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Petroleum products to be brought under GST in stages: Centre

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia on Friday said the all-powerful GST Council would consider bringing petroleum products under Goods and Services Tax (GST) and it could happen in phases.

Speaking on the issue, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Chairman S Ramesh said although there is demand for bringing petroleum products under GST, the GST Council will have to finalise modalities.

Currently, diesel, petrol, crude oil, natural gas and aviation turbine fuel are outside the purview of goods and services tax, and states have the right to impose a value-added tax on these items.

"One of the demands that is there before us, we will see... everything will happen in stages," Adhia said at an event here.

The civil aviation ministry has time and again voiced its concern on the high rate of taxes on aviation turbine fuel, which accounts for a significant chunk of an airline's operational costs and also has a bearing on airfares.

Earlier, the civil aviation ministry had also written to the finance ministry seeking the inclusion of jet fuel under the indirect tax regime with full input tax credit at the earliest.

The finance ministry has expressed its intention to include natural gas and ATF within the purview of the goods and services tax soon.

"We have done a lot but that it does not mean that there is no scope for the betterment of the existing system. We still believe that we need to do a lot more and we are working in that direction," Adhia said.



SC reiterates that Chief Justice is master of roster

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday upheld the Chief Justice of India's role as "Master of Roster". A two-judge bench, comprising Justices A K Sikri and Ashok Bhushan, stated that the CJI's role could not be interpreted to include the Collegium when it comes to the allocation for cases as it will make day-to-day functioning difficult.

Disposing of the petition filed by senior advocate Shanti Bhushan, Justice A K Sikri said, "Erosion of respect for the Judiciary in public minds is the greatest threat to the independence of the institution."

Justices Sikri and Bhushan delivered two separate but concurring judgments upholding the prerogative of the CJI in allocating cases.

Reacting to the verdict, advocate Prashant Bhushan, who represented Shanti Bhushan in court, tweeted, "Sad that SC today ruled that CJI can unilaterally decide the allocation of cases. 4 judges pointed out in PC that CJI was abusing his powers in allotting sensitive cases like Loya's, medical college scam etc. Unfortunate that SC has not insulated itself from abuse of CJI's powers."

In his petition, Shanti Bhushan had questioned the CJI as the 'Mas-



Chief Justice of India Justice Dipak Misra

PTI

ter of Roster' and wanted either the Collegium or a full court to decide the allocation of cases.

Attorney General K K Venugopal, in response to the plea, had argued that the role "requires a decision on several aspects and that is not something that five (the Collegium) or all of them (judges) can sit and thrash it out". He also told the court that "this is not like the

appointment of judges... where the judges (of the Collegium) are not personally involved (they decide on the files of others). Here, they are personally involved, and each may want to hear cases of a particular jurisdiction."

To this, Prashant Bhushan countered that it was safer to have a collective decision as the CJI, too, could want to hear cases of a par-

ticular jurisdiction.

In January this year, four senior-most judges — Justices J Chelameswar (since retired), Ranjan Gogoi, Madan B Lokur and Kurian Joseph — of the Supreme Court, in an unprecedented press conference, said that the situation in the apex court was "not in order" and many "less than desirable" things had taken place. **See P7**

Highlights

» A two-judge bench stated that the CJI's role could not be interpreted to include the Collegium when it comes to the allocation for cases as it will make day-to-day functioning difficult

» Reacting to the verdict, advocate Prashant Bhushan, who represented Shanti Bhushan in court, tweeted, "Sad that SC ruled that CJI can unilaterally decide the allocation of cases"

LG-CM meet; impasse over services continues



SAYANTAN GHOSH

NEW DELHI: After nearly 48 hours of the Supreme Court judgment, the Delhi Chief Minister and the Lieutenant Governor held a 25-minute closed-door meeting on Friday where the LG assured every cooperation from his side.

However, CM Arvind Kejriwal claimed that LG Anil Baijal had refused to give Delhi government control over the transfer and posting of bureaucrats because of a 2015 order of the home ministry that handed "services" to the Lieutenant Governor.

"Met Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia. Assured them of my continued support and cooperation in the interest of good governance and overall development of Delhi as per the letter and spirit of Constitution," LG Baijal tweeted.

In response, CM Arvind Kejriwal tweeted, "Thank you, sir. All of us should work together for the development of Delhi. The constitution

is supreme. Orders of SC become the law of the land. They must be respected."

Meanwhile, a communique from the LG office said, "The MHA has advised that as per concluding paras of judgement, the nine appeals including the one relating to 'Services' shall be taken up by a Supreme Court bench and the MHA notification dated May 25, 2015, continues to be valid."

However, later the CM alleged, "LG sought advice from home ministry which told him that services should not be given to Delhi government. It is the first time in the history of India that the Central government has openly refused to obey the SC's order..."

Later on Friday the ministry of Home Affairs termed chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's statement on Delhi L-G seeking advice from MHA 'misleading'. "MHA has not advised LG to ignore any part of SC order. This is a misleading statement," a statement from MHA observed. **See P3**

GRIEZMANN SEALS IT FOR FRANCE

France beat Uruguay 2-0 to book semi-finals spot

NIZHNY NOVGOROD: France outclassed Uruguay 2-0 to enter the semi-finals 2018 at the Nizhny Novgorod Stadium in on Friday. Raphael Varane and Antoine Griezmann scored the two goals as France reached their sixth semi-final at the World Cup. A Fernando Muslera howler in the 61st minute handed France a 2-0 lead in the second half of the quarter-final clash. Griezmann hit a powerful shot headed straight to Muslera but he failed to collect it cleanly, and the ball ended up at the back of the net. Raphael Varane had earlier scored with a clinical header in the 40th minute to give France a 1-0 lead over Uruguay at the end of the first half. The first half



didn't see any clear-cut chances for either team. Nahitan Nandez had a chance for Uruguay from close range. Uruguay was the better team in the first quarter but they hardly troubled French goalkeeper Hugo Lloris. Kylian Mbappe had a few good chances for France

in the first half, but he couldn't convert them. He had a glorious chance in the 20th minute when his header from six yards out went way over the goal post. After initial pressure from Uruguay, France got hold of the proceedings and started to dictate the play. **AGENCIES**

Security men rescue three 'sadhus' from getting lynched

MPOST BUREAU

CHILD-LIFTING RUMOURS

HAFLONG: Army and police personnel have rescued three 'sadhus' from getting lynched by a mob, which suspected them to be child-lifters, at Mahur Railway Station in Dima Hasao district of Assam, officials said on Friday. District officials said Army

men posted at an adjacent camp and police officers came to the rescue of three persons on Thursday after hundreds of people had gathered to attack them in the wake of rumours of child-lifting.

The belongings of the 'sadhus' were thrown open by

the mob, videographed and shared on social media, further fuelling the rumours, the officials said. Following the incident, the district administration, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Amitabh Rajkhowa and Superintendent of Police Prasanta Saikia, called for an emergency meeting on Thursday.

CBI arrests two retired BOI officers for ₹2,654 cr fraud

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: The CBI on Friday arrested two senior retired officers of Bank of India in connection with alleged loan fraud of Rs 2,654 crore by Vadodara-based Diamond Power Infrastructure Ltd. (DPIL) in the bank.

V V Agnihotri and PK Shrivastava retired GM and DGM respectively, had allegedly granted undue favours to the company in allowing credit limits, the officials said.

They said both have been arrested on Friday and will be produced before a special court in Ahmedabad on Saturday. The promoters of the company were arrested in April this year.

The agency in an FIR had said that the DPIL, which manufactures electric cables and equipment, is promoted by Suresh Narain Bhatnagar and his sons Amit and Sumit, who are also the directors of the firm.

The loan, it said, was declared a non-performing asset in 2016-17.

BANERJEE ASSURES THAT A UNITED OPPOSITION WILL NOT ENCOUNTER CONFLICTS IN LEADERSHIP AS LONG AS THERE IS UNDERSTANDING

'75 seats will determine the game'

MPOST BUREAU

KOLKATA: Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has asserted with confidence that a single common candidate for 75 seats would seal the game for 2019. "If Mayawati and Akhilesh work together in Uttar Pradesh, the game will be over," she said in an interview with a national magazine. On being asked about the prospects of an opposition alliance, Banerjee showed no restraints in expressing her optimism, "It is possible... Everybody has to work together... Whoever is stronger wherever, let them fight the election. Leadership will not be a problem. If there is understanding, everything can be sorted out."

Garnering undisputed support from West Bengal, Mamata Baner-

jee would be touted by many to assume the coveted role of Prime Minister — the lady in white though has another story to tell. "I have no intent (to be Prime Minister). I am a simple person and happy with my job...Instead of preparing for PM candidature, let us work together," Banerjee said trying to draw the curtains on speculations of her assuming the mighty chair. Nevertheless, on persisting upon her role in the future coalition, she did not entirely rule out the possibility of becoming PM, "Who am I to rule out anything? I am a seasoned politician... after my struggles, I have been MP seven times, MLA twice and a CM twice. I cannot say anything that the others might not like."

The Congress and Mamata Banerjee have, for long, shared a

respectable mutual understanding. Her equations with Sonia and Rahul Gandhi though, are shaded differently, given their distinct engagements. "I respect her (Sonia Gandhi). She is very gentle, sober and polite. We have never had a quarrel," Banerjee has always displayed this unquestioned respect towards the Gandhi matriarch. Towards Rahul too she expresses optimism, "He is from a younger generation, let them work according to their choice...Let them also serve the people as they can."

Despite other regional parties hesitating in embracing the Congress as a part of the opposition coalition, Banerjee remains resolute. Her focus is one: to defeat the BJP along "with anybody as long as they are efficient and their intentions,



philosophy and ideology are clear."

For Mamata Banerjee, the goal is unambiguous as is her personal sense of political etiquette and ethics. "We have to take our countrymen into confidence. Whatever the regional parties decide, we will

"I have no intent (to be Prime Minister). I am a simple person and happy with my job...Instead of preparing for PM candidature, let us work together"

abide by that."

Disclosing for the first time her grievance with her cancelled trips to China and Chicago, Banerjee said tacitly, "I know there was some foul play. I cannot discuss it because I respect my country, that's why

despite knowing the details, I will not tell you." In between the lines of disclosing and enclosing, Banerjee has raised her finger and the direction is only a fool's guess.

Mamata Banerjee has been unsparing in her critique of the incumbent central government, which was exhibited once again as she emphasised, "Except for the publicity, their performance is zero. From foreign policy to economic policy, they have failed in every department."

Speaking of vigilantism and beef ban, Banerjee said without mincing words, "We don't support any terrorist organisation, be it ISIS or RSS militants. You cannot divide the country with your militant activities, your politics of hate. You are giving Hindus a bad name." Baner-

jee further added, "They are inflicting torture. There is no freedom of speech or expression. Everybody is scared, afraid to speak!" Asked about the possibility of an alliance with the BJP, if the NDA falls shorts of the requisite numbers and seeks Banerjee's support, she reiterated her stance, "I cannot support those who cause atrocities." The message then is loud and clear.

The BJP has been accused of compromising India's federal structure and Banerjee too has spoken unequivocally on how the Centre is restricting its cooperation with states, owing to an ideological difference. Despite the difference, Mamata Banerjee has been resilient, refusing to stoop to the powers at the Centre, "I will not beg," she states explicitly. **Turn to P5**

BENEFITS OF FEEDING dogs right during monsoon

Add balanced fibrous food to your dog's diet and engage your pup in regular exercise this monsoon

Hair shedding, immunity issues or an infection – the answer to these problems faced by your dog can be found in their diet, say experts.

Pet Experts and Veterinary Surgeons, suggest a few dietary tips and tricks to take care of your pet this monsoon:

► **Fighting infections:** Diet is the one of the most important elements to solve the underlying problem of yeast build up and its resulting infections throughout a dog's body.

One of the symptoms is excessive itching, in case such symptoms persist consult your vet. Add balanced fibrous food to your dog's diet to ensure regular bowel movements, which in the rainy season can be a blessing as the exposure to outdoors can be restricted. You can try to engage your dog in some indoor exercises to prevent weight gain.

► **Building immunity:** A dog's diet is the foundation of building good immunity. Every dog's

requirement for nutrition is different. For instance, a large sized adult dog's nutritional needs vary from that of a small sized adult dog. An ideal wholesome meal should contain Vitamin C, Vitamin E and Omega 3 fatty acids as they have important immune and anti-inflammatory functions that contribute to a dog's health and vitality. Your dog's meal should contain these nutrients.

► **Taking care of your puppy:** New born pups are the most susceptible to infections. There is an 'Immunity Gap' when they wean off their mother's milk and this is an extremely crucial time to ensure that they are fed a diet which has been carefully designed to deal with the situation.

To bridge this gap, it is imperative to feed them the optimal pet food which contains colostrum. Since, colostrum is first milk produced by the mother immediately after giving birth, it is highly important for newborn pups. Colostrum can also be found as a special ingredient in select packaged pet foods. Pet food fortified with colostrum is proven to enhance immune response in pups for an overall promotion of their digestive and immune health and response to vaccination.

► **Avoid hair shedding:** A pet's coat is the reflection of its health and the food that it consumes. A shiny and healthy coat is the result of optimal nutrition which is a key to a dog's general well-being. Provide your dog with high quality diet with digestible protein sources. Foods with Omega 3 fatty acids also play an important role in promoting a healthy coat with minimal shedding.

► **What to avoid this season:** It is quite common for pet owners to feed their pets with whatever is on their plate or the leftovers. Avoid raw meat, raw chicken, excessive fibrous vegetables and raw or cooked bones. It is essential to follow a particular diet plan and a close watch should be kept on a dog's health when switching food habits.

IAN S



Feeling young could slow down brain ageing: Study

BESIDES IMPROVING your physical and mental health, feeling younger can also slow down the rate of brain ageing, finds a study.

The findings showed that elderly people who feel younger than their age show fewer signs of brain ageing, compared with those who feel their age or older than their age.

"We tend to think of ageing as a fixed process, where our bodies and minds change steadily. However, the passing years affect everyone differently. How old we feel, which is called our subjective age, also varies between people—with many feeling older or younger than their actual age," said Jeanyung Chey of Seoul National University in South Korea.

For the study, published in the journal *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience*, the team included a small number of participants aged 59-84 years, and performed MRI brain scans to look at grey matter volumes in various brain regions.

The results showed that people who felt younger than their age were more likely to score higher on a memory test, considered their health to be better and were less likely to report depressive symptoms.

They also showed increased grey matter volume in key brain regions.

"We found that people who feel younger have the structural characteristics of a younger brain," Chey said.

"Importantly, this difference remains robust even when other possible factors, including personality, subjective health, depressive symptoms, or cognitive functions, are accounted for."

The researchers hypothesised that those who

feel older may be able to sense the ageing process in their brain, as their loss of grey matter may make cognitive tasks more challenging.

One possibility is that those who feel younger are more likely to lead a more physically and mentally active life which could cause improvements in brain health. However, for those who feel older, the opposite could be true.

The study suggests that elderly people who feel older than their age should consider caring for their brain health.

IAN S



Stylish ways to wear socks



SOCKS have their own personality and style statement. They can be matched with not just different kinds of footwear, but also with various outfits, say experts.

Fashion experts share tips of how can you style with socks:

► **Maxi dresses and socks:** Maxi dresses exemplify comfort. A nice long sombre dress matched with a pair of nude shoes and bright socks can be your balancing feature for the day.

► **Socks and palazzo pants:** Palazzos can be paired with anything and almost everything. Socks share similar feels. Coupling a dark coloured

patterned palazzo with light pastel socks and shoes is a good idea.



► **Sock with semi-formals:** Formals no longer mean a three-piece suit. It is important for the attire to give out a professional vibe, and allow you to be comfortable. Because

at most places, monotones are still considered to be formal, add a quirky pair of socks to give it a tinge of vibrancy.

► **Socks and bridal wear:** This combination of quirky customised socks with a wedding gown can actually break the monotone.

► **Socks that clash:** It's fun to take a sock that clashes slightly -- wearing pink socks with red shoes for instance, or the bright blues, which are sort of having a moment, are great matched with brown sandals.

► **Glitter socks for summer:** Absolutely perfect for warm summer days when you want to spice up your look. IAN S

Young, well educated people CHANGE MORE JOBS



People's openness to new experiences did not play a role in them wanting to change their jobs, which was contrary to the researchers' initial prediction.

However, higher levels of education and a lower unemployment rate were related to changing organisation, but unrelated to going into another occupation.

The results also showed that a good education was more important for employees to change into another industry than a positive situation in the labour market.

In recent decades, employees' careers have changed significantly, with long-term employment with one organisation no longer the default career path, researchers said.

Career mobility has important implications for organisations, for example in terms of their strategic HR management and their success in attracting and retaining talented staff.

For employees, every successful job change potentially increases employability and future opportunities for advancing their career.

"For organisations, our results highlight the relevance of investing resources in career management programmes for employee retention. Investments in employees' career opportunities might especially pay off in times of a favourable external labour market, when staff have many external options," said Unger.

PTI

People are more likely to change jobs when they are younger and well educated, though not necessarily because they are more open to a new experience, according to a study.

Researchers from ETH Zurich in Switzerland and the University of East Anglia (UEA) in the UK analysed and compared the effects of individual characteristics and the economic context on career mobility.

They investigated what is more important for people to change their job - the current unemployment rate, their personal openness to new experiences, their age at the time of the job change, or their level of education.

The results, published in the *European Journal of Work and Organizational Psychology*, show that people were more likely to change their organisations, industries, and occupations when they were younger, with the age effect being strongest.

"Whether individuals make a career transition depends undoubtedly on a range of factors," said Dana Unger, a lecturer in UEA's Norwich Business School.

"Our findings have immediate practical implications by improving our understanding of opportunities and hindrances for different kinds of career mobility," Unger said.



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Kejriwal seeks appointment with Union Home Minister

Decision comes after Kejriwal and Sisodia’s meeting with LG Anil Baijal

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday sought an appointment with Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh to urge him to ensure implementation of the Supreme Court orders on governance in Delhi.

“MHA has advised LG to ignore that part of SC order, which restricts LG’s powers to only 3 subjects. V dangerous that central govt advising LG not to follow Hon’ble SC’s orders. Have sought time from Sh Rajnath Singh Ji to urge him to follow Hon’ble SC’s orders (sic),” the Chief Minister tweeted on Friday.

Kejriwal along with his deputy Manish Sisodia met Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal after the apex court’s verdict on Wednesday.

The LG did not agree on handing over the services department to the Delhi government even though Baijal assured him of his “continued support and cooperation in the interest of good governance and development of the national Capital”.

The Chief Minister said that during the meeting Baijal cited a 2015 Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notification that had placed services under the



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia leave after meeting Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal on Friday

PIC/PTI

domain of the LG.

However, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party has stressed that the recent SC judgment had made the notification “infructuous” and that the necessity of

a division bench quashing it was a mere “technicality”.

Regarding the services department and the CM’s statement, the MHA observed, “It would be against the law

to take a final view on the matter related to services which are still pending before the regular Bench. This is also in accordance with the Proviso to Article 145(3) of the Constitution.”

Putting an end to the power tussle in the national capital, the five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra had ruled that the Delhi government does not need the concurrence of the Lieutenant Governor for its decisions but has to only keep him posted.

The LG should not act as an “adversary having a hostile attitude” towards the government but act as a facilitator,” the order said.

“The LG and the council of ministers must attempt to settle any point of difference by way of discussion and dialogue,” it added.

Hours after the Supreme Court’s landmark judgement earlier this week, the Delhi government introduced a new system for transfer and postings of bureaucrats, making the Chief Minister the approving authority.

However, the services department refused to comply, saying the Supreme Court did not abolish the notification issued in 2015 which made the MHA the authority for transfers and postings.

‘Will follow MHA notification on Services till SC clarifies’

SAYANTAN GHOSH

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal on Friday clarified that as suggested by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) he would follow its 2015 notification on the Services Department of the Delhi government.

The LG noted that the Supreme Court, in its judgment on Thursday, has laid down the underlying principles to be followed by the constitutional functionaries while taking decisions.

The apex court held that “the National Capital Territory of Delhi does not have the status of a ‘State’ under the present constitutional scheme”, and also emphasised that under the Constitution, “there is no room for absolutism and no space for anarchy.”

A statement from the LG house on Friday noted, “LG Anil Baijal stated that while the entire judgement and its implications are still being studied, it may kindly be noted that in the concluding paras, Hon’ble Court while answering the reference, has directed to place the matters before the appropriate regular Bench. Therefore, further clarity will be achieved when the appeals pending before the Regular Bench is finally disposed of.”

The statement further noted that the LG observed that so far as the proposals or matters within the legislative competence of the Legislative Assembly of Delhi are concerned, the Supreme Court has laid down that the concurrence of LG is not required on the decisions of Council of Ministers, but at the same time the LG shall be kept informed.



CM Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia meeting LG Anil Baijal on Friday

PIC/PTI

“The said communication is imperative so as to keep the LG apprised in order to enable him to exercise the power conferred under Article 239AA (4) and the proviso thereof,” it stated.

“Finally, in conclusion, the LG invited the CM’s kind attention to para-249 of the judgement, wherein the Supreme Court has observed that the set up in the NCT of Delhi is one where the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister on one hand and the LG on the other are a team, a pair on a bicycle built for two with the President as its rider who retains the general control,” the statement concluded.

Baijal’s statement came after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal claimed earlier in the day on Twitter that the LG had refused to give control of the Services Department to the city government.

In a letter to Kejriwal, Baijal pointed to the 2015 MHA notification issuing “Presidential directions” under Article 239 and 239AA of the Constitution.

HC extends order restraining Metro staff from going on strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Friday extended its order restraining the DMRC staff from going on strike over a number of demands, including pay-scale revision, saying huge inconvenience would be caused to commuters.

Justice Pratibha Rani extended the interim order directing the employees not to go on strike till further orders and sought their response on a plea by the DMRC seeking that they be restrained from resorting to strike.

The high court, in an ex-parte interim order on June 29, had restrained DMRC staff from going on their proposed strike from June 30, saying huge inconvenience would be caused to commuters.

The court on Friday issued fresh notices to some of the office bearers of DMRC staff council, who were not served earlier, and listed the matter for further hearing on September 4.

The court sought to know from Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Sandeep Sethi, appearing for the DMRC,

whether the petition would be infructuous now as the proposed strike date of June 30 is over.

Sethi said the petition cannot be infructuous as the employees submitted three notices that they will strike if their demands are not met.

Advocate Rajeev Mishra, appearing for some of the office bearers of the staff council, urged the court to direct the DMRC to file an affidavit that it will abide by the terms of settlement arrived at between the employer and the employees last year.

Delhi Cabinet clears three pending projects

SAYANTAN GHOSH

NEW DELHI: Within 48 hours of the landmark Supreme Court verdict, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal three pending projects of the Delhi government on Friday.

Kejriwal said he has “overruled all objections”, and approved the doorstep delivery of rations scheme. He also directed the Food and Civil Supplies Department to immediately implement the plan.

Moreover, the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC), in a meeting chaired by Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, cleared two other

projects – releasing the final installment for construction of the Signature Bridge, and construction of academic and hostel blocks of the Delhi Technical University.

Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal had earlier objected to the ambitious doorstep delivery of rations proposal and asked the Aam Aadmi Party-led dispensation to consult the Centre before executing it.

On Wednesday evening, the matter was taken up by Kejriwal at a Cabinet meeting, hours after the apex court pronounced that the LG’s approval was not needed in issues that were not linked to land, police and public order.

On his official Twitter handle, the CM posted “Del govt approves final instalment of Signature Bridge. There shud now be no more obstacles. It shud be ready by October.”

The Signature Bridge project was approved in 1997, after an accident on the narrow Wazirabad bridge wherein a school bus fell into the Yamuna killed 22 children.

After missing multiple deadlines over several years due to inadequate funds, the bridge is likely to open in October.

The project’s cost rose from an initial Rs 1,100 crore to Rs 1,575 crore, and had become a major cause of concern for

the Public Works Department (PWD).

So far, the PWD has released Rs 1,244 crore.

“Chaired Expenditure-Finance-Committee meeting. Two major projects cleared - 1. Final installment for Signature Bridge. Now it would be completed by Oct’18. 2. Two new academic blocks and 3 new hostels in Delhi Technical Univ(DTU). This would add approx 3000 more students to DTU,” Sisodia tweeted on Friday.

The Delhi government also withdrew the permission granted to the NBCC for tree felling for redevelopment of three projects at Netaji Nagar,

Nauroji Nagar and East Kidwai Nagar.

Delhi Environment minister Imran Hussain said he had received the file, which was sent to the LG on Tuesday, in which the minister had strongly recommended revocation of the permission to the NBCC.

The LG accorded his approval to the minister’s recommendation, in accordance with the provisions of the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994.

Recently, the Centre had given approval for the felling of over 16,000 trees in south Delhi, which invited the wrath of residents of the city.

NEW EVIDENCE COMES TO LIGHT IN BURARI TRAGEDY

In Rajasthan, cops get confirmation Lalit was delusional

ABHAY SINGH

NEW DELHI: After visiting the deceased Bhatia family native place in Rajasthan, the Delhi Police Crime Branch has found clinching evidence which makes the case stronger along the line that Lalit, one of the deceased, had delusions and he used to talk like his father who died many years ago.

Police said a team questioned the family members of Lalit and his deceased wife Tina, who confirmed that they were aware of Lalit’s delusions.

“Statements were taken in writing from them, during which one of the families confirmed the delusions,” said an investigator. The team returned after taking the statements.

Cops also confirmed that the deceased family had not visited their village in a while.

“Till now, we have 11 registers and their contents

are being analysed. No more registers or CCTV footages were found,” said the officer.

One of the registers described the days when certain rituals would be performed. Cops are also trying to decipher some of the codes written in the registers.

Moreover, investigators made personal calls to more than 100 persons, whose phone numbers were found in the mobile phones of the Bhatia family. Cops requested them to provide any clues about the deaths.

Investigation has also revealed that the family did not intend to kill themselves, but lost their lives as the superstitious practice suddenly went awry.

Cops recently recovered a CCTV footage, which has captured the last moments of the family members in which they are seen taking stools and wire which was used for hanging inside the house.

‘Psychological autopsy’ to be done by Crime Branch

ABHAY SINGH

NEW DELHI: To unravel the mystery behind the simultaneous death of 11 members of a family in north Delhi’s Burari, Delhi Police will conduct a ‘psychological autopsy’.

Experts said a ‘psychological autopsy’ involves interacting with the relatives, friends and acquaintances of the victim(s) to find out if there was any pattern in their behaviour – for instance whether they were reading the same book or similarly-themed books, or were part of a cult or were influenced by any occultist.

A person had also claimed that a godwoman was behind the incident.

However, during the woman’s questioning, the Delhi Police Crime Branch found that she was not related to the victims.

“She was the daughter of one Kunwarpal, who was the contractor of the house where

the deceased lived and had nothing to do with the case,” said an investigator.

Cops claimed that after the post-mortem report is received likely on Saturday, they will conduct the psychological autopsy.

The expert who will conduct it is yet to be decided. He or she will try to gain insight into the psyche of the deceased.

Investigators will also send viscera samples of the victims bodies for forensic examination to ascertain whether the victims were poisoned.

Delhi Police have found nine registers and more than 100 loose sheets from the house of the deceased.

“We have not found any register or any loose sheets from January and February 2018. The search is continuing for those documents,” said the investigator. Entries for the current year start from March 10, among which ‘Badh Tapasya’ was mentioned.

Sisodia inaugurates Mango Festival at Dilli Haat Janakpuri

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Friday inaugurated the 30th Mango Festival at Dilli Haat here in Janakpuri, which will remain open for public till Sunday, between 11.00 am and 9.00 pm.

Each year, Delhiites eagerly look forward to this fascinating annual exhibition of more than 500 varieties of traditional and rare mangoes, brought from across the country.

Janakpuri MLA Rajesh Rishi, Delhi Tourism Secretary Dr Dilraj Kaur, and managing director of Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation Surbir Singh also



Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia at the inauguration of the 30th Mango Festival here on Friday

PIC/MPOST

attended the programme.

Inaugurating the festival, Sisodia said, “Mango is the king of fruits and Indian summer is incomplete without mangoes.

Delhi’s summer is incomplete without the Mango Festival.”

“Mango has been an inseparable part of Indian culture since ancient times.

From cuisine to ceremonies, mango plays an important role and thus, it deserves a celebration,” Sisodia added.

The various types of mangoes on display will include Langra, Chausa, Rataul, Hussainara, Ramkela, Kesar, Fazri, Mallika, and Amrapali among others.

Consumption of mangoes has many health benefits, like lowering cholesterol, rejuvenating skin, preventing heat stroke, improving vision.

Over the years, the festival has shifted venues, from Talkatora Indoor Stadium to Ashoka Hotel to Pragati Maidan, to Pitampura Dilli Haat in 2010 and now at Janakpuri Dilli Haat.



DELHI POLICE
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Ghana drug peddler killed in scuffle with Gurugram police

His accomplice arrested; large cache of cocaine worth Rs 55 lakh seized

PIYUSH OHRIE

GURUGRAM: An alleged drug-peddler from Ghana identified as Charles Michels was killed when his pistol went off accidentally during a scuffle with the police team of Gurugram and Faridabad in the wee hours on Friday. The deceased has been identified as Charles Michael. His accomplice, Inchiku Ehana-cho, a Nigerian national has been arrested. The police claim to have seized a revolver, two live cartridges and large cache of cocaine worth Rs 55 lakh from them. An amount of Rs 20,000 was also recovered from his possession.

According to the police officials, the duo who used to live in the Greenfield Colony was actively involved in supplying drugs to various clients in Gurugram. They used to be also spotted in various night-



Police had put the barricade on the road to catch the drug peddlers

clubs of the city that resulted in the Gurugram police trying to get hold of them. The Sector-17 Crime Branch team of Gurugram Police, led by Inspector Narender Chauhan, informed their Faridabad counterparts in Sector-30 on Friday around 2 am that they were chasing two drug-peddlers who were

headed towards Faridabad. The Sector-30 Crime Branch team from Faridabad placed barricades on the road and flagged down a cab on suspicion. The police found that Charles and Inchiku were inside the cab. While Inchiku was overpowered by the police, Charles managed to get off the cab and



Deceased Ghana national was identified as Charles Michels

ran towards the bushes while firing at the police team.

The police team chased Charles, but his own pistol went off while he was being overpowered and a bullet hit him. He was taken to Asian Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival. The case has been registered at the

Surajkund police station.

Meanwhile, the law enforcement officials from Gurugram and Faridabad have now begun investigations of the clients whom they used to supply drugs to. Sources in the police also claim that they may be part of a larger gang of the drug cartel that may be operating in areas of South Delhi and Gurugram.

Further information on Charles reveals that he used to live as a tenant in room number 2821 in Greenfield colony. However, as his criminal activities were more restricted to Gurugram, he used to hardly stay at the rented accommodation as claimed by the neighbours. This is not for the first time when a foreign national has been arrested by the police for supplying drugs. In June, a person from Afghanistan was arrested for selling drugs in the nightclubs of Gurugram.

Foreign national criminals descend on Gurugram to make quick buck

PIYUSH OHRIE

GURUGRAM: The death of African national Charles Michels may just prove to be a tip of an iceberg of a large number of foreign criminals that have now made Gurugram the base to carry out their criminal activities. What started off as a part of being involved in sex rackets has now transitioned into drug peddling, betting to even supplying of the illegal arms.

How dangerous this trend is turning out in the crime scene of Gurugram can be gauged from the fact that the two Africa nationals not only possessed illegal arms but also a huge cache of drugs amounting to Rs 55 lakh.

In a major law and order challenge for the Gurugram police, people from various foreign identities are now venturing Gurugram to carry out their criminal activities. In various sex rackets that have been busted by the district police, there is a sizeable number of foreign nationals that are being arrested. Some

The Gurugram police have busted various sex rackets and found that there were a sizeable number of foreign nationals that are being arrested

of the countries where people have been arrested are from Thailand, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. There is also a strong nexus that is developing between the public officials and the agencies that allow these foreign nationals to operate. There have been more than 25 foreigners that are supposedly being arrested for various acts of crime.

Last year, a woman from Afghanistan who was indulged in the sex racket, was arrested by the law enforcement officials. Investigations later revealed that she was operating as Indian national with a fake Aadhar card. Simultaneously

various arrests of foreign criminals have revealed a disturbing trend of them having a fake identity card. Investigations into the death of Shoknes, an Uzbek national who recently died in the Bhondsi prison also highlighted that she was residing in the country with the fake name. Not only sex racket but sources in the police said that most of them were now getting involved in criminal activities of drug peddling, the sale of illegal liquor and arms, bettings to even dabbling in unscrupulous land deals.

Gangs from Bangladesh and Nepal have now also indulged in activities like abduction, burglaries carjackings and cyber crimes.

Police officials assert that opportunity to make quick bucks, glitz, and glamour of the city and a large number of foreign expatriates residing in the city make it an ideal place for carrying out crimes. Ironically most of the foreign nationals especially Nigerians are using social media platforms to befriend people and then dupe them.

Fake call centre busted, in Gurugram, 4 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM: Four persons were arrested for allegedly running a fake call centre with the intention to dupe people in foreign countries, including the United States and Europe. The call center was operational in Udyog Vihar Phase-5. "Four of the arrested had assumed fake names. We are investigating the number of persons they duped and the amount involved. The center was running for many months," said Subash Boken, the Gurugram police spokesperson.

"The employees made calls to the US and offered loans, charging \$700-800 for each case," Boken said.



This is not for the first time when such fake call centers have been busted in Gurugram. In one of the biggest police operations conducted in January, over 10 call centers were raided leading to the arrest of 33 persons. They were also following the same modus operandi of duping the foreign clients.

With 200 crimes registered on monthly basis in Gurugram district, over 3,252 cases were registered in 2017. These were way above the previous figures of 2,402 cases filed in 2016. Like the previous year, in 2017 also crimes committed in forms of online banking thefts, credit and debit card frauds remained the highest in the city.

Prisoner accused of raping daughter kills self

OUR CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM: In yet another controversial event that occurred in Bhondsi jail, a prisoner who was lodged in the jail for rape committed suicide. The prisoner who was arrested last year was being tried for raping his own daughter. According to the police, the deceased committed suicide by hanging himself in the washroom of the Bhondsi jail.

The incident has again raised questions of the working of the jail management who were not able to gauge the extreme action taken by the prisoner. Sources in the police claim that the prisoner who belongs from Saharsa Bihar was depressed and thereby took

this major decision to end his life.

This is the second such death in Bhondsi prison. Earlier, a 38-year old foreign national succumbed due to a mysterious illness in the Gurugram jail.

For long, there have been questions raised on the nexus between criminals and jail authorities as on multiple occasions there have been drugs, mobile phones that have been seized from the prison. Moreover, there have also been extortion calls made inside the prison. The illegal activities continue even as the authorities are trying to put jammers at the prison complex. Criminals from six dreaded gangs are lodged in the jail.

CISF personnel saves US man's life at IGI airport

NEW DELHI: Prompt action by a CISF personnel saved the life of a Paris-bound US passenger at the Delhi airport, a senior official said on Friday.

Frank Russell (68), holding an American passport, suddenly fainted and fell in the terminal area of the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport after he got down from a Mumbai flight on Thursday night. CISF ASI P S Pal saw Russell falling down and he immediately rushed to help him, he said. "Without losing any time, the ASI started administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) medical procedure to the passenger. Russell soon regained his senses and was rushed to hospital," the official said.

MPOST

State-level weightlifter arrested for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: A 40-year-old man, a state-level weightlifter, was arrested from Auchandi Border. Police claimed that the accused who bagged the second position in Delhi, weight category 62 Kgs, in 2001 had gunned down one person in his office. According to the police, they received an information on June 3 and apprehended the accused, Parveen Kumar Lamba, from near Auchandi Border.

Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime) Dr Ajit Kumar Singla stated that on interrogation, the accused disclosed that he always wanted to become a weightlifter and had won the second position in 62 KG weight category in

Delhi in 2001. Due to financial constraints, he was unable to pursue his dream of becoming a national-level weightlifter. He started working with Sanjeev Gora who ran a finance business and was also a fellow weightlifter.

"Sanjeev and the victim Vijay Dabas were partners in a pub/club at Gurugram, Haryana. They had fallen out with each other after a financial dispute. Vijay Dabas had been threatening Sanjeev and was demanding money from him," said Singla.

Sanjeev decided to eliminate Vijay. Sanjeev roped in Deepak, Surrender and Parveen Lamba and together they shot dead Vijay Dabas on January 17, 2015 at Vijay's office in Sector-11 in Rohini.

Kingpin of fake army, railway recruitment racket nabbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Crime Branch of Delhi Police arrested a person believed to be the kingpin of a fake interstate Army and Railway recruitment racket, from Dhaula Kuan on Friday. The accused had duped more than 40 villagers so that he could live a lavish life. The accused was identified as Pan-kaj Kumar Singh (27) who lives in Saran (Chhapra), Bihar. The police claimed that an information was received about an interstate racket involved in conducting fake recruitments in Indian Army and Indian Railway in Bihar, UP, Haryana and Rajasthan. "The information was developed and it was found that this gang was engaged in cheating innocent unemployed youth of several states on the pretext of their

recruitment in Army and Railways," said DCP (Crime) G Ramgopal Naik.

The DCP claimed that the gang had cheated crores of rupees from hundreds of victims by conducting their fake medical tests and subsequently fake appointment letters were issued to the victims. Upon interrogation, the accused revealed that the accused provided fake admit cards to the victims and conducted their fake medical tests at several different recruitment centres of Indian Army as well as the Railways. They also issued fake appointment letters to the victims. "The accused had cheated the candidates from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 6 lakh for arranging jobs for them. As the victims could not join the services, they realized of the cheating," said the DCP.

CYBER SAFETY AND DIGITAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME



Over 2,500 senior citizens from across the Capital attended the 'Cyber Safety and Digital Awareness Programme', presided over by Union Minister of State (Home Affairs) Hansraj Gangaram Ahir. Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik also participated in the event, wherein beat officers interacted with senior citizens and assisted them in safe online activity, including downloading of safe applications

HC slams DU law teachers for illegally detaining students over attendance

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Friday came down heavily on Delhi University law teachers for "illegally" detaining around 500 students for lack of attendance and ordered holding of supplementary exams, saying it was a "failure" of the faculty.

Granting relief to the law students, Justice Rekha Palli said the shortfall of attendance was caused due to "failure of faculty of law to conduct minimum classes as prescribed under the Bar Council of India rules." The court passed a slew of directions and directed the law faculty members to conduct, within eight weeks, at least 139 hours of extra classes/tutorials for those students who are desirous to attend the lectures to make up shortage of attendance. The court said the shortfall of attendance was caused due to "failure of faculty of law to conduct minimum classes as prescribed under the Bar Council of India rules."

The court made the directions while disposing of 21 separate petitions filed by 53 students, challenging the

Granting relief to the law students, Justice Rekha Palli said the shortfall of attendance was caused due to "failure of faculty of law to conduct minimum classes as prescribed under the Bar Council of India rules"

memorandum issued by the law faculty on May 7 and May 8 and May 10, detaining several students of fourth and sixth semester from appearing in the exams for not having an aggregate attendance of 70 percent in the semesters, as required by the BCI Rules.

In its 46-page verdict, the court said there was a prima facie reason to believe that Delhi University Teachers Association strikes saw "large scale participation" of members from law faculty, due to which students have been "unfairly deprived" of an opportunity to meet the prescribed attendance criteria.

It also said there were "glaring discrepancies" in the attendance record and it was maintained in the "most archaic fashion" by the authorities.

As an interim relief, the high court has earlier ordered that the students, who have approached the court after being detained by the DU due to lack of attendance, be allowed to sit for their ongoing examinations subject to final outcome of the petitions.

In judgement, the court said that the faculty must allow those students, who were detained due to shortage of attendance and could not be granted the interim relief, to take their supplementary examinations for the semester concerned.

"However, it is made clear that a student's result in respect of the said supplementary examinations shall be declared only if he/she meets the attendance criteria prescribed under the BCI Rules after attending the extra classes/tutorials held

by the Faculty of Law pursuant to the directions of this court hereinabove," it said. The court observed that by failing to hold prescribed mandatory minimum number of class hours, the faculty "illegally infringed" the students' legitimate expectations to have an adequate opportunity to meet the attendance criteria.

The court said it is a settled legal position that Article 226 of the Constitution confers wide powers on this court to grant such consequential reliefs as may be necessary in the interests of justice to meet the peculiar circumstances of every case.

"I am of the view that in the facts of the present case, the failure to exercise this power will inevitably result in the grant of an incomplete relief with no real remedy being awarded to the petitioners (students), who have not only been illegally detained from giving their end-semester examinations but have also been deprived of their statutory right to attend a certain minimum number of class hours during the course of the concerned semester," the judge said.

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: A family was beaten up and manhandled by a group of robbers which made away with cash and jewellery in East Delhi's Preet Vihar area. Police claimed that they have registered a case and started the investigation. According to the police, the incident was reported on Friday, when the group of robbers entered the house of a businessman in Preet Vihar area. Manmohan Bansal, who owns a hardware shop in Chawri Bazaar, was sleeping with his family when the incident took place.

The robbers, who had covered their faces, climbed over

Police have registered a case and started the investigation

the wall. They were carrying arms with which they hit the Bansals. The accused tied the victims' legs and hands before thrashing them. The accused attacked him with hands and iron rods.

The accused fled with the cash and jewellery. The police were informed about the incident who have started their investigation from all angles. The CCTV of the area was scanned to get some clues

about the incident. The robbers had hit hard on the head of a servant, Ajay, and had tied him up on the terrace.

The Delhi Police has prepared a compendium of around 1,000 pages having the names of more than 1,000 active snatchers and robbers in the national Capital. Approximately 465 active snatchers and around 576 active robbers are named in the compendium. The compendium had all the details of the criminals and their case history. The criminals are not from Delhi NCR. North East Delhi has the highest number of robbers and snatchers whereas the Central Delhi has the least.

Umar Khalid to challenge JNU panel's recommendation upholding his rustication

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Jawaharlal Nehru University student Umar Khalid on Friday said that the students will not "lie low" and vowed to challenge in court the University panels' recommendation upholding his rustication in connection with the February 9, 2016 incident. In a statement released on social media, Khalid said, this is the third time in the last two years that the administration has come up with a rustication order against him in the case—an order that has been twice set aside by the courts.

"We once again reject this farce of an enquiry along with its findings and verdict. It is against all principles of natural justice, and is riddled with contradictions, lies and malice which will soon be exposed again. We will once again challenge this in court," he added.

The PhD scholar said that they were being "targeted in a systematic and a malafide manner by an enquiry that was prejudiced against us from day one".



"An administration that has been running at the orders of the ruling BJP and the RSS, was at no point of time in a position of impartiality to conduct this enquiry. The court has repeatedly found faults with the enquiry process and have vindicated our apprehensions," the statement read.

This recent order of the HLEC in JNU is in line with the pattern of the administration's high-handedness and selective targeting of opposing voices in the student community who against all odds have refused to kneel in the face of despotism, he said.

He further alleged that the panel's recommendations have come up right before they are due to make their final submission.

CITY

BRIEFS

THREE HELD FOR RS 33 LAKH HEIST

NEW DELHI: The Anti Human Trafficking Unit, Crime Branch, Sector 16 Rohini, has arrested three dacoits who were involved in a dacoity of Rs 33 lakh in the month of May 2018, in Model Town in North West Delhi. Total six dacoits were involved. Two were arrested by the local police within days. One accused remains to be arrested in the case.

OVER 500 SAPLINGS PLANTED FOR 'VAN MAHOTSAV' IN GREATER NOIDA

GREATER NOIDA: Civic authorities on Thursday observed 'Van Mahotsav' by planting saplings in Greater Noida Inayatpur area. The programme was organised by Akanksha Samiti of Gautam Budh Nagar, and was headed by Jewar district MLA Dhirender Singh, with district magistrate BN Singh and forest officer HV Girish in attendance. In addition to officers, school children, personnel of the CRPF, led by Deputy Commandant Ram Bharose, planted more than 500 saplings at the CRPF Group Centre in Noida.

Cong supported ‘tukde tukde’ agitation at JNU, says Jaitley

Union Minister uses Syama Prasad’s anniversary to attack Cong on free speech debate

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Arun Jaitley on Friday attacked the Indian National Congress, saying the party supported the “tukde tukde” agitation at the JNU by calling it a “legitimate free speech”, while the first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, amended the Constitution to restrict Syama Prasad Mookerjee’s advocacy of ‘Akhand Bharat’.

Mookerjee, whose birth anniversary falls on July 6 (Friday), was founder and President of Bharatiya Jan Sangh, the precursor of the Bharatiya Janta Party. In a blog, Jaitley said there were many in India who were opposed to the very idea of partition and amongst the leading opponents undoubtedly was Mookerjee.

“He was one of the key advocates of a united India which he referred to as Akhand Bharat. Two days before the ‘Nehru-Liaquat Pact’ was to be signed in April 1950, Dr Mookerjee, who was Industry Minister in the first Cabinet as a Hindu Mahasabha representative, resigned from the Cabinet



in protest and took strong public position against the Nehru-Liaquat Pact,” the senior BJP leader said.

Mookerjee, he said, spoke extensively in Parliament and outside, opposing the pact and advocating his philosophy in brief of ‘Akhand Bharat’.

“Pt Nehru over-reacted to Dr Mookerjee’s criticism. He interpreted the very idea of ‘Akhand Bharat’ i.e. united India as an invitation to conflict since the country could not be reunited other than by war.

“He, therefore, advised Sardar Patel to consider what action would be taken,” said Jaitley, who is recuperat-

ing from a kidney transplant operation. After consultation with Constitutional experts, Sardar Patel’s opinion was that he could not prevent Mookerjee from propagating his idea of ‘Akhand Bharat’ under the Constitution and if the Prime Minister wanted him to stop this, the Constitution needed to be amended.

The Bill to amend the Constitution which, amongst others, contained the restriction relating to ‘friendly relations with foreign states’ was introduced in Parliament, he said, adding it was passed despite objections by leaders like H V Kamath, Acharya Kripalani,

Mookerjee and Naziruddin Ahmad. “Was this intolerance against Dr Mookerjee and his philosophy which triggered this Constitution amendment? The answer is obvious,” Jaitley said. But the major paradox today is that the essence of this amendment was that a mere speech advocating ‘Akhand Bharat’ is a threat to the country, it can be an incitement to a war and, therefore, any talk of the same could be prohibited, he said.

“It could even be made a penal offence. The paradox in our jurisprudential evolution is that we have applied a different yardstick to those who want to dismember India and commit an offence of sedition. This debate recently came into forefront during the ‘Tukde Tukde’ agitation at the Jawaharlal Nehru University,” said Jaitley, in an apparent attack on the Congress.

In the past 70 years, he said India has witnessed a change in the situation where Pt Nehru amended the Constitution so that a demand for ‘Akhand Bharat’ could incite a war and therefore should be prohibited.

“On the contrary, we all were told that to advocate a breakup of the country without inciting violence is legitimate free speech,” the senior minister said.

A group of students had allegedly raised anti-India slogans like Bharat tere tukde honge (India, you will be disintegrated) at the JNU campus in February 2016 and cases were filed against some students.

The BJP had criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for visiting JNU after the incident.

BJP chief Amit Shah had said the Congress should be ashamed of Gandhi’s visit to the JNU campus and questioned whether anti-national slogans can be called freedom of speech. Meanwhile, JNU student Umar Khalid on Friday said the students will not “lie low” and vowed to challenge in court the JNU panel’s recommendation upholding his rustication in connection with the February 9, 2016 incident against Parliament attacks convict Afzal Guru’s hanging during which anti-national slogans were allegedly raised in the campus.

Rahul meets WB leaders to hear views on way forward for 2019

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Congress President Rahul Gandhi on Friday held individual meetings with senior party leaders from West Bengal to hear their views on strengthening the state unit and on the way forward ahead of the Lok Sabha elections next year.

The West Bengal unit of the party is a divided lot, with one section of the party keen on an alliance with the Trinamool Congress in the upcoming general elections and another favouring a tie-up with the CPI-M, sources said.

The division within the party forced the Congress chief to call all state party leaders to the national capital and give them an individual hearing. The meetings took place at the party’s Rakab Ganj Road office.

“Rahul Gandhi met each party leader individually and heard their views on how to strengthen the party. Each party leader, including myself, gave him their point of view on the way forward and for strengthening the party in the state,” said Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, president of the West Bengal Congress.

“We have told the Congress chief about the ground situation,” legislator and AICC secretary Moinuddin Haq added.

‘PM’s MSP increase is like band-aid for a haemorrhage’

NEW DELHI: Congress President Rahul Gandhi on Friday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s “grand MSP increase” for farmers is like applying band-aid to a “massive haemorrhage”.

Terming it mere “marketing”, he compared the MSP hike with the farm loan waiver of the Karnataka government. Gandhi described the Karnataka government’s initiative an “action” that will help farmers to the tune of Rs 34,000 crore against Modi’s Rs 15,000 crore budgeted for India’s 120 million farmers.

PM’s grand MSP increase

is budgeted at just 15,000 crore for India’s 120 million farmers; which is like applying a Band-Aid to a massive haemorrhage.

“To put this MSP increase in perspective: in Karnataka, we’ve waived small farmer loans of over 34,000 crore! Marketing Vs Action,” he said on Twitter. The Karnataka government yesterday announced a farm loan waiver of Rs 34,000 crore for farmers of the state.

The Modi government had on Wednesday announced a Rs 200 hike in MSP for paddy.

MP051

Shah, Rahul to visit Gujarat between July 13 and 17

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Both the national party presidents of BJP and opposition Congress are scheduled to visit Gujarat in a quick succession. While Bharatiya Janata Party chief Amit Shah will attend series of programmes on both July 14 and 15, the Congress president, Rahul Gandhi’s, two-day visit is probably scheduled on July 16 and 17.

According to the ruling BJP sources, Shah will reach Ahmedabad on July 13 night and will perform puja next day on the holy occasion of Rath Yatra as it is being widely celebrated in the state. “At the same day, Adhyakshji will also inaugurate the Youth Parliament programme. Fourteen speakers from different political parties will attend the programme, organised by Karnavati University,” a senior party leader of Gujarat said.

Following that, Shah will also address party workers and office bearers of BJP on July 15, where the roadmap for 2019 Lok Sabha elections will be strategised, party sources mentioned.

On the other hand, Congress president Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to visit the Saurashtra region of Gujarat during his two days visit and will address both farmers of that region and the traders at Bhavnagar.

Eying the impending general elections Gandhi will also address party’s secretaries and general secretaries, party sources said. However, his tour to the state is yet to finalise by the state wing.

Later this month on July 21 and 22 Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also visit Gujarat and will attend two programmes of Gujarat Forensic Sciences University and Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University in Gandhinagar.

Paswan thanks PM for hiking MSP

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PATNA: Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) president Ram Vilas Paswan today thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for fulfilling his promise of hiking the MSP of Kharif crops to 1.5 times the cost of production.

The Modi government has fulfilled one of its two promises of hiking the minimum support price (MSP). The government had committed to fixing the MSP at 50 per cent above the cost of production, Paswan, the Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, told reporters here. The earlier hikes used to be in the range of Rs 20 to Rs 30, but this is the first time that the MSP has seen a “quantum jump”, he said.

“Our party thanks Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the Central Cabinet’s decision to hike the MSP to 1.5 times the production cost for 14 food grain items. This is a historic



decision,” Paswan added.

The Modi government is now working on its second promise of doubling farmers’ income by 2022, he said, adding, “The government has constituted a committee to look into various aspects as to how to execute it.”

Stating that the Centre had taken several steps to improve the farmers’ lot in the past, the Union minister said the government implemented the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana. Besides, the last Union budget was regarded a farmers’ budget.

The cost of production for the 14 various food grain items

for which the MSP has been fixed was decided by an independent agency and not by the Union Agriculture Ministry, he said. The agency has calculated the cost of production of paddy at Rs 1,166 per quintal and the government has fixed the MSP of paddy (common grade) at Rs 1,750 and Rs 1,770 per quintal for grade A variety for 2018-19 season, thereby increasing the MSP to over 50 per cent above the cost of production.

Paswan said if the state or the central government was not able to procure grains from farmers at the MSP, then they might consider purchasing grains from traders who will be paid the difference (MSP minus market rate) by the central government. “There are several options before the central government and one of them is to allow the traders to buy grains from farmers at MSP rate. The difference between the MSP and market rate would be paid by the government to the traders as subsidy.

K’taka speaker irked over mins’ absence in House

OUR CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU: The absence of several ministers in the Karnataka assembly for the second time in three days drew the ire of the Speaker Ramesh Kumar on Friday, who warned that he would take a ‘very serious’ view of it.

Many Ministers of the Congress-JD(S) government were absent as the Speaker asked them one after the other to lay the papers listed against their name on the table of the House.

Noticing Parliamentary Affairs Minister Krishna Byre Gowda laying papers on behalf of the ministers, Kumarsought to know about their whereabouts and said ‘it is not fair’ on their part to be absent.

Gowda submittedhe would send word to those Ministers.

The Speaker then asked the ruling coalition’s chief whip Ganesh Hukkeri to look into it. “Today according to the list



of business they had to be present in the House. The agenda was also sent to them. It is their responsibility to lay the papers. I cannot worklike this... I’m sorry,” Kumar said.

Stating that he was allowing it to happen for one last time, he said “from the next time if Ministers required to be present in the House to present their papers are absent without my permission, I will take every serious view of it.”

Pointing out that only a couple of ministers had taken his permission, he further asked Parliamentary Affairs Minister to advise the Ministers.

Meghalaya CM rubbishes reports of PDF pulling out of alliance

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma today said the four-month-old Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA) government is “stable” and rubbished media reports of coalition partner People’s Democratic Front (PDF) pulling out of the alliance.

The MDA comprises the National People’s Party (NPP) with 19 MLAs, the United Democratic Party (UDP) with 7 MLAs, the PDF with 4 MLAs, the Hill State People’s Democratic Party (HSPDP) and the BJP with 2 MLAs each, the NCP with 1 MLA and two Independents MLAs in the House of 60.

“The government is stable. I had a talk with them (PDF MLAs) and there is no question of their withdrawal,” the chief

minister said on the sideline of a programme here.

He said all MDA partners were “committed” to completing the five-year term.

Sangma’s statement came in the wake of media reports of PDF chief P N Syiem, who is also the chief executive member of the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC), reportedly threatening to pull out of the MDA.

The chief minister said the PDF might have some issues within the party with regard to the coalition politics in the KHADC.

He, however, added that the issues of the district council might not necessarily affect the alliance government, and cited the example of how the coalition partner UDP is supporting the Congress in the Jaintia Hills Autonomous Dis-

trict Council.

PDF MLA and Meghalaya Sports Minister Banteidor Lyngdoh said, “We are moving ahead with the policies and programmes of the government and we are not withdrawing support.”

He said it was childish on the part of Syiem to make such alleged statements without first consulting the MLAs concerned.

Currently, the strength of the Meghalaya Assembly stands at 58 after Congress MLA Martin M Dango and NPP MLA Agatha K Sangma resigned.

Dango resigned as he will join the ruling NPP while Agatha resigned to make way for Conrad Sangma to get elected to the state Assembly.

Conrad Sangma is currently the Lok Sabha MP from Tura.

Legalising gambling in sports will create problems: CPI

HYDERABAD: Veteran Communist leader Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy said today legalising gambling and betting in sports would create “lots of problems”, leave room for cheating and provide no level-playing field.

The Law Commission yesterday recommended that gambling and betting in sports be allowed as regulated activities taxable under the direct and indirect tax regimes and used as a source for attracting foreign direct investment.

Reddy, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of India (CPI), said the issue is yet to be discussed in his party but his initial reaction is that it is not good.

“If betting and gambling are legalised, it will create lots of problems,” he said.

“My initial reaction is negative about it.”

MP051

Allow Arvind Kejriwal to work: Shiv Sena to Centre

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI: The Shiv Sena said on Friday that the Centre should cooperate with the AAP government in Delhi and allow Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to work.

The statement comes in the wake of a SC judgement in favour of Kejriwal regarding the national capital’s statehood.

The BJP’s carping ally said PM Narendra Modi could have reined in Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Anil Bajjal had he wanted to, during the tug of war between the L-G and the AAP government.

The apex court, in a landmark judgement two days back, had said the L-G is bound by the elected government’s advice and cannot be an “obstructionist”.

“The Supreme Court said the L-G cannot suppress a gov-



ernment that has been voted to power and do as he wishes to. At least now the standoff between the L-G and the Delhi government should end and Kejriwal should be allowed to do his work as the Chief Minister,” the Sena said in an editorial in party mouthpiece *Saamana*.

The political standoff was not between Kejriwal and L-G Bajjal, but between the Delhi chief minister and Modi, the Sena said. “Had Modi wanted to, he could have reined in the L-G who was appointed by the central government. But the

Supreme Court had to do this work,” it said.

The Sena said it doubted the L-G’s “interference” in decisions of the Delhi government will cease after the Supreme Court verdict.

“The AAP government came to power with a huge mandate (in early 2015) despite the Modi wave and the BJP got just three assembly seats,” the Sena publication said.

“There can be a difference of opinion on Kejriwal’s style of functioning, but people’s mandate should be respected and the Centre must cooperate with the Kejriwal government,” it said.

The Marathi daily added that the actions of the Delhi L-G, of not keeping the importance of his constitutional post in mind, have lowered the prestige of the administration and the Raj Bhavan.

Guj: Another OBC leader threatens to quit Congress

AHMEDABAD: After Kunwarji Bavaliya’s exit, another senior OBC leader, Vikram Madam, on Friday said he may quit the Congress if the party’s state leadership did not address his grievances.

“I will raise several issues and questions that are bothering me on the party forum and will expect answers. If I am not satisfied, I can leave the Congress,” Madam told reporters before meeting the party leaders here.

The OBC leader, who represented Jamnagar in the Lok Sabha twice, is now the MLA from Khambhalia.

MP051

I try to run LS like a mother: Mahajan

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan said on Friday she tries to run the house with motherly instinct.

Addressing members of Rashtra Sevika Samiti, the women wing of RSS, on the birth anniversary of its founder Laxmibai Kelkar in Delhi, Mahajan said her job needs fine balancing like a mother who would rather scold her children behind close doors than in public. “When I sit on the Speaker’s chair, I think that all parties have their own politics. They have their own problems and they have their own leaders who must have directed the members of parliament to do

something. I always try to make them understand.

“My efforts had been always to run the house smoothly. If they still do not understand, then I would adjourn the house, call them inside my cabin, scold them or make them understand. I can also advise them. So that shows my great motherhood. I will not show my anger. This is also an example of balancing in the society,” Mahajan said.

Her remarks came as the Monsoon Session of Parliament is set to begin on July 18. It will have nearly 18 sittings.

The triple talaq bill, passed by Lok Sabha and pending in Rajya Sabha, will top government’s agenda during the ses-



sion. Without naming anyone, Mahajan took a dig at Congress president Rahul Gandhi, saying many leaders do not have knowledge about the samiti and tend to put forward incorrect views. “I am a servant of this samiti. But since I am the Speaker, I cannot say it at any public gathering. I know that Laxmibai Kelkar had founded Rashtra Sevika Samiti only after taking inspi-

ration from the Sangh. “(RSS founder K B) Hedgewar has said the Sangh can give everything to the Samiti but the work needs to be done by the women members. There is no need for women to join the RSS because there is Rashtra Sevika Samiti for them,” she said.

Mahajan said she had sent a book on the history of the samiti along with a letter to Gandhi “informing” him about the women wing of the Sangh.

On October 10 last year, Gandhi alleged that the RSS discriminates against women. “How many women are there in the RSS?... Have you ever seen any woman in ‘shakhsa’ wearing shorts? I have never seen,” he had said sarcastically.

Court sends separatist Aasiya, 2 others to 10-day NIA custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Aasiya Andrabi and two other Kashmiri separatists were on Friday handed over by a Delhi court to the National Investigating Agency (NIA) for 10 days’ custodial interrogation in connection with a case of allegedly waging war against the country.

Amid tight security, the trio, who were brought here from Srinagar, were produced before District and Sessions Judge Poonam Bamba.

During the in-camera proceedings, the judge allowed the plea of the NIA that Andrabi, who is chief of the banned outfit Dukhtaran-e-Milat, and others were required to be quizzed as investigation has revealed that by their activities in cyber space they “are running a concerted campaign to solicit support” from terrorist entities from Pakistan.

The NIA had sought the custody of Andrabi and her two associates -- Sofi Fehmeeda and Nahida Nasreen -- for 15 days.

The lawyers, who were

associated with the case, were allowed inside the court room and they briefed the waiting media about the court proceedings.

The case was registered against the three women in April this year.

Seeking their custody, the NIA said, “The present investigation has so far revealed that the accused persons are found involved in the conspiracy and acts to severely destabilize the sovereignty and integrity of India.

“By their activities on cyber space they are running a concerted campaign to solicit support of Pakistani establishment which inter-alia includes arranging support from terrorist entities from Pakistan.

“Their involvement needs further investigation and for this purpose the interrogation of accused persons has become a necessity.”

The three women have been arrested for the offences under sections 147(rioting), 148(rioting armed with deadly weapon), 149(unlawful assem-



Aasiya Andrabi

bly), 341(wrongful restraint), 336(endangering life of others), 307(attempt to murder) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of Ranbir Penal Code and under relevant provisions of Prevention of Damage of Public Property Act and Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.

Andrabi, who was in a prison in Srinagar after the Jammu and Kashmir High Court cancelled her bail last month, was brought here from Kashmir along with her associates.

The NIA, on directions of the Union Home Ministry, registered a case against them as well as the organisation, which is banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act,

1967, in April this year.

According to the FIR, the “central government has received information that Aasiya Andrabi and her associates namely Sofi Fehmeeda and Nahida Nasreen are actively running a terrorist organization named as ‘Dukhtaran-E-Millat’ (DEM) which is proscribed under the First Schedule to the UAPA.”

“They are using various media platforms to spread insurrectionary imputations and hateful speeches that endanger the integrity, security and sovereignty of India. DEM through Aasiya Andrabi openly advocates secession of Jammu and Kashmir from the Union of India and has also called for Jihad and use of violence against India,” the FIR alleged.

The agency also said in the FIR that Andrabi and her associates had spoken, written and also published “visible representations that bring into hatred and contempt apart from exciting disaffection towards the Government of India”.

High Court pulls up UP cops for Lucknow University vandalism

OUR CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW: The Allahabad High Court on Friday pulled up the Uttar Pradesh Police for not responding promptly to the complaint of Lucknow University authorities on the incident of vandalism on its campus earlier this week.

The Lucknow bench of the high court expressed indignation when the DGP, Lucknow SSP, LU vice chancellor, registrar and proctor appeared before it on summons in connection with the incident.

The bench of justices Vikram Nath and Rajesh Singh directed police authorities to file an affidavit on their action in the matter. The matter will be next heard on July 16.

Twenty-five expelled students of the LU had assaulted the VC and teachers on July 4.

The court, which took suo motu cognisance of the matter on the basis of newspaper reports, also asked the university to give suggestions as to what should be done to control hooliganism on the campus.

The high court had on Thursday issued summons to top LU officials, besides the



UP DGP to explain the attack, prompting the police chief to ask an inspector general rank officer to probe the campus clashes.

Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police OP Singh swung into action and handed over the probe into the violence to Lucknow Range IGP Sujeet Pandey, transferred Circle Officer Anurag Singh and suspended university police outpost in-charge Pankaj Mishra.

The DGP’s action came after a delegation of LU teachers led by Vice Chancellor SP Singh called on him.

The DGP assured the VC of strict action against those who indulged in violence and asked the teachers to go back to work.

While issuing summons, the Lucknow bench of the high court also ordered Lucknow senior superintendent of police to be present before it and explain the incident and why the police did not respond promptly when LU authorities informed it about the imminent attack.

The court had also asked the two top police officers to detail steps taken in the wake of violence to improve the security situation in the university campus.

The court took on record the copies of a Hindi and an English daily and directed its registry to register the matter as a Public Interest Litigation with its title as ‘Lucknow University Vandalism’.

342 stranded Indian Kailash Mansarovar pilgrims evacuated from Nepal’s Simikot

KATHMANDU: Over 340 Indians pilgrims were moved to safety from Nepal’s mountainous Simikot region on Friday, with flights and choppers being used to evacuate those stranded in the country while returning from the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage in Tibet amidst inclement weather.

Those rescued have been moved to Nepalgunj and Surkhet, the two towns close to the Indian border and having better health care and infrastructure facilities.

“A total of 342 stranded pilgrims were evacuated by engaging 21 flights, two private choppers from Simikot to Nepalgunj and Surkhet today,” the Indian embassy here tweeted on Friday.

“Embassy arranged bus services to ferry evacuated pilgrims from Surkhet to Nepalgunj,” the



mission said.

The number of stranded pilgrims in Hilsa, near the Tibet border, was “almost nil” now, an embassy official told news agency PTI from Simikot.

The official said several of the pilgrims who were moved to Surkhet and Nepalgunj have

already begun their onward journey to India.

The Uttar Pradesh government has assisted in the process by deploying its state transport buses, the official said.

On Thursday, 275 pilgrims were evacuated from Hilsa, taking the number of people who

have been moved to safety in the last three days to 675, the Indian Embassy had said.

The mission had on Thursday said its camp offices were fully functional in Simikot and Surkhet. On Thursday, the Indian embassy also issued a revised advisory for the prospective pilgrims today, suggesting medical examination before taking up the yatra.

The embassy has set up a hotline for pilgrims and their family members, which also comprises other language speaking staff for Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam speakers.

The pilgrimage to Kailash Mansarovar in Tibetan region of China is considered holy by Hindus, Buddhists and Jains. Every year, hundreds of Indians undertake the ‘yatra’ which involves trekking under inhospitable conditions.

Amarnath Yatra resumes After gap of two days from Pahalgam route

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR: The Amarnath Yatra resumed on Friday from the Pahalgam route after a gap of two days while it remained suspended for the third consecutive day from the Baltal route due to landslides.

The yatra was suspended on Wednesday on both routes in the wake of landslides and shooting stones at several places and intermittent rains in the Yatra area.

A spokesman of the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) said here today that the yatra resumed from the Pahalgam route in south Kashmir’s Anantnag district this morning.

He, however, said the yatra remained suspended from the Baltal route in central Kashmir’s Ganderbal district due to landslides near the base camp and in Danibagh area of Kangan on the Srinagar-Leh highway.



A security person keeps vigil as pilgrims walk towards the holy cave shrine of Amarnath, in Pahalgam on Friday

The landslide at Danibagh also forced the closure of the Srinagar-Leh road the only road-link connecting the valley with Ladakh region.

A police official said today that three pilgrims died and four others were injured when they came under a landslide between Brarimarg and Railpathri on Baltal route on Tuesday night while two pilgrims

were killed by shooting stones over the past three days.

A pilgrim from West Bengal, Sanjay Santra, died near the cave shrine due to cardiac arrest, the official said.

Six other persons have died due to cardiac arrest since the pilgrimage to the 3880-metre high shrine began on June 28, taking the death toll in this year’s pilgrimage to 12.

3 Naxals killed in C’garh gunbattle; policeman injured

RAIPUR: Three Naxals were killed in an encounter with security forces in Dantewada district of the Chhattisgarh on Friday, a senior official said.

A jawan of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) was also injured in the exchange of fire in the insurgency-hit district, located around 450km from the state capital Raipur, he said.

The gunbattle took place in a forest under Katekalyan police station limits when a joint team of the DRG and the District Force was out on an anti-Maoist operation, Deputy Inspector General of Police (Anti-Naxal Operations) Sundarraj P said.

When the patrolling team was cordoning off the forest near Pedadabba village, Naxals triggered an IED blast and fired indiscriminately, leading to the gunbattle between the two sides, he said.

UP: Woman dragged into forest, molested; 2 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT

UNNAO (UP): A woman was dragged into a forest here and molested by a group of men, two of whom have been arrested after a video of the incident made by the accused went viral on social media, police said on Friday.

Though the incident took place a few months ago, the video surfaced on social media recently, they said.

In the video, the accused can be seen dragging the woman into a forest as she pleads for mercy with folded hands. They then molest her.

Police swung into action after the video surfaced online and registered an FIR against

eight people.

Investigations have revealed that all the men seen in the video belong to the Baba Kheda area in the district, Superintendent of Police Harish Kumar said.

Two of the accused have been arrested in connection with the incident. One of the men was nabbed on July 4 in connection with a theft case, the SP said.

Efforts were on to nab the other accused, the SP added.

In the same district, a 16-year-old girl had in April accused a BJP lawmaker of raping her and attempted suicide outside Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath’s home in Lucknow.

After passenger’s tweet, 26 girls rescued by GRP, RPF from train

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: 26 underage girls were rescued by the GRP and RPF from the Muzaffarpur-Bandra Awadh Express after a tweet from a passenger alerted them to the situation.

On July 5, a passenger on board the train tweeted that he was travelling in the S5 coach of the train and noticed around 25 girls crying and looking uncomfortable.

Reacting to the tweet, officials in Varanasi as well as Lucknow swung into action and within half an hour of the alert on social media site started investigating the matter, a railway spokesperson said.



The GRP at Gorakhpur coordinated with Childline along with the anti-trafficking unit of the police.

Two RPF jawans in plain-clothes boarded the train at Kaptanganj and escorted them to Gorakhpur.

“26 girls were found with two men, aged 22 and 55 years.

All of them are from West Champaran in Bihar. The girls were being taken from Narkatikyaganj to Idgha. When questioned the girls were unable to answer anything convincingly, so they have been handed over to the child welfare committee.

The girls are believed to be between the ages of 10 and 14 years.

“Their parents have been informed and the men have been taken into custody,” a statement from RPF said.

This incident comes days after Chairman Railway Board Ashwani Lohani launched an awareness campaign for protection of children coming in contact with railways.

Madhav defends Sushma

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: BJP general secretary Ram Madhav on Friday disapproved of the “hounding, abuses, death-wishes and obscenities” aimed at Union minister Sushma Swaraj on social media in a row over passport application of an interfaith couple, describing her as a leader who has championed the cause of nationalism for over four decades.

In an article in a leading English daily, he also said that difference of opinion in such matters is plausible and valid but it would be improper to blame the external affairs minister for a decision like transfer of a passport official accused of asking irrelevant questions to the couple about their religions.

Medhav’s defence of Swaraj is the first instance of a senior BJP office-bearer offering a detailed public response on the controversy. He is also considered close to the RSS.



Swaraj was viciously attacked after her ministry had issued a passport to Tanvi Seth, days after she accused Lucknow-based passport officer Vikas Mishra of harassing her and her husband Anas Siddiqui.

Seth had made a slew of allegations against Mishra, including asking her husband to convert to Hinduism and pulling her up for marrying a Muslim. The passport official, who claimed that he made only professional enquiries, was subsequently transferred.

“Every issue that involves two different religionists need not be seen from a religious prism alone. There can be secular issues involving people of



different religions. They should be seen from a purely administrative or governance prism,” Madhav argued.

“A difference of opinion in these matters is plausible and valid as well. What is not valid is the hounding, the abuse, the death-wishes, the obscenities like calling her Begum Sushma or worse commenting on her health and kidney - or a retired professor asking her husband to beat her up,” he said. All this was done to a leader who championed the cause of nationalism for over four decades in the rough and tumble of the country’s politics, by those who claim allegiance to the very same ideology, Madhav added.

‘Status quo is not the answer,’ says Swaraj

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: “Status quo is not the answer,” External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on Friday sternly told Delhi’s Regional Passport Office after it replied on Twitter to a passport applicant that there was “status quo” on her police clearance certificate.

The Indian woman had asked Swaraj, India’s Consulate in Vancouver and the Regional Passport Office (RPO) Delhi on Twitter to look into the matter of her police clearance certificate (PCC) as her daughter’s visa was expiring soon and she had to bring her to Canada from India.

Hours after Swaraj’s stern message, RPO Delhi tweeted that the clearance had been sent to the Consulate General of India, Vancouver.

The woman had tweeted in June that more than three months had passed and still

there was no response from RPO Delhi.

The RPO Delhi had then told her that PCC was under process. A few days later when she again asked about the progress in the case, Regional Passport Office Delhi tweeted “status quo”.

To this, Swaraj replied, “Status quo is not the answer. We must end this status quo. Please do the needful and help her.”

It was not clear whether her application was for passport renewal or for a fresh passport.

Meanwhile, the minister also helped trace an Indian man who was rendered homeless in Saudi Arabia after losing employment, and said efforts were on to bring him back to India.

Swaraj’s help was sought on Twitter in connection with a person named Narendra Kumar from Rajasthan, who had lost his employment and was rendered homeless.

Legalise prostitution: Retired SC Judge Hegde

OUR CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD: Supporting the Law Commission’s recommendation on allowing gambling and betting in sports, retired Supreme Court Judge N Santosh Hegde on Friday even favoured legalising prostitution, saying vices cannot be abolished by the state.

“A person who thinks vices can be abolished by law is living in a fool’s paradise,” said the former Solicitor General of India.

The Law Commission yesterday recommended that gambling and betting in sports be allowed as regulated activities taxable under the direct and indirect tax regimes and used as a source for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).

“It’s a very good recommendation”, Hegde said. “There are certain vices which cannot be controlled by law and any attempt to control such vices will lead to illegal systems developing”.

“We have experienced it earlier when there was prohibition. There is illicit liquor production there (where prohibition was in place). Government loses excise duty, the vice will continue, you can’t control it. These are certain things which can’t be controlled by law”, he said. Similarly, illegal gambling is going on in the country. Making it legitimate and by controlling it, 70-75 per cent of illegal activities will stop, the former Karnataka Lokayukta said.

“But certain amount of control is absolutely necessary”.

Asked if he thought prostitution should also be legalised, Hegde said: “It has to be legalised. It’s going on everywhere. What’s the big idea of. (keeping it illegal). It should be legalised”.

NATION BRIEFS

MOU TO FOCUS ON CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN EDUCATION SECTOR SIGNED

NEW DELHI: With an objective to focus more on democracy, social justice and gender issues, the PRIA International Academy and Manipal University, Jaipur have come together through an agreement.

The initiative would help universities in realising the need to think and act ‘differently’ in order to deal with the contemporary challenges of inequality and unsustainability, said professor Madhura Yadav.

AM PHYSICALLY FIT BECAUSE I PLAY BALL BADMINTON REGULARLY: VP

PUDUCHERRY: Highlighting the importance of fitness, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Friday said he keeps himself fit by playing ball badminton everyday. Launching projects to promote sports and games in Puducherry, Naidu said: “I am 68 years old now. I am brisk and keep myself fit because I play ball badminton everyday regularly.” He said next time when he visited Puducherry he would play the game along with Puducherry Health and Sports Minister Malladi Krishna Rao in the multi-purpose indoor sports complex for which he laid the foundation on Friday.

RETIRED COMMANDENT OF IRB, THREE OTHERS ABDUCTED IN MANIPUR

IMPHAL: Four persons, including a retired commanding officer (CO) of the 4th Indian Reserved Battalion (IRB) have been abducted by armed gunmen from Sekmai in Manipur’s Imphal West district, a top police officer said today. The abduction of the four senior officers took place on Thursday evening when they were on their evening walk from Sekmai to Khurkul village, Manipur Director General of Police L M Khaute said.

SIX-YEAR-OLD ABDUCTED, RAPED BY RICKSHAW PULLER IN UTTAR PRADESH

BANDA (UP): A six year-old girl was allegedly abducted and raped by a rickshaw puller in the Atarra chowki area here, police said on Friday. The victim and her eight-year-old sister, belonging to a nomadic tribe, were sleeping outside their roadside shanty last night when they were allegedly abducted by the accused, who took them to a secluded place, Superintendent of Police Shalini said. Though the elder sister ran away, the younger one was raped.

‘NRIs can promote India as tourist destination among their guests’

PM Modi calls upon ‘Hotel motel Patel wallas’ in United States

WASHINGTON: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the Gujarati Patel community in the US popular as “hotel motel Patel wallas” can help promote India as a tourist destination among their guests by putting slides about the country on their hotel TVs.

Addressing Saurashtra Patel Cultural Samaj of the US via video-conference, Modi urged each NRI to inspire five foreign families to visit India to give a boost to tourism.

“You are known as the people of ‘hotel motel Patel wallas’. Whenever you get a guest in your hotel or motel, why don’t you put a few slides of India on TV. When the guests turn on the TV they will be able to see what India is,” Modi said.

Patel community, which originally hails from Gujarat, are mostly into the motel business in the US. A 2014 article in



the reputed Smithsonian magazine had said that at least half of America’s motels are owned by Indian Americans, and of that 70 per cent are owned by Patels.

Modi urged the NRIs to contribute for the growth of the country when it is on the “rapid path of progress.”

“Inspire at least five non-Indian families to visit India. If you do not invest a rupee in India but just do this it will be

a great service to the nation,” he said.

Modi further said that this is the year of Kumbh Mela and NRIs can inspire people to visit this unique gathering. He said that India has many things to offer on the tourism front.

Modi said NRIs contributed immensely to ward off forces in the “neighbourhood” who were hell bent to defame India and make the world accept its view

Modi further said that this is the year of Kumbh Mela and NRIs can inspire people to visit this unique gathering

on terrorism.

“There are elements in our neighbourhood who tried to defame us all over the world. For the last five to seven decades they adopted various means, they used money. They have only one job and that is to defame Hindustan,” Modi said without taking the name of Pakistan.

“We had seen that many people from many parts of the world were standing with them. But the situation has

changed now as the world is standing with us and only few people are with them. Entire world has now accepted our point of view on terrorism,” Modi said.

“Your (NRIs) contribution is immense in convincing the world about India’s point of view. Due to your behaviour, thinking and capacity to mix with and take all the people together you have created an image for yourselves in the entire world.

“The people of world who come in contact with person of Indian origin have seen that you contribute to the growth of their country, you do not create problems, wherever our children are, in school or colleges, the authorities there are sure that they will be toppers and our doctors have created image of being sincere and hard working people,” Modi said. PII

India, Bhutan resolve to take ties to new heights

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bhutanese counterpart Tshering Tobgay on Friday resolved to enhance Indo-Bhutan ties in all areas of mutual interest and take the “exemplary” bilateral partnership to “new heights”.

The two prime ministers held wide-ranging talks here covering a range of bilateral and regional issues of “mutual interest” and expressed satisfaction at the “excellent” state of bilateral relations, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

It said Modi reaffirmed that, as a friend and close neighbour, India will continue to partner with Bhutan in pursuit of its development goals.

It is understood that the two sides deliberated on various strategic issues, including ways to deepen defence and security cooperation, as well as situation on the Doklam plateau.

“Happy to have met my friend, PM @tsheringtobgay in New Delhi. We had extensive discussions on further increas-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hand with the Prime Minister of Bhutan, Tshering Tobgay at Hyderabad House

NAVEEN SHARMA/MILLENNIUM POST

ing India-Bhutan cooperation,” Modi tweeted. Modi hosted a lunch in honour of the visiting dignitary. The MEA said the two prime ministers reaffirmed their resolve to enhance co-operation in all areas of mutual interest, and to take the “exemplary bilateral partnership to new heights for the benefit of the two peoples”. Bhutan is a strategically important country for India due to its location, and both sides have been ramping up overall

cooperation, including in areas of defence and security, over the past a few years.

This year, both countries are celebrating the golden jubilee of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations.

During the Doklam standoff between troops of India and China last year, Bhutan had extended support to New Delhi.

The MEA said the two prime ministers also reviewed the bilateral economic and hydro-power co-operation, including the progress in implementation of the India assisted-hydro-electric projects in Bhutan.

“They reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen collaboration in the hydro-power sector in the spirit of close friendship and co-operation that characterize relations between India and Bhutan,” it said. In a tweet, Tobgay, who arrived here yesterday on a three-day visit, said “hydro-power is not just the cornerstone of the economic cooperation between India and Bhutan; it is the very foundation of our strong bonds of friendship.”

Patna municipal body to provide khadi uniforms to sanitation workers

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Sanitation workers of the Patna Municipal Corporation (PMC) will now don customised uniforms from the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

The municipal corporation would sign a three-year agreement with the KVIC for supply of khadi uniforms to its workers, a release from the KVIC said.

The PMC commissioner had requested the KVIC chairman to provide khadi uniform sets for its sanitation workers after which some of his officials were sent to Patna with the samples which got approved.

“The PMC has not only approved the samples, it also raised a demand letter on June 30 for supply of khadi uniform sets for its 4,000 men and women safai karmacharis by August 15. Besides, the

PMC has also signed a three-year agreement with the KVIC for a regular supply of materials, including woolen khadi clothes during the winter season,” a KVIC release said.

KVIC Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena said, “It is the fittest tribute to the Father of the Nation ahead of his 150th birthday celebrations from Bihar a land of Champaran from where he kicked off his journey as Mahatma to have a unique conversion with a local self body.

“It is also very important that Khadi has started getting recognition from all corners of the nation. Not only that, the ‘safai karmacharis’ are the most important part of local self bodies,” Saxena said.

The agreement between the two for supply of khadi products is likely to be signed next week in presence of Union Minister Giriraj Singh and other dignitaries, he said.

MHA: 46 NDRF teams stationed in flood-prone areas of 14 states

NEW DELHI: As part of proactive measures, 46 fully equipped rescue teams of the NDRF have been stationed in flood-prone areas in 14 states, the Union home ministry said on Friday.

The National Disaster Response Force teams, comprising 1,384 personnel, have been deployed in vulnerable areas in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Delhi, Punjab, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal, a home ministry spokesperson said.

He said the NDRF rescued 20 stranded people, including five pilgrims undertaking the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.

The teams will assist state administrations in rescue and relief work, the spokesman said. MPOST

HEALTH MINISTRY APPROVES MCI PANEL REPORT

No seat for visually, hearing challenged in medical colleges

DHIRENDRA KUMAR

NEW DELHI: In a shocking development, it has come to notice that the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 -- a new and reformed legislation -- is not proving helpful for students with visual impairment and hearing impairment in fulfilling their dreams of becoming a doctor.

According to the latest report, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has accepted the recommendations of Medical Council of India (MCI) to not allow admission of students with 40 per cent visual and hearing impairments.

It must be noted that students with such type of disabilities were treated as general category students prior to coming into force new Act and were debarred from pursuing MBBS degrees in medical colleges. As per the new Act, dis-

ability has been defined based on an evolving and dynamic concept and types of disabilities have been increased from existing 7 to 21, including low-vision and blindness.

According to a senior official, soon after the implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, the Health Ministry had asked MCI to make changes in the admission norms in compliance with the new law.

In its recommendations submitted to the Health Ministry, the MCI has stated that students of such categories wouldn’t be allowed to get admission in medical colleges for MBBS course. Similarly, the persons with learning disabilities, autism, mental illness, etc have also been debarred from pursuing the medical education.

The official further added that the decision to approve MCI recommen-

dations has been taken after detailed discussion with the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

However, disability rights activists have dubbed the Health Ministry’s decision as a mockery of the Constitution. “How can MCI and Health Ministry decide that students with 40 per cent visual and hearing impairment would not be able to become a doctor, when there are several cases of people with such disabilities are working as doctors/physiologists?” asks Dr Satendra Singh, who is an associate professor at GTB Hospital and disability rights activist.

Refusing to accept the decision, Singh said, “In the MCI committee, not a single member was disabled, so without us (disabled) how anything can be done for us. It’s a total violation of the rights of the persons with disabilities.”

Navy deploy helicopters to trace 4 feared drowned

MUMBAI: The Navy and the Coast Guard have deployed helicopters to search the four persons, who are feared to have drowned off the Juhu beach on Thursday, an official said on Friday.

“One each Navy and Coast Guard Chetak has taken off from INS Shikra, Colaba around 0800 hrs to continue the search and rescue of the missing boys off Juhu,” a Defence spokesperson said in a release.

A naval diving team has been carrying out diving operations in the area since morning 0530 hrs, it said.

“The sea condition is very

challenging for the diving ops due to strong currents and waves. The divers are using grapnels to avoid being swept by the strong currents. The diving team will be turned around by 0900hrs and continue the operation,” the release added.

These four people are feared to have drowned off Juhu beach after a group of five ventured into the sea for a swim last evening, police had said. One of them, Wasim Khan (22), was rescued. Those feared drowned have been identified as Fardeen Saudagar (17), Sohail Khan (17), Faisal Sheikh (17) and Nazeer Gazi (22). MPOST

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Apex court rightly held that CJI is master of roster, say legal experts

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Legal experts on Friday hailed the Supreme Court ruling that the chief justice of India is the “master of the roster”, an issue which generated an intense debate in the wake of the January press meet by the four senior apex court judges who accused CJI Dipak Misra of assigning sensitive cases to judges junior to them.

Senior advocates Rakesh Dwivedi, K T S Tulsi, Vikas Singh and constitutional expert Govind Goel were of the view that former law minister Shanti Bhushan’s stand that the CJI

has to work in consultation with the other members of the Collegium for allocation of cases was not only “incorrect” but also “preposterous”.

They maintained that such a premise could “paralyse” the functioning of the court.

The lawyer said the apex court verdict is “correct” as the CJI has “the complete power” to allocate cases to different benches.

At the same time, Tulsi, also a Rajya Sabha MP from the Congress, said that in case an allegation is made, the CJI should leave the matter to the other members of the Colle-

gium for allocation to a bench of which he is not a part.

Vikas Singh, who is also the Supreme Court Bar Association president, said that the top court today only reiterated what had been held earlier and there was no bar on the CJI having consultation with other four Collegium judges for the constitution of the benches.

Dwivedi said that the CJI is “undoubtedly” the master of the roster after a bench comprising justices A K Sikri and Ashok Bhushan held that the chief justice occupied the role of “first among equals”.



any problem, we will not deport him because he has been given permanent residency status,” he said at a news conference when asked about the reports of Naik’s imminent deportation.

Home Minister Muhyiddin Yassin had also said previously that Naik would have to answer to the Malaysian authorities if he broke any of the nation’s laws. Malaysia’s Inspector Gen-

J&K: Constable abducted by ultras in Shopian found dead

SRINAGAR: Police on Friday recovered the body of a policeman who was kidnapped by militants from his home in Shopian district of J&K. Constable Javid Ahmad, posted as the personal security officer to Senior Superintendent of Police Shailendra Mishra, was kidnapped by unidentified gun-

men from his home at Vehil last night, a police official said. He was shot in the head, the official said. Dar was found dead by the roadside at Sehpora in the neighbouring Kulgam district, the official added. In a separate incident, a civilian was injured when militants opened fire at him in Pulwama district. MPOST

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD)

No. RS(S)/2018/747/1 New Delhi, Dated: 05.07.2018
E-TENDER NO. 2018IS197 FOR PROCUREMENT OF 15,070 MT OF STAINLESS STEEL ITEMS.

- On behalf of the President of India, the Executive Director, Railway Stores(S), Railway Board, New Delhi invites e-tender for procurement of 15,070 MT of Stainless Steel items on Running Contract basis.
- The interested tenderers are advised to visit the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> for details of the tender and submission of their e-bids.
- No manual offers will be accepted against e-tender.
- Any Corrigendum to this tender will be published on the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> only and not in the print media.
- Tender will be closed at 14.30 hours on 10.08.2018.

(G.S Raja)
Director, Railway Stores (W)
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- निविदा विज्ञापि -

जिला परियोजना लाईवलीहुड कॉलेज नारायणपुर अंतर्गत 14 सेक्टर में लेव सेक्टर क्रिमे जाने हेतु पुनः से दिनांक 21.02.2018 को जारी निविदा को तकलीफी करणो से निराला करते हुये पुनः 13 सेक्टर (अटोमेटिड रिपेयर, इलेक्ट्रिकल,कन्स्ट्रक्शन,साफ्टवेयर, स्मार्ट क्लास एवं ऑफिस सेलएम, एमिक्वर,हॉस्पिटलिटी, सेक्टर, सिव्लीरी, ग्रोन जौब,फूड प्रोसेसिंग,फेक्रीशन सेक्टर) अंतर्गत प्रशिक्षण लेव सेलएम स्थापित किये जाने हेतु समग्री खरच करने बन्तु दिनांक 06.08.2018 समय 3.00 बजे तक सुबुती निविदा आमति की जाती है अवेदन प्रारण, शुल्क, निचय व शर्तों, सामग्रीयो की सूची एवं अन्य विवरण बर्कयोज जिला पंचमदा नारायणपुर कक्ष क्र० 24 एवं जिला वेबसाईट (www.narayannpur.gov.in) से Download कर प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

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BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

TENDER NOTICE Date: 07.07.2018

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders.

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CMC/BR/18-19/ FK/RJ/685	SURVEY, DESIGN, ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURE, SHOP TESTING, INSPECTION, PACKING, DISPATCH, LOADING, UNLOADING AND STORAGE AT SITE TRANSIT/STORAGE AND ERECTION, INSURANCE, ASSEMBLY, ERECTION, COMPLETE PRE-COMMISSIONING CHECKS, TESTING & COMMISSIONING AT SITE, OBTAINING STATUTORY CLEARANCE & CERTIFICATION FROM STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR, MUNICIPAL CORPORATION DEPARTMENT, FIRE OFFICER, HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT ETC. AND HANDING OVER TO THE OWNER AFTER SATISFACTORY COMMISSIONING OF COMPLETE 33/11 KV GIS GRID AT ALAKNANDA ON TURNKEY BASIS CONFORMING TO TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION. BRPL-EHV-TS-ALAKNANDA REV 0 AT ALAKNANDA, NEW DELHI, BRPL	6.00 Crs.	6.00 Lacs	30/07/2018 15:30 HRS.	30/07/2018 16:00 HRS.

Cost of each Tender Document : ₹ 1180/-
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Haryana Irrigation & Water Resources Department
“Notice Inviting Tender”

Sr. no.	Description of items	Earnest Money	Last date of receipt of tenders online
1.	Supply and installation of Real Time Brand Fingerprint + Card based Attendance machine type-Output in Pen drive Excel Format.	4500/-	23/07/2018
2.	Supply of 1000 sq mm Aluminum conductor XLPE LT Power cable for Pump House - 4 of Loharu Canal.	2350/-	23/07/2018
3.	Supply of 1000 sq mm Aluminum conductor XLPE LT Power cable for Pump House - 5 of Loharu Canal.	2350/-	23/07/2018
4.	Supply of 1000 sq mm Aluminum conductor XLPE LT Power cable for Pump House - 6 of Loharu Canal.	2350/-	23/07/2018
5.	Supply of 630 sq mm Aluminum conductor XLPE LT Power cable for Pump House-2 of Pichopa diya of Loharu Canal.	900/-	23/07/2018
6.	Supply of 1 No. 1000/990 KVA Capacity (11 KV /433 V) outdoor type transformer on P.H. No. - 4 of Loharu Canal.	28650/-	23/07/2018
7.	Supply of 1 No. 1000/990 KVA Capacity (11 KV /433 V) outdoor type transformer on P.H. No. - 5 of Loharu Canal.	28650/-	23/07/2018
8.	Supply of 1 No. 1000/990 KVA Capacity (11 KV /433 V) outdoor type transformer on P.H. No. - 6 of Loharu Canal.	28650/-	23/07/2018
9.	Supply of 1 No. 200 kVA Capacity (11 KV /433 V) outdoor type transformer on Pump House - 2 of Loharu Canal.	4400/-	23/07/2018

For further details visit www.hid.gov.in or <https://etenders.hry.nic.in>
PRDH-Advt. No:-1069/11/4026/1819/68222
Dated: 06/07/2018

Executive Engineer
Loharu W/S Mech. Division Ch. Dadrl

EDITORIAL

A crashing Nano dream

An essential business strategy for a product to succeed in the market is that its winning features must be effectively communicated to the potential clients. For this, a certain degree of hype needs to be created about the product and this is done through advertisements and other measures of brand positioning. In order to ensure continuous visibility of the product in the market, companies spend a lot of money on product promotion and follow an aggressive marketing strategy. Any mistake in positioning the product in the right segment can cost the company dear. The case of Tata Motor's Nano, which has seen a steady decline in demand over the last 10 years of its existence in the Indian market, forcing it to cut the production to a mere single piece in June 2018, is the most intriguing one in the country' automobile sector. Marketing and branding experts at Tata Motors are at their wits' end to explain what exactly went wrong with the product. In the long and illustrious history of 'Tata Sons' business empire, seldom did a product fail in the market like Nano did. From salt to software and from tea to automobile, whatever the group launched went on to become the market leader. Then, why did the Nano, despite being the cheapest car, fail to click with the customers?

Ironical though it may look, the production of the world's cheapest car is on the verge of closure. In a regulatory filing, Tata Motors stated that only one unit of the car was produced in June compared to 275 units during the same month in 2017. The sales stood at three units during the month compared to 167 in the corresponding period last year. Not a single Nano was exported in June 2018 while 25 units were shipped in the same month last year. When the Tata Motors announced the launch of Nano in 2008, everybody thought it is going to be a game changer in the intensely competitive Indian automobile sector where most of the top brands were competing hard for a share of the market. Given the strong brand value that Tata products enjoy in the Indian market, few doubted that Nano would be a mega success. After all, it was promised to be delivered at a paltry sum of Rs one lakh. At that price point, it was not only extremely cheap but also highly affordable for most of those who were owning and riding two-wheelers. It provided the safety of a car and could accommodate a small family a lot more comfortably than a two-wheeler. Before the first car was handed over to its owner in 2009, the company had said that it had an advance booking of more than two lakh Nano cars. The initial response to the product was encouraging and the company believed that it would give a competition to other existing brands in the low-price category. But that never happened, Nano kept on losing its appeal and the demand never picked up.

There were some problems with the car in its early years such as the incidents of Nano catching fire. The company immediately responded by fixing the problem but somehow the impression that the car is not strong enough or has enough safety features became stronger over the years, making the customers choose cars of other brands with a proven track record, which were available for about Rs one lakh more than the revised price of Nano. The later variants of Nano came with added features such as power steering and enhanced capacity of the engine. Besides petrol and diesel variants, Nano was also made available with factory-fitted CNG kit. The brand Nano became more diversified and trendy compared to its initial image of a cheap car, which was meant to cater to the travel needs of the poor, an image that did more harm to the brand than any good. At one point of time, Tata Sons stalwart Ratan Tata admitted that promoting Nano as the cheapest car was a mistake. After all, in a country like India, owning a car is also a symbol of status. Who would want to roam around in the cheapest car when the roads and highways are teeming with expensive SUVs?

Besides that mistake of branding it as the cheapest car, Nano also faced a great deal of negative publicity in its initial stages. The car was supposed to be produced at Singur in West Bengal but it faced unprecedented opposition from local farmers whose land was taken over by the company to set up the factory. The project had received the support of the CPI-M government of the time, which hailed it as a mega private investment in the otherwise industry-starved state. But the opposition led by Mamata Banerjee, the current Chief Minister, waged a spirited fight for the cause of the farmers and made Tata Sons give up the idea to produce the car from the Singur factory. Banerjee went on to win the next two Assembly election in 2011 and 2016 and is the Chief Minister of the state. Nearly 1,000 acres of land where the factory was supposed to come up has been restored to their owners while Tata Sons shifted the production of Nano to Sanand in Gujarat.

Virtual bigotry, real impact

In these times taken over by the gushing waves of social media, wafting adrift into the virtual realm of window-displayed reality is inevitable to the changing dynamics of information, awareness, society, and perception in general. It may be analysed that access to social media gives a certain amount of added freedom for one to speak their mind but it is as much a fact that such freedom to express directly and blatantly can have an effect in extremes: either be too passive to count or stir up a controversy of unforeseen scale. It is the latter aspect that makes headlines – and what lends value to such news is all that which leads to the controversial comments. Two instances in the past week shed copious amounts of light on what the modern phenomenon of 'trolls' throws up presenting the grim face of a deteriorating society.

The frequently repeated instances of rape and crime against women and the lack of any method to address the concern have desensitised people to the gravity of such horrendousness. The spokesperson of Congress was unabashedly and with least of deterrence issued a threat on Twitter when a certain miscreant expressed his desire to rape her (minor) daughter out of apparent grudge against her. The Home Ministry took cognizance of the matter and brought the culprit to book. The misdeed is incriminated on the grounds of the stringent Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (PoCSO) Act, provisions of the Information Technology Act, and the Indian Penal Code. Another embarrassing instance was when a respected and senior politician, Minister for external affairs, Sushma Swaraj was trolled for helping an inter-faith couple get their passport made – for dutifully doing her job. Her support extended to Muslim community was not appreciated by some people and it was proposed that her husband (another respectable figure, former Governor of Mizoram) beat her up for what she did. Social media was suppose to change our lives for the better and bring closer people distanced by time, geography and culture. Misuse and abuse of this powerful means only betray the reality of a degrading society and people.



SANKAR RAY

Ghani has cashed in on the growing unpopularity of the Taliban in both Afghanistan and in their once strongholds in Khyber Pochahontas, Balochistan, and Federally Administered Territorial Areas. Desertions of rank and file and local leaders through surrenders to security forces, although in scattered patterns, have further increased their isolation

Quote martial

The University brings out all abilities, including incapability

ANTON CHEKHOV



SHUTAPA PAUL

Today, rape seems okay, trolling seems okay, online abuse and stalking, all seem okay as per the Indian psyche. Even the ruling party seems okay with their women leaders being abused. This is the example that we are setting for scores of abusive men and pliant female victims

Isolated Taliban disarrayed

The Taliban are facing twin crisis of identity and existence as several of its leaders have surrendered in the face of extreme unpopularity

Killing of 30 security jawans in an ambush at two checkpoints in the western province of Badghis of Afghanistan within three days of bilateral ceasefire a short while back, preceded by the death of over 50 civilians and security forces through blasts in the Nangarhar province and elsewhere in the last fortnight of June this year during ceasefire reflect the utter frustration of the Taliban, now under the diktat of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL or ISIS). The latter claimed the responsibility for those bloody acts.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has now an upper-hand and he told the media promptly, "It is now the Taliban's decision, whether they want to keep killing or join the peace process. No one has the right to monopolise the peace process." Pro-US in his style and moves, Ghani has cashed in on the growing unpopularity of the Taliban in both Afghanistan and in their once strongholds in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Federally Administered Territorial Areas. Desertions of rank and file and local leaders through surrenders to security forces, although in scattered patterns, have further increased their isolation.

The trend is manifest explicitly in several areas in the aforesaid provinces and FATA. Take the east of Kunduz which is abuzz with word 'welcome' in Pashto and Farsi to those giving in, an indication of the retreat of 'Political Islam'. "We gave up to the Northern Alliance. They are our brothers, and this is our country. The foreigners will never surrender, I think," a Taliban fighter, Shah Mahmood, told the Associated Press. By foreigners, he did mean Arabs, Chechens, and Pakistanis, who have genuine apprehensions that they might be killed. Significantly, Fred Eckhard, a UN spokesman associated with the peace process, expressed his concern that because of barely a half-dozen humanitarian workers in Mazar-e-Sharif, "It'd be unrealistic to think they can take custody of hundreds of prisoners of war." He disclosed that the UN began consultations with the Red Cross that takes care of prisoner-of-war exchanges although not in the business of holding prisoners of war, and as victors. The responsibility is with the Northern Alliance, according to international law.



The Taliban, now controlled by ISIS, are fast losing their ground in Afghanistan

(Representational Image)

The top functionary among guerrillas who surrendered to the Northern Alliance forces in Kunduz, Mullah Mohammed Khaqzar, a former Taliban deputy interior minister when the Taliban were in power in Kabul, however, hinted that the split might escalate and transcend beyond an apparent divide between foreigners and Afghans in Kunduz, and all the way to the top. He claims to have forewarned Taliban supreme leader Mohammed Omar that the foreigners who were professionals should be advised to quit Afghanistan. "They have plans of their own and are destroying our country," Khaqzar told the Associated Press in Kabul.

The Pakistani Taliban are in the back foot too after the killing of the most-wanted militant among them, Fazlullah Khorasani, accused of several deadly campaigns including the 'cowardly' killing of 132 school children in 2014 and the shooting of Malala Yousafzai, the schoolgirl, whose brave combat fetched her the Nobel Peace Prize.

The role of US military forces towards the Taliban is not free from suspicion, especially in Afghanistan. In

May-end, those Islamic terrorists reportedly had a top-level secret meeting with the Afghan military high command. The US commander in Afghanistan, Gen John Nicholson, disclosed that the talks also involved foreign governments and international organisations, but the Taliban promptly shot this down as a "false claim" and reiterated that the Taliban policy continued to be one of refusal to negotiate with the Afghan government, but had no such reservations towards the US officials. The civil society activities whose unflinching endeavour for a democratic Pakistan is temperamental uncompromising with the neo-liberal-US imperialism are a determined force. They are increasingly anti-Taliban.

However, Washington today has no bonhomie with the Taliban, at least going by their policy statements in the post-9/11 years. In fact, the US administration tries to establish that Russia is at work to destabilise Afghanistan by supporting the Taliban. Senior US officials keep up a campaign that the Putin regime is supplying the militants with weapons. In an interview to BBC in late-March, Gen John Nicholson accused

Russia of exaggerating the number of IS combatants in Afghanistan "to legitimise the actions of the Taliban and provide some degree of support to them. We've had weapons brought to this headquarters and given to us by Afghan leaders and [they] said this was given by the Russians to the Taliban. Some strategic experts (even in the North American academia) apprehend that the 'Trump reign is trying to trigger a 'new cold war'.

The US rulers' intentions are suspect, especially in West Asia and North Africa in their new belligerence in foreign relations. So, they also assert that the Afghan Taliban receive military training in Iran and, in support of these, some 'documents' are in circulation. The Iran government termed these as "fake and undocumented" allegations in order to wage "a psychological war" and damage friendly relations between the Iranian and Afghan governments.

The Taliban are facing a twin crisis of identity and existence. Nonetheless, it's not yet the appropriate moment to predict anything.

IPA
(The views expressed are strictly personal)

OF GRAVE CONSEQUENCES

Dear Editor

The highest decision-making Executive Body of Jadavpur University has decided to stall the admission test for this year and announced that the admission process will be based on the marks secured in the HS Exam. This is a whimsical and an unfair decision. It is urged to retain the practice of conducting admission test for the six humanities subjects by the University in its own way to judge the merit of students. The students taking to agitation is justified as they have every right to protest this decision by the University authority.

AMAR NATH BHADRA Via email

millenniumpost.in

Log on to write letters to the editor or send them to letter2editor.mp@gmail.com You can also send your comments to The Editor, Millennium Post, Pratap Bhawan, 5 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi 110 002

Unsafe India?

India may not be the most unsafe country for women but it definitely is the hub of male chauvinism

Is India truly the most unsafe country in the world for women? Thomson Reuters Foundation's alarmist survey is based on the opinions of arm-chair experts who may well be alienated from reality. Are we the safest, most liberal country where women are superbly empowered? No. But by that correlation, are we the most unsafe? Compared to Iraq, Nigeria, and Syria, Indian women have it really good. But compare us to the other developing or developed nations, and the scene turns bleak.

Where else will you find one of the senior-most leaders of the ruling party getting trolled and everyone from her party, including 56-inch chest-thumping ones, maintaining a stoic silence. The troll, whose handle proudly proclaimed him to be an IIT-ian (clearly an educated lout), asked Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj's husband to beat her up because she helped an inter-faith couple. These troll armies that were raised in the run-up to 2014 have come home to roost, I mean... troll. They have attacked one of the most experienced women politicians of our times using crass language and virtual abuse. Swaraj's dignified handling of the situation may have been admirable but the results of her online poll were disheartening. 53,000 gave the trolling their stamp of approval. This means that there are at least 53,000+ educated louts active on Twitter who agree that a woman of Swaraj's stature, or for that matter any woman, deserves to be shown her place in society.

When this is the result of such polls, how can we blame the Thomson Reuters Foundation? Theirs was a 'perception poll' and when senior female politicians face cyber abuse, as Mehbooba Mufti said, what hope is there left for the rest of us? The perception obviously becomes that women are not safe in India. Sadly, when a Congress leader's daughter was



The growing incidence of rape is indicative of how the enemy rests within us

(Representational Image)

threatened with rape, Swaraj too kept silent. What plagues our country is the mindset that we have about women. And women are to blame too. We have for aeons accepted the treatment that has been meted out to us by men. Our country may not be the most unsafe for women but it definitely is the hub of male chauvinism.

More worrying is the culture of rape that shocks few nowadays. A minor raped in Mandsaur, foreigners sexually assaulted by the general manager of a five-star hotel in Rajasthan, a Kenyan woman raped in Gurugram, a class 10

student gang-raped and poisoned in Fatehabad, are just the most recent cases. To repeat some facts and figures that I quoted in an earlier column, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), crimes against women have upped by over 83 per cent in the last 10 years between 2007-2016. At least 39 crimes against women are reported every hour. Rape accounts for 11 per cent of the crimes; four rape cases were reported every hour in 2016. The conviction rate has hit a record low and 2016 witnessed the lowest conviction rate of 18.9 per cent. Repeat these numbers to yourself.

Today, rape seems okay, trolling seems okay, online abuse and stalking, all seem okay as per the Indian psyche. Even the ruling party seems okay with their women leaders being abused. This is the example that we are setting for scores of abusive men and pliant female victims. This is the image of our country that we are building up, the image that the international community is witnessing, so why blame a perception poll when one's house is not in order?

(The writer is a journalist and media entrepreneur. The views expressed are strictly personal)

India’s National Bamboo Mission

Bamboo has immense potential for Indian farming due to its varied uses and massive demand overseas



SAMAR LAHIRY

Land degradation is a major problem confronting India. According to the State of India's Environment 2017, nearly 30 per cent of India's land is degraded. With its unique ability to stitch and repair damaged soils, bamboo is ideal for rehabilitating degraded soil

Bamboo is a versatile crop. It can be used in 1,500 different ways for consumption, as a substitute for wood, building and construction material, for handicrafts, and paper. Around 80 per cent of bamboo forests lie in Asia with India, China, and Myanmar having 19.8 million hectares of bamboo.

India is the world's second-largest cultivator of bamboo after China, with 136 species and 23 genera spread over 13.96 million hectares. According to the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, India's annual bamboo production is estimated at 3.23 million tonnes. However, despite all this, the country's share in the global bamboo trade and commerce is only 4 per cent.

In October 2006, the Government of India (GOI) had launched the National Bamboo Mission (NBM) on the basis of the National Mission on Bamboo Technology and Trade Development Report, 2003. The NBM's key objective was to address the issues relating to the development of the bamboo industry in the country, for providing a new impetus and direction and enabling the realisation of India's considerable potential in bamboo production. Multidisciplinary and multidimensional in its approach, major interventions planned under it were focussed on research and development, plantation on forest and non-forest lands through Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) or Village Development Committee (VDC) and to ensure the supply of quality planting materials by establishing centralised and kisan/mahila nurseries.

NBM was started as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 2006-07. The Agriculture Finance Corporation (AFC) India Limited, a consultancy organisation, prepared the mid-term evaluation study report of NBM in 2012-13. For the study, the organisation covered nine states and 18 districts out of 27 states that had implemented NBM during the 10th and 11th Plan period. The report made some positive revelations. To popularise various bamboo handicrafts and other products as well as bamboo food items like processed shoots, six retail outlets were created. The report further noted that a beginning had been made in using tissue-cultured planting material in some states, with encouraging results. Bamboo Development Agencies (BDAs) in all states have done excellent work with regard to bamboo plantations on forest land through JFMCs and VDCs.

Of course, there are some drawbacks too. The plantation on non-forest land involving farmers and private landowners has not gained complete momentum. The transfer of technology through training and demonstrations forms an integral part of the NBM. But, the quality of the training needs to be further upgraded to improve the practical knowledge and skills of the stakeholders.

NBM 2006 was brought under the Integrated Horticulture Development Mission during the year 2014-15 and was continued till the year 2015-16. Since 2006-07, 3,61,791 ha of land have been covered with bamboo plantations, out of which 2,36,700 ha are under forest area and 1,25,091 ha under non-



Bamboo has an important characteristic of rejuvenating degraded land

(Representational Image)

forest area. An area of 91,715 ha of existing bamboo plantations has been improved for higher productivity. A total of 1,466 nurseries have been established to supply quality planting material. In different states, 61,126 farmers and 12,710 field functionaries have been trained in the area of nursery management and bamboo plantation. In addition, 39 bamboo wholesale and retail markets near villages, 29 retail outlets and 40 bamboo bazaars have been established.

In April 2018, a restructured NBM was approved by the GOI with an investment of Rs 1290 crore in the next two years. The restructured NBM will aim to support the development of the entire value chain of the bamboo sector starting from planting material, plantation, the creation of facilities for collection, aggregation, processing marketing, micro, small & medium enterprises, skill development and brand building initiatives in a cluster approach mode. This will contribute to doubling farmers' income and also in generating more employment opportunities for skilled and unskilled workers, especially for the youth in rural areas. To facilitate the

benefits flow to farmers, bamboo outside forest areas have been excluded from the definition of tree by amending Section 2 (7) of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 by the GOI in November 2017.

Bamboo has tremendous untapped potential for transforming India's rural economy. There is vast scope for expanding bamboo in areas outside forests because: a) its management is easier in these lands than in natural forests and, b) due to close to user agencies, economic harvesting is possible. However, under NBM, during the period 2006-17, the new area covered through plantation has been around 3.62 lakh ha (including 1.25 lakh ha in non-forest areas). This, when one of the Mission's objectives was to expand the area under bamboo plantations by two million ha in the Tenth Plan and overall six million ha in the Tenth and Eleventh Plan. This was primarily because The Indian Forest Act, 1927 defined bamboo as a "tree". Till the end of 2017, bamboo grown outside forests was subject to regulatory rules of felling and transportation. Despite NBM being a flagship scheme, new plantation work was

stalled as funds were released only for the maintenance of bamboo plantations raised earlier during 2014-15 and 2015-16, further slowing down plantation and related activities.

Land degradation is a major problem confronting India. According to the State of India's Environment 2017, nearly 30 per cent of India's land is degraded. With its unique ability to stitch and repair damaged soils, bamboo is ideal for rehabilitating degraded soil. The shortfall in bamboo plantation would have an adverse impact on the Greening India programme as well as on reclaiming the degraded land.

It is perceived that the emphasis of NBM has, by and large, been on propagation and cultivation of bamboo – with limited efforts on processing, product development and value addition. This has caused weak linkages between farmers and the industry. There is a need to develop an integrated bamboo industry in the country. It is hoped that the restructured NBM would focus on the development of a complete value chain of the bamboo sector to link growers with final consumers.

The way forward

To arrest the pace of land degradation in the country, a national programme of intensive bamboo plantation involving all stakeholders needs to be undertaken beyond 2019-20. The National Housing Scheme (PMAY) should utilise bamboo as a construction material. Though bamboo has been used in various pioneering structural applications in the past, it is still viewed as a 'poor man's material'.

Developing bamboo as a load-bearing structural element would pave the way for its high-value application in construction, which can make bamboo cultivation an economically viable method of greening the vast wastelands. Edible bamboo has a huge demand in East Asian cuisines and also in pharmaceuticals. Bamboo grown in the Northeast (which is 66 per cent of the growing bamboo stock in India) can be exported to East Asian countries like Japan and Taiwan for competitive prices with the GOI's support.

DOWN TO EARTH

(The views expressed are strictly personal)

Time to deliver—AAP

Overcoming conflicts and delivering promised services to Delhi's people speak of AAP's resilience in the face of adversity



SAYANTAN GHOSH

This is a time when AAP should start a dialogue with stakeholders like the LG, senior officials, and others regarding various pending matters. There cannot be a system with room for conflict at every step and conflict cannot be the way of governance

Conflict has never spared Aam Admi Party. From the time AAP came into existence, emerging from the India Against Corruption movement, conflicts have obstructed the party's functioning. The disputes have not been only with external functionaries; the party also has a history of internal conflicts. However, the most significant conflict which the party encounters frequently has been with the Centre-appointed Lieutenant Governor and the bureaucrats. The historic Supreme Court judgment of July 4 has now lent some clarity to the powers of the LG and the elected government. A five-judge Constitution bench, in a unanimous verdict, on Wednesday, held that though Delhi cannot be accorded the status of a state, the LG has no power to independently make decisions and must act on the aid and advice of the elected government.

The Supreme Court's Wednesday verdict has made three very important deviations from the Delhi High Court judgment of August 2016. It has dispelled the idea that the elected government has to wait to implement its decisions until the LG acquiesces. More specifically, the advice given by the Council of Ministers is binding on the LG. But, only as long as the LG does not exercise his Constitutional power to differ and refer the matter to the President for a decision. Although it has been emphasised that this power is not to be exercised perfunctorily, anything of sensitivity or that can cast a financial burden beyond the government's capacity, or which can cause friction with the Centre or other states will fall in this jurisdiction. This, in reality, covers several aspects.

After this positive judgment from the Supreme Court, AAP should have started preparations to complete their pending work but the first thing they did was to crack a whip on the officials by issuing a notification. Hours after Supreme Court's landmark judgment on Wednesday, Delhi government introduced a new system for the transfer and



Arvind Kejriwal must buckle up and fulfil his promises made to the people of Delhi

posting of bureaucrats, making Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal the approving authority. However, the services department refused to comply, stating that the Supreme Court did not abolish the notification issued in 2016 which made the Ministry of Home Affairs the authority for transfer and posting.

The tussle between Delhi government and the Central government continues even after the Supreme Court judgment, which clipped the powers of the LG. It said that he (LG) has no "independent decision-making power" and must act on the aid and advice of the elected government. Now, the Delhi government has the single option to resolve this situation by again moving an application to the Apex Court before a Constitutional bench. Delhi government and AAP have nearly two years left and after this judgment, the party should now avoid any possible conflict and begin working relentlessly on the stalled projects. Now, if the service department stays with the LG, then the conflict will never end within the Delhi

government. The Ministry of Home Affairs has not yet made any decision on the service department yet and has reserved it for later.

This is also a time when AAP should start a dialogue with respective stakeholders like the LG, senior officials, and others regarding various pending matters. There cannot be a system with room for conflict at every step and conflict cannot be the way of governance. AAP has gained some comfort with these conflicts and there is a tendency within the party to give in to skirmishes at the drop of a hat. The LG, officials, and the government should work in harmony – as was also reiterated by the SC judgment. The method by which conflicts are created by the stakeholders and the way such conflicts are dealt with by AAP are both dangerous for a federal democracy.

When Arvind Kejriwal became Chief Minister of Delhi, the people had great expectations. A party which fought corruption, a party which questioned the people in power, a party which decimated Congress, and a party which put

forward dreams of a corruption-free India to the people has now become a party which can speak at length but cannot fructify its promises due to the many conflicts.

Arvind Kejriwal was more than a mere politician for the people of Delhi -- he was "hope". We do not like to see our heroes drown out in the tumult of conflicts. We want them to either move on or fight back. We never like our heroes defeated and whimpering. We never like our heroes succumbing in the hands of "bad people". Arvind Kejriwal, if he is that hero, should turn around and deliver. Because it is high time.

On various occasions, it has been proven that Arvind Kejriwal still engages massive support from the people in Delhi. The Supreme Court has clearly said that the LG should not interfere in their work and this is the best opportunity for AAP to prove its credibility, manpower, and willpower.

(The author is Correspondent with Millennium Post. Views expressed are strictly personal)



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PIYUSH GOYAL
@PiyyushGoyal

Indian Railways built a subway in a record time of less than 5 hours under a railway crossing in Andhra Pradesh, setting a new benchmark of speed, skill and scale in its working.



YASHWANT SINHA
@YashwantSinha

The US unceremoniously postpones the 2+2 talks. Defence minister of UK refuse to meet our defence minister in London. Yet our foreign policy is more successful than ever before.



SYED ATA HASNAIN
@ATAHASNAIN53

JKP personnel are far more vulnerable. Kashmiris in the Army have collective security unless mistakes like with Aurangzeb are made. Soldiers are vulnerable on leave but police system of functioning demands even single presence of unarmed policemen making them most vulnerable.



BRAHMA CHELLANEY
@Chellaney

As the Dalai Lama turns 83, China clamps down on social media and deploys large numbers of police in his birthplace, Tibet's Amdo region, to deter birthday celebrations. His host country, meanwhile, is shunning all official contact with him as part of its new overtures to China.

Indian-origin financier gets 8 years’ jail for rape in UK

LONDON: An Indian-origin finance consultant was sentenced to eight years in prison for raping an 18-year-old woman after a night out drinking with his colleagues.

Sanjay Naker, a 28-year-old married man from north London, had denied three charges of rape, one count of attempted rape, one charge of assault by penetration, and a count of sexual assault at Inner London Crown Court.

The jury found him guilty of all charges but cleared him of the charge of assault by penetration at the end of the trial on Thursday.

Sentencing him, Judge Freya Newberry said: "If you formed a view that the woman wanted to have sex with you, you were very much mistaken.

"It was quite clear that you decided that you wanted to have sex with her and she had no recollection of what hap-



Sanjay Naker

pened but you saw an opportunity. It was a mixture of your own desire and arrogance regardless of any intoxication on your part."

The 28-year-old was found guilty of carrying the woman over his shoulder after she was denied entry into a nightclub in central London for being drunk and raping her in an

alleyway.

The court heard that on March 11 last year, the 18-year-old victim had been out for the night at a bar in London Bridge area before being asked to leave as she had too much to drink.

Naker had been outside the bar, he saw the victim and began talking to her. The CCTV footage showed them

chatting, Naker appearing to show her concern, picking her up when she fell and offering her his jacket. At one point he gave her a piggyback.

He then tried to kiss her and she pushed him off. He kept trying to pull her in the opposite direction to where she was walking and eventually succeeded, dragging her to a secluded corner. There he raped her and sexually assaulted her multiple times, the jury was told.

Security staff working nearby went to investigate, having seen suspicious activity on the CCTV. Naker told them he had met the woman in a club nearby and he gave them his details and then left.

During the trial, it emerged that the staff found the woman unconscious on the ground with her underwear pulled down and called an ambulance. She was taken to hospital to

recover and later taken to a crisis centre, where it was determined she had been raped.

Naker arrested the following day. During his police interview, he claimed the victim had asked him for sex but was charged with rape in November last year.

The accused told police the sex was consensual and said the woman had not appeared drunk. He admitted later searching online for a definition of the word "rape" but said it reassured him he had done nothing wrong.

Investigating officer, Detective Constable Aidan Kersley from Scotland Yard's Child Abuse and Sexual Offences Command, said: "Naker deliberately targeted his victim as someone intoxicated and vulnerable. After talking to her for a matter of minutes, he managed to drag her to a secluded area where he raped her. AGENCIES

PIO woman jailed up to 3 years for role in US navy corruption cases

SINGAPORE: A 57-year-old Indian-origin Singaporean woman was on Friday jailed up to three years for her role in the largest and most extensive bribery and fraud conspiracy in the history of the United States Navy, according to media reports.

Gursharan Kaur Sharon Rachael, a former lead contract specialist with the US Navy and based in Singapore, had the responsibility of managing ship husbanding contracts worth millions of dollar, with duties such as drafting contract requirements, including negotiating and evaluating bids.

Gursharan, had received more than SGD130, 000 in bribes from Leonard Glenn Francis, the Malaysian CEO of maritime services company Glenn Defense Marine (Asia) (GDMA), in exchange for sensitive US Navy information, Channel News Asia reported.

Sentencing her to jail term of two years and nine months for three charges of corruption and one for dealing with ben-



Gursharan Kaur Sharon Rachael

efits of criminal conduct, District Judge Shaiffudin Saruwan said that there was "flagrant abuse of trust and authority" by Gursharan.

He further said that there was also "a high level of pre-meditation", with steps taken to avoid detection, a sustained period of offending of seven years and a "high amount of gratification" by the accused.

The Judge also ordered that the SGD130,278.34 be surrendered by Gursharan to Singapore's Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB).

Between 2006 and 2013, Gursharan disclosed non-public information from the US Navy to Francis, which helped GDMA clinch 11 contracts worth a total of about US D 48 million, out of 14 contracts that the company bid for, according to the investigations by the CPIB. Gursharan provided sensitive information pertaining to pricing strategies, price information of GDMA's competitors and questions that the contracts review board had posed to GDMA's competitors. AGENCIES

First Hindu woman in Pak assembly poll fray

KARACHI: Sunita Parmar, a Hindu woman in Pakistan's Sindh province, has created history by becoming the first from the minority community to contest the provincial assembly elections to be held on July 25.

Parmar, 31, who is from the Meghwar community will contest as an independent candidate for the Sindh Assembly constituency PS-56 from Tharparkar district which has the highest



Sunita Parmar

number of Hindus in Pakistan.

Confident of challenging the status quo, Parmar said she

was compelled to contest the upcoming polls as previous governments failed to deliver on their promises of making life better for the people of her constituency," according to a media report.

"Previous governments did nothing for the people of this area. Even in 21st century, we lack basic health facilities and proper educational institutes for women, Parmar said. AGENCIES

HARYANA SHAHRI VIKAS PRADHIKARAN
DETAIL NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
SINGLE PERCENTAGE/ITEM RATE ONLINE TENDER

On behalf of Haryana Shahri Vikas Pradhikaran Online E-tenders on the website: <https://etenders.hry.nic.in> are hereby invited from the eligible contractors/firms enlisted with HSNP, PWD B&R, PHED/MES, CPWD & other central / State Govt. & other Govt. Department and undertaking of central & State Govt. in appropriate class/category for the works as mentioned below:-

Name of Work	Approximate value of works (Rs.)	Bid (Rs.)	Doc. Fee (Rs.)	Download tender document and online bid submission (Rs.)	Tender to be opened on	Time limit for completion of work
Job No. 24/2018 Providing Water Supply, Sewerage, SWD and construction of roads in HSNP area in Sector-II, Gurugram. Providing and laying of C&H & W&H, track cost, 30mm thick B&M & 40 mm thick B.C. and all other works contingent thereto.	21.80 Lakh	1000/-	43600/-	04.07.2018 to 11.07.2018 upto 5:00 PM (Manual submission on 12.07.18 9:00 am to 1:00pm.	13.07.2018	1 Month

Full details all terms & conditions for eligibility including the tender documents are available on the web site: <https://etenders.hry.nic.in> besides being available for reference at the office of the undersigned.

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF HSNP
Executive Engineer,
HSNP, Division No. VI,
PRDH-Advt. No:-1083/11/3922/1819/68200
Dated: 06/07/2018

Gurugram. E-Mail:- xenohudaggm@gmail.com Office: -0124-4805697

CHANGE OF NAME

I Chander Prakash S/o Sukhvir Singh R/o H No-M-45/1, Street No-14, Part II, Brahmampuri, New Delhi-53. That my correct name is Chander Prakash S/o Sukhvir Singh as per my Aadhaar and Pan card and in my education certificate my name is Chandra Prakash. That Chander Prakash and Chandra Prakash both are the same person and my correct name is Chander Prakash.

Name Change

I, Swastika Dhapase D/o Sh. Vajinath Raghunath Dhapase R/o Flat No.20-B, Pocket-P-5, SRS Pearl Floors, SRS City, Sector-87, Neharpar, Faridabad-121002, Haryana. Do hereby solemnly affirm and declare I have changed my name from Swastika Dhapase to Svastika Dhapase D/O Sh. Vajinath Raghunath Dhapase for all future purposes. Both are same and one person.

Name Change

I, Archana Sakharam Dhapase W/o Sh. Vajinath Raghunath Dhapase R/o Flat No.20-B, Pocket-P-5, SRS Pearl Floors, SRS City, Sector-87, Neharpar, Faridabad-121002, Haryana. Do hereby solemnly affirm and declare I have changed my name from Archana Sakharam Dhapase to Archana Vajinath Dhapase W/o Sh. Vajinath Raghunath Dhapase for all future purposes. Both are same and one person.

ख़ोया-पाया

सब्स साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मैं हरीश कुमार पुत्र स्व. श्री लेखराज कुमार निवासी मकान नंबर-1बी-83, एनआईटी फरीदाबाद का रहने वाला हूं। मेरे मकान नंबर 36, सेक्टर-21बी के असली कागजात कहीं ग़ुम हो गए हैं। इस बाबत संबंधित थाने में शिकायत भी दर्ज करवाई जा चुकी है। इसलिए इन कागजातों का उपयोग पूरी तरह से गैरकानूनी है। भविष्य में इन सभी कागजातों का उपयोग पूरी तरह से निरस्त माना जाए और अगर किसी व्यक्ति को यह कागजात मिलते हैं तो वह संपर्क करें। हरीश कुमार पुत्र स्व. श्री लेखराज कुमार निवासी मकान नंबर-1बी-83, एनआईटी फरीदाबाद, मो. : 8800720420, 9971800843

DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
E-TENDER PRESS NOTICE No.21/FO (Hort.)N/W/2018-19

On line Item Rate Tenders are invited through e-tendering mode for the following works by the Dy. Director (Hort.)Dwk. Central Nursery Sec. V, Dwarka New Delhi-110075. On behalf of Delhi Development Authority from the approved and eligible contractors registered under Horticulture Category only of DDA & CPWD and those of appropriate list of MES, BSNL and Railway. The last date and time of submission of tender is **17.07.2018 upto 3.00 PM.**

1. NIT No. 74/ 18-19/ Hort. Dwk./, Name of work : M/o Various Colony under Dwk. Zone N/A-II. M/o park and plantation at sector-18-B Dwarka Ph-II (Pink apartment). **SH:** Digging of holes, Renovation of lawn, earth work, S/s of good earth, cattle manure, Fertilizer, Tree plants & Shrubs NOC etc. at site. **Estimated Cost:** Rs.7,43,602/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs.14,872/-, **Period of completion:** 2 Months.

2. NIT No. 75/18-19/ Hort. Dwk./, Name of work : M/o Various Colony under Dwk. Zone N/A-II. M/o 1811 DU's 947 HIG, 504 MIG, 360 LIG, at sector-18 (L&T). **SH:** Digging of holes, S/s of good earth, cattle manure, J/sand, Tree plants & Shrubs and ground cover NOC etc. at site. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 7,03,828/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs.14,077/-, **Period of completion:** 15 Days.

3. NIT No. 78/ 18-19/ Hort. Dwk./, Name of work : M/o Various Colony under Dwk. Zone N/A-II. M/o Various scheme of sector-11, under Sub. Div-II Div. Dwarka. **SH:** Digging of holes, S/s of CDM, S/s of Tree plants NOC, etc. at site. **Estimated Cost:** Rs.14,26,752/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs.28,535/-, **Period of completion:** 30 Days.

4. NIT No. 79/18-19/ Hort. Dwk./, Name of work : M/o Various Colony under Dwk. Zone N/A-II. M/o Mass Tree plantation under Horticulture Division Dwarka, Sub. Div-II/DDA. **SH:** Digging of holes, S/s of CDM, S/s of trees, medicinal plants, Shrubs plants etc. at site. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 14,18,949/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 28,379 /-, **Period of completion:** 30 Days.

5. NIT No. 80/18-19/ Hort. Dwk./, Name of work : M/o Various Colony under Dwk. Zone N/A-II. M/o Green Belt under metro line at sector-11 Hwt. (From infinity circle to sectol-10/11 round about to road no. 219). **SH:** Clearing of Jungle, digging of holes, S/s of good earth, cattle manure, S/o NOC, shrubs and ground cover plants etc. at site. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 10,61,414/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 21,228/-, **Period of completion:** 15 Days.

6. NIT No. 86/18-19/ Hort. Dwk./, Name of work : M/o Various Colony under Dwk. Zone N/A-II. M/o park & plantation at sector-05 (Near palam Drain) M/o Central Nursery area at sector-05. M/o park & office complex sector-05. M/o M.P green area at sector-05 Dwarka. **SH:** Digging of holes, S/s of cattle manure, NOC, & Insecticide etc. at site. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 11,14,552/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 22,291 /-, **Period of completion:** 20 Days.

7. NIT No. 87/18-19/ Hort. Dwk./, Name of work : M/o Various Colony under Dwk. Zone N/A-II. M/o Various parks at sector-6, 10 & RSP under Sub. Div-I/Hort. Div. Dwarka. **SH:** Digging of pits, S/s of cattle manure, S/o plants, Insecticide etc. at site. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 11,45,371/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 22,907 /-, **Period of completion:** 20 Days.

8. NIT No. 88/18-19/ Hort. Dwk./, Name of work : M/o Various Colony under Dwk. Zone N/A-II. M/o Distt. park at sector-05 (Near Central School), M/o park at sector-05 (Near BGS School), Dwarka. **SH:** Digging of holes, S/s of cattle manure, NOC, Insecticide etc. at site. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 12,76,599/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 25,532 /-, **Period of completion:** 20 Days.

9. NIT No. 89/18-19/ Hort. Dwk./, Name of work : M/o Various Colony under Dwk. Zone N/A-II. M/o Various parks at sector-9.20 & RSP under Sub. Div-V/Hort. Div. Dwarka. **SH:** Digging of pits for plantation, S/s of cattle manure, S/o plants, Insecticide etc. at site. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 5,73,715/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 11,474 /-, **Period of completion:** 20 Days

Please also visit the website <https://eprocure.gov.in> or eprocure/app or send mail cpp-nic@nic.in or dial Help Line No. 1800-233-7315. Mobile No. +91-7878007972 & +91-7878007973.

Please give your feedback on DDA Apps at

Please visit DDA's website : www.dda.org.in or Dial Toll Free No. 1800110332.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo) namely **Saurabh, S/o Chander Pal, R/o H. No. D-282, Tagore Garden, New Delhi, Aged 15 years,** has been missing since 16.06.2018. In this regard a FIR No. 377/18 u/s 363 IPC, Dated 22.06.2018 has been registered at Police Station – Rajpouri Garden, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Wheatish, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Round, **Build:** Thin, **Clothing:** Wearing cream colour T-Shirt, black colour Pant and black colour Hawai Chappal in feet.

Any person is having any information/Clue about this missing boy, may inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph.No.: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25453990, 25448885

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD
Notice for Removal from Railway Service

Shri Keshav Kumar S/o Shri Jai Prakash, R/o: House No. 26, Village- Guladiya, Post- Jahangirpur, Tehsil- Thakurdwara, Dist.- Mordabad, Uttar Pradesh, who was working in Engineering Department at the post of Trackmaintainer under SSE(P.Way)KSV North Central Railway has been removed from Railway Service with immediate effect without pensionary benefit vide ADEN-I/MTJ Letter No. MT/J//Staff/D&AR/IV/ Keshav Kumar date **30.05.2018** due to unauthorized absent from duty from date **30.01.2016 to 15.01.2017**. You can appeal to Senior Divisional Engineer - I, North Central Railway, Agra against above order within 45 Days under DAR rule 1968 section 18.

Assistant Div. Engr. (I)
North Central Railway, Mathura

North central railways railwaynorthcentral@CPRONCR 747/18 (A)

Chhattisgarh Rural Roads Development Agency
VIKASH BHAVAN, CIVIL LINES, RAIPUR (C.G.)
E-Procurement Tender Notice
NIT No. 352 /CE/TECH./CGRRDA/2018 Dated 04/07/2018

The Superintending Engineer / Convener (Tender Cell), CGRRDA on behalf of **Governor of Chhattisgarh** invites the **percentage rate bids** on **SOR of PWD Bridge** enforced from 01.01.2015 with **10% Below applicable for CGRRDA & Approach road** PMGSY SOR 01.09.2014 amended till date in electronic tendering system for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak **LSB 2018-19 Batch-I** Work in the district of **Koriya** for **01 number of LSB with Total Estimate Cost Rs 250.32 Lacs** as per B.O.Q. from the eligible contractors registered with **unified registration system (e-registration)**. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: **06/07/2018**

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original bid security in approved form and (b) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITR with **Superintending Engineer / Convener, Tender Cell, CGRRDA, Vikash Bhawan, Civil Lines, Raipur C.G.** on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by **Speed/ Registered post**, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement as per time schedule. For further details please log on to <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>. **In future any related corrigendum would be seen in the notice section of the website.**

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer Convener (Tender Cell)
Chhattisgarh Rural Road Development Agency
Civil Lines Raipur (C.G.)
E-mail: pmsgsyre4@yahoo.co.in

samvad 87526/6

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Sohan Lal S/o Heera Lal Meena R/o Village Rampura, Karanpura, PS - Raini, Distt. Alwar, Rajasthan** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **F.I.R. No. 76/18 u/s 419/420/468/ 471/474/120B IPC** at P.S. Moti Nagar, Delhi and a warrant of arrest issued thereupon has been returned unexecuted stating that the said **Sohan Lal** could not be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Sohan Lal** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sohan Lal** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **04.09.2018**.

By Order
Sh. Vishal Pahuja
Metropolitan Magistrate (West-04)
Room No. 271, 2nd Floor,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/7645/WD/18
(Court Notice)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD
Notice for Removal from Railway Service

Shri Suraj Kumar S/o Shri Jagdish Prakash R/o: Village + Post - Tepri, Thana- Piar, Dist.- Mujaffarpur, Bihar, Pin Code- 848115 who was working in Engineering Department at the post of Trackmaintainer under SSE(P.Way)KSV North Central Railway has been removed from Railway Service with immediate effect without pensionary benefit vide ADEN-I/MTJ Letter No. MT/J//Staff/ D&AR/IV/Suraj Kumar date **30.05.2018** due to unauthorized absent from duty from date **02.11.2013 to 15.01.2017**. You can appeal to Senior Divisional Engineer - I, North Central Railway, Agra against above order within 45 Days under DAR rule 1968 section 18.

Assistant Div. Engr. (I)
North Central Railway, Mathura

North central railways railwaynorthcentral@CPRONCR 742/18 (A)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD
Notice for Removal from Railway Service

Shri Rakesh S/o Mamraj R/o: Village- Pilkhani, Rampur Maniharam, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh Pin code- 247451, who was working in Engineering Department at the post of Trackmaintainer under SSE(P.Way)PWL North Central Railway has been removed from Railway Service with immediate effect without pensionary benefit vide ADEN-I/MTJ Letter No. MT/J//Staff/D&AR/IV/ Rakesh date **01.06.2018** due to unauthorized absent from duty from date **04.07.2012 to 03.04.2013**. You can appeal to Senior Divisional Engineer - I, North Central Railway, Agra against above order within 45 Days under DAR rule 1968 section 18.

Assistant Div. Engr. (I)
North Central Railway, Mathura

North central railways railwaynorthcentral@CPRONCR 745/18 (A)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD
Notice for Removal from Railway Service

Shri Avinash Kumar S/o Shri Anil Kumar, R/o: Village- Amavan Bansgopal, Nawada, Bihar, Pin code- 605125, who was working in Engineering Department at the post of Trackmaintainer under SSE(P.Way)PWL North Central Railway has been removed from Railway Service with immediate effect without pensionary benefit vide ADEN-I/MTJ Letter No. MT/J//Staff/D&AR/IV/ Avinash Kumar date **01.06.2018** due to unauthorized absent from duty from date **16.05.2015 to 15.11.2015**. You can appeal to Senior Divisional Engineer - I, North Central Railway, Agra against above order within 45 Days under DAR rule 1968 section 18.

Assistant Div. Engr. (I)
North Central Railway, Mathura

North central railways railwaynorthcentral@CPRONCR 746/18 (A)

US post service makes \$3.5-mn Statue of Liberty stamp mistake



NEW YORK: A 2010 US Postal Service stamp mistakenly bearing the image of a Lady Liberty replica will cost the American post office a whopping USD 3.5 million for the copyright violation, according to a media report.

In a 2010 stamp design, the United States Postal Service mistook a Las Vegas-based replica for the real Statue of Liberty. Now a federal court has ruled that the post office must pay the replica's sculptor USD 3.5 million for violating his copyright. The New York Times reported.

The statue by the artist Robert Davidson sits at the New York-New York casino in Las Vegas, thousands of kilometres away from the mint-green figure in New York Harbour.

Yet an image of his sculpture made a surprise appearance on the post office's Lady Liberty "forever" stamp in 2010.

Davidson filed a copyright infringement lawsuit against the post office in 2013, claiming it illegally used the image of his piece, and a federal court agreed, awarding him damages after he established that his piece was different enough from the original to be protected, the report said.

Made of plaster mud, acrylic-based coating and foam, the replica is half the size of the real Statue of Liberty and sports more defined eyes and lips. Davidson argued in court that his mother-in-law's face inspired the Las Vegas sculpture's design. He said he made the statue's appearance "a little more modern, a little more feminine" than the original's "masculine" features.

The post office had originally picked the photo by searching Getty Images, the stock-photo agency, and believed it showed the real statue. After sizing and cropping the photo to fit on a stamp, the post office released it to the public in December 2010. AGENCIES

Japan executes 1995 sarin attack cult leader, 6 others

TOKYO: The leader of the Japanese doomsday cult that carried out a deadly 1995 sarin attack on the Tokyo subway was executed on Friday along with six of his followers, decades after the shocking crime.

Shoko Asahara, the charismatic virtually-blind leader of the Aum Shinrikyo sect, has been on death row for more than a decade over the attack, which shocked the world and prompted a massive crackdown on the cult.

"Seven Aum members were executed, they include Shoko Asahara," a justice ministry official said.

The hangings are the first executions in connection with the nerve agent attack, which killed 13 people and injured thousands more. A further six cult members remain on death row.

Some of those affected by the attack welcomed news of the executions.

"When I heard the news, I reacted calmly... But I did feel the world had become slightly brighter," said Atsushi Sakahara, a film director who was injured



Aum Shinrikyo leader Shoko Asahara

in the sarin attack at Tokyo's Roppongi station.

"I've been in pain for years," he said.

"It will be impossible to ever forget the incident, but the execution brings a kind of closure."

The attack during the capital's notoriously crowded rush hour paralysed the Japanese capital, turning it into a virtual warzone.

Injured people began staggering out of the underground struggling for breath, with watering eyes as the attack unfolded.

Others keeled over, foaming at the mouth, with blood streaming from their noses.

The sarin had been released in liquid form on five subway carriages at different points throughout the network.

The first sign of it was a smell similar to paint thinner, but soon commuters began cough uncontrollably, recalled Sakae Ito, who was on the crowded Hibiya line that day.

"Liquid was spread on the floor in the middle of the carriage, people were convulsing in their seats. One man was

leaning against a pole, his shirt open, bodily fluids leaking out."

Police were first alerted just after 8 am and panic soon set in, with subway workers screaming at people to evacuate and passengers convulsing on carriage floors.

The Japanese Self-Defense Force was called in and descended into the depths in hazmat suits and gas masks to assist the injured and deal with the poison.

Though concerns about the Aum had already been raised, the attack prompted a massive crackdown on the cult's headquarters and the arrest of Asahara and other group members.

He was sentenced to death after a lengthy prosecution during which he regularly delivered rambling and incoherent monologues in English and Japanese.

The hangings on Friday are the largest simultaneous execution in Japan since 1911, when 11 people were hanged for plotting to assassinate the emperor.

Born Chizuo Matsumoto in 1955 on the southwestern island of Kyushu, Asahara changed his

name in the 1980s, when the Aum cult was being developed.

Virtually blind, he was seen as a charismatic speaker who cloaked himself in mysticism to draw recruits including doctors and scientists to the doomsday cult he developed in the 1980s.

The Aum cult, now renamed Aleph, officially disowned Asahara in 2000, but it has never been banned and experts say the former guru retained a strong influence.

Despite the horror that persists over the Aum's subway attack and other crimes, some experts had warned against the execution of Asahara and his acolytes.

They fear his death may trigger the naming of a new cult leader, possibly his second son.

And the execution of Asahara's followers risks elevating them to "martyrs" in the eyes of remaining cult adherents, warned Taro Takimoto, a lawyer for relatives of cultists, in an interview with AFP earlier this year. "We should have them talk until they die a natural death so that they help prevent a recurrence," he said.

AGENCIES

Russia, China, Germany, France, UK talk to Iran to save N-deal

VIENNA: Top diplomats from Iran and five world powers sat down in Vienna on Friday to hash out what steps are needed to preserve the nuclear deal with Tehran following the withdrawal of the United States.

The meeting on Friday between Iran, Germany, Britain, France, Russia and China will consider proposals for salvaging the 2015 deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which is meant to prevent Tehran from developing nuclear weapons.

Arriving in Vienna, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said preserving the deal was critical, and that the treaty states would send a "united, determined and strong signal" that they were committed to it despite US President Donald Trump's decision in May to pull out American support.

"If this treaty can't be upheld then this doesn't just hurt the interests of Iran, it also damages the peace in the Middle East and the credibility of the international world order," Wang said.

Trump said he was unilaterally pulling out of the deal negotiated by his predecessor



because he felt it wasn't strong enough and didn't cover other issues of concern to the US and its allies, such as Iran's military influence in the Middle East and a ballistic missile program.

Iran's economy is already suffering from the sanctions that Washington re-imposed after walking away from the nuclear agreement, and the US has threatened to punish companies from other nations that continue doing business with Iran.

Heading in to the talks, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas conceded that the treaty nations would not be able to compensate Iran entirely for the loss of business from com-

panies withdrawing, but said they would advise firms that want to continue investing and emphasize to Iran that leaving the deal "would have much greater disadvantages."

"We want to make it clear to Iran on Friday that it still has economic benefits from this agreement," Maas told reporters. "Above all we will try to create the conditions for that."

Maas said he expected negotiations to continue after on Friday's talks, which were convened at Iran's request.

"We are formulating an offer which, in our opinion, is also attractive for Iran," Maas said. "We want this agreement to be maintained in the future."

AGENCIES

37 dead, 18 missing in Thai tourist boat capsizes

PHUKET (THAILAND): Thai rescuers pulled 37 bodies from waters off the coast of the holiday island of Phuket on Friday after a tourist boat went down in heavy seas with dozens of Chinese passengers on board.

Many of the dead were found drifting face down in the water, still wearing life jackets, several kilometres (miles) from where the Phoenix sank after being hit by five-metre (15-foot) high waves in a storm on Thursday evening.

"The death toll on Friday is 37, with 18 still unaccounted for," said a Thai navy official late on Friday, requesting anonymity.

In a grisly development earlier, divers reported seeing "over 10 bodies" floating inside the hull of the submerged boat, according to Thai navy Rear Admiral Charoenphon Khumrasee, who said they would try to retrieve them later on Friday.

One survivor, a Chinese woman, was rushed to hospital in Phuket, according to an AFP reporter at the scene, after she was found several kilometres from the boat having spent the night in the water.

Her condition was unknown.

The three-decker boat was carrying 105 passengers, mostly Chinese tourists, when it sank.



"The skies were clear when we went out, we had no idea the weather could change so fast," said Wu Jun, 28, from the hospital bedside of his wife Long Hai Ning.

The pair, who were on their honeymoon, were on different decks as the boat started to list, but both managed to escape.

"I grabbed onto a railing and pulled myself overboard," he said, adding he feared women and children were among those who were trapped on the bottom deck as the boat went down.

A total of 56 passengers were reported missing as of Friday morning before the recovery effort began, with the Phoenix looking set to be one of the worst boat disasters in recent Thai history.

The boat sank 40 metres

below the surface of the Andaman Sea, a few kilometres off the coast of Koh He, an islet known for its coral formations and popular with day-trippers from the tourist magnet of Phuket.

A stream of full body bags were brought to shore at Chalong pier in Phuket and taken to a nearby hospital for identification.

Helicopters continued to scan the water on Friday afternoon in what appeared to be an increasingly forlorn hunt for survivors.

"I'm not really sure how many will survive," a grim-faced Noraphat Plodthong, the governor of Phuket, told reporters.

Some 48 people - passengers and crew - were rescued from the Phoenix on Thursday before the operation was suspended

overnight.

Thai junta number two Prawit Wongsuwan ordered an investigation into why "the boat went to sea" despite a weather warning, while Thai police said they would seek to charge the captain and owner with negligence.

The Phoenix was among several boats that appeared to have ignored a warning in place since Wednesday not to take tourists on day-trips to the islands that dot the seas off Phuket.

Several other vessels hit trouble late on Thursday, but all of their passengers were rescued.

Thailand is already in the global spotlight for a dramatic rescue mission in the north of the country, after 12 boys and their football coach were trapped in a cave complex.

A Chinese consular official arrived at the operations centre in Phuket to monitor the rescue effort.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said a taskforce was on its way to Thailand.

"We hope that the Thai side can continue their best efforts and... do their best to treat the injured, comfort relatives and deal with other follow up measures," he said.

AGENCIES

British court gives bail to 28-year-old nurse who murdered eight babies in hospital

LONDON: A British nurse arrested on suspicion of murdering eight babies as part of an investigation into a hospital neo-natal unit in northwest England has been released on bail, police said on Friday.

Lucy Letby, 28, was arrested on Tuesday as part of a probe into the deaths of 17 babies at the Countess of Chester Hospital.

A spokesman said the nurse, whose identity has not been confirmed by police, had been bailed pending further enquiries.

"We continue to recognise that this investigation has a huge impact on all of the families, staff, and patients at the hospital as well as members of the public.

"Parents of all the babies continue to be kept fully updated and are being supported



Lucy Letby

throughout the process by specially trained officers," the spokesman said.

The investigation includes the deaths

and 14 non-fatal collapses of babies between March 2015 and July 2016.

At the time of the arrest, Detective Inspector Paul Hughes said it was a "significant step forward". Police have been searching Letby's home in Chester since her arrest.

Letby qualified as a children's nurse at the University of Chester in 2011.

The investigation began last year following a review that found no "definitive explanation" for an unexpected increase in the number of baby deaths at the unit.

The hospital, which looks after about 400 babies every year, stopped providing care for babies born earlier than 32 weeks in July 2016.

AGENCIES

Pope raps anti-migrant policies 'sterile hypocrisy'

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis thanked aid groups that rescue and care for migrants on Friday and denounced the "sterile hypocrisy" of those who turn a blind eye to the world's poor seeking security and a dignified life.

Francis celebrated a special Mass for migrants and those who care for them in St. Peter's Basilica, calling attention to their plight as Europe, the US and other countries increasingly close their doors, ports and borders to them.

The intimate service marked the fifth anniversary of Francis' landmark visit to Lampedusa, the Sicilian island that for years was the primary destination of migrants smuggled from Libya to Europe.

During that trip, Francis' first outside Rome after his 2013 election, the new pope denounced the "globalisation of indifference" that the world showed migrants fleeing war, poverty and climate-induced natural disasters.

In the years since, and especially in recent months, governments in Italy, the US, Hungary and elsewhere have adopted tough anti-migrant policies that fly in the face of Francis' oft-repeated call for governments to open their hearts and doors to those in need.

Italy and Malta, in par-

ticular, have closed their ports to aid groups that rescue migrants in the Mediterranean, while the Trump administration imposed a now-abandoned policy to separate children from their parents at the US-Mexico border.

Francis didn't refer to any country by name in his homily, but he said the only "reasonable response" to the global migration phenomenon on Friday is to show solidarity and mercy.

AGENCIES

CLEANING WORKS
e-Tender (e-Tender Notice No. C-130-MechClean-BQA-18, Dated: 03.07.2018) is invited by Sr. DCM, South Eastern Railway, Adra for and on behalf of the President of India for the work. **Description of the work:** Cleanliness contract of Adra Stations for 04 (Four) years. **Approx. Tender Value:** Rs. 3,32,68,538/- (Including GST). **Cost of Tender Form:** Rs. 10,000/- (Including GST). **Closing date & time of e-tender is on 10.08.2018 at 15.00 hrs. and Opening of tender will be done on 10.08.2018.** Details of the above e-tender may please be seen at website www.reps.gov.in (PR-464)

CLEANING WORKS
e-Tender (e-Tender Notice No. C-130-MechClean-BQA-18, Dated: 03.07.2018) is invited by Sr. DCM, South Eastern Railway, Adra for and on behalf of the President of India for the work. **Description of the work:** Cleanliness contract of Bankura Stations for 04 (Four) years. **Approx. Tender Value:** Rs. 2,28,22,761.60 (Including GST). **Cost of Tender Form:** Rs. 10,000/- (Including GST). **Closing date & time of e-tender is on 10.08.2018 at 15.00 hrs. and Opening of tender will be done on 10.08.2018.** Details of the above e-tender may please be seen at website www.reps.gov.in (PR-465)

South Eastern Railway
We serve with a smile

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this person **Named:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 40 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'4", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** Green colour T-shirt & Blue jeans pant and Bare feet, has been found dead at DDA Park, Near Sant Parmanand Blind Hospital, Kashmere Gate, Delhi on dated 20.06.2018.

In this regard a DD No. 32-A, dated 20.06.2018 has been registered at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

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

SHO

P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi

DP/8920/N/18

Ph.: 011-23967889, 8750870123

DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE WORKS , VARANASI - 221004

Bid No. E-34/18-2019 E-Tender Dated: 02.07.2018
E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only e-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have class III Digital Signature and registration on **IREPS**. The details of tenders are in the following sequence- **S.No. Tender No. (Due Date), Description and Quantity.**
01. 021870000, (25.07.2018), CYLINDER TEST VALVE ASSEMBLY, PL No.16241137, 22 Nos. **02.** 021850900, (25.07.2018), Thermal Insulation Locoguard kit, PL No.10272008, 12 Nos. **03.** 021810350, (26.07.2018), Ring Retainer for HHP Turbo Charger, PL No.19340096, 344 Nos. **04.** 021850681 (26.07.2018), Button Valve Bridge, PL No.16240236, 12625 Nos. **05.** 061850681 (26.07.2018), Cond. Fitting Kit (FLEX Connector, Coupling Etc) Drg. No. ELPT/0682 Alt R2, PL No.12520597, 22 Set. **06.** 061850770, (27.07.2018), M.C.C.B. 150 AMPS, 130 Volts D.C. Del/Spln147 Alt R-6 This is a Safety Item Drg No. ELPT/0187 Alt R5, PL No.12319429, 46 Nos. **07.** 061850780, (27.07.2018), M.C.C.B. 200 AMPS, 130 Volts D.C. Del/Spln147 Alt R-6 This is a Safety Item Drg No. ELPT/0187 Alt R5, PL No.12319399, 28 Nos. **08.** 061850450, (26.07.2018), Suspension Arrangement Accessories Kit of TM 4907 of ALCO Locomotive RDSO STR No. MP, STR.EM.01.01.12, (Rev.00), July 2012 DRG. No ELPT/0711 Alt B This is a Safety Item, PL No.12087956, 188 Set. **09.** 071811850, (13.07.2018), (1) Pressure sensitive Adhesive, PL No.84134630, 927 Nos. (2) Pressure sensitive Adhesive, PL No.84134653, 342 Nos. **10.** 071811720, (13.07.2018), Fel Pro Anti Sieze Thread Compound Locite, PL No.84139833, 98.61 Nos. **11.** 071811700, (13.07.2018), Melathion 95% Tech, PL No.81033266, 136.66 KGS. **12.** 071882400, (16.07.2018), Beatron Micro-D Time Recorder Ribbon Cartridge, 50 Nos. **13.** 071882081, (16.07.2018), Polyamide protection sleeve, 01 Set. **14.** 101760103, (20.07.2018), Dev. Tender for Spring to PL No.16160058, 50 No. **15.** 101615993, (20.07.2018), Dev. Tender for Spring Bolt Locking, Nipple-3/8 close to PL No.16160319, 16230632, 100 No. **16.** 101712045, (24.07.2018), Dev. Tender for Spring Button to PL No.16240212, 2400 No. **17.** 101810161, (24.07.2018), Advertise Tender for Seal O Ring to PL No.16170751, 79 No. **18.** 101860101, (25.07.2018), Dev. Tender for Shim 28 GA to PL No.16180410, 300 No. **19.** 101712054, (27.07.2018), Dev. Tender for Seal to PL No.16240327, 100 No. **20.** 101710075, (27.07.2018), Dev. Tender for Valve Temp. Cont. to PL No.16241228, 40 No. **21.** 101712003, (27.07.2018), Dev. Tender for Gasket to PL No.16170313, 16170234, 100 No. **100 No. 22.** 101860092, (27.07.2018), Dev. Tender for Seal to PL No.16180409, 300 No. **Note:** The details of above tenders are available on www.dtw.indianrailways.gov.in and www.reps.gov.in
P.R.O./D1W/S-57 Controller of Stores

"Serving Customers With A Smile"

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Subodh Yadav

The description of the missing man is as under: **Name:** Subodh Yadav, **Age:** 35 Years, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Oval, **Identification:** Mentally Weak, **Wearing:** White Banian & Towel.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing man, kindly inform SHO/ P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.

Email: cic@cbi.gov.in **SHO**
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Ph.: 011-23015229, 23015218
Fax: 011-23011334
DP/1076/OD/18 Ph. No. 011-25946710, 7065036129

SEARCH FOR MISSING



NEETU

General Public is hereby informed that a girl **Name:** Neetu, **D/o** Anand, **R/o** R-894, Camp No. 5, Jwala Puri, Delhi, **Age:** 22 Years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** Pink Suit-Salwar and Slippers in feet, is missing/kidnapped since 10.05.2018 from the area of PS Mianwali Nagar, Delhi. In this regard case **DD No. 48-A**, dated 10.05.2018, has been registered at PS. Mianwali Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform undersigned.

E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in **SHO**
Fax: 011-24368639 **PS, Mainwali Nagar, Delhi**
DP/1074/OD/18 Ph.: 011-25268294, 25280980

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



Suman Hooda

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Suman Hooda, **D/o** Shri Jai Bhagwan, **R/o** H.No. J-93D, Adhyapak Nagar, Nangloi, Delhi, Age 24 years, Height 5'7", Complexion Fair, Long Face, Wearing Black colour kurta pajami and sandal in feet has been missing / kidnapped from the area of PS Nihal Vihar, Delhi since 08.05.18. In this regard a vide **DD No. 28-A** dated 09.05.18 has been lodged at PS Nihal Vihar, Delhi.

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

E-mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in **SHO**
Tele: 011-24368638, 24368641 **PS: Nihal Vihar, Delhi**
Fax: 011-24368639 **Ph.: 25946700, 25946710**
DP/1068/OD/18

SEARCH FOR MISSING



11.06.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Jyoti Nagar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this girl please inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **SHO**
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639 **P.S. Jyoti Nagar, Delhi**
Ph.No.: 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/6406/NE/18 Ph.: 011-22110185, 22110186

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



Rani Devi

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the lady but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this lady please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in **SHO**
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 **P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**
Fax : 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-25946700, 25946710
DP/1078/OD/18 7065036129

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that one old woman (depicted in the photo), **Named :** Unknown **W/o** Unknown **R/o** Unknown was found near Nanaksar Gurudwara, Sir Gangaram Road, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi on 28.06.2018. In this regard a case **DD No. 22A** dated 28.06.2018 has been lodged at PS Rajinder Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age : 70 Years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion :** Wheatish, **Face :** Oval, **Build :** Normal, **Wearing :** Light purple colour blouse and multi colour saree with white dots.

Any person is having any information/clue about this found old woman, may inform SHO, Rajinder Nagar, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

SHO
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 **P.S. Rajinder Nagar, Delhi**
Fax No. 011-24368639 Central Distt., New Delhi
DP/5599/CD/18 Ph. No. 011-28744012, 28742712

India, Sri Lanka to form JV to run Hambantota airport

COLOMBO: India has agreed to form a joint venture with Sri Lanka to operate the country's loss-making Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport in Hambantota, the Civil Aviation Minister has told Parliament.

The \$210 million facility, 241km south-east of Colombo, is dubbed the "world's emptiest airport" due to a lack of flights.

India would operate the airport as a Sri Lanka-India joint venture, Parliament was told on Thursday.

The joint venture would see India gain a major stake of the airport, he said.

Minister of Civil Aviation Nimal Siripala de Silva, speaking at the adjournment motion moved by the Opposition, said: "We need to revive this dying airport which caused a massive loss of rupees 20 billion."

The final terms of the agreement, however, remains to be worked out, the minister said.

Opposition legislator



Kanaka Herath asked if the Mattala airport adjoining the Hambantota seaport is to be handed over to India to please the super powers India and China.

De Silva denied the charge and said that in 2016, the government had invited proposals from interested international investors to run the airport.

"Only India offered to help us. Now we are in discussion with the Indians for the joint venture," de Silva said.

Mattala airport, named after former president Mahinda Rajapaksa, was one of the major infrastructure projects of Rajapaksa's nearly a decade-long rule. The project was funded through high interest Chinese

commercial loans.

The airport was officially opened in March 2013.

The only international flight operating from there was halted in May due to recurrent losses and flight safety issues.

The airport has the capacity to handle one million passengers a year and is expected to handle five million passen-

gers, 50,000 tonnes of cargo and 6,250 air traffic operations per annum by 2028.

The government in 2017 invited investors to turn the airport into a profit-sharing joint venture. However no proposals were received to operate, manage and maintain it.

The seaport built in Hambantota, another Rajapaksa pet project, has been leased to China to set off Chinese loans as equity.

The Hambantota port was a major Chinese-assisted infrastructure project in the home district of Rajapaksa, whose nearly a decade-long rule was ended by President Maithripala Sirisena in 2015.

The Rajapaksa-led Opposition has called the Hambantota seaport deal a sell out of national assets to China.

Rajapaksa's administration had been criticised heavily for high commercial borrowings from China.

Apple set to drop Intel for 5G chips in 2020 iPhone models

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple has reportedly conveyed a message to Intel, saying it will not be using the chip-maker's 5G modems for 2020 iPhone models, the media reported.

As a result of the decision, Intel seems to have halted development on a modem internally known as "Sunny Peak", but the company is reportedly now focusing on improving its product in an attempt to win Apple back for the 2022 iPhone lineup, Digital Trends reported on Thursday.

The news was originally reported by Calcalist, an Israeli financial daily, which reviewed internal company communications.

Earlier reports suggested that Apple was turning to Taiwanese mobile chipset maker MediaTek for its communications components and that the Cupertino, California-headquartered tech giant was looking to move away from using Intel processors altogether by 2020.

Apple started using Intel components in modern iPhones as it wanted to reduce



its dependence on chips from Qualcomm, with which it got entangled in a log legal battle.

Meanwhile, according to a key analyst associated with Taiwanese business group KGI Securities, the 6.5-inch iPhone 2018 model is likely to be priced around \$1,000 and will feature dual SIM capabilities.

While this model would come in black, white and a new gold colour variant, the entry-level 6.1-inch LCD iPhone was likely to be launched in grey, white, blue, red and orange

colours, Ming-Chi Kuo said in a research note.

"That's a potential five new colours for the LCD model. It is very possible that when Kuo says 'grey' and 'white' he is referring to the Space Grey and Silver finishes as seen on the current iPhone X," 9to5Mac reported late on Thursday.

"We've mocked up the new finishes above by tinting an iPhone X, but note, the 6.1-inch LCD iPhone is not expected to have a dual-camera system," the report added.

Bengal Chemicals targets ₹36 crore net profit by 2020

KOLKATA: Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd, the country's first pharma company, is hopeful of clocking a net profit of Rs 36 crore by 2020, an over three-fold rise from the bottom-line it posted in the last fiscal.

"We have doubled our profit for 2017-18 to Rs 10 crore on a turnover of Rs 78 crore. In the current fiscal, we are aiming at Rs 20 crore net profit on a topline in excess of Rs 100 crore," Managing Director P M Chandraiah said here on Friday, announcing the company's earnings.

"By 2020, we are confident of Rs 36 crore net profit on revenues of Rs 150 crore," he said.

In the fiscal ended March, Bengal Chemicals registered a growth of over 123 per cent.

Chandraiah said the company has crossed the consolidation phase and it will now be in the growth phase.

"The worst year for Bengal Chemicals was 2013-14, when the company posted a net loss of Rs 36.55 crore. I am aiming



to reverse the same in 2020," he said.

In the first quarter ended June, Bengal Chemicals posted a profit of Rs 5.12 crore.

Revenue from the pharma segment is Rs 60 crore but the same has capacity for Rs 500 crore, Chandraiah said, adding, the West Bengal government should place orders for pharma products to help the institution flourish.

He also said it has sought

the government's approval to allow the 2007 payscale, as the company posted two years of profits. Currently, employees are in the 1997 payscale.

Chandraiah said if the government accepts the 2007 payscale, it would be a sign of "reversal of plans" for strategic sale.

The Niti Aayog had recommended strategic sale of the company, following mounting losses till 2015-16.

PNB invites bids to sell 3 NPA accounts to recover ₹136 cr

NEW DELHI: Punjab National Bank (PNB) has put on sale three non-performing assets to recover Rs 136 crore dues from the borrowers.

"We intend to place these accounts for sale to ARCs/NBFCs/other banks/FIs on the terms and conditions stipulated in the bank's policy, in line with the regulatory guidelines," PNB said in the invite for expression.

The three non-performing accounts (NPAs) or bad loans that have been put on sale are Gwalior Jhansi Expressways with an outstanding of Rs 55 crore; SVS Buildcon Pvt Ltd Rs 50 crore and Shiva Textfabs Ltd Rs 31.06 crore.

The process of e-bidding for the sale of these accounts will happen on July 20 (rpt) 20, 2018, the bank said.

All the public sector lenders (PSBs), who account for the highest amount of bad loans of the banking industry, have stepped up measures to recover dues from bad assets.

'AIFs can't turn current open-ended schemes into closed-ended ones'

NEW DELHI: Alternative investment funds cannot convert their existing open-ended schemes to closed-ended and vice-versa, markets regulator Sebi said on Friday.

The clarifications have been given as part of an informal guidance sought by Singular India Opportunities Trust (SIOT), which is managed by Singular Capital India Advisors LLP regarding certain aspects of AIF regulation.

SIOT is registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) as a category-3 AIF.

AIFs are funds established or incorporated in India for the purpose of pooling in capital from Indian and foreign investors for investing as per a pre-decided policy. The regulator has divided AIFs into three categories.

AIF includes venture capital funds, hedge funds, private equity funds, commodity funds, debt funds and infrastructure funds. "There is no provision in the AIF regulations to convert



the existing open ended fund into close ended and vice-versa," Sebi said in the interpretive letter on Friday.

The open-ended schemes offer units to the investors on a continuous basis and do not have a fixed maturity period. This means that the investors can buy units or sell units from the AIF at any time, thereby making the corpus of the fund variable.

On the other hand, close-ended funds are offered to investors for a limited period only.

Rolls-Royce sells commercial marine unit for £500 million

LONDON: British engine maker Rolls-Royce announced on Friday it has agreed to sell its troubled commercial marine business to Norwegian industrial group Kongsberg for 500 million pounds.

The deal, worth 661 million or 566 million euros, is part of a massive overhaul led by chief executive Warren East, Rolls-Royce said in a statement.

The news comes three weeks after the London-listed company launched plans to axe 4,600 mainly British management roles by 2020 to further slash costs.

The commercial marine division employs about 3,600 staff mainly in the Nordic region.

Rolls-Royce expects net proceeds of 350 million to 400 million pounds from the transaction, which will conclude early next year. East has overseen a drastic restructuring since his appointment as chief executive in 2015.

Govt plans system soon to ensure MSP for farmers

NEW DELHI: The government will soon announce a new mechanism to ensure that farmers get the minimum support price (MSP) if market prices fall below the benchmark rate, Minister of State for Agriculture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said on Friday.

The minister said the government has increased the MSP of Kharif (summer-sown) crops substantially and farmers community are now happy with this decision. Asked when the government will come up with a new mechanism to ensure MSP to farmers, Shekhawat said "it will be announced soon".

The minister was speaking on the sidelines of 'Agriculture Growth Summit 2018' organised by event management firm E3 Integrated. In his Budget 2018 speech, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had announced that

think-tank Niti Aayog in consultation with central and state governments will put in place a fool-proof mechanism to ensure farmers get benefit of the MSP.

Sources had earlier said the Centre may have to bear Rs 12,000-15,000 crore annually to compensate farmers in case prices fall below the MSP in various crops, except rice and wheat being already procured by state-run FCI.

Senior officials of Niti Aayog has recently made a presentation before the prime minister on the proposed procurement mechanism and its financial implication. Niti Aayog has proposed that states should be given the option of three models — Market Assurance Scheme (MAS), Price Deficiency Procurement Scheme (PDPS) and Private Procurement and Stockists Scheme.

Kharif sowing continues to lag; rice acreage dips 15%

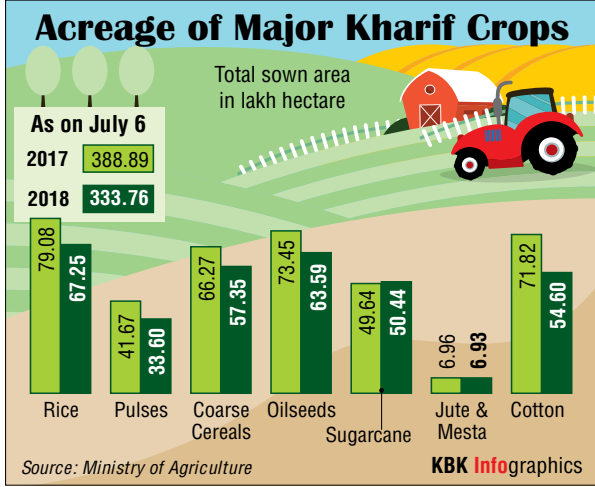
NEW DELHI: Area sown to rice, the main kharif crop, has remained lower by 15 per cent at 67.25 lakh hectare (ha) so far in the 2018-19 season due to uneven distribution of rainfall.

Not only rice, farmers have sown coarse cereals, pulses, oilseeds and cotton in less area as on today compared to the year-ago period.

The planting of kharif (summer-sown) crops begin from June with the onset of south-west monsoon, which covered the entire country on June 29, two weeks earlier than the normal date.

According to the latest sowing data released by the Agriculture Ministry, rice acreage lagged behind at 67.25 lakh hectare so far in the kharif 2018-19 season as against 79.08 lakh hectare in the year ago period.

Less area of rice was reported from the states of Chhattisgarh (4.26 lakh ha),



Uttar Pradesh (3.47 lakh ha), Punjab (2.77 lakh ha), Madhya Pradesh (1.60 lakh ha), Odisha (1.55 lakh ha), Haryana (1.03 lakh ha) and Manipur (1.03 lakh ha), among others.

"The lag in planting of kharif crops so far is an interim thing. There is no cause of con-

cern as sowing has not begun yet in many growing states," Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Director General Trilochan Mohapatra said.

While rainfall is normal as a whole in the country, there was uneven rain distribution in some pockets because of which

farmers could not undertake sowing operations, he said.

Also, farmers were waiting for the minimum support price for kharif crops to make the choice of which crop to grow, he added.

As per the data, area sown to pulses such as tur, urad and moong was lower at 33.60 lakh hectare so far, down by 19.36 per cent from 41.67 lakh hectare in the year-ago.

Similarly, area under coarse cereals was lower by 13.45 per cent at 57.35 lakh hectare as against 66.27 lakh hectare in the said period.

Even planting of oilseeds remained sluggish as area was down by 13.42 per cent to 63.59 lakh hectare so far as against 73.45 lakh hectare in the same period last year.

Soyabean acreage was down by 3.85 per cent to 51.64 lakh hectare when compared with 53.70 lakh hectare in the year-ago.

RIL effect: Hathway, DEN, Siti shares' slide by up to 11%

NEW DELHI: Shares of broadcasting and cable TV operators continued to face selling pressure for the second straight session on Friday, tumbling up to 11.2 per cent after Reliance unveiled fiber broadband service in 1,100 cities. Hathway Cable and Datacom plunged 11.17 per cent, DEN Networks 7.36 per cent and Siti Networks 5.01 per cent on BSE. These stocks tanked up to 15.4 per cent in the previous trading session also. Mukesh Ambani on Thursday unveiled an ultra high-speed fixed line fiber broadband for homes and enterprises across 1,100 cities.

Waging trade war, will Trump use 'Made in China' flags for 2020 campaign?

WASHINGTON DC: Amidst a trade war between the US and China, a Chinese company is manufacturing flags for President Donald Trump's 2020 re-election campaign, a media report said here.

The factory, situated in eastern Zhejiang province, had also made flags for the election campaigns of Hillary Clinton and Trump in 2016, the Washington-based National Public Radio (NPR) reported.

We also make flags for Trump for 2020. It seems like he has another campaign going on in 2020. Isn't that right? the company owner Li Jiang said.

Terming the manufacturing of flags for Trump's 2020 bid as completely normal, he said, "That is trade. We buy stuff from America, and America is buying stuff from China. For example, my car is from America."

He further said that all the flags being made have 'Made in China' tags on them.

The US and China slapped levies on \$34 billion of each other's exports, the first tangible shots in a trade battle that both sides are bracing to fight



for months. The new levies took effect at midnight Eastern Time in the US, a Wall Street Journal report said on Friday.

Dismissing any concern about the trade war between the two countries, Jiang said, "We are not so worried because first of all, we have a big price advantage over our competitors. And our clients are very smart. They would always go to the cheapest place. If China is cheap, they go to China. If America is cheap, they go to America."

He said even if his US business disappears entirely, he will be fine. For US customers, it would mean either fewer or more expensive flags at political rallies and at Fourth of July parades, he added.

Weak phone sales halt Samsung's sprint to record earnings

SEOUL: Samsung Electronics Co on Friday said its second-quarter operating profit advanced 5.19 per cent from a year earlier, but it failed to post record-breaking earnings apparently due to weaker-than-expected smartphone sales.

The preliminary figure for operating profit was \$13.2 billion in the April-June quarter, missing the market consensus of about \$13.7 billion.

It was up 5.2 per cent from a year earlier, but Samsung ended its record-breaking profit that had lasted for the past four quarters. From the previous quarter, the profit was down 5.4 per cent, marking the first quarterly fall in seven quarters.

Revenue was \$52 billion, down 4.9 per cent from a year earlier. From the previous quarter, it was also down 4.2 per cent.

The on-year improvement was mostly attributable to the chip segment, reported Yonhap, while the weak sales of the Galaxy S9 probably weighed down further growth.

Samsung was believed to have sold less than 10 million Galaxy S9 smartphones in the second quarter, slightly down from the previous quarter despite rising marking cost and lower product price, reported Xinhua.

While Samsung has not revealed detailed figures for the Galaxy S9 series, the combined sales of the smartphones are estimated to have reach some 28 million units, a figure hovering far below the Galaxy S8 series' 37.5 million units in 2017 and the Galaxy S7 series' 48.5 million units in 2016.

"Although the smartphone business did not meet expectations, the chip arm's perfor-



mance was strong (over the second quarter)," said Park Won-jae, researcher at Mirae Asset Daewoo Research, claiming that foreign-exchange conditions were also advantageous for Samsung.

Samsung Electronics posted an operating profit of 8 trillion won for the semiconductor business in the second quarter of 2017, along with 4 trillion won in the IT and

mobile business.

For the third quarter, analysts said Samsung will resume posting record-breaking earnings on chips and see the recovery of its smartphone sales.

Hanwha Investment and Securities Co said Samsung is expected to post record-breaking earnings on robust chip sales, with the upcoming Galaxy Note 9 also lending support to the recovery.

"The shipment of chips will continue to increase on seasonal demands," said Lee Soohak, researcher at Hanwha.

"As for the IT and Mobile division, the next Galaxy Note 9 may be able to recoup sluggish sales of the Galaxy S9 to some extent."

The South Korean tech giant said it will host an "Unpacked" gathering on August 9 in New York's Barclays Centre, to showcase the new Note model.

Considering such factors, Hanwha said it expects the operating profit to reach 16.8 trillion won for the July-September period.

Industry watchers said the guidance report will compel Vice Chairman Lee Jae-yong, who is effectively running the Samsung Group, which includes the key electronics affiliate, to look for future growth engines.

It was the second quarterly report announced by Samsung since Lee's release from prison in February after being embroiled in a political scandal which led to the impeachment of former President Park Geun-hye.

While staying relatively low-key, Lee has been displaying particular interest in artificial-intelligence (AI) technology and automotive industries.

Others claim that Lee may resume his full-fledged activities after meeting President Moon Jae-in next week, although it is still unknown whether the two will actually meet. Moon is scheduled to attend a ceremony on July 9, marking the construction of Samsung's production facility in India, which is likely to be attended by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Thyssenkrupp accepts CEO papers, backs Tata Steel JV

LONDON: The Supervisory Board of German steel major Thyssenkrupp on Friday accepted the resignation of its CEO Heinrich Hiesinger in "mutual agreement" and reiterated its backing for a merger with Tata Steel.

Hiesinger made the shock announcement about his exit as Chief Executive Officer of the company yesterday.

It came just days after he joined Tata Steel Chairman N Chandrasekaran at a joint press conference in Brussels to welcome a "new steel champion in Europe" following an agreement on a joint venture with the Indian steel major.

In a statement after a board meeting on Friday, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Thyssenkrupp Ulrich Lehner said the company remained committed to the Indian joint venture, which is set to create Europe's second-largest steel-maker after Lakshmi N Mittal's Arcelor Mittal.

"In this tough situation for the company it is now initially about staying on course... This includes the realisation of the steel joint venture. For this we reached an important milestone with the signing," said Lehner, in reference to the definitive agreement signed with Tata last week.

He also praised Hiesinger's leadership of the German steel giant over the last seven years.



CEO Heinrich Hiesinger

"He kept the company from its demise and changed it sustainably. During his time, he created the basis for Thyssenkrupp to exist as a strong industrial company in accordance with the principles of the foundation," Lehner said, adding that his decision to step down at this point "deserves our highest esteem and respect".

The company's Supervisory Board has asked the Board comprising Guido Kerkhoff, Oliver Burkhard and Donatus Kaufmann to lead without a Chief Executive Officer for the time being as the successor for Hiesinger will be appointed following a "structured process".

Hiesinger is seen as instrumental in achieving the 50-50 JV agreement with Tata Steel, which is set to create a mega steel company made up of

48,000 employees and sales worth 17 billion euros after all regulatory clearances.

In the event of a stock market flotation of the business in future, Thyssenkrupp would receive 55 per cent of the proceeds and would get to dictate the timing of any flotation.

However, according to reports, this deal did not satisfy all of the German firm's shareholders, some of whom believed Thyssenkrupp had got the poor end of the deal.

The merger has been widely welcomed by workers' unions in Britain as the best solution to ensure the long-term future of Tata Steel's UK operations.

The Indian company owns the UK's largest steel-works in Port Talbot, South Wales, employing thousands of staff.

Tatas steel output by 7.8%, sales by 8% in June quarter

MUMBAI: Tata Steel on Friday reported 7.82 per cent rise in domestic production at 3.17 million tonne and 8 per cent increase in sales at 2.97 mt in the June quarter.

The production stood at 2.94 mt and sales at 2.75 mt in the same period last year, and at 3.07 mt and 3.03, respectively, in the March quarter this year.

"Q1 FY19 production is higher than Q4 FY18 mainly due to better plant availability at Kalanganagar," the company said while announcing the provisional production and sales figures for the June quarter.

Automotive and special products has achieved highest ever quarterly sales of 557 kilo tonne (kt) in Q1 FY19 due to stronger demand and new product approvals, a release said.

Branded products and retail business has achieved highest ever Q1 sales of 975 kt, registering a year-on-year growth of 12 per cent, compared with 873 kt in Q1 FY18. Overall engineering segments have also registered 70 per cent growth with 97 kt sales



in Q1 FY19, against 57 kt sales in Q1 FY18, it said.

Tata Steel Europe, however, reported marginal jump in production at 2.81 mt in the June quarter, against 2.79 mt in the year-ago period, due to improved plant availability.

Sales also increased from 2.40 mt in Q1 FY18 to 2.43 mt in Q1 FY19, while deliveries were marginally better in spite of the action under Section 232 by the US which created some uncertainty, the company said. Its South East Asia unit reported production of 0.53 mt in Q1 FY19, against 0.50 mt in the same period last year, while the sales stood flat at 0.60 mt.

The company attributed lower production to planned annual shutdowns at Tata Steel Thailand.

AAI to set up world-class civil aviation research centre at Hyderabad airport

NEW DELHI: In what can be termed as a "potential game-changer in Indian Aviation", Airports Authority of India (AAI) is setting up a world-class Civil Aviation Research Organization (CARO) aimed at finding indigenous solutions to meet the challenges posed by the growing air traffic and for enhancing safety, capacity and efficiency of aircraft operations in the country.

Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister of Commerce & Industries and civil aviation laid the foundation stone for the futuristic CARO on July 5, 2018 in the presence of prominent people from industry, academia, research institutions and senior AAI officials.

Responding aggressively to the growth challenges through technological advancements in



civil aviation, AAI under the leadership of Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, has decided to set up a world-class Civil Aviation Research Organization (CARO) at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad. Widening its Research & Development

(R&D) horizon, this facility, spread across a sprawling area of 27 acres will cater to ANS and Airport/Engineering research. AAI has earmarked a whopping budget outlay of Rs. 1200 Crores for a period of 12 years for R&D.

UBI sees ₹3,000 cr recovery from NCLT resolutions

KOLKATA: United Bank of India is expecting to recover around Rs 3,000 crore out of a total of Rs 5,951 crore, by way of resolutions through the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), the public sector lender's MD and CEO Pawan Bajaj said on Friday.

Altogether 40 cases were referred to the NCLT of which Rs 580 crore had already been recovered by the bank, Bajaj told shareholders at the annual general meeting here.

"Now, all the cases referred to the NCLT will be ready for resolution, as the stipulated time limit is going to be over and reached the last stages of settlement," Bajaj said.

As on March 31, 2018, the bank's gross non-performing asset stood at over 24 per cent, he said, adding, the lender's

liquidity position was strong enough to meet any kind of liability, as the CASA ratio was high. In the first quarter of the current fiscal, UBI posted a net loss of Rs 220 crore, Bajaj said.

"We expect to be back in the black by the end of March 2019." Bajaj said the bank was shedding bulk deposits and reducing exposure to large corporates, and instead, focusing on SMEs, retail and agriculture.

"As the bank is based in West Bengal and other eastern states, the reason for high level of NPAs was lack of industrial growth in the region and lower credit off-take," he said.

Bajaj said that the CD ratio of the region, including that of West Bengal, was also low.

UBI has submitted a capital requirement plan to the Central government, he said.

Janardan Choudhary is NHPC Director (Tech)

NEW DELHI: Janardan Choudhary has taken over as Director (Technical) of NHPC Limited, India's premier hydropower company and a 'Mini Ratna' Category-I Enterprise of the Government of India on July 5, 2018.

Choudhary holds a degree in Electrical Engineering from Bihar Institute of Technology, Sindri (Jharkhand).

He started his professional career in NHPC Limited as Executive Trainee in December, 1984 from Tanakpur Project.

Janardan Choudhary has over 33 years of rich experience in implementation of hydro projects, encompassing all areas of hydropower development from inception to commissioning and operation and maintenance. Prior



to joining NHPC board, he held the position of Executive Director (O&M) and has been instrumental in optimizing the operational performance of the Power Stations within the regulatory framework.

He was associated in finalization of DPR for R&M (Life Extension) of Baira Siul and Loktak Power Stations. He was involved in erection, testing & commissioning activities of Tanakpur, Rangit and Kurichhu projects.

US job growth strong... but unemployment rate rises

WASHINGTON DC: US job growth increased more than expected in June as manufacturers stepped up hiring, but steady wage gains pointed to moderate inflation pressures that should keep the Federal Reserve on a path of gradual interest rate increases.

Nonfarm payrolls rose by 213,000 jobs last month, the Labor Department said on Friday. Data for April and May was revised to show 37,000 more jobs created than previously reported. The economy needs to create roughly 120,000 jobs per month to keep up with growth in the working-age population.

The unemployment rate rose to 4.0 per cent from an 18-year low of 3.8 per cent in June as more people entered the labor force in a sign of confidence in the jobs market. That was the first increase in the jobless rate in 10 months.

The labor force participa-



tion rate, or the proportion of working-age Americans who have a job or are looking for one, rose to 62.9 per cent last month from 62.7 per cent in May. It had declined for three straight months.

Average hourly earnings gained five cents, or 0.2 per cent in June after increasing 0.3 percent in May. That kept

the annual increase in average hourly earnings at 2.7 per cent.

The moderate wage growth should allay fears of a strong build-up in inflation pressures. The Fed's preferred inflation measure hit the central bank's 2 per cent target in May for the first time in six years. It is expected to hover around its target for a while, in

June gold imports drop by a quarter as ₹ hits record low

MUMBAI: India's gold imports fell for a sixth month in June to 44 tonnes as a drop in the rupee to record lows lifted local prices to a near 21-month high, curtailing demand, provisional data from GFMS analysts at Thomson Reuters and bank dealers showed.

The 25 percent year-on-year drop in purchases by the world's No.2 consumer could weigh on global prices, which fell to their lowest in seven months last week. Lower gold imports could also help the South Asian country cut its trade deficit.

"The rupee kept local prices elevated despite the correction in global prices," said the Mumbai-based head of the gold trading desk at a private bullion importing bank.

The Indian rupee hit a record low in the last week of June and has lost nearly 8 percent so far in 2018. Local gold prices have risen more than 5 percent so far this year. The country imported 58.9 tonnes of gold in June 2017 as demand



jumped ahead of the implementation of a new national sales tax from July 1, 2017. Purchases were also curbed last month by the arrival of Adhik Maas, an extra month in the Hindu calendar that ended on June 13 which is considered inauspicious. People avoid weddings and buying gold or property during that period.

"In the first half of June retail purchases were weak due to Adhik Mass," said Damani Prakash Rathod, a director at MNC Bullion, a wholesaler in

Chennai. Gold is an essential part of a bride's dowry in India and also a popular gift from family and guests at weddings.

The country's imports in July could rise to 55 tonnes as the industry has started replenishing inventory after making bare minimum purchases in last few months, said a Mumbai-based dealer with a bank.

India's gold imports in the first half of 2018 fell 38 percent from a year ago to 318.2 tonnes, data compiled by GFMS showed.

AGENCIES

CORPORATE KALEIDOSCOPE



Subir Chakraborty, Director (Meja Urja Nigam)/ Director, Project Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidhyut Utpadan Nigam Limited visited the Meja Thermal Power Project and reviewed its progress. He urged the employees to continue working with Team Spirit, so as to achieve all the milestones ahead of schedule



Sembcorp Energy India officials, led by Pavan Rao, Head-HSE, receiving the 'Golden Peacock Award for Environment Management' from Nina Vaskunlahