRPF personnel dead and raised tensions between India and Pakistan. The proposal to designate Azhar under the 1267 al Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council was moved by France, the UK and the US on February 27.

"As neighbour, China would like to see easing of tensions between the two. We would like to see the two countries continue to engage in dialogue for the peace and stability of the region," Chinese Foreign Ministry



spokesman Geng Shuang told a media briefing here.

"I believe the issues causing regional tensions will be discussed," Geng said. To another question whether the issue of listing of Azhar would figure in the talks specially in the backdrop of Chinese Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui expressing confidence that it would be resolved, Geng said, "well I can't prejudice the topics" that are going figure in the talks.

"But they will discuss issues of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern," he said. As per listing of Azhar, "China will continue to deal with the issue with a responsible and constructive manner and will

maintain close communication with all parties, including India and Pakistan," he said. Lu on Sunday exuded confidence of resolving the sticky issue of designating Azhar as a global terrorist through consultations. "I am quite sure this matter (listing of Azhar by the UN) will be resolved."

This is only a technical hold and the matter can be resolved through continued consultation," Luo said on the sidelines of an event at the Chinese embassy.

According reports in the Pakistani media, Qureshi, during his three-day visit to China will hold comprehensive discussions on the entire range of bilateral relations,

including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Both sides will also discuss the regional situation and cooperation at multilateral fora. Qureshi will also address the Political Parties Forum on the CPEC and participate in the ruling parties' dialogue between the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf and the Communist Party of China. He will also call on the Chinese leadership, the reports said. The CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is the flagship project of Chinese President Xi Jinping's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). India is opposed to the project as it passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Geng said China welcomed the talks between India and Pakistan last week to open the Kartarpur Corridor.

India and Pakistan last year agreed to open up a special border crossing linking Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan's Kartarpur - the final resting place of Sikh faith's founder Guru Nanak Dev - to Dera Baba Nanak shrine in India's Gurdaspur district.

"We welcome this interaction. Hope this can further ease tensions between both sides and improve regional situation. India and Pakistan are neighbours and always live with each other," he said.

## 'Saudi crown prince approved intervention against dissidents'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

More than a year before the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, Saudi Arabia's powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman approved a secret campaign to silence dissenters. The New York Times reported on Sunday. The campaign included surveillance, kidnapping, detention and torture of Saudis, said the report which cited US officials who have read classified intelligence reports about the effort. American officials referred to it as the Saudi Rapid Intervention Group, the Times said.

At least some of the clandestine missions were carried out by members of the team that killed and dismembered Khashoggi in October at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, suggesting his murder was part of a wider campaign against dissidents, the report said, citing the US officials and associates of some Saudi victims. The murder of Khashoggi, a Washington Post contributing columnist, generated global outrage including an order from US senators for President Donald Trump to designate and punish those responsible. He did not comply.

The senators, briefed by the heads of US intelligence agencies, said they were convinced that Prince Mohammed was responsible for the Khashoggi



killing. Saudi Arabia has stressed the prince was not involved. The kingdom initially said it had no knowledge of Khashoggi's fate but later blamed rogue agents for his death. Saudi Arabia's public prosecutor has charged 11 people over his murder.

Among its activities, the Rapid Intervention Group appears to have been involved in the detention and abuse of prominent women's rights activists arrested last year, the Times said. The intervention team was so busy that in June its leader asked a top advisor to Prince Mohammed whether he would give them bonuses for Eid al-Fitr, a major holiday at the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Saudi officials declined to confirm or deny that such a team existed, or answer questions from the Times about its work. The Saudi embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to an AFP query for comment.

## Police raid properties linked to NZ 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 took two properties on the state's mid-north coast.

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

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



Candles are placed to commemorate victims of Friday's shooting, outside the Al Noor mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand, Monday.

their inquiries. Police further assured the community 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. In an interview with Nine News, Tarrant's family expressed shock and apologised for his role in the shooting.

His uncle, Terry Fitzgerald, mourned the victims in Christchurch. "We are so sorry for the families over there, for

the dead and injured," he said. His grandmother, Marie Fitzgerald, told reporters she could not fathom how "somebody in our family would do anything like this". The 81-year-old said her grandson was "obviously not of sound mind".

The family had dinner with Tarrant 12 months ago for his sister's birthday in Grafton. Tarrant, a self-avowed white supremacist, lived in Grafton, 500km northwest of Sydney, where he worked as a personal trainer at Big River Gym. He moved to the New Zealand city of Dunedin at some point in the last two or three years. Tarrant did not

request bail during a brief court appearance on Saturday and will next appear on April 5. He has been charged with one count of murder but further charges are expected.

Australian Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton defended the ASIO and the Australian Federal Police against suggestions they had failed to identify the danger Tarrant posed. He said Monday that Tarrant had spent only 45 days in Australia over the past three years and was not on any terror watch lists.

His social media ravings were missed because of the massive amount of digital traffic which has to be monitored.

"There is only so much content that can be covered, assessed and analysed by ASIO and other partner agencies," said Dutton.

