

**WORLD 5**  
RESPECT DEAL OR WILL  
ESCALATE OP, WARNS ERDOGAN**OPINION 6**  
WHY CONG  
OWES AN ANSWER**MONEY 10**  
RIL BECOMES FIRST COMPANY  
TO HIT '9L CR M-CAP MARK

RAIPUR, SATURDAY OCTOBER 19, 2019; PAGES 12 ₹3



# the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com


**DELHI TO FACE  
BENGAL FOR  
PKL-7 TROPHY**  
11 SPORT
**CAPSULE****CJI NAMES JUSTICE SA BOBDE AS SUCCESSOR**

**New Delhi:** Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi on Friday sent a letter to the Centre recommending Justice SA Bobde, who is next in seniority, as his successor.

**MODI HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF ECONOMY, SAYS RAHUL**

**Mahendragarh:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying he has no understanding of the economy, and claimed that the world is mocking India due to the BJP's politics of pitting people against each other.

**DELHI'S AIR QUALITY 'VERY POOR' AGAIN**

**New Delhi:** The national capital's air quality slipped into the "very poor" category on Friday morning, and was expected to decline sharply over the weekend owing to changing weather and "significant" stubble burning.

**CHIEF OF UP POL PARTY FOUND MURDERED**

**Lucknow:** The president of a little known Hindu Samaj Party was found murdered at his home in the congested Naka Hindola area of the city here, police said on Friday. Kamlesh Tiwari (45) was earlier associated with a faction of the Hindu Mahasabha, they said.

**SLEEPER CELLS ACTIVE IN B'LURU, MYSURU: MIN**

**Bangalore:** Karnataka Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai said on Friday some terrorist sleeper cells were active in Bengaluru and Mysuru and their activities have intensified in coastal Karnataka as well as the Bay of Bengal.

## SC shifts Assam NRC chief to MP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an unprecedented order of its type, the Supreme Court on Friday directed the Centre and the Assam Government to immediately transfer the State's National Register of Citizens (NRC) Coordinator Prateek Hajela to Madhya Pradesh for the maximum period possible. Hajela has been facing threats and criticism from several quarters for exclusion of names from the updated NRC list.

A native of Madhya Pradesh and a 1995 batch IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre with B.Tech in Electronics from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, Hajela was appointed the NRC coordinator by the top court to oversee the mammoth and sensitive exercise of finalising and publication of Assam NRC data.

A special Bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and justices SA Bobde and RF Nariman ordered the inter-cadre transfer of Hajela on deputation to his native State for maximum possible period. Attorney General KK Venugopal, appearing for the Centre, sought to know the reason behind the unprecedented order of the top court, to which the CJI responded, "can any order be passed without a cause or reason". The Bench, however, did not spec-



NRC Coordinator Prateek Hajela

ify the cause or the reason for passing the order, leading to speculation that the officer might be apprehending some kind of threat.

Two FIRs were filed last month against Hajela for "discrepancies" in the final updated NRC list. A lawyer and indigenous Muslim students' organisation — All Assam Goriya-Moriya Yuva Chatra Parishad (AAGMYCP) — filed separate FIRs against Hajela in Dibrugarh and Guwahati.

Chandan Mazumdar, whose name does not figure in the final NRC list, filed the complaint against Hajela at Dibrugarh police station. Mazumdar alleged that he had submitted all documents, but his name was not included in the updated NRC due to "inefficiency and criminal conspiracy of employees".

The FIR held Hajela responsible for "discrepancies", as he was tasked with supervising the NRC updation exer-

**Court provides no reason; order comes against backdrop of life threat to Hajela**

- Hajela had overseen the mammoth exercise of finalisation and publication of Assam NRC
- No report sought from Assam Police about threat to Hajela, says IGP
- Prateek Hajela, a native of Madhya Pradesh, is a 1995-batch IAS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre with B.Tech in Electronics from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

cise in Assam.

Another complaint was lodged against the NRC coordinator at Guwahati's Latacil police station by the AAGMY-CP, claiming "deliberate" anomalies in the final list. "The names of many indigenous people were excluded from the list, and it was done deliberately by the NRC State Coordinator," the FIR filed by the students organisation said.

Meanwhile, IG (Special Branch) Hiren Nath said no report was sought from Assam police about threat to Hajela.

"Reports about threat perception to Hajela have not been sought from us. There have been, however, criticism against Hajela in the social media. Various organisations in Assam are vocal on the NRC with many speaking against the NRC and the State Coordinator," he said.

## FATF warns Pak: Stop terror funding or else...

**Pak granted Feb deadline to fulfil remaining 22 of 27 tasks to avert blacklisting**

PTI ■ PARIS

Putting Pakistan on notice, the international terror financing watchdog FATF on Friday warned it will be black-listed if it does not control terror funding by February next, voicing serious concern over that country's failure to deliver on most of its 27 targets.

The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) gave the warning to Pakistan at its five-day plenary which concluded here on Friday while deciding to again put the country on the "Grey List". By making this decision on Pakistan public, the FATF has given notice to the global financial institutions that they need to prepare to red flag the jurisdiction and ready their systems in February 2020 if the country falters in meeting the targets.

"It was again decided by consensus that FATF would retain Pakistan on the Grey List and warn Pakistan that if it did not complete its full Action Plan and show significant and sustainable progress action will



FATF President Xiangmin Liu, left, and Executive Secretary David Lewis talk to each other after a media conference at the OECD headquarters in Paris on Friday

be taken," said an official privy to the development said.

Since Pakistan continues to be in the FATF "Grey List", it would be very difficult for the country to get financial aid from the IMF, the World Bank, ADB and the European Union. There is also the risk of reduction in rating by Moody's, S&P and Fitch, making Pakistan's financial condition more precarious.

According to a FATF statement, the FATF plenary noted that Pakistan addressed only five out of the 27 tasks given to it in controlling funding to terror groups like the Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Hizbul Mujahideen, responsible for a series of attacks in India.

The FATF said it strongly urges Pakistan to swiftly com-

plete its full action plan by February 2020.

"Otherwise, should significant and sustainable progress not be made across the full range of its action plan by the next plenary, the FATF will take action, which could include the FATF calling on its members and urging all jurisdictions to advise their Financial Institutions to give special attention to business relations and transactions with Pakistan," the global body said in the statement.

Such action could include calling upon global financial institutions to give special attention to business relations and transactions with Pakistan. This language is the same as used for Iran, which is already in the blacklist category.

## Sonia gives Haryana rally a miss, Rahul called in to fill void

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an embarrassment for the Congress, two days before the crucial Assembly elections in Haryana, party chief Sonia Gandhi cancelled her only poll rally scheduled for Friday in Mahendragarh.

Partymen had prepared round the clock to make the rally a huge success and expected that Sonia will use the occasion to counter the high-pitched campaign by BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

This was scheduled to be Sonia's first public appearance after taking as interim president from her son Rahul Gandhi post the Lok Sabha debacle. In her place, Rahul Gandhi addressed the rally.

"She has a viral infection, so she asked me to meet you and talk to you. I will come even at the last second on your call," Rahul Gandhi said at the rally.

The news of Sonia's can-



celling her programme came through a social media message from Haryana Congress.

"@RahulGandhi ji will be addressing a public meeting at Mahendragarh today, at 2 PM. @INCIndia president Sonia Gandhi ji will not be able to attend the meeting due to unavoidable reasons," the Haryana Congress said.

Rahul Gandhi has already held rallies for the October 21 Assembly polls in Maharashtra and Haryana and it was his second rally in Haryana.

## Sainik schools to open doors for girls after Rajnath's nod

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major initiative to empower girls, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has given the nod for their admission into Sainik schools all over the country. So far, only boys were allowed to study in these schools. There are 31 such schools. The project to have such schools to serve as nursery for grooming future Service personnel was started in 1961.

Giving details of the new endeavour here on Friday, Defence Ministry officials said the Minister approved the admission of girls from academic session 2021-22 in a phased manner. The decision is in line with strengthening the motto of "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" propagated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The decision has been taken following the success of the pilot project started by the Ministry of Defence for admission of girl children in Sainik School Chhingchhip in Mizoram two years ago," the Ministry said in a statement.



Officials also said Singh has directed authorities to ensure availability of necessary infrastructure and sufficient female staff in Sainik schools for smooth implementation of the directive. Moreover, the decision is in line with the objective of the Government towards greater inclusiveness, gender equality and enabling greater participation of women in armed forces.

Most of the Sainik schools are residential and run by the Defence Ministry except in Lucknow which is administered and funded by the UP Government.

## CBI chargesheets PC, Karti, former Secy for conspiracy, cheating in INX media case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Friday filed a chargesheet in the INX Media corruption case, naming 14 individuals and entities, including former Finance Minister P Chidambaram, his son Karti, and then additional secretary in Department of Economic Affairs Sindhusree Khullar.

They have been charged with committing offences under various IPC sections relating to criminal conspiracy and cheating and also under the Prevention of Corruption Act for causing loss to the exchequer.

Then Director in the Foreign Investment Promotion Board Prabodh Saxena, then Joint Secretary and Undersecretary in the Department of Economic Affairs Anup K Pujari and R Prasad respectively have also been chargesheeted. CBI officials said. All the chargesheeted persons have been accused of involvement in the criminal



conspiracy for irregular clearance of FDI to INX to the tune of ₹307 crore.

Two companies allegedly controlled by Karti — Singapore unit Advantage Strategic Consultancy Private Limited and Chess Management Services Private Limited — have also been named in the chargesheet.

These companies are alleged to have laundered the bribe money. Then INX promoters Peter Mukherjee and his then wife Indrani allegedly transferred money to these companies for alleged favours in the irregular approval of the FDI.

## Zoo director shunted out, day after drama in lion's enclosure

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after the Delhi Zoo (National Zoological Park) witnessed a high drama when a man jumped inside the enclosure of a lion but was saved unhurt, the Union Environment Ministry removed zoo's director Renu Singh, an IFS officer, who was holding the post since 2017.

Renu Singh, a UP cadre officer, has joined the Ministry as Deputy Inspector General of Forest (DIGF), a post held by Suneesh Buxy, who has been given the additional charge of the National Zoological Park (NZP) till the appointment of the new director.

The NZP has been in the news for quite some time for illegal procurement of animals, mismanagement, and violation of the rights of the zoo inmates. Faced with widespread criticism, the Ministry on September 16, 2019 handed over the control of the NZP to the Central Zoo Authority



Rehan Khan, who jumped inside the enclosure of a lion in Delhi Zoo on Thursday

(CZA), a statutory body formed under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972. Till then, the Ministry had been directly overseeing the zoo's administration.

Justifying the move, a senior Environment Ministry official said transfer was aimed at streamlining the functioning of the Delhi Zoo.

## Snatchers have free run! Secy to Delhi Speaker latest victim

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Mobile snatchers are having a field day in Delhi. After mugging Prime Minister Narendra Modi's niece Damayanti Ben Modi in North Delhi's Civil Lines area earlier this month, bike-borne snatchers targeted Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goei's secretary Ajay Rawal and a senior Indian Air Force official on Thursday.

According to police, while Rawal's i-Phone 6 was wrenched from his grasp by three bike-borne men when he was walking to a market near his home in outer Delhi's Paschim Vihar in the evening, the IAF senior official's mobile was snatched at Connaught Place in highly secured New Delhi district in the morning on the same day.

"I left my home around 7 pm to go to GH-13 block market in Paschim Vihar. I was walking near Kendriya Vidyalaya when the three men came on a bike. I was talking to someone on the phone when one of the pillar riders snatched the phone from my hand and fled on bike," Rawal, 42, who lives with his family in Ambika Vihar in Paschim Vihar, said in his complaint.

"A case under section 356/379/34 of IPC has been registered at Paschim Vihar police station. Police teams are scanning CCTV footage in the area to identify and nab the snatchers," said a police official.

In the 51-year-old senior IAF official case, police said they received a complaint from the victim identified as G Thomas, who stated that he

was cycling in Connaught Place in the morning when two bike-borne people, in their 20s, snatched his pouch containing a One Plus 6 phone and ₹200.

"The miscreants then sped off. The IAF officer was near Baba Kharak Singh Marg at the time of incident. A case has been registered and police teams are analysing CCTV footage to nab the accused," said the senior police official.

Earlier this week on Monday, two bike-borne men snatched the mobile phone of a metropolitan magistrate in North Delhi's Kamla Nagar while he was talking on his phone in front of his house. On September 22, a woman journalist was injured after she attempted to resist a snatching bid in South Delhi's CR Park while she was returning home in an auto-rickshaw.



BY KUSHAN MITRA

For those of you who have seen the new ₹100 note, you would have noticed that there is a stepwell featured on it. Stepwells are a common feature across many parts of western India and were commonly used by Rajput kings and their predecessors in the earliest example of rainwater harvesting. Many of them have fallen into disrepair and disuse though they were all ornate at one time. Many, because they were often associated with religion, were destroyed when invading armies came into the region. But not the stepwell we see on the ₹100 note. The Rani Ki Vav

## Ride with long-lost treasures



#StatueOfUnity | #IncredibleIndia | @HyundaiIndia | @soundia

at Patan, Gujarat, survived thanks to it being covered in sand and mud.

Whether that was a deliberate act to protect it from armies that raided the prosperous traders of Gujarat is unknown, but it survived. It was

not affected by the large-scale loot of antiquities by colonial powers thanks to it being lost in time and it was not "discovered" until after Independence and excavated in 1958.

We might criticise the Archeological Survey of India

**India's westernmost State might be famous for its businessmen but it has some of the most significant historical sites in the country**

(ASI) for several things, including the large-scale "disappearance" of historical monuments in a city like New Delhi but it must be complimented for the astounding work it has done in restoring the Rani Ki Vav, which is a major reason that UNESCO made it a world heritage site. However, if there is any criticism of the ASI, it is that there can be much more information on the importance of the gods and goddesses of the Hindu pantheon, who have been painstakingly carved in three-dimensional ways into the stone. This site is a tremendous validation of the skills of craftsmen from Gujarat.

There is also the spectacu-

lar Surya Mandir in Modhera an hour from Patan, with its 12 carved "adityas" or manifestations inside, which is a must-visit. Both the well and the temple were built during the rule of Bhima I, the founder of the great Solanki dynasty, the well being built by his consort, Queen Udaymati. These sites, just a couple of hours from Ahmedabad, are a reminder of not only the great wealth of this part of the nation, which is as true now as it was then, but also the skill and patience of the rulers and the people.

It is a crying shame that there are fewer and fewer people taking up some of these intricate crafts.

The Patola saris of Patan for example, with geometrical designs inspired by patterns on the vav, and the "double-ikat" method, requiring an understanding of complex mathematics, used to be made by 200 families.

# Defence export to touch ₹35K-cr mark: Army chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the Government giving a determined push to 'Make in India' in the defence sector to achieve indigenisation, Army Chief General Bipin Rawat on Friday said attempts are on to further "lower bureaucratic barriers" and simplify procedures to promote domestic defence manufacturing. He also said the Government is reducing processes and focusing resolutely on the outcome of these processes.

Reiterating what Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said a few days ago, the Army chief said exports of Indian weapon systems will touch the ₹35,000-crore mark by 2024 from the ₹11,000 crore annually at present.

The energy and enterprise of 'Make in India' will be spanned further in defence corridors being set up with a "bouquet of advantages we offer in the form of land clearances and tax concession. The initiative will fundamentally transform the defence landscape in our country," Rawat said. He also urged to the defence industry to provide solutions for the armed forces.

In the last few years, numerous initiatives have been taken and various schemes launched to energise the defence sector in India, so we remain deeply committed to the ethos of indigenisation, Rawat said.

"We are manufacturing weapons and ammunition not just to arm our defence forces but now we are gradually becoming an export oriented industry. Our defence exports currently range just about ₹11,000 crore annually are set to grow to ₹35,000 crore by 2024," he said while addressing the 4th Defence Attaches conclave jointly organised by the Defence Ministry and news



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is received by Chief of the Army Staff General Bipin Rawat at the Army Commanders' Conference in New Delhi on Friday PTI

portal Bharat Shakti. The theme of the event was 'Enhancing Defence Capabilities through Cooperation'.

Newly-formed IDEEA (Indigenous Defence Equipment Exporters Association) was also launched on the occasion.

Talking of Def Expo 2020 to be held in Lucknow, Rawat said several new technologies will be on display and added, "We will be coming forward to certify some of the equipment on display."

Speaking at the conclave, Vice Chief of Army Lt General MM Naravane said Indian officers posted as Defence Attaches abroad "have been tasked to interact and advertise with host countries of the Indian equipment available."

Addressing the conclave, Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh spoke of the foreign cooperation initiatives which include capacity building, training, exchanges and joint exercises. "India is hosting a

large multilateral exercise MILAN 2020 at Visakhapatnam and we have invited 41 countries," he stated.

All patents developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) numbering over 1,700 are now available for use by the Indian industry, said Dr. Sateesh Reddy, Chairman DRDO. He added that the Defence Ministry has just unveiled a policy under which all technologies will be available free of cost for use by the Indian industry.

Rawat also said India is committed to peace and stability in the neighbourhood as also in the "wider region" and the Army will continue to partner with friends to "confront any kind of emerging threats."

The Navy chief cited maritime threats such as piracy, which, he said, has "transnational" ramifications. He pitched for having greater maritime cooperation and leveraging "collective military competency" of the world.

# Ultrasound machine notified under Drugs and Cosmetics Act

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

From November 1, next year, import, manufacture and sale of the ultrasound machines will be allowed only under the legal ambit of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

The Union Health Ministry has issued a notification in this regard on Thursday according to which the device intended for external or internal use in human beings has been categorised as drug with effect from November 1, 2020.

The step aims to regulate the import, manufacture and sale of the devices to stem the drastic decline in India's sex ratio, as per the Ministry. The move followed recommendation from the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), the Government's chief advisory body on drugs.

According to an official from the Ministry, from November next year, the Central Drugs Standard

Control Organization (CDSCO), the national regulatory body for Indian pharmaceuticals and medical devices, will become the approving authority for import, manufacture and sale of ultrasound machines. The companies will also have to apply for permission from the Drug Controller General of India, who is responsible for approval of licences, before the scanners are sold in India.

The health ministry feels that the move is crucial to save the girl child as it will check misuse of such techniques for sex selection after conception. Imported machines have flooded the market, in the absence of any regulatory check, they cannot be tracked. The Pre Conception and Pre Natal Diagnostic



Techniques (PC-PNDT) Act, 1994 currently regulates the sale of ultrasound machines only to entities registered under the law. However, the Ministry

was not finding the existing rules sufficient to deter the medical professionals and the user, to avoid ultrasound to determine the sex of the foetus. Mainly because of its easy availability on online as well.

Under the Medical Device Rules (MDR) and the D&C Act the government will regulate additionally the quality import and manufacturing of the equipment, he said.

While welcoming the move, Rajiv Nath, Forum Coordinator of the AiMeD, an umbrella association of Indian

Manufacturers of Medical Devices covering all types of medical devices including consumables, disposables, however was not happy at the

Government's pick and choose policy."

He said that the manufacturers have been confused with informally and arbitrary choosing of products and notifying them as drugs. "At AiMeD we welcome regulations but not of these kinds. Our members seek a predictable and comprehensive regulatory framework that allows for adequate transition and is predictable. Only then will investments speed up as manufacturers get discouraged to be regulated as Drugs, item by item and not as a category," said Rajiv Nath.

The move is also not in keeping with the Health Ministry- DTAB Roadmap that aimed to regulate all devices in a phased manner and assured an adequate transition period of nearly four years for high Risk and near High Risk Devices. "The one year transition period is not as per the assurance given of four years," he added.

# Khadi-Thago organised in Bhutan to promote eco-friendly fabric

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Narendra Modi Government's vision to promote Khadi as a global fabric has received a boost with a proposal to set up Khadi India's first international venture in Bhutan. Indian Embassy in Bhutan, Khadi and Village industry Commission (KVIC) and Royal Textile Academy (RTA), Thimphu has organised an event 'Khadi-Thago', on October 16 to jointly celebrate the textile heritage of Khadi and traditional Bhutanese fabric on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) curated the fashion show.

Khadi-Thago, organised at the RTA, which is also one of the most prominent tourist spots in Thimphu, witnessed

presence of high-profile audience including Her Majesty the Queen Mother Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuck as the Chief Guest, Vinai Saxena, KVIC Chairman as the Guest of Honour, Prime Minister of Bhutan Dr. Lotay Tshering, Cabinet Ministers, Ambassadors and several other distinguished guests, during the event.

The Indian ambassador Ruchika khamboj said that the objective of this event was to promote environmental friendly fabric Khadi of India with Bhutanese designers, to enhance the Khadi foot print in the country. KVIC chairman Vinai Saxena said khadi means Sincerity, purity, honesty and swaraj.

Indian designers Anamika Khanna, Rajesh Pratap Singh

and Samant Chauhan showcased innovative Khadi-based garment lines along with works of Chadrika Tamang, Kencho Wangmo, Tshering Choden and Sangay Choden of Bhutan. In addition, Anjana Bhargava, Nitin Bal Chauhan, Paras Gairolia, Payal Jain, Rahul Mishra & Renu Tandon curated special Khadi ensembles which were also displayed in the event followed by Banarasi Satvik Bhojan. Sunil Sethi of FDCI was also present.

Interestingly the four Bhutanese textile designers who showcased their work at the Khadi-Thago, had also visited India on invitation from FDCI.

A Bhutanese designer, Dorothy Gurung, would be opening the first Indian Khadi outlet in Bhutan towards the end of the year.

# Govt shows no signs of concern over slowdown: Yechury

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Maintaining that rural household consumption had slumped to a seven-year low, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Friday alleged the "callous" Government was enthusiastic about writing off unpaid loans of rich borrowers and tax cuts for the super-rich but shows no signs of concern over the slowdown.

Yechury said the signs of the agrarian distress and near-stagnant rural incomes have been there for long but the Modi government is busy with trying to "divide and polarise".

A media report said in the September quarter, rural India

grew at five per cent in terms of value, sharply slower than 20 per cent reported in the year earlier. Urban India grew at eight per cent compared with 14 per cent in the year-ago period, he said. "A callous Central government shows no signs of concern over the slowdown tumbling into a much graver problem. There is enthusiasm in Modi govt only for tax cuts for the super-rich and writing off unpaid loans of rich borrowers."

"The signs of the prolonged agrarian distress and near-stagnant rural incomes have been there for long. But this govt is busy with trying to divide and polarise," Yechury said in a tweet.

# Willing to give some land for Ravidas temple in Delhi, Centre tells SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday told the Supreme Court that it was willing to hand over land measuring 200 sq m to devotees for construction of Guru Ravidas temple in South Delhi but with certain conditions.

A bench of justices Arun Mishra and S Ravindra Bhat took on record the offer made by Attorney General KK Venugopal, appearing for the Centre, and asked parties seeking construction of the temple to submit objections, if any, by October 21. At the outset, Venugopal said he had held consultation with all parties including devotees and government officials and Centre has agreed to give the same piece of land considering sensitivity and faith

of devotees for the site.

"That same 200 square metre area of the site can be handed over to a committee of devotees for construction of temple but with certain conditions," Venugopal said, adding that five out of seven petitioners, who approached court against demolition of temple have agreed to the proposal.

He said that only two of the petitioners are not agreeable to the proposal but "the entire belief and faith of the devotees of Guru Ravidas is at the site where he stayed and therefore in the interest of peace and harmony we want to return the site to the devotees". Counsel appearing for one of the petitioner, who have objected to the proposal said that they need to see the offer and file their response.

# Don't accept Ayodhya panel 'settlement': Muslim parties

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Muslim parties, sans the Sunni Waqf Board, made clear on Friday that they do not accept the Supreme Court-appointed mediation panel's proposal on purported settlement to resolve the Ayodhya land dispute and expressed surprise over reports suggesting that the Board was willing to withdraw the claim on the site of the mosque.

