



# Pramod succeeds Parrikar as CM

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP MLA Pramod Sawant was on Monday named as the new Goa Chief Minister after party bigwigs, including president Amit Shah and Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, could bring about a consensus on his name by making the other claimants to the post from the alliance partners agreeable to his candidature, according to sources.

Sawant was the Speaker of the Goa Assembly.

Sawant's name was cleared hours after late Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar's funeral ceremony, also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, concluded at Goa's Capital Panaji.

Sawant will be assisted by two Deputy Chief Ministers — Goa Forward Party (GFP) chief Vijai Sardesai and Maharashtraadi 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,

Congress yet again staked an abortive claim to form a Government in the coastal State.

*Continued on Page 4*



# Maya dares Cong to fight all 80 seats in UP

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

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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



Monday asked the Congress not to "spread confusion" and said the alliance was capable of defeating the BJP on its own.

Hours later BSP's poll ally Samajwadi Party (SP) the SP too echoed Mayawati's view. In a tweet, SP president Akhilesh Yadav said, "In Uttar Pradesh, the SP, BSP and RLD alliance is capable of defeating the BJP. The Congress party need not spread any kind of confusion."

Mayawati even dared the Congress to go ahead and field candidates in all the 80 Lok Sabha seats in the State. The BSP chief in a series of

Dal (RLD) alliance. "The Congress is free to field its candidates on all the 80 seats in UP alone. In other words, our alliance (of SP-BSP-RLD) is capable enough of defeating the BJP. The Congress should refrain from spreading confusion about leaving seven seats for the (SP-BSP-RLD) alliance," Mayawati tweeted.

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 4*

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

PTI

**CAPSULE****LONDON COURT ISSUES WARRANT AGAINST NIRAV**

New Delhi: A London court has issued an arrest warrant against jewellery designer Nirav Modi, the main accused in the \$2 billion PNB scam case, in response to an ED request for his extradition in a money laundering case, officials said on Monday.

P4

**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.

P6

**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.

P12

# Priyanka sails, media runs aground



Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra rides a boat at Prayagraj on Monday

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

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's Delhi convenor 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 4*

# CRPF jawan killed, 5 injured in Naxal attack



STAFF REPORTER ■ DANTEWADA

A CRPF trooper was killed while five others were injured after they were ambushed by Maoist guerrillas in the insurgency-hit Dantewada district, police said here on Monday.

This is the first major strike by the Maoist in the run up to the parliamentary elections. The deceased was identified as head constable Shashikant Tiwari, a native of Unnao in Uttar Pradesh, police said.

The condition of two jawans is stated to be critical. Three other troopers have sustained minor injuries. The injured were airlifted to Raipur, Dantewada superintendent of police (SP) Dr Abhishek Pallav informed.

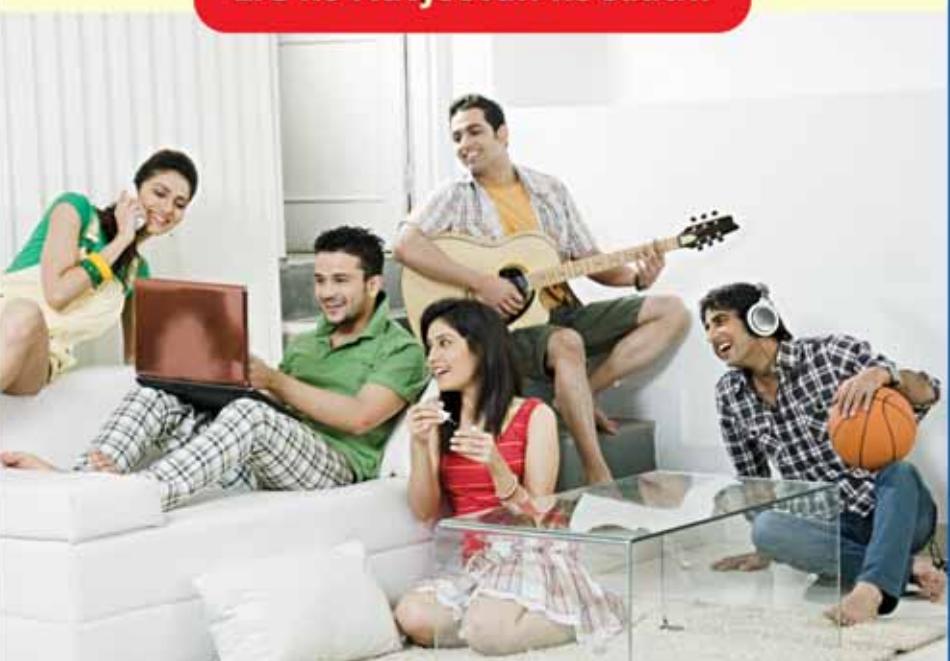
The incident happened in a forested patch between Kondapara and Kamal police outposts under Aranpur Police

station, about 360 km south of Raipur, when a team of 231 Charlie battalion of the CRPF was on an anti-Naxal cum area domination exercise in the area, police said.

Around 4.30 pm, Maoists, who were hidden in the jungle, triggered an IED blast and opened fire on the police party, prompting the latter to retaliate. The gun battle lasted for about an hour after which Naxals escaped, police added.

After getting the information of the attack, additional forces were rushed to the spot and injured jawans were evacuated.

Notably, Dantewada is one of the worst insurgency-hit districts of Chhattisgarh. According to official data, 85 persons, including Maoists, police personnel and common people were killed in various insurgency-related incidents between 2016 and 2018.

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# For Bihar alliance Cong acquiesce with 10 seats

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

The "mahagathbandhan" in Bihar formally acknowl-

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 na leke aayi hai?" (Pappu says he wants to become Prime Minister, Mayawati, Akhilesh Yadav,

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

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

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

## Cong united in Haryana, says Azad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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.

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

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

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

## India, Japan discuss scourge of terrorism threatening world

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

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

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

The Indian delegation included Bhubaneswar Kalita, Shamsher Singh Manhas and Banda Prakash (all Members of Parliament), 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

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.

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 peacekeeping 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,

## 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

Ramalingeshwara 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 (garbhalaayam) of the temple is built with bricks which are so light that they can float on water. Also, it is built on the sand box technology, which made it resistant to earthquakes and other natural calamities. Depending on the size and area of the construction,

# Three Maoist cohorts held, explosives seized

**STAFF REPORTER ■ JAGDALPUR**

Chhattisgarh police on Monday arrested three suspected Maoist cohorts when they were reportedly on their way to deliver a huge cache of detonators, cordex wires and safety fuses to ultras for possible use to disrupt voting during upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Giving details of the incident, IGP Bastar, Vivekanand Sinha said, "Police put up a mobile check post at Bakawand outpost under Nagarnar Police station in view of the Lok Sabha elections. A pickup and Bolero that were trying to slip through the check post was asked to stop but they tried to run away. After a little chase, the vehicles were intercepted which led to the recovery of cordex wires, safety fuses and detonators."

The Bolero was escorting the

**The gang was reportedly about to deliver huge cache of detonators, cordex wire and safety fuse to Naxals that could have been used to disrupt voting during the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections: Police**

pickup and it had a press sticker, the IG said.

According to police 3,700 meters of cordex wire, 30 bundles of safety fuse, 5,900 detonators were found inside the pickup vehicle.

The arrested individuals were

identified as Subal Kumar Choudhury alias Subhi Babu (51), Naveen Jani (27), both natives of Navrangpur in Odisha, and Manoj Tiwari (49), a resident of Jagdalpur.

During initial interrogations, the accused confessed of supplying deto-

nators to crusher owners and Naxals. The gang was earlier also involved in smuggling of explosive materials.

They were booked under Sections 4 and 5 of the Explosive Substance Act and 38, 39 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

## Congress's poll slogan: Badla Hai Apna Pradesh, Badlange Ab Pura Desh

**STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR**

'Badla Hai Apna Pradesh, Badlange Ab Pura Desh,' meaning brought a change in the state and it's now time to enforce the change in the country.

The ruling Congress has coined this slogan for the electioneering in the state where it replaced a BJP government a few months ago.

A meeting of the party's state election campaign committee held at the party's state headquarters, Rajiv Bhawan, here on Monday finalised the tagline.

The meeting, convened under chairmanship of PCC chief and Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, also chalked out overall strategies for all the 11 Lok Sabha constituencies.

The election committee comprises senior Congress leader and legislator Satyanarayan Agrawal, PCC treasurer Ram Gopal Agrawal, senior leaders Arun Bhadra and Idrish Gandhi.

The meeting decided that Baghel would campaign extensively in all the 11 constituencies in the state.



In the meeting, the senior leaders also finalised the list of in-charges and coordinators for all the 11 constituencies and decided to form assembly constituency-wise committee for adopting strategy according to ground conditions

there. These assembly constituency-level committees would prepare the programme for poll campaign which would be followed by the grass root level workers, it was decided.

## Materials worth ₹11.22 lakh seized in pre-poll excise raids

**STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR**

Excise department conducted a total of 610 raids across the state, registering 302 cases of offence and arrested 288 persons since the election model code of conduct for Lok Sabha elections came into force.

Two vehicles, illegal liquors and materials worth ₹11.22 lakh were seized during these raids. As per information provided by Excise department, 1388 litres of liquor



worth ₹ 2.91 lakh, around 163 litres of liquor brought from other states, 'Mahuwa', country-made liquor, worth ₹ 1.60 lakh and two vehicles worth ₹ 6.70 lakhs were confiscated. Excise commissioner Dr Kamalpreet Singh said that control rooms have been set up at state level and in 27 district headquarters. Excise teams based on the complaints and information are conducting raids and taking action.

These raids have been conducted within a week from March 10 to March 17, the commissioner said.

Trivedi in statement also mocked the BJP's chowkidar campaign, saying the party leaders were deputing themselves as 'chowkidar' after looting the country for five years.

Regarding the appointment of Lokpal, Trivedi said it was the UPA government which took the initiative

and accordingly a bill with a provision for appointing a Lokpal within a period of one year was introduced in 2013.

The BJP government deliberately delayed the appointment to shield its 'corrupt corporate friends.'

"Now when it is time for them to bid a farewell they are posing themselves as 'Chowkidar,'" he said.

He further alleged that perpetrators of "big thefts" have now simultaneously become chowkidars of the country.