He also rejected claims the security authorities were only focused on Islamic terrorists, ignoring right-wing extremists.

Dutton said Australia's security agencies are very concerned about retaliatory or copycat attacks in the wake of the Christchurch terror attack. Tarrant's travels through Europe, Turkey and Asia are now being examined in detail, in part to see if he had any overseas help in carrying out the massacre.

## NZ cabinet agrees tougher gun laws in 'principle'

Wellington/Christchurch: (AFP) New Zealand's cabinet agreed measures to tighten gun control laws "in principle" Monday, just days after a deadly mass shooting killed more than 50 people. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said details of the measures would be rolled out before a cabinet meeting next Monday, saying "the time to act is now".

Ardern also announced an inquiry into Friday's twin mosque attack in Christchurch, which raised questions about how the suspected gunman — a white supremacist — was not picked up by intelligence agencies.

Although details have yet to be hashed out, the speed of New Zealand's move has resonated around the world — particularly in the United States, where reforms have spluttered for decades, and similar debates are re-run after each new mass shooting.

It took 72 hours, Ardern said. "We have made a decision as a cabinet, we are unified," she added, flanked by her coalition partner and deputy prime minister, Winston Peters. Peters, whose New Zealand First party has previously opposed changes, said he backed the prime minister fully. "The reality is that after one pm on Friday our world changed forever and so will our laws," he said.

Teen charged with distributing mosque rampage livestream

An 18-year-old has appeared in a New Zealand court charged with distributing the livestream video of a deadly mass shooting at Christchurch's Al Noor mosque.

The teenager, whose name was suppressed by the judge, was also charged with publishing a photograph of the mosque with the message "target acquired", and for inciting violence.

He faces a maximum of 14 years in prison for each charge, prosecutors said. A judge did not grant him bail and he is due back in court on April 8.

The hearing came after 28-year-old Australian Brenton Tarrant allegedly carried out the shootings at Al Moor and Linwood mosques in Christchurch on Friday in which 50 people were killed and dozens more injured.

Investigators had said that the teenager was so far not believed to be directly involved in his attacks.

District Court Judge Stephen O'Driscoll added that details related to the charges were also to be suppressed.

## Convicted French cardinal to tender resignation to Pope Francis

Vatican City (AFP): French Cardinal Philippe Barbarin, who received a six-month suspended jail sentence for failing to report sex abuse by a priest under his authority, is to meet Pope Francis at the Vatican to tender his resignation on Monday. The private meeting is expected to take place around 0900 GMT, according to his diocese, with the pontiff to decide within weeks whether to accept his resignation. The pope has previously defended the cardinal, saying in 2016 that



his resignation before a trial would be "an error, imprudent". Barbarin is not expected to speak publicly on Monday. Francis said in February that "no abuse must ever be covered up, as has happened in the past", or be under-estimated.

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.

The court in the south-eastern French city of 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. The priest, who was charged in 2016, is expected to be tried this year. Barbarin's lawyer immediately announced plans to fight the landmark ruling, which was hailed by abuse victims as ushering in a new period of accountability in the French Church. It remains to be seen however if the pope will accept his resignation ahead of the appeal judgement.

His trial comes as Francis battles to restore faith in the Church following a slew of abuse scandals that have spanned the globe, from Australia to Chile and the United States.

Less than a week after Barbarin's conviction the Vatican's former number three, Australian Cardinal George Pell, was sentenced to six years in prison by a Melbourne court for the "brazen" sexual abuse of two choirboys.

Barbarin, an arch-conservative who took over as archbishop in Lyon in 2002, was an outspoken opponent of gay marriage.

## 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. The former army chief left for Dubai for medical treatment and has not

returned since, citing security and health reasons. Musharraf was rushed to the hospital as an emergency on Saturday night after his condition suddenly worsened. All Pakistan Muslim League (APML) Secretary-General Mehrene Adam Malik said Sunday.

APML Overseas President Afzaal Siddiqui told DawnNewsTV that Musharraf suffered a reaction from amyloidosis, a rare condition for which the former president has been receiving medical care.

## Indonesia flood death toll hits 77

Sentani (Indonesia): A baby trapped under rubble after flash flooding destroyed his home in Indonesia has been reunited with his father after the disaster killed the rest of their family, officials said Monday, as the death toll hit 77. The five-month old was plucked Sunday from debris inside a house where his mother and siblings were found dead in the hard-hit northeastern town of Sentani. The tot has since been returned to his surviving father.

"We took the baby to the hospital and had him treated,"



Papua military spokesman Muhammad Aidi told AFP.

"He was in stable condition and has been released. The father was distressed but happy

to be reunited with his baby," the news came as Indonesia's disaster agency raised the official death toll from 58, with more than three dozen people

still missing. Scores have been injured in the disaster, triggered by torrential rain and landslides on Saturday. "The death toll could still go up with 43 people unaccounted for," said national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho.

Rescuers battled mud, rocks and fallen trees in the hunt for survivors, as medical personnel treated the wounded in makeshift tents. The military said 5,700 people have been evacuated from the hard-hit area.

## Coffee compounds may help fight prostate cancer: Study

PTI ■ TOKYO

In a first, scientists have identified compounds found in coffee which may inhibit the growth of prostate cancer. The study, published in the journal The Prostate, was carried out on drug-resistant cancer cells in cell culture and in a mouse model. Coffee is a complex mixture of compounds which has been shown to influence

human health in both positive and negative ways.

There is increasing evidence that drinking certain types of coffee is associated with a reduction in incidence of some cancers, including prostate cancers. Researchers from Kanazawa University in Japan have studied the effects of two compounds found in coffee, kahweol acetate and



cafesol, on prostate cancer cells and in animals, where they were able to inhibit growth in

cells which are resistant to common anti-cancer drugs such as Cabazitaxel.

The researchers initially tested six compounds, naturally found in coffee, on the proliferation of human prostate cancer cells in a petri-dish. They found that cells treated with kahweol acetate and cafesol grew more slowly than controls. They then tested these

compounds on prostate cancer cells which had been transplanted to 16 mice.

Four mice were controls, four were treated with kahweol acetate, four with cafesol, with the remaining mice being treated with a combination of kahweol acetate and cafesol. "We found that kahweol acetate and cafesol inhibited the growth of the cancer

cells in mice, but the combination seemed to work synergistically, leading to a significantly slower tumour growth than in untreated mice," said Hiroaki Iwamoto from Kanazawa University.

"After 11 days, the untreated tumours had grown by around three and a half times the original volume, whereas the tumours in the mice treat-

ed with both compounds had grown by around just over one and a half times the original size," said Iwamoto.

This is a pilot study, so this work shows that the use of these compounds is scientifically feasible, but needs further investigation, researchers said. It does not mean that the findings can yet be applied to humans.

# Maldives: Will remain sensitive towards India's security concerns

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



External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj shakes hands with Maldives President Ibrahim 'Ibu' Solih during a call-on, in Male, Monday. AP

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. The two foreign ministers agreed on the importance of maintaining peace and security in the Indian Ocean Region, and to strengthen coordination in enhancing regional maritime security. Shahid expressed the commitment of the Maldives to support efforts to combat terrorism, particularly cross-border terrorism, and crimes such as piracy, organised crime, narcotic drugs and human trafficking.

They reiterated the importance of an effective multilateral system as a key factor in tackling global challenges and agreed on the need to pursue reform of the main UN bodies, including the General Assembly, and the UN Security Council. The Maldivian side expressed its support for India's candidature for permanent membership of an expanded and reformed UNSC. The Maldivian side also reiterated support for India's candidature

for non-permanent seat for the year 2020-21.

The two sides signed three agreements, including on exemption from visa requirement for holders of diplomatic and official passports, an MoU regarding Indian grant assistance for implementation of high impact community development projects through local bodies and a pact on collaboration in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy. Shahid thanked India for its support towards the renovation of Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH), which stands as an enduring symbol of friendship between the two countries. The IGMH is the first and largest government healthcare facility in the Maldives, built with Indian assistance.

Shahid also thanked India for providing financial assistance in the form of budgetary support, currency swap, and concessional lines of credit to the island nation. Welcoming the increase in trade volume over the past few years, both foreign ministers agreed to improve connectivity as a means to promote the exchange of goods and services, culture, and people.

The ministers also agreed on the need to boost private sector involvement, and to hold the Maldives-India

Business Forum in 2019. Shahid expressed the government's appreciation for the continued support extended from India towards the development of human resources, including capacity building programmes, and provision of training and scholarship opportunities.

He highlighted in particular, the 1000 additional slots over the next five years for training and capacity building, announced during the State Visit of President Solih to India. Highlighting the importance of combating the impacts of climate change, especially detrimental to developing countries, including Small Island Developing States, the Foreign Ministers agreed on the need to strengthen the global response to climate change, through multilateral forums including the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, the statement said.

Swaraj reiterated that India attaches the highest importance to its relationship with Maldives, which is marked by trust, transparency, mutual understanding, and sensitivity. She said that in line with Government of India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy, India stands ready to fully support the Government of Maldives in its socio-economic development.

# Three dead in possible terror attack on Dutch tram

AFP ■ THE HAGUE

A gunman opened fire on a tram in the Dutch city of Utrecht on Monday, killing at least three persons and wounding several in what officials said was a possible terrorist incident. A body covered in a sheet was reportedly seen on the tracks as armed police and emergency services swarmed around the scene in one of the largest cities in the Netherlands. Police said the attacker was still on the run after the incident.

"A shooting occurred on the 24 Oktoberplein in Utrecht... Multiple people have been injured. The surrounding area has been cordoned off and we are investigating the matter," Utrecht police said on Twitter.

"It is a shooting incident in a tram. Several trauma helicopters have been deployed to provide help," Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte cancelled a meeting with his ruling coalition and was being briefed on the situation, officials said. Police later said that "a possible terrorist motive is part of the investigation".

The head of the Dutch national counter-terrorism service, Pieter-Jaap Aalbersberg, said on Twitter that he was having "crisis consultations" over the incident. "NCTV is monitoring the situation in #Utrecht. In close contact with local authorities. We cannot



rule out terrorist motive. Crisis team is activated," he said. "Offender still fugitive," Aalbersberg said, adding that the terror threat level had been raised to the maximum of five in Utrecht for the next 18 hours. Local media showed photographs of masked, armed police and emergency vehicles surrounding a tram that had stopped near a road bridge.

Tram traffic in the area was halted, operator Qbuzz was quoted as saying by the ANP news agency. The Netherlands has been largely spared the kind of attacks which have rocked its closest European neighbours in the past few years, but there has been a series of recent scares.

In August, a 19-year-old Afghan with a German residence permit stabbed and injured two American tourists

at Amsterdam's busy Central Station before being shot and wounded. In September, Dutch investigators said they had arrested seven people and foiled a "major attack" on civilians at a major event in the Netherlands.

They said they had found a large quantity of bomb-making materials including fertiliser likely to be used in a car bomb. The men were arrested in the cities of Arnhem and Weert.

In June, two terror suspects were arrested while close to carrying out attacks including at an iconic bridge in Rotterdam and in France, prosecutors said. The men aged 22 and 28, who were of Moroccan origin, made a film at the Erasmus bridge in which they sang a martyrdom song, they said.

# Rouhani urges Iranians to 'put all your curses' on US

Tehran (AP): Iran's president is urging Iranians to put a curse on the United States, Israel and Saudi Arabia — blaming the US and its allies for his country's ailing economy.

Monday's televised remarks by Hassan Rouhani were meant to deflect criticism of his administration's performance amid a spiralling economy after the Trump administration pulled out of the nuclear deal and re-imposed sanctions on Tehran last year, targeting Iran's vital oil sector. Rouhani urged Iranians to "put all your curses on those who created the current situation" and added that "the United States, the Zionists" and Saudi Arabia were to blame. He didn't say what kind of curses the Iranians should invoke. The crisis that's gripping Iran has hurt ordinary Iranians and emboldened Rouhani's critics to openly call for his ouster.



# UK PM in last-minute push to win Brexit support

AP ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Theresa May is making a last-minute push to win support for her European Union divorce deal, with attention focused on wooing Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party.

The DUP's 10 lawmakers are pivotal to May's effort to overturn two overwhelming defeats in Parliament, because their support could influence hard-line members of May's Conservative Party. Opposition has focused on the so-called backstop, designed to ensure there is no hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. But May suffered a setback Monday when former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson refused to support her deal. Johnson used his column in the Daily Telegraph to say that further changes are needed to the backstop, claiming it left the U.K. vulnerable to "an indefinite means of blackmail" by Brussels.



Placards placed by anti-Brexit supporters stand opposite the Houses of Parliament in London, Monday.. British Prime Minister Theresa May was making a last-minute push Monday to win support for her European Union divorce deal, warning opponents that failure to approve it 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. AP

# Female voters can make 2019 'India's year of women': Hinduja SP Shanu

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Female voters hold the potential to be game-changers by playing a significant role in ensuring more gender-inclusive laws and policies, making the year 2019 India's "year of women", Chair of the Hinduja Bank, Switzerland, Hinduja SP Shanu said as the country readies for its upcoming crucial national elections. Shanu said that as India heads to the polls this spring, it is important to note that more women are heading to the ballot than ever before, with voter turnout among women having been higher in several state elections in the country.

"More female voters are additionally likely to lead to more gender-inclusive laws and policies. Gender awareness not only transforms how candidates campaign, but also opens doors for more female candidates in the running, and greater opportunities for female leverage within national decision-making bodies," Shanu, the Chair of the Hinduja Foundation US, said in an opinion piece given to PTI.

Shanu pointed out that the upsurge in women voters exercising their democratic and constitutional right shows that the determination of women across India to have a voice and exercise their rights is on the rise.

She said women are fighting back across the political landscape around the world. She added that for the US, the year 2019 marks 'the year of women', with a record number of women — 127 — having entered Congress. Starting with Women's Marches in over 650 communities across the US, female activists worked together, forming a pragmatic network that saw four million people taking to the streets.

She stressed that one can see collective action in India as well, citing the country's first



all-women's political party, the National Women's Party (NWP), launched recently. The party has said it will contest 283 Lok Sabha seats - half of total seats - in the upcoming polls.

"The NWP now has a platform to break down the deeply entrenched traditional cultural values and beliefs that dictate women's role in society and act as a barrier to achieving and sustaining gender equality. As the world celebrates International Women's Day, perhaps 2019 will be India's year of women too," Shanu, who is also Co-Chair and Director of Hinduja Global Solutions Inc, said.

In the opinion piece, that also appears in Brussels publication 'New Europe', Shanu emphasised that endorsing women's empowerment is crucial to India's prosperity and success as an economic powerhouse — particularly if it is to hit its development targets. "Fair representation" is fundamental to achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal number 5 for Gender Equality.

"We need to recognize that investing in women is not only morally critical but also a considerable business opportunity. Women contribute approximately one-sixth of India's overall economic output, one of the lowest shares in the world," she said. As women and girls

across the country become more literate, educated and empowered, they are also becoming more politically aware. "India's recent collective action was indicative of a revolutionary tide surging across the country," she said. Further, the #MeToo movement and the US Mid-Term election results prove that there is power in insurrection and coming together to demand change.

"The women's resistance movement has organized, mobilized, and empowered on a vast scale and at an unprecedented rate," she said. Across the world, Shanu said women are empowering other women and this grassroots resistance against a regressive and sexist political system broke into the highest level of politics, allowing women to revitalize the political landscape.

She, however, added that the challenges that women face across the country stand as a testament to the lack of political support and will coming from its judicial system. She noted that existing political structuring and male-dominated parties have blocked the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill, which would compel the Indian Constitution to reserve 33% of all seats in the Lower House of Parliament, the Lok Sabha and all state legislative assemblies for women.

# French govt admits security 'flaws' in Paris riots

AFP ■ PARIS

The French government has admitted its security measures had been "insufficient" to stem an arson and looting rampage by black-clad anarchists during a "yellow vest" protest along the famous Champs-Élysées in Paris.

Police had appeared overwhelmed on Saturday as demonstrators ran amok on the avenue, with retailers there saying some 80 shops and businesses were vandalised. Prime Minister Edouard Philippe acknowledged Sunday there had been security "flaws" which needed to be rectified.

"Analysis of yesterday's events highlights that the measures taken were insufficient to contain the violence and prevent wrongdoing" by the rioters, the premier's office said, adding that Philippe was due to meet President Emmanuel Macron on Monday morning.

Already under political pressure, Macron — who cut short a skiing trip to rush back to the capital for a crisis meeting late Saturday —



French President Emmanuel Macron, center, flanked by his cabinet director Patrick Strzoda, 2nd right, and Elysee general secretary Alexis Kohler holds a meeting at the Elysee presidential Palace in Paris, Monday. AP

has vowed "strong" action. Retailers have expressed dismay over the 18th consecutive weekend of potent anti-government

rallies. Saturday's turnout was characterised by a sharp uptick in violence after weeks of dwindling turnout. "It feels like this will never

end," said Emir Fatnassi whose shop front on the Champs-Élysées was smashed in by rioters. "You can protest but why destroy every-

thing?... Repairing the windows will cost at least 25,000 euros, and an important part of merchandise is gone." "There's been a surge of violence," said Jean-Noel Reinhardt, head of the Committee Champs-Élysées, a local association with 180 members.

"The authorities must put an end to this situation," he insisted Sunday. Chaos broke out Saturday when groups of so-called "black bloc" protesters swarmed the Champs-Élysées, vandalising and later setting fire to Fouquet's brasserie, a favourite hangout of the rich and famous for the past century — as well as luxury handbag store Longchamp.

Clothing outlets Hugo Boss, Lacoste and Celio were also damaged, as well as a bank, a chocolatier and several newsstands. Police used tear gas, stun grenades and water cannon to repel protesters who gathered at the foot of the Arc de Triomphe war memorial, which had already been sacked on December 1.

# Girls more likely to develop 'maths anxiety'

PTI ■ LONDON

Girls tend to be more affected by 'maths anxiety' than boys, according to a study which shows that teachers and parents may inadvertently play a role in a child developing the fear of numbers. While mathematics is often considered a hard subject, not all difficulties with the subject result from cognitive difficulties. Many children and adults experience feelings of anxiety, apprehension, tension or discomfort when confronted by a maths problem.

Scientists at the University of Cambridge in the UK explored the nature and resolution of 'mathematics anxiety'. In a sample of 1,000 Italian students, the researchers found that girls in both primary and secondary school had higher levels of both maths anxiety and general anxiety. More



detailed investigation in 1,700 UK schoolchildren found that a general feeling that maths was more difficult than other subjects often contributed to maths anxiety, leading to a lack or loss of confidence. Students pointed to poor marks or test results, or negative compar-

isons to peers or siblings as reasons for feeling anxious.

"While every child's maths anxiety may be different, with unique origins and triggers, we found several common issues among both the primary and secondary school students that we interviewed," said Denes

Szucs from the University of Cambridge. Students often discussed the role that their teachers and parents played in their development of maths anxiety. Primary-aged children referred to instances where they had been confused by different teaching methods, while secondary students commented on poor interpersonal relations. Secondary students indicated that the transition from primary to secondary school had been a cause of maths anxiety, as the work seemed harder and they could not cope.

There was also greater pressure from tests and an increased homework load. Teachers and parents also need to be aware that their own maths anxiety might influence their students' or child's maths anxiety and that gen-

dered stereotypes about mathematics suitability and ability might contribute to the gender gap in maths performance. "Teachers, parents, brothers and sisters and classmates can all play a role in shaping a child's maths anxiety," said Ros McLellan from Cambridge.

"Parents and teachers should also be mindful of how they may unwittingly contribute to a child's maths anxiety. Tackling their own anxieties and belief systems in maths might be the first step to helping their children or students," said McLellan.

The researchers said that as maths anxiety is present from a young age but may develop as the child grows, further research should be focused on how maths anxiety can be best remediated before any strong link with performance begins to emerge.

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.



# GO HASSLE-FREE

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

More than a perfect house or balcony, it is the number of stamps on passports that millennials save for today. With India estimated to become the youngest country by 2022, the Indian millennials are majorly influencing the country's travel trends, which show that travel has become a way of life for many young Indians and they are structuring their work and financial plans to ensure frequent get-aways. They don't share their parents' interest of investing in commodities.

Keeping in mind that Indians are travelling more than the global average, Nalini Gupta, head of Costa Cruise, India, says that the trend of travel loans has emerged and now many fin tech companies are offering personal and retail loans for people to sponsor their travel packages. "However, the young Indian and especially the Gen Z, which grew in the midst of the great recession,

have also become fiscally conscious travellers, who will pre book to save money and unlike their parents do not make last minute travel decisions," she says.

According to Karan Anand, head relationships, Cox & Kings, "The trend of taking more than one holiday by millennials has led to many of them opting for travel loans. These are for destinations such as the Far East and Europe. Even those who take short breaks to Dubai any Abu Dhabi fall in this bracket. These loans have a tenure of 18 to 24 months which make them attractive."

Heena J Akhtar, co founder, TripXOXO says, "Travel loans have become prevalent in the last three years. Patrons are opting for their dream trips because they can upgrade the trips



'Patrons can upgrade to international destinations especially for their honeymoons. They 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:

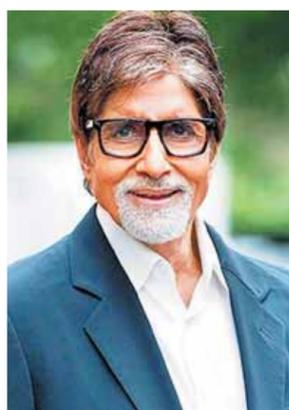
**Amitabh Bachchan:** Manohar Parrikar CM Goa, passes away. A gentleman to the core, simple in demeanour and well respected. Spent few short moments with him... very dignified, fought his illness bravely. Prayers and condolences.

**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,

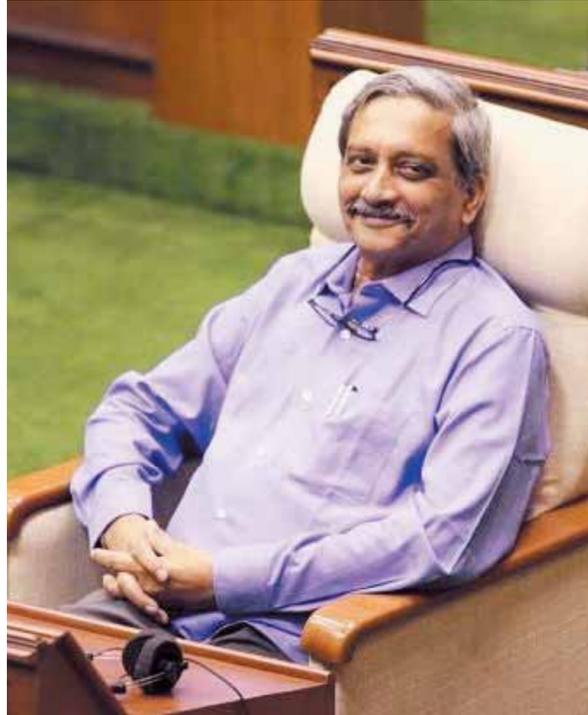


three-time chief minister of Goa, away from the trappings of a person in power, IITian, well mannered, a true servant of the nation, an example to follow for one and all... Salute Manohar Parrikar.

**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

It's scientifically proven that children who don't get adequate amount of sleep, develop cognitive and behavioral problems years later. Getting less sleep hurts these cognitive processes in many ways. First, it impairs attention, alertness, concentration, reasoning, and problem solving. This makes it more difficult to learn efficiently. Second, during the night, various sleep cycles play a role in consolidating memories in the mind. If you don't get enough sleep, you won't be able to remember what you learnt and experienced during the day. Teenagers are also prone to depression. Lack of sleep can also have negative effects on children's performance in school, during extracurricular activities and even in social relationships as it plays a critical role in thinking and learning. Conditions like attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), lack of concentration and high risk of obesity are linked to too little sleep in children. Everyone needs at least nine hours of sleep per night.

## THE BEST MEDITATION

A recent study conducted by Godrej Interio revealed that children are one of most sleep-deprived segments in India. They launched the sleep@10 campaign in 2017 that focused on addressing the rising concern over sleep deprivation. It was found that over 93 per cent of Indians are sleep-deprived.

The study is based on the insights sourced from Indians that have taken their sleep test on the sleep-o-meter. Over 3.5 lakh Indians have taken the sleep test and Delhi was found to be one of most sleep-deprived city in India. The study revealed that the problem of not sleeping on time wasn't only restricted to the adults in Delhi but kids as well wherein only 60 per cent of respondents below 18 years feel drowsy and tired after waking up which shows that sleep deprivation is on a rampant rise among the next generation. Around 45 per cent of the children respondents admitted that 'screen time', including television and phone, could be delaying their sleep hours while 41 per cent of the children respondents



said they slept after midnight while the ideal time would be around 10 pm.

According to the sleep-o-meter data, respondents between 18-25 age group, 29 per cent go to sleep between 12 midnight to 2 am while 58 per cent rarely sleep at 10 pm which is declared as an apt time for sleeping. Among respondents between 26-54 age group, 36 per cent get less than six hours of shut eye while only eight per cent respondents are able to sleep at 10 pm. For the respondents above the age of 55 years, 41 per cent sleep after 10 pm but before 12 am while 40.4 per cent rarely sleep around that time.

The exam times are stressful not only for children but everyone around them and especially for parents. One of the first steps parents must take to tackle anxiety and stress related to exams is to ensure that children are getting enough sleep. Getting adequate sleep is highly essential during exams as it helps them to focus, retain, and recall information better.

# 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 Nedunchezhiyan touched a new career-high of 64 and was third highest-ranked played of the country after Rohan Bopanna

(36,+2) and Divij Sharan (41, -1).

Purav Raja (80, -1) and veteran Leander Paes (94, +2) complete the top-five.

In the WTA rankings, Ankita Raina continues to be India's top-ranked player at 168 (-2) and was followed by Karman Kaur Thandi, who jumped seven places to 203.

## Skipped Asian C'ships to prepare for Olympics: Mary

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian boxing star M C Mary Kom says her decision to skip the Asian Championships is part of a 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 Sanyam Shukla

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

The India team has been placed in Group B along side Chinese Taipei and Singapore. The top two teams from each group will advance to the quarter-finals.

India reached the quarter-finals in the last edition where they lost narrowly to Thailand.

## AFGHANS RECORD MAIDEN TEST WIN

AFP ■ DEHRADUN

Afghanistan claimed their first ever victory in Test cricket on Monday, beating fellow newcomers Ireland in what captain Asghar Afghan hailed as a historic day for the war-torn country.

Afghanistan and Ireland both achieved full member status of the International Cricket Council in 2017, becoming only the 11th and 12th teams to play the long format of the sport beloved of purists.

Rahmat Shah and Ihsanullah Janat scored fifties as Afghanistan chased down 147 to beat Ireland by seven wickets on day four of the one-off game in the north Indian city of Dehradun.

"It's a historic day for Afghanistan, for our team and our people," Afghan said.

"We have been playing for a while, we have been playing first-class cricket, so we have that composure. The bowlers were very good, Rashid (Khan), Yamin (Ahmadzai)," he added.

Afghanistan were steered to their target by a 139-run partnership between Shah, who made 76, and debutant Janat, who hit an unbeaten 65.

Shah, a top-order batsman, registered his second fifty of the match after making 98 in Afghanistan's first innings score of 314.



With three needed to win, Afghanistan lost Shah and then Mohammad Nabi in successive deliveries before Hashmatullah Shahidi came to the crease and hit the winning boundary.

"I want to congratulate all the lads in the team, they have been absolutely brilliant," said Afghan.

"We have got a few games before the World Cup and we want to make every opportunity count," the captain added.

### NATIONAL SPORT

Cricket has become the national sport of Afghanistan, torn apart by decades of war, with many of the Afghan players cutting their 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 are never tired to play Test cricket, it's always a special feeling," said Ireland captain William Porterfield.

## 'There can't be conditional bans'

Gambhir calls on BCCI to go for all or nothing with Pak

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India opener Gautam Gambhir on Monday said the BCCI should either snap all cricketing ties with Pakistan, including multi-lateral events, or engage with the arch-rivals at every level as "there can't be conditional bans".

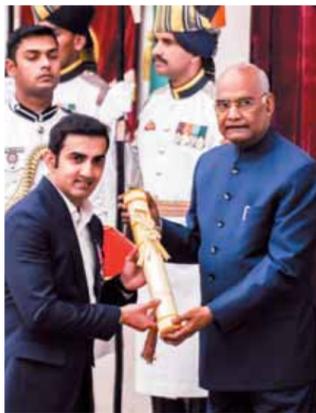
Gambhir, who called for snapping ties with Pakistan after the Pulwama terror attack, said the Indian Board has to decide and be prepared for the consequences.

"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. PTI

But the request was turned down at the ICC Board meeting in Dubai.

Gambhir cited England's forfeiture of their 2003 World Cup round-robin fixture against Zimbabwe in protest of the Robert Mugabe regime.

"England decided in 2003 and they wouldn't go to Zimbabwe, they forfeited. If BCCI decides not to play against Pakistan, everyone should be mentally ready to give those two points," he said.

"There could be repercussions and we may not qualify for the semi-finals. No media should blame the Indian team if they plan to boycott playing Pakistan," he said.

Asked what should be done if the two teams meet in the final, Gambhir said in that case, India should forfeit the final.

"Two points are not that important. Country is important, those 40 soldiers who lost their lives are far more important than a cricket match. If we let go of a World Cup final, the country should be ready for it."

"Certain section of society says that don't mix sports with politics but Jawans are far more important than a game of cricket."

India drew the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) ire after Pakistani shooters were denied visas for the Delhi World Cup owing to the Pulwama attack. The IOC suspended all discussion on hosting of major events in India and told other international federations to halt interactions with the country.

The IOC demanded that the Indian Olympic Association must provide government assurance that none of the participating countries would be denied visa in case India host any event. Recently, wrestling world body withdrew the Asian junior championship from India owing to the unresolved matter.

Asked if India's stand could lead to a sporting boycott of the nation in the near future, Gambhir said that he wouldn't mind that.

## Don't foresee 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.



LaLiga



# James' night in Munich

AFP ■ MUNICH

Bayern Munich took out their Champions League frustrations on James Rodriguez claimed his first Bundesliga hat-trick on Sunday in a 6-0 romp to fire the Bavarians back to the top of the table.

After Wednesday's Champions League exit, following a 3-1 home defeat by Liverpool in the last 16, Mainz bore the brunt of the backlash at Munich's Allianz Arena.

"We showed the disappointment of the Liverpool defeat is behind us, it was important to react," said Bayern coach Niko Kovac.

Rodriguez, on loan until the end of the season from Real Madrid, came off to a standing ovation with 20 minutes left after arguably his best display in the famous red shirt.

"I am pleased for him, he deserved the applause," added Kovac, who declined to comment on whether Rodriguez's loan deal will be extended.

Canadian wunderkind Alphonso Davies, 18, scored his first Bayern goal on only his fifth appearance after coming off the bench.

The thumping win saw Bayern reclaim top spot in the Bundesliga from Borussia Dortmund, who briefly usurped them with a nervy 3-2 win at Hertha Berlin on Saturday, with eight games left.



James Rodriguez poses after completing his hat-trick against Mainz in Munich. AP

RACE TO THE FINISH

"We had planned a lot because of what happened on Wednesday, our focus is now on the league," said Thomas Mueller.

Dortmund and Bayern are level on 60 points, but the Bavarians hold a superior goal difference of seven.

"We wanted to fight back after Dortmund's victory. The last three games are a marker," Mueller added, with Bayern having smashed in 17 goals in winning their last three league games.

Poland striker Robert Lewandowski, the Bundesliga's top scorer, claimed his 18th league goal this season, tapping in a David Alaba cross on three minutes.

Leon Goretzka laid on the second goal, chesting down into

Rodriguez's path and the Colombian opened his account on 33 minutes.

French winger Kingsley Coman gave Mainz goalkeeper Florian Mueller no chance with his shot six minutes before the break to make it 3-0 at half-time.

Rodriguez wrapped up his hat-trick with two goals in four breathtaking minutes, hitting the top corner past Mueller's reach on 51 minutes, then chipping the despairing Mainz goalkeeper moments later.

Just 11 minutes after coming on, Davies claimed his first Bundesliga goal, netting the rebound from a saved Lewandowski shot.

Bayern have now won 13 of their last 14 league matches.

# UEFA probe CR7 for 'cojones' goal celebration



AFP ■ TURIN

UEFA on Monday opened an investigation into Cristiano Ronaldo's goal celebration after scoring a hat-trick in Juventus' Champions League comeback win against Atletico Madrid last week.

European football's governing body said Ronaldo is facing charges of "improper conduct" after he mimicked Diego Simeone's crotch-grabbing 'cojones' gesture in last Tuesday's 3-0 win that sent Juventus through 3-2 on aggregate.

After scoring the decisive penalty four minutes from time, Ronaldo turned towards the Atletico fans and replicated Simeone's gesture after the

Spaniards' 2-0 first leg win by grasping his genitals and thrusting out his groin.

A decision will be taken by UEFA on March 21.

Juventus take on Dutch club Ajax in the Champions League quarter-finals over two legs, on April 10 in Amsterdam and April 16 in Turin.

Coach Massimiliano Allegri has said he is confident Ronaldo will not be fined or suspended.

"I think everyone celebrated their own way on the field and in the stands. I saw nothing strange, just a celebration. There won't be a ban," said Allegri.

Simeone was fined 20,000 euros by UEFA for his gesture.



Inter Milan players celebrate after beating AC Milan in Serie A clash

# FIVE-GOAL CLASSIC DERBY

AFP ■ MILAN

AC Milan coach Gennaro Gattuso on Sunday said that he is more upset by an "unacceptable" bust-up between midfielders Franck Kessie and Lucas Biglia on the sidelines at the San Siro than his team's 3-2 derby defeat to Inter.

Ivorian Kessie, 22, and Argentine 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, Tiemouhe 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 overcame 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 Agueiro'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

An elated 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, Mikou 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

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

Asked where he would rate this win, Chhetri quipped, "Top-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 we 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."