The mediation panel headed by former apex court judge Justice FMI Kalifulla had filed a report in a sealed cover in the Supreme Court indicating a "sort of a settlement" between the Hindu and the Muslim parties in which the Waqf Board agreed to give up its claim over 2.77 acre disputed land at the Ram Janmbhoomi-Babri masjid site if certain conditions are fulfilled.

"We are taken aback by the media reports attributed by



Shahid Rizvi, advocate on record that Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board was willing to withdraw the claim on site of the Babri Masjid, Eijaz Maqbool, counsel for legal representatives of key Muslim litigants M Siddiq and Misbahuddeen, and four other advocates for Muslim parties said in a statement.

The lawyers said the mediation panel's report was leaked to the media and they do not approve the procedures adopt-

ed in the process and the suggested compromise formula of withdrawal of the lawsuit.

"Accordingly, we must make it absolutely clear that we the appellants before Supreme Court do not accept the proposal made

which has been leaked out to the Press, nor the procedure by which the mediation has taken place nor the manner in which a withdrawal of the claim has been suggested as a compromise," the statement reads.

"This was broadcasted by all Media agencies and newspapers that UP Sunni Central Waqf Board has agreed to abandon their claim subject to certain conditions. This news was obviously leaked out either by the Mediation Committee or

Nirvani Akhara which claim the right on the Mosque or others," it said, adding that the "leak was in total violation of the orders of the Supreme court that had directed that such proceedings should remain confidential."

The statement said it was "difficult" to accept that any mediation could have been done especially when the main Hindu parties (deity 'Ram Lalla' through next friend and others) had clearly stated that they were not open to any settlement and wanted a judicial decision.

"The recent attempts before Mediation Committee were not representative," it said.

On October 16, when a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi reserved its verdict in the case after 40 days of hearing, the mediation panel's report was also submitted to the court.

# CJI Ranjan Gogoi recommends Justice SA Bobde as his successor

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi on Friday sent a letter to the Centre recommending Justice SA Bobde, who is next in seniority, as his successor.

Official Sources told PTI that Justice Gogoi wrote a letter to the Ministry of Law and Justice recommending Justice Bobde to be the next chief justice.

Justice Gogoi, who was sworn in as the 46th Chief Justice of India on October 3, 2018, will demit office on November 17.

Official sources said the chief justice has gone by the convention to recommend the name of the next senior judge after him as his successor.



Justice Gogoi as the Chief Justice has a tenure of 13 months and 15 days while Justice Bobde, who will be sworn in as CJI on November 18, will have a tenure of about 18 months.

According to the Memorandum of Procedure, which governs the appointment of members of the higher judiciary, "appointment to the office of the Chief Justice of India should be of the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court considered fit to hold the office".

# NDA will make clean sweep in Bihar: Paswan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ruling NDA will win byelections to all five Assembly seats and one Lok Sabha seat in Bihar on October 21, claimed BJP ally and Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan on Friday.

He said a "divided and discredited" Opposition in the State stands no chance to give an equal fight to the ruling alliance.

Polls will be held in five Assembly seats and the Lok Sabha constituency of Samastipur as incumbent MLAs were elected to Parliament during the recent general election while MP Ram Chandra Paswan, brother of Ramvilas Paswan, died of a heart attack.

All three NDA parties — BJP, JD(U) and LJP — are contesting elections. While Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led JD(U) is contesting on four Assembly seats, the BJP and the LJP have put up their candidates in an Assembly and the Lok Sabha seat respectively. Ram Chandra Paswan's son Prince Raj is fighting from Samastipur.



"All our candidates will emerge victorious. We have run a united campaign and people have full faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nitish Kumar," LJP president Ram Vilas Paswan said.

BJP president this week gave a boost to the unity of BJP-JDU-LJP alliance in the state by dismissing any change in the alliance pattern in Bihar and saying unambiguously that the next assembly elections to the state would be fought collectively under the leadership of JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar.

Paswan said the opposition 'mahagathbandhan' (grand alliance) is divided and dis-

credited. With unity eluding the grand alliance, some of its partners have put up their candidates after its two main partners, RJD and the Congress, divided all the seats between them.

His party, he said, has also deployed its workers to campaign for the BJP in Maharashtra and Haryana Assembly polls. He expressed confidence that the saffron party will retain power in both the states.

BOX Leaders from other parties continued to switch over to the BJP. Former MLA Kartar Singh Bhadana from poll-bound Haryana quit the BSP to join BJP on Friday. He said BJP is not new to him as he was with the party earlier. Bhadana is brother of Congress leader Avtar Singh Bhadana and the family has influence, especially in the Gurjar community. Kartar Singh Bhadana has been an MLA from Haryana two times and from Uttar Pradesh once. Haryana is scheduled to have assembly election on October 21 and the counting of votes is due on October 24.

# EC replaces observers in Nashik, Ambala for poor performance

Deploys spl observer for Sikkim bypoll

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Citing unsatisfactory performance, the EC on Friday replaced the police observer and a returning officer of Nashik in Maharashtra, and the expenditure observer of Ambala in Haryana, ahead of the October 21 Assembly elections. It also appointed a former IPS officer as a special observer for the Assembly bypolls being held in Sikkim on Monday.

"The Election Commission has replaced police observer of Nashik and one returning officer of Nashik district after reviewing the electoral preparedness of the state of Maharashtra," the EC said in a statement. It said the police observer was removed for "not performing the task of observation satisfactorily".

On the basis of input regarding progress of photo voter slip distribution, which was very important to inform each and every elector timely, it was found that the perfor-

mance of an assembly constituency in Nashik district was "very poor", it said.

Reviewing this, the commission ordered replacement of the returning officer of Nashik West. The new officers will join on Friday itself.

The poll panel also ordered replacement of the expenditure observer of Ambala for "not supervising the enforcement activities in right earnest". It said his overall performance was not found satisfactory.

The EC has appointed retired IPS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre Vivek Dube as special observer for the assembly bypolls of Sikkim.

Dube has been deputed to specifically report to the EC about the law and order situation and oversee the deployment and other security related issues there. "The commission has taken the decision in view of inputs and complaints received," it said. Three seats in Sikkim are going for by-elections on Monday.

Dube was deputed earlier also as special observer to West Bengal during the Lok Sabha in April.

# SC turns away PMC account holders seeking end to cash withdrawal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea filed on behalf of scam-hit PMC Bank account holders seeking lifting of restrictions imposed by the Reserve Bank of India on cash withdrawals.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi said, "We are not inclined to entertain this petition under article 32 (writ jurisdiction). Petitioner can approach the high court concerned for appropriate relief".

The Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative Bank has been put under restrictions by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) following the discovery of a Rs 4,355-crore scam.

Deposit withdrawals have been capped at Rs 40,000 over a six-month period, causing panic and distress among depositors.

During the hearing on Friday, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the government is aware of the seriousness of the situation and the Enforcement Directorate is taking appropriate action against the culprit. Advocate Shashank Sudhi,



safeguard the banking and cooperative deposits in the eventuality of emergency financial crisis where citizens are financially stranded by acts of a few "unscrupulous persons".

The plea said the Centre and the RBI should be directed to ensure complete insulation and insurance of the hard-earned deposited money of people in various cooperative banks, including nationalised banks, by enacting an appropriate measure of 100 per cent insurance coverage towards the deposited amount.

It said that a high-powered committee should be constituted to look into complete affairs of working and their operation in all cooperative banks in order to have a robust and transparent mechanism which can inspire confidence of common public in cooperative banks.

Real estate firm HDIL allegedly accounted for 70 per cent of the bank's Rs 9,000 crore advances. According to the Mumbai Police's Economic Offences Wing, HDIL's loans turned non-performing assets, but the bank management hid this from the RBI's scrutiny.

# Election campaign for Chitrakot by-poll ends today

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
JAGDALPUR

The high-voltage campaign for by-polls in Chitrakot assembly constituency, for which voting is to be done on October 21, will end on Saturday evening.

Senior leaders from the Congress, BJP and the Janta Congress Chhattisgarh –Jogi (JCC-J) sought support of voters for their respective party candidates during their campaigns.

A total of six candidates are in the fray which includes Rajman Benjam from the Congress, Lachuram Kashyap from the BJP, Bomda Mandavi from the JCC-J, Hidmo Ram Mandavi from the Communist

**Senior leaders from the Congress, BJP and the Janta Congress Chhattisgarh –Jogi (JCC-J) sought support of voters for their respective party candidates during their campaigns**

Party of India, Laksheshwar independent candidate Ritika. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had campaigned for the

Congress candidate in the initiation stage but had handed over the charge to PCC Chief Mohan Mandavi as he had to campaign for the Congress candidates for assembly polls in neighbouring Maharashtra as well as Haryana.

Meanwhile, Baghel who was back from campaigning in Maharashtra, will address two public meetings on the concluding day of electioneering. He will address the public meetings at Mardum in Lohandiguda block and at Kurenga in Tokapal block of the district.

Notable, the Chitrakot seat fell vacant as sitting MLA Deepak Baj left the seat after being elected as Member of Parliament in Lok Sabha in the recently held general elections.

**DRM Raipur suffers heart-attack, out of danger**

**RAIPUR:** Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Raipur Kaushal Kishor on Friday survived a heart-attack and was hospitalized in a city-based private hospital.

He is now out of danger and is recovering quickly, senior publicity inspector Raipur railway division Shiv Prasad informed.

According to Prasad, General Manager SECR Goutam Banerjee had reached Raipur on an inspection and it went smoothly. Later, after reaching office the DRM complained of uneasiness.

He was rushed to railway hospital from where doctors referred him to a city-based private hospital, Shiv Prasad said.

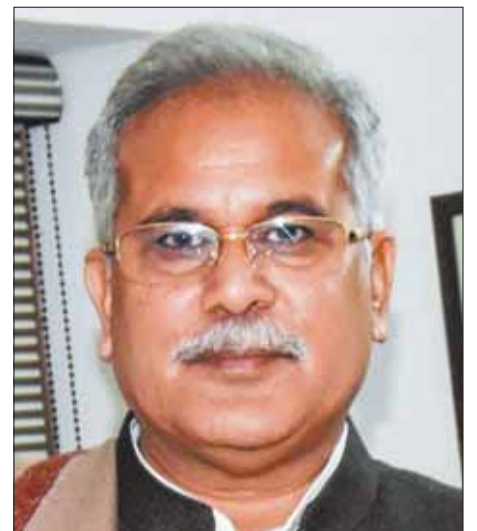
# ‘Purchase lamps from local potters on Diwali’

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Friday requested the residents of the state to purchase earthen lamps (dia) -for upcoming Diwali festival- made by potters and artisans of the state. In a letter addressed to the denizens of Chhattisgarh he said- “this small effort can bring happiness in lives of lakhs of people engaged in such small kind of works.”

“If you purchase earthen lamps and similar products made locally and promote others to follow you then this will not only spread the fragrance of our soil but will enable you to share the happiness of Diwali with potters, artisans, weavers and similar people,” he said in the open letter.

He assured that his government was taking all necessary steps to ensure that local artisans could produce more and more goods. This is the reason for



implementation of ‘Pauni Pasari’ scheme, he said. “We all wish that goddess ‘Lakshmi’ should come to our houses on the auspicious occasion of Deepawali. Since time immemorial we believed in ‘Save Bhawantu Sukhinah’- happiness of everyone,” he said.

# CM invites his counterparts for National Tribal Dance Fest

**STAFF REPORTER ■** RAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has invited his counterparts from other states to attend the National Tribal Dance Festival to be organised in December in capital city Raipur.

In his invitation letter to chief ministers of other states, Baghel has stated that the National Tribal Dance Festival will be organised for the first time in Raipur from December 27 to 29.

Tribal dance troupes from various states and union territories of the country have been invited to perform in the festival. International artists from neighbouring countries have also been invited.

Baghel has requested chief ministers of various states to send their best tribal dance troupe to the dance festival and also to mark their esteemed presence in the event.

Chief Minister highlighted various specialties of Chhattisgarh in the letter. He mentioned that tribal-dominated Chhattisgarh state is home to vibrant tribal culture and is blessed with invaluable gifts of the nature.

Chhattisgarh is not only abundant in natural resources and biodiversity but also rich in terms of cultural heritage.

About sacred rivers of

Chhattisgarh, Baghel stated that the state is blessed with rivers such as Mahanadi, Shivanthi, Hasdeo, Arpa, Kelo, Ren, Mahan, Indravati, Shabri.

The state is known as ‘rice bowl’ and is also recognised for good yield of pulses and oilseeds. Nature has blessed Chhattisgarh with abundant mineral resources including iron, coal, limestone, aluminum, tin and others.

The state has a sacred path on which Lord Ram had once walked, and it is also known for the sacred land of Mata Kaushalya.

Archaeological sites such as Sirpur, Rajim, Shivrinarayan, Kharau, Dantewada, Barsoor, Dipadi, Maheshpur, Boramdev are situated in Chhattisgarh and these places hold special significance in the Indian history of art forms. Chhattisgarh is the birthplace of Baba Guru Ghasidas, Veer Narayan Singh. People of the state are deeply inspired by teachings of Sant Kabir Sahab. Dance forms such as Karma, Sua, Gaur, Kaksad, Saila, Sarhul constitute another dimension of Chhattisgarh’s tribal culture. Chhattisgarh state has begun the journey to set new milestones of development with the vision of ‘Gadbo Nava Chhattisgarh’, he added.

# Governor expresses concern over Naxal menace in state



**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Governor Anusuiya Uikey expressing concern over Naxalism in the state on Friday said that soon a new

policy would be formulated for curbing the menace from the state.

She had talked to Centre over the issue and soon a delegation of Union home ministry is going to visit the state, she said.

Talking to media persons here at Rajbhawan Uikey informed that she had talked to Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the issue and he is sending a delegation headed by Union Home Secretary to state to have a meeting here for elimination of red menace from the state. The Secretary is going to tour the state on October 21-22, she added.

Uikey also showed her apprehension on deaths due to renal ailments in Supebada region of Gariaband district. State government should take necessary initiative over the deaths there, she said. “I am going to visit there in a couple of days”, she further informed.

# State facing financial crunch: Raman Singh

**STAFF REPORTER ■** JAGDALPUR

Former chief minister Raman Singh on Friday campaigned in Bastar region for the BJP candidate in Chitrakot by-poll.

While talking to media persons at a press conference here in the district headquarters, Raman hit out at ruling Congress and charged that the state is facing a financial crunch.

Not only all the important development works initiated by the BJP government had been stalled, the state has not even fund to pay salary of the government employees, he

said. Mocking at the curtailment of power tariff, he said the power cut tells the inside story behind it.

Talking about recently concluded by-polls in Dantewada and the present Chitrakot by-poll, he alleged that Congress was misusing the administration to win the polls anyhow.

He also criticised the Congress for not fulfilling poll promise of implementing total prohibition and alleged that liquor was being sold in government outlets at higher price.

# Suraj Kashyap made OSD to CM

**RAIPUR:** State government has appointed Suraj Kumar Kashyap as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to Chief Minister.

Kashyap, an officer of State Administrative Services, 2017 batch was till now serving as in-charge General Manager Chhattisgarh Samwad. The charge of General Manager, Samwad has now been assigned to Under Secretary Public Relations Vibhor Agrawal. He will take additional charge of Samwad in his present capacity of Under Secretary.

# One lakh youths to work for children’s rights in C’garh

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

To mark 30th anniversary of United Nations Convention of Rights of Children, UNICEF and National Service Scheme (NSS) of Chhattisgarh entered into a partnership to work together to improve lives of women and children in the state.

Over one lakh volunteers of NSS will support UNICEF and government of Chhattisgarh to ensure every child has access to proper education, healthy, safe and protected environment.

“This is a unique and invaluable opportunity for UNICEF to speak and advocate for child rights through 1 lakh student volunteers of NSS Chhattisgarh. The vol-



unteers will speak on child rights in every village and hamlet in the state in the



coming years” said Job Zachariah, chief, field office, UNICEF office for Chhattisgarh. UNICEF in collaboration with NSS in Chhattisgarh will

focus on raising awareness on child rights and take child-specific schemes and programmes to people across the state.

The students enrolled as NSS volunteers will orient children, parents and caregivers on child rights and support local authorities to ensure every child has access to his/her rights.

The partnership aims at building a supportive environment for children in all spheres. The NSS will reach out to all service providers, parents and care-givers through their social service camps.

In over 1000 NSS camps, the students will share information on key issues like anaemia, malnutrition, immunization, right to education and violence against children.

The student volunteers will also support the local authorities and service providers in providing children access to basic and essential services.

The students will also actively advocate for child rights in their respective villages, towns and cities. UNICEF and NSS will also come together on social media platforms to share, express and advocate for the wellbeing of children.

Speaking on the occasion of 30th anniversary of UNCRC, Dr Samarendra Singh, Head of NSS, Chhattisgarh said “the partnership with UNICEF has opened a menu of social welfare activities with a focus on children”. The volunteers are committed to upholding child rights, added Dr Singh.

# Power Company recovers ₹2 cr from defaulters

**STAFF REPORTER ■** RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh State Power Company has urged the consumers of both rural and urban areas to refrain from power theft and taking illegal connection and instead should take benefit of power tariff half scheme offered by the state government through valid power connection.

As per the drive against non-payment of bills, illegal connection and power theft, around 3300 connections were disconnected and ₹2 crore recovered for restoring connections.

Power Companies chairman Shailendra Shukla urged the consumers not to indulge in illegal activities as it will lead to legal action, fines,

possibility of accident, even imprisonment and insult.

The company teams are holding regular surprise inspection looking for hooking, bypassing installed meters or illegal connection. It invites action under Electricity Act 2003 sections 135 to 138 where FIR would be registered and case placed before a special court.

Double verification is also being done for consumers not having paid electricity bill and their connections have been disconnected for involvement of any irregularities. It has found that such consumers are involved in illegal hooking or taking power connection from neighbourhood. Action is also being initiated against such consumers, Shukla said.

# What is Pakistan's chemistry with Cong, asks PM

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH /GOHANA/HISAR

Making a stinging attack on the Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said no one - neither jawans nor farmers or sportspersons were safe under the Congress misrule, terming abrogation of Article 370 his real tribute to brave soldiers.

Lashing out at the party for not supporting it on Balakot or Article 370 decisions, Modi asked 'what sort of chemistry the Congress has with Pakistan'. "Pakistan uses the Congress to strengthen its case globally on issues against India," he said as he slammed the opposition party for not supporting its decision taken in the national interest.

"Whenever we talk of Swachh Bharat or surgical strike, the Congress gets stomach ache. And if by chance anyone says Balakot, then Congress starts jumping with pain. Pakistan uses them to strengthen their case globally, what sort of chemistry is this?" he added.

Confident of his party BJP's return in the state, Modi said the Congress indulged in corruption in agriculture and did scams in sports.

He was addressing public meetings, first in Gohana in Sonipat district and later in Hisar town, ahead of polling for the 90-member Haryana Assembly on Monday.

Modi said the Congress in the state has already accepted defeat. "It



was clear in their talks in the video that they were saying that it would be enough if they win 10-15 seats. These are their words and made just before the elections. Those who have already accepted

their defeat and gave up the ground can't do anything for Haryana," Modi said while referring to a purported video which went viral a few days back.

The video showed Congress

leaders counting seats outside Parliament and arguing about their dismal prospects across the state. In his address both in Gohana and Hisar, Modi didn't forget to remind the public that Monday being a hol-

iday owing to polling, making it an extended weekend, they should not miss the opportunity to exercise their franchise.

"Since October 21 is Monday, people will get two leaves -- Sunday (October 20) and Monday (October 21), the day polling will take place. You should remain present at their local booth and ensure huge turnout."

On the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, Modi said: "On August 5, the unexpected happened. Jammu and Kashmir saw a change it needed. No one could have imagined. India's Constitution in entirety became applicable in Jammu and Kashmir." The Prime Minister said corruption was rampant in sports during Congress' rule. Referring the number of athletes Sonipat has produced, he said: "This region has made India proud in every field, be it fighting in the wrestling ring or fighting against terrorism. Sonipat means Kisan, Jawan aur Pehwan."

"The Congress can blame me as much as they want but people of this country are with me. I thank you all for the support." He also dismissed the opposition as a "divided lot". "When the BJP government in Haryana was taking decisive steps for development of state, what was the opposition doing? They couldn't fight with us, so they were busy fighting among themselves. They destabilised their

parties for self-interest, can they give stability to Haryana?" asked Modi.

Modi also attacked the Dushyant Chautala-led Jannayak Janta Party, stating that people of the state has rejected its politics and strategy.

Lauding the five-year term of the Khattar-led government in the state, the PM told people that they would have to decide between those who delivered and those who indulged in misdeeds.

Patting Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar's back, Modi said corruption was rampant during the Congress' rule. Even in sports, there was corruption. "But it all changed after 2014. Since then the government has taken several steps in the field of sports."

"Congress is neither concerned about unity of India nor the Constitution given by Baba Saheb Ambedkar. Those who are not worried about Maa Bharti and the soil, and dignity of the Constitution, should Haryana show any concern for them. Should they be punished or not. "In these elections, you send them back packing and ask them to relax. They destroyed the country a lot," he said. Gohana falls in Sonipat district, which is considered as a stronghold of former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda.

Out of six assembly segments in Sonipat, five are represented by

Congress MLAs and one BJP. From Baroda here, the BJP this time has fielded wrestler-turned-politician Yogeshwar Dutt.

However, both Hooda and his son Deependar Singh Hooda lost the Lok Sabha polls from Sonipat and Rohtak parliamentary constituencies, respectively and Modi took a veiled dig at them, telling people "You broke arrogance of big leaders in Lok Sabha polls".

The prime minister also referred to Sonipat as land of "kisan, jawans and pehalwans" --- "trishaktis" which are contributing in nation building.

In a veiled attack on Hooda, he said, "Those who were thinking that Sonipat, Rohtak and Jind are their bastions, people gave their verdict (in LS polls). The BJP had won all 10 Lok Sabha seats from Haryana. "For those in public life, people of Haryana gave a lesson. Without people's blessings not even a leaf can move, but those who think they are 'Shenshah' and when their arrogance reaches Cloud 9, then they meet the same fate," he said.

Apparently referring to the violence that broke out during the Jat quota reservation stir three years ago in Haryana, Modi said those who spoiled brotherhood were taught a lesson.

"You showed in democracy that people are supreme and their wishes are above all," he said.

## 'Modi has no understanding of economy'

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH /MAHENDRAGARH

Hitting out the BJP-led central Government over the slowdown, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi "does not know anything about economics".

Addressing his second rally at Mahendragarh in the Ahirwal region of the State, seen as a BJP citadel, ahead of the October 21 Assembly elections, the former Congress President warned that the economic situation will become worse and "big corporates will run away like Mehul Choksi and Nirav Modi".

As the poll campaign for the 90-member Haryana assembly entered the final lap, Gandhi stuck to the issues of economic slowdown, unemployment and farm distress to attack the government. The elections are scheduled to be held on October 21 and counting will take place on October 24.

Addressing a public rally here in place of his mother and Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who he said was down with a viral infection, the former party chief also trained his guns on media, alleging that it was scared and not showing the truth.

"Our friends from the media who are under pressure, show PM Modi's speeches 24/7. Have you ever seen the media showing news of rampant unemployment and farmer suicides. Media will only show Modi ji's face, his speeches, talk of Article 370, moon (Chandrayaan), Modi's picture in Corbett Park," he said.

"Media persons say 'we know the truth but we can't show it because we will lose our jobs'...The media, the channels and newspapers are in the hands of 5-10 businessmen," Gandhi alleged. "Modi has just one job -- to divert" the attention of the country from the real issues, he claimed.

"India is being mocked at by the world. The country which used to show the way to the world, used to live with love, used to progress fast...Today one caste is fighting the other, one religion is fighting the other and the country's pride -- its economy -- Narendra Modi has destroyed it by demonetisation and Gabbar Singh Tax," Gandhi said. He has



been using "Gabbar Singh Tax" to refer to Goods and Services Tax.

"What they (the BJP) are doing, that is the most dangerous is wherever they go, they make one Indian fight another. They make a Hindu fight a Muslim, Jat fight a non-Jat, people from north fight south, they will go to Maharashtra and say "thrash and throw out the people of UP and Bihar", and in Bihar say "we will protect you", Gandhi said.

"The country cannot progress through division. This country has progressed by working together. If the country will be divided, it will not be able to progress," he asserted. Attacking the government over the state of the economy, Gandhi said unemployment is the highest in the last 40 years and farmers are committing suicide. However, he did not cite any official data to support his claims.

"Small and medium businesses -- the spine of the country-- say demonetisation and Gabbar Singh Tax have destroyed them," Gandhi said. He also said under the UPA rule, then US President Barack Obama used to say

that India and China are competition for America.

The Congress leader asserted that in order to spur growth money should be put in the pockets of the poor. "When we introduced MNREGA, news papers used to say it is a useless scheme. PM Modi said in Parliament that there is no scheme worse than MNREGA. Narendra Modi has no understanding of economics," Gandhi alleged.

Slamming the government's move to cut corporate tax, Gandhi claimed that after just three days "its balloon burst and things became clear".

Gandhi claimed that if the Congress would have won in the Lok Sabha polls and its minimum income guarantee scheme NYAY implemented, unemployed would have been "wiped out" and the farmers would not have been facing problems.

"But, Modi won the elections, how he won all of you saw, where he took the attention of the people. Don't make that mistake in Haryana, make the Congress win," he appealed to the people.

Slamming the government over

privatisation, Gandhi said Modi was privatising PSUs such as BSNL MTNL, Bharat Petroleum and alleged that this was "destroying jobs".

"This country's strength cannot be in billionaires. India is for the poor," he said, adding the strength of this country is in its poor -- farmers, labourers and unemployed youth.

He also highlighted the Congress' promise to give 50 per cent reservation in panchayats and 33 per cent in jobs to women. He accused the Prime Minister of taking lakhs of crores of rupees from the people and giving it to 15 businessmen.

"He (Modi) keeps giving your money to those 15 businessmen. It is just the start, look what happens to the economy and unemployment in the next six months. These 15 businessmen are taking the money out -- Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi, Mehul Choksi, Lalit Modi, and more will go," he alleged.

"You have a chance in Haryana. In India there is no choice, but you can jumpstart Haryana's economy," Gandhi said.

## Khattar is the man to watch this election

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

With just a few hours left for campaigning to come to an end in Haryana, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar is the man to watch out for as he has set his eye on Mission 75 Plus in the state.

Following a hectic schedule, addressing six or seven public meetings a day, mostly reaching the venues by helicopter, Khattar is even having his lunch often in the chopper itself.

But in the evenings the helicopter is abandoned as he hits the road, continuing the campaign to win as many seats as possible in the 90-member assembly.

The 65-year-old leader's own fight is in Karnal, where 11 other candidates are in the fray. They include former state minorities commission chairman Tarlochan Singh (Congress) and sacked BSF jawan Tej Bahadur Yadav (Jannayak Janta Party).

Khattar won the seat by 63,000 votes in the 2014 assembly elections and was a surprise BJP choice for the chief minister's post being a first-time MLA and also the state's first non-Jat CM in 18 years.

In his public meetings ahead of the October 21 polls, Khattar admits he was dubbed a newbie.

"There were people who used to say I am new and lack experience. Some even branded me an 'anadi' (novice). But now the very same people say I am not an 'anadi' but a 'khilladi' (player) of politics," he says.



The Centre's decision to nullify Article 370 that gave Jammu and Kashmir a special status figures often in his speeches as Khattar challenges Congress leaders to make clear their stand on the issue.

At a meeting in Tohana in Fatehabad, from where state BJP president Subhash Barala is seeking re-election, Khattar attacks "dynastic politics", claiming that the culture of "virasat" (inheritance, entitlement) and "riyasat" (bastions) has ended. "There is a difference between the politics of the BJP and other parties that ruled the state earlier. They promoted 'parivarvad' (family rule), we opposed it," he says.

"We are living in a democracy now, but they used to say it is my 'riyasat'." He plays with words, reminding that some leaders are currently in "hirasat" (behind the bars), a clear reference to Indian National Lok Dal president and former chief minister Om Prakash Chautala who

is serving time for corruption in recruitment of government teachers.

Khattar speaks in Punjabi at Tohana, asking the gathering to be wary of "false promises". Implementing the Congress manifesto requires an unrealistic sum of Rs 1.25 lakh crore, he claims.

While the opposition targets the BJP on unemployment, an alleged mining scam and indifference towards farmers, Khattar claims his government gave the state development and a clean and transparent administration. "They always filled their coffers, indulged in corruption and favouritism," he says, referring to the previous governments. He also accuses them of regional bias. "Haryana has emerged as a model state in the country," he claims. He also touches upon the



'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' and 'Swachhta' campaigns launched by the Narendra Modi government at the Centres.

In a media interaction, Khattar dismisses the opposition.

"The opposition is in disarray. Everyone knows the situation the Congress is in, it is a divided house. The JJP is a party formed by the son, the father and the mother, and everyone knows the plight of the INLD. So, on individual seats there may be a contest, but overall there is no direct fight," he says.

### KARTARPUR CORRIDOR

## Withdraw \$20 fee on pilgrims: Capt to Pak PM

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Friday appealed to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan to withdraw the \$20 fee imposed by his Government on pilgrims visiting Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara.

"I appeal to @ImranKhanPTI to withdraw \$20 fee imposed by @PakGovernment on pilgrims to Kartarpur Sahib to facilitate 'khulle darshan deedar' of the final resting place of Guru Nanak Ji Sahib. The world Sikh community will be grateful for this gesture on the part of Islamabad," Capt Amarinder tweeted his appeal to Imran Khan.

In a statement later, he pointed out that a pilgrimage to the historic gurdwara, which was revered the world over as the final resting place of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji, was the fulfilment of a cherished dream for the entire Sikh community.



The imposition of the fee, as well as other conditions like a mandatory passport and 30-day prior online notice by the devotees, would obstruct the realization of the dream of the pilgrims, many of whom were poor men and women who could not afford such fee and also

had no access of the Internet, said the Chief Minister.

"Let these people not be deprived of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for 'khulle darshan' of the historic Gurdwara, he added.

Pointing out that the development of Kartarpur Corridor was aimed at providing free access to the pilgrims during the 550th Prakash Purb celebration of the first Sikh Guru, Capt Amarinder said these difficult pre-conditions would defeat this very objective.

By agreeing to construct the Corridor, the Pakistan government had made a very laudable gesture, which the Sikh community really appreciated, said the Chief Minister, adding that the Imran Khan government should follow it up with the gesture of revoking its decision to impose the pilgrimage fee and also easing other restrictions it had announced on the devotees.

**IDFC FIRST Bank Limited**  
(erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)  
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097992  
Registered Office: KRM Towers, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai-600031. TEL: +91 44 4564 4000 | FAX: +91 44 4564 4022.

**APPENDIX IV [Rule 8(1)]**  
**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)**

Whereas the undersigned being the authorised officer of the IDFC First Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 16.05.2019 calling upon the borrower, co-borrowers and guarantors 1. Rajesh Ahuja, 2. Somya Ahuja, 3. Vikash Ahuja, 4. Ramesh Kumar Ahuja, 5. R. K Contractor, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 23,88,867.61/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Seven And Paise Sixty One Only) as on 10.05.2019 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of Oct 2019.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the IDFC First Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited) for an amount of Rs. 23,88,867.61/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Seven And Paise Sixty One Only) and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

All the piece and parcel of the property consisting of  
i) House No A-2 Ward No. 02, Ramkrishna param Hansa ward, mouja Gram kola Raipur CG.  
ii) House No B-2 Ward No. 02, Ramkrishna param Hansa ward, mouja Gram kola Raipur CG.

Sd/-  
Authorised Officer  
Place:Chhattisgarh. IDFC First Bank Limited  
(erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)  
Date:17-Oct-2019  
Loan Account No: 1261616 & 1263795.

## 2,000 cases of stubble burning recorded in Hry, Punjab this year: CPCB

New Delhi: Nearly 2,000 instances of stubble burning were recorded this year in Haryana and Punjab, with highest occurrences in Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Patiala, Karnal, Kaithal and Kurukshetra, the Central Pollution Control Board said on Friday.

According to the CPCB data, a total of 3,202 active fire events have been recorded in Haryana and Punjab in 2019 against 2,544 such incidents in 2018.

"In Haryana, 1,631 stubble burning instances have been reported in 2019 till now while in Punjab 1,571 such case were

recorded," the CPCB data showed.

Stubble burning significantly contributes to increasing pollution in the national capital.

A senior CPCB official said presently about 7 per cent pollution in Delhi is caused due to stubble burning in surrounding States.

**CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER DISTRIBUTION CO.LTD.**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (CITY CIRCLE)-II**  
(A Successor Company of CSEB/A Govt. of Chhattisgarh Undertaking)Qtr. No. D-3 & D-4, CSPDCL, Gudiyari, Raipur 0771-2574770/ 2574775  
No. 051/9600/Tcnder/347 Raipur, Dt. 17.10.2019

**NOTICE INVITING FOR E-TENDERING**

Online bids are invited through CSPDCL e-Bidding system (SAP SRM) from eligible electrical contractors registered in the O/o ED (Project), CSPDCL, Gudiyari Raipur for the following works.

SNo.	Tender No./Rfs No.	Description of work	Value of Work (in Rs.)	Period of completion	Due date of Submission & open dt & time
1	SECC-HRYP-T-17 Rfs-8100015634	For shifting of 33 KV lines passes opposite to proposed 132 KV Sub Station Siltara Ph-II under O&M Dn, Siltara..	15,30,714/-	60 days	06.11.2019 upto 3:00 PM open on 06.11.2019 upto 3:30 PM

Details of NIT and Tender Documents are available on our website-<http://www.cspdcl.co.in/tender/tendernotice> or [www.cspdcl.co.in/e-bidding](http://www.cspdcl.co.in/e-bidding) portal helpline no 0771-2576672(EITC, CSPDCL).The bidder must have a valid Digital Signature & SAPSRM User ID. There will be training for bidders on every Wednesday from 3.00 pm to 5.00pm at EITC, CSPDCL, Daganiya campus, In front of Seva bhawan. Corrigendum/Cancellation/ Time extension, if any will be displayed on above website and notice Board of this office only. Note: - Format A, B, C & D on the Tender NIT will be filled in the same format. Any other Formats are not accepted.

(C.H. Markam-93514790)  
"Save energy for benefit of self and Nation" Superintending Engineer City Circle-II, CSPDCL, Raipur

# Respect deal or will escalate op, warns Erdogan

**Istanbul:** Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday warned that Ankara would restart its operation against Kurdish forces in Syria on Tuesday evening if they do not withdraw from a "safe zone".

After US Vice-President Mike Pence came to Ankara for talks with Erdogan on Thursday, the NATO allies agreed Turkey would suspend its offensive for five days in northern Syria while Kurdish fighters withdraw from the area.

"If the promises are kept until Tuesday evening, the safe zone issue will be resolved. If it fails, the operation... Will start the minute 120 hours are over," Erdogan told reporters during a foreign media briefing in Istanbul.

He said Turkish armed forces would remain in the region "because the security there requires this", adding that there had been no issues so far. But the Syrian Observatory

for Human Rights said Friday there were Turkish air strikes on the village of Bab al-Kheir, east of Ras al-Ain on the border. The war monitor said 14 civilians were killed.

Turkey launched the cross-border incursion on October 9 after repeatedly threatening to clear the border area from the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) militia.

The Turkish forces are supporting Syrian rebel fighters under the "Syrian National Army" banner but the proxies have been accused by Amnesty International of committing "war crimes" including summary executions.

Erdogan also condemned the abuses that some Syrian proxies are accused of committing during the offensive.

"Whoever commits such an act is no different from the Islamic State group). We cannot accept such a thing," he said, adding that the army was investigating the claims. **AFP**

## Sanctions on Turkey no longer necessary: Trump

**Washington:** President Donald Trump has said that America's proposed economic sanctions on Ankara are no longer necessary after the US and Turkey struck a deal for a five-day cease fire in Syria.

As per the deal announced by Vice-President Mike Pence in Ankara on Thursday, Turkey will suspend its operations for 120 hours to allow Kurdish fighters to withdraw from a designated safe zone along the Turkish and Syrian border.

Protesting Turkey's military offensive in northeast Syria, US President Donald Trump on Tuesday signed an executive order to slap sanctions against Turkish officials, raising of steel tariffs and ending negotiations on a \$100 bil-

lion trade deal.

"Sanctions won't be necessary because Turkey is doing what they're doing," Trump told reporters on Thursday as he congratulated his Turkish counterpart President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for reaching a deal with the United States.

"He's a friend of mine and I'm glad we didn't have a problem because frankly, he's a hell of a leader and he's a tough man. He's a strong man. He did the right thing. And I really appreciate it. And I will appreciate it in the future," Trump said, describing the cease fire as a great news.

Terming it as an incredible outcome, Trump said that Turkey had a legitimate problem on the 22 mile (34 kms) strip for many years. **PTI**

## Deadly Turkey airstrikes shatter NE Syria truce

**Tal Tamr:** Deadly Turkish airstrikes Friday shattered an hours-old US-brokered deal to stop Ankara's military offensive against Kurdish forces in northeastern Syria.

The ceasefire announced late Thursday was meant to provide a pause for the evacuation of Kurdish fighters from the battleground border town of Ras al-Ain and other areas Turkey wants to control along its border with Syria.

The five-day suspension looked designed to help Turkey achieve its main territorial goals without fighting but its Syrian proxies continued to clash with Kurdish fighters Friday and an airstrike killed 14 civilians.

"14 civilians were killed in

Turkish airstrikes on the village of Bab al-Kheir, east of Ras al-Ain," Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said. **AFP**

### ERDOGAN SAYS KURDISH FIGHTERS WITHDRAWING

**Ankara (Turkey):** Turkey's president say Syrian Kurdish fighters are withdrawing from parts of northeast Syria. That follows a cease-fire agreement reached between Turkey and the United States a day earlier. Recep Tayyip Erdogan told reporters in Istanbul Friday that his country's defense minister confirmed that the Kurdish fighters had begun withdrawing. **AP**

## Johnson returns to London to drum up support for Brexit deal

**London:** After winning the backing of European Union leaders for his new Brexit deal, Prime Minister Boris Johnson was in London on Friday looking to secure enough support to get the deal through the fractious British Parliament.

Johnson returned from an EU summit in Brussels overnight for a busy day attempting to persuade lawmakers to ratify the divorce deal at a rare Saturday sitting of Parliament.

He was due to brief his Cabinet on Friday afternoon,

ahead of what's expected to be a knife-edge vote.

Johnson's Conservative Party holds only 288 seats in the 650-seat House of Commons, so he will have to rely on support from other parties and independent lawmakers to get over the line.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab started drumming up support early. "We've got a real opportunity now to get Brexit delivered faithful to the referendum, move on as a government, and I think as a country, and lift the clouds of Brexit," he

told the BBC. Raab said the Government has not given up hope of winning the support of its Northern Ireland ally, the Democratic Unionist Party, which has rejected the new deal. But the chances of that appeared slim.

The DUP's Brexit spokesman, Sammy Wilson, said Johnson's Brexit package — which carves out special status for Northern Ireland to keep an open border with EU member Ireland — is bad for his region and its bonds with the rest of the UK. **AP**

## Macron says does not want further Brexit delay

**Brussels:** President Emmanuel Macron declared on Friday that France does not want to see Britain's departure from the European Union delayed beyond October 31 now that a new divorce agreement has been reached. "I think the October 31 date should be respected. I don't think that new deadlines should be given. We need to end these negotiations and get on negotiating the future relationship," he said at an EU summit. On Thursday, EU leaders approved a Brexit withdrawal agreement negotiated between the EU and Johnson's Government to oversee Britain's departure. **AFP**

## Blast at Afghan mosque kills 62 during prayers

**Kabul:** An explosion rocked a mosque in eastern Afghanistan as dozens of people gathered to offer Friday prayers, causing the roof to collapse and killing 62 worshippers, provincial officials said.

Attahullah Khogyani, spokesman for the governor of Nangarhar, said the militant attack wounded 36 others.

He said it was not immediately clear if the mosque was attacked by a suicide bomber or some other type of bombing. "Both men and children are among those killed and wounded in the attack," he said. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but

both the Taliban and the ISIS group are active in eastern Afghan, especially Nangarhar province. Zahir Adil, spokesman for the public health department in Nangarhar Province, said 23 of the wounded were transferred to Jalalabad, the provincial capital, and the rest were being treated in the Haskamena district clinic. The violence comes a day after a UN report said that Afghan civilians are dying in record numbers in the country's increasingly brutal war, noting that more civilians died in July than in any previous one-month period since the UN began keeping statistics. **AFP**

## LEBANON PARALYSED BY NATIONWIDE PROTESTS OVER PROPOSED TAXES



An anti-Government protester makes victory sign, as he holds a Lebanese national flag and walks fire of fires that sits to block a road during a protest against Government's plans to impose new taxes in Beirut on Friday. **AP**

**Beirut:** Nationwide protests paralysed Lebanon on Friday as thousands of demonstrators blocked major roads in a second day of rallies against the government's handling of a severe economic crisis and the country's political class they perceive as being corrupt. The protests are the largest Lebanon has seen since 2015 and could further destabilise a country whose economy is already on the verge of collapse and has one of the highest debt loads in the world.

## 'Most overrated general' Mattis takes swipe at Trump

**New York:** Former US defense secretary James Mattis said he was honoured to be the "world's most overrated general" in a swipe at his former boss Donald Trump who insulted him earlier this week.

At a gala charity dinner in New York on Thursday evening, Mattis told diners he had now "achieved greatness."

"I'm not just an overrated general. I am the greatest, the world's most overrated," he said.

"I'm honored to be considered that by Donald Trump because he also called Meryl

Streep an overrated actress," he said. "So I guess I'm the Meryl Streep of generals, and frankly that sounds pretty good to me," he said to laughter and applause at the annual Alfred E Smith Memorial Foundation dinner.

The retired Marine general said he wasn't bothered by Trump's comments.

"Of course not, I earned my spurs on the battlefield... And Donald Trump earned his spurs in a letter from a doctor," Mattis said, in a jab at the medical condition which allowed Trump to avoid the Vietnam draft. **AFP**

## Top White House official indicates Donald Trump withheld Ukraine aid

**Washington:** A top White House official found himself in the middle of a political storm after he indicated, only to walk back later, that President Donald Trump asked his administration to withhold nearly \$400 million in military aid to Ukrainian to further his political interests.

Acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney's during a White House briefing on Thursday suggested that the Trump Administration held up the military aid to Ukraine in part because the president wanted it to investigate an unproven conspiracy theory about Ukraine's involvement in the hack of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) server in 2016.

Mulvaney, however, later in evening recanted his remarks and accused the media of "misconstruing" his comments to advance a "biased and political witch-hunt" against President Trump.

Responding to a question

during the press conference, Mulvaney said, "Did (Trump) also mention to me in the past that the corruption related to the DNC server? Absolutely, no question about that. But that was it. That's why we held up the money."

"The look back to what happened in 2016 certainly was part of the things that he was worried about in corruption with that nation. And that is absolutely appropriate," Mulvaney said, suggesting that Trump wanted assistance with an ongoing investigation by the Justice Department. **PTI**

**GOVT. OF BIHAR**  
**OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT ENGINEER,**  
**BIHAR BHAWAN, NEW DELHI**  
**NO.1012 / Dated: 18.10.2019**  
**Inviting Quotation**

The reputed firms/registered contractor are requested to submit sealed quotation for following work in Bihar Bhawan and Bihar Niwas Chanakyapuri, New Delhi for the year 2019-20. Quotation will be submitted up to **30.10.2019** till 3.00 pm and opened on **31.10.2019** at 3.30 pm at the office of the Resident Engineer, Bihar Niwas Chanakyapuri, New Delhi undersigned office has right to cancel quotation without any further information. Registration, Tin No., Pan No. and authorization to firm/Registration paper here enclosed. Details information paper can be obtained from the office of the Resident Engineer Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi. Man power and cab registration certificate issue from Excise department must be enclosed.

S. No	Particulars
1	Annual repair and painting work of exterior surface of new wing building at Bihar Bhawan for the year 2019-20

**Sd/-**  
**Executive Engineer-cum-Resident Engineer**  
**Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi**

**COPY OF ADVERTISEMENT (PERFORMA)**  
**Company Name: MANOCHA POLYMERS LIMITED**  
**Regd. Office: K-93, UDOYG NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110041**  
**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that share certificates of Manocha Polymers Limited having CIN No. U74899DL1985PLC02048 and its Registered Office at -93, UDOYG NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110041 held in the name of following person as per detail given herein below have been lost or misplaced or stolen and a request for duplicate certificate in lieu thereof has been lodged with the said company by the respective member.

**DETAIL OF LOST SHARE CERTIFICATES:**

S. No	Folio No.	Name	Share certificate No.	Distinctive No.
1	D0104	Dharm Chand Manocha	5, 96-101 and 3442	41-51, 83851-84150
2	L0102	LADHA RAM	829-832 and 3486	120501-120700 and 83431-83430
3	S02	SATISH MANOCHA	2, 9, 2118 to 2317, 2781-2840, 3552	11-20, 3381-6690, 184951-194950, 218101-221100 and 1239951-1353830
4	S03	SURESH KUMAR	7, 17 and 3553	61-70, 60001-70000 and 1353831-1423900
5	D0105	DAYAWANTI MANOCHA	167-176, 1347-1426 and 3443	87401-87900, 146401-150400 and 590061-621580
6	K0103	Kaushalya Manocha	197 to 206, 1027 to 1106	88901 to 89400, 130401 to 134400
7	M0103	MOHAN LAI	3489	893231-894530
8	S0131	SONIA MANOCHA	1518 to 1717	154951 to 164950
9	212	SURESH RANI	1287 to 1346 and 3550	142401-146400 and 1188351-1216350
10	B01	BRU MANOCHA	3, 10 and 1878 to 2117	21-30, 6691-10000 and 172951 to 184950
11	R0101	RAKESH KUMAR	4, 108-111 and 2318 to 2517	31-40, 84451-84650 and 194951 to 204950
12	S0133	SHASHI SONI	11 to 11A	10001 to 30000

Members of the public are informed that said company will consider issuing duplicate share certificate (S) if no objection is received at its above registered office within 15 days of this notice after which no claim will be entertained by them.

**Sd/-**  
**Federal Bank Ltd.**  
**Branch: New Delhi / Paschim Vihar Branch Head**

**RAMPUR FERTILIZERS LTD.**  
**CIN: L15138UP1988PLC010084**  
**Email id: rkumar@rampurfert.com**  
**Regd. Off.: Judges Barelly Road, Rampur-244901 U.P.**  
**NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING**

In pursuance of Regulation 47 of SEBI (LODR) 2015, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, the 14th November, 2019, at 4.00 P.M. at its Head Office: 319-A, Hemkunt Chambers, 69 Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019, inter alia to consider, approve and adopt unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended on September 30, 2019 pursuant to Regulation 33 of LODR.

The said information is also available on the Company's website at [www.rampurfert.com](http://www.rampurfert.com) and the same has been also sent to CSE and MSE to upload on their websites i.e. [www.nse-india.com](http://www.nse-india.com), [www.bse-india.com](http://www.bse-india.com) respectively.

**By order of Board**  
**Sd/-**  
**Anshuman Khatan**  
**(Managing Director)**  
**Place: New Delhi**  
**Date: 18.10.2019**

**NOTICE REGARDING THE PROPOSED MORTGAGE**

We hereby give public notice that we propose to accept the property comprised Entire Ground Floor (without roof/terrace rights) along with 30% undivided share including undivided proportionate ownership rights in the land underneath along with the rights to passage, easement and benefits built on property bearing No. 146, having land area measuring 200 Sq. Yards (i.e. 167.22 Sqm) excluding roof rights, situated in the approved free-hold colony known as Kirti Nagar, New Delhi, area of Village Basai Darapur, Delhi, State Delhi belonging to Mr. Deepak Balra, residing at E-70, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi as security by way of mortgage by deposit of title deeds for the purpose of securing a loan. It is represented to us by him that the original prior deeds of his title deed(s), viz. Gift Deed registered as Document No. 3130, SR II, Janakpuri, New Delhi Sub Registrar's office have been lost irretrievably. Therefore, we propose to accept the certified copy of the said document in respect of the above property for deposit. If anyone has any prior claim whatsoever over the said property/tenure he may prefer the same before us within fifteen days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it will be taken that there is no subsisting encumbrance on the said property.

Dated this 17th day of October 2019  
**Federal Bank Ltd.**  
**Branch: New Delhi / Paschim Vihar Branch Head**

ORIENTAL NAGPUR BETUL HIGHWAY LIMITED				
Regd. Off.: OSE Commercial Block, Asset 5B, Aerocity, Hospitality, District, IGI Airport, New Delhi-110037				
Tel: 91-11-46044604, Email: <a href="mailto:spv.ose.secretariat@gmail.com">spv.ose.secretariat@gmail.com</a>				
CIN: U45400DL2010PLC203649				
(AUDITED HALF YEARLY FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2019)				
(Amount in Rs in Lakhs)				
Sl. No.	Particulars	Half Year Ended 30.09.2019 (Audited)	Half Year Ended 30.09.2018 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2019 (Audited)
1	Total income from operations (net)	34,691.11	30,980.67	60,403.10
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax and Exceptional items)	18,241.24	18,088.48	25,739.90
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	18,241.24	18,088.48	25,739.90
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	13,232.90	12,892.19	17,880.01
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	13,232.90	12,892.19	17,880.01
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1,813.45	1,813.45	1,813.45
7	Reserves (excluding Debenture Redemption Reserve)	53,684.57	41,903.65	44,558.45
8	Net Worth	116,185.02	99,178.88	109,590.15
9	Paid up Debt Capital	-	8,796.02	9,262.55
10	Debt: Equity Ratio	2.46:1	2.86:1	2.43:1
11	Earnings Per Share (of Rs 10/- each)			
	1. Basic:	72.97	71.09	98.60
	2. Diluted:	72.97	71.09	98.60
12	Debiture Redemption Reserve	60,687.00	55,461.78	63,118.25
13	Debt: Service Coverage Ratio	1.52:1	1.24:1	1.41:1
14	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	1.46:1	1.08:1	1.10:1
<b>Note:</b>				
a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of half yearly unaudited financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulations 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015. The full format of the half yearly unaudited financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and the listed entity (URL of the filings).				
b) The above financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at their meeting held on October 17, 2019.				
c) Ratios have been computed as follows:				
(i) Debt: Equity Ratio = Paid up Debt Capital/Equity, where,				
• Equity represents issued, subscribed and paid up share capital and other equity				
• Paid up Debt Capital represents long-term and short-term borrowings excluding deferred payment liabilities and finance lease obligations.				
(ii) Interest Service Coverage ratio = Earnings before finance costs, tax and depreciation / finance costs.				
(iii) Debt Service Coverage ratio = Earnings before finance costs, tax and depreciation / (Finance costs + net principal repayment of paid debt capital during the period/year).				
(iv) Net worth represents Equity.				
(v) Paid up equity capital represents issued, subscribed and paid up capital.				
d) For the items referred in sub-clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulations 52(4) of the SEBI (Listings and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the NSE Stock Exchange (s) and can be accessed on the URL (specify URL).				
For and on behalf of Board of Directors of Oriental Nagpur Betul Highway Limited				
<b>Sd/-</b> <b>Sanjit Bakshi</b> <b>Director</b> <b>DIN - 0002652</b>				
<b>Place: New Delhi</b> <b>Date: 18.10.2019</b>				

**THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.**  
C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janakpuri New Delhi - 110058  
Phone : 011-25611041, 25611042, 25611043, 25611044  
e-mail: [teagat@kangrabank.com](mailto:teagat@kangrabank.com), [legal1@kangrabank.com](mailto:legal1@kangrabank.com) Website : [www.kangrabank.com](http://www.kangrabank.com)

**APPENDIX IV**  
**(See rule 8(1))**  
**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
**(For immovable property)**

Whereas,  
The undersigned being the Authorised officer of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", Head office at, C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi - 110058, having its registered office at 1916, Chuna Mandi, Pahr Ganj, New Delhi-110055, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Bank had issued a demand notice on dated: 13-07-2018, calling upon the borrower and mortgagor Sh. Jagbir Singh S/o. Sh. Jeet Singh, R/o. H.No. 11/1125, Top Floor, Right Side, Govind Puri, New Delhi-110019 and also at M/s Samrat Car Rental, Shop No.38, Mini Market, DDA Flats, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being ₹10,30,120/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Thirty Thousand One Hundred Twenty only), together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of the notice till the date of payment, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the notice. The above mentioned borrower/mortgagor/surety having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the Bank has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 9 of the said rules, on this 15TH day of October 2019. The borrower/mortgagor/surety in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the mortgaged property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", for an amount of ₹10,30,120/- together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of notice till the date of realization together with all the costs incurred by the Bank in realizing the said amount.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY**

The property under consideration is built up terrace rights of third floor (top floor), Consisting of two Right Side Terrace of 3rd. Floor, area measuring 75 sq. yds.

All the part and parcel of the built up property right side terrace rights of third floor (top floor), Consisting of two bed rooms, drawing/dinning, One kitchen, two toilet/bathrooms and balcony of built-up property no.1125, Gali No.11, out of khasra no.93, Measuring 75 sq. yds. (62.7 sq. mtrs.), out of total Measuring 150sq. yds., situated at Govind Puri, Kalakaji, New Delhi-110019.

All the part and parcel of the built up property right side terrace rights of third floor (top floor), Consisting of two bed rooms, drawing/dinning, one kitchen, two toilet/bathrooms and balcony of built-up property no.1125, Gali No.11, out of khasra no.93, Measuring 75 sq.yds. (62.7 sq. mtrs.), out of total Measuring 150 sq.yds., situated at Govind Puri, Kalakaji, New Delhi-110019. Falling under the Registration of Sub-Registrar-V, New Delhi.

**(MEENAKSHI VATS)**  
**AUTHORISED OFFICER**  
**THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.**  
**HEAD OFFICE AT, C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE, PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-58.**

**DELHI.**  
**DATED: 15-10-2019.**

## Unholy cow

Cow protectionism is turning counter-productive as nobody is owning responsibility for increased stray cattle



It is ironic that in the most heightened time of their protection and vigilantism, cows are becoming pariahs more than ever before. The increasing mechanisation at farms has meant that bulls are no longer needed for heavy-lifting except for reproductive purposes. A ban on cattle slaughter and sales at animal fairs, coupled with the fear of being booked by cow vigilantes on some pretext or the other, have meant that non-lactating cows are now a stressed asset in the farm economy. The cow has, therefore, dropped off the value chain and

many farmers, who frankly cannot afford the costly fodder, are turving out the old and unproductive herd and abandoning them in open areas or outside village limits. In rural areas, this is creating havoc as starving bovines, out of sheer desperation, raid fields for food, their large numbers enough to wipe out crops of small holdings in no time. Fearing crop destruction, farmers have now added a night vigil on *machans* in their fields to their routine. Some farmers have even been driven to debts and depression with the sudden decimation of the season's produce. In the urban areas, wandering cattle are posing traffic hazards as they raid central verges for food and generally move around disoriented, causing traffic jams and accidents on busy roads. In the end, out of favour and unloved by their keepers, cow protection seems like a selfish human pursuit, good as long as the animals serve a purpose and evicted from a cultural consciousness, one that accords them the status of a mother or *Mata*, the moment they become unprofitable and old. Worse, dying out of starvation and thirst, theirs is a manufactured death routine. As it is, strict curbs on cow movement and use have meant that they are being substituted by buffaloes. With their castaway status following curbs, the indigenous cattle population has declined by 29 per cent from the last cow census seven years ago though that of the milch variety, including cross-breeds, is up by six per cent. *Rakshaks* are many for dead meat but there are none to save the cow. Or build a natural shelter where the old can be kept and fed to last out their lifetime.

Many cities have evolved their own ways to control stray cattle but they are mostly of a rudimentary nature, using cattle catchers to move them from one place to another. Cow sheds and *goshalas* are many, with new ones being set up following the government's renewed protectionism but are mostly unauthorised, overcrowded and closer to human settlements when they should be located near the outskirts to avoid man-animal conflicts. Besides, there must be a uniform code for dairies and sheds in both cities and villages, including the number of cattle and staff required to maintain them. For example, the longevity of their licences and permits must be correlated to the physical health of their cattle and ensuring they do not leave the precincts. Penalties for illegal dairies should be stricter, snapping their water and power lines. Besides, some corporations have also sought to impose fines on errant dairies who cannot rein in their herd and even barcoding cows to trace their keepers. State governments individually have resorted to their own methods. For example, the Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government has decided to make sex-sorted bovine semen available in large quantities so that most offspring is female. Both Madhya Pradesh and Haryana have made abandonment a punishable offence. Yet it is the UP Government, the most driven on cow protection and which had appointed a committee, where policies have been counter-productive. Its committee had suggested practical solutions like a fodder bank, State subsidies for stray shelters, grants for animal upkeep, controlled prices for products prepared from excreta and even asking MPs and MLAs to commit a part of their funds for a higher cause. But even this framework fell prey to bureaucratic corruption. Just recently, the government had to suspend a District Magistrate and four officials for irregularities; they deliberately over-reported the number of cattle in a shelter to misuse public funds. If we are indeed serious about cow protection, then we better look at nurturing cow health and welfare as we would any human resource. For the BJP may promote itself as protector but banning cow slaughter has been encoded in Article 48 of the Constitution. To convert the sacredness of a fundamental duty into political tokenism is the greatest disservice to Kamadhenu, the mother of all cows.

## Bangla firing

On the face of it, the BSF-BGB shootout seems to be over smuggling but we cannot let it escalate for strategic reasons



Cross-border firing is something we associate with Pakistan from across the Line of Control (LoC). So when such a flare-up happens on our eastern borders, considering that the 4,000 km-long India-Bangladesh boundary has largely been peaceful for two decades, then it is a matter of concern. As it turns out, the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) opened fire at the Border Security Force (BSF) personnel, who had gone for a flag meeting to discuss the arrest of an Indian fisherman. A BSF head constable died while another troop-

er got wounded. Though the authorities on both sides were quick to intervene and neutralise the situation, describing it as a one-off aberration, it did remind us of the 2001 armed conflict between the BSF and the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) that led to the deaths of 15 of our jawans and three of theirs. Coming as it does in the wake of the just-concluded meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart, Sheikh Hasina, during which the two countries struck crucial deals to further strengthen bilateral relations, and which has been largely cordial, questions arise if this was motivated. Speculations are rife if this was done to undercut the success of the recent trip where both sides smoothened some creases that had crept into the relationship in recent times. Truth be told, Dhaka has been a valuable ally in helping India build bridges with the Islamic world. Sheikh Hasina has largely been responsible for reining in militant groups operating along fluid border stretches. She has also negotiated the tricky binary between India and China by calling our ties organic and the latter economic. It is in acknowledgement that India has not only embarked on a new phase of economic cooperation with Hasina but has also promised that no immigrant, who doesn't make the cut in the National Register for Citizens (NRC), will be repatriated to Bangladesh. Perhaps, this incident was intended to tarnish her "win-win" sheen. The Opposition BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party) has been demonising her latest visit to India and the deals as "anti-state" and a "sellout."

This incident has also shed light on the larger issue of border management, which remains a challenge due to smuggling of fish, narcotics, cross-border human trafficking, cattle thefts and gun-running by cartels on both sides. Though cooperation on this has taken off with both sides conducting meetings biennially, they need to adopt a more humanitarian and interactive approach. The current shootout should not be allowed to aggravate and propel hostilities in a relationship which will get complex in a multi-polar world.

# Why Cong owes an answer

The Congress minus Sonia-Rahul-Priyanka is thinkable but Indian politics without it is unthinkable. The grand old party may be critically weakened but not wrecked as yet



DEBASIS BHATTACHARYYA

Political parties are central to the functioning of a representative democracy because a multi-party system generates different policy options for the public. The options thus considered are aimed at fulfilling the interests and aspirations of the electorate. The Opposition, especially inter-party coalitions, is a key concept in a liberal democracy. However, interestingly, political parties have one function in common: All of them seek political power to form a Government or to take the role of the Opposition.

The 2019 Lok Sabha elections are over. While the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance's (NDA's) roaring success in both 2014 and 2019 parliamentary elections has made it the largest party, the Congress has been facing debacle after debacle in successive elections. In this year's general election, the BJP won 303 seats and along with its allies, the NDA took its tally to 352 seats. The United Progressive Alliance-led Congress was reduced to 91 seats with it barely crossing the half-century mark with 52 seats. With the BJP's winning percentage reaching 70 per cent (it contested in 437 seats and won 303 of them), the main Opposition party, the Congress, stared at a major existential crisis. The BJP's spectacular win has left the Opposition, the Congress in particular, weak, clueless and irrelevant.

But why is the Opposition so significant? Its importance lies not just in providing a means to express negative reaction to the Government's decisions but to also tirelessly hold the ruling party to account, offer constructive criticism and project a progressive alternative to the Government. On this front, the Congress lacks comprehensive strategy and stamina to take on the might of the BJP's power duo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

It's true that people are often accused of seeing the world the way they want it to be rather than how it is. But do we really need binoculars to see the fall of a once great political party? Leaders from the top-level to the low-rung as well as legislators have been quitting the Congress. The prominent among them are airing their views against the party line. Indications are also there of deep intra-party disputes and conflicts. On a close look, however, one will find the real reason why the leaders took the decision to leave the party/air views. And it wouldn't be surprising for those who have a grasp of the reality.

Last April, I had mentioned in an article titled, *Congress Needs to Make a Comeback for Democracy to Sustain Itself*: "In the world's largest democracy, the shrinking political space of a 133-year-old national party is as disconcerting for the party as it is for democracy itself. And, therefore, the Congress' revival is crucial for the nation and challenging for its party leadership. The task is made tougher as sub-optimal leadership faces the task of rebuilding the party and restructuring its shattered image and appeal."



One and a half years later, the Congress' state of affairs is even worse than what people had feared. I had earlier explained the to-do list for the grand old party, which remains prerequisite till date.

■ The stark reality is that the Congress has, for far too long, functioned as an autocrat, denying many deserving party functionaries their rightful place in the organisation. Loyalty towards individuals doesn't necessarily imply loyalty towards the party. It should take serious note of it.

■ An internally-democratic political party is always good for a democracy. And, therefore, establishing intra-party democratic norms is no longer an option but a necessity. It's likely to prevent disintegration of the party, make politicians accountable and encourage meaningful deliberation.

■ It should get rid of self-seeking and corrupt old guards. There are capable young leaders, who can flush out the party's old, withered arteries.

■ Short-term political advantages have always assured long-term political disadvantages. Compromising politics had the Congress falling from 364 out of 489 Lok Sabha seats in the first-ever general election in 1952 to 44 out of 545 in 2014. While people's expectations from the party are really low, the need for it to rise has never been greater.

Change is as constant a fea-

“FOR THE CONGRESS, THERE ARE ENOUGH POLITICAL OPPORTUNITIES. IT'S JUST ABOUT HOW TO MAKE AN OPPORTUNITY FIT, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND. IT'S ABOUT SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE RIGHT EARNST AND AT THE RIGHT TIME”

ture in politics as it is in life, it is said. Those who resist such a change will find themselves pushing against a sea of opinion and positioned on the wrong side of history.

Most relevant for present-day Congress is an observation by Mohammed Ayoob, Professor, Michigan State University, who writes that even after two major electoral debacles, the dynasty refuses to give up control and deliberately fails to realise that it is destroying the chances of the Congress bouncing back. The equation of the party with the family has destroyed any possibility of its renaissance.

Buoyed by its stupendous victory in this year's parliamentary elections when the BJP is gearing up for the 2024 general election, targeting 333 MPs, the Congress is seen as a small, snivelling, struggling party. As a matter of fact, the Congress' decline began years ago but accelerated in 2014 with the election of Narendra Modi.

It's not that the BJP-led NDA Government is running flawlessly. Apart from the economic mess, the political culture born out of the personality cult, ultra-nationalism and hate politics concerns the common man the most. Besides, the Government has failed to address other critical issues: From agrarian distress to unemployment to dissatisfaction among the urban middle classes and the poor. India's rank in

the Global Hunger Index (GHI) has slipped further — from 95 in 2010 to 117 this year.

So, for the Congress, there are enough political opportunities. It's just about how to make an opportunity fit, not the other way around. It's about seizing opportunities in right earnest and at the right time.

By giving the reins of the party again to a family member, the Congress might have arrested disintegration within but it will commit a grave mistake if it thinks that it can emerge stronger anytime soon. The party leadership must recognise that something far bigger and deeper is at work in the intra-party realm of politics. In the prevailing political culture, for the Congress, if it wishes to be an alternative to the BJP, even disintegration would be a better option if a wider acceptability of the younger generation eludes the party rank and file.

INC, minus Sonia-Rahul-Priyanka, is thinkable but Indian politics minus the Congress is unthinkable and if indeed it happens, it would be sad and may be the most unfortunate turn, which may forever change who we are. The Congress may be critically weakened but it is not wrecked as yet.

(The writer is former Deputy General Manager, India International Centre, New Delhi, and General Manager, International Centre, Goa)

## SOUNDBITE

Prime Minister Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman should steal ideas from the Congress' Lok Sabha poll manifesto to tackle the economic mess.

Congress leader  
—Rahul Gandhi



In the age of digital streaming and social media that is slowly but surely isolating us, MAMI binds us without boundaries, inhibitions and fear.

Actor  
—Deepika Padukone



He (Erdogan) is a friend of mine and I'm glad we didn't have a problem because frankly, he's a hell of a leader and he's a tough man. He did the right thing.

US President  
—Donald Trump



India is committed to peace and stability in the neighbourhood as also in the wider region. The Army will continue to partner with friends to confront any kind of emerging threat.

Army Chief  
—Gen Bipin Rawat



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Wait for the verdict

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Ayodhya closure" (October 18). A five-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, has reserved its verdict on one of the most sensitive case of the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute in Ayodhya. What will follow next is a race against time as the verdict will be delivered in a month's time before Gogoi demits office.

In a democracy, any judicial verdict is premised on facts, which entail reliable evidence, satisfactory proof and eyewitnesses. If indeed a settlement is reached, it will be a victory for parties concerned and the mediators, too. Whatever decision the court takes must be accepted gracefully.

Finally, the country must move out from its past and focus on more important issues pertaining to the economy. The young generation is faced with a serious unemployment crisis. We need a strong economy and not court cases.

Azhar A Khan  
Rampur

### India's hunger crisis calls for a policy overhaul

This refers to the editorial, "Still too hungry" (October 18). Identical findings by the 2019 Global Hunger Index (GHI) and UNICEF's report titled, "The State of the World's Children 2019" prove beyond doubt that the incidence of malnutrition is alarmingly high in India. They also underline the enormous task before the National Nutrition Mission (NNM), which was launched last year, to fulfill its goal of a "malnutrition-free India" by 2022. That India is among the worst-performing countries on the acute under-nutrition parameter is particularly worrying. Further, over 90 per cent of the children aged between six months and two years are not fed a "minimally acceptable diet." UNICEF data put the stunting rate among India's under-fives at 37.9 per cent, an abysmal index that would be unacceptable for any country.

It is a proven fact that the diet — during the first 1,000 days after conception — lays the foundation for a child's physical growth and mental development. A proper diet in the early stages of life is half the battle won. Quality food and in adequate quantity is vital for a child's immunity and cognitive development. Malnutrition is most often a product of poverty, poor sanitation, unhygienic living conditions, lack of access to clean water and igno-



rance. It follows that the economic malaise afflicting the country has to be fought to make the fight against "serious levels of hunger" a success. It is a paradox of our times that while granaries overflow, people go hungry. Hunger at a time when more than the required food is available is a failure of the system to deliver. This calls for a strict implementation of the existing policies to ensure that the country's children are given nutritious food.

G David Milton  
Maruthancode

### Strict vigilance needed

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Lessons from PMC" (October 17). The purpose of setting up cooperative banks was to further economic development and social

life of the people. While these banks have been able to fulfill their role partially, a major impediment has been the elected members of borrowers, who are more concerned about furthering their own interests.

Cooperative banks offer

attractive deposit rates than commercial banks and this is why they strive on an ecosystem of small business, traders and petty service providers. In a country like ours, where financial literacy is not so high, it is essential that all banks come

under the purview of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The Central bank must maintain a strict vigil and audit all ailing banks so that scams like PMC never happen again and the faith of the depositor remains intact.

Harvinder Singh Chugh  
Via email

### Hunger challenge

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Still too hungry" (October 18). It is unfortunate that despite being the second-largest food producer, India ranks poorly on the hunger levels. To tackle the problem, there is a need for the Government to increase the budget for children's health.

The problem is all the more complex because the food basket differs from region to region. It is, therefore, essential that we have an efficient integrated system for food production, processing, preservation and distribution which can cater to the changing tastes of the nation.

Srishti Mathur  
Ujjain

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

## More to this than meets the eye

The Turkish-Syrian border drama could have been masterminded by Russia to get USA out and restore the Assad Govt's control over eastern Syria



GWYNNE DYER

Russia and its Syrian ally Bashar al-Assad win, the Kurds lose, and the United States (US) leaves in disgrace. It has been a hectic few days on the Turkish-Syrian border. After a phone call with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on October 7, Donald Trump abruptly abandoned America's Kurdish allies in Syria. As US troops pulled out of their positions along Syria's northern border, where they had been protecting the Kurds from a Turkish attack, Erdogan moved fast. The Turkish President declared that he would take over a big chunk of northern Syria to drive out the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), the Kurdish-dominated militia that has been America's key ally in the fight against the Islamic State (ISIS). Erdogan described the SDF as "terrorists" and a threat to Turkey but they are nothing of the sort.

Syrian Kurds are the majority population in the border region with Turkey. They created the SDF to resist the ISIS' attempts to conquer the region five years ago, after the Syrian regular army pulled out of the region to fight rebels elsewhere in the country. The SDF became America's key local ally in the fight against the ISIS. Over 10,000 Kurds died in that war, while the US gave them air support. By the end of last year they had destroyed ISIS and the whole region was at peace. The local Kurds and their Arab neighbours were running it themselves. The Kurds did want autonomy within Syria but they never demanded independence and they have made no attacks on Turkey, terrorist or otherwise. So why did Erdogan want to attack them?

Erdogan is paranoid about the Kurds, because one-fifth of Turkey's own population are ethnic Kurds, and some of them have waged a guerrilla and terrorist struggle for decades, seeking an independent state. Other Kurdish minorities in the region, including those in Syria, are not at war with the Turks but Erdogan didn't like having the Kurdish-run SDF on his border.

Turkey invaded last Saturday and after about 36 hours the despairing Syrian Kurds did the obvious thing: they asked the Syrian army to come back and save them. They don't love Syria's dictator, Bashar al-Assad, but it's better than being invaded by Turkey and losing their homes permanently.

But there was something puzzling about all this. Why would Assad's Russian allies approve a Syrian army move that might bring it into direct conflict with the Turkish army? After all, Vladimir Putin has been courting Erdogan as a potential ally (even though Turkey is currently a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) member).

The Syrian army is now driving back into the northeastern part of the country unopposed by the SDF. They will re-occupy the whole region (which is Syrian sovereign territory). The Syrian Kurds may still be able to negotiate an autonomy deal with Damascus, on the grounds that they are Syria's only non-Arab minority. In any case, they have no other alternative.

Erdogan can either back down and be humiliated, or he can press on and risk a war not only with the Syrian army but also the Russian air force. That's the way it looks on the surface and maybe that's all that's going on here. But we must also consider the possibility that the whole thing has been a charade, masterminded by the Russians, to get the Americans out of Syria and restore the Assad Government's control over all of eastern Syria.

First, Erdogan puts the frighteners on Trump in the famous phone-call, and Trump abandons the Kurds and starts pulling the US troops out. Then Erdogan launches the threatened invasion, and the Syrian Kurds understandably panic and make a deal with Damascus.

The Syrian army returns to the northern border for the first time in five years without having to fire a shot, carefully avoiding the points along the border where the Turks have already entered the country. Erdogan declares a ceasefire and eventually withdraws his troops, stating that he is satisfied that the Kurdish "threat" has been ended because the Syrian army, not the SDF, now controls the border. Even Iran is satisfied, because this eliminates the possibility that the US forces could be an obstacle to its planned secure corridor across Syria to Lebanon.

There's no proof of this but it makes sense. The Russians are smart enough and Trump is inept or compromised enough. It would explain why the Russians looked like they were backing the Syrians at the risk of alienating their new Turkish friend. Maybe there was no risk. Maybe Erdogan was in on the deal.

And don't worry about a revival of the ISIS. For the thousands of ISIS fighters now held prisoner by the Kurds, there can be no worse fate than falling into the hands of the Syrian army. (Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work'.)

THE CONGRESS PARTY, WHEN THE BILL CAME IN PARLIAMENT ON ARTICLE 370, WHEN DISCUSSIONS CAME UP, VOTED FOR IT, NOT AGAINST IT.

—FORMER PRIME MINISTER

MANMOHAN SINGH

## POINT COUNTERPOINT



IN THE PAST SINGH SUPPRESSED FACTS AND PROVIDED COVER FOR THE CONGRESS. IT DOES NOT BEHOVE A FORMER PM TO MISREPRESENT FACTS.

—BJP SOCIAL MEDIA CELL CHIEF

AMIT MALVIYA

# Fuelling new partnerships

India must broaden its vision of oil security which should go beyond increasing indigenous production, to cover arrangements with other nations for assured supplies of crude and gas



UTTAM GUPTA

Despite loud talk by successive Governments about increasing domestic production of oil and gas to make India self-sufficient in energy, we are producing less than 20 per cent of our requirement. The balance, over 80 per cent, continues to be imported. This heightens our vulnerability to a point whereby the slightest disruption in any of the major sources of imports (be it imposition of sanctions by the US against Iran or an attack on oil installations in Saudi Arabia) creates major ripples that have the potential to destabilise the country's economy.

The problem is not lack of resources. India has 26 Sedimentary Basins (SBs) covering an area of 3.14 million square kilometres (sq km). But, the lack of a conducive policy environment and cumbersome regulatory processes have deterred global firms (who have the technology, expertise and capital) from investing in their exploration, development and commercialisation. At present, only six SBs covering 0.518 million sq km or barely 16 per cent of the total area are under commercial exploitation. Even these six SBs are sub-optimally utilised.

An overwhelming share of throughput comes from fields discovered over four decades ago in the 1970s, namely Bombay High and the South Bassein fields and so on, with no major discoveries in recent times. The only exception were finds in the Krishna Godavari (KG) basin in the early 2000s, touted as ones that would contribute nearly 50 per cent of the country's total gas production. Even that turned out to be a damp squib with the high-profile KG-D6 operated by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) ending up with meagre reserves of about two trillion cubic feet (Tcf) against an initial estimate of 10 Tcf.

The Narendra Modi Government has tried to entice global energy giants by assuring a higher price for difficult deep/ultra-deep water fields on the one hand and giving flexibility to operators in choosing new areas with freedom of pricing and marketing under the 2017 Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) on the other. It has also tried to simplify processes for approval and reduce bureaucratic red tape. But controls on supply, distribution and use remain, even as multiple pricing regimes, depending on the supply source and hydrocarbon type, give confusing signals.

In the absence of any major breakthrough in securing a jump in production from fields already given under the 1999 New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP) and given the lukewarm response to the first three rounds of bidding held under HELP, it is unlikely that India would be able to reduce dependence on imports even by 10 per cent as committed by the Modi Government. The Centre will, therefore, need to explore other options for meeting the country's oil and gas requirements.

The first option involves sourcing a major share of requirements under long-term arrangements with exporters, leaving a small gap, say 10-15 per cent, for buying spot to take advantage of price fluctuations, depending on global-demand supply at any given time.

India being the third-largest importer of oil and gas, we may leverage this to negotiate better prices. Joining hands with another major

“THE MODI GOVERNMENT SHOULD ORCHESTRATE ITS STRATEGY COMBINING THE BEST OF ALL AVAILABLE OPTIONS LIKE BOOSTING DOMESTIC PRODUCTION, LONG-TERM CONTRACTS FOR SUPPLIES, LETTING GLOBAL OIL MAJORS OWN EQUITY IN THE COUNTRY'S REFINERS AND RETAILERS AND INDIAN COMPANIES ACQUIRING OIL ASSETS ABROAD FOR ENSURING ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF CRUDE AND GAS TO MEET OUR GROWING REQUIREMENTS ON A SUSTAINED BASIS”



buyer, say China, could further improve the country's bargaining power (but this is easier said than done). However, the threat of disruption always remains; due to the *force majeure* clause in such tie-ups.

A second alternative is for Indian companies to pick up equity stakes in foreign oil and gas assets with arrangements for buy-back. For instance, ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), holds participating interest in over 40 assets in 20 countries. RIL, too, acquired assets in several jurisdictions. But this route is subject to a huge downside risk of erosion in the value of investment — as already experienced by both RIL and OVL.

A third alternative is one in which global behemoths such as Aramco — the Saudi Arabian Government-owned biggest petro giant and the world's largest oil exporter — pick up stake in Indian companies which are focussed on refining and marketing of oil products. This route is free from the vulnerabilities inherent under the above two options.

Already, in sync with Saudi Arabia's intent to invest \$ 100 billion in India's downstream sector, including refining, petrochemicals, retailing and so on, Aramco has proposed to acquire 25 per cent equity in the \$ 60 billion West Coast refinery (another 25 per cent will come from the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company-Adnoc) and petrochemical project in Maharashtra in which the other 50 per cent will be owned by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan

Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).

It is also contemplating picking up 20 per cent equity in oil and gas assets of RIL. The most crucial feature of this partnership/joint venture is assured supply of crude oil by Aramco to meet 50 per cent of the requirement of the West Coast refinery. The arrangement is mutually beneficial. While, on one hand, India gets what it needs the most, that is crude in desired quantities on a long-term basis without any disruption, on the other, Saudi Arabia also gets what it needs the most, which is an opportunity to diversify its sources of income, thereby reducing its over-dependence on crude alone. There could not be a more apt example of the two countries exploiting synergies to the advantage of both.

Indian companies can pursue similar arrangements with other major suppliers of crude oil like Iraq, Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), who will also be very keen to reduce their over-dependence on crude alone and make their economies immune to vulnerabilities resulting from price fluctuations.

From our perspective, even if there is loss of output in their crude production facilities, being a co-owner in Indian firms, they won't cut supplies to the country. To take it a step further, the Government may even consider divesting its entire stake in oil refining and marketing PSUs to strategic investors who have ownership and control over crude assets.

As part of its ambitious programme of disinvestment to garner ₹105,000 crore during the current year, it has

decided to divest all of its 53.3 per cent shareholding in BPCL. If, it is sold to say Aramco or Adnoc, this will not only yield a whopping ₹57,000 crore (at current market capitalisation of ₹107,000 crore) but also ensure assured supplies of crude.

The Modi Government may also consider sale of HPCL — at present owned by ONGC which in turn is majority-owned by itself — to global energy majors. The sale of BPCL and HPCL won't face any legal hurdles as the relevant legislations, which led to the creation of these PSUs, have already been repealed in 2016.

While, pursuing these initiatives, India's political class needs to broaden its vision of oil security which should go beyond increasing indigenous production to cover arrangements for assured supplies of crude from all sources. It also needs to unshackle itself from the "socialist era" mindset that crucial assets such as oil must necessarily be owned by PSUs. In a world where supply chains are globally integrated, the focus should be on how best our economic interests are served rather than worrying about ownership.

The Modi Government should orchestrate its strategy combining the best of all available options like boosting domestic production, long-term contracts for supplies, letting global oil majors own equity in the country's refiners and retailers and Indian companies acquiring oil assets abroad for ensuring adequate supplies of crude and gas to meet our growing requirements on a sustained basis.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst)

# Vital tools in India's healthcare delivery

While equipment manufacturers have mostly focussed on improving the quality of care and life expectancy, they also need to increase affordability so that there is a largescale impact



NIKHILESH TIWARI

Successful healthcare delivery depends both on the availability of personnel and technologies. Medical devices are an important cog in the delivery system as they equip health service providers with the necessary tools to perform their job effectively. Though the country's healthcare industry has grown significantly over the last decade, our health ecosystem is plagued by the lack of availability and affordability of quality services. In fact, India lags behind Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa and a number of other developing countries in this regard. While technological advancements have expanded to encompass almost every stage of the healthcare contin-

uum, accessibility and democratic availability remains a hurdle. India faces a dual challenge as the rising burden of lifestyle diseases is added to the burden of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis. Non-communicable diseases are currently responsible for 61 per cent of the deaths in the country, a number that is only set to go up in the coming years. While both the Government and private participants have undertaken several measures to address the lack of quality services, these efforts have been executed in discrete silos.

In this scenario, medical appliances play a key role in offering better screening, diagnosis and treatment along with restoration and monitoring of health indicators to boost prevention. While equipment manufacturers have mostly focussed on improving the quality of care and life expectancy, they also need to increase affordability so that there is a large scale impact.

Technology has improved the complexity and accuracy of screening

of diseases. Portable/point-of-care accessories have made it possible to improve diagnostic mechanisms at the primary healthcare level, provide care at home and resulted in improved health outcomes and patient satisfaction. It has also improved the access to quality care in underserved and remote regions, while also making it possible for patients to avail treatment outside traditional healthcare facilities.

Technological advancements in surgical equipment have enabled doctors to treat highly complex and critical cases and reduce the length of extended hospital stays. It has increasingly made it possible for elective and complex operations such as knee replacement and bariatric surgery to be moved to short stay/outpatient surgery centres. For example, laproscopic surgery procedures remarkably improve outcomes; reduce length of hospital stays as well as cost of treatment.

Rehabilitative centres and hospitals are making it easier for patients to recuperate and return to a relatively

normal life with the help of advanced restorative and assistive devices. Advancements in curative technology have also allowed people with disabilities to lead productive lives.

Advancements in screening devices have enabled patients to monitor their condition at home, keeping a close track on all major health indicators. Furthermore, smart appliances are being increasingly used to remotely monitor patients and diagnose life-threatening conditions early, reducing the need for hospital visits and bringing down the pressure on overburdened healthcare centres.

However, there is a need for a more congenial ecosystem for indigenous manufacturers as medical technology is a significant contributor to the cost of healthcare delivery. According to conservative estimates, medical equipment contributes to at least 30 per cent of the capital of setting up a secondary or tertiary care center. Moreover, diagnostics and medical devices contribute to at least 20 per cent of the cost of medical services. Unfortunately, the

ecosystem is not very conducive for the sector to drive affordability and accessibility. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) on devices currently stands at 12 per cent. On the other hand, customs duty is low. This tax policy negatively impacts indigenous production and supports imports, which is counter-intuitive to the 'Make in India' initiative. As the inverted duty structure favors bringing in finished goods over raw material, imports constitute 75 per cent of the industry's sales. As a result, local manufacturers make products at the lower end of the value chain.

The Government must consider revising its tax policy to help local manufacturers gain a larger share of the market. This will also help them make products at more affordable costs.

With a changing regulatory and economic environment, the medical device sector is set to grow in the future and there are a range of factors fuelling it. According to estimates, non-communicable diseases will cause

75 per cent of the deaths in the country by 2025, with an increasing number of people suffering from diabetes, heart disease and progressive lung diseases. The geriatric population is also set to increase and would require a higher need for quality healthcare and medical devices, both at homes and health facilities.

Apart from devising a more congenial tax structure, the country needs to strengthen its regulatory mechanisms and testing procedures to ensure highest standards of quality are met. According to news reports, the NITI Aayog has prepared a roadmap to ensure better regulation of medical equipment under which all devices — imported or locally manufactured — will have to be certified by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). While improving regulation is welcome, the authorities must ensure that the process remains smooth, hassle-free and fast.

(The writer is director of a medical device marketing and distribution company)



## BACK THE GREEN NEW DEAL

For many years, the World Bank and the IMF were the international manifestation of the New Deal. They backed expansionary economic policies and were mindful of the rights of individual countries to govern. There are now proposals, backed by the UN, for a global Green New Deal. It would be a good thing for global economy, the planet and for their own long-term prospects, if the IMF and World Bank chose to back the idea.

(The Guardian editorial)

# Opp slams Goyal for 'belittling' Abhijit

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal political parties and civil society have slammed Union Minister Piyush Goyal for attacking Nobel Laureate Abhijit Banerjee for his alleged Leftist leanings.

Faulting Goyal for, "unnecessarily bringing politics to malign a Nobel Laureate who has made India proud" Bengal Congress leader and MP Pradip Bhattacharya on Friday said "it is unfortunate that our Ministers are so uneducated and biased that they do not even think twice to belittle a Nobel Laureate who has made India proud by unnecessarily brining politics to malign him."

Scoffing at Goyal he said, "the literacy level of our Ministers is so high that they do not even think twice to invoke Newton's second law in Albert Einstein's name," and wondered "why a stalwart will have to be belittled just because he has Left leanings."

Earlier while congratulating Abhijit for his remarkable achievements in the field of economics



Goyal said, "I congratulate Abhijit Banerjee for winning the Nobel Prize ... (but) you all know that his thinking is totally Left-leaning." He backed his comments by saying how "Banerjee supported Nyay (poverty alleviation scheme of the Congress) but people of India rejected that ideology."

Questioning Goyal's "political wisdom" the Congress MP said "just because a political party got a man-

date and another party did not get it you get the license to negate a Nobel Laureate's scholarly findings. It is a political party that got the people's mandate and not the theory of 'Nyay' which was supported by Abhijit Banerjee," he said.

"Considering the sliding economic condition of the country during the BJP's rule the time is coming when the people who are attacking day will go to him and sit at his

'It is irrelevant whether the Nyay found political success or not. The question is whether the prescription of Mamata which has won him the Nobel Prize is relevant and affective in conquering poverty'

—Bangla poet Subodh Ghosh

feet to take lessons on economic development," he maintained.

Bangla poet Subodh Ghosh also attacked Goyal for "failing to understand Banerjee's achievements as an economist." He said "it is irrelevant whether the Nyay found political success or not. The question is whether the prescription of Banerjee which has won him the Nobel Prize is relevant and affective in conquering poverty."

Economist and State Financial Advisor Abhiroop Sarkar said, "it is unfortunate that someone of Abhijit Banerjee's stature will get such reception from the national government."

# Bengal Gov hits out at State Ministers' sense of decorum

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Even as the distance between Raj Bhavan and Nabanna (State Secretariat) widened, Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar once again lambasted the Trinamool Congress Ministers for repeatedly making adverse comments against him.

Speaking to an audience Dhankhar on Friday said "every time Governor (Dhankhar) does something sensible you (Ministers) come out with a statement defying decorum. I am not a tourist. I am here to discharge my constitutional duties which I will continue doing."

The Governor was particularly referring to senior State leader and Minister Subroto Mukherjee's comments questioning his initiative to hold an administrative meeting in North Bengal town of Siliguri. "It is nothing but a gimmick," Mukherjee had said adding the

Governor was just a "tourist in the State."

He said "some call me a tourist, others called the Siliguri visit a gimmick" and vowed to "continue discharging" his constitutional duties, reminding that he was not the one who crossed his Laxman Rekha and adding it was upon Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to take action on her Ministers.

The distance between the Trinamool Congress and Dhankhar had been widening ever since he personally went down to Jadavpur University to rescue Union Minister Babul Supriyo who was trapped amid agitating students.

Subsequently he told the media about his being "humiliated" by the State Government during the Durga Puja carnival which was hosted by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

An emotional Governor said he "felt insulted at the carnival. I am

deeply hurt and disturbed. The insult was not to me but to every people of West Bengal. They will never digest such as insult. I am a servant of the people of West Bengal. Nothing can deter me from performing my constitutional duties," with his voice literally trembling.

"Speaking out of my injured heart" the Governor said "for four hours or more I was there and your press coverage was totally blacked out...This is unheard of. You will never find it anywhere else. Someone told me it was reminiscent of the Emergency."

Meanwhile, Subroto Mukherjee once again attacked the Centre for breaking all constitutional norms and rules of federalism by bringing the Governor under Z category security to be provided by the central forces. "This is an utter infringement on State's federal rights," Mukherjee said.

# WB Govt to run 100 minibuses to reduce commuter sufferings

PTI ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Government has decided to run 100 minibuses in the northern outskirts of the city from November one to reduce the hardship of people caused by closing of Tallah Bridge on the arterial B T Road for heavy vehicles, State Minister Suvendu Adhikary said on Friday.

Movement of buses has been stopped across the bridge after experts found it to be in a rickety condition.

The Barrackpore Trunk (B T) Road connects vast parts of the northern outskirts and North 24 Parganas district to the city. Adhikary, the transport minister, said several 24-seater

buses have already been put into service to reduce the problem of the people travelling on these routes.

Diversion of bus routes to avoid Tallah Bridge have also led to pulling off services by many operators citing losses owing to increased fuel costs and lack of passengers.

To compensate for the reduced number of buses on this route, the government will run 100 minibuses of West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC) on diverted routes bypassing the bridge, Adhikary said.

He said the Metro Railway has also agreed to run 10 extra trains from northern terminal station Noapara to cater to the increased load of passengers.

# Mamata assures legal help to kin of murdered schoolteacher

PTI ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday assured the relatives of the murdered schoolteacher of Murshidabad district of providing all legal help if needed in connection with the case.

Six relatives of the dead teacher Bondhu Prakash Paul, whose body was found along with that of his wife Beauty and six-year-old son lying in pools of blood at their house at Jagunj on October 8 during the Durga Puja festival, had met Mamata at the State Secretariat on Thursday.

The killings took on a political colour when the BJP slammed the state government over the incident and claimed



that the man was its supporter. Both RSS and BJP had claimed that Paul used to participate in 'Milan' the Sangh's weekly programme.

The man's mother and his relatives have denied any involvement by him with RSS.

The chief minister assured us of providing legal assistance if required. We have not

asked for any financial help from her, Rajesh Ghosh, his cousin, told newsmen at the secretariat.

We are happy with the police investigation into the murder and appier now after meeting the chief minister, he added.

Asked they said, "There is no political connection with the family.

A mason, from whom Paul had taken money promising an insurance policy has been arrested for allegedly killing the family.

Earlier in the day, the Paul's relatives went to the state police headquarters at Bhawani Bhawan in the city and met senior police officers in connection with the case.



Hindu Jagran Manch members protest at District Collector's office against alleged killing of an RSS worker and his family members in West Bengal's Murshidabad district, in Bikaner on Friday

PTI

# Anti-development face of Opp stands exposed: Yogi

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attacked the opposition in his election rallies in the State on Friday and said their anti-development face has been exposed.

Adityanath also accused the Opposition of indulging in hooliganism and corruption while in power and claimed that the BJP worked for the welfare of people.

The CM was addressing rallies in Aligarh, Rampur and Saharanpur for the bypolls in the state.

"Only those people are not admiring our work during whose tenure the power was merely a synonym for anarchy, corruption and hooliganism. The SR, BSP and the Congress were all involved in this," he said.

"They never had development on their mind. And now when their anti-development face has been exposed, people have been rejecting them since 2014," he claimed.

Mentioning the develop-



ment works carried out by his party, the UP Chief Minister said during the tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, around three crore people got houses.

"The Ayushman Bharat Yojana has become a boon for the destitute. Free houses and gas connections were distributed among the poor. Farmers of the state were benefited under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Yojana," said the CM, adding that the government had been working to "double" farmers' income.

"By making them happy, we want to realise dreams of Chaudhary Charan Singh," he

said. Lambasting the Congress, the chief minister said, "It only gave us terrorism, corruption and insulted Babasaheb Bhimro Ambedkar by granting a special status to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370."

He claimed that the BJP achieved what the other parties could not in the past 70 years. "The Congress needs the power to loot. The SP and BSP continued with their corrupt practices. The BJP brought an end to all this and paved a way for the prosperity of people," he said.

Referring to Aligarh Muslim University, Adityanath said Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh played a very significant role in establishing the institution.

"He had given land for it but his name has not been mentioned on any plaque," Adityanath said, adding that the UP government was reviving the lock industry in Aligarh through the 'one district, one product' programme.

# In UP, mini version of Assembly polls tomorrow

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh will on Monday see a mini version of Assembly elections with bypolls in 11 constituencies, coming just months after the BJP swept the State in the Lok Sabha elections.

The UP bypolls for Gangoh, Rampur, Iglas (SC), Lucknow Cantonment, Govindnagar, Manikpur, Pratapgarh, Zaidpur (SC), Jalalpur, Balha (SC) and Ghosi seats are being held along with the Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Haryana.

It is a four-cornered contest with the BJP, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Samajwadi Party (SP) and Congress fielding candidates on all 11 assembly seats.

While the ruling BJP will try to build on its Lok Sabha success, the opposition parties hope the results will help them galvanise its cadres ahead of the 2022 elections for the 403-member Uttar Pradesh

Assembly.

The Congress, in particular, hopes to show signs of revival in UP after its battering in the Lok Sabha polls in when it won just one seat, party chief Sonia Gandhi's Rae Bareilly constituency.

In contrast, the BJP won 62 of the 80 parliamentary seats in the state and an ally bagged two more.

"We have several challenges before us. But with the blessings of the seniors and the support of the youth, no one will be able to stop the party from coming to power in 2022," newly appointed Congress state president Ajay Kumar Lallu said recently.

Lallu said the Congress will become the voice of the deprived, farmers, youth and women in the state.

He exhorted workers to overcome all hurdles through determination and hard work, and function unitedly.

# UP's political outfit chief found murdered at home

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The president of a little known Hindu Samaj Party was found murdered at his home in the congested Naka Hindola area of the city here, police said on Friday.

Kamlesh Tiwari (45) was earlier associated with a faction of the Hindu Mahasabha, they said.

The Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha in a statement condemned the incident.

Police said brief protests were held in the area by local residents after the murder.

"Kamlesh Tiwari was found murdered inside his house. Two persons had come to meet him. Both were speaking to Tiwari when the latter sent one of his aides to get 'paan' for them," Vikas Tripathi, ASP (Lucknow West), told PTI. "When his aide returned from the market, he found Tiwari in a pool of blood," Tripathi added.

A senior UP Government official said the visitors shot Tiwari dead after talking to

him for little over half an hour.

Police reached the spot and gathered the CCTV footage.

UP DGP OP Singh told reporters, "Those who have murdered Tiwari are said to be his acquaintances. They spent over half an hour with him and even gave Tiwari a box of sweets and after it the murder took place. We have got some vital clues and based on CCTV footage and other evidences, we are working on the case."

He said teams had been formed to crack the case.

"We have also got some call details. The special task force has been engaged in the case," he said, adding that it was "purely a criminal activity" done by two people.

The UP DGP said there were "some minor law and order problem" in the area after the murder took place with local people saying that such incidents should not take place.

"But, the situation now is under control. Police officers

are patrolling the area. In the next 48 hours, we will catch the culprits," he said.

When asked whether there was any possible terror angle in the incident, Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) PV Ramasastry told PTI, "All the angles are being looked into. And, it would be improper to jump to any conclusion."

Senior Superintendent of Police Kalanidhi Naithani said prima facie it seemed to be a case of personal enmity.

He added that teams had been formed to crack the case. Naka Hindola SHO Sajeet Kumar Dubey said there were brief protests by angry local residents after the incident.

The situation was normal, Dubey said.

An eyewitness, Saurashtra Singh, told reporters shortly after the incident that the police constable deployed at the house of Tiwari was sleeping while the gunman attached to him was not coming for the past a couple of days.

# UP Govt hikes DA to 17%

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Government on Friday increased the dearness allowance for state government employees to 17 per cent from 12 per cent.

In a statement, an official said apart from the state government employees, staff of aided educational institutions, technical educational institutions and urban local bodies would also get the enhanced DA.

The state government official said the increased rates would be applicable from July 1. The arrears of dearness allowance from July 1 to September 30 will be deposited in the PF account. The amount payable from October 1 will be paid along with this month's salary, the official added.

# Centre should follow economic policies of Narasimha Rao, Manmohan: Gehlot

PTI ■ JHUNJHUNU

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday said the country's economy was weakening and the Centre should follow the policies of former prime minister P V Narasimha Rao and then finance minister Manmohan Singh to upend the downward trend.

He said the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Manmohan Singh and even the husband of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman have expressed concern over India's economy.

In a newspaper article published on October 14, Sitharaman's husband Prabhakar took a swipe at the BJP-led government over its economic vision and asked it to embrace the economic architecture offered by Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh.

"They (central government) should follow the policies of Narasimha Rao and



Manmohan Singh, and start working. Then only the country will be saved," Gehlot said at a public rally here.

"Democracy is under threat... We are becoming weaker economically. The entire country and the world is saying this," he said, adding, "You can imagine the state of affairs when the finance minister's husband is writing an article that the government has no understanding of the economic situation."

Because of the non-visionary policies of the government the country was heading towards a wrong direction. Growth rate is slowing, the chief minister said.

"People are chanting

(Prime Minister Narendra) Modi's name despite the fact that there is no business, economy is falling and there are no jobs. Such is the situation, how long will this country tolerate?" he asked.

"We don't have any enmity with Modi, (Amit) Shah, the BJP or RSS. This is a fight of ideology," he said.

"They talk about nationalism during elections. Are we not nationalist? Will we have to seek certificate from BJP to become nationalists? Doing politics in the name of religion, provoking people of one religion against another, is this (the way of doing) the politics in a democracy?" Gehlot posed.

In the rally, he called upon the people to vote for Congress candidate Rita Chaudhary in Mandawa Assembly bypoll which will be held on October 21. State Congress president Sachin Pilot and other leaders were also present in the meeting.

# Pilot questions own Govt's move on mayors' polls

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan's Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot on Friday questioned his own Government's decision on elections to the posts of heads of urban local bodies.

Taking a stand that appeared to go against the view of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Pilot made it clear he was not consulted on the decision that was notified on Wednesday.

Two other Ministers in the Congress-run State have separately opposed the move that allows people who are not elected councillors to contest for posts like mayors and chairpersons of corporations and municipalities.

The non-councillor candidates still have to be elected by councillors to the top posts.

"This is not a good decision and I do not agree with this. The decision is not practical and not politically right and there is a need to make changes to the decision," Pilot told reporters in Jhunjhunu.

"We decided to hold indirect election for the posts of mayor and chairperson. This was fine. But suddenly a new decision appeared that I came to know from newspapers. This was not discussed in the cabinet or the legislative party meeting," he said.

Pilot, who is the Rajasthan Congress president, claimed that the new system, which is being called a hybrid, will allow people to become urban body heads through the back door.

He said democracy is not strengthened if a candidate who could not win a councillors' election is allowed to contest for the mayor's post.

"Our party and the Government have always said that democracy should be strengthened," he said.

"I do not think such a system has been implemented in any state of the country," he said, adding that the decision needs to be changed.

A gazette notification to amend the rules on election of mayors and chairpersons was



issued on Wednesday.

On Thursday, Food and Civil Supply Minister Ramesh Meena and Transport Minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas separately expressed apprehension, saying it could lead to resentment among party workers.

Khachariyawas said the system was injustice to those who worked in the field and won councillors' elections.

When asked about the comments by these two ministers, Chief Minister Gehlot said everyone is concerned about delivering good gover-

nance.

"The cabinet, all MLAs and the entire Government is engaged in that. Elections for the local bodies and the Panchayati Raj are coming. We will fight and win the elections," the chief minister told reporters in Jhunjhunu.

Pilot and Gehlot were together in Jhunjhunu where they addressed a rally in support of Rita Chaudhary, who is contesting the assembly bypolls for the Mandawa seat.

Later, they talked separately with the media.

Rifts in Rajasthan Congress surfaced after the Assembly elections last December that were followed by intense lobbying for the chief minister's post.

While Gehlot was picked by the central leadership for the top post, Pilot had to settle for the deputy's spot.

Recently, Pilot expressed concern over the law and order situation in the state and his remark were seen as a comment on Gehlot's performance.

# PM slams ex-FM PC for ruining economy

TM RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Singling out the Congress-NCNP alliance leaders for a blistering attack on issues of corruption and alleged links with terrorists, Prime Minister Narendra Modi indirectly slammed former Finance Minister P Chidambaram for “destroying” the country’s economy and banking system and former Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel for his alleged with late Iqbal Mirchi, an erstwhile close aide of Karachi-based underworld Dawood Ibrahim.

Addressing a large public rally at Bandra-Kurla Complex in north—central Mumbai, Modi took on Chidambaram and Patel without actually naming them but making an unmistakable reference to the former Finance Minister’s presence in Tihar Jail and the ongoing investigations by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) into the an alleged property deal between the former Civil Aviation Minister and Hajra Iqbal, the wife of late Iqbal Mirchi.

Castigating Chidambaram



for “destroying” Indian economy and banking system for ten years, Modi said: “Take the case of those (Congress) who had imposed angel tax in the country. Compare them with us: we are making corporate tax in the country conducive to the world. They had imposed hefty corporate tax in the world. Here we are who transfer money directly into the accounts of common people.”

“They (congress) were those who had transferred lakhs of crores of rupees of money through ‘phone banking’.

The people in Maharashtra and across the country know who did all this. Those who destroyed the country’s economy and banking system for 10 long years are languishing in Delhi’s Tihar Jail or Mumbai jail. This is just beginning of the cleaning up operation. You will get us speed up the work in the coming day,” the Prime Minister said.

Charging that the Congress and allies failed in doing justice to the victim families of 1993 Mumbai serial blasts and tried to protect those behind the blasts, Modi targeted Patel for

his alleged links with late Mirchi’s family. “Whenever the issue of doing justice to the victim families comes up, the Congress and its allies try to protect the terrorists. Mumbai, Maharashtra and the country will never forget the wounds of 1993 blasts.

The Government of the time did not do justice to the victims. Those behind the blasts fled the country. The reason behind the same has now come into the open.

“Instead of catching hold of the people (Dawood Ibrahim and his aides), these people are

indulging in the trade of mirchi with them. Kabhi mirchi ka vyapar, Kabhi Mirchi se vyapar. I request the people of Mumbai and Maharashtra to know these and get cautious about the parties they represent. They are not bothered about the prestige of Maharashtra and country,” the Prime Minister said.

He also went onto slam the Congress and its supporters for creating an impression that it was only the one family (Gandhi Nehru) that brought freedom to the country. “These are the same who had insulted late B R Ambedkar. These are the same people who are doing the same thing with the memorial being built in the name of Chhatrati Shivaji. Right from day one, they are creating hurdles in the way of construction of the Shivaji memorial,” Modi said.

The Prime Minister announced that the work on the mid-sea Shivaji memorial would begin. “The moment we get a green signal from the court, we will start the construction of the memorial,” he said.

# Bring back Art 370 when in power, Shah dares Pawar, Rahul

PTI ■ CHANDRAPUR

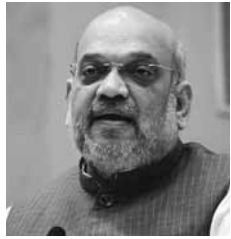
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday dared Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and NCP chief Sharad Pawar to bring back Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir if they ever return to power.

Addressing a poll rally in Rajura seat here, Shah said the Congress, NCP and other opposition parties did not abrogate provisions of Article 370 due to vote-bank politics.

Article 370 had become the “gateway for terrorists” in the last 70 years, leading to 40,000 killings in J&K, he claimed.

He said the Narendra Modi government was elected with a bigger mandate in 2019 because people had full faith in his leadership and development works carried out by the Centre.

“I am throwing a direct challenge to Rahul Gandhi and Sharad Pawar to restore Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir after



coming to power,” he said.

He said the Congress, despite ruling the country for “70 years” had done nothing for Adivasis and Other Backward Castes, while the BJP government at the Centre had launched a slew of schemes for their welfare.

Vote for the BJP as it stood for development, while parties like Congress and NCP were centred around families, he exhorted the gathering.

The State goes to poll on October 21 while results will be declared on October 24.

# Modi misleading nation on Article 370 vote: Cong

PTI ■ MUMBAI

There was no vote in Parliament on the abrogation of provisions of Article 370 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi was misleading the nation on the issue, senior Congress leader Anand Sharma claimed here on Friday.

Addressing a Press conference ahead of the October 21 Maharashtra Assembly polls, Sharma said the Congress did not need a certificate from the BJP on patriotism, as two of its Prime Ministers sacrificed their lives in the fight against terror.

Modi and the BJP have been targeting the Congress during the campaign for Assembly polls, claiming that the grand old party opposed the scrapping of Article 370.

Article 370 was a temporary provision which was to go in a span of time. Parliament only needs to be notified about it. On August 5-6, the Government informed Parliament and there was no vote.

# BJP banks on Fadnavis’ ex-aide to halt Congress hat-trick in Ausa

PTI ■ MUMBAI

A comparatively low-profile Assembly segment, Ausa in central Maharashtra shot into limelight when Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis’s former PA Abhimanyu Pawar jumped into the fray as the BJP candidate and all eyes will be on how he fares in his maiden poll foray.

The Ausa Assembly seat in Latur district in the arid Marathwada region will see Pawar locking horns with two-time Congress MLA Basavraj Patil.

Traditionally a Shiv Sena seat, the BJP convinced its ally to part with the segment and gave nomination to Pawar, Fadnavis’s former personal assistant (PA).

Overnight, Ausa became one of the most talked about Assembly seats of this election and Fadnavis’s shadow looms large over the constituency given that he handpicked his close aide Pawar as the BJP candidate.

However, Pawar is unlikely to have a cakewalk as he is pitted against a strong candidate, sitting Congress MLA Patil.

# We don’t fight with kids: Pawar on CM’s jibe about weak Opp

PTI ■ BEED/PANDHARPUR

NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Friday hit back at Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis over his jibe that ‘there is no wrestler to fight with’ in the Maharashtra Assembly polls, saying one doesn’t fight with “kids”.

The NCP patriarch was speaking at a campaign rally at Ambejogai in Beed district.

“The Chief Minister says their wrestler is in the poll battle but there is no wrestler from the opposition in sight.”

“There is this organisation called Maharashtra State Wrestling Association, and its president’s name is Sharad Pawar,” the former Union minister said.

“I stand behind all the wrestlers, and he is telling us about wrestlers. We don’t fight with kids,” Pawar, 78, said.

If there was no contest, why Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath are holding rallies in the state, he asked.

He himself was not contesting, but leaders of the ruling

ing BJP and Shiv Sena cannot make a single speech without mentioning him, Pawar said.

The NCP chief also hit out at Shah for repeatedly asking what did Pawar do for Maharashtra, and listed his decisions such as giving 50 per cent reservation to women in local governing bodies and renaming Marathwada University after Dr B R Ambedkar.

The only answer the BJP has for every issue including unemployment and agrarian crisis is “abrogation of Article 370,” Pawar said.

The NCP was not opposed to the scrapping of the provisions of the article which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, but people’s concerns needed to be addressed, he said.

He also reiterated the charge that “not even an inch of work” has been carried out for constructing Shivaji Maharaj’s memorial off the Mumbai coast.

Similarly, the work on Ambedkar’s memorial in central Mumbai’s Dadar also has not made any headway, Pawar said.

# Will replicate Delhi model of governance in Maha: Kejriwal

‘Delhi was developing on all fronts because AAP had given ‘corruption-free administration’

PTI ■ CHANDRAPUR

Aam Aadmi Party leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said his state’s development model would be implemented in Maharashtra if it is elected to power in the October 21 Assembly polls.

Speaking at a rally in Brahmhapuri, some 90 kilometres away from here, Kejriwal said Delhi was developing on all fronts because AAP had given ‘corruption-free administration’.

“We are providing free electricity upto 200 units per month, and 20,000 litres of water per person annually. We improved the education system and standard of Government schools, and they are now better than the ones operated by the private sector,” he said.

He said such initiatives would be replicated in Maharashtra to better the fortunes of its people.

# Safe zones set up for fruit dealers in J&K’s Shopian district

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Authorities have set up safe zones for fruit dealers in Jammu and Kashmir’s Shopian district to procure and send the produce outside the State following recent attacks in which two traders were killed, officials said on Friday.

Officials in the district administration said eight to nine “safe zones” have been earmarked in Shopian along the main roads in south Kashmir, to facilitate the fruit dealers to procure the fruits from the farmers.

“Following the recent attacks on fruit dealers, the Government first identified five areas and designated them as safe zones to facilitate the fruit growers and dealers. Now, we have eight to nine of them,” an official said.

These zones are on the main roads of the district and closer to police, army and paramilitary CRPF establishments, the official said.

“The zones are secure, there are RoPs (road opening parties of security forces) who accompany them along with the forces’ deployment. The fruit dealers and trucks have been pushed into these safer

zones as a security measure. The Government has been working on this idea for the last couple of days. It is a stop-gap sort of measure we have taken to ensure that there are no continued attacks,” the official said.

Following the attacks, the official said, there were apprehensions that fruit trade would be severely affected, but “that did not happen” and the loading of fruits was going on.

“After these back-to-back attacks, we expected that people will be discouraged and the whole season will get derailed severely. That did not happen. The loading is still going on. The people have brought their produce in smaller vehicles to these secure zones which we have created and they are loading their fruit over there. There has not been a serious exodus of the truckers following the attacks,” the official said.

There were inputs about possible attacks on fruit dealers and as a security measure, the district administration has also asked about 600 truckers to stay put in Poshana area - near Pir Ki Gali on the Mughal Road, the official said.

# Over 90K people availed Internet facility at 20 kiosks

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Over 90,000 people, mostly students, availed free Internet facility at 20 kiosks set up at the deputy commissioner’s office here, officials said on Friday.

The officials said the students availed the facility to register for various competitive examinations and access other academic information, besides to know their results or download admit cards for different examinations at the local and national level.

“Till date, 90,000 people, mostly students, availed the services of Internet facilities in the kiosks free-of-cost, besides contractors also availed the services to submit tenders for various developmental activities,” the Srinagar district administration said in a statement.

The prominent exams for which students were facilitated in making registration included the GATE, the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Mains, the Council of Scientific

and Industrial Research (CSIR) NET and the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET), they said.

Internet facility has been shut down across Kashmir since August 5 when the Centre announced its decision to withdraw Jammu and Kashmir’s special status under Article 370 of the Constitution. However, the State administration has set up Internet kiosks in every district in the valley to facilitate students and people. The officials said the Internet facility was also used by students for filling admission forms and making applications for scholarships at national and international institutions. The State administration has set up six terminals with operators at the tourist reception centre (TRC) to provide Internet facility.

The administration has also made the Internet facility available at the National Informatics Centre (NIC) at district headquarters where e-tendering facilities are being provided to contractors as well.

## GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Urban Development Department (UDD), Govt. of Tripura represented by its Executive Engineer- II (DDO Code - 08384), Engineering Wing, UDD, Agartala, Tripura (West) invites, on behalf of the "Governor of Tripura", e- tender in double bid system against Press Notice Inviting e -Tender: No...../EE-II/UDD/EW/2019-20 dated...../10/2019 for "Engagement of Design, Supervision & Management Consultancy (DSMC) services for 2 (two) numbers Ground Water Treatment Plant at Ushabazar (8 MLD) & Panchamukh (8.5 MLD) under AMRUT scheme"

With

- Estimated Cost: - ₹ 2,29,86,510 (Rupees two crore twenty nine lac eighty six thousand five hundred and ten) only
- Bid Security: - 2.5% of the contract value.
- Bid Processing Fee: - ₹ 5,000.00 (Rupees five thousand) only.
- Time of completion: - 24 months.
- Period of downloading of Bidding Documents at <http://tripuratenders.gov.in>:- From 15/ 10/ 2019 to 18/ 11/2019 up to 15:00 Hours.
- Last date & time of uploading bidding documents:- 18/11/2019 up to 16:00 Hours.

For details kindly visit <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>.

ICA/C-1364/2019-20

# Police in forefront of tackling Pak-sponsored terrorism in J&K: DGP

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Highlighting the multifarious duties being performed by Jammu & Kashmir Police, its chief Dilbagh Singh on Friday said the force has been in the forefront of tackling Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, radicalisation and law and order situation in the State.

In addition to the fight against terrorism along with other security agencies, the force has been very effective in dealing with unlawful activities, Singh told a group of about 50 IPS officers from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy Hyderabad here.

The probationary officers were given know-how about the functioning of Jammu and Kashmir Police.

“J&K Police is doing multifarious duties and is countering terrorism at different fronts and a large number of terrorists have been eliminated and huge quantity of arms and ammunition has been seized in last three decades,” the Director General of Police (DGP) said.

He said the force has been in the forefront of tackling Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, radicalisation and law and order situations along with all other security forces working in Jammu & Kashmir.

“Police personnel are doing multifarious tasks which include police bandobast (arrangements), investigation and providing various services to the general people. Besides the police personnel are doing other specialized works to check social crimes and handle social media, terror funding, OGW (over-ground worker) networks of terrorists and separatists,” the DGP said.

IGP CRPF (Administration) Kashmir Ravideep Sahi, DIG central Kashmir V K Birdhi and other officers of CRPF and police were also present in the interactive session, a police spokesman said, adding a couple of days back, Additional Director General of Police, Armed, S J M Gillani also had an interactive session with the visiting officers.

# Savarkar a murderer, says Siddaramaiah

PTI ■ MANGALURU

Calling Veer Savarkar a murderer, former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah slammed the BJP on Friday for its plan to bestow Bharat Ratna to him posthumously.

He said Savarkar was one of the accused in the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, but the charges could not be proved due to lack of evidence and he was freed.

“The murderer of Mahatma Gandhi is getting Bharat Ratna! Those who conspired to eliminate Gandhiji are getting Bharat Ratna!

Should BJP be allowed to gain a foothold in Mangaluru, known as a land of intellectuals? Siddaramaiah asked party workers at a meeting here.

The Maharashtra BJP unit had said in its election manifesto that the party would ask the Centre to confer the Bharat Ratna, India’s highest civilian award, on Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, popularly known as Veer Savarkar.

Claiming that the accused in 90 out of 100 cases are acquitted, Siddaramaiah alleged that Savarkar was part of the conspiracy to assassinate Gandhi.

“Now they have moved ahead to bestow Bharat Ratna to him! What will happen to the nation? That’s why somebody said you give it (Bharat Ratna) to (Nathuram) Godse too. Godse was the one who assassinated Gandhiji,” he said.

Alleging that RSS and Hindu Mahasabha never took part in the freedom struggle, the former Chief Minister said they all had ganged up with the British.

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT.OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (EAST)-II E-BLOCK: PREET VIHAR: DELHI-110092 PRESS NIT No. 36/ E-II (19-20)					
S. No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender	Tender Processing Fee	Earnest Money	Tender ID No. & Date of Release of receipt of tender E-Procurement Solution
1.	Improvement of sewerage system by providing and laying 250 mm/300 mm dia sewer line and connecting/ replacing old sewer line from challs of B-2 to B-18 DDA flats, B- block, Dishaad Garden ward 29 E, AC-62 in East-II.	32,13,297.00	500.00	64,500.00	2019_DJB_182376_1 17-Oct-2019 05:00 PM
					31-Oct-19 02:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O.(WATER)

Advt. No. J.S.V. 458/19-20

Sd/-  
EX. ENGINEER (EAST)-II

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE MECH. DIVISION NORTH JAMMU NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No. 66 of 2019-20	
For and on behalf of Governor of J&K State, Executive Engineer, PHE Mech. Division North Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the reputed/registered firms for the below mentioned work:- Allied works at CPS Bakshi Nagar. Name of Division :- PHE Mech. Division North Jammu Cost of document / tender fee (in Rs.) :- 200/- Earnest money :- 02% of quoted rates Validity of Rates :- 180 days Bid validity :- 180 days Position of funds :- Demanded Date of Publishing :- 17-10-2019 04.00 pm. 1. Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <a href="http://jitenders.gov.in">http://jitenders.gov.in</a> from 17-10-2019 (04.00 pm) to 22-10-2019 (04.00 pm). 2. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <a href="http://jitenders.gov.in">http://jitenders.gov.in</a> from 17-10-2019 (04.00 pm) to 22-10-2019 (04.00 pm). No. DIP/J-7909/19 Dated: 18.10.2019	
Sd/- Executive Engineer PHE Mech. Division North Jammu	

### LIST OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

**BASERA, AFFORDABLE GROUP HOUSING**

The list of successful applicants for the draw of flats for The Basera, affordable group housing project situated at Sector 79 & 79B Dist. Gurugram, Urban Complex held at Block A, Nirvana Patio Club, Sector 50, South City-II, Gurugram on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019, Thursday at 11:00 am.

#### 1 BHK Apartments

**Applications No.: 259, 182, 352, 118, 431, 600, 489**

#### 2 BHK Apartments

**Applications No.: 269, 708, 493, 504, 252, 403, 505, 529, 256, 043, 711, 253, 545, 542, 518, 316, 267, 421, 036, 515, 506, 251, 546, 508, 305, 422, 705, 522, 528, 209, 543, 038, 263, 555, 300, 544, 131, 262, 526, 297, 255, 731, 092, 195, 035, 540, 418, 254, 523, 709, 306, 11502, 169, 047, 704, 490, 527, 520, 355, 128, 039, 129, 511, 510, 351, 513, 514, 719, 311, 166, 495, 525, 507, 258, 703, 512, 127, 266, 492, 501, 270, 519, 724, 145, 524, 208, 730, 494, 502, 309, 213, 260, 516, 261, 548, 521, 048, 126, 147, 541, 125**

**Disclaimer:**  
The draw of flats for “The Basera” has been held as per Haryana affordable Housing policy under the Supervision of government officials.

For more information log on to [www.supertechlimited.com](http://www.supertechlimited.com) where list of successful applicant with name and flat number is available

**License No. - 163 & 164 of 2014 dated 12.09.2014  
HARERA: 108 of 2017. Dated: 24.08.2017**

**M/s Revital Realty Pvt Ltd.**  
Corporate Office: Supertech House, B 28-29, Sector-58, Noida - 201307.  
Site Address: Sector 79 & 79B, Gurugram, Manesar.  
[www.supertechlimited.com](http://www.supertechlimited.com)

\*Conditions apply. All buildings, information, specification, etc. are tentative and subject to variation and modification by the company or the competent authorities sanctioning such plans. \*1 sq mtr. is equal to 10.764 sq ft. & 1 sq mtr. is equal to 1.969 sq yd. Note: The details of approvals may be seen in our office.

# RIL becomes first company to hit ₹9L cr m-cap mark

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries (RIL) on Friday added another feather to its cap by becoming the first Indian firm to hit the ₹9 lakh crore market valuation mark in intra-day trade.

The company's market valuation zoomed to ₹9,05,214 crore on the BSE during the day. However, at close of trade, the company's market capitalisation (m-cap) settled at ₹8,97,179.47 crore.

Shares of the country's most valued company rose by 1.37 per cent to close at ₹1,415.30 ahead of its earnings announcement. During the day, it spurred 2.28 per cent to a record ₹1,428.

In August 2018, RIL became the first domestic firm to cross the ₹8 lakh crore mark in terms of market valuation. TCS is the second most



**Shares of the country's most valued company rose by 1.37 per cent to close at ₹1,415.30 ahead of its earnings announcement. During the day, it spurred 2.28 per cent to a record ₹1,428**

valuable company after RIL with a m-cap of ₹7,19,96.87 crore, followed by HDFC Bank

# Reliance reports record quarterly net profit of ₹11,262 crore in Q2

PTI ■ MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

India's most valuable company Reliance Industries on Friday posted a record quarterly net profit of ₹11,262 crore as a steady rise in the share of its consumer businesses of retail and telecom countered lower earnings from traditional petrochemical and refining segment.

The oil-to-telecom conglomerate, led by richest Indian Mukesh Ambani, reported a net profit of ₹11,262 crore, or ₹18.6 per share, in July-September, up from ₹9,516 crore, or ₹16.1 a share, in the same period of the previous financial year, the company said in a statement.

This is the highest quarterly net profit earned by any private company, surpassing its own previous best of ₹10,362 crore in the January-March period.

State-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC) holds the distinction of posting highest ever quarterly profit by any Indian firm when it had reported a net profit of ₹14,512.81 crore in January-March 2013.

Reliance's standalone net profit of ₹9,702 crore was also a record high.

It clocked a 4.8 per cent rise in consolidated revenue at ₹163,854 crore in Q2. The company opened 337 more retail stores and added 24 million subscribers to its Jio mobile phone service that helped increase the profitability of the venture, even as its traditional oil refining and petrochemical businesses continued to see weak earnings.

Reliance reported record pre-tax profit from its retail and telecom businesses. The two now account for a third of its EBITDA, up from close to 25 per cent last financial year.

With its retail store strength rising to 10,901 from 10,644 at the end of Q1, the retail business posted a 67 per cent jump in pre-tax profit to ₹2,322 crore and a 27 per cent rise in revenue at ₹41,202 crore.

Reliance Jio, the group's telecom arm, posted a standalone net profit of ₹990 crore, which was 45.4 per cent more than the previous year, as subscriber base swelled to 355.2 million from 331.2 million at the end of the June quarter and 252 million in Q2 of the previous fiscal. Net subscriber addition was a shade lower than 24.6 million added in the previous quarter.

Earning per subscriber declined to ₹120 a month from ₹122 in the previous quarter. Earning per subscriber has been on a decline since the first quarter of 2018-19 when it clocked ₹134.3.

# Another PMC Bank depositor dies; 'had no funds for surgery'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

An 83-year-old depositor of the troubled PMC Bank died on Friday, with his family claiming that it could not raise money for his heart surgery after restrictions were imposed on fund withdrawals.

This is a fourth incident of the death of a depositor of the Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank after the RBI appointed administrator on the city-headquartered lender.

Two of the depositors had died of cardiac arrest, while another, a woman doctor, allegedly committed suicide.

Murlidhar Dharra (83) died at his home in suburban Mulund on Friday, his son Prem Dharra told PTI.

The family had a total of ₹80 lakh in deposits with the bank (which was placed under restrictions since September 24), he said.

Doctors had recommended heart surgery for his father, but they could not arrange the money as the deposits are stuck at the bank, Prem said.

It can be noted that under the RBI directions, exceptions can be made for medical emergencies. It was not known immediately whether the PMC Bank refused a request from the family under this provision.

After an alleged ₹4,355 crore scam came to light at the bank, the RBI initially capped withdrawals at ₹1,000 in view of liquidity crisis, and later hiked it to ₹40,000 in three

**The family had a total of ₹80 lakh in deposits with the bank (which was placed under restrictions since September 24), he said. Doctors had recommended heart surgery for his father, but they could not arrange the money as the deposits are stuck at the bank**

moves. The depositors have been protesting over the last three weeks, seeking their money back.

On Tuesday, 51-year-old Sanjay Gulati, who had recently lost his job with Jet Airways when the airline was grounded, died of a heart attack hours after attending a depositors' protest.

It was followed by alleged suicide of Dr Nivedita Bijlani, and death of Mulund-resident Fatto Punjabi due to cardiac arrest.

The crisis at the bank is being attributed to loans given to realty player HDIL, which were allegedly hidden from regulators' scrutiny, turning non-performing assets.

Five persons including HDIL promoters have been arrested in the case.

# CAIT, CCI discuss 'unethical competition' by e-commerce firms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Traders' body CAIT on Friday said it has held discussion with the CCI on "unethical competition" perpetrated by e-commerce firms, a day after Union minister Piyush Goyal said the government was looking into alleged predatory pricing by Walmart-owned Flipkart and Amazon.

According to a statement issued by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), CCI Chairman Ashok Kumar Gupta said it is committed to establishing a uniform and competitive business environment in

the country and if anyone adopts unhealthy trading practices, influencing prices in any manner, the Commission will surely take action as per law.

CAIT Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal claimed that due to unethical commercial practices of Amazon and Flipkart, around 40,000 mobile shops are on the verge of closure by Diwali.

A delegation of CAIT met with the CCI Chairman and apprised him about how e-commerce companies are trapping the country's business in vicious cycle of unethical competition, CAIT said.

# Despite IMF projections, India still among fastest growing economies: FM

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India remains among the fastest growing economies of the world and efforts are being made to make it grow faster, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected a reduced growth rate for India, but the country's economy is "still growing as the fastest", she told a group of Indian reporters on Thursday.

The minister is here to attend the annual meeting of the IMF and the World Bank. Sitharaman said she is "certainly not risking a comparison" with China, even though the two countries growth rates have been projected at 6.1 per cent in a latest IMF report.

"The IMF (in its latest projections) reduces the growth (rate) for all the global economies. It reduces the growth for India too. But even otherwise, even with that India is still growing as [the fastest growing economy," she said.

As against India's real growth rate of 6.8 per cent in 2018, the IMF in its latest World Economic Outlook released on Tuesday.

# China's GDP growth slows to 6% in Q3, slowest since 1992

PTI ■ BEIJING

China's growth slumped to 6 per cent in the third quarter of 2019, its lowest level in nearly three decades, as the world's second largest economy struggled to overcome the impact of a bruising trade war with the US and sluggish domestic demand, according to official data released on Friday.

The GDP figures emerged just one week after the US and China reached a tentative trade truce to avoid more damages to the world's two largest economies. China's gross domestic product grew at 6 per cent in the quarter ended September, the weakest quarterly growth rate since 1992.

# US imposes tariffs on EU goods, targeting Airbus, wine, whisky

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

The United States imposed tariffs on a record \$7.5-billion worth of European Union goods on Friday, despite threats of retaliation, with Airbus, French wine and Scottish whiskies among the high-profile targets.

The tariffs, which took effect just after midnight in Washington (0401 GMT), came after talks between European officials and US trade representatives failed to win a last-minute reprieve.

The WTO-endorsed onslaught from US President

Donald Trump also comes as Washington is mired in a trade war with China and could risk destabilising the global economy further.

In the line of fire are civilian aircraft from Britain, France, Germany and Spain -- the countries that formed Airbus -- which will now cost 10 per cent more when imported to the US.

But the tariffs also target consumer products such as French wine, which Trump had vowed to attack in recent months. Wine from France, Spain and Germany will now face 25 percent tariffs.

# Global markets brush off disconcerting data out of China

**Bangkok:** Global markets largely brushed off more disconcerting economic signals from China, which on Friday reported that its economy grew at its slowest pace in 26 years last quarter. The 6% growth pace China reported for July-September was worse than most economists were expecting, highlighting a global economy that is slowing.

Domestically, Beijing is under significant pressure to head off job losses as a trade war with the US drags on.

Some of the latest data for September, such as investment and lending, showed improvement, but "pressure on economic activity should intensify in the coming months," Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a commentary. AP

# BUSINESS CORNER

COLLECTIVE EFFORT IS NEED OF HOUR: KAILASH



**New Delhi:** "Collective effort of all stock holders is need of hour to cope up environmental challenges facing the society these days. The entire world is reeling under various spectra of environmental challenges and it can be mitigated only by joint initiatives of government and civil societies. There is no one point solution to these challenges," said Kailash Gahlot, Minister for Environment, Forest & Wild Life, Government of NCT of Delhi. He was speaking as a chief guest at the inaugural function of a workshop on "Environmental Challenges and Policy Making: The role of Education" organised jointly by the University School of Education, IP University, Dwarka and Earth Root Foundation here on Friday.

# AK GAUTAM TAKES OVER AS DIRECTOR, NTPC

**New Delhi:** Anil Kumar Gautam has taken over as Director (Finance), NTPC w.e.f. from 18th October, 2019. AK Gautam (aged 57 years) is CMA & LLB. He has over 34 years of experience in the power sector in the area of project construction accounting, corporate accounts, resource mobilisation from domestic and international markets, long-term financial planning, investment appraisals, formulation of capital budgets and regulatory affairs.



# ASSAM RIFLES COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE AT LAITKOR

**New Delhi:** The two day Annual Assam Rifles Commanders' Conference begins at HQ, DGAR at Laitkor (Shillong) on Friday. Held every year, the conference is attended by the Inspector Generals of the Force HQs, Sector Commanders and Commandants alongwith other officials from the elite Assam Rifles Force. Chaired by Lt Gen Sukheep Sangwan, Sena Medal and Bar, DG Assam Rifles, the conference is expected to seek solutions to the challenges faced by the Force while maintaining the internal peace & security of the North Eastern States, as also issues related to Indo Myanmar Border Management. It shall also deliberate upon issues like Force Modernization, Smart Solution and Leveraging Technology for Operational, Administrative & various Man Management aspects.

# 'GOVT TO GO ALL THE WAY TO ACHIEVE 1 BN PRODUCTION'



**New Delhi:** Dedicates "Continuous Miner" at CCL's Churi UG Project to Nation Hon'ble Minister of Coal, Parliamentary Affairs and Mines Pralhad Joshi on his maiden two-day visit to Central Coal fields Limited (CCL), Ranchi dedicated "Continuous Miner" at Churi Underground (UG) Mines, NK Area to the Nation. The miner will add a new chapter in the long history of Churi UG mines with commencement of mass production technology having capacity to produce upto 4,000 tonne per day. Earlier, the production at Churi UG was 4,000 tonne/annum, after installation of mass production technology through continuous miner production is expected to rise upto 5 lakh tonnes per annum. The coal reserve at Churi underground mine has low ash content with high heating capacity. The Churi UG under NK Area of CCL has extractable coal reserve of 7.5 mt. Minister also visited Ashoka Project Mines under Piparwar Area of CCL. Shri Joshi took stock of the day to day operation and challenges faced by the Mines and other hurdles. Addressing to local people, Joshi said that Government will go all the way to achieve 1 billion coal production at earliest and end dependence on imported coal.

# APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this person **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 40-41 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Oval, **Build:** Thin, **Wearing:** Badami Colour T-Shirt and Green Colour Payjama was found dead at Footpath, Near Oriental Bank, Asaf Ali Road, Darya Ganj, Delhi on 16.10.2019.

In this regard a DD No.03A, dated 16.10.2019 has been registered at P.S. Daryaganj, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO

P.S. Daryaganj, Delhi

DP/6665/CD/19

Ph.: 011-23279331, 8750870421

# SEARCH FOR MISSING LADY



General public is here by informed that one lady **Name:** Zoya Goan, **R/o Village** Wad No. 3, Nigam Puri, Tehsil Mera Pani, Assam **Age:** 21 years, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Yellow Suit-Green Salwar and Hawai Chappal in feet has been missing / kidnapped since 05.10.2019 from A-1/217, Paschim Vihar, Delhi the area of P.S. Paschim Vihar East.

In this regard a DD No. 37-A dated 05.10.2019 has been registered at P.S. Paschim Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this lady but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this lady kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: [cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.gov.in)

Website: <http://cbl.nic.in>

Fax: 011-24368639

SHO

P.S. Paschim Vihar, Delhi

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

DP/2785/OD/19

# Appeal for Identification



General Public is hereby informed that a Female dead body **Name:** Unknown, **D/o** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 25-30 years, **Height:** 4'6", **Gender:** Female, **Wearing:** Brown colour kamij present on body, black thread with clavate locket present around the neck & black thread with amulet tied around the right leg. was found dead at Haiderpur Water Treatment Plant, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi on 15.10.2019.

In this regard, **FIR/DD No. 47-A dated 15.10.2019** has been lodged at PS K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi. **Note:** The Dead body has been kept in BSA Hospital Sector-6, Rohini, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this female but no clue has come to light so far.

Any, person having any information or clue about this female may kindly inform to the following.

SHO

P.S., K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi

DP/3389/RD/19

Ph.: 011-27571162, 8750870327

# PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that **Ravi S/o Rajender Singh** R/o H. No. 335, Near Badi Chaupal, Village-Dariyapur Kalan, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 187/19 Dt. 26.04.2019 u/s 323/308/506/34 IPC P.S. Bawana, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ravi** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ravi** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Ravi** of **FIR No. 187/19 Dt. 26.04.2019 u/s 323/308/506/34 IPC P.S. Bawana, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **20.11.2019**.

By Order

Ms. Manu Goel Kharb

Metropolitan Magistrate-05 (North), Room No.114, 1st Floor, Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/685/ON/19

# APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 30-35 years of age whose name, residence and family is unknown, was found dead at Twin Pool (Closed) near Haiderpur Water Treatment Plant, Sector 13, Rohini, Delhi on 17.10.2019. In this regard a vide has been registered with **DD No: 4-A dated 17.10.19** at **P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi**. The dead body has been kept in BSA Hospital, Sector-6, Rohini, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the UIDB is as under: **Sex:** Male, **Age:** About 30-35 years, **Height:** About 5'6", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing:** Blue & yellow coloured strips T-shirt, Dark grey colour cargo capri, black belt, holy thread around neck and kadada on the right wrist.

If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi.

SHO

P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi

DP/3388/RD/19

Ph.: 011-27571171, 27571162, 27570233

# SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a male (depicted in the photo) namely: **Om Parkash** **@ Pappu S/o: Siya Ram,** **R/o B-254, J.J. Colony, Choukhandi, Tilak Nagar, Delhi,** **Age: 53 Years,** has been reported missing / kidnapped since 09.10.2019 from his house, vide **DD No. 19-A dated 12.10.2019** lodged at Police Station Tilak Nagar, Delhi.

His physical description is as under:- **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Height:** 5'5", **Physique/Build:** Thin, **Clothing:** Pink Colour Shirt, Grey Colour Pajama and Brown Colour Chappal in Feet. Any person is having any information/clue about this missing / kidnapped male, may inform SHO, Tilak Nagar, Delhi at E-mail: [cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.gov.in), website: <http://cbl.nic.in>, Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO

P.S. Tilak Nagar, Delhi

DP/8471/WD/19.

Ph.: 011-25409290, 25407800, 8750871130

# SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED BOY



General public is hereby informed that this boy namely **Shiv Shankar S/o Hari Nath Yadav** **R/o C-402, Block-C, Jhuggi Suraj Park, Delhi** **Age: 13 years,** **Height: 4'8",** **Face: Round,** **Complexion: Sallow, Build: Normal,** wearing red colour T-shirt, blue colour jeans and hawai chappal in feet has been missing/kidnapped since 28.09.2019 from the area of P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi. In this regard **FIR No. 697/19** dated 28.09.2019 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped boy may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: [cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.gov.in) Website: <http://cbl.nic.in> Fax: 24368639, Tel.: 24368638/24368641

SHO : P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi

Ph.: 011-27854799, 27854757

DP/693/ON/19

# SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON



General public is hereby informed that one person namely **Dev Kamti, S/o Shri Mahender Kumar, R/o M-289, Sector-1, Bawana, Delhi,** **Age 45 years,** **Height 5'8"** **Complexion Shallow, Round Face, Wearing Clothes and shoes in feet** has been missing / kidnapped from the area of **PS Bawana, Delhi** since 12.09.19. In this regard a vide **DD No. 34-A dated 24.09.19** has been lodged at **PS Bawana, Delhi**.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/ kidnapped person may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail ID:[cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.gov.in) SHO  
Tel: 011-24368638, 24368641 PS : Bawana, Delhi  
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 27751949, 27756090

DP/694/ON/19

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp believes Manchester United will turn their floundering fortunes around, but wants to make sure they have to wait at least another week to do so.

Klopp's men travel to Old Trafford tomorrow already 15 points ahead of their rivals just eight games into the campaign.

United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has called on his side to rise to the challenge of facing the European champions, citing it as the "perfect game" to motivate his struggling side.

Klopp has sympathy for Solskjaer's view, but he is confident of winning for the first time at Old Trafford as Liverpool boss.

"I don't think there are a lot of teams who would love to play against us at the moment. It looks like Man Utd is the only team that wants to play us, and we have to make sure that is a misunderstanding," said Klopp on Friday.

"I would do the same if the situation was the other way around. This is the game we can change the world, that is the way I would prepare it."

"They are in a situation that they don't like and they want to change it. We just have to make sure that if they want to change it, they start a week later and that's all."

United will be without the injured Paul Pogba and David de Gea, while Anthony Martial and Aaron Wan-Bissaka remain doubts.

And Klopp expects the Red Devils to improve once they get a number of key players back.

"They had a lot of injuries," he added. "A number of really decisive players for them. No one can play the same football when five or six first-team players are out. That will change."

By contrast, Liverpool could head to Old Trafford with a clean bill of health, with goalkeeper Alisson Becker set to return for the first time since the opening weekend of the season, while Joel Matip and Mohamed Salah have recovered from knocks.

"There are two more sessions to come from this afternoon and we have to see," said Klopp on whether all three will start. "Then we'll make decisions, that's how it is. Nothing is fixed."

#### 'MATCH CAN SPARK REVIVAL'

Meanwhile, Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer believes

# Suffer a little longer

## Klopp keen to make Red Devils wait for turnaround



Manchester United defenders Luke Shaw and Victor Lindelof celebrates as Liverpool's Mohamed Salah reads after end of Premier League match AP/File Picture

the visit of rivals Liverpool could help galvanize his struggling side to pull themselves out of their alarming slump.

The difference in current fortunes between English football's two most successful clubs could not be greater, with Liverpool top of the table after eight wins out of eight and also on a run of 17 consecutive league victories, while United have made their worst start to a season for 30 years.

If results go against them today, United could even be teetering just above the relegation zone by the time they kick off tomorrow, but Solskjaer is bullish.

"They're doing well in the league that's for sure but we're looking forward to this game," said the Norwegian on Friday.

"This is a perfect game for the players and the fans. We've had a tough time and a difficult time lately but I am sure we will give them a good game."

United have just nine points from their first eight league matches of this season and are currently 12th in the table.

Stretching back to Solskjaer's permanent appointment in March, they have won only five games out of 21 in all competitions.

It is far below expectations, which the manager knows, but he believes that the work going on behind the scenes will pay dividends eventually.



Lionel Messi & Sergio Ramos in action during El Clasico AP

## El Clasico postponed over Catalonia protests

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona and Real Madrid have agreed a new date of December 18 for the Clasico after Spain's biggest football match was postponed on Friday due to protests in Catalonia.

The fixture was set to be Barcelona's first home game since nine pro-Catalan independence leaders were sentenced to imprisonment on Monday for their role in the illegal referendum in 2017.

Barca and Madrid swiftly came to an agreement, hours after the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) announced they had until 10:00am (0800 GMT) on Monday to find a revised date for the game.

All that remains is for the RFEF to confirm the change with La Liga, although the league would prefer the match take place on December 7.

December 7 is a Saturday and has more potential for broadcasters but it would require moving both Barcelona against Real Mallorca and Madrid against Espanyol.

December 18 is a Wednesday and would clash with the Copa del Rey but neither Barca nor Madrid will be involved at that stage of Spain's domestic cup competition.

In a statement on Friday, Barcelona stressed their belief that the original fixture, scheduled for October 26 at Camp Nou, should have gone ahead.

"The club's desire was to play the Clasico at Camp Nou on the 26th, the date and time previously agreed and the Committee was informed of this in writing," read the Barcelona statement.

"The club has the utmost confidence in the peaceful behaviour of its members and fans who always express themselves in exemplary fashion at Camp Nou."

"Nevertheless, having received the decision of the RFEF Competition Committee to postpone the game citing 'exceptional circumstances' and given that it falls to the clubs to agree a new date for the game before Monday, the club will propose December 18."

Real Madrid later added: "Real Madrid wishes to communicate that the date proposed by both clubs is the 18th of December."

## Nothing to lose in title race: Virgil

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool have nothing to lose in the Premier League title race despite amassing an eight-point lead after just eight games, according to defender Virgil Van Dijk.

The European champions are in pole position to end a 30-year wait to win a league title, but Van Dijk believes the pressure is still on Manchester City to win the league for a third straight year.

"I don't think we have anything to lose," Van Dijk told *Sky Sports* ahead of tomorrow's trip to Manchester United.

"Man City are the champions, they're defending their title and we want to get it. In my point of view, we just have to go for it."

"We definitely need to enjoy it and be full of confidence, especially with the way we've got these points, having not had the best games but still getting the wins."

City's shock defeats to Norwich and Wolves have allowed Liverpool to surge ahead thanks to their perfect start to the season.

However, Van Dijk remains wary of Pep Guardiola's men, who overturned a seven-point deficit to pip

Liverpool to the title by a point last season.

"There are so many games left, you can't really think about it (winning the title) — it's not realistic," added the Dutch captain.

"I don't watch Man City's games but I have family and friends who text me or say something, especially after the Wolves game."

"That's just part of life but we've learnt from last year that we don't have to look to the others until the end of the campaign. So far, we have been doing well but Man City are definitely not going away."



## Delhi face Bengal for PKL title



Dabang Delhi's Naveen Kumar & Bengal Warriors' Maninder Singh pose with the Pro Kabaddi League season 7 trophy on the eve of the final

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An exhilarating, three-month long season 7 of VIVO Pro Kabaddi has reached its culmination with Dabang Delhi KC set to battle Bengal Warriors for the coveted title at the EKA Arena by TransStadia in Ahmedabad today.

Judging by the season's performances, both table toppers and maiden finalists have deserved the right to play in the final, after having finished the league stages.

While the likes of Delhi's Naveen Kumar and Bengal's Maninder Singh have walked away with the plaudits, the teams' success on the mat have come largely due to their cohesion. Delhi's semi-final match against Bengaluru Bulls was an example of how backup raiders Chandran Ranjit and Vijay are vital cogs in the Dabang unit, contributing in both tackles and raids. Similarly, in defence, while Ravinder Pahal and Joginder Narwal grabbed the lime-light, Vishal Mane has gone about doing his work quietly as a cover defender. The seasoned defender now has the opportunity to become the first player PKL history to win the title with three different teams (having

Pro Kabaddi League Final  
Live from 8:00pm IST  
STAR SPORTS 1 & 2

already won with U Mumba and Patna Pirates).

Bengal Warriors also have a fair share of unsung heroes. Sukesh Hegde, who will be playing his 100th match, has thrown down

the gauntlet to his doubters who called him a 'spent force' with vital raid points whenever

his team needed them. K Prapanjan has also had a breakout season for the Warriors as a raider. Both players will be keen to avoid a defeat having suffered a heartbreak while playing for Gujarat FortuneGiants in earlier seasons.

#### STOPPING UNSTOPPABLE

Both Dabang Delhi and Bengal Warriors have a wealth of talent as far as raiders go which would mean that the match will come down to which set of defenders play better. In Rinku Narwal and Baldev Singh, the Warriors have a strong corner duo, who have impressed with tackle points this season. Both are relatively inexperienced compared to Delhi's defensive stalwarts Joginder Narwal, Ravinder Pahal and Vishal Mane. However, the inexpe-

"We have a balanced team with Joginder and Ravinder in defense along with Naveen's express raiding skills supported by Chandran Ranjit as well. We are fully prepared to face the toughest match of the season and our eyes are on the trophy."

—VISHAL MANE  
(Dabang Delhi defender)

"For any team reaching the Finals of vivo Pro Kabaddi itself is a big deal! Having said that, we are not taking the pressure of the finals and that's what we believe will bring the best game for us on the mat. The team has been practicing and focusing on their fitness and we are confident of lifting the trophy this time."

—MANINDER SINGH  
(Bengal Warrior raider)

"This will be a very exciting finals as both the teams will be competing in the finals for the first time. The experience of lifting the trophy is something undefinable and we are confident it will be a match to watch."

—BC RAMESH  
(Coach, Bengal Warriors)

"Both teams are very disciplined, and the finals will be a great game to witness."

—KRISHAN KUMAR HOODA  
(Coach, Dabang Delhi)

## Murray in Antwerp last 8

AFP ■ ANTWERP

Former world number one Andy Murray cruised into the quarter-finals at Antwerp on Thursday with a 6-4, 6-3 defeat of Uruguay's Pablo Cuevas.

Murray, a three-time Grand Slam champion, currently ranked 243rd in the world, held serve throughout against eighth seed Cuevas before sealing victory in 84 minutes.

He will take on Romania's Marius Copil — who hit 13 aces past third seed Diego Schwartzman in a 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (9/7) win — for a place in the last four.

"I felt a bit better today. I thought I served quite well for most of the match and when I was able to get into the baseline rallies, I felt I was hitting the ball quite clean, which is good," Murray said.

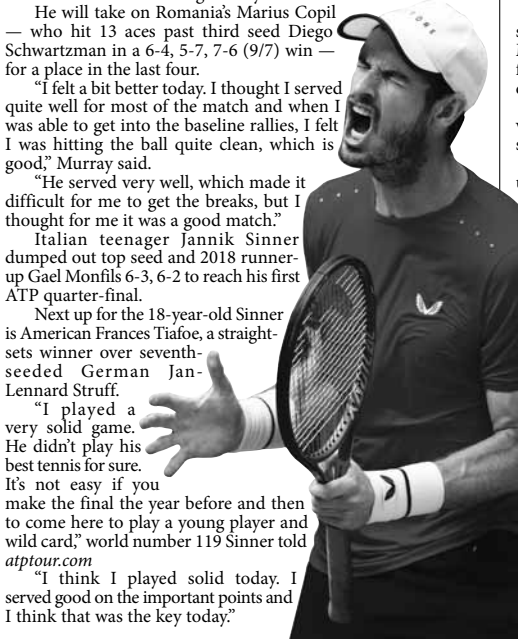
"He served very well, which made it difficult for me to get the breaks, but I thought for me it was a good match."

Italian teenager Jannik Sinner dumped out top seed and 2018 runner-up Gael Monfils 6-3, 6-2 to reach his first ATP quarter-final.

Next up for the 18-year-old Sinner is American Frances Tiafoe, a straight-sets winner over seventh-seeded German Jan-Lennard Struff.

"I played a very solid game. He didn't play his best tennis for sure. It's not easy if you make the final the year before and then to come here to play a young player and wild card," world number 119 Sinner told *atptour.com*.

"I think I played solid today. I served good on the important points and I think that was the key today."



## Manpreet, Rani to lead at Olympic Qualifiers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hockey India on Friday named an unchanged women's squad, to be led by Rani Rampal, along with the men's team for the upcoming FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers.

The 18-member men's squad will be captained by Manpreet Singh and seasoned forward S V Sunil will be his deputy.

Goalkeeper Savita will be the vice-captain of the women's squad.

The two teams are scheduled to take part in the two-legged FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers in Odisha where the World No 5 men's team will be up against World No 22 Russia, while the World No 9 women's side will face World No 13 USA.

The men's team has two goalkeepers in P R Sreejesh and Krishan Bahadur Pathak.

Captain Manpreet leads the forward line which also includes Mandeep Singh, Akashdeep Singh, and Ramandeep Singh.

"After a good preparation tour in Belgium, it was always going to be a very difficult decision to pick the best 18 players for this tour-



Indian men's & women's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh & Rani Rampal / HI

nament. We have chosen a well-balanced side with a number of good flexible options," said men's chief coach Graham Reid. "We now need to focus on strategies against Russia, and ensure we are at our best when we step onto the field on 1st and 2nd November."

The women's team remained unchanged from its tour of England.

"We have a good balance

and mixture of players in the squad. It is important to stay in the rhythm with the same players who performed well in the preparatory tour. We now focus on making sure that we leave no stone unturned when we take on USA in the two matches," said women's team coach Sjoerd Marijne.

The winners of the Qualifiers will ensure place in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

## Defending champions eye course records in ADHM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defending men's and women's champions Andamlak Belihu and Tsehay Gemechu on Friday made their intentions clear that they will go for the course records in the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon here tomorrow.

The 15th edition of the ADHM will see one of the best fields of international elite athletes with seven sub-60 minute runners among men and nine sub-70 minute runners among women.

An athlete finishing a men's half marathon in less than 60 minutes is considered world class. In the women's half marathon, a runner who can complete it in 70 minutes is considered top class.

Ethiopian Belihu had won the prestigious IAAF Gold Label Race, last year with a time of 59

minute 18 seconds and he said a course record on Sunday cannot be ruled out.

"It is possible to run better than the course record on Sunday. I am in good shape and India has been a happy place for me," said the 20-year-old, who had finished second in his debut season, in 2017.

"It was a little frustrating just missing out on the course record last year but after running here in the last two years, I have experience and think I know what it takes to run faster. The most important thing is to win but if the pace is good, I can beat the course record."

The course record of 59 minute 06 seconds still stands in the name of Ethiopia's Guye Adola, set in the 2014 edition.

The temperature on Sunday is also likely to be an ideal one, hovering around 23 degree Celsius.

Belihu finished fifth in the 10,000m race in the World Championships in Doha last month and he said he has recovered from that race.

"I trained hard for two-three months for the World Championships and I knew this Delhi Half Marathon was also in my schedule. So, I am prepared. I have recovered from the World Championships race," he added.

A big threat to Belihu's bid to retain his title can come from a man who has yet to run the distance, another Ethiopian Hagos Gebrihiwet, who is set to make his half marathon debut.

Gebrihiwet had planned to make his half marathon debut in Delhi last year but a late bout of illness curtailed his training and he had to cancel his trip.

However, the two-time World Championships 5000m medalist wants to exorcise his frustrations at only being able to

finish 10th in 10,000m in Doha, despite having gone to the showpiece as the fastest man in the world over the distance.

"I am excited to make my debut at the half marathon. Andamlak has told me about this race and so I know that it is a very fast course," said Gebrihiwet, who will be running his longest ever competitive race on Sunday.

In the women's elite section, Gemechu made a huge impact on her debut last season, setting a women's course record of 66:50.

This year she has produced a string of sparkling performances both on the road and on track, including winning a high-quality Valencia 10km race at the start of the season. She finished fourth in the 5,000m in the Doha World Championships.

"Last year, I did not know much about running in this level of race, but I have had a lot more experience since then. I have had

a good year, run a lot on the track.

"I just missed out on a medal in Doha but I am only 21 so I will have more opportunities. It was a fast race in Doha and I showed I was in good shape ahead of this Delhi race, so I think another course record here is a possibility," she added.

Among Gemechu's leading rivals will be the Kenyan-born Caroline Kipkirui, the fastest woman in the race with a best of 65:07, who now flies the flag for Kazakhstan.

"This will be a very tough race. The Ethiopian women are very strong but don't discount me and the Kenyans like (Edith) Chelimo and (Irene) Cheptai," said Kipkirui, who is sixth on the all-time list for the distance.

Both the men's and women's races have first prize cheques of \$27,000 with a total prize money purse (combined men and women) of \$275,000.



Indian captain Virat Kohli, right, and teammate Rohit Sharma, center, listen to coach Ravi Shastri during a training session ahead of 3rd Test AP

# Complete Whitewash

In last outing before Diwali, Virat & boys go for Proteas hunt with aim to consolidate lead at top in Test Championship

PTI ■ RANCHI

It would have been a dead rubber but with valuable World Test Championship points on offer, India would be eyeing victory while South Africa would be desperate for some consolation in a wretched tour when the third and final Test starts here today.

There are 40 points on offer and a 3-0 series whitewash, both of which India would be targeting against the hapless visitors.

India, who have 200 points from four games, have a massive 140-point lead over nearest rivals New Zealand and Sri Lanka in the WTC standings. Skipper Virat Kohli has also made it clear that there is plenty to play for in the final Test and the team cannot afford a drop in intensity. Going into the game, India have very few holes to plug, be it their batting or bowling.

The home team could not have asked for more from their top-order with Rohit Sharma showing why he is such an impact player as he feasted on the South African bowlers with twin hundreds in the first Test while opening for the first time.

The *Mumbaikar's* opening partner Maynak Agarwal on the other hand went on to convert his maiden hundred into a double in Visakhapatnam and followed it up with another century in Pune.

Then it was the turn of 'King Kohli' who came to the party in the Pune with a career-best double hundred—a majestic 254 not out—and made it look like a routine job.

Rohit will be eyeing a big score after not firing in the first innings

**India vs South Africa**  
**Live from 9:30am IST**  
**STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK**

of the Pune Test while Cheteshwar Pujara, who has scored two fifties in the series, would be looking to cross the three-figure mark.

That India have lost only 16 wickets while routing South Africa in both the Tests sums up their dominance.

Toss has also been kind to India so far and things are likely to get more exciting if the stroke of luck favours Faf du Plessis in the final Test.

The last time South Africa toured the India, rank-turners had welcomed the side but this time both the pacers and spinners have been able to extract something out of the pitch.

Umesh Yadav made a fine comeback in the Pune Test to return with fine figures of 3/22 with some brief hostile spells as wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha who took some breathtaking catches to aid to the pacer's tally.

Kohli played an extra pacer in Umesh at Pune by benching Hanuma Vihari but only time will tell what combination he chooses for the final Test.

South African captain Faf du Plessis has already predicted the Ranchi pitch to be a turner, bringing a third spinner into picture.

Since Kuldeep Yadav has been ruled out of the match due to a shoulder injury, left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem has been drafted into the squad and he might sneak

into the playing XI as well.

South Africa batsmen showed some fight in Visakhapatnam but they let themselves down in Pune.

It was only the tailenders who showed some character and frustrated the Indian bowling. Du Plessis has urged experienced players like Dean Elgar, Quinton De Kock and Temba Bavuma to bat with responsibility.

Their batting woes are further compounded by the absence of opener Aiden Markram who has been ruled out of the third Test with an injury.

The pace attack comprising Kagiso Rabada, Vernon Philander and Anrich Nortje has also not been as effective as expected while the Indian pacers have managed to provide the breakthroughs.

With their senior-most spinner Keshav Maharaj also ruled out, South Africa will find it tougher to stop the Indian juggernaut.

## SQUADS

**India:** Virat Kohli (c), Mayank Agarwal, Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (vc), Hanuma Vihari, Wriddhiman Saha, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Shahbaz Nadeem, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill.

**South Africa:** Faf du Plessis (c), Temba Bavuma (vc), Theunis de Bruyn, Quinton de Kock, Dean Elgar, Zubayr Hamza, George Linde, Senuran Muthusamy, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Vernon Philander, Dane Piedt, Kagiso Rabada, Rudi Second.



Wriddhiman Saha & Rishabh Pant BCCI

## I share good understanding with Pant: Saha

PTI ■ RANCHI

The cut-throat competition for a place in India's playing XI has not affected Wriddhiman Saha's relationship with his understudy Rishabh Pant as the duo try to help each other with notes on glove work.

Saha was out of the Indian team for 20 months due to a shoulder surgery but his now back to his best as a keeper with some stunning catches in the second Test in Pune.

Six days short of his 35th birthday, the sprightly Saha is often seen helping Pant with keeping drills after his own training, something that has been directed by the team manager.

Ask him if he is mentoring Pant and the ever-reticent Saha replied in negative.

"There's nothing (mentoring) like that. We just discuss normally the way the wicketkeepers discuss. With Sridhar and Pant, we three jointly decide on how to go about our wicketkeeping on a particular type of wicket," he said.

The co-ordination and rapport between them helps it easier for them to work together.

"We always observe each other's wicket-keeping. We work hard on our practice sessions and have a good understanding and co-ordination among ourselves. We always try to point out each other's mistakes. It's been going well so far," he said.

While his keeping has been rated as the best in world cricket, even BCCI president-elect Sourav Ganguly has spoken about the need to improve on his batting averages.

"Whoever plays in the team wants to contribute. As a wicket-keeper, I look to get sometime in the middle and if I get time I try to build a partnership and score a fifty or so. Everyone tries like that. Sometime it works, sometime it does not," Saha said.

Leading 2-0, Saha said, it's time to complete a whitewash against South Africa.

"I have good memory of the last match. I made 117 in the last match. I remember how I approached the innings. I also remember the Steve Smith incident. If you see we drew it last time. We are 2-0 up in the series so this time we will try to make it 3-0 this time," he concluded.

## Faf wants to 'bat big' like India 'Someone else' at the toss



PTI ■ RANCHI

South African captain Faf du Plessis has urged his embattled batsmen to take a leaf out of India's book and "bat big" like the hosts in order to salvage pride in the third and final Test.

"For me it's important that the guys don't feel like there is one week left in India and almost when you get on that plane to South Africa, the Test

series we play now is for Test championship, there is points still up for grabs every Test match. So for me the challenge is more mental," the South African skipper told reporters.

The Proteas' batting showed some fight in Visakhapatnam but disappointed in the second Test. Urging his batsmen to convert their starts, Du Plessis said: "For all of us it is just about converting and I am not different to

any one of those players when I get to 50, I want to get a hundred."

"The fact that I have done it twice already this series, there is no reason for me not to go and get a big one. That's a challenge for myself because I understand that sixties is not going to win Test matches for us. I need to bat big like the Indian team has done and score big runs."

Du Plessis also asked

his bowlers to buck up as India lost only 16 wickets in two Tests, clearly reflecting their dominance.

"From the bowling point of view how can we get 20 wickets, we haven't done that this series. If we do those things then we will compete with India. It is tough when we are losing. We are very competitive people so for us it does take a dent out of your confidence," he said.

**RANCHI:** Having lost nine successive tosses in Asia, an exasperated South Africa captain Faf du Plessis won't mind sending "someone else" in his place for the toss of the coin in the third and final Test. South Africa have struggled in Indian conditions and not winning the toss in the first two Tests has only made things tougher for them. Opting to bat in Visakhapatnam and Pune, India put up 500-plus totals to virtually bat the visitors out

of the game.

"We really want to make sure that we compete with this team in their own conditions. We have done it in stages in the first Test. So, hoping that we can start with the toss tomorrow. "Probably we will change... Send someone else to the toss tomorrow. I can give you that... Because my records so far has not been great," said du Plessis, in a lighter vein, on the eve of the game. Du Plessis said "anything is

possible" if his side get to bat first.

"If you put big runs in the first innings, that's where it need to stop. Then anything from there is possible. Hopefully that will unfold in the next couple of days and hopefully we can put some runs on."

"The pitch looks a little bit drier and crustier so first innings runs will be vital and then anything from there is possible in the second innings," Faf added. PTI

## SINGLES

**MODRIC, BALE TO MISS MALLORCA TRIP**  
**MADRID:** Real Madrid will be without both Gareth Bale and Luka Modric for this weekend's Liga match against Real Mallorca, Zinedine Zidane confirmed on Friday. Modric and Bale both picked up injuries during the Euro 2020 qualifier between Croatia and Wales. Bale is suffering with a calf injury in his right thigh. "Modric is not fit for tomorrow," said Zidane in a press conference. "Gareth Bale is not going to be with us, neither Toni Kroos nor Lucas Vazquez. We have to accept it. There are other players." Kroos injured his foot playing for Madrid against Granada while Vazquez has a calf problem.

**JUNIOR BOXERS NOTCH UP 21 MEDALS**  
**NEW DELHI:** Indian boxers packed quite a heavy punch at the Asian Junior Championships, clinching a bumper tally of 21 medals, including six Gold and nine Silver, to end with the best medal haul among 26 competing countries in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates. The Indian men's squad fetched two Gold, three Silver and an equal number of Bronze, while the women claimed four Gold, six Silver and three Bronze medals to round off a stupendous performance on Thursday evening. The team ended top in terms of medals won but finished second behind Uzbekistan (20) which had a better Gold count of eight.

**ENG ROPE JEETAN AS CONSULTANT**  
**LONDON:** Former New Zealand spinner Jeetan Patel has been appointed as spin-bowling consultant of England for the upcoming five-match T20I series against the Black Caps. Patel, the native-born New Zealander, who is contracted to Cricket Wellington, has been given dispensation to miss the first three matches of the Plunket Shield season. He will join up with the England squad when they arrive in Christchurch next week.

**BULGARIA COACH QUILTS AFTER RACISM ROW**  
**SOFIA:** Bulgaria's coach quit Friday over the 6-0 loss to England in a Euro 2020 qualifier which was overshadowed by racist abuse that sparked a storm of protest. Monkey chants and apparent Nazi salutes during Monday's match caused indignation in the football world and led to the resignation of Bulgaria's football federation chief. Bulgaria coach Krasimir Balakov, who took over the team in May, said he handed in his resignation during a meeting of the Bulgarian Football Union (BFU) executive committee. "I said that if I am the problem of Bulgarian football, I am handing in my resignation. There is no way back," the former midfielder told reporters after the meeting. "I will keep my fingers crossed for the next manager as the situation is not rosy at all." AGENCIES

## Sarfraz sacked as Test & T20 captain Babar to lead in T20s while Azhar Ali appointed as red-ball skipper

PTI ■ KARACHI

Sarfraz Ahmed was on Friday sacked as Pakistan's Test and T20 captain with Azhar Ali and Babar Azam elevated to leadership roles for the upcoming tour of Australia.

In an official announcement on Friday, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said that experienced batsman Ali would lead the Test side in the two Tests in Australia while Babar Azam would be the captain in the three T20 matches Down Under.

Sarfraz has been captain in all three formats of the game since the last two years and led Pakistan to the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy title.

In Tests and ODIs, Pakistan's ranking has slipped under his captaincy while they were whitewashed in the recent T20 home series against Sri Lanka.

Sarfraz, who was the toast of the nation after Pakistan beat India in the Champions Trophy final, has had a torrid time in the Test and ODI formats in the last two years.

He came under fire recently when a depleted Sri Lankan team swamped Pakistan 3-0 in the T20 series in Lahore.

With his own form suffering with the bat, speculations were rife that the new head coach cum chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq would move to make changes in the captaincy in the three formats but no one was expecting Sarfraz to be sacked so quickly.

The PCB said the squad for the Australian tour would be announced on October 21.

The PCB also released a short statement from Sarfraz.

"I wish the best for both Azhar and Babar in their new endeavours and I must



Newly appointed Pak Test captain Azhar Ali PCB

thank my coaches, fellow players and the selectors for having supported me a lot in my tenure as captain," Sarfraz said.

This is the first experience for Babar, 25, to lead the national team in any format.

He has been Pakistan's leading scorer in the last two years in the white ball formats and is also slowly establishing himself in Test cricket.

Azhar, 34, who has played in 73 Tests and 53 ODIs led Pakistan in One-day Internationals between April 2015 and February 2017, winning 12 and losing 18 matches.

He stepped down as ODI captain and was replaced by Sarfraz in February 2017 after a 1-4 loss in Australia.

PTI ■ RANCHI

He has quit longest format five years back but local boy Mahendra Singh Dhoni is expected to watch the third and final Test against South Africa beginning here today, his manager Mihir Diwakar confirmed. "Mahi will definitely come and you will see him during the first day's proceedings tomorrow (today). I was there with him in Mumbai and he will fly down tomorrow (Saturday) morning," Dhoni's manager and one-time Jharkhand teammate Diwakar said.

The Jharkhand State Cricket Association president, Nafis Khan, has personally sent an invitation to Dhoni's family.

"We have sent an invitation to his family. Yeh to unka hi stadium hai (It's his stadium



only). He is most welcome anytime," Khan said. However his friend, Diwakar, who is the founder of Aarka Sports that runs MS Dhoni Cricket Academy, said Dhoni is likely to come alone as the Indian

team is likely to have dinner at his sprawling farmhouse in Simliya, in outskirts of Ranchi.

Dhoni has moved from his Harmu residence about two years back and lives with his parents at his farmhouse about 30 kilometres from the city.

Post India's World Cup semi-final exit, Dhoni's whereabouts has been a matter of speculation as the 'Captain Cool' took a sabbatical and opted out of the series against West Indies and South Africa, fuelling retirement speculations.

Dhoni is certainly not going to be picked for the upcoming series against

Bangladesh.

Diwakar said nobody knows about Dhoni's cricket decisions.

"All cricketing decisions are solely made by him. No one other than him knows about his cricketing decisions. You have seen how he stopped playing Tests. It's difficult to predict, and we don't discuss that matter. What will be the difference between common public and friends if we start asking him the same questions?"

Dhoni's childhood coaches Keshav Ranjan Banerjee and Dr Moti Prasad, who is still the sports teacher at the DAV School, also feel people should leave him alone.

## Minister should not be involved in selection of players: Rijiju

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on Friday steered clear of the controversy triggered by boxer Nikhat Zareen's demand for a trial bout against the celebrated M C Mary Kom, saying he "should not" get involved beyond advising the federation to make the best choice.

Zareen had written a letter to Rijiju on Thursday, demanding that she be given a trial bout against Mary Kom before the Indian squad for next year's Olympic qualifiers in China is decided.

This was after the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) stated that it

intends to pick six-time world champion Mary Kom (51kg) for the event in China on the back of her recent Bronze medal at the world championships in Russia. "I'll surely convey to Boxing Federation to take the best decision keeping in mind the best interest of the NATION, SPORTS & ATHLETES. Although, Minister should not be involved in the selection of the players by the Sports Federations which are autonomous as per OLYMPIC CHARTER," Rijiju tweeted in response to Zareen's letter.

Responding to Rijiju's post, Zareen said she hopes for a fair chance.

"Thank you so much sir for your immediate action. I just hope favouritism and nepotism doesn't take place for athletes who all work very hard to bring laurels for our country," she tweeted.

The BFI introduced a point-based selection system last year under which boxers are now being picked on the back of their performances in various graded tournaments and the national camps.

Trial bouts, a norm earlier, are being conducted only in those weight categories in which the coaches and selectors find the competition to be exceptionally close.

**Nikhat Zareen** @nikhat\_zareen · 1d

All I want is a fair chance. If I'm not given the opportunity to compete what am I training for. Sports is about FairPlay & I don't want to loose faith in my country. Jai Hind @KirenRijiju @RijijuOffice

**Kiren Rijiju** @KirenRijiju

Replying to @KirenRijiju

Thank you so much sir for your immediate action. I just hope favouritism and nepotism doesn't take place for athletes who all work very hard to bring laurels for our country.

**I'll surely convey to Boxing Federation to take the best decision keeping in mind the best interest of the NATION, SPORTS & ATHLETES. Although, Minister should not be involved in the selection of the players by the Sports Federations which are autonomous as per OLYMPIC CHARTER**