"People of Chhattisgarh very well know their 'drama' and do not consider them as Chowkidars. They will give them befitting reply in the upcoming elections," he further added.

## Congress names constituency in-charges and coordinators for LS polls

**STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR**

Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee (CGPCC) on Monday appointed in-charges and coordinators for all the 11 Lok Sabha constituencies of the state.

These new appointees will lead the poll campaign of the candidates in their respective constituencies.

Congress sources said that revenue minister Jaisingh Agrawal has been appointed in-charge for Korba and Bilaspur and Janjir Champa constituencies while newly elected legislator and Durg mayor, Devendra Yadav will look after Durg constituency.

The other in-charges are Dr Ajay

Tirki for Surguja, Shankar Agrawal for Raigarh, Mohammad Akbar for Rajnandgaon, Pramod Dubey for Raipur, Paras Chopra for Mahasamund, Jatin Jaiswal for Bastar and Salam Rizvi for Kanker.

The coordinators are Safi Ahmed for Surguja, Shekhar Tripathi for Raigarh, Motilal Dewangan for Korba, Baijnath Chandrakar for Bilaspur, Jitendra Mudliyar for Rajnandgaon, Bhawarlal Jain for Durg, Pramod Chaubey for Raipur, Amarjeet Chawla for Mahasamund, Manohar Lunia for Bastar and Naresh Thakur for Kanker.

## NTPC officials review CSR-CD works at Sipat

**STAFF REPORTER ■ BILASPUR**

The NTPC's executive director (CSR) M S D Bhattamishra reviewed various developmental works carried out by its Sipat station under corporate social responsibility-community development activities on Saturday.

He was accompanied by D K Patankar, GM (CSR) and AGM (R&R) Pankaj Dhyani, according to a National Thermal Power Corporation Limited press communiqué.

During the review, Bhattamishra visited livestock development project at village Devri, RO water plant at village Janji, army recruitment training camp at village Pipranar and ITI-Balouda which has been con-



structed by the NTPC.

In a review meeting with GGM-Sipat Padmakumar Rajasekharan and other senior executives, Bhattamishra informed that the NTPC will conduct four-week workshop on "Girija empowerment mission" at Sipat during the month of May-June to coincide with the summer

vacation in educational institutions.

The NTPC Limited is spending crores of rupees under CSR-CD works across the country through its various projects, the communiqué said.

At Sipat Super Thermal Power Station, the core interventions are in the fields of education, health and sanitation, sports and games, livestock development, drinking water, infrastructure and skill developments.

As a dedicated corporate for social development, the NTPC always works for the development of surrounding areas, home district and home state which apparently reflects in its national growth, it said.

## Flying squad confiscates ₹ 1.78 lakh

**STAFF REPORTER ■ BEMETARA**

The flying squad and static team confiscated ₹ 1.28 lakh in cash on the border of Bemetara and Mungeli districts during intensive checking as part of its ongoing drill to enforce election model code of conduct.

According to Bemetara superintendent of police Prashant Thakur, a check post was put up at Gadamor, bordering Bemetara and Mungeli districts.

On Monday, during the intensive checking of vehicles, ₹ 50,000 was seized from one Nyakishore

Damodhar Das, a resident of village Jhajhpuri, Lormi.

Another ₹ 1.28 lakh was confiscated from one Vinda Prasad, a resident of Patharia, the SP said.

Both are presently residing in Mungeli and were travelling in the same vehicle (CG28-J-5968).

Both persons told police that they had withdrawn the amount from banks against the payment received by selling the paddy on minimum support price.

The monitoring team had directed them to submit the documentary evidence, and initiated further investigation.

## Notification for second phase of LS polls today

**STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR**

The notification for the second phase of polls in three Chhattisgarh Lok Sabha seats will be issued on Tuesday.

The polling in these three parliamentary constituencies of Kanker, Mahasamund and Rajnandgaon will be held on April 18.

Rajnandgaon Lok Sabha seats.

The candidates can file their nomination papers during the office hours from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm except for government holidays, till March 26. The scrutiny of nomination papers will commence for Kanker, Mahasamund and Rajnandgaon will be held on April 18.

Chhattisgarh chief electoral officer Subrat Sahoo said, "With the issuance of notification, the filing of nomination papers will commence for Kanker, Mahasamund and Rajnandgaon and the third phase of polling is scheduled on April 23 for which the notification will be issued on March 28. In the third phase polling will be held for Raipur, Bilaspur, Raigarh, Korba, Janjir-Champa, Durg and Sarguja Lok Sabha seats."

## Cong, BSP candidates collect nomination papers on day one

### First phase polling in state on April 11

**STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR**

Congress's official candidate Deepak Bairi and Bahujan Samaj Party leader Ayturam Mandavi collected nomination papers for the Bastar Lok Sabha constituency on Monday, the first day of issuance of notification for the first phase of elections.

The Bastar LS seat is reserved for the Scheduled Tribe.

Returning officer and collector Dr Ayyaz Tamboli issued the notification. The last date for filing of nomination is March 25 and date of polling is April 11.

As per the notification, the candidates or their proposers can file the nomination papers from March 18 to March 25 from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm in

room number 38, court of collector before the RO or assistant returning officer Praveen Verma.

