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## Pak fidayeen sneak into Delhi for 370 revenge

Agencies on high alert in Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Punjab and J&K; Delhi Police raids 24 locations

**SHEKHAR SINGH/AGENCIES ■**  
 NEW DELHI

Indian security agencies sounded a high alert in Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Punjab, and Jammu & Kashmir on Thursday after they claimed that four heavily armed fidayeen of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorist outfit sneaked into the national Capital to hit targets during the ongoing festive season to take revenge for the abrogation of Article 370.

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla and Intelligence Bureau chief Arvind Kumar attended a high-level meeting in the PMO following the alert. Intelligence inputs from American agencies too have alerted India of possible ISI-sponsored terrorist attacks. In the wake of high grade threat perception, all major airports, ports, vital installations, important Government offices in Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and other places have been put on high alert.

Interception of cellphone communication from the India-Pakistan border, arms dropping

by drones from across the border into Punjab last month, and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief Lt General Faiz Hameed's recent tour of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, are three main reasons which prompted Indian security agencies to go on a high alert.

The ISI chief had last month toured PoK and held meetings with various outfits, including JeM commanders. The report said on pressure of the ISI chief, JeM mastermind Masood Azhar was released from preventive custody despite being on the UN list of wanted global terrorists.

Sources in the MHA said Home Minister Amit Shah has been apprised of the measures taken by the police force. The IB alerted to the Special Cell of the Delhi Police and the police chiefs of adjoining States on Wednesday night.

Agencies are concerned about possible activation of sleeper cells for terror attacks during the festivities when there is a high footfall at public places.

According to inputs received earlier by the agencies,

- Intelligence inputs from US agencies have also alerted New Delhi about possible ISI-sponsored terrorist attacks
- All major airports, ports, vital installations, important Govt offices in Delhi, Mumbai, UP, Punjab and J&K have been put on high alert
- ISI chief Lt General Faiz Hameed had last month toured PoK and held meetings with various outfits, including JeM commanders
- The report says on the ISI chief's pressure, JeM mastermind Masood Azhar was released from preventive custody despite being on the UN list of wanted global terrorists
- Agencies are also worried about possible activation of sleeper cells for terror attacks during the ongoing festivities which see increase in footfall

the JeM has been plotting suicide attacks in Delhi and other installations, including Indian Air Force's airbases, as a revenge for the abrogation of Article 370.

Indian Air Force bases in and around Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh have been put on alert and security has been beefed up in Amritsar and Pathankot in Punjab and Srinagar and Leh.

The IB last week said JeM Commander in J&K Abu Usman held a meeting with the overground workers in an apple



orchard near Mir Mohallah in Bandipore district and disclosed that people of the Valley will soon hear a "good news" of a big attack in Jammu and Delhi, sources said. One foreign terrorist and two Kashmiri militants were also reportedly present in the meeting. While the commander was armed with a sniper rifle, the three other terrorists carrying AK 47 rifles, pistols and grenades, according to the IB inputs.

Following the tip-off, the Delhi Police conducted raids at more than two dozen locations,



Delhi Police checks a vehicle following terror threats in the national Capital on Thursday

including at Seelampur, Aya Nagar, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi Railway Station, Paharganj and certain areas of South Delhi. Several persons have been

detained and are being grilled to extract leads corroborate the inputs, officials said.

"Security has been beefed up across the national Capital. Raids are being conducted by the Special Cell and Crime Branch of the Delhi Police at several locations across the city after the intelligence inputs

suggested that three to four members of a terror outfit may have infiltrated into the city," said a senior police official.

Continued on Page 4

## Kashmir leaders to be released one by one: J&K Guv's Adviser

**MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU**

A day after ending the political detention of Jammu-based political leaders, the State Government on Thursday hinted that leaders from Kashmir could now be released in a phased manner. He, however, didn't disclose any timeline.

Responding to a question on the likelihood of the release of Kashmiri leaders, placed under detention since August 5, Farooq Khan, Adviser to the Governor, said they will be released "one by one after analysis of every individual".

On the other hand, National Conference leaders in Jammu on Thursday convened an emergency meeting at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan and passed a unanimous resolution urging Governor Satya Pal Malik to allow a delegation of the senior

party leaders from Jammu to meet party president Farooq Abdullah and party vice-president Omar Abdullah, under detention in Srinagar.

National Conference leaders also took a detailed review of the political situation in the State ahead of chalking out the future course of action.

In Srinagar, situation remained peaceful on Thursday. Heavy rush of vehicles was witnessed in several areas as people stepped out and moved around freely to attend to their routine work. However, attendance in the educational institutions remained thin and market places continue to remain shut during most part of the day.

In Jammu, provincial president, NC, Devender Singh Rana presided the meeting.

Continued on Page 4



## Modi, Kovind, Manmohan to visit Kartarpur in jatha

Trio accept Punjab CM's invitation for Nov 9 visit

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will be part of an all-party group (jatha) that will visit the Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara in Pakistan for the birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak on November 9.

The trio have accepted the invitation of Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, who clarified that the group would only go to the Kartarpur Gurdwara and not for the launch of the "corridor".

The Punjab CM said the President and the Prime Minister have given consent for attending the 550th Gurdwarab celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev, including the historic opening of the Kartarpur Corridor. He also said Manmohan Singh too had agreed to join the first all-party "jatha" (delegation) to the Kartarpur Gurdwara to join the mega event after the opening of the Kartarpur corridor.



Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during a meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh in New Delhi on Thursday

Amarinder told mediapersons that both Kovind and Modi had accepted the Punjab Government's invitation to be part of the historic celebrations and that the modalities of their visits would be chalked out after the Kartarpur Corridor opening programme was finalised with Pakistan.

During his meeting with the Prime Minister, Amarinder also requested his personal intervention to facilitate the political clearance for allowing the special all-party "jatha" to visit Nankana Sahib in Pakistan on the historic occasion.

He requested that a group of 21 persons may be allowed to visit Nankana Sahib to

organise a "path" (reading of religious scriptures) on the occasion of the 550th Prakash Purb from October 30 to November 3 and bring a "Nagar Kirtan" to Sultanpur Lodhi via Amritsar (Wagah) later in the day.

As per the proposed programme, the "Nagar Kirtan" will arrive at Sultanpur Lodhi in Punjab's Kapurthala district on November 4. The Punjab CM has also written to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, seeking a formal clearance for the Nankana Sahib delegation visit and the "Nagar Kirtan" to be brought from Pakistan to Punjab, according to an official spokesperson.

## India-US trade deal will happen 'pretty quickly', says America

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The US on Thursday said that neither Indian nor American Government has stated that there will be a trade agreement in "five minutes" but it does not see any structural reason which might stop both the nations to have a trade agreement "pretty quickly".

"Neither Government said that there will be a trade deal in five minutes. That was not us, wasn't Minister Piyush Goyal. So, I think that was just

speculation. We do think that there is no structural reason why there can't be one pretty quickly. We know each other's issues," said US Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross.

He was replying to a question about the proposed trade agreement and the need to iron out differences and boost the two-way commerce.

Speaking at the Indian Economic Summit, Goyal said, "So it is a more of a question of scheduling time and scheduling calls and meetings that will

determine how long that will take. But I don't see any big issue that is holding it back."

He also said the announcement of trade deal is not holding back Indian trade or Indian relations either at the geopolitical level or leaders level or even trade and business level.

"But we want to actually take a quantum leap in that, which is the direction in which both the countries and our negotiating team is working," he said.

Continued on Page 4

### CAPSULE

**4 COPS STABBED TO DEATH IN PARIS POLICE HQ ATTACK**  
 Paris: A man employed at police headquarters in central Paris stabbed four officers to death on Thursday before being shot dead by police, sources said.

**CHIDAMBARAM'S CUSTODY EXTENDED TILL OCT 17**  
 New Delhi: A Delhi court on Thursday extended the judicial custody of former Finance Minister P Chidambaram till October 17. Chidambaram's bail plea will come up for hearing before the Supreme Court on Friday.

**DELHI AIR QUALITY SLIPS INTO 'MODERATE'**  
 New Delhi: Air quality in the national Capital slipped into "moderate" category on Thursday as wind speed was weak and directions became variable. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and SAFAR on Thursday recorded the city's air quality index in the "moderate" category — at 187 and 105 respectively.

## 2 HDIL directors held in PMC Bank scam, assets worth ₹3,500 cr attached

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

In the first arrest made in the PMC Bank scam, the Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of the Mumbai Police on Thursday took into custody two promoters of the Housing Development and Infrastructure Limited (HDIL) Sarang Kumar Wadhawan and Rakesh Wadhawan and attached property worth ₹3,500 crore that had been mortgaged to the bank.

Within days after the authorities discovered that the PMC Bank's exposure to the HDIL group was nearly 73 per cent of its total loan book size of ₹8,880 crore as of September 19, 2019, police arrested Sarang and Rakesh after they "failed" to give a "satisfactory" explanation to the questions posed

by the EOW officials. Deputy Commissioner of Police Pranay Ashok said, "The EOW of the Mumbai Police has arrested Sarang Wadhawan and Rakesh Wadhawan under Sections 409, 420, 466, 467, 471, read with 120 IPC. They were called for questioning today. The response from them was not sufficient and satisfactory. Their role in the PMC scam was sufficient ground for their arrest."

Rakesh Wadhawan is the executive chairman of HDIL, while Sarang Wadhawan is its Managing Director.

Ahead of their arrest, the Government had issued a lookout circular against them, directing the immigration authorities to ensure that they do not leave India.

Continued on Page 4

## Discontent in Maha, Haryana Congress on election tickets

Nirupam, Ashok Tanwar announce to stay away from election campaign

**PNS/PTI ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI**

The Congress faces discontent in Haryana and Maharashtra over ticket distribution ahead of the Assembly polls with the former chiefs of the party's units in Haryana and Mumbai on Thursday resigning from election committees and deciding to stay away from the campaign.

A day after protesting outside Congress president Sonia Gandhi's residence in Delhi

over alleged irregularities in ticket distribution, former Haryana Congress chief Ashok Tanwar quit the election committees of the party.

With its party base having already eroded markedly because of its sitting MLAs and leaders, the Congress in Maharashtra suffered one more jolt as its former Mumbai unit president Sanjay Nirupam, "I will sit at home and not campaign during the elections."

Nirupam is miffed with the Congress leadership for rejecting his plea that the party should give the election ticket to at least one Muslim candidate from Versova in north-west Mumbai.

Continued on Page 4

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# Cabinet OK's setting up of sports varsity

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Thursday approved a proposal to set a separate 'sports university' in Mundka exclusively for sportspersons. A bill regarding the proposal has also been passed by Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. The university which will be called as 'Delhi Sports University' will offer degrees to sportspersons par with degrees in other courses at graduate, post graduate and doctoral level.

Announcing about the initiative, Kejriwal, with his deputy Manish Sisodia by his side, said a Bill in this regard was approved by the Cabinet on Thursday and it would be sent to Lieutenant Governor (LG) Anil Bajjal for approval.

The University will groom students in particular sport in an early age and Bachelors degree in particular game such as cricket, hockey and others



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy CM Manish Sisodia announce Sport University initiative. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

will be provided. "Delhi Cabinet has approved the conceptual framework, and the Delhi Assembly is hoping to pass the legal framework in the form of the bill during the winter session after the approval of the Delhi L-G. This is a finance bill, which requires the sanction of the Lieutenant Governor before being presented in the assembly. If the L-G approves the bill, it shall be presented in the

assembly in the winter session. The timelines for the establishment shall be discussed thereafter," said the Chief Minister.

"This sports university will grant you a degree in sports such as cricket, and hockey. A passionate sportsperson can now devote all of his time to playing and excelling in sports. His graduation, post-graduate, and doctorate degrees will be in the subjects of sports.

He can show his degrees for various related posts wherever required. For instance, he can appear for civil services examination because he will be considered a graduate after this degree," the chief minister.

Kejriwal also added, "The Delhi Sports University will also be allowed to open sports schools and institute to groom students at a particular sport in an early age. The main aim of this university is to build and groom the students who have excelled in various sports in their schools."

To construct the University, 90 acres of land has been identified and allotted to construct the institute in Mundka area in Delhi. The Vice-Chancellor of this university will also be a sportsperson, said Kejriwal.

"The curriculum of the university and the subjects are in the ideation process and will be developed as per further deliberations with several

experts. The DSU bill defines the administrative and legal structure of the university. Several experts will be involved at various stages, to design and give a definite structure to the curriculum of the courses," he added.

"Most of the students have to compromise their sports to keep up with their performance in their main subjects. Some of the students that I know are pursuing their graduation from SOL to manage sports and studies both. It is a matter of disappointment that many students who have played sports on national levels are nowhere on the same platform as students who can give their IAS examinations because of their graduation degree. The share of jobs under sports quota is also limited. We are hoping to eradicate that uncertainty of the future from the minds of sportspersons," said Deputy CM Manish Sisodia.

# Article 370 was barrier in J&K development: Shah

HM flags off Delhi-Katra Vande Bharat Exp

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said Article 370 was a barrier in the development of Jammu & Kashmir and for the unity of this country but with its abrogation the evil of terrorism would completely be eliminated from the region. Shah, who was accompanied by Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, Union Ministers Jitendra Singh and Harsh Vardhan flagged off Vande Bharat express from the New Delhi Railway Station on Thursday.

"I believe that not only Article 370 was a roadblock for the unity of this country, but it was also the biggest roadblock for the development of Kashmir. I am sure that after the removal of this Article, we will be successful in completely eradicating terrorism and the ideas promoting terrorism in the area," he said. Shah further said that Jammu & Kashmir will be one of the most-developed regions of the country within the next 10 years and the journey of development has begun with Vande Bharat Express, which is set to boost development and promote religious tourism," he added.

Remembering Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary (on October 2), Shah said Gandhi gave a philosophy to the world about how to derive simple solutions to the biggest problems. He expressed pride in saying that the Vande Bharat Express was totally 'swadeshi' and at par with the latest rail transport technology across the world.

"The railways should document its relationship with



Home Minister Amit Shah, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, Union Ministers Jitendra Singh and Harsh Vardhan flagged off Vande Bharat express from the New Delhi Railway Station on Thursday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

## FEATURES OF TRAIN

- It will offer comfort and faster travel for inter-city passengers.
- The train set has been developed and made in a record time of 1.5 yrs by the Indian Railways at a cost of about 97 crores, which is approximately half of what an imported train of this type would cost.
- The train-set has 16 coach chair car type configurations having a seating capacity of 1,128 persons which is more than the Shatabdi Express due to elimination of generator cars.
- The train can travel at an ideal speed of 160 Km/h and has cleared up to 180 Km/h in test trials. The starting acceleration of train is 0.8m/sec. The journey time to Katra will be reduced by about four hours.
- The train is fully air-conditioned (including the driver's cab), with automatic doors and sliding foot-steps for convenient alighting.
- The coaches have continuous windows for modern aesthetic look.
- The train uses state of the art technology for train movement. It has onboard computer for train control and remote monitoring.

Mahatma Gandhi as it forms a significant episode in the country's freedom struggle," Shah said.

Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Jitendra Singh said the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir was a gift for the people of the region after three decades of struggle and the launch of the train was another gift, which would contribute in building a

new Jammu & Kashmir. The Vande Bharat Express will cut the travel time between Delhi and Katra to eight hours from the previous 12 hours. The first Vande Bharat Express that runs between Delhi and Varanasi was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February. The New Delhi-Katra train has a bigger pantry compared to the first Train 18.

# Creche at Secretariat for working parents

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a major relief to the working parents, Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday inaugurated a children's crèche at Delhi Government Secretariat with an aim to ensure the parents to spend a quality time with their children.

Sisodia said that this is an excellent model which should be adopted by all workstations including private organisations. "With the step, the working women in the Government

offices can spend quality time with their Children," he said.

The Department of Women and Child Development under the leadership of Deputy Chief Minister came up with the idea of setting up a crèche at the office premises of the Delhi Secretariat, the Government said in a statement.

"The Government took the initiative keeping in mind that many Government officials leave their home and send their kids to the private crèches, which forces the parents to spend very less time with their

children," it said. Stressing on the need to adopt this model, SB Shashank, Director of Women and Child Development said that now corporate firms and private organisations are being advised to install crèches at their workplaces.

The crèche that is situated on the 2nd floor of the Delhi Secretariat Building has two feeding centres, two sleeping rooms comprising four beds, a playroom, two dressing rooms and a huge living area for the kids and their parents.

# Hoax bomb threat triggers panic at Kendriya Vidyalaya at Gole Market

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A hoax bomb threat triggered panic at Kendriya Vidyalaya in Gole market area on Thursday, prompting authorities to vacate the school campus.

Police said that a teacher in school had received an SMS that a bomb was planted in the school.

According to a senior police official, a complaint was received from one of the school teachers that he received an SMS from an unidentified

number that a bomb has been placed in the school.

"Acting on the complaint a police and bomb disposal squad personnel reached the spot immediately. Students and staff were moved out and the entire school premises were checked thoroughly. However, no bomb was found," said the police official.

"An inquiry is underway. The complaint is being verified and police officials are trying to identify the location of the person who sent the message," the official said.

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# Now travel limitless in cluster buses for just ₹50

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

Now, commuters can travel unlimited in the clusters buses for just ₹50 as the Delhi Transport Department (DTC) is planning to introduce the daily 'Common Day Pass' facility in cluster buses.

Currently, the daily passes are available and valid in buses run by the DTC.

Also, the Government has decided to issue a single passes for both Air-conditioned (AC) and Non-AC buses at fixed price.

The common day passes are single day passes issued in every DTC buses by the conductors. Currently, two different passes are issued for AC and Non-AC buses for ₹50 and ₹40.

Also, these daily passes were only valid in DTC buses, but now once the proposal will be

NO. OF PASSES ISSUED PER DAY	35000 (APPROX)
DAILY PASSES VALID	DTC BUSES
FARE	₹40 FOR NON-AC AND ₹50 AC
PROPOSAL	DAILY COMMON DAY PASSES IN CLUSTER BUSES ALSO AT ₹50

approved by the Government, the passes will also be valid in buses under cluster scheme.

The common daily passes were introduced decades ago but it was again introduced to encourage the people to travel in AC buses.

These buses are majorly introduced for tourist purposes and for those commuters who take various trips per day for their work and business.

"The benefits of these daily common day passes are 'unlim-

ited travel in limited amount' just ₹50.

Presently, the facility is only provided in DTC buses, but there are such routes and stretches in Delhi where cluster bus services are more than DTC buses and the commuters unable to enjoy the daily pass facility.

Thus, a proposal has been proposed to introduce the facility for cluster buses," said a senior Government official requesting anonymity.

Official also added that the department is also planning to

set up similar fare and ticketing criteria for all the public transport including clusters. "Once the proposal will be approved and implemented by the Government, a common pass will be issued for both DTC (AC and Non AC) and clusters buses at a same fixed price ₹50," added the official.

As per the DTC, approximately 35,000 daily passes are issued per day. Besides, the DTC also issues monthly pass for ₹1000 (AC) and ₹800 (non-AC), student passes at ₹100 and concession passes for senior citizens and physically disabled persons.

It is also to be noted that free bus ride services for woman will also be started in DTC and cluster buses services from 29th October this month.

# BJP releases second list of candidates

Sudhir Singla fielded from Gurugram

Cong nominates Sukhbir Kataria

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) released its second list of candidates for the upcoming Haryana Assembly elections late on Wednesday night. The party has fielded Sudhir Singla from the Gurugram constituency, replacing its sitting MLA Umesh Aggarwal.

On Monday, the BJP declared tickets for 78 of the 90 seats, including 3 constituencies in the Gurugram district, denying nominations to three sitting MLAs — Bimla Chaudhary from Pataudi, Tej Pal Tanwar from Sohna and PWD Minister Rao Narbir Singh from Badshahpur.

The BJP has nominated Manish Yadav, State President of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), from Badshahpur, Satya Prakash Jarawta for Pataudi (SC reserve) and Sanjay Singh from Sohna.

The Congress also released its list for the upcoming Haryana Assembly election late on Wednesday night. According to the list, former Minister Sukhbir Kataria will be contesting from the

## GURUGRAM ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS



Rao Kamal Bir Singh (Cong)



Sukhbir Kataria (Cong)



Sudhir Singla (BJP)

Gurugram constituency, while Sudhir Chaudhary will contest from Pataudi, Kamal Bir Yadav will contest from Badshahpur and Dr Shamsuddin will contest from Sohna.

The BJP candidate from Gurugram constituency Sudhir Singla is a son of former minister late Sita Ram Singla. Singla is also a practising advocate and he joined the saffron party in 1982. His father Sita Ram Singla had fought four-time assembly election in 1982, 1987, 1991 and 1996 and won 1987 the election and serve as a minister under Chaudhary Devi Lal government.

"I am very thankful to chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar and senior party leader who shown faith in me and I was very hopeful that the party will nominate me from Gurugram constituency. As the morale of the party works

his high and will put all our efforts to win the upcoming elections," Singla said.

He further said that "The Gurugram constituency is an urban seat and to avail better facilities like Water, Electricity, Transportation and others will be his top priorities," Singla added.

Interestingly the BJP has nominated Manish Yadav who is fighting his maiden Assembly election from Badshahpur constituency. On the other hand, the Congress has fielded Rao Kamal Bir Singh who is much experienced than Yadav.

Singla's family had entered into the politics in a British era. His great grandfather Rao Ramji Lal was the Prime Minister of Nalagarh Estate in British Government. Singla's father Rao Mahabir Singh had won assembly elections in 1966 from Sohna, 1968 from

Gurugram and 1972 from Gurugram.

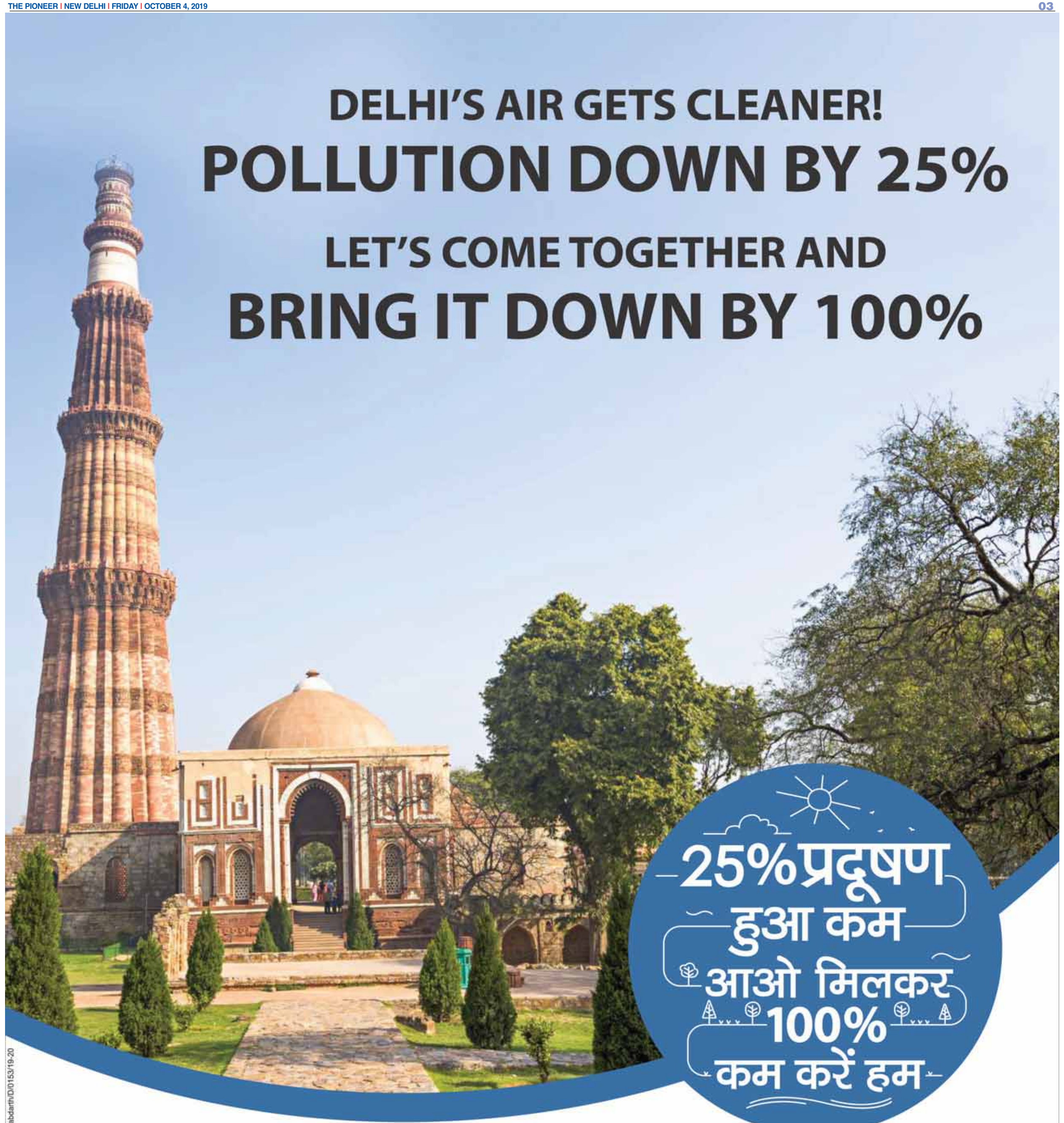
Rao Kamal Bir Singh (53) a postgraduate is presently a member in Congress party, Haryana and was the president of Janata Dal (United) Haryana from 2012 to February 2019.

Singla had also in 2005 contested assembly election as an independent candidate from Sohna constituency and in 2009 contested assembly election on BSP ticket from Kosli constituency in Haryana.

"Badshahpur constituency is a mixture of the urban and rural seat and I along with my party workers had visited several villages of the Badshahpur seat. I feel that the youth of the constituency needs jobs, maker over of Aravali range, and better infrastructure for villagers and developing sectors, education and public health needs to be improved," Singla said.



# DELHI'S AIR GETS CLEANER! POLLUTION DOWN BY 25% LET'S COME TOGETHER AND BRING IT DOWN BY 100%



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Year	PM 2.5 Levels*
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2016-18	115

\*Source: Central Pollution Control Board, Government of India





# Pak straining nerve to fuel terror: Jaishankar

**PTI ■ WASHINGTON**

Describing the abrogation of Article 370 as a "long awaited" step and the "right thing" to do, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said it is expected from Pakistan to pull out all stops to challenge the decision as it has made deep investment in fuelling terrorism in Kashmir.

Asserting that the Indian security forces have exercised highest degree of restraint in Jammu and Kashmir after August 5, Jaishankar told a Washington audience that he expects Pakistan to continue what it has been doing for the past several decades.

"What do you expect the Pakistanis to say (after current restrictions are lifted and normalcy is restored)... we expect calm and happiness to return," Jaishankar said on Wednesday in response to a question during his appearance at The Heritage Foundation, a top American think-tank.

"No, they (Pakistan) will

not. They will paint apocalyptic scenarios because one that is their wish and two that's actually what their game plan has been for 70 years," he added.

He was responding to a question on recent remarks by top Pakistani leadership alleging that India would raise a false flag and blame Islamabad for any terrorist attack after the recent security and communication restrictions are lifted in Kashmir.

"I think it's important to have a historical context to judge these remarks. This is not a conversation that began on August 5. These are their policies and their actions which began the day Kashmir acceded to India with Pakistani invaders threatening to burn down Srinagar. Please look at the history of Kashmir," Jaishankar said.

As such there is a lot out there which needs to be taken into account, he said, noting that India's endeavour will be to "manage this as well as it can".

# Govt has cut J&K's Gordian Knot, says Harish Salve

**PTI ■ LONDON**

Senior Indian lawyer Harish Salve has endorsed India's decision to revoke Article 370 to withdraw the special status of Jammu & Kashmir, saying the Government has cut the Gordian Knot.

He described Pakistan's reaction to the move as a sign of "complete bankruptcy" because Kashmir is an integral part of India where they were "squatted".

Tensions between the two countries have spiked since India abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution to revoke the special status of Jammu & Kashmir.

India's decision evoked strong reactions from Pakistan, which downgraded diplomatic ties and expelled the Indian ambassador. Pakistan has been trying to internationalise the Kashmir issue after India withdrew the special status of Jammu & Kashmir on August 5, but New Delhi has asserted the abrogation of Article 370 was its "internal matter".

Salve said, "Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is Indian, they



(Pakistan) are squatting there. If there is any disputed territory (in the region), it is PoK. The Kashmir Constitution says Kashmir is an integral part of India, not just the Indian Constitution. Kashmir being an integral part of India has never been in doubt, except in certain Pakistani minds."

Describing himself as a "long-time votary" of getting rid of Article 370, the senior lawyer noted, "I think it was a mistake to allow it and a bigger mistake to allow it to fester. Some time you had to cut the Gordian Knot and the government has done it. The only way it could have been done is by one shot.

"The suggestion that it should have been a discussion is nonsense because even the slightest mention of 370 would evoke very trenchant and militant criticism. India has done the right thing," Salve, who represented India at the International Court of Justice in Kulbhushan Jadhav's case, said.

In reference to the legal challenge over the issue, he added: "The Supreme Court of India will hear and decide if there was anything wrong. But the way it has been portrayed by Pakistan shows their complete bankruptcy of the mind."

Salve was speaking to reporters at the Indian High Commission in London following a landmark judgment by the Royal Courts of Justice earlier in the day in favour of the Indian government in relation to funds associated with the Nizam of Hyderabad dating back to Partition in 1947.

As a key member of the legal team on behalf of India, the lawyer hailed the verdict as an important endorsement of India's long-held stance against Pakistan in the UK court.

# India to take bilateral route on issues faced by other countries with China, says Jaishankar

**PTI ■ WASHINGTON**

Asserting that both New Delhi and Beijing would like to see their relation become "better and substantive", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday told a Washington audience that India will weigh on merit the issues being faced by other countries with China.

In fact, Jaishankar refused to join the Trump administration which describes 5G as a national security issue, by saying that for India it is a telecom issue and not political one.

"Our intention obviously is to progress our relations with China. We are very clear on that and we get the sense that they too would like to see the relations become better and substantive," Jaishankar told The Heritage Foundation think-tank in response to a question.

"On lot of the issues which different countries face with China, frankly, we would weigh the issues on their merit and largely take a bilateral approach," he said responding to a question.

"We actually, essentially handle China relationship very, very bilaterally. We believe that's frankly the best way of moving forward," he added.

"Our position on 5G for example is we don't see 5G as a political problem. 5G for us is a telecom issue. And we will make whatever decisions we have to at the right time on the merits of that particular decision," Jaishankar said.

"When it comes to China, for me what's important is I have this neighbour who's my biggest neighbour, who's now the second biggest economy in the world, with whom I have a long history, not always an easy history. But I would like to make sure that this relationship remains... Stability for me is my bottom-line requirement," he said.



# UN leaders recall Bapu's power to bring change through non-violence

**PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS**

Mahatma Gandhi's vision of peace and sustainable development still resonate across the world which grapples with violence in forms of environment destruction to devastation caused by armed conflicts, UN chief Antonio Guterres has said as leaders of the world body recalled the "transformational change" brought by him.

This International Day of Non Violence on October 2 marks the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the renowned global icon of peace, he said.

Guterres said in today's

turbulent times, "violence takes many forms: from the destructive impact of the climate emergency to the devastation caused by armed conflicts; from the indignities of poverty to the injustice of human rights violations to the brutalising effects of hate speech".

"His (Gandhi's) vision continues to resonate across the world, including through the work of the UN for mutual understanding, equality, sustainable development, empowerment of young people and peaceful resolution of disputes," Guterres said in his message for the International Day of Non Violence, observed on October 2.

Delivering the keynote address at a special commemorative event 'Climate Action: Gandhian Ways' organised by India's Permanent Mission to the UN, President of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly Tijjani Muhammad-Bande said for the UN, almost everything that is fundamental, that the international organisation stands for, has prefigured in the work, life and thoughts of Gandhi.

"It is difficult to say anything new about Gandhi. I do not know any school child anywhere in the world, who has not been inspired by the resoluteness of Gandhi, the idea that the greatest courage is



really to be non-violent. This is the utter opposite of a machismo culture, that is being seen as the way forward, he said.

Muhammad-Bande said the connection between Gandhi and today's climate activism is very clear.

On climate action, he said the whole crisis the world is facing is because it produces in ways that are permanently destructive.

# Delhi Police arrests three armed robbers

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

Delhi police has arrested three armed robbers following a shootout in Vasant Kunj area on Wednesday night. Police have also recovered two country-made pistols along with three live cartridges, one fired empty cartridge shell, one button operated knife, a car and house breaking equipments from the possession of the accused.

The accused have been identified as Sunil Kumar Meena (34), a resident of Dwarka, Satish Chander alias Tyagi (48), a resident of Uttam Nagar and Satender Kumar

# Centre plans to make BIS quality compliance mandatory for tap water

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

In a bid to provide safe drinking water, the Centre will soon start a consultation process to make compliance of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) quality standard mandatory for tap water. It will begin with State capitals, national capital and 100 smart cities in the country. A team of BIS officials has been sent to the state capitals to collect the samples of tap water and test if they comply with the BIS quality standard.

According to Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, the ministry will seek views from the state governments in this regard. The Centre will then figure out the way to make the BIS standard mandatory. "It cannot be done across the country at one go, we will go step by step," he added.

Paswan also mentioned that India's BIS standard on tap water is not at par with the international standard and directed the BIS officials to study if it can match the global quality norms. Currently, the BIS quality standards are mandatory for only packed drinking water and 140-odd other products.

On the BIS collecting samples of tap water, the minister said that a team of BIS has already been sent to state capitals to collect the samples of tap water. "This will take a month. The report will come

by November first week. We will get to know which state supplies safe drinking water at least in the capital city. The ranking will be given," Paswan added.

The BIS that frames quality norms for products and services and works under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, has set standards for the drinking water but are voluntary in nature. With regard to quality of tap water in Delhi, Paswan said the preliminary investigation shows that samples collected randomly from 11 areas in the national capital do not comply with the BIS standard and not safe for drinking.

"After looking at the preliminary report of tap water supplied in Delhi, we are thinking of making mandatory the BIS standards on tap water at least in the national capital, state capitals and 100 smart cities," Paswan said.

The Delhi government and Jal Board authorities have no reservations on making the BIS standard mandatory for tap water, he said adding that the samples include water collected from his house (10, Janpath) and the office in Krishi Bhawan.

The lab report was discussed in a meeting with senior officials of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), BIS, Union Jal Shakti Ministry and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), he said.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Be it known to all through this public notice that our client Sh. Shiv Charan Singh Chauhan S/o Sh. Ram Singh Chauhan and Ms. Nilima Shiv Charan W/o Sh. Shiv Charan Singh Chauhan, Both R/o C2/33, Gold Croft, CGHS Ltd., Plot No.4, Sector 11, Dwarka, New Delhi, has debarred and disown/deserted their son Sh. Vishnu Chauhan and his wife Ms. Rakshita Singh, from all their movable & immovable properties, due to their disrespectful and unethical behaviour towards our client. Our client has also severed all their relations with them and if anybody deals with them, he/she will do so at his/her own risk, cost and peril, and our client shall not be responsible in any manner, whatsoever.

**N.K. SHANGLE & CO. (Advocates)**  
Ch. No. 163, Saket Courts, New Delhi.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mrs. Kavita Grover who is purchasing the Built-up First Floor without roof rights bearing Part of Property No. B-11, area measuring 62 Sq. Yds. out of Plot No. 11, Kila No. 9/1, Situated at in the abadi of Laxman Park, East Chander Nagar, in the area of Village-Khureji Khas, Shadara, Delhi from Mrs. Saroj Kansal and further will be mortgaging against the financial assistance from VASTU HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LTD. To comply the requirements of bank/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property please herewith requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of this notice, at below address.

**Lucern Legal LLP**  
269, Rama House, Ground Floor,  
Masjid Moth, Opp. Uday Park, South Ex. II,  
New Delhi - 49 Contact# 011-40046316

# India-US trade deal will happen 'pretty quickly'...

**From Page 1**

On why India and the US were not able to announce the deal during the recent visit of Modi to the US, Goyal added that trade does not decide by only one transaction.

"Trade has to consider the past, the present, future, the political dynamics, local issues, long term issues, bilateral and multilateral commitments. So it's a very complex story and in that complexity, we are having an absolutely wonderful engagement," he said.

America is a very powerful economy but also a sensitive country, he said, adding the trade between the countries is robust as imports from the US to India are growing by nearly 30 per cent and exports from India to the US growing by nearly 20 per cent in the last year.

"We are at a reasonable trade level. Certainly our potential has not been reached. Both USTR, US Commerce Secretary Ross, me and our team are discussing breaking the USD 500 billion barriers in terms of our mutual trade. And the way our trade is progressing, I don't see any reason

why we can't do that (USD 500 billion trade target) in the years to come," he added.

Talking about US concerns over high trade deficit with India, Ross said that there was confusion about US position on the trade deficit.

"We do feel that our deficit was too high and we intend both to increase total trade and reduce our trade deficit," he said. He said that the deficit which arises mainly because of artificial and protectionist barriers that countries have thrown up which is a primary issue that the US is concerned with.

"We also believe that focusing bilaterally we can achieve much faster results for all countries involved... We made a deal with Canada and Mexico... Trade deal often takes eight years or ten years... They frequently take so long that the issues are not even same at the end of trade negotiations," Ross said.

He said that increasing exports from India would also help India and India has a wonderful opportunity right now to take advantage of trade tensions in the world.

# Kashmir leaders to be released one by one...

**From Page 1**

The senior functionaries, including the district presidents of the Jammu region and office-bearers of the provincial committee, attended the meeting.

The party leaders expressed anguish over continued detention of the senior leaders including Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah, as also the other top leaders of the mainstream political parties.

The resolution strongly condemned the detention of Dr Farooq Abdullah, a sitting MP and five times Chief Minister besides former Union Minister under PSA, notwithstanding his immense and crucial role in the democratic polity of the country and contribution in steering the State to peace, progress and development, braving all odds.

# Heavy rain causes waterlogging in Delhi

**New Delhi:** Heavy rain pounded the national capital on Thursday evening, resulting in water logging, traffic congestion and brief suspension of flight operations at the Delhi airport.

Hailstorm was also reported in some parts of Delhi, the weather office said. The Regional Meteorological Centre of the IMD said there was a low pressure area over Haryana that resulted in heavy rains over the National Capital Region. Mahesh Palawat, Vice-President (Meteorology and Climate Change), said there was a cyclonic circulation over Punjab and Haryana. High humidity coupled with temperatures that have been rising since the last two days led to the formation of clouds, a normal phenomenon in pre-monsoon and post-monsoon time.

According to the Meteorological Department, the maximum temperature recorded at 5.30 pm was 34.8 degrees Celsius, a notch above the normal, and the minimum was 23.8 degrees Celsius, two notches above the normal.

**PTI**

# Pak fidayeen sneak into...

requested to report any suspicious activity to the nearest Delhi police checkpoint," the official further said.

Sources in security agencies said more than 60 militants have infiltrated in the country through Line of Control (LoC) and International Borders during last two months post defanging of Article 370 on August 5.

"Moreover, at least 16 new terrorist camps have been activated in the last month across the LoC by the Pakistan army-ISI combine, sending alarm bells ringing in the security establishment," said a source.

# Discontent in Maha, Haryana Congress...

**From Page 1**

Nirupam put out a couple of tweets expressing his displeasure over the manner in which the party had treated him. "It seems the Congress party doesn't want my services anymore. I had recommended just one name in Mumbai for Assembly election. Heard that even that has been rejected. As I had told the leadership earlier, in that case I will not participate in poll campaign. It's my final decision," Nirupam tweeted.

"I hope that the day has not yet come to say goodbye to party. But the way leadership is behaving with me, it doesn't seem far away," he said in another tweet.

Meanwhile in a letter to Sonia Gandhi, Tanwar alleged that the Congress in Haryana had turned into "Hooda Congress" as those who worked against the party's interests in the last five years have been given prominence over those who struggled to strengthen the opposition party in the State.

"I am writing this letter with immense pain to inform you that after due consideration and exhausting all available avenues to get my voice heard, I have not been left with any other option but to resign from the responsibilities you have assigned me as member of various committees for Haryana assembly elections," Tanwar said.

He, however, said he will continue his duties as primary member of the Congress party.

**THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS**

**LOST & FOUND**

General Public is hereby informed that the Original Allotment Letter dated 05-01-2011 & Buyer's Agreement dated 21-01-2011, regarding Flat No. C-102, Sai park Apartment, Sector-87, Faridabad of my client Mr. Daya Shankar Chaudhary have misplaced. If any person found intimate on M.No. 7838749305, Advocate (Naresh Kumar Bhati)

**PD(8671)A**

**BHOPAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, BHOPAL (M.P.)**

An organization under the control of Urban Development & Environment Department Govt. of Madhya Pradesh

No.484/E E-8/e-tender/BDA/19 BHOPAL, Date 03/10/2019

**Notice Inviting e-Tenders**

On-line percentage rate bids for the following works are invited from Contractors and firms of repute fulfilling registration & eligibility criteria mentioned in tender document.

S. No.	Portal Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable Amounts of Contract (Rs.)	Cost of Bid Documents (excluding portal fees) (Rs.)	Period of Completion i/c rainy season
1	2019_DTCP_55896	Development of Defferant work at Misrod charan 1, Scheme of Group "C" Bhopal	17,63,59882/-	45,000/-	9 Month i/c rainy season

- The detailed NIT and all other details relating to the Bid Document can be viewed on the website <http://www.mptenders.gov.in>
- The Bid Document can be purchased & deposit after making on-line payment of portal fees and cost of Bid Document through Credit Card / Debit Card / Cash Card / or Internet Banking system at aforesaid website from 09/10/2019 at 17.30 up to 18/10/2019 at 17.30 Other key dates may be seen in bid data sheet.
- Amendments to be NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.
- Any relevant information can be obtained from office of the under signed during the office working hours & days

**Executive Engineer Division No-8**

## 2 HDIL directors held in PMC Bank...

**From Page 1**

Rakesh and Sarang were placed under arrest sometime after they appeared before the EOW for questioning in connection with the PMC scam.

"We have identified 44 bank accounts relating to the accused associated with the HDIL. We have also found Rs 100 crore worth shares in the demat accounts of one of the accused. Appropriate measures are being taken to deal with these shares," Ashok said.

HDIL is a listed real estate company, has played a key role in the PMC Bank scam. The Mumbai Police has registered a case against the former bank management and promoters of the HDIL in the PMC Bank scam case. The bank's former chairman Waryam Singh, managing director Joy Thomas and other senior officials, along with the directors of HDIL Sarang Wadhwan and Rakesh Wadhawan, have been named in the FIR. HDIL's promoters had allegedly colluded with the bank management, to draw loans from the bank's Bhandup branch.

During the course of the investigations, it has come to light that the PMC Bank created more than 21,000 fake accounts to hide the various loans.

**OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER AGRA CIRCLE, P.W.D. AGRA**

Letter No. 4558/14M-AC/2019 **Notice inviting E-Tender** Dated : 21-09-19

1. The Superintending Engineer Agra Circle, U.P.P.W.D. on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved registered Contractors. As the work comprises of specialized work hence contractors bidding for this work must be registered with UP PWD. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

Sl. No.	Di-strict	Name of Work	Esti-mated cost (Rs.in Lac)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Documents (in Rs.)	Time of Completion	Address of Executive Engineer executing the work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer	Category of Contractor
1	Mathura	Construction of Minor Bridge at Sarurpur Jhal Drain on Deen dayal Dham to Parkham-Ole road in Dist. Mathura	120.00	8.00	Rs. 2000.00 STC+ 300.00 TC+36.00 GST= 2336.00	09 Months	Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D., Mathura	Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Aggra	Chief Engineer, Aggra Zone, P.W.D., Aggra	Class A, B
2	Mathura	Construction of Minor Bridge at Goverdhan Drain on Baran to Ole road in Dist. Mathura	92.00	6.60	Rs. 2000.00 STC+ 300.00 TC+GST =2336.00	09 Months	Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D., Mathura	Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Aggra	Chief Engineer, Aggra Zone, P.W.D., Aggra	Class A, B

- Time allowed for completion is including Rainy Season.
- Bid document with detailed terms and conditions will be available online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from 05.10.2019 to 14.10.2019 upto 12:30 Hours. Bids must be submitted online only at e-tendering portal of <http://etender.up.nic.in> on or before 12:30 Hours on 14.10.2019. Technical Bid received online will be opened on 15.10.2019 at 12:30 Hours.
- The prospective bidders who do not possess Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) must get the same issued from approved agencies before submission of bids.
- Contractor should Quote their rates without G.S.T. which shall be paid extra as per applicable at the time of payment.
- Labour Cess @ 1.00% will be Deducted from contractors bill at the time of payment.
- The bidders are required to submit Original receipt of Internet Banking of E-tender portal Account as per G.O. No. -742/78-2-2018-421.T/2017.T.C., I.T. & Electronics Section-2 Dated-03-12-2018 follows as : (1) Online Tender Cost towards the cost of bid document (As per Column 6) by Internet Banking of E-tender portal Account (Non Refundable). (2) Online Bid security (As per Column 5) in favour of designation of Column 8 by Internet Banking of E-tender portal Account.
- The bidder Should have experience for construction of Minor Bridge/Bridge work.

**(Sansveer) Executive Engineer Provincial Division, P.W.D., Mathura**

**(Yogesh Pawar) SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER AGRA CIRCLE, PWD, AGRA**

U.P.: 144304, Date : 30.09.2019, विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.up.gov.nic.in](http://www.up.gov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।



# BRO constructs new road near Doklam

THE ROADS ARE EXPECTED TO STREAMLINE THE MOVEMENT OF INDIAN TROOPS TO THE SENSITIVE REGION

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the objective of providing logistics support to the troops on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed a new road near Doklam in Sikkim region. This area saw a 73-day stand-off between the Indian and Chinese armies in 2017 when the former protested against the construction of a road by the Chinese in the strategically important zone. The new motorable road for moving troops to Dokala, on the edge of the Doklam plateau, was only a mule track earlier thereby causing delay in maintaining logistical support. The new road from Bheem base to Dokala was completed last year, officials said here on Thursday. They also said the BRO is planning to construct another motorable road on the Flag



Hill-Dokala route by March 2021. "Currently, Dokala is connected to India only through 'Tri junction-Bheem base-Dokala' route, which was completed in 2018. Therefore, construction on another motorable road from Flag Hill has begun," they said. These roads are expected to

streamline the movement of Indian troops to the sensitive region. The 33.80-km Flag Hill-Dokala road is currently a foot track. Around 11 km of the road from Flag Hill has already been constructed and the rest is expected to be complete by March 2021, they said adding

the road will be 6-metre wide, out of which 4.5 metre of the width would be covered in asphalt, the official said. On Tuesday, Indian and Chinese armies held ceremonial Border Personnel Meetings (BPM) at Nathu La, Bum La, Kibithu and eastern Ladakh to celebrate the Chinese national day. The meetings took place before the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to India. Xi is likely to visit Mamallapuram near Chennai in the second week of this month for a second informal summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to work out a roadmap for the bilateral ties for the next five years. The 2017 standoff between India and China in the Doklam had begun after the Chinese army tried to build a road in the area disputed by China and Bhutan and it was resolved diplomatically.

# Rajnath to fly Rafale fighter jet on Oct 8

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will fly a sortie in a Rafale fighter jet on October 8 from a French airbase in Paris to gain first-hand experience of the aircraft. Singh will travel to Paris on October 7 on a three-day visit to receive the first of 36 Rafale fighter jets. The Government to government deal was inked with France in 2016 and is worth over ₹59,000 crores. The ceremony to hand over the first Rafale jet will take place on October 8, the foundation day of the Indian Air Force, official sources said here on Thursday adding after receiving the aircraft, the Defence Minister will take a sortie in the aircraft. Incidentally, Singh recently undertook a sortie in the indigenously designed and manufactured Tejas light combat aircraft in Bengaluru. Top military brass of

France as well as senior officials of Dassault Aviation, the makers of Rafale, will also be present at the handing over ceremony. In July 2017, the then IAF Chief Air Marshal B S Dhanoa, flew a Rafale jet at the Saint-Dizier airbase during his visit to France. On October 9, Singh is scheduled to hold extensive talks with top defence brass of the French government on ways to further deepen defence and security cooperation between the two countries. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited France in August during which both the sides resolved to further enhance the already close defence ties between the two countries. The IAF has already completed preparations, including reading required infrastructure and training of pilots, to welcome the fighter aircraft. The sources said the first squadron of the aircraft will be deployed at Ambala air force

station, considered one of the most strategically located bases of the IAF. The second squadron of Rafale will be stationed at Hasimara base in West Bengal. A number of IAF teams have already visited France to help Dassault Aviation, the manufacturer of Rafale, incorporate India-specific enhancements on-board the fighter aircraft. The Rafale jets will come with various India-specific modifications, including Israeli helmet-mounted displays, radar warning receivers, low band jammers, 10-hour flight data recording, infrared search and tracking systems among others.



## INSHORT

**SATISH, TRIVEDI NAMED BJP'S RS CANDIDATES**  
New Delhi: The BJP on Thursday named its national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi and former Lok Sabha MP Satish Chandra Dubey as the party's Rajya Sabha candidates from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar respectively.

**MIN: FAKE NEWS MORE DANGEROUS THAN PAID**  
New Delhi: Fake news is more dangerous than paid news and there is need for the government and the media to combat it jointly, I&B Minister Prakash Javadekar said on Thursday. The Government will not take any step that could curb media freedom, he said.

**ANDHRA, TELANGANA LEADERS JOINS BJP**  
New Delhi: A number of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana leaders, mostly associated with the Telugu Desam Party, joined the BJP on Thursday as BJP continues with its drive to strengthen itself in the two southern states.

**HINDU PARTIES REBUT MUSLIM CLAIMS IN SC**  
New Delhi: Hindu parties asserted in the Supreme Court on Thursday that claims of the Muslim side over the 2.77 acre disputed land were belied by the excavated material which suggested existence of a "massive structure" beneath the demolished mosque.

# CP's Khadi store records highest sale

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

It seems 'desh badal raha hai, ab khadi pehan raha hai. Khadi store in Connaught Place (CP) has registered its highest-ever sales in a single day of ₹1.27 crore on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. This sale was the highest ever since Independence. A customary discount sale starts from 2nd October every year by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) on Khadi products across the country. The Connaught Place store had broke its previous record of highest sale of ₹1.25 crore on October 13 last year. According to the KVIC, as



many as 16,870 Khadi lovers visited Khadi store at CP on October 2 and a total number of 2,720 sales bills were issued. "Of the ₹127.57 lakh sale, the share of Khadi was ₹114.11 lakh and village industry products ₹13.46 lakh," it said. In 2014, the khadi sale was recorded ₹66.81 Lakhs at the CP store which increased to ₹117.08 lakh in 2017. Reacting on the record sale, Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways Nitin

Gadkari, said that he is overwhelmed with this record sale. KVIC Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena attributed the record sale is the translation of how Prime Minister Narendra Modi has communicated his vision of economic transformation through Khadi clearly, creatively and continually. "While the sale of Khadi products at Khadi India's flagship store in Connaught Place was recorded ₹1.27 crore on a single day on October 2 this year, this sale is the highest ever since Independence. A customary discount sale starts from October 2 every year by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) on Khadi products across the nation," the KVIC said in a statement.

## INX MEDIA CASE

# PC's custody extended till Oct 17

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The trial court on Thursday further extended the judicial custody of former finance minister P Chidambaram to October 17, noting that the investigation in the INX Media corruption case is still pending and allowed home cooked vegetarian food for him once in a day. For its part, the Supreme Court will hear his bail application on Friday. "The investigation is still pending. It is informed that the bail application of the accused has been dismissed by the Delhi High Court on September 30. Considering the facts mentioned in the appli-

cation and that there is no change in the circumstances as noted in the earlier orders, the judicial remand of the accused is extended till October 17," said the Special Judge Ajay Kumar Kumar in the Order. The court however allowed Chidambaram to have home cooked vegetarian food once a day in Tihar jail, where is lodged, after noting that 74-year old Congress leader is suffering from multiple ailments including inflammation of his digestive tract. "From the medical record shown by the applicant (Chidambaram), it is apparent that the applicant is suffering from multiple ailments. He is

74 years of age. He is suffering from inflammation of his digestive tract. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the agency, submitted that he has no objection to Chidambaram being provided with home cooked food. "In these circumstances, it may be conducive to his health condition that he is provided home cooked food once a day to avoid any further deterioration in his health condition," the Judge noted. However, the court clarified that this order is not to be taken as a precedent as the concession for home food was being given in peculiar facts and circumstances and keeping his medical condition in mind.

**DELHI METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Dwarka to Najafgarh**

Section of Line - 9 (Grey Line) will be opened for General Public from **5:00 pm onwards on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 (Friday)**

Dwarka      Nangli      Najafgarh

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Power Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

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सबसे सस्ती बिजली

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City	Units	Bill**
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Noida	202	1374
Mumbai	194	1244
Bengaluru	175	1272
Punjab	188	1357

दिल्ली ने कर दिखाया

Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister, Delhi

\* In comparison with Cities/States like Noida, Mumbai, Punjab and Bengaluru \*\* The bill amounts are from specific consumers. The bill from Noida of 202 units is of 4KW sanctioned load and is from April-May 2019. The bill of Bengaluru of 175 units is of 3KW sanctioned load and is from August-September 2019. The bill from Mumbai of 164 units is of 0.97 sanctioned load and is from May-June 2019. The bill from Punjab of 188 units/month is of 1.76KW sanctioned load from June-August 2019. The bill amount for Delhi is based on an assumption of 2KW sanctioned load



# SARADHA SCAM Kumar surrenders before city court, granted bail

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

After remaining at large for more than a month and armed with a High Court order for anticipatory bail, former Kolkata Commissioner of Police, Rajeev Kumar on Thursday appeared at the Alipore Court which granted him bail for two sureties of ₹50,000 each.

Kumar's role — as the chief of the Special Investigation Team constituted in 2013 by the State Government to probe the multi-crore Saradha and other chit fund cases — is being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

The senior IPS officer and arguably one of the best in the country in terms of handling cyber crimes is currently the functioning as the Additional Director General of CID. He had been underground ever since the Supreme Court and Calcutta High Court withdrew his protection from arrest in the case. Since then the CBI was after him visiting his residence on a multiple occasion and issuing notices of appearance repeatedly even as his plea for anticipatory bail was rejected by the lower court.



Subsequently after a marathon hearing in the Calcutta High Court a division bench on Tuesday granted him anticipatory bail following which Kumar appeared in the public for the first time in many weeks.

The Calcutta High Court had on Tuesday given anticipatory bail to Kumar, who is currently the additional director general of the West Bengal Criminal Investigation Department.

"He appeared before the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Subrata Mukherjee and was granted bail as per the High Court order," his lawyer Gopal Haldar said.

In February, Kumar was questioned by CBI in connection with the case for over five days in Shillong on a Supreme Court order. Both the Left and the Congress have alleged a

"setting" (adjustment) between the Trinamool Congress and BJP if one looked at the way the drama around Kumar was enacted in the past a few weeks or so.

Senior leaders of both the parties questioned the way he could managed to get bail — at a time when CBI was apparently hot in his pursuit — soon after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee visited Delhi and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi after a gap of more than two years.

"Here we see the CBI hot in his pursuit and there the Chief Minister rushes to Delhi and meets Prime Minister and Home Minister Amit Shah and then in the next hearing in the High Court he gets bail," said CPI(M) leader Md Salim saying "a former Minister of the Congress Party who is neither in the Government nor in any Government job fails to get bail in a case involving few crores whereas granted bail on the ground that he can influence the witnesses but Rajiv Kumar a top police officer for whom the Chief Minister sits in a dharna gets bail on assumption that he cannot influence witnesses."

# Pak Army violates ceasefire, targets civilian areas in J&K

PTI ■ JAMMU

The Pakistan Army continued ceasefire violation by resorting to heavy mortar shelling and heavy firing targeting civilian areas along the Indo-Pak border in Rajouri, Poonch and Kathua districts of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Thursday.

Pakistan Army resorted to heavy weaponry firing and mortar shelling targeting dozens of villages and forward posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Shahpur and Gotriya

areas Wednesday night which continued till Thursday morning, they said.

The shelling caused damage to a shop while a cowshed was gutted, the officials said.

The mortar shelling and small arms firing from across the border was intense in Shahpur, where a number of shells also fell in the close vicinity of revered shrine of famous Sufi saint Sain Baba Miran Bakash, they said. A shop was damaged, they added.

The officials added that the firing and shelling contin-



ued for about nine hours.

In many places, the shells hit and exploded in mountainous areas triggering landslides which blocked roads, the officials said.

Panic gripped the border residents as Pakistani mortar shelling continued through-

out the night. The sounds of the explosions were also heard in Poonch town, they said.

Pakistan troops also shelled forward areas of Keri along the LoC in Rajouri district overnight triggering panic and fear among the residents, the officials said.

Pakistan rangers also resorted to firing and shelling targeting hamlets of Manyari and other villages in Hiranagar sector along the International border (IB) in Kathua district late Wednesday night and continued till Thursday morning,

they said.

A cowshed was damaged after it caught fire. A few houses also suffered damages, they said.

People living in Manyari hamlet spent life in the jaws of death as bullets pierced through windows and doors of their houses, the officials said.

However, no one was injured, they added.

People held anti-Pakistan protests and demanded that people living along the border should be shifted to a safer place.

# TMC-BJP slugfest on Durga puja turf

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The BJP-TMC turf war in Bengal has intensified this festive season, with the two parties leaving no stone unturned to outsmart each other in controlling the city's big-ticket Durga pujas and reach out to as many people as possible during the five-day gala.

The saffron party has decided to set up more than 10,000 stalls outside puja pandals to display books on its ideologies and educate masses on the contentious issues of National Register of Citizens (NRC) and Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.

Buoyed by its stupendous performance in the Lok Sabha

polls, it is now at the forefront in challenging the decade-long hegemony of the Trinamool Congress in Bengal's annual extravaganza often compared to the Rio De Janeiro carnival.

The five-day fest in Bengal is no longer just about art, culture and celebrations, as parties race to stake claim over puja committees - considered a key factor in ensuring victory in local body elections.

In the last decade, several top ministers and leaders of the ruling TMC have been seen patronising the major puja pandals across the state.

The BJP now is taking the same route to push its own agenda, albeit with moderate success.

According to sources, the party had targeted 14,000 out of 28,000 puja committees in the state, but managed to get hold of only 6000, mostly in semi-urban areas.

The Bharatiya Janata Party leaders have faced stiff resistance from the TMC, which continues to have an iron fist control over these puja committees.

"The TMC doesn't allow leaders of any other political parties to be part of the puja committees. The reason is both political and financial. But still we have managed to take part in several pujas as locals are keen on having BJP leaders in the committees," state BJP leader Pratap Banerjee told PTI.

# Kolkata Durga Puja themed on refugees amid fear over NRC



PTI ■ KOLKATA

At a time when panic over National Register of Citizens (NRC) has gripped several parts of West Bengal, a community Durga puja committee in the city has chosen "refugees" as its theme this year.

Rajdanga Naba Uday Sangha puja, one of the award winning community pujas in the city, has placed shuttlecocks and badminton rackets randomly in front of the marquee conveying the impression that "refugees are nothing but shuttlecocks lobbed to each other's side by two countries," said the puja committee's president Sushanta Ghosh.

Ghosh, a Trinamool Congress leader and chairman of Borough Number 13 of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, said that an iron fence, erected at the mar-

quee, symbolises "the boundary which separates countries geographically but not its people."

"There will be a giant model of a bird to show that people are fettered by boundaries and can become refugees after partition but not other living beings who are far more liberated than human beings," theme artist Subrata Bandyopadhyay said.

The puja committee had started preparations since July and with 50 people working day and night at the place to recreate the effect with wood and fibreglass, Ghosh said.

Asked whether showcasing "refugees" as theme in a puja pandal will invite controversy, Ghosh said, "We have sought to protect refugees in the theme and certainly you can't ignore NRC if you take up the issue of displaced people these days."

# Modi-Xi meet: HC nod to TN Govt to allow banners

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Thursday allowed the Tamil Nadu and Central Governments to erect banners to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping for their informal meet here next week.

The court said it has no objection to installation of banners to welcome the two dignitaries.

The court had earlier banned erection of hoardings on roadsides and recently pulled up the

government for not effectively implementing its order following the death of a woman techie.

A division bench of Justices M Sathyanarayanan and N Seshasayee, however, made it clear that the state has to follow all existing rules in connection with installation of such banners.

The bench also said no political parties will be allowed to install such banners.

The State Government had on Tuesday sought the court's permission to erect banners welcoming Modi and Xi Jinping, who are slated to meet at

Mamallapuram, about 50 km from here, for their second informal meet from October 11-13.

The petition filed by commissioner of municipal administration said authorities were not giving permission for putting up such structures throughout the state.

The petitioner had said Modi and Jinping would be holding bilateral talks in the tourist town.

The petitioner said it was customary for the Ministry of External Affairs to welcome a visiting dignitary by way of banners. Stating that the state and the

central governments proposed to put up the banners at designated places to welcome the top dignitaries, the petitioner asked the court to pass suitable orders on the proposal.

Reacting to the government's move, Makkal Needhi Maiam founder Kamal Haasan had on Wednesday faulted it for seeking the court's approval to erect banners to welcome Modi and Xi Jinping.

The actor-politician appealed to Modi to "act as a pioneer" and put an end to the "banner culture."

# Fire at Salt Lake Mall, many cars gutted

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Several cars were gutted and goods worth lakhs were damaged when an massive fire broke out inside the basement of upmarket Baisakhi mall in Salt Lake in the north-eastern fringes of Kolkata. Though six fire tenders were pressed into service thick smoke prevented the fire personnel from entering the mall, State Fire Minister Sujit Basu who rushed to the spot within minutes said. "It seems that most of the cars, perhaps a dozen of them might have been burnt," said a mall official adding the "fire happened due to some welding work going there."

The fire was far from being controlled when reports last came in.

# India, Bangladesh likely to sign MoU for new waterway

PTI ■ AGARTALA

India and Bangladesh are likely to sign a MoU for a new waterway to connect Gomati river in Tripura and Meghna river in Bangladesh during the four-day trip of Bangladesh Premier Sheikh Hasina beginning from Thursday, Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb said.

Hasina will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi during her visit, he said.

Deb is leaving for New Delhi on Thursday to meet the Bangladesh prime minister, officials said. Bangladesh Premier Sheikh Hasina will meet our Prime Minister Narendra Modi during her four-day trip beginning today and a wide range of bilateral issues would be discussed," Deb said at a function here.

If the MoU is signed by them a new protocol route between Bangladesh and India will be opened by connecting Gomati and Meghna rivers. It would facilitate carriage of goods from Ashuganj port on



Meghna river in Brahmanbaria district of Bangladesh to Sonamura in Siphajjala district of Tripura, he said.

Movement of vessels on Gomati river for providing waterway connectivity to Tripura would be possible only after the inclusion of the stretch between Sonamura in Tripura's Sepahijala district and Daudkandi in Comilla district of Bangladesh as part of the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route, Deb said.

The Chief Minister had in June sought the permission of the shipping ministry through an official letter for construction of a temporary jetty on Gomati river and declaration of the stretch of it from Sonamura in Tripura's Sepahijala district to Daudkandi in Comilla district of Bangladesh as waterway connectivity of the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route.



An artist prepares an effigy of Ravana ahead of Dussehra festival celebrations, in Mumbai on Thursday

# BJP Govt in Karnataka mulling NRC to identify illegal migrants

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The BJP Government in Karnataka is mulling introducing the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the State, Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai said on Thursday.

"There is a very big talk going on regarding the implementation of NRC across India. Karnataka is one of the states where across the border people are coming and settling down. There are lot of issues here. Therefore we are collecting all the information, we will discuss with the Union Home Minister and then go ahead," Bommai told reporters

here. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had recently asserted that the NRC exercise will be conducted throughout India and all illegal immigrants thrown out of the country through legal means.

The Mamata Banerjee-headed TMC Government in West Bengal had avowed that the NRC exercise will not be allowed in the State. On Wednesday Bommai had told reporters in Haveri that two meetings were held on rolling out the NRC, which has been accepted by a few states.

He had said, "I've asked senior officials to study the

law. In Bengaluru and other big cities, foreigners have come and settled. It has come to our notice they indulge in crime, and some of them have been arrested as well.

We will take a clear decision (on NRC) this week."

When it was in the opposition, the BJP had been raising its voice on increasing number of Bangladeshi migrants in Bengaluru. In Assam, the only state in the country where the exercise was carried out to update the NRC, names of over 19 lakh people were omitted from the final list which was published on August 31.

# NEET IMPERSONATION SCAM

## DMK demands CBI probe

PTI ■ TIRUVARUR (TN)

DMK president M K Stalin on Thursday demanded a CBI probe into the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test impersonation scam to bring out the truth behind the murky episode now being investigated by the CB-CID of Tamil Nadu police.

The Government was a mute spectator and announced a CB-CID probe for an "eye wash," and it will not render justice, he alleged here.

Asserting that his party remained committed to the stand that NEET should be done away with, he said news reports indicated that over 50 candidates might have secured admission through foul means like impersonation.

Stalin, the leader of opposition in the state assembly, said as per reports the scam allegedly involved some officials and middlemen from not only Tamil Nadu but other states as well.

# Over 100 journalists take part in silent protest in Srinagar

## Ask Government to lift communication blockade

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Over 100 journalists took part in a silent protest on Thursday and asked the Government to lift the communication blockade which has been put in place since the abrogation of provisions of Article 370.

They said the communication blockade, which was put in place on August 5 and is set to enter its third month, has severely affected the working of journalists in Kashmir.

More than 100 journalists working in international, national and local media outlets took part in the silent protest which started from Kashmir Press Club.

"The communication blockade, which is set to enter third month now, has severely affected the working of journalists in Kashmir. Even the local newspapers have not been able to publish properly while their internet editions are

**'The communication blockade, which is set to enter third month now, has severely affected the working of journalists in Kashmir'**

defunct," president of Kashmir Press Club Shuja ul Haq said.

He said all the media associations have come together to press the government to lift the communication blockade so that they can freely discharge their professional duties.

Holding placards, some of the protesting journalists later carried out a peaceful march from Polo View to Press Colony on Residency Road here. The journalists later dispersed peacefully.

Jammu and Kashmir government has established a media facilitation centre in a private hotel here.

However, the journalists feel that the facility is inadequate as there are only 10 computer terminals for nearly 400 strong press corps.

# Judicial custody of Swami Chinmayanand extended till Oct 16

PTI ■ SHAHJAHANPUR

A local court here on Thursday extended the judicial custody of former Union Minister Swami Chinmayanand till October 16.

A law student has levelled rape charges against the BJP leader.

His counsel Om Singh said the BJP leader was produced in the court through videoconferencing from the jail because of security reasons and CJM Omvir Singh extended his judicial custody by 14 days.

Another counsel of the BJP leader, Puja Singh, told PTI that the court was told about his medical condition and it was requested that the leader

**The former Union Minister was booked under Section 376-C of the IPC, a charge short of rape, on the complaint of the 23-year-old law student**

moved an application in the court of the CJM for a permission to take voice samples of Chinmayanand and the law student. The plea will be taken up on Friday.

The former Union Minister was booked under Section 376-C of the IPC, a charge short of rape, on the complaint of the 23-year-old law student.

The woman has been charged with extortion following a complaint by Chinmayanand's lawyer that she and three others were demanding money from the leader.

The district court has already rejected bail applications of both.

# Head to Asian Heritage Foundation for traditional craftwork

## 4-day festival on in Mehrauli

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

If you fancy ethnic traditional craftworks such as Andhra Pradesh's Kalamkari hand painting and Bihar's Sujni hand embroidery or for that matter you are keen to explore the tradition craftsmen, it's time to head to a four-day festival being organised here by Asian Heritage Foundation.

Themed 'Nayi Taleem', the event at T-112, Aam Bagh, in Mehrauli is part of the foundation's pioneering project, Jiyol. The festival has brought together traditional knowledge systems and novel design practices with an amalgamation of performing arts, stakeholder consultations,

artisan-designer round tables, leading edge conversations and the mass spinning of charkha by the mohalla women, said the organisers.

Around 60 artisans from across the country are showcasing their traditional skills in craft and culinary besides music and dance.

The JIYO Initiative has a recognizable presence for the last ten years in Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and holds an important stakeholder consultation on the World Handmade Textile Biennales, being planned by the foundation to position the living heritage of India on the global stage, said the organisers.

This will be achieved through aggregation and showcasing of unique and innovative



design-led development initiatives in five centres of handmade textiles in Ahmedabad, Varanasi, Pochampalli, Jaipur and Srinagar. The curtain raiser to

Development Fund, the JIYO has impacted more than 3000 beneficiaries, established 22 self-sustaining community-based organizations, set up protocols for production and International participation in prestigious exhibitions i.e. International Folk Life festival, Santa Fe and Maison & Objet Paris. Bawanbuti hand loom weaving, Sikki basketry and hand painted Madhubani from Bihar, Sabai natural fibre basketry, Metal casting - Dokra and hand weaving in Kotpad from Odisha, Jharkhand's culinary skills in Gumla and Hazaribagh and Bamboo artisans besides Madhya Pradesh's block printing textiles in Bagh, beadwork Jewellery in Jhabua, Gond hand painting and Mandla pottery are already catching the fancy of the visitors.



# Maha polls Aditya file papers after CM's blessings

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Shiv Sena's youth wing president Aditya Thackeray on Thursday began his journey in electoral politics on Thursday, as he went in a huge procession from his Bandra residence to the election office in south-central Mumbai in a show of strength and filed nomination papers from Worli constituency for the State Assembly polls.

In an affidavit filed along with his nomination, Aditya declared assets worth over ₹16 crore and stated that no police complaints or court cases had been lodged against him.

Before leaving his family residence "Matoshri" in north-west Mumbai, 29-year-old Aditya portrait of his grandfather and late Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray when he arrived in procession at the election office,



Yuva Sena president Aditya Thackeray greets his supporters after he filed his nominations papers from Worli for upcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections in Mumbai on Thursday

Aditya was greeted by his beaming Shiv Sena President-father Uddhav Thackeray, mother Rashmi, and younger brother

Tejas. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis called Aditya and wished well for the elections, as

he proceeded towards the election office at Worli. The procession taken out by Aditya was in a way road show

of sorts. The party workers, accompanying him, carried placards with photos of Aadiya, his father Uddhav and late grandfather Balasaheb, as it made its way through both posh and poor localities of Worli. Many of the party workers had photographs of Aditya printed on the back of their T-shirts.

Meanwhile, the affidavit filed by Aditya along with his nomination became a talking point in the state political circles. In his affidavit, he has declared assets worth over ₹16 crore. As per the affidavit, Aditya has bank deposits of ₹10.36 crore, immovable properties worth ₹4.67 crore, bonds/shares/mutual funds of approximately ₹97 lakh, jewellery worth around ₹1 Crore, other investments worth ₹10.22 lakhs and cash in hand ₹13,344.00.

# Punpun River rises, spectre of flood looms large in rural Patna

PTI ■ PATNA

The spectre of a flood looms large on rural Patna and adjoining areas with an alarming rise in water levels of Punpun river, understood to be a delayed fallout of the torrential rainfall that battered Bihar over the weekend killing at least 73 people, an official said on Thursday.

Plying of trains has been stopped as a precautionary measure on Punpun Bazar-Parsa and Biharsharif-Bena sections on account of inundation of a couple of bridges.

"Movement of trains on the two sections has been stopped since 4.30 pm. Six trains have been cancelled, four short-terminated while five others were running on diverted routes," ECR Chief Public Relations Officer Rajesh Kumar said.



According to the Bihar water resources department, Punpun river which joins the Ganga about 25 kms downstream south of Patna, was flowing at 53.57 metres, far above the danger mark of 50.60 metres and just slightly below the highest level ever recorded - 53.91 metres in 1976.

Rural Patna district administration said water began gushing into several villages of

Punpun block villagers to rush to safer places.

"Two teams of the State Disaster Response Force each comprising 15 personnel and equipped with four boats - have been dispatched to Punpun and Dhanarua blocks for rescue operations. The sub-divisional officer and block development officers concerned have been put on alert," Patna District Magistrate Kumar Ravi said.

# 110 in fray for bypolls to 11 Assembly seats in UP

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Five candidates withdrew their nomination papers for bypolls to 11 Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh, leaving 110 candidates in the fray, the office of state's Chief Electoral Officer said in a statement here on Thursday.

Two candidates each withdrew their nominations from Pratapgarh Assembly constituency and Ghosi Assembly constituency, respectively. One candidate withdrew nomination from Gangoh, it said.

With the withdrawal of the candidature, the total number contestants in the fray from 11 seats stands at 110, the statement said. The maximum number of candidates 13 each are from Lucknow Cantonment and Jalalpur assembly constituencies, followed by 12 in Ghosi, and 11 each in Gangoh, Pratapgarh and Balha (SC).

Nine candidates each are in the fray from Govindnagar and Manikpur.

Besides, seven candidates each will contest the bypolls from Rampur, Iglas (SC) and Zaidpur (SC).

Voting will be held on October 21 from 7.00 am to 6.00 pm. The counting will be done on October 24.

The Election Commission had recently announced that bypolls to 11 Assembly seats in the state will be held on October 21. The bypolls were necessitated after some MLAs won the Lok Sabha elections and resigned as members of the State Assembly.

Assembly constituencies which will vote in bypolls are

Gangoh, Rampur, Iglas (SC), Lucknow Cantonment, Govindnagar, Manikpur, Pratapgarh, Zaidpur (SC), Jalalpur, Balha (SC) and Ghosi.

# 12 candidates in vie for two Assembly seats in Rajasthan

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Twelve candidates are in the fray for bypolls to two assembly seats in Rajasthan.

The bypolls to Khinvsar (Nagaur) and Mandawa (Jhunjhunu) Assembly constituencies will take place on October 21.

Thursday was the last day for nomination withdrawal.

One independent candidate withdrew his nomination, election officials said.

Now, a total of 12 candidates will contest the elections, they said.

The ruling Congress has fielded former MLAs Rita Chaudhary and Harendra Mirdha from Mandawa and Khinvsar seats, respectively.

The BJP has fielded Sushila on the Mandawa seat.

# Sikkim CM among 15 candidates try luck on three seats

PTI ■ GANGTOK

Altogether 15 candidates, including Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang aka Goley are in the fray for the by-polls to three seats in the state after two candidates withdrew their nominations on Thursday.

The by-polls to the three seats, Martam Rumtek, Pollok Kamrang and Gangtok will be held on October 21. Thursday was the last date for withdrawal of nominations and two independent candidates - Sonam

Dadul Bhutia - withdrew their nominations from the Martam Rumtek Assembly constituency in east Sikkim district, the collector of the district, Raj Yadav, said.

The Poklok Kamrang Assembly seat in South Sikkim is all set to witness a triangular contest as Chief Minister Goley, a Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) candidate, will lock horns with Moses Rai of Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) and Yadhu Kumar Rai of Sikkim Republican Party (SRP). At present, Goley is not a member of Sikkim Legislative Assembly.

Six candidates are trying their luck from the Gangtok Assembly seat. Legendary footballer Bhaichung Bhutia of the Hamroi Sikkim Party (HSP) is one of them. The Martam Rumtek and Gangtok assembly seats are reserved for the indigenous tribal communities such as the Bhutias and the Lepchas, while Poklok Kamrang is a general seat.

# 20 jostle for 4 Assam Assembly seats

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Altogether 20 contestants are left in the fray for bypolls in four Assembly seats in Assam, an official of the state election commission said on Thursday, the last day for withdrawing candidature.

None withdrew the nomination for the four constituencies - Rangapara, Sonari, Ratabari and Jania - scheduled to go to polls on October 21, Assam Joint Chief Election Officer Pranjal Choudhury said. Rangapara has five candidates, Sonari two, Ratabari four and Jania nine, Choudhury told PTI.

The four seats had fallen vacant following the election of the sitting MLAs to Lok Sabha earlier this year. The ruling BJP has named three fresh faces and a former Congress MLA for the by-polls in the four constituencies.

# BJP MLA Yatnal says he will meet PM for flood relief

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Continuing his tirade against the Union Ministers and MPs from Karnataka over "failure" to get Central grants for flood ravaged north Karnataka, BJP MLA from Bijapur Basanagouda Patil Yatnal on Thursday said he would meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and take up the matter.

"I will write to the Prime Minister today itself and seek an appointment with him to brief him about the flood situation, Patil told reporters in Vijayapura.

He said other leaders from North Karnataka can join him if they wish. He asked the union ministers to get to their work and meet the prime minister. Go and do your job and meet the Prime Minister.

You all are Union Ministers. Why are you sitting in Hubballi and Bengaluru? Go to Delhi and get ₹10,000 crore from the Centre, Yatnal said. Yatnal reminded the MPs that BJP did not come to power just by fluke but by the hard work of workers like him, chief minister B S Yediyurappa and former Union Minister Ananthkumar.

A former Union Minister, Yatnal has been vocal against the BJP leadership, including Union Ministers and MPs from Karnataka, for the past few days over getting Central grants to carry out relief works in North Karnataka.

# BJP raising emotive issues, ignoring real ones: Pawar

PTI ■ THANE

NCP president Sharad Pawar said on Thursday the ruling BJP has no solutions to burning problems in Maharashtra like farmer suicide and drought, and hence it is raising emotive issues such as Article 370 and Ram mandir in the campaign for the October 21 assembly elections.

Targeting the BJP-led NDA government, he said central agencies like the ED and CBI are being used to harass political opponents.

He was talking to reporters after participating in a rally organised after filing of nomination by NCP candidate and sitting MLA Jitendra Awhad from the Mumbra-Kalwa segment.

Asked about the Supreme Court ruling with regard to



Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's 2014 poll affidavit, Pawar said the matter was sub-judice but he should have given details of criminal cases against him.

Two days ago, the Supreme Court had set aside the Bombay High Court order which gave Fadnavis a clean chit in a case of suppression of criminal matters in the 2014 poll affidavit.

He said the ruling BJP has no solutions to burning problems in the state like farmer

suicides and drought, and therefore it is raising emotional issues like Article 370 and Ram Mandir in the election.

Asked about the ED case against him and his nephew Ajit Pawar in a bank scam, the former Union minister said officials of the financial probe agency have "directions from above".

About Shiv Sena youth leader Aadiya Thackeray filing his nomination from the Worli assembly seat, the Maratha strongman said it was a democratic process.

"I wish him all the best," the former Maharashtra chief minister said. On several NCP leaders leaving the party in the last few months, Pawar said, "They would have realised there was no future for them in the party and were looking for alternatives."

# Sena MLA Amit Ghoda joins NCP

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Hit by a slew of desertions ahead of the October 21 Maharashtra Assembly polls, the Nationalist Congress Party on Thursday saw a legislator of a ruling party joining it.

Shiv Sena MLA from Palghar, Amit Ghoda, joined the NCP at the party's headquarters here in the presence of senior leader Ajit Pawar and Nawab Malik.

Amit won by-poll from Palghar in February 2016 following the death of his father and sitting Sena MLA Krishna Ghoda.

On Wednesday, former BJP MLA Manikrao Kokate joined the Sharad Pawar-led party. Kokate is set to contest the Assembly polls from Sinnar in Nashik district.

Congress MLA Bharat Bhalke joined the NCP on September 30. Bhalke will contest from Solapur's Pandharpur. Former BJP legislator Vijay Ghodmare switched allegiance to the NCP on September 14 and is the opposition party's candidate from Hingana constituency in Nagpur.

On the other hand, former Maharashtra ministers Ganesh Naik and Sachin Ahir, Satara MP Udaynaraje Bhosale, MLAs Shivendrasinh Bhosale, Vaibhav Pichad and Sandip Naik and others quit the NCP recently to join the ruling BJP or Shiv Sena.

# Former Maha CM Narayan Rane's son Nitesh joins BJP

Nitesh won the 2014 Assembly polls from Kankavli seat in Sindhudurg district on Congress' ticket by defeating the then BJP MLA Pramod Jathar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Nitesh Rane, former Congress MLA and son of former Maharashtra chief minister Narayan Rane on Thursday joined the BJP and will contest the October 21 state Assembly polls from Kankavli seat in coastal Konkan.

Nitesh won the 2014 Assembly polls from Kankavli seat in Sindhudurg district on Congress' ticket by defeating the then BJP MLA Pramod Jathar.

Narayan Rane, who founded the Maharashtra Swabhiman Party in 2017 after parting ways with the Congress, has spoken of merging the outfit with the BJP, with whose support he is now a Rajya Sabha member. He former state chief minister was earlier in the Shiv Sena, which he quit in 2005 and joined the Congress.

# Kannada is supreme in Karnataka, says State Minister

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Kannada and Culture Minister CT Ravi on Thursday said the BJP-led Government at the Centre has no plans to impose Hindi, as he asserted that Kannada is supreme in the State.

"Central Government is not imposing Hindi and it won't do it also. Our party's principle is that importance should be given to regional languages," Ravi said to reporters here, he said, "Kannada has its own ability and in Karnataka Kannada is supreme... Link language is different matter and it was left for people to decide whether one needs to learn it or not."

Union Home Minister Amit Shah last month pitched for Hindi as a common language for the country, which had reignited the debate on the issue, and drew flak from various organisations and political parties in the southern states.

Seeking to defend Shah's statement, Ravi said it was an opinion that Hindi can be a link language in the country, as "we have accepted English as the link language internationally". It had nothing to do with imposition.

"This opinion is not new as several leaders in the past like Nehru and Indira Gandhi have advocated this. It is not a matter of politics," he said, noting that a good per cent of people in the country naturally speak Hindi. Following the controversy over Shah's statement, Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa too had recently asserted that Kannada is the principal language in the state and its importance will never be compromised.

Ravi said, eleven years after Kannada got classical language status, steps were now being initiated towards formally initiating activities including setting up of Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Kannada, currently functioning at a quarters in Mysuru, and blamed inaction on part of successive governments for it.

After meeting experts on the issue, he said though Kannada was given the classical language status in 2008, because of initial confusions including litigation and the location to set up the Centre of Excellence for Studies resulted in not reaching the that should have been achieved in ten years.

# Shivpal Yadav hints he will not merge his party with SP

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) founder Shivpal Yadav on Thursday hinted that he would not merge with the Samajwadi Party, which has offered to withdraw the disqualification petition against him in the state Assembly.

Leader of Opposition and SP leader Ram Govind Chowdhury had given a petition to the Assembly speaker for disqualification of Shivpal

Yadav last month.

He had later said that if Shivpal merged his party with SP, the petition could be withdrawn.

"Why is the SP talking about withdrawing its petition," Shivpal told reporters after his address in the state Assembly when asked about SP's offer to merge his party with it.

"I have given a number of chances to the SP but now I have made my party," he added.

# UP Legislature all set to create history with 36-hr-long session

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Legislature is on Thursday night all set to create history of sorts by holding 36-hour-long uninterrupted sessions of both Houses amidst a boycott by rival parties, even as some of their MLAs chose to attend the proceedings.

The simultaneous sittings witnessed Aditi Singh (Congress), Shivpal Yadav (Samajwadi Party) and Aslam Raini (BSP) come out against their respective party's decision of staying away and address the House. Two others, including Nitin Agarwal (SP) and

Anil Singh (BSP), who have already switched sides but technically continue to be members of their respective parties, attended the proceedings.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who had on Wednesday flayed the Opposition for its boycott, terming it not just an "insult" to the Father of the Nation but also a "contempt" of the House, continued his attack on Thursday, saying they don't have faith in "democratic values" and ideologies of Mahatma Gandhi.

The 36-hour special session of the Uttar Pradesh leg-

islature to mark the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi began at 11 am on Wednesday.

"The Opposition is boycotting the special session organised to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. They are those who don't have faith in democratic values and ideologies of Mahatma Gandhi," Adityanath said in his address in the UP Legislative Council on Thursday.

The chief minister had addressed the assembly on Wednesday.

He charged that for the Opposition, "power" is a medi-

um for "vyaktigat loot khasoot" (personal loot) and has nothing to do with public welfare.

The chief minister, who was in the assembly till 1 am on Thursday, highlighted the works done by his government to achieve sustainable development goals.

"In our government, the incentives are now performance-based. Those who work will be taken care of and those who don't are kept on our radar," he said.

Nearly 100 BJP members were in the House overnight as part of the special session. The Uttar Pradesh Assembly has a total strength of 403.

# Will follow party orders: Maha BJP leader Khadse

PTI ■ MUMBAI

His name missing from BJP's lists of candidates declared for the October 21 Maharashtra Assembly polls till now, senior party leader Eknath Khadse on Thursday said he will follow the orders give to him.

Jalgaon district's Muktainagar constituency, Khadse said, "I had told workers and others in the past too that I will contest the election if my health was in good shape."

Khadse, who represents the Muktainagar segment in the assembly, did not respond to a question whether he was willing to contest the Assembly election.

Asked about media reports that he has been offered governor's post by the party, Khadse said he was "clueless" about it.

"I am the worker who follows orders of the party. I have obeyed the party over the past 40-42 years. The orders may have been bitter for me, against my will, but I have followed the orders.

"There is not a single example of me not following party orders.

So, I will follow the decision party makes," the former minister added.

The BJP has till now announced three lists of its candidates for the Assembly polls.

The party is yet to name its contender from the Muktainagar seat.

**BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI**  
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001  
OA No 666/18 Date: 26.09.2019

STATE BANK OF INDIA Versus APPLICANT  
MR. SATENDER SINGH RAWAT & ANR. Versus RESPONDENT

To, Defendant  
3. M/s Idea Builder Pvt. Ltd., C-294, 1st Floor, Vivek Vihar, Delhi-95 Also At: C-10, Ramprastha, Ghaziabad, UP-201010

Whereas the above named applicant (s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 23,91,295/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Ninety One Thousand Two Hundred and Ninety Five Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 27.11.2019 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL,  
SECTION OFFICER, DRT-II, DELHI.

File No: 3/19/2019-SD/AM (Adv. No. 21/2019)  
**INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS**  
(An Autonomous Trust under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)  
11, Mansingh Road, New Delhi-110001.

**WALK-IN-INTERVIEW**

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts intends to engage two positions of Project Assistant to work under the Project of 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji on contract basis for a period of six months.

01	Date of Interview	10.10.2019
02	Time of Interview	11:00 am
03	Reporting Time	10:00 am
04	Venue of Interview	Office of HoD (JS), 3rd Floor, No. 11 Man Singh Road, New Delhi - 110001

Application form and other details are available at  
[www.ignca.gov.in](http://www.ignca.gov.in) Director (Admn)



PAPER WITH PASSION

## The ODF challenge

It is better not to rush after tags or figures but to have a uniform matrix for toilets and solid waste management

Sometimes, ticking off boxes for the heck of it is a lot about missed opportunities. And except for self-gratification and a willing suspension of disbelief, there are no other takeaways. So though Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that 99 per cent of villages in India had declared themselves open-defecation free (ODF), neither he nor us can overlook ground realities. While the ODF goal has got Modi acclaim for “investing political time and efforts” in issues pertaining to health and sanitation, without actionable intent or neat execution, we cannot claim the next level of the human development index. What else can explain a recent incident in Madhya Pradesh’s Shivpuri district, where two children were beaten to death for defecating in the open? Simply because they couldn’t make a pretty picture as their family couldn’t afford a toilet, still a luxury in outlying fringes of the hinterland. Besides, though the panchayat had sanctioned building a toilet in their home, the sarpanch stalled it over ego and caste issues. As Dalits, they are proscribed from pursuing activities reserved for other castes. Incidentally, the village had been declared ODF-free by the Government. And what of the homeless, an estimated 90 lakh of whom are too scattered or are forced by circumstance to avail community toilet facilities? As a result, they are compelled to look for an abandoned terrain where they can answer nature’s call. Then there are the many puritanical taboos in remote pockets where people consider toilets as impure and, therefore, best confined outdoors. There have been umpteen instances of how newly-built toilets have been converted to granaries or storage rooms because of a social psyche. Yet on paper, all such houses are considered as having toilets, a key criterion for labelling a village ODF. Often this entry is made after a “work done status” without anybody cross-verifying if they are indeed being put to good use.

These instances bring to the fore the many challenges that mar the viability of an important scheme that has so far at least managed to get a conversation going on sanitation standards, mainstreamed toilets as a social enterprise and convinced people about the end-use. Its pursuit should not be hasty but multi-pronged. There should be no rush for a tag until all parameters have been met. For example, the lack of water supply is the biggest hindrance to any clean drive. There is still insufficient knowledge about how to manage the faecal sludge in pits and sewer tanks, dispose it in the absence of an outlet or convert it to manure and biogas. In other words, a sanitary sub-structure that has been mandated by the Jal Shakti Ministry needs to be completed as a second-tier plan before we pin convenient tags. With the Government emphasising the construction of twin leach pit toilets, which can address the issue to an extent, only 30 per cent of our total toilets are of this variant. Sludge management itself is a complex procedure involving five stages: Containment, desludging, transport, treatment and reuse/disposal. To compound the problem, most States do not have sufficient sewage treatment plants (STPs). If the Government doesn’t want to live with another unfinished agenda, then it needs to first ensure a forward linkage of waste management and a uniform protocol that will help it bring about attitudinal change. Rather than forcing the pill down people’s throats, the desirability of a toilet must be fed into their minds with equally aggressive awareness and implementation drives. If we celebrate too early on the basis of numbers, which can be tweaked to suit one’s agenda by just changing the benchmarks of accounting, then we would look like a winner no doubt. Dangerously, it lulls us into a sense of achievement and officials move on to the next mission. Unless we want the muck to hit the fan, we must desist from grand declarations. Because you cannot hide certain truths, simply because they show up.

## Mission goodwill

Between S Jaishankar and Ajit Doval, India’s diplomatic offensive is well-planned and is delivering results

National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval is on a tour of the Middle-East where he is meeting heads of several Arabian nations. This, in conjunction with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar’s confabulations in the US, is the culmination of a well-planned diplomatic offensive undertaken by India in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370. This clearly proves that a global strategy was well in the pipeline before Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided to bite the bullet on Jammu & Kashmir. After years, possibly decades of losing the diplomatic initiative to Pakistan, we have finally adopted a well thought-out strategy of engagement, one that is paying dividends.

Of course, there is no doubt that several pro-Pakistani elements have infiltrated the establishment in several nations, from their foreign ministries to the media. The latter is clearly evident in the way several “neutral” foreign media organisations have been operating on the Kashmir front. However, after Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan’s disastrous trip to the US, where he threatened a nuclear war, he has had a loss of face. This cost that country’s UN Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi her job even though she survived several regime changes in Islamabad. India’s quiet strategy, with back-channel meetings and engagement with think-tanks as well as with nations previously hostile to the country, is now yielding results. Doval’s charm offensive in the Arabian peninsula in the light of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s comments on Kashmir will definitely blunt the negative tilt. At the same time, this mission, coming at a time when Pakistan’s economy is on the verge of collapse, could also mean that the terrorist nation will find it difficult to raise funds to survive. Clearly, India is trying to score a point at the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which freezes aid to nations that are into terror funding, and pile up as many votes as possible against Pakistan and blacklist it. With our neighbour having China and Turkey’s guarantees, we are working on newer member-nations like Saudi Arabia. And since China has the current chair of FATF, the Government is sparing no effort to reach out to all 39 members. This is the first time in a decade when India has had such a well-coordinated diplomatic initiative. Its earlier diplomatic moves were usually a post-facto fire-fighting mission. It helps that India’s External Affairs Ministry is led by a career diplomat who has already proven his worth as the best Minister in the current Cabinet. Doval’s stellar work in stabilising the situation in the Valley will allow him to negate the propagandists, several of whom are from New Delhi. In fact, India’s dramatically improved ties with the Arab nations is one of Modi’s top diplomatic achievements as they have developed despite its closeness with Israel. Now comes the difficult task of managing the situation in the Valley for which the Government has to ensure a return to normalcy and a meaningful engagement with civilians.

# Losing touch with reality

It’s high time the Government accepts some hard truths about its Swachh Bharat Mission and corrects itself before an altruistic scheme is lost to willful ignorance



AJOY KUMAR

This week we celebrated Mahatma Gandhi’s 150th birth anniversary. The Father of the Nation is a hero for me as I am sure he is for millions of people across the world. His birth anniversary served an opportune time to examine and reflect how his values and principles, the primary pillars of our freedom movement, are being imbibed and practised by the country. As our national conscience, he lived by certain values that I am sure he hoped his children would live by, too. One such ideal was the importance he gave to “truth”. To him, “truth” was so significant that it found a place in the title of his autobiography, *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*. On this subject, Bapu gave us many memorable quotes but one of them that is my favourite is: “An error does not become truth by reason of multiplied propagation, nor does truth become error because nobody sees it.”

This October 2, 2019, was also the day when Prime Minister Modi announced rural India as “Open Defecation Free” (ODF). When I heard of this claim, Gandhiji’s quote on “truth” popped up in my mind. Bapu’s words in the quote mentioned above perhaps stood in starker contrast than usual because of something else that happened later last month. A little less than a week before the Prime Minister’s bombastic claim, two young children from the Dalit community were beaten to death in a village in Madhya Pradesh, allegedly for defecating in the open in the field of a higher caste community.

This horrific incident, where two young lives were quickly extinguished, should haunt us for days to come. Imagine a situation where you are driving on the road with your children, moving from one city to another, and no toilet facility is available for miles. This at a time when one of your children is unwell and needs to relieve himself/herself. Though not ideal, you decide there is no option but to stop in a secluded field so that your child can get some relief. For a moment, think of the fear and shame that would grip you, that of being spotted. Now imagine the fear that grips millions of Indians who have to deal with this torment every day. And then, you are told that India is ODF.

Bhavkedi, the village where the two young children were killed, was declared and recorded as ODF. Therefore, according to the Government, every household in this village has a toilet, which has been built under the broad aegis of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA). However, the kids’ death shows that whatever the statistics, the truth appears to be quite different.

The “truth” is that the success of the scheme is being exaggerated to protect an image that has been created. Multiple reports have highlighted that the construction of toilets under the SBA has not helped create durable sanitation facilities.



Cleanliness has not improved despite the construction of toilets because other than the physical construction of the toilet, other requirements such as running water and a viable disposal system are absent.

Another reason why India’s sanitation facilities have not improved really is because while constructing toilets may look good on paper, the problem of open defecation cannot be tackled unless we address issues surrounding caste system and focus on changing people’s mindset. The reason why the Government has picked building toilets as a target rather than actually building composite sanitation facilities is because it is easier to market and talk about the former than actually measuring whether sanitation in the country has improved at all.

There has been no discussion about the close link between caste system and improving sanitation as part of the SBA even though this is undeniable. This because cleaning of toilets is typically considered to be impure by large sections of society and is reserved for the lower castes. It is this mindset that must change to ensure the success of any sanitation drive.

In fact, a popular digital

“THERE HAS BEEN NO DISCUSSION ABOUT THE CLOSE LINK BETWEEN CASTE SYSTEM AND IMPROVING SANITATION AS PART OF THE SBA EVEN THOUGH THIS IS UNDENIABLE. THIS BECAUSE CLEANING OF TOILETS IS CONSIDERED TO BE IMPURE BY A LARGE SECTIONS OF SOCIETY AND RESERVED FOR THE LOWER CASTES”

portal put it rightly when it said that SBA had actually worsened the oppression faced by Dalits in three ways. First, the increase in the number of toilets without the requisite improvement in sanitation infrastructure such as plumbing and septic tanks had increased the need for people to clean out toilets manually. Since the upper caste was unwilling to do so, this task fell on the Dalits which, therefore, increased the prevalence of manual scavenging among them.

Second, Dalits are often excluded from the public welfare system, including grants to make toilets under the SBA. In addition to this, as per news reports, pressure on officials to ensure constructions of toilets has led to a situation where individuals are being threatened with refusal of access to the public distribution system.

Third, despite having the ability and the option to construct toilets, the right to defecate in the open itself is a privilege of one’s caste and, therefore, Dalits have a lesser right to do so. They are then faced with a Catch-22 situation. Neither are they privileged enough to have access to funds to build toilets or have the right to defecate in the open without the fear of

being killed.

The issue is not that we have not been able to ensure better sanitation for Indians. This is a huge, complicated problem, one that requires committed efforts and a clear plan of action. The problem, however, is that instead of looking at ground results and actually measuring the success of the SBA, we pat ourselves on the back, listening only to those things that make us happy.

By avoiding rigid examination, we are only fooling ourselves. The long-term impact of this approach, where the pursuit of truth takes a backseat to the hum of propaganda, will be catastrophic. This was recently echoed by former Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan, too, who said that suppressing criticism will lead to mistakes and that it should be avoided by Governments.

The words of Bapu then ring just as “true” today as when he said: “Truth does not become error merely because nobody sees it.” The tragedy will be that by the time we actually do see the “truth” for what it is, we may have lost more innocent souls due to willful ignorance.

(The writer is a former IPS officer, an MP and currently a member of the AAP)

## SOUNDBITE

Fake news is more dangerous than paid news. There is need for the Government and the media to combat it jointly.

Union Minister  
—Prakash Javadekar

If I keep too many barriers or limitations in my mind while choosing a film or the parts I am offered, it would not help me become a massy actor.

Actor  
—Alia Bhatt

No one has explained to Greta that the modern world is different... people in Africa or in many Asian countries want to live at the same wealth level as in Sweden.

Russian President  
—Vladimir Putin

Neither the Indian nor the US Government has stated that there will be a trade agreement in five minutes. There is no structural reason why there can’t be one pretty quickly.

US Secretary of Commerce  
—Wilbur Ross

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Another setback

Sir — The UK High Court rightly decided in favour of India against Pakistan, making it clear that the sum — deposited in a British bank — belongs to the descendants of Hyderabad’s ruler. This should close the decades-old dispute over an amount of one million pounds (now appreciated to over ₹300 crore), which was transferred in 1948 to Pakistan’s High Commissioner by the then ruler of Hyderabad for “safe-keeping.” The grandsons of Hyderabad’s Nizam had contested Pakistan’s claim on the money and were backed by India. This is yet another defeat for Pakistan, which has been harping on Partition-related issues though more than seven decades have elapsed.

Padmini Raghavendra  
Secunderabad

### Remembering Gandhi

Sir — This refers to the editorial, “Whither Gandhi?” (September 2). Whether it was design or destiny that propelled

### How khadi can still unite the country

This refers to the editorial, “Whither Gandhi?” (September 2). As part of Mahatma Gandhi’s 150th birth anniversary, various institutions, boards, departments, agencies and organisations came out with excellent initiatives, plans and programmes. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) asked schools across the country to voluntarily observe *khadi*-wearing day at least once a month. Mahatma Gandhi propagated the use of *khadi* or *khaddar* during the freedom movement not only to boycott foreign goods but also to make Indians self-reliant and use clothes spun by our people with indigenous material that is affordable, climate-friendly and good for our tropical conditions.

Gandhiji gave a message to India how wearing *khadi* could unite us. The CBSE’s proposal is laudable and can be emulated by other organisations. *Khadi*, being the heritage fabric of our nation and institutions, can generate jobs for rural artisans if we can create a demand by buying them. The fabric promotes unity and equality and by incorporating innovative fashion technology, the new generation is sure to accept it with



open arms. Being skin-friendly and adaptable to any climatic condition makes it unique. *Khadi* can teach the young about our rich heritage, our freedom movement and also bind them to the worthy causes of Gandhi.

M Pradyu  
Kannur

Gandhi to the forefront of the Indian freedom movement is anybody’s guess. Whatever said and done, his overwhelming presence was the vital glue that brought the freedom fighters together, regardless of their political or communal differences, to continue their fight.

They spoke in one voice. Gandhiji will be revered as the first exponent of non-violence. At the same time, the contribution of other patriots like Subhas Chandra Bose, Bhagat Singh and Veer Savarkar cannot be overlooked. The Mahatma was one of those great men who lived

and died for the redemption of fellow men from poverty, political freedom, human dignity and for the salvation of his motherland. The spirit of Gandhiji’s sacrifice, however, has gradually begun to fade away from the minds of the current generation on account of

the adaptation of Western ideas. How this can be countered will be interesting to see as Gandhian ideals are timeless and have a distinct place in the world.

JS Acharya  
Hyderabad

### Celebrating animals

Sir — World Animal Day, which is celebrated on October 4 every year, is a special day for animal lovers. October 4 is also the feast day of St Francis of Assisi, who loved all creatures, big and small. It is also an occasion to acknowledge the diverse roles that animals play in our lives.

We must acknowledge and be thankful to them for the way they enrich our lives. All efforts must be made to conserve them and preserve their habitats so that they can coexist with us on this planet. It is time we realise that we all depend on nature and its creatures to survive. We should show respect to all.

Jubel D’Cruz  
Mumbai

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com



## FIRST COLUMN

## Incentivise reuse of plastic

The solution to reducing pollution lies in making it viable for rag-pickers to collect carry bags for a guaranteed amount



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The Government hasn't imposed a mandatory ban on single-use plastic throughout the country, a measure seen as too disruptive for the industry at a time when it is coping with an economic slowdown and job losses in most sectors. This has been seen by many as a step back from the stated position of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who seemed to have suggested a complete ban on its use by the public, from the ramparts of the Red Fort on August 15.

The Prime Minister's views on single-use plastic have created enough awareness, regarding the avoidable menace, right at the street level where it starts to multiply with every free plastic bag punched with a few pieces of apples bought. It reaches a peak when God-fearing mortals push charity via plastic and thermocol plates full of food, to be eaten with plastic spoons and washed down with water from plastic bottles or cups.

The cheap shampoo sachets, the sinful habit of smoking and the resultant cigarette butts, the bubble wraps used in packaging and a fun stress buster for many, all leave a long-lasting harmful impact on the environment.

Is it fine then, to completely ban this toxic substance, which is a ticking bomb in our lives or, do we need a measured approach? The answer could lie in proper recycling, reuse and collection of used plastic.

Before we move further, here is an insight picked literally from the streets, on how laws ought to be made to ensure a plastic-free ecosystem. A chat between a senior functionary from the Ministry of Environment and Forests and some industry representatives was getting rhetorical, when, the official asked if anyone in the room knew why the Government had banned plastic under 50 microns to be used for carry bags and planned to make it the same for all packaging material. After a pause, he asked if anybody knew how plastic in India is recycled. The answer to both these questions is rag-pickers, the unseen army of eco-warriors, who go about scavenging near garbage dumps and urban dwellings, checking every nook and corner for any scrap that can be sold to recycling units. But collecting any plastic item, mostly carry bags, which are less than 50 microns in weight doesn't make any economic sense to them. Hence the bags lie ignored, before being pushed by unwavering forces of nature to end up on Pacific Ocean floors or Himalayan tops.

This insight leads to a conclusion that recycling of plastic, if done diligently and pushed across all channels, would arrest the regimented crackdowns by beat inspectors on poor vegetable vendors doling out a few kilograms of grocery in a plastic bag.

The answer lies in understanding the very nature of the product, plastic, which is used as different variants by industries, commerce and traders and by a man buying fruits on the street. To ban its use completely often ends with the burden being borne by small traders and street vendors, who form a majority of our commercial ecosystem. The answer is recycling but it involves minute, yet important, behavioral changes.

If one goes by facts, today it is far cheaper to polymerise virgin plastic from crude oil than re-synthesising an old plastic carry bag. The cost of recollecting, sorting, cleaning and pushing it through supply chains adds up to the cost of recycled plastic. This prevents recycling plastic as a viable option against say, breaking an old ship, which is potentially more dangerous to the recycling ecosystem. The solution lies in incentivising recycling, making it a potential mini-industry.

After all, the Prime Minister himself had done a great photo op with a bunch of professional plastic recyclers recently as he tried to understand the issues they face. It is time some of his officers read the signals and start pushing smart tax incentives for this green planet initiative. A beginning could be made by factoring in the environment cost for every new plastic manufactured in the country and balancing it with tax sops on every piece of recycled plastic.

Second, often we hear bigger brands, rather than large users of plastic, coming under the spotlight for non-compliance of plastic waste collection for their products. While it does draw attention to the menace, it is easier said than sorted. Imagine the manufacturer of a mobile handset or television set, also having to deploy an army of recyclers who would go about collecting the packing material of the box, unless the plastic used in packaging is made heavier, which in turn pushes the cost up for the consumer.

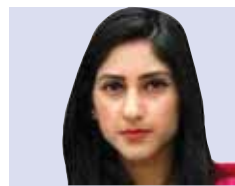
The solution lies again at the doorstep, making it viable for rag-pickers to collect this plastic for a guaranteed amount. Clever solutions like these will win the bigger war on plastic in the long run.

(The writer is a policy analyst)

FOR THE OPPOSITION, POWER IS A MEDIUM FOR LOOTING PUBLIC FOR PERSONAL GAIN AND HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH PUBLIC WELFARE.

—UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER YOGI ADITYANATH

## POINT COUNTERPOINT



IF YOU HEARD MY SPEECH (IN THE ASSEMBLY) I ONLY SPOKE ABOUT DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

—CONGRESS MLA FROM RAE BARELI ADITI SINGH

# Booster for corporate India

Much will depend on how the surplus in the hands of companies resulting from tax cuts is apportioned among them and equally importantly, how it is spent



UTTAM GUPTA

In a flurry of announcements made on September 20, 2019 (also described in media circles as a third Union Budget in less than three months), Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman handed out a bonanza to the Indian corporate sector.

The most pleasing announcement pertains to the steep reduction in the rate of corporate tax for new entities incorporated from October 1, 2019 in the manufacturing sector, that start production before March 31, 2023 from the existing 25 per cent to 15 per cent. After subsuming surcharge and cess, the effective incidence of tax will be lowered from the existing 29.15 per cent to 17.01 per cent — a drop of 12 per cent. Such companies won't have to pay Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) that is levied on book profit of firms which have no taxable profit, courtesy exemptions and incentives.

This is a bolt from the blue as in the road-map laid down in the Budget speech for 2015-16, the then Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley, had proposed reduction in the corporate tax to 25 per cent (at present, the benefit of this rate is available only to start-ups and firms having an annual turnover lower than ₹400 crore even as companies with a turnover higher than this threshold pay 30 per cent). There was absolutely no hint whatsoever about the rate being reduced to any level less than 25 per cent even for start-ups. Sitharaman has broken this barrier.

The second announcement relates to an equally significant reduction in the tax rate on existing companies from 30 per cent to 22 per cent. However, this is subject to the firm surrendering all incentives they are availing under the existing dispensation (once exercised, the firm is not allowed to change the option subsequently). With surcharge and cess, the effective tax will work out to 25.17 per cent down from the existing 34.9 per cent — a drop of almost 10 per cent. These firms will also be exempt from MAT.

Existing small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with a turnover of less than ₹400 crore, currently pay tax at the rate of 25 per cent. They too will have the option to switch to 22 per cent. Inclusive of surcharge and cess, the effective tax incidence will fall from 29.15 per cent to 25.17 per cent. The crucial point to note here is that under the new regime, existing big companies will pay tax at the same rate of 25.17 per cent as SMEs. The companies who decide to continue with the existing dispensation of tax at the rate of 30 per cent with a view to fully utilise the incentives and exemptions that go with it, will also get covered under the new 22 per cent tax regime, starting from the sunset date of those incentives. For the period they remain under the subsisting regime, they will be liable to pay MAT but at a reduced rate of 15 per cent down from existing 18.5 per cent.

There couldn't be a more attractive package for someone keen to undertake fresh investment in India — be it a domestic investor or a foreign company with an Indian partner. The effective tax rate applicable in such cases at the rate of 17.01 per cent being the lowest among all major countries (US 21 per cent, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development average 21.4 per cent, China 25 per cent), makes India the most attractive destination. This may even

“THE NEAR OVERHAUL OF THE CORPORATE TAX STRUCTURE HAS LIFTED THE SENTIMENT AND LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR INCREASING INVESTMENT, GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT. BUT, THIS SHOULD BE COMPLEMENTED BY MEASURES TO PLUG LOOPHOLES IN TAX COLLECTION, INCREASE FARMERS' INCOME AND BOOST INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE GROWTH IS INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE.”



prompt companies wanting to relocate from China in the light of the worsening trade relations between Washington DC and Beijing, to look at India as a top priority.

For existing investment, the offer is compelling. Around 2,50,000 companies out of 8,40,000 that filed tax returns for 2017-18 had paid tax at an effective rate of 25 per cent or higher. Out of the top 21 companies listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange, the effective tax rate for 10 is in excess of 25 per cent (remaining 11 pay less in view of the domineering effect of exemptions and incentives). These companies will stand to gain by switching over to the 22 per cent tax regime. However, much will depend on the treatment of MAT credit accumulated in the books of the companies concerned.

Though companies are keen that even after a switchover, they must be allowed to set off MAT credit against future tax liability, the ordinance is silent on this. If the Government replies in the negative, then the option of immediate switchover loses its sheen. Then, the firms would prefer to wait for a couple of years till such time the accumulated MAT credit in the books is fully adjusted (this is permitted under the existing scheme of things). While, one has to wait and see how the legal brains in the establishment would react to this, prima facie the Government may not be inclined to permit this balancing. This is because the new 22 per cent tax (plain vanilla) regime has to be free from the past bag-

gage that included a plethora of exemptions, incentive, MAT *et al*. Further considering that under the new regime, no MAT is levied, then to allow an adjustment of the accumulated MAT credit will be incongruous.

The decisions have been taken in the backdrop of a significant deceleration in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth and a dismal job scenario. These are intended to reverse the trend and put the economy on a high growth trajectory by boosting private investment and aggregate demand. Will things pan out in the manner intended? Much will depend on how the surplus in the hands of companies resulting from tax cuts (about ₹145,000 crore annually being the equivalent of revenue loss to the Government) is apportioned among them and equally importantly, how it is spent. Broadly, two strands come out quite clearly.

Considering the steeper drop in effective incidence of tax on bigger companies (turnover ₹400 crore) from the existing 34.9 per cent to 25.17 per cent, they will get a bigger slice of the bonanza as against SMEs for whom effective tax is lowered from 29.15 per cent to 25.17 per cent. Given the priority all along assigned by the Narendra Modi Government to the latter, there was a strong case for reducing the tax for them to 15 per cent on par with that applicable to new investment (if, earlier SMEs were on par with new units, why should the parity not be maintained now?)

SMEs have a share of about 29 per cent in the GDP but account for 40 per cent of the total employment. Therefore, leaving more money in the hands of these enterprises will be more advantageous, especially when it comes to creating jobs and boosting demand in the country. But reducing the tax rate alone won't help, more so when a large number of them are incurring losses and facing closure. They need support by way of credit, timely payment and release of Goods and Services Tax (GST) refunds.

The other crucial aspect is how big companies spend the surplus. Ideally, this should be invested in creation of a new capacity or increasing utilisation of the existing capacity, as this will give a fillip to growth and employment. They may also pay back loans to banks, which will enable the latter to increase credit availability for a wider impact. They should go for distribution of dividend only as a last resort.

To conclude, the near overhauling of the corporate tax structure, with a focus on making it “competitive” and “simple” is a great leap forward. It has lifted the sentiment and laid the foundation for increasing investment, growth and employment. But, this should be complemented by measures to plug loopholes in tax collection, increase farmers' income and boost infrastructure development to ensure that the growth is inclusive and sustainable.

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

# Kashmir is firmly on the global radar

While Modi has risen in the eyes of the Americans after his recent engagements in the US, trade irritants continue to remain. Besides, the Kashmir issue has now been internationalised, whether India likes it or not



KALYANI SHANKAR

No doubt that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's week-long visit to the US shows the strengthening of ties between India and America. In a packed week of engagements, he participated in both bilateral and multilateral summits, including addressing the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and the Climate Action Summit.

What was Modi's agenda? Before leaving for New York, the Prime Minister said, “Through my participation in UN events, I will showcase our success in realising the Sustainable Development Goals. At the Climate Action Summit on September 23, I will highlight

India's robust action to address climate change in line with global goals and our international commitments. I am confident that my visit would present India as a vibrant land of opportunities, a reliable partner and a global leader and will also help impart new energy to our relations with the US.”

Has Modi succeeded in his agenda?

The “Howdy Modi” event, attended by a 50,000-strong Indian diaspora in Houston, dominated the Prime Minister's US visit as he wowed the Americans. The show of strength at Houston was meant for their respective domestic audience for both Modi and Trump. Modi utilised this trip for his own image-building exercise as an emerging global leader. The Houston event was a glittering performance that assured the American establishment, business community and the Indian-Americans that Modi was a man of vision. Modi consolidated his position as a rockstar as Trump compared him to the famous American singer and actor Elvis

Presley. Second, both Trump and Modi exhibited their excellent chemistry by praising each other. While Modi said everybody on the planet knew Trump, the latter returned the compliment by calling him the “father of the nation.” Modi even campaigned for Trump by reminding the Indian-Americans “Ab ki baar Trump sarkar.”

Third, the profile of the Indian diaspora also got raised as the 50,000-strong Indian-Americans cheered Modi lustily. They were proud of Modi who was sharing the dais with the American President. He has projected “Brand India,” as an emerging global power through “Brand Modi.”

With a larger objective in mind, the Prime Minister had engaged several leaders from small and big countries on the sidelines of the UN



Summit, Modi outlined India's environmental and climate action policy, particularly its solar energy and the domestic policy on water and transport.

As for investment, the Prime Minister made a high pitch, inviting major American firms to come and invest in India, promising all facilities in his meeting with their Chief Executive Officers

both in Houston and New York. The results of this will be known in the coming months, whether they would put their money in an economy, which is on the slide.

The visit began in Houston with India and the US cementing their energy ties, with India's State-run Petronet LNG Ltd signing a pact to negotiate the sourcing of around five million tonnes per annum (mtpa) Liquefied Natural Gas

(LNG) from US developer Tellurian Inc. While some trade deal was expected in the bilateral meeting with Trump, it did not materialise. Trade deficit is one of the irritants between the two countries as the US President has been demanding more access to Indian markets. The US is India's largest trade partner and Trump wants New Delhi to eliminate tariffs on information and communication technology products and removal of price caps on medical devices, besides other things. India, on the other hand, wants the US to reinstate the Generalised System of Preferences revoked by Washington three months ago.

On the diplomatic side, Modi led India by explaining the irksome Kashmir issue to global leaders in his meetings with them. Claiming that things were coming back to normal, he blamed Pakistan for the cross-border terrorism. At the UNGA, Modi made a statesman-like speech while Imran Khan predictably internationalised the Kashmir issue. Modi focussed on

India's role towards development, peace and security, with no mention of Article 370. “Fellas, work it out,” was the advice given by Trump to Modi and the Pakistan Prime Minister. Trump called them his “great friends” and gave a strong push to get the two to talk. While Trump talked of dialogue, his administration talked of human rights and return to normalcy in Kashmir. The international community is still watching Kashmiris. Like it or not, Kashmir has come on the global radar.

While the visit is being touted as successful, trade irritants continue to remain and the Kashmir issue is now internationalised, despite all efforts by New Delhi to downplay it. On the whole, Modi has risen in the eyes of the Americans as this visit has not only strengthened him at home and abroad but also reinforced the view that the Indo-US relationship has become an all-weather partnership.

(The writer is a senior journalist)



# More reforms in offing to revive high growth: Kant

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government will keep the reform momentum going with more such announcements in the future to bring back the economy on a higher growth track, though issues related with productivity efficiency persist, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said on Thursday.

Going back to 2005 and till now, close to about 300 million people have been pulled out of poverty. In the last five years, the economy has grown at about 7.5 per cent.

India's growth was at about 8.1 per cent in the last quarter of 2017-18 and fell to 5 per cent in the June quarter of 2019-20, Kant said at the World Economic Forum's India Economic Summit-CII event here.

"And since then both the RBI and the government have taken a series of measures to take India back to a high growth trajectory. The RBI has dropped the repo rate by about 110 basis points to 5.4 per cent. But there is limitation to monetary policy and therefore the government stepped in and took a series of measures," Kant said.

The government announced a series of economic boosters including capitalisation of public sector banks, merging some of them, package for exports, and bringing down corporate tax rate, he said.

"I think many more structural reforms are in the offing. The government has pushed for public sector disinvestment. I can tell you we have pushed for asset monetisation in a very big way. Our belief is that instead of green-field projects, investors must come into brown-field projects," he said further.

The step to bring down the corporate tax rate was to align it with global standards, he said, adding the government must be a facilitator, a catalyst and should keep itself out of business.

"Our belief is that instead of green-field projects,

investors must come into brown-field project... And government will put many of these assets out in the marketplace for many of you people to invest," he said.

He noted that agriculture, mining, coal are among the sectors where the government is pushing for mega reforms and people will see many of these reforms unfolding in the coming months.

"The key really is to work not merely on monetary policy but also bring in rapid structural reforms in economy so that we create the pace for long-term growth... And take India to a rate of growth of 9-10 per cent per annum for a three-decade period which will enable us to lift a vast segment of our people above the poverty line," he said.

Reacting to panel members' concerns on productivity rates he said, "Our productivity rates have to go up and this requires major-major structural reforms. One of the key things that the government has really pushed for is making India easy and simple."

Among others, Kant also highlighted that India has gone digital in a big way, and the indirect tax has become all cashless and paperless.

"We have jumped up about 65 positions in the World Bank's ease of doing business ranking and our target is to reach the top 50 in the next two years and top 20 in the next five years and push this relentlessly," Kant added.

What the government is pushing for is no longer a political hot potato, he said.

"We are pushing for public sector disinvestment in a very radical way. NITI Aayog has recommended over 55 public sector companies for disinvestment and I can tell you that the government itself has approved over 26 of them for disinvestment... You will have soon a very very vast number of public sector companies getting privatised," Kant said further.

# MP, Punjab concerned over delay in release of GST share by Centre

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Madhya Pradesh and Punjab on Thursday raised concerns over delay in release of GST revenue and other funds by the Centre to the states, saying it was adversely affecting their functioning.

Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Kamal Nath criticised the way the GST Council observing that it has no intellectual understanding of the ground situation.

He said that as most of the BJP-ruled states sign on dotted lines at the GST Council meetings.

"GST council consists of states. The states are falling in line with the central government because they may be run by one party. If they are few states and rest are being run by one party then they come to sign on dotted lines. It is predetermined. There is no intellectual understanding of the situation. It's all in theories. All on paper. We must recognise and we cannot shut our eyes to this," he said while speaking at the 'India Economic Forum' meeting.

Nath said the GST is not being executed properly and several amendments were being made in quick succession.

"I don't think in history of the world, there has been so many amendments in a single policy," he said adding that "it was rolled out in a manner that the central government was not prepared for it and they had not taken all facts into consideration. If it was very good thing since beginning, why did you need these plethora of amendments?"

Sharing similar views, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said it was told to them that GST collections would be distributed among states every month, but then "we are told every quarter and then it is every 5 months".

Secretary of State for India Economic Summit, Premji spoke of the fast pace at which Indians had embraced the Internet and were using the web for services like entertainment, making financial transactions and education.

"...I'm not too worried about the pace at which this adoption happens... I'm very optimistic. What I worry about is that it is equitable... We need to make sure that we do not leave people behind in this revolution of change," he said.

Premji explained that one area of focus should be on making content available in local languages, apart from movies and audio.

# Draft logistics policy: Dept Secretaries meet at PMO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: The Prime Minister's Office on Thursday held a meeting of Secretaries to discuss the draft national logistics policy, which aims at promoting seamless movement of goods across the country and reducing high transaction cost of traders, an official said.

Secretaries from different departments, including commerce, steel, revenue, chemicals, and corporate affairs attended the meeting, the official added.

The draft national policy was floated by the logistics division of the commerce ministry. The ministry will give a presentation on the draft policy in the meeting.

The government wants to formulate the policy as the sector's growth is critical to boost exports and economic growth.

The cost of logistics for India is about 13-14 per cent of its gross domestic product (which is over USD 2.5 trillion) and it is far higher as compared to other countries.

# Need to ensure that internet is equitable for all: Rishad Premji

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Wipro Chairman Rishad Premji on Thursday stressed the need to ensure that Internet services are "equitable" and local language content is made available so that "digital divide" is not created.

Speaking at the India Economic Summit, Premji spoke of the fast pace at which Indians had embraced the Internet and were using the web for services like entertainment, making financial transactions and education.

"...I'm not too worried about the pace at which this adoption happens... I'm very optimistic. What I worry about is that it is equitable... We need to make sure that we do not leave people behind in this revolution of change," he said.

Premji explained that one area of focus should be on making content available in local languages, apart from movies and audio.

# BUSINESS CORNER

## DELHI TRANSPORT MIN INAUGURATES DTC DEPOT

Shri Kailash Gahlot, Minister of Transport, Delhi, inaugurated the newly renovated Dichaon Kalan Depot today on 1st October, 2019. The Minister also distributed joining letters for training to 332 newly recruited conductors, including 29 women conductors on compassionate ground and honoured DTC ex-employees for their contribution and service on this occasion by offering shawl.



## NORTHERN RLYS ORGANISE SWACHHTA ACTIVITIES

Piyush Goyal Releases Station Cleanliness Survey Report, Inspects Display of Cleaning Tools & Equipments and Inaugurates Exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi at National Rail Museum through Remote Railways' responding to the call of cleanliness all across the country by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi has made cleanliness at stations, rolling stock and premises a prime focus.



## PARYATAN PARV 2019 DEDICATED TO BAPU

The Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Information & Broadcasting ShriPrakash Javadekar, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Minister of Steel, ShriDharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the nationwide "Paryatan Parv 2019 & Quot; in the presence of the Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism and Culture, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel today in New Delhi.



## PROFILE OF MD AND CEO, PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK

SS Mallikarjuna Rao assumed the charge of Managing Director and CEO of Punjab National Bank on 1/10/2019. Prior to this appointment Rao has been serving as Managing Director and CEO of Allahabad Bank since 2018. Before this he served as Executive Director of Syndicate Bank. Shri Rao has been a professional banker for over 34 years having held position as General Manager & CFO in Oriental Bank of Commerce.



## RAILWAY INTRODUCES SECOND VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS

Indian Railways on the path to modernization and fulfilling its commitment to provide a comfortable, convenient and speedy train service on high density routes, introduced Vande Bharat Express Train (T-18) between New Delhi and Shri Mata Vaisno Devi Katra.



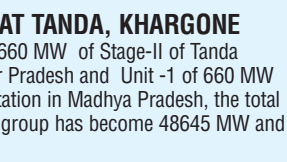
## IISE 2019 COMMENCES WITH LATEST SECURITY

Special focus on Defence & Homeland Security A three-day premier event B2B event, the 22nd edition of India International Security Expo 2019 - a joint venture of India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry began at Pragati Maidan today. The inaugural session of the event marked with a special focus deliberation on 'Indian Homeland Security' by the distinguished guests and experts.



## NTPC CAPACITY IS 57K MW AT TANDA, KHARGONE

With Capacity Addition of Unit -1 of 660 MW of Stage-II of Tanda Super Thermal Power Station in Uttar Pradesh and Unit -1 of 660 MW of Khargone Super Thermal Power Station in Madhya Pradesh, the total installed capacity of NTPC and NTPC group has become 48645 MW and 57106 MW respectively.



## AAI JOINS IN INDIA INTERNATIONAL SECURITY EXPO

Airports Authority of India (AAI) is showcasing its competence and innovation in the field of Aviation security and Aviation Security Systems at the 22nd India International Security Expo (IISE), 2019, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The three-day expo is being organized by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with ITPO.



## SWACHHTA PAKHWADA AT CHITTARANJAN LOCO WORKS

A special cleanliness drive, Swachhta Hi Sewa Pakhwada, is being observed in Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) with a view to ensure visible and tangible improvement in cleanliness at all its premises to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.



# IRCTC IPO huge hit among investors; subscribed 112 times

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The initial public offering of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) was a huge hit among investors as it got subscribed 111.91 times on the final day of bidding on Thursday.

The Rs 645-crore IPO received bids for 225 crore shares against the total issue size of 2 crore scrips, according to the data available with exchanges till 1845 hours.

The category meant for qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) was subscribed 108.79 times, non-institutional investors (NIIs) was subscribed 354.52 times and retail investors was subscribed 14.65 times, according to merchant banking sources.

# Top realty players may prefer REIT route to raise ₹1.5L cr

PTI ■ MUMBAI

As many as 10 commercial Areal estate developers and operators have the potential to raise as much as Rs 1.5 lakh crore through the real estate investment trust (REIT) route by monetising 184 million sqft space, the report said.

According to a report by the rating agency Crisil, these assets, with annual lease rentals of around Rs 17,000 crore, represent around 30 per cent of Grade A properties across major micro-markets in the country.

"Our analysis shows that the top 10 commercial real estate developers and operators in the country can raise as much as Rs 1.5 lakh crore through the REIT route by monetising 184 million sqft space assuming a capitalisation rate of 8.5 per cent and stake dilution of 75 per cent," the report said.

# FLIPKART INKS AGREEMENT WITH UTTAR PRADESH KHADI & VILLAGE INDUSTRIES BOARD

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

E-commerce major Flipkart on Thursday said it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Uttar Pradesh Khadi & Village Industries Board (UPKVIB) as part of the former's 'Samarth' initiative.

Flipkart Samarth is aimed at enabling artisans, weavers, and craftsmen from diverse backgrounds and rural parts of the country to set up their business on Flipkart, a statement said.

"UPKVIB and Flipkart will work together to help weavers and artisans sell Khadi fabrics and village industries products across Flipkart's pan-India customer base of over 160 million," it added.

# BPCL privatisation: Moody's warns of steep downgrade

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai: The international Credit Rating Agency Moody's on Thursday warned of downgrading Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) to Ba1, if the government goes ahead with privatisation by selling its stake to private entity.

Currently, being a state-owned enterprise, BPCL has a BBB- rating which is on par with sovereign rating. Ba1 rating will be equal to its current baseline credit assessment.

Last year, government had sold its entire stake in HPCL to state-owned ONGC but the oil marketer still enjoys BBB- rating considering ONGC ownership by the government.

Moody's said the proposed stake sale in BPCL would remove the company's links and prompt bond redemption, a credit negative.

# ₹ recovers from day's lows, settles 20 paise higher at 70.87

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian rupee recovered from the day's lows and settled higher by 20 paise at 70.87 to the US dollar on Thursday, helped by weakening of the greenback overseas and easing crude oil prices.

However, sustained foreign fund outflows and sell-offs in domestic equities put pressure on the forex market, some-

what capping the rupee gains. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened weaker at 71.22 a dollar. It fell further to the day's low of 71.35, before recouping losses to touch a high of 70.86. The local unit finally settled at 70.87, up 20 paise against its previous close.

The Indian rupee on Tuesday had closed at 71.07 against the US dollar.

# BPCL privatisation: Moody's warns of steep downgrade

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**BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI**  
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001  
OA NO 667/18 Date : 25.09.2019  
STATE BANK OF INDIA Versus APPLICANT  
MR. AMIT KUMAR SHARMA & ANR. Respondent  
To, Defendant  
1. Mr. Amit Kumar Sharma S/o Sh. Devendra Kumar Sharma R/o Naya Makaan Amehra Adipur Meerut UP-250001  
2. M/s Idea Builder Pvt. Ltd., C-294, 1st Floor, Vivek Vihar, Delhi - 95 Also At : C-10, Ramaprashta, Ghaziabad, UP-201010  
Whereas the above named applicant (s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 20,86,347/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Three Hundred and Forty Seven Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 27.11.2019 At 10.30 A.M.  
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.  
BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL,  
SECTION OFFICER, DRT-II, DELHI.

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male Age : Approx. 50 years, Height : Approx. 5'8", Complexion : Fair, wearing only light blue colour underwear, was found dead on 14.09.2019 at footpath, Udhog Nagar Industrial Area, Peera Garhi, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 39-A dated 14.09.2019 has been lodged at PS Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.

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

SHO - P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.  
Tel. No. 011-25268394, 25280980

DP/2759/OD/19

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male namely Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, was found on 25.09.2019 at 09:44 AM in hanging postion in Salapur village, Bijwasan, Kapashera Delhi. In this regard proceeding DD No. 12A dated 25.09.2019 has been lodged at Police Station, Kapashera, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: 35-40 Years, Height: 5'6", Face: Oval, Complexion: Shallow, Hair: Black-White and Short, Wearing: Blue Colour T-Shirt, Light Black Colour Pant and plastic Black Colour Chappal in feet.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned. SHO Police Station, Kapashera, Delhi. Ph.: 011-25063758, 7065036226

DP/7097/SW/19

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male child, Name: Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: (8/9 Month old in womb) approx, Height: 1½ feet, Complexion: New born, Wearing: No clothes, who was found in the area of PS South-Rohini, Delhi. In this regard a case DD No. 266/19 dated 24.09.2019 has been registered at P.S. South-Rohini, Delhi.

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

Sd/- SHO P.S. South-Rohini, Delhi  
Tel. No. 011-27512189

DP/3332/RD/19

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that this woman (depicted in the photo) namely: Dhan kaur W/o Mahender Singh R/o Unknown has been woman was found abandoned at RG-61, Block-B, Janta Flat, Raghunagar, New Delhi on 14.09.2019. In this regard DD No. 36-A dated 14.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Khyala, New Delhi. She is kept in Sita Ram Beti Vradh Ashram, Badi Murti Radha Krishna, Main Mukarba Chowk G.T. road Karnal Road delhi.

Her physical description is as under:-  
Age: 70 years, Height: 5'2 ft., Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: White and Red Printed Colour Shuit and Red Colour Salwar and White Red Colour Chunnii.

Any person is having information or clue about the woman guardian may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or Telephone Numbers.

SHO P.S. Khyala, Delhi  
E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in Ph. No.: 011-28335686, 28335696  
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mob. No: 8750871132  
Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/8430/WD/19

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that one unknown dead body of male, Age about 25/30 years, Height 5'5", Complexion Wheatish, Round Face, Identification Mark Pawan and Sugan written in his right hand, Wearing Pink colour shirt, blue jeans pant, white colour banyan, grey colour underwear and bare footed was found dead at Near Pillor No. 25/2, 25/4 Harjan Basti Bijwasan, Near Railway Track, New Delhi on 24.09.19. In this regard a DD No. 30-A dated 24.09.19 has been lodged at PS Kapashera, New Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this male deceased may be kindly inform to the undersigned.

SHO P.S. Kapashera, New Delhi  
Ph.: 25063758, 25066105

DP/7098/SW/19

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

(SECTION 82 Cr.Pc.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Harpreet Singh s/o Amarjeet Singh r/o B-21, Fateh Nagar, Hari Nagar, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence, in case FIR No. 267/19 u/s 302/307/506/201/120B/34 IPC & 25/27 Arms Act at Police Station - Hari Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of Arrest issued there upon (unexecuted) stating that the said accused Harpreet Singh could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Harpreet Singh has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the Harpreet Singh accused in case FIR No. 267/19 u/s 302/307/506/201/ 120B/34 IPC & 25/27 Arms Act at Police Station - Hari Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 6th Day of November 2019.

By Order,  
Sh. Rakesh Kumar Singh,  
Metropolitan Magistrate,  
Room No. 131,  
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/8440/WD/19

**SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE**

General public is here by informed that one male Namely: Ankit Pradhan, S/o Lt. Rajender Nath Pradhan, R/o WZ-24, Choukhandi Chand Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Delhi Age: 19 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Oval, Built: Normal, Wearing: Black Colour T-Shirt and Blue Colour Jeans has been missing since 12.09.2019 from his house.

In this regard a DD No. 77A dated 16.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Tilak Nagar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this male but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this male kindly inform to the following.

SHO P.S. Tilak Nagar, Delhi  
Ph. 011-25409290  
8750871130  
DP/8427/WD/19

E-Mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in  
Website: http://cbi.nic.in  
Fax: 011-24368639  
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Kishan Yadav, S/o: Surender, R/o H. No. 448, Shiv Mandir Samaypur Badli, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 493/14 u/s 243 IPC has been registered at P.S. Maurya Enclave, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Kishan Yadav cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Kishan Yadav has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Kishan Yadav accused of FIR No. 493/14 u/s 243 IPC, P.S. Maurya Enclave, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer said complaint on or before 03.12.2019.

By Order  
Ms. Ekta Gauba, Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,  
(North-West) Court No. 101, 1st Floor,  
DP/9447/NW/19-(Court Matter) Rohini Courts, Delhi



# DELHI PASS DENGUE FAIL



Kids, do you all remember your Sunday homework?  
Are you all ready to defeat dengue?

So let's come together and wake up everyone at 10 O'clock to spare 10 minutes  
and tell them out loud to eliminate Dengue once and for all.

Today we have to ensure that there's no stagnant water stored anywhere.

If there is, simply spill it out or replace it.

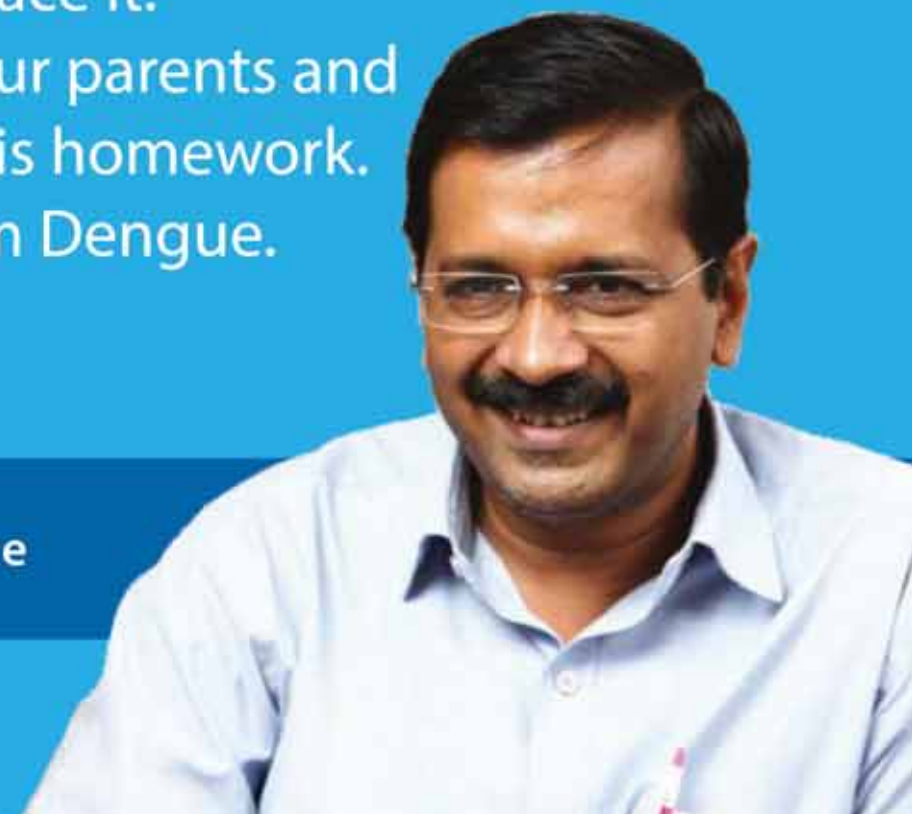
Not only you but make sure your family, your parents and  
everyone around you become a part of this homework.

Come, let's save our beloved Delhi from Dengue.

डेंगू से  
वार हर  
रविवार

And yes, do not forget to put the sticker  
outside your home and your neighbour's home  
that you will get in school.

दिल्ली कर दिखाएगी





# Trump fury grows against rising impeachment storm

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump raged against impeachment on Wednesday, tweeting that the process was "BULLSHIT" and calling for the lead investigator in Congress to be charged with treason.

Trump — accused of leaning on Ukraine's president to dig up dirt on one of his main 2020 election rivals — fired the swear-word at Opposition Democrats.

Adam Schiff, the Democrat leading the impeachment probe in the lower chamber of Congress, told reporters there is a "real sense of urgency" to press forward.

Trump fought back with language that would once have been inconceivable for a president, including his claim late Tuesday on Twitter that this is "not an impeachment, it is a COUP".

While meeting with Finnish President Sauli Niinisto in the White House, Trump said Schiff was "a low life" who should be arrested for "treason." Trump

insists that he did nothing wrong in a phone call with Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky and on Wednesday got support from Russia's President Vladimir Putin, who said he saw "nothing compromising" in the conversation.

Given Trump's controversial history with Putin, it was unlikely that the Kremlin leader's backing would do much to calm waters back in Washington.

After keeping pronouncements mostly to Twitter over the last week, Trump used his press appearance with Niinisto to let rip in front of the cameras, calling his treatment "a disgrace."

Trump is accused of having pressured Zelensky to help him by opening a corruption investigation against leading Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden in a July 25 phone call.

He is alleged to have suggested that military equipment Ukraine sought to beef up its defenses against Russia would be contingent on him getting that favor.

A whistleblower, so far only identified as someone from the intelligence services, went to the authorities with concerns about the phone call, triggering the impeachment inquiry.

Trump has likened the whistleblower to a spy and called for his or her identity to be made public, although by law whistleblowers are protected. He has also retweeted a warning that his removal from office could trigger "civil war."

Schiff on Wednesday called Trump's comments about the whistleblower a "blatant effort to intimidate witnesses."

The State Department's inspector general was due to brief congressional committees Wednesday on what it said were documents "related to the State Department and Ukraine."

It was not clear what that would entail, but the State Department is closely caught up in the probe, with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo confirming Wednesday previous reports that he listened in during the Zelensky call.

# Four cops killed in Paris stabbing, attacker shot dead

Paris: A man wielding a knife stabbed and killed four officers at the police headquarters in the heart of central Paris on Thursday, before being shot dead.

The premises were cordoned off after the lunchtime attack in the historic centre of Paris, usually thronged with tourists, and a dozens of police and emergency vehicles had converged at the scene, AFP journalists reported.

At least one metro station in the vicinity of the building, which is close to Notre-Dame cathedral and other major tourist attractions, was closed. Sources told AFP the attacker was shot dead by police in the courtyard of the building, where he was employed.

The man worked in an administrative capacity but it was not immediately clear what his precise work role was.

An emergency message was broadcast over loudspeakers at the courthouse next door, announcing "an attack" at the

police headquarters and stating the area was "under surveillance". Interior Minister Christophe Castaner, who was due to visit Turkey later on Thursday, postponed his trip to visit the scene of the attack.

"People were running everywhere, there was crying everywhere," said Emery Siamandi, an interpreter who was in the building when the attack happened. "I heard a shot, I gathered it was inside," he told AFP. "Moments later, I saw police officers crying. They were in a panic." Investigators suspect a workplace dispute sparked the deadliest attack on police in France in years, sources said, but there were no immediate further details. The Paris prosecutor is at the scene, but anti-terror agencies have not been involved at this stage.

"Did he snap, or was there some other reason? It's still too early to say," Loic Travers, head of the Alliance Police union for the Paris region, told BFM television. AFP

# Azadi March from Oct 27 to oust Imran Khan Govt over sinking economy

Islamabad: A major right-wing religious party in Pakistan announced on Thursday that it will begin its 'Azadi March' on October 27 to oust the "incompetent" Government of Prime Minister Imran Khan, blaming him for the economic woes of the cash-strapped country.

This was announced by Jamaat Ulema-i-Islam -Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, two days after the leadership of top Opposition parties, PML-N and PPP opposed any "solo flight" for the ouster of the Government and decided to hold a conference of all parties to develop consensus among them.

They agreed that the "incompetent and incapable" Government of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) that has completed one year in power must be ousted.

"The Government is the result of a fake election," Rehman, flanked by his close party aides, told a Press conference on Thursday.

"We will gather at D-Chowk," he said, adding, "We are not ones to disperse easily." D-Chowk, also known as Democracy Chowk, is a large square located in Islamabad which is often used for political rallies and public gatherings.

"The country is under eco-

nomics crisis due to the government's incompetency," Rehman said.

"The current Government is the result of a fake election and fake results," Rehman said.

The JUI-F chief said that all Opposition parties had rejected the July 25 elections and had called for fresh elections.

He said that JUI-F delegations from across the country would converge on the federal capital on October 27 to "rid the country of incompetent Government" of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf which, according to him, has destroyed the economy.

"As a result of this illegal Government and its incompetencies, the country's economy has sunk traders have shut down businesses as a result of heavy taxation. The Muslims of Pakistan are in anguish over the state of religion in the country," he was quoted as saying by The Express Tribune newspaper.

The Pakistan government's biggest challenge was to save an economy facing a balance of severe payments crisis.

Within the first eight months, Khan has made visits to long-time allies China, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, securing some \$9 billion in loans to shore up the economy. AFP

## GLOBE TROTTERING

**IRAN URGES US TO 'DEPOLITICIZE' OIL MARKET**  
 Tehran: Iran's Petroleum Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh on Thursday said that the US should not use oil market for its "political ends".

**IRAQ PROTESTS RESUME DESPITE CURFEW**  
 Baghdad: Iraqi protesters took to the streets of Baghdad for a third day on Thursday despite a curfew that took effect after anti-government protests descended into violence and left at least 12 people dead and hundreds injured.

**6 DEAD IN TAIWAN BRIDGE COLLAPSE**  
 Taipei: Six people have been confirmed dead after a bridge collapsed in Taiwan earlier this week, officials said. Taiwanese rescuers retrieved the body of the last missing person on Thursday. The bridge at the Nanfang'ao fishing port in Yilan County collapsed on Tuesday, smashing onto fishing boats moored underneath.

**3 ASTRONAUTS RETURN TO EARTH FROM ISS**  
 Washington: Alai Almansoori, the first astronaut from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), returned to Earth on Thursday from the International Space Station (ISS) alongside NASA astronaut Nick Hague and Soyuz commander Alexey Ovchinnikov of the Russian space agency Roscosmos.

**RUSSIAN MAN SUES APPLE FOR 'TURNING HIM GAY'**  
 Moscow: A Russian man has sued Apple after claiming that a message sent to his iPhone drove him to homosexuality, the media reported on Thursday.

# Britain's Johnson sets out defence of new Brexit plan

AFP ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson met his senior Ministers on Thursday before setting out on a delicate mission to convince sceptical EU leaders to back his new Brexit plan.

Johnson is racing against time and facing headwinds across European capitals as he tries to rally support for a new approach to settling the three-and-a-half-year crisis.

His failure to get both the EU and his own fractured parliament to back his way forward will result in either a crash exit for Britain or a third Brexit delay this year.

If he succeeds, Johnson could embark on an even longer and more complex stage of the process, working to negotiate a new trade agreement with the EU. UK Brexit Secretary Steve Barclay said all sides had to start real talks on

Johnson's outline by the weekend to have any chance to get a deal in time for an October 17-18 EU leaders' summit in Brussels.

"We need to move forward at pace, intensively," he told BBC radio. "The response from the (EU) Commission is that they recognise that this was a serious proposal and I think all sides want to see a deal.

"All sides recognise that the alternative to no-deal is disruptive." Johnson was due to set out his vision in parliament on Thursday morning after meeting cabinet ministers in Downing Street. Johnson's complicated proposals for preserving a free-flowing border across the island of Ireland after Brexit were met with a guarded reception in Brussels and Dublin.

"There is progress, but to be frank a lot of work still needs to be done," EU's lead Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said.

# UK, not EU, needs to do more work on Brexit offer: Brussels

Brussels: It is up to Britain, not Brussels, to address problems the EU sees in the UK's latest Brexit proposal, a spokeswoman for the European Commission said on Thursday.

"As we have said there are problematic points in the United Kingdom's proposal and further work is needed. But that work needs to be done by the United Kingdom and not the other way around," spokeswoman Natasha Bertaud told a media briefing.

The British Government on

Wednesday submitted its proposal for a new withdrawal agreement from the European Union to back up Prime Minister Boris Johnson's vow to pull his country out of the bloc on October 31.

While the EU has cautiously said the document contained some progress on the sticking point of Northern Ireland it also had problems.

Those are understood to focus on the reliance on UK good will and untested technology to prevent a border

springing up anew between the British province and EU member Ireland, and a provision periodically allowing part of the Northern Ireland assembly to veto the agreement.

Johnson's ministers have suggested that, having handed over the Brexit proposal, the ball was now in the EU's court.

But the spokeswoman said "we would disagree." She added: "We would remind you that it's the UK leaving the European Union and not the European Union leaving the UK. AFP

agreed objectives" for keeping Ireland's border with British province Northern Ireland invisible.

# Facebook suffers legal blow in EU court over hate speech

AFP ■ LUXEMBOURG

Facebook on Wednesday dealt a major blow in the EU's top court, which ruled that national courts in Europe can order online platforms to remove defamatory content worldwide.

The decision will be seen as a victory for EU regulators, who are ambitious to use US tech giants meet tightened European standards over hate speech and offensive content.

Last week, the same court decided that Google was not legally compelled to apply the EU's strict "right to be forgotten" rules globally, in a victory for the search giant. In a closely watched judgment, the European Court of Justice said EU law "does not preclude" courts from ordering "the removal of information or to block access worldwide," a statement said.

The latest case was brought originally to an Austrian court

by Greens party politician Eva Glawischnig-Piesczek, who requested the removal of Facebook posts that the judges found defamed her and could be seen by users of the social network around the world.

The complaint also concerned messages from fictitious accounts, which according to the Greens, had called Glawischnig-Piesczek a "corrupt" person and which the social network refused to delete.

# North Ireland business chiefs slam Brexit plan

London: Northern Ireland's business leaders on Thursday lashed out at British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's new Brexit plan as costly and unworkable.

Johnson's strategy would tackle the Irish border issue by taking Northern Ireland — part of the United Kingdom — out of the European Union's customs union but keeping it aligned with EU member

Ireland's rules and regulations for goods.

"The Prime Minister's long awaited proposal is hugely disappointing," said Aodhonn Connolly, director of the Northern Ireland Retail Consortium industry body.

"It is clear that he has not listened to the needs of the Northern Ireland business community or Northern Ireland households."

# Typhoon hits South Korea, leaving 9 dead, 5 missing

Seoul: A powerful typhoon has lashed southern South Korea, leaving nine people dead and five others missing.

Typhoon Mitag brought strong winds and heavy rainfall to the southern part of the country on Wednesday and Thursday.

The interior ministry says the nine dead included six people who were buried by landslides. It says seven people were injured in typhoon-related incidents. A ministry report says the storm knocked out power to 48,670 homes and flooded hundreds of homes and other buildings. AP

the same on both sides of the border. The move aims to eliminate all regulatory checks to trade in goods across the border. Yet Connolly labelled them unworkable and costly for companies.

"This will lead to complexity, delays, tariffs, VAT and cost rises that will make NI goods less competitive and squeeze our household budgets," he added. AFP

# Kidnapped Indian-origin tech millionaire found dead in US

Washington: Tushar Atre, an Indian-origin tech millionaire, was found dead in his girlfriend's car hours after the owner of a digital marketing company in the US was allegedly kidnapped from his posh California home, according to media reports.

Atre, 50, owner of AtrNet Inc, a web design company that caters to Silicon Valley corporate businesses, was inside his home on Tuesday morning with several other people when multiple suspects broke into his house and abducted him in his girlfriend's white BMW, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Hours after authorities began searching for Atre, police

reported finding a BMW stolen from his house and a body near the vehicle.

The investigation took officials to a property in a mountainous, heavily wooded area where they found the white BMW and Atre's body.

Investigators are tracking multiple suspects in connection with the kidnapping of Atre.

"We are looking into all aspects of his life," said Sgt Brian Cleveland, a spokesman for the Sheriff's Office. "All doors are open."

Investigators don't know the suspects' relationship with Atre. PTI

**INDO COTSPIN LTD**  
 REGD. OFFICE : Delhi mile stone, 78 K.M. G.T. Road, N.H. 1, Post Box No. 3, Post Office Samalkha, Village Jhatipur, Panipat-132103, (Haryana), India

**NOTICE**  
 Pursuant to Regulation 29 of the Securities Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, A meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 29th October, 2019 at the registered office of the Company, inter alia to consider and approve and take on record unaudited financial results of the Company for the quarter ended on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.

CIN:-L17111HR1995PLC032541  
 EMAIL:-rajpalaggarwal2000@yahoo.com  
 info@indocotspin.com  
 www.indocotspin.com  
 FOR INDO COTSPIN LTD  
 Date : 03.10.2019  
 Sd/-  
 Place : Panipat Bal Kishan Aggarwal  
 Managing Director

**OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER**  
**CONSTRUCTION UNIT UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM,**  
 Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur, Distt.-Udhm Singh Nagar, E-Mail:-constructionunit@gmail.com

Letter No. 1526/NVIDA/323 Date: 03.10.2019

**E-Tender Notice**

- Name of the Work:- CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING FOR EKALAYA AAWASIYA VIDHYALAY AT KHATIMADISTRICT UDHAM SINGH NAGAR)
- Estimated Cost :- Rs. 1012.24 Lakh
- Period of Completion :- 09 Month
- Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 04.10.2019 (17.00 hrs)
- Last date/Time of receipt of bids in the portal :- 21.10.2019 (17.00 hrs)
- Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 23.10.2019 (12.00 hrs)
- Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid :- Er. Om Prakash, Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur (Udhm Singh Nagar).
- Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place :- 09.10.2019 (13.00 hrs) Halliwani.
- For further details, details of subsequent Amendment/correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in)

**Project Manager**

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION KATRA**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**E-NIT No. 54 of 2019-20 Dated 30-09-2019**

Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Katra on behalf of Governor of J&K State, invite tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt./ CPWD/MES and Railways upto 1600 Hrs on 10-10-2019 for the following work.

**S.No. 1 Name of Work :-** Construction of Footpath, Drain, Slab over drain on four laneing road from Ambica hotel side to Varnun hotel side upto Railway station Katra. **Name of Divn. :-** PWD (R&B) Division Katra. **Estimated Cost (In Lacs) :-** 50.11. **Cost of document (In Rupees) :-** 1000/-. **Earnest Money (In Rupees) :-** 2% of advertised cost, **Time Allowed for completion :-** 60 days, **Time and date of opening of tender :-** 11-10-2019 (1200 Hours), **Class of Contractor :-** AYY

**S.No. 2 Name of Work :-** Construction of Pucca Drain in Km 7th RD 6/315 to 6/655 on Railway Station Katra to SMVD University Road (Katra). **Name of Divn. :-** PWD (R&B) Division Katra, **Estimated Cost (In Lacs) :-** 14.31. **Cost of document (In Rupees) :-** 600/-. **Earnest Money (In Rupees) :-** 2% of advertised cost, **Time Allowed for completion :-** 30 days, **Time and date of opening of tender :-** 11-10-2019 (1200 Hours), **Class of Contractor :-** AYY/BEE/CEE/IDEE

**S.No. 3 Name of Work :-** Repair/ renovation of PWD Store Building, Construction of Septic Tank at PWD Store Office Katra

**Name of Divn. :-** PWD (R&B) Division Katra, **Estimated Cost (In Lacs) :-** 5.90. **Cost of document (In Rupees) :-** 600/-. **Earnest Money (In Rupees) :-** 2% of advertised cost, **Time Allowed for completion :-** 60 days, **Time and date of opening of tender :-** 11-10-2019 (1200 Hours), **Class of Contractor :-** AYY/CEE/IDEE

Position of Land = Available  
 Position of funds = Demanded.  
 Position of AAA = Accorded  
 Position of TS = Under process

1/ Date of Publishing from 30-09-2019.  
 2/ The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://iktenders.gov.in> from 1000 Hrs on 01-10-2019 to 10-10-2019 (1600Hrs).

No. DIP/J-7077/19 Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
 Dated:- 01.10.2019 PWD (R&B) Division Katra

**CORRIGENDUM**

Para No. 3, 4, 5, 6 and Para 2, 3 of Sl. No. -1 of PNIE-T No. 10/EE /PWD /KHW /2019-20 Date- 23- 09-2019 has been amended. Now the earnest money and Bid fee to be deposited through online mode instead of submitting Demand draft/ deposit at call. Details of amendments may can be seen in the website <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>

Other condition of the said PNIE-T remain unchanged.

Sd/-  
 (Er. Biswajit Pal)  
 Executive Engineer, PWD.  
 Khowai Division.  
 ICA/C-1225/2019-20

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that a person namely **Mukesh, S/o: Sh. Chander Prakash Singh, R/o: H. No.- 229/96, Gali No. 2, Railway Colony, Mandawali, Delhi** has been missing since 17.09.2019 from the area of P.S. Mandawali, Delhi. In this regard **DD No. 43A, dated 24.09.2019** has been registered at P.S. Mandawali, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. The description of missing person is as under:

**Name: Mukesh, Age: 45 Years, Height: 5'5", Face: Round, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Army Colour T-Shirt & Khakki Colour Pant.**

If anyone have any information about this missing person please inform P.S. Mandawali, Delhi.

**Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)**  
**Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639**  
**SHO**  
**Police Station, Mandawali, Delhi.**  
**Ph: 011-22720809, 8750870628**  
**DP/7056/ED/19**

# Thousands attend fallen Sikh police officer's 'fit for a king' funeral

Houston: Thousands of people from all walks of life turned out for the day-long ceremonies here on Wednesday to honour slain Indian-American police officer Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal, who was shot dead on duty during a traffic stop.

Dhaliwal, 42, was the first Sikh sheriff's deputy in Harris County with a population of over 10,000 Sikhs. He made national headlines when he was allowed to grow a beard and wear a turban on the job.

He was gunned down while conducting a routine mid-day traffic stop in northwest of Houston on Friday.

The fallen deputy's funeral included processions, a traditional Sikh funeral and a law enforcement funeral with a 21-gun salute from fellow officers and a helicopter fly-over.

As 'Amazing Grace' was played on the bagpipes, members of Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) folded the American flag that covered his casket and Sheriff Ed Gonzalez presented it to Dhaliwal's widow who clutched it to her heart. PTI

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is for general information that I **Ramesh Sikka S/o Shri Ram Prakash Sikka** Residing at House No. 10 Ground Floor Engineers Enclave Pitampura City Delhi - 110034 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Ramesh Kumar in my 12th class certificate. The actual name of mine is **Ramesh Sikka** respectively which may be amended accordingly.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I **Rishabh Sheoran S/o Pratap Sheoran** Residing at C-90, Police Station Compound Sector-39, Noida, Gautambudh Nagar (U.P.). That I have changed my name from **Rishabh Sheoran** in future my name be known to all as **Rishabh Sheoran. Rishabh Sheoran**

**PUBLIC - NOTICE**

This is to inform general public that Mr. Anil Goel is the owner of (1) Shop Mpl. No. 920, Part of Property Bearing Municipal No. 920, 921, 922, total measuring 158.5 Sq. Yds., (2) first and second floor portion falling on the western side part by Property Bearing Municipal No. 920, 921, 922, total measuring 158.5 Sq. Yds., (3) Portion of the first floor, second floor and terrace of the top floor on the eastern side (Saisi Shop). Part of Property Bearing Municipal No. 920, 921, 922, total measuring 158.5 Sq. Yds. Situated at Buniyaat Manzil, Clock Tower, Sabzi Mandi, Delhi. Mr. Anil Goel had misplaced Original Requisitionment Deed Dated 13.02.2001 executed by Mrs. Raj Rani and Mrs. Dayawati (both D/o Mr. Tika Ram Goel) in favour of their brother Mr. Suresh Kumar S/o. Mr. Tika Ram Goel (doc. No. 551), & anyone who found it, kindly handover the same to Manager, Fullerton India Credit Company Limited Mr. Anil Goel is mortgaging the above properties with M/s. Fullerton India Credit Company Limited in case anyone has any objection regarding mortgage of the said property, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication. Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Ventures, Unit No. 405, 4th Floor, GD-II, Northex Tower, (A-09), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 966707172/981828636 (M).

**PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**  
 (Regd. Office:- PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001)  
 Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813  
 Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in)

**SHORT TERM**

**E-Tender Enquiry No. 235/P-2/EMP-W 11646 dt 01.10.19 & ID: 46350**

**Scope of Work:** Preventive / Breakdown maintenance of lighting equipment and cables connected with the same of cabling system of four units of GGSSTP Roopnagar, lighting and cabling of Stage-I, Micro Hydel Project including street, fencing / boundary Lighting and cleaning and up keeping of cabling system and preventive / Breakdown maintenance of 415V LD system its lighting equipment and cables connected with the same, cabling system of residential & non-residential buildings & street lights of Nuhon Colony, Power Colony, Work Charge Colony, Sarsa Colony & along Nangal Hydel Channel of GGSSTP, Roopnagar.

**Time period:** For one year.  
**EMD:** Rs. 3,00,000/-

**Date & time up to which tender shall be received:** 18.10.19 & 11:00 AM  
**Date & time of opening of tender:** 18.10.19 & 11:30 AM

Tender specification can only be downloaded from PSPCL website <https://pspcilabcprocure.com/> & no hard copy of the same will be issued by this office.

**Note:**

- In case any difficulty regarding uploading of the tender the prospective bidders are requested to get clarification from this office and/or M/s e-procurement Technologies Ltd. Contact No.+91-(79)-4001866/4038/18/21. It is also requested to get their digital signature well in time so as to submit tenders through e-tendering only.
- It is informed that in case process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official PSPCL website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in).

**Dy. CE./ Monitoring, GGSSTP, Rupnagar**

**RTP-73/19**  
**DPR/03OCT19/C7355 Dt. 03-10-2019**

**BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI**  
 4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001  
**OA No 610/18 Date : 25.09.2019**

**STATE BANK OF INDIA** Versus **APPLICANT**

**MOHD. IMRAN ALI & ANR.** RESPONDENT

To, Defendant

- Mohd. Imran Ali S/o Mohd. Haneef Ali R/O House No. B-154, Gali No. 19, Maan Singh Nagar Delhi - 94
- M/s Idea Builder Pvt. Ltd., C-294, 1st Floor, Vveek Vihar, Delhi - 95 Also At : C-10, Ramaprashta, Ghaziabad, UP-201010

Whereas the above named applicant (s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of **Rs. 11,45,443/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Forty Five Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Three Only)** against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on **27.11.2019 At 10.30 A.M.**

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

**BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL, SECTION OFFICER, DRT-II, DELHI.**



**CHEF TALK**

# MINDFUL EATING

Chef SHAZIA KHAN brings together her newly-curated recipes for healthy food consumption and some of her own experiences during her pregnancy for *Mother's Menu*. By CHAHAK MITTAL

years ago. Mothers today are more aware and conscious of the food choices they make and hence, they also seek the right information. However, women's increasing access to delusional information, coming from various informal online sources, could significantly impact pregnancy and food-eating habits during the time. And a growing dependence on the medium could have adverse effects. It's better to consult doctors or nutritionists at the time rather than trying out uncertified or unrecommended schedules and recipes themselves. This is also where a show like ours comes to the rescue.

**Do you think a chef's gender affects the taste of the food in any way? How is women's cooking different from that of men?**

I don't think we can evaluate the taste of food based on gender. I'm sure there is no way you could guess if it is a male or a female chef who has prepared the food in the restaurant. There are certainly some preconceived myths. However, there is no way one could find a difference between two same dishes made by a woman and a man. Though yes, when it comes to 'Maa ke haath ka khaana,' I feel the food is the most special of all as it is made with so much love and care. It is always the tastiest, *dil se jo banta hai* (After all, it is prepared by heart).

(The show airs on Monday and Tuesday at 2.30 pm on Living Foodz.)



by my sons during their early years.

**What was the research work that went into the making of this show? Some anecdotes from your experiences...**

A lot of research has been done before selecting the recipes to be showcased on the show. However, all of them have been tried and tested and carefully selected by our nutrition expert, making them suitable trimester wise. We have researched a lot to present tips for child nutrition and recipes as well, keeping in mind aspects like brain development.

We have included meals which are high in protein, and have the essential fats and iron. The show offers tips for a balanced diet with some fun ideas for children's lunch boxes.

One of my personal experiences that I drew inspiration from is that when I was pregnant, I faced frequent morning sickness.

Hence, my grandmother would always ask me to consume small meals instead of large ones. She

would make sure these small meals are packed with required nutrition. And I have brought this learning to the show. I have also selected recipes that I enjoyed during my pregnancy or have seen my children enjoying in their growing up years.

**Where have you sourced your material and ingredients from? All ingredients used in the show have been freshly sourced from the local markets. We have tried to use ingredients that are easily available in most parts of India so that they can be easily replicated by the viewers.**

**How do you think the understanding of nutrition and food-choices during pregnancy has evolved over the years? Also, considering the 'go online and google' world that we are living in, how do we verify information?** With the current world that we are living in, where social media has become our first reference for information, understanding of nutrition has evolved massively as compared to what it was about 15-20

On the show, we have busted such myths in our segment called *Sachya Suspicious*. We also share some easy home remedies coming from our nutrition expert in the *Nanha Nuskha* segment.

**What are some of the new recipes and dishes that you explored while creating the show?**

Although most women are aware that healthy-eating is important

during pregnancy, it can become a challenge as expectant mothers face problems such as food aversions, sudden cravings, nausea, vomiting, tiredness, constipation, and heartburn. Taking cue from this, we have curated recipes, which can help a mother to ease out of these challenges and have a relaxed and happy pregnancy.

As the show proceeds, we have deep dived into recipes for new-

borns and toddlers in a way that is packed with nutrition and taste for these young eaters.

**Which cuisine have you taken references from to develop the recipes?**

The recipes showcased on the show are inspired by the wide variety of regional and traditional cuisines from India along with some of my family recipes. I have also featured some recipes that have been relished



## Simplicity is good

The rule to never judge a book by its cover does not apply at DIVA SPICED. Here, the dishes look and taste exactly like they sound, without pretence, says DHRUVIKA BHANOT





Having been brought up in a home where my father has a staunch relationship with chicken and my mother with vegetarian food, light on heart and her conscience, I have never chosen sides. Moreover, it's rather natural on my part to gorge on meals that don't have an ounce of animal flesh in it. But Diva Spiced in Greater Kailash I had done little to spare my feelings and my vegetarian friend's, who had incessantly done several rounds with the menu to find something that would be agreeable to both her hunger and morals.


The one plausible outcome of having toured various restaurants and cafés is that you become immune to the dishes that may sound bizarre. However, the rule to never judge a book by its cover falls short in its promise when it comes to this place. The dishes look exactly how they sound, no cover of pretence, even less to hide.

The menu, though well-thought of, was quite limited. As I skimmed through the items on the two-page menu, I picked the dumplings, first, filled with Chinese greens, water chestnut, sesame and one with chicken, basil and ginger. The water chestnut dimsums, were the ideal comfort food. They were good enough, nothing less or more but got me into the thick of things.


The chicken dumplings scrambled several levels higher than the vegetarian ones, doughy skin and chewable, brought a blurry reminder of the ones I used to eat after school. Yet there was a wholesomeness despite the low spire quotient which worked and would make me order the dish again when I return.

We ordered two drinks — cucumber mojito and peach soda. The peach soda went down a bit stronger and was more of an accompanying mocktail, which you need after the food preceding it to be drowned. Definitely not something I would callously drink as I wait for my dishes to arrive. The cucumber mojito was a delight — fresh and perky.



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Trend Blazer

'Have a family of mad cricket-lovers'

Actor PRIYANKA CHOPRA JONAS says she is a big fan of cricket.

"My father used to love cricket. So whenever there was a tournament, we would watch it together. If I used to get up from my seat during the match and an Indian player hit a six, I was made to keep standing for some time. Cricket was a big thing at my place. My uncle has played Ranji cricket so it's kind of a mad cricket-loving family," she said.

Priyanka also recalled her wedding day when Team Bride and Team Groom played a cricket match. Priyanka will be seen in Shonali Bose's *The Sky Is Pink*, which is slated to release on October 11.



'If the film is driven by the content that a non-Diaspora audience can connect to, then they appreciate it. Colour, race and culture make no difference. *The Sky Is Pink* received appreciation from the international audience because of its story. The emotion in the film is not Indian, it's universal.'

—Farhan Akhtar

National Award-winning actor AKSHAY KUMAR has unveiled his look as Laxmmi from the forthcoming film *Laxmmi Bomb*. He says it is a character he's both excited and nervous about but then life begins at the end of the comfort zone.



Akshay on Thursday took to Twitter, where he shared his first look from the horror-comedy film. "Navratri is about bowing to the inner goddess and celebrating your limitless strength. On this auspicious occasion, I am sharing with you my look as Laxmmi. A character I am both excited and nervous about... but then life begins at the end of our comfort zone...isn't it? *Laxmmi Bomb*," he captioned.

Kylie, Travis to split custody of Stormi

After breaking up with each other, reality TV star KYLIE JENNER and rapper Travis Scott have decided to share equal custody of their daughter, Stormi.

A source said, "It will be 50/50 but it's not a point of contention. It's really whatever is best for Stormi. Travis knows what an incredible mom Kylie is and will make whatever situation work."

"Kylie and Travis have been on and off at various times throughout their relationship. Kylie still loves Travis and this isn't considered a full breakup to either of them," added another insider.

Earlier this year, rumours started doing the rounds on the Internet that Travis had allegedly cheated on Kylie.



Message in a pandal

Moving away from their static traditions, Durga Puja pandals have been conceptualised around themes and cause-oriented issues this year, says SAKSHI SHARMA

An empty, tilted earthen pot with a dead crow at its opening is the first thing one comes across as one enters the Arambagh Durga Puja Ground. Opposite to it is a giant grey tap with a few empty buckets in a queue below it. Beneath it, is mother earth, out of which emerge tiny green hands asking for help. A few empty plastic bottles are hanging in the background, striking a contrast between the water crisis and an abundance of plastic around us. The artwork represents the scarcity of water and how it is an alarming need of the hour.

While in Kolkata, women in red and white sarees could be found crowding the streets, soaking in the *pujo-pujo* atmosphere, the pandals in the capital are making the festival a cause-oriented one, moving away from their static traditional themes. The puja organisers have not only worked on the decor, idols and pandal, they've brainstormed to come out with a distinctive, appealing and relevant theme. This helps them garner people's attention easily and also serves as a medium to send out a social message loud and clear. There are competitions held for the best pandals and themes. This raises the excitement level of the associations, craftsmen and viewers.

Arambagh Puja Samiti is famous for its innovative theme every year. In 2017, it won the National Award for its pandal. Abhijit Bose, its chairman, proudly boasts about the same. He says, "In 2017, we were asked to preserve our idol in Pragati Maidan. It is the first of its kind."

Since the depleting water level is a major issue wrapping the world currently, he feels that this was the best theme for the year. He says, "We have worked on this for a year. This is the burning issue. We don't realise it now but our survival is going to be very tough in the coming years. This is the best gift we can give to our future generations." The way the theme has been elaborated is a treat to the eye. Plays and seminars have also been organised on the same to inspire the youth.

He has also worked on themes like orphan kids, rape survivors and the atrocities on them. Bose says, "Isn't it interesting to work on such themes? They are the real Durgas. They should be worshipped and empowered."



Though there are eco-friendly *muris* every year but this time a special attention has been given to the type of clay and organic colours. It is to ensure that the celebrations and environment go hand in hand.

The footfall at the Arambagh pandal is two to three lakh. Hence, Bose wanted the theme to make a lasting impact on the people. Talking about the budget, he says that it has been reduced by ₹10 lakh this year due to the low markets. From ₹45 lakh last year, it's only ₹35 lakh this time.

Before completing his part, he makes sure that he apprises us of the fact that he welcomed late President APJ Abdul Kalam in his pandal in 2013.

Another organiser and founder member of Paschim Vihar Bengali Association, Mahadeb Das says that he along with his organisation has worked on diversified theme to commemorate their 37th year.

Since it was the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, they thought there could be nothing more relatable than this. The other themes are related to water conservation and plastic ban. He says, "We hope that our creative thoughts will force the society to think and act upon these issues."

This year an attempt has been made



'We have worked on this for a year. Water is a burning issue. We don't realise it now but our survival is going to be very tough in the coming years. This is the best gift we can give to our future generations'

Photo: Pankaj Kumar



'Finally getting exciting roles'

Sanjay Kapoor, who was recently seen playing Sonam Kapoor's father in *The Zoya Factor*, says the best acting opportunities are coming his way now, after all these years.

"When I was young and starting off in the nineties, most characters in mainstream cinema were stereotypical, and not like the way things are today. So, initially I grabbed all the opportunities that came my way. However, now I am getting exciting offers," he said.

Starting his career in 1995 with the dud *Prem*, Sanjay has done films like *Raja*, *Sirf Tum*, *Azhaar*, *Mohabbat*, and *Koi Mere Dil Se Poochhe*.

"In the nineties, typecasting would happen to all actors. Now, we have better opportunities to showcase versatility," he added.

He said that with maturity he gains more experiences of life. This has helped him evolve as a performing artist. "For some time, I avoided doing films just to be seen. Perhaps, that is why new offers are coming my way now. Filmmakers can imagine me in certain characters because my talent has not been utilised completely," said Sanjay, who tried film production in 2009 with *Kya Time Hai Yaar* and in 2014 with *Tevra*.

The actor added that success in Bollywood depends upon talent as well as luck. When questioned how much of his career owes itself to luck? he said, "I won't say that my acting assignments are based on just luck. But I would say that being casted in the Netflix film *Lust Stories* was because of the right timing. The production team of the film was looking for an actor for the role of Salman, and they were sitting at the club where I went for my daily workout. As I passed by them, they noticed me and approached me for the film. Of course, I finally got the role because of my acting skills but it also happened because I was at the right place at the right time."

In recent times, *Dilbar Dilbar*, his song from the 1999 film *Sirf Tum*, was recreated for the film *Satyaamev Jayate* and was picturised by Norah Fatehi. The new version was a huge hit.

What would you say about the trend of recreating old hit songs? "I think I was fortunate to be a part of films that had superhit songs such as *Dilbar* and *Akhyaan milaon kabhi*. Those songs not only made my career but the remix version of *Dilbar* has also made Norah famous. I think that is how destiny works — unplanned," he said with a smile. —IANS



TELEMATIC FUTURE

The big thing for carmakers today is how your vehicle stays connected

When I was a young man, I used to sneak away in my mother's Maruti 800 on more than a couple of occasions. If my mother knew what all I did to her car or in her car, she wouldn't have been happy. But every morning, it would be parked outside the house, without anyone's information about how it had spent the night. And I'm sure parents today worry about their teenage sons and daughters sneaking away to the family car just like I used to do. But you see, now parents have an interesting new tool to manage their teenage delinquency through technology. As cars are increasingly becoming moving computers, it was almost obvious that they would get connected to the inter-

net of things, so say hello to telematics.

The big thing for manufacturers nowadays is providing an app for your smartphone to connect to your car. These applications can give you all sorts of alerts straight from your car to your phone. And these are not just your standard 'your fuel is running low' systems such as the new Mercedes Me, Suzuki Connect and Hyundai Blue link among others can alert you to a whole host of things much to your young son's or daughter's chagrin. For example, most of these apps have a geofencing alert, that is, you get an alert if your car leaves a particular radius from what you have set. So if you have set a 10 km radius around your house and your



car leaves that zone, your phone will ping. There are speed alerts as well, so when your son comes home and claims he didn't cross 50, you might even have the evidence. The telematic apps are paired directly to your phone and the cars on-board diagnostics system and are transmitted using a e-SIM card, so data will not get corrupted and while a teenager might have the need to lie, why would a car lie?

The fact is that if I was a teenager today, I would be very unhappy with all this tech. But then

again, this tech also has several positive safety and security features. On the Hyundai Blue link system on the new Venue (and other cars), you can immobilise your car remotely if it has been stolen (or snuck away by your daughter). All telematic systems give you near real-time locations and driving information. There are some privacy concerns that I have about how the information — can car companies share this information with the government without my consent or knowledge? Mercedes-Benz India says their

new Mercedes-Me system complies with European Union General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) norms to maintain your privacy which cannot be violated without a court warrant. It would be helpful if other manufacturers came out with such statements as well.

The good thing about many of these new telematic solutions is that some of them are compatible backwards with previous generation models as well. Suzuki Connect currently available on Nexa vehicles can be retrofitted to

older Nexa cars as well, and the Mercedes-Me system can be fitted on almost all Mercedes-Benz cars sold from 2007 onwards.

This was almost inevitable in modern life. Two decades ago, I might have said, 'if only cars could talk, the stories they would tell.' Well, technology and mobile networks have given your car the ability to talk, well at least, tell you where they are and how they're being treated.

(For your car queries and questions, ping Kushan on Twitter @kushanmitra)





# Double delight

## Mayank's 215 puts India on top in 1st Test

PTI ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

India vs SA (Day 3)  
Live from 9:30am IST  
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

Mayank Agarwal showed insatiable appetite for runs, converting his maiden Test hundred into a brilliant double before the Indian spinners tightened the noose around the exhausted South Africans on the second day of the series opener here on Thursday.

Playing his first Test in India, Agarwal showed remarkable concentration and endurance for his monumental 215 off 371 balls that allowed the hosts to declare their first innings at 502 for seven in 136 overs.

In response, South Africa were staring down the barrel at close of play, losing Aiden Markram (5), Theunis de Bruyn (4) and night watchman Dane Piedt (0) under floodlights to be 39 for three in 20 overs, trailing India by 463 runs.

Ravichandran Ashwin provided the breakthroughs by getting through the defences of Markram with a classical off-break that turned sharply. He then had De Bruyn caught behind before Ravindra Jadeja crashed through Piedt's defences.

While day one was all about Rohit Sharma (176 off 244), the second day certainly belonged to Agarwal, who made full use of friendly batting conditions.

Barring lead pacer Vernon Philander, the South African bowling put

up an ordinary show with their three specialist spinners failing to get much out of the dry and slow surface.

Rohit and Agarwal, who began the day on 115 and 84 respectively with India at 202 for no loss, converted their opening partnership into a record breaking one with a 317-run stand before lunch.

With their massive stand, they surpassed Virender Sehwag and Rahul Dravid to record India's highest partnership for any wicket against South Africa.

Agarwal stole the show after Rohit's departure and keeping the requirement of the team in mind, increased the intensity of his innings. His first hundred came off 204 balls and second off 154 balls.

The Bengaluru-based cricketer, whose previous four Tests were in Australia and West Indies, collected 23 fours and six maximums, most of them coming against the spinners.

He batted for the majority of the afternoon session, which was extended by 30 minutes to make up for overs lost due to rain on the first day.

Agarwal's memorable knock came to end when he smashed a full ball from Dean Elgar towards deep mid-wicket and a diving Piedt took a diving catch.

At tea, India coasted to 450 for five, scoring 126 runs in the session at the loss of four wickets.

Earlier, South Africa struck through pacer Vernon Philander first ball after lunch, raising hopes of a South African fightback. Cheteshwar Pujara (6) was the man dismissed,

bowled off a Philander beauty that moved away just enough to rattle his off-stump.

Captain Virat Kohli (20) joined Agarwal in the middle and looked in sublime touch during his short stay.

He was disappointed to get out after getting set. A regulation ball stopped on Kohli, who ended up offering a simple return catch to debutant Senuran Muthuswamy, giving the South African his first international wicket.

In the morning session, Agarwal completed his maiden Test hundred while Rohit Sharma made 176 on his opening debut.

Rohit, who too hit 23 fours and half a dozen sixes like Agarwal, was eventually dismissed in the 83rd over. At lunch, India were 324 for one in 88 overs with the host scoring 122 runs in the session at 4.28 runs per over.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Mayank Agarwal on Thursday became the fourth Indian batsman to convert his maiden century into a double hundred.
- He is now the fourth Indian batsman after Karun Nair, Vinod Kambli and Dilip Sardesai to convert their maiden Test tons into a double century. Nair had scored 303 against England in 2016, Kambli had scored 224 against England in 1993 and Sardesai had scored 200\* against New Zealand in 1965.
- The 28-year-old individual score of 215 is thus far the highest score by any batsman in Test cricket this year, surpassing Australian star Steve Smith's 211 which he scored in the fourth Ashes Test.
- It took the 28-year-old Agarwal, who made his debut against Australia in Melbourne in December 2018, eight innings to register his maiden Test century. He also became the 86th Indian batsman to score a hundred in Test cricket.
- Mayank was also involved in a record breaking 317-run opening partnership with Rohit Sharma. The pair became the third Indian batting pair to stitch together a partnership of 300 runs or more in Tests. Rohit, who was opening the innings for the first time, scored 176 while Mayank contributed with 137 during their historic partnership.
- The record-breaking partnership was also the 12th highest opening partnership in Test cricket.
- Newly promoted Test opener Rohit Sharma has taken to the role like fish takes to water and in the process, he equalled Rahul Dravid's record of most number of consecutive fifty-plus scores in Tests at home. Dravid had scored six straight fifty-plus scores in Tests at home between 1997 and 1998. Rohit too, now has six consecutive fifty-plus scores at home in the longest format of the game after his 176-run knock against the Proteas.

### SINGLES

#### INDIA BEAT BELGIUM 5-1 IN FINAL GAME

**ANTWERP:** Indian men's hockey team on Thursday produced an attacking masterclass to outclass reigning World and European Champions Belgium 5-1 in the fifth and final match and maintain a hundred percent record in their Tour of Belgium. World No 5 India won all five matches during the Tour, beating Belgium 2-0 in the opening match, and registering 6-1 and 5-1 wins over Spain in the next two games, before finishing off their Tour with two more wins (2-1 and 5-1). In the fifth match on Thursday, Simranjeet (7th), Lalit Kumar Upadhyay (35th), Vivek Sagar Prasad (36th), Harmanpreet (42nd) and Ramandeep (43rd) all scored a goal each to earn a scintillating victory for the team.

#### WFI TERMINATES KARIMI'S CONTRACT

**NEW DELHI:** The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has sacked men's freestyle coach Hossein Karimi just six months into his tenure, claiming that he brought with himself a VIP culture which cannot be followed in the country, a charge that the Iranian has rejected. Karimi's contract was to run till the Tokyo Olympics. He was handed his termination notice on Wednesday. "He was following a VIP culture and it was increasingly becoming difficult to cope with his demands. We have intimated SAI about this. We are looking for a new coach," WFI Assistant Secretary Vinod Tomar said. Karimi on the other hand, said India did not offer a good system for the growth of the sport and described WFI's move as unprofessional. "They have cancelled my contract. In India, the system is not good. There are a lot of problems," Karimi said.

#### GUJARAT, JYK, BENGAL POST EASY WINS

**JAIPUR:** Gujarat posted an impressive seven-wicket win over Bihar in a Vijay Hazare Group 'C' match here on Thursday. After Bihar was bundled out for 126 in 42.2 overs, Gujarat rattled up the required runs in 19.2 overs to notch up a fifth straight win. In another match, Parvez Rasool hammered an unbeaten 118 (112 balls, 9 fours, four sixes) to power Jammu & Kashmir to a four-wicket win over Railways. In the third match of the day, Bengal rode on Abhishek Kumar Raman's 122 not out (108 balls, 11 fours) to register a five-wicket win over Rajasthan.

#### PUNERI DALTON DID TELUGU TITANS

**PANCHKULA:** Puneri Paltan edged out Telugu Titans 53-50 in a closely-fought Pro Kabaddi League match at the Tau Devilal Sports Complex here on Thursday. Manjeet (12 points), Sushant Sail (11 points) and Surejeet Singh (7 tackle points) were the stars for the Pune side. The defeat meant Telugu Titans' chances of making it to the playoffs came to a halt with UP Yodha securing the final spot in the top six.

#### HUMPY JUMPS TO WORLD NO 3

**NEW DELHI:** Indian woman chess player Koneru Humpy has jumped to world number 3 position in the latest rankings released by the world body (FIDE). The 32-year-old from Andhra Pradesh made a brilliant comeback after a two-year hiatus to win the FIDE women's Grand Prix tournament held in Skolkovo in Russia recently. Grand Master Humpy accumulated 17 ELO points to rise to the third spot with a global rating of 2,577. In the Open section, five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand is ranked ninth with 2,765 points, while reigning world champion Norwegian Magnus Carlsen continued to hold on to the number one spot with 2,876 points.

#### PAK TO BEGIN TEST C'SHIP IN ENGLAND

**KARACHI:** Pakistan will tour the Netherlands and Ireland for a limited over series before going to England next summer to play their ICC World Test Championship matches, PCB said on Thursday. Pakistan will play three ODIs against Netherlands and two T20Is against Ireland in July next year before they play two Tests in England. "The VRA Cricket Club in Arnhem will host the three ODIs on July 4, 7 and 9, while the two T20Is in Ireland will be played on July 12 and 14," PCB said in a statement. After this, they will travel to England where they will play three World Test Championship Tests from July 30 to August 20 before taking on the 50-over world champions in three T20Is on August 29 and 31 and September 2 respectively.

# Osaka, Andreescu set Beijing date

AFP ■ BEIJING

US Open champion Bianca Andreescu paid Naomi Osaka the ultimate compliment on the eve of their first match, saying the Japanese player's game has similarities with that of Serena Williams.

Two of the most exciting talents in tennis clash today in the quarter-finals of the China Open in Beijing.

Ahead of what could be the start of a long rivalry, the 21-year-old Osaka called the 19-year-old Canadian Andreescu "an amazing player" and said "I have to learn from her". Andreescu, on a winning streak of 17 matches, returned the praise with gusto.

"I know she's an aggressive player. She has similar traits to Serena as well," said the world number six.

"Big serve, big groundstrokes. She moves pretty well, too."

Andreescu, whose ascent has been so fast that she did not even feature at the China Open a year ago, added: "She's doing incredible, especially at such a young age as well."

"It's nice to play another player that's close to my age."

"We're kind of like the next generation. I'm really excited."

The Canadian playing her first tournament since US Open win, thrashed qualifier Jennifer Brady.

The teenager started with intent, breaking Brady's first service game on the way to a brutal 6-1, 6-3 win in 68 minutes.

But Osaka, a former world number one, is also in form, yet to drop a set in three matches in Beijing and fresh from winning the Pan Pacific Open in Japan.

The two-time Grand Slam champion said she was "angry relaxed" after a dominant 6-4, 6-0, win over unseeded American Alison Riske.

Osaka, ranked four, reeled off 10 games in a row to seal victory.

"I'm relaxed, but I'm a little bit angry, it's an angry relaxed," said Osaka when asked what was behind her recent success in Japan and now China.

Also into the last eight in hot and hazy Beijing was reigning champion Caroline Wozniacki, another former world number one. She faces Daria Kasatkina.

Another in action today is current women's number one Ashleigh Barty, who plays the seventh seed Petra Kvitova.

#### MEN'S HOLDER EXITS

In the men's draw, the title-holder Nikoloz Basilashvili was on course to pull off a surprise against Stefanos Tsitsipas.

But the 21-year-old Tsitsipas, ranked seventh, came back to win 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 and will play big-serving John Isner in the quarter-finals.

Isner sent down 21 aces in defeating Britain's Dan Evans in two sets.

Also today, former number one Andy Murray steps up his return from a career-saving hip operation when he plays top seed Dominic Thiem.



Bianca Andreescu hits a return shot against Elise Mertens during their second round match

It is the three-time Grand Slam champion's first ATP singles quarter-final for a year.

Alexander Zverev, the second seed, eased into the next round with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over another teenage Canadian, Felix Auger Aliassime.

## GOFFIN ADVANCES TO JAPAN LAST 8

AFP ■ TOKYO

David Goffin advanced to the Japan Open quarterfinals after squeezing by Denis Shapovalov 7-6(7/5), 7-6(7/2) on Thursday.

Both men kept all of their service games — with Shapovalov nailing 10 aces against third-seed Goffin's four — in the close match that lasted nearly two hours.

Goffin, winner here in 2017, used his footwork to survive two break points while the big-serving Canadian kept up the pressure.

Goffin will now face Chung Hyeon, who pulled an upset victory against sixth-seed Marin Cilic 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.

"It was tough. We were both really solid on our service games," Goffin said of his match.

In the rest of the tournament, wild card Taro Daniel defeated Jordan Thompson 6-4, 7-6(7/3).

He will next face Australian qualifier John Millman, who defeated Lloyd Harris 6-3, 6-2.

# Spinners guide Eves to series win

PTI ■ SURAT

Indian women's team produced another authoritative performance to comfortably defeat South Africa by five wickets in the fifth T20 International, taking an unassailable 3-0 lead in the six-match series.

With two games being completely washed out, the series was extended from five to six matches and India needed to win on the day to seal the series.

Off-spinner Deepti Sharma (2 for 19) and left-arm spinner Radha Yadav (3/23 in 4 overs) bowled brilliantly to restrict the Proteas women to 98 for 8. They got able support from leg-spinner Poonam Yadav, who gave away only 15 runs in her 4 overs and got a wicket.

The chase was an easy one and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (34 not out



off 32 balls) was in her element as the Women In Blue won 17.1 overs.

Harmanpreet's innings had four boundaries and added crucial 50 runs for the fourth wicket with Deepti (16).

The Indian captain finished the match with an exquisite drive off seamer Ayabonga Khaka to finish the proceedings and also completed 2000 runs in the shortest format.

"I am very happy with the performance of our team, especially the spinners. They read the pitch very well and bowled accordingly. The primary reason for playing more spinners is because of the nature of the wicket. On personal front, I am happy to have scored runs," Harmanpreet said after winning 'Player of Match' award.

Earlier Deepti kept a tight leash upfront while Radha and Poonam put the brakes in the middle overs to set the platform for the batters.

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL/BARCELONA

Champions League holders Liverpool came out on top of a 4-3 thriller with Salzburg on Wednesday after throwing away a three-goal lead at Anfield before Mohamed Salah's winner, while Luis Suarez fired Barcelona to a comeback victory over Inter Milan.

Salah won the Group E match for Liverpool with his second of the night in the 69th minute, denying Salzburg a point after teenage sensation Erling Braut Haaland had stunned the Reds when he completed an incredible fightback with his 18th goal of the season.

The hosts looked to be cruising in the 36th minute when Egyptian Salah had added to goals by Sadio Mane and Andy Robertson, but Hee-Chan Hwang's brilliant strike shortly before the break gave Salzburg hope.

Two goals in four second-half minutes from Takumi Minamino and 19-year-old substitute Haaland left the home crowd stunned.

However, Salah spoiled their evening with his sixth goal of the season in all competitions, putting Liverpool level with Salzburg on three points, one behind Napoli after their disappointing goal-less draw at Genk.

#### BRAVE INTER

Suarez saved Barcelona's blushes at the Camp Nou after Lautaro Martinez had scored early for Inter, who then failed to capitalise on their first-half dominance in the Group F clash and lost 2-1.

Barca moved up a gear in the

# Survival of the fittest

Salah saves Liverpool after incredible Salzburg comeback; Suarez's brace ends Inter unbeaten run



Sadio Mane celebrates after scoring Liverpool's opening goal

second half and were deservedly level when Suarez crashed home a superb shot just before the hour mark, and the Uruguayan was at his sharpest to win the match with six minutes remaining.

Lionel Messi, a surprise inclusion from the start, suddenly warmed up and skipped past two challenges before laying on Suarez, whose perfect first touch allowed him to sink Inter and draw Barca level on four points with group leaders Borussia Dortmund.

from a frustrating start to the season with three goals in his last two games.

Dortmund came out on top at Slavia Prague thanks to a pair of counter-attacking strikes from Achraf Hakimi,

whose clinical finishing led Lucien Favre's side to a 2-0 win in the Czech Republic.

The 20-year-old — on loan from Real Madrid — burst onto Julian Brandt's pass in the 35th minute and charged towards the goal, skipping past Petr Sevcik and goalkeeper Ondrej Kolar before rifling home the opener, and repeated the feat in the 89th minute with a neat left-foot finish that made sure of the win.

Ajax took control of Group H with a big 3-0 success at Valencia that put them top with a perfect six points and showed again that they could yet repeat last season's heroics.

Hakim Ziyech opened the scoring for the Dutch champions with an incredible dipping strike on just eight minutes, and Quincy Promes doubled their lead 11 minutes before half-time with his second in as many Champions League games, punishing Daniel Parejo for smashing a penalty high over the bar.

Donny van de Beek sealed the points for last season's semi-finalists when he finished a beautiful passing move in the 67th minute, putting Erik ten Hag's side three points clear of Valencia and Chelsea, who won a tough encounter at Lille thanks to William's 78th-minute volleyed winner.

Tammy Abraham had given Frank Lampard's side a deserved 22nd-minute lead with his first ever Champions League goal before more slack set-piece defending allowed Victor Osimhen to level not long after, but the Ligue 1 outfit are bottom without a point after two defeats.

Zenit St Petersburg top Group G after seeing off Benfica 3-1 in Russia, level on four points with Lyon after their 2-0 win at RB Leipzig.



# ON THE OCCASION OF THE 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF MAHATMA GANDHI

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Guest of Honour: Manish Sisodia, Dy. Chief Minister, Delhi

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