The candidates can obtain the nomination forms from room no 38 on the specified dates and time by submitting Rs 12500.

For candidates from recognised political parties, one proposer and for non-recognised political parties or independent candidate 10 proposers should

sign the nomination papers. It is mandatory that name of the proposer should be registered in the electoral list of the Lok Sabha seat.

The scrutiny of nomination papers is scheduled on March 26. The candidate or proposer or authorised representative of the candidate can withdraw the nomination on March 28 till 3.00 pm. If there is a requirement for polling, then it would be held on April 11.

Under Bastar parliamentary constituency, for assembly segments of Kondagaon, Narayanpur, Bastar and Jagdalpur, the polling will be held from 7.00 am to 5.00 pm Similarly, in assembly segments of Chitrakote, Dantewada, Bijapur and Konta the polling will be held from 7.00 am to 3.00 pm



the BJP's chowkidar campaign, saying the party leaders were deputing themselves as 'chowkidar' after looting the country for five years.

Regarding the appointment of Lokpal, Trivedi said it was the UPA government which took the initiative

# UK court issues warrant against Nirav Modi

**To be arrested soon: Officials**

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 for his extradition 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 diamantaire.

A British daily had recently published a report and video showing Modi walking in the streets of London and said the fugitive diamantaire 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 charged 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.

# Indian couple's dream shattered after NZ mosque shooting

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

For the Indian couple Abdul Nazer and Ansi Alibava, life in New Zealand was peaceful and promising until Friday's mass shootings at two mosques in Christchurch that shattered their dreams.

Both were both inside the Al Noor mosque in central Christchurch when the first shots were fired by a white supremacist, in one of New Zealand's worst mass shootings that killed 25-year-old Alibava and 49 others.

The couple borrowed some USD 48,000 to move to New Zealand from Kerala last year so that she could do a master's degree in agribusiness management, which she completed just three weeks ago.

Nazer, 34, was working at the local supermarket to help pay the bills.

When Alibava graduated, they hoped she would get a high-paying job and they

would live and work in New Zealand.

Friday's mass shootings at two mosques in central Christchurch changed everything for the couple.

Recounting the horrible attack, Nazer told CNN that he and Alibava were seated separately inside the mosque -- men sat on the left, women on the right.

"Right before the main prayer, I heard a single shot firing and I thought that some kids outside might have popped a balloon," Nazer said.

Seconds later a series of staccato shots from a high-powered weapon sent 300 or so people in the mosque scrambling for the exit.

Nazer said he was close to an emergency door and escaped after someone smashed the glass. Others were not so lucky. "People started falling over me, I saw people with blood on their shirts," he said.

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

Beijing: China on Monday said that it would like to see the easing of tensions between India and Pakistan following the Pulwama terror attack and the issue would figure in the first strategic dialogue between Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Tuesday.

Qureshi who arrived here on Monday is visiting China, days after Beijing for the fourth time blocked a bid in the United Nations Security Council on Wednesday to designate Pakistan-based chief of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) 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 14 Pulwama attack that left 40 CRPF personnel dead and escalated 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 prejudge 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.

Regarding the 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.

Liu on Sunday exuded confidence of resolving the 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," Liu said on the side-lines of an event at the Chinese embassy.

According to reports in the Pakistani media, Qureshi will hold comprehensive discussions on the entire range of bilateral relations, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Both sides will also discuss the regional situation and cooperation at multilateral

PTI

ANCHAL RETAILS PRIVATE LIMITED  
REGD.OFFICE: B-Block, B-6 Near Chhattisgarh College R.S. Park Apartment, Byron Bazar Raipur CT 492001 IN  
CIN: U51101CT2010PTC007774  
Email ID:roc@mrcain

Form No.INC-26

[Pursuant to rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]

BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT NORTH WESTERN REGION  
IN THE MATTER OF SUB-SECTION (4) OF SECTION 13 OF COMPANIES ACT, 2013 AND CLAUSE (A) OF SUB-RULE (5) OF RULE 30 OF THE COMPANIES (INCORPORATION) RULES, 2014

AND

IN THE MATTER OF ANCHAL RETAILS PRIVATE LIMITED HAVING ITS REGISTERED OFFICE AT B- BLOCK, B-6, NEAR CHHATTISGARH COLLEGE, R.S. PARK APARTMENT, BYRON BAZAR, RAIPUR CT 492001 IN - Petitioner Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary General Meeting held on 18 February, 2019 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from "State of Chhattisgarh" to "State of Madhya Pradesh".

The daily said while India has been "thirsting for revenge" in the post-Pulwama period, its efforts to blacklist the Jaish and its chief are not altogether altruistic.

The paper said despite India's efforts to portray Pakistan as a hub of jihad activity, there should be no hesitation on Pakistan's part. Neither should China use 'technical reasons' to block such a move," the daily said.

China for the fourth time blocked a bid in the United Nations (UN) Security Council last week to designate the Pakistan-based chief of Jaish-e-Mohammed as a "global terrorist" by putting a technical hold on the proposal, a move India termed as disappointing.

"That outlook is hopefully a thing of the past now, as the prime minister (Imran Khan) has promised that no groups will be allowed to use Pakistani territory for militant activities.

"He must make good on that pledge. This is the only way Pakistan will regain the respect of the international community.

"That outlook is hopefully a thing of the past now, as the prime minister (Imran Khan) has promised that no groups will be allowed to use Pakistani territory for militant activities.

"Most of the terror groups have been banned but much more is required to ensure that they are eliminated

# Pak, China should not create hurdles in designating Azhar as terrorist: Pak daily

PTI ■ LAHORE

**The Dawn newspaper in an editorial said that there are no "good" or "bad" militants groups**

ed and never come back to life.

If the world wants to blacklist Masood Azhar, there should be no hesitation on Pakistan's part. Neither should China use 'technical reasons' to block such a move," the daily said.

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blocked a bid in the United Nations (UN) Security Council last week to designate the Pakistan-based chief of Jaish-e-Mohammed as a "global terrorist" by putting a technical hold on the proposal, a move India termed as disappointing.

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The proposal to designate Azhar under the 1267 al Qaeda

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The proposal to designate Azhar under the 1267 al Qaeda

Pakistan and China should not create hurdles in designating Azhar as terrorist: Pak daily

PTI ■ LAHORE

Pakistan and China should not create hurdles in designating Azhar as a global terrorist, a leading Pakistani daily said Monday, emphasising the need to crack-down hard on terror groups in the country as it will help Islamabad regain the respect of the international community.

Swaraj and her Maldivian counterpart Shahid during their meeting on Sunday discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations since his visit to India in December 2018.

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.

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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 Amer and other ministers.

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# May in last-minute push to win Brexit support

AP ■ LONDON

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



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

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

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

If it isn't, she will have to seek a longer extension that

would mean Britain participating in May 23-26 elections for the European Parliament — something the government is keen to avoid.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# China's air prowess on Pak Day

PTI ■ BEIJING

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

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

Contingents from countries including China, Saudi Arabia and Turkey will participate in the parade, with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad being the guest of honour, the report said.

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

## PAKISTAN'S NATIONAL DAY PARADE

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

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

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

The Pakistan Air Force also operates the ZDK-03 early

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

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

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

## GLOBE TROTTING

### 6 KILLED IN POLL VIOLENCE IN B'DESH

Dhaka: Six people, including a presiding officer, were shot dead on Monday by unidentified gunmen in Bangladesh's southeastern hills on the second phase of a nationwide sub-district polls, police said.

Eight others, including some policemen, were injured in the shootings at Baghaichhari sub-district headquarters in Rangamati district.

### DR CONGO TRAIN DERAILMENT KILLS 24

Kinshasa: At least 24 people were killed and 31 injured when a freight train carrying

stowaways derailed in the Democratic Republic of Congo, police and medical services said. The accident occurred Sunday in Kasai province, in the centre-west of the central African country.

"We have retrieved 24 bodies, mostly children. It is a provisional toll because the wagons are still overturned," a railway police official in Beni Leka, 140 kilometres (90 miles) north of Kananga, one of the main towns in Kasai, told AFP.

### 21 DEAD AS GUNMEN STORM MALI ARMY CAMP

Bamako: Suspected jihadis have killed 21 Malian soldiers in a raid on an army camp in central Mali, military sources said, after a dawn attack that the armed forces believe was led by a deserter.

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

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

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

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

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

## Aus police raid properties linked to New Zealand terror suspect

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

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

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

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

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

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

"Around 8.30 this morning

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

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

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

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

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED FEMALE

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



**Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5'3", **Face:** Round, **Clothing:** Golden coloured suit, black coloured salwar and sandal in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped female, may inform SHO, Ranholi, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Tele No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/- FAX No.: 011-24368639 SHO, Ranholi, Delhi DP/2007/OD/19 Tel.: 011-28363001, 28363002, 28363003

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

PTI ■ MALE

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

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

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

She held talks with President Solih, Foreign Minister Mariya Ahmed Didi, Finance Minister Ibrahim Ameen and other ministers.

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

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 Ameen and other ministers.

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

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

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

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

## Gunman kills three on Dutch tram, mayor says terror likely

AP ■ UTRECHT

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

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

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

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

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

The Utrecht attack came three days after 50 people were

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Sagar** S/o Pritam Singh R/o Y-142, Mangol Puri, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed ) the offence in case FIR No.

180/18, u/s 379/411/34 IPC at P.S. Mangol Puri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said **Sagar** could not be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Sagar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sagar** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 01.08.2019.

By Order

Sh. Rakesh Kumar-II  
Metropolitan Magistrate (North-West)  
(Court Notice) Room No. 105, 1st floor, Rohini Courts, Delhi

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified body of a male namely

**Unknown** (Nickname: Apple @ Mithun), S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, was found 10.03.2019 at 03.00 PM on Community Center, Behind Janak Cinema, Janak Puri, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 46-A,

dated 10.03.2019 has been lodged at Police Station, Janakpuri, New Delhi. Dead Body has been preserved 72 Hrs. at mortuary, DDU Hospital, Hari Nagar, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: **Unknown**, Age: 30-35 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Normal, Wearing: Blue Jeans, Full Black T-Shirt and Black Shoes.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be informed undersigned.

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

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If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be informed undersigned.

### Police Station, Janakpuri, New Delhi

DP/8163/WD/19 Ph.: 011-25551410, 8750871129

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unknown dead body was found at under hanuman Setu, Yamuna Bazaar, Kashmiri Gate, Delhi, dated 05.03.2019. In this regard a DD No. 52-A dated 05.03.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Kashmiri Gate, Delhi.

The Description of the dead body is given as under: Name: **Unknown**, S/o: **Unknown**, Sex: Male, Age: 40 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Grey Colour T-Shirt, Grey Jacket, Blue Jeans Pant and Bare Footed.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local Police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone having any information about this dead person, please inform undersigned.

SHO P.S. Kashmiri Gate, Delhi

DP/9772/N/19 Ph: 011-23968730, 08750870123

## Death of an icon

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



Usually when a high-profile politician passes away, particularly in these times of over-sharing on social media, some people tend to reflect on the negative aspects of the person in assessing his legacy. Even if everyone might not share these anecdotes publicly, often gossip and innuendo make it to private conversations, particularly among reporters, who tailed that politician as part of their jobs. Manohar Parrikar, however, was not that kind of politician. Every correspondent, who spoke with him during his brief tenure as Defence Minister as well as the corps of journalists in Goa, mourned the man with nary a bad word to say. Because there really was nothing negative to say about Parrikar, who was a committed nationalist and a concerned Goan, who genuinely joined politics to make a difference instead of enjoying the trappings of power. There is no doubt that he was born to a certain level of privilege, being a Goud Saraswat Brahmin, and further cracked the hyper-competitive Joint Entrance Examination to join the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. But once he dedicated his life to politics, he became a model politician. He still used his Scooty, eschewing official transportation, travelled economy class and remained approachable and affable. Most importantly, he did use the media to build himself up as a man of the common people because he truly was an *aam aadmi*.

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

## Sending it underground

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



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

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

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

# opinion

## 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 ministerial 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.

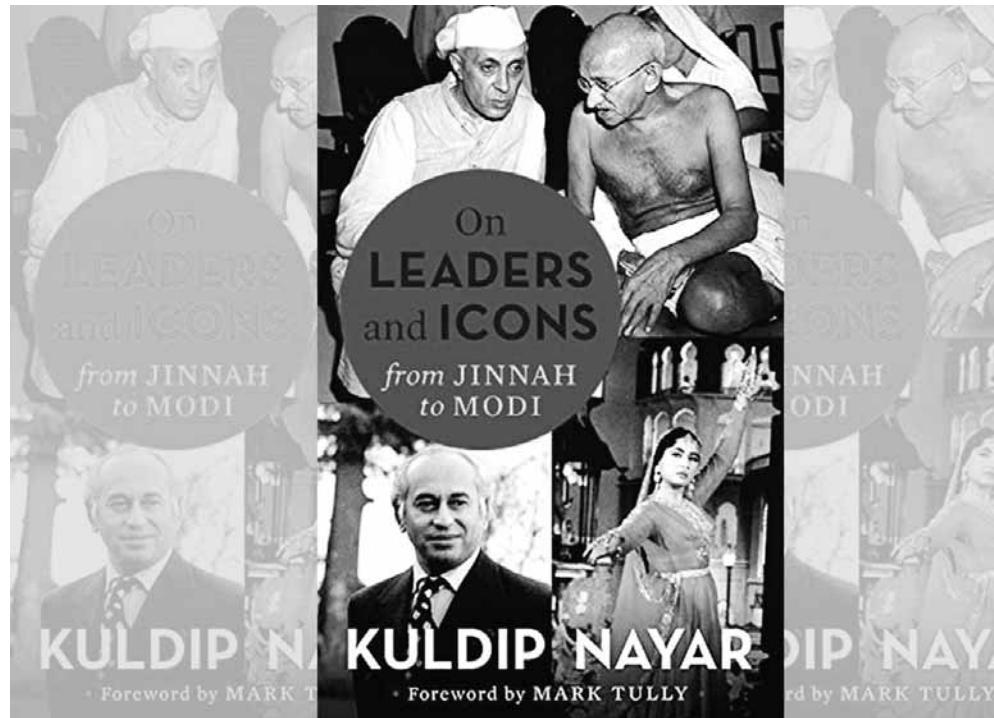
This is hardly news for most Indians. What is startling is the revelation that when former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru suffered a stroke in January 1964, Indira Gandhi ruled the country in the name of her ailing father. Lal Bahadur Shastri, as Minister without portfolio, "began quietly dealing with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



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

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

ty bite 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)

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

Congress general secretary  
—Priyanka Gandhi



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

Actor-supermodel  
—Cara Delevingne



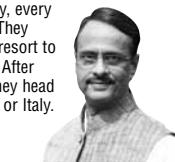
I am sure this matter (listing of Azhar by the UN) will be resolved. This is only a technical hold and can be resolved through consultation.

Chinese Envoy  
—Luo Zhaohui



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

Senior BJP leader  
—Dinesh Sharma



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Bad air woes

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

Najmul Huda

Mumbai

### Revisit travel norms

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

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

SC Agrawal

New Delhi

### Further reforms

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

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



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 "Mau-mahan." Terrorism of every stripe, in every nation, must be collectively rejected using the same language of unequivocal condemnation.

Meghna A  
New South Wales

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 (PSUs) 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 is simply the need of the 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)



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, 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# analysis

07

## POINT COUNTER POINT

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



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 test 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 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 deserved such treatment for India alone as Iran and Afghanistan have also found to their cost. Therefore, in the present instance, to have expected Pakistan to behave any differently was sheer fantasy, especially given that the military uses proxy war to retain its pre-eminent role within the country and the region.

The sad truth is that its very foundation was built on the British construct — that it was religious antagonism and not its requirement for a pliable state that would help protect its interests in the region — which resulted in the horrors of partition. The formation of Bangladesh 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 shamelessly 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 (NNU) in the Supreme Court using all manner of lies. That the NNU 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)



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)

# 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, 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 textile industries, contribute to the polluting load. Its elimination

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

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

# 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

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

— CONG

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 Samarpalan 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 set 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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 run up some support by confusing nationalist and communal ideas but permanently the fight will remain between Left ideology and the one preached by Mamata Banerjee."

## AIADMK re-nominates just six of its 37 MPs

KUMAR CHELAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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 Raveendranath Kumar (son of deputy chief minister O Panneerselvam), Manoj Pandian (son of former Speaker Paul Pandian) and VVR Rajan Sathyam (son of Madirai MLA Rajan Chellappa) who will contest from Theni and Madurai respectively. J Jayalalitha, 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 KPM Unusamy and Agri SS Krishnamurthy to take on the

challenge posed by the breakaway AMMK faction.

While the AMMK is sure to erode the strength of AIADMK in some of the 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

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 Gorakhpur, 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 3554 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, 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 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

## Jawan martyred in LoC crossfire



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

## 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

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".

Ahmad Lone from his home in Dogripura 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 in 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

PTI

## Parrikar cremated with state honours

IANS ■ 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 cortège 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.

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 at 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 Bandodkar, who was also cremated there.

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

## Cabinet: Goa CM will be remembered for simplicity

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

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

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

PTI ■ PANAJI

## When Manohar Parrikar helped shooter Tejaswini take aim

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

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

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

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

shooter recalled while talking to PTI over phone.

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

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

The boost further helped her in improving her performance game by game, and she subsequently became the first Indian woman shooter to win a gold medal at the World Championships, with a world-record equaling 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

### PEOPLE THRONG PANAJI STREETS TO PAY LAST RESPECT TO PARRIKAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

## 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 "Reviti" after it capsized in the Arabian Sea off the Worli Seaface in south-Central Mumbai on Monday.

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

"Reviti" 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 "Reviti", the authorities diverted the Indian Coast Guard Ship Amartya, a fast patrol vessel on surveillance mission, to undertake search and rescue mission.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that Ashwani Kumar Jaiswal residing at Hno. 1010 Sector 14 Gurgaon Haryana has lost / misplaced his share certificate no. 100032 distinctives nos. 5807401 to 5807800 for 400 no. Equity shares of face value Re. 5/- paid up upto folio no. A00026, registered in the name of Ashwani Kumar Jaiswal & in the books of a/c castellou Itc having registered office at gate no. 1426, Vill Shikarpur, Taluk Shirdi, Puna Di Maharashtra-412208 and applying the company for issue of duplicate share certificate. Any person having claim / objection can write to the company within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice else the company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificates in my/our favour.  
Date : 03.03.2019, Place : Gurgaon

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

Raman Chhatwal (Advocate)

Ch. No-G-623, Karkardooma Court, Delhi

SD/-  
Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

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

DP/2018/OD/19

PTI

## 6 sailors rescued from capsized tug off Mumbai coast



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

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

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

Ramesh J Keni (55), Dilip Yadav (29), both from Mumbai, Shanu Kumar (19), from Mumbai and Salem Siddiqui

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

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

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

By Order: Ms. Sonam Gupta,

Mahila Court-02 (West Distt.) Room No. 158,

1st Floor, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/2018/OD/19

### SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Poonam W/o Santosh Kumar, R/o H.No. 17/22, Nathan Vihar, Ranholi, Delhi**, Age : 20 yrs., Height : 5'1", Face : Long, Complexion : Shallow, ID Mark : A Mole on Left Side of Shoulder, Wearing : Purple Suit, Red Pajama, Yellow Sweater and Black Chappal in Feet, has been missing / kidnapped since 28.02.2019 alongwith her son Namely : **Krishana**, Age : 01 yrs. 6 months, Height : 2', Face : Round, Complexion : Shallow, Wearing : Red Shirt-Pant and White Shoes in Feet. In this regard a case DD. No. 60-A dated 28.02.2019 has been lodged at PS. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped female but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing / kidnapped female please inform undersigned Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in), Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO

PS. Nihal Vihar, Delhi

Ph.: 011-25946700, 25946710

# Jet Airways grounds four more planes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Naresh Goyal writes to staff, assures early resolution**

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Indian rupee continues advancing for the sixth day in

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

Meanwhile, the Financial Benchmark India Private Ltd (FBIL) set the reference rate for the rupee/dollar at 68.6088 and for rupee/euro at 77.7827.

The reference rate for rupee/British pound was fixed at 91.1184 and for rupee/100 Japanese yen at 61.50.

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

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

## Sensex, Nifty end higher for 6th straight session

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

The 30-share benchmark advanced to hit a high of 38,369.59 as buying activity gathered momentum. However, investors locked in gains pushing the key index into the negative zone to hit a low of 37,952.10 before bouncing back to end 70.55 points, or 0.19 per cent, higher at 38,095.75.

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, "What are we 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 reality 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, teck and healthcare indices ended lower by up to 1.36 per cent.

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Billionaire Anil Ambani has thanked his brother Mukesh and his wife Nita for extending "timely support" after his debt-laden firm Reliance Communication cleared payments due to a service provider just a day before expiry of deadline set by the Supreme Court.



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

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

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

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

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

## Govt cautions against fraudulent websites for KUSUM scheme registration

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

The scheme consists of three components — 10,000 MW of decentralised ground-mounted grid connected renewable power plants, installation of 17.50 lakh standalone solar powered agriculture pumps, and solarisation of 10 lakh grid-connected solar powered agriculture pumps.

## RBI panel on MSME seeks public views on various aspects

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

## FARMERS HONOURED AT MAHINDRA SAMRIDDHI INDIA AGRI AWARDS 2019

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



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

The description of missing/kidnapped lady is as under : Name : Kunti, Father's Name : Ishwar, Age : 32 years, Height : 5'2", Face : Long, Complexion : Wheatish, Wearing : Orange Colour Suit & Salwar and White Chappal in feet.

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

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



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

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

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

SHO  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
e-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph. No.: 011-27854757,27854799  
Tel. No.: 011-24368638,24368641  
Mob. No.: 7065036326  
DP/109/ON/19  
Fax No.: 011-24368639



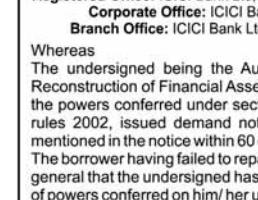
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Any person is having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO  
P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi  
e-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph. No.: 011-27854757,27854799  
Mob. No.: 7065036326  
DP/112/ON/19  
Fax No.: 011-24368639

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His physical description is as under:- Sex: Male, Age: 37 years, Height: 5'5" ft., Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Blue Check

# ANDREESCU TOPPLES KERBER

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

AFP ■ INDIAN WELLS

**C**anadian sensation Bianca Andreescu became the first wild card 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

**D**ominic 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."

## PRAJNESH RISES TO CAREER-HIGH 84

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

**T**he breakthrough run at the Indian Wells has propelled India's Prajnesh Gunnswaran 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 player of the country after Rohan Bopanna

(36,+2) and Divij Sharan (41,-1). Purav Raja (80, -1) and veteran Leander Paes (94,+2) complete the top-five.

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

**I**ndian 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 Championships 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

**W**orld No 24 HS 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 troika 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 Chalha.

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 Bhalé, 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 Mithila 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

**A**fghanistan 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

## 'NO COMPLACENCY ON WC SECURITY'

AFP ■ KARACHI

**T**he 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.

## 'There can't be conditional bans'

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

**F**ormer 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".

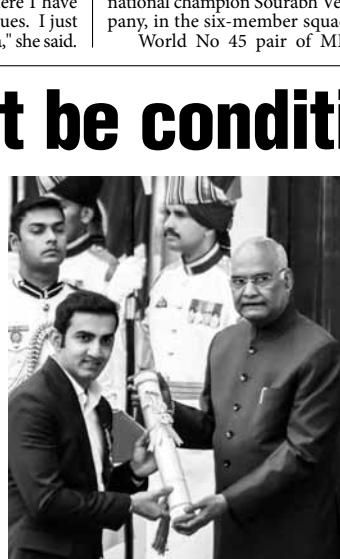
Gambhir, who called for snapping ties with Pakistan after the Pulwama terror attack, said the Indian Board has to decide and be prepared for the consequences.

"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 terror emanates in a veiled reference to Pakistan.



Gautam Gambhir receives Padma Shri award from President Ram Nath Kovind PTI

"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 Javans 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 discussions on hosting of major events in India and told other international federations to halt interactions with the country.

# 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

**E**n 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 Villamarín, 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.



## PSG continue routine romp

AFP ■ PARIS

**A**ngel 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's 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

**B**ernardo 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 flashback as Pep Guardiola's side overcome a two-goal deficit to beat Swansea City 3-2 in their FA Cup quarter-final on Saturday.

Not only did Silva score City's first goal at Swansea's Liberty Stadium but he also set up Sergio Aguero'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're 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

**A**n 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.

Matias Vecino scored after just three minutes for Inter, days after his team's Europa League exit, with Stefan de Vrij adding the second on 51 minutes, to give Inter a two-goal advantage.

For Milan, Tiemoue Bakayoko headed in after 57 minutes with Mateo Musacchio reacting quickly to finish off a rebound (71), just after Lautaro Martinez slotted in the third from the penalty spot for Inter.

"We've found the young striker who can put things right for us," Spalletti said of Martinez.

Inter keeper Samir Handanovic cleared a late Samuel Castillejo header with Cutrone only 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.

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

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

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

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

"I am happy we did it because



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

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

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

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 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."

## James' night in Munich

AFP ■ MUNICH

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

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

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

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

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

Canadian wunderkind Alfonso 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

**U**efa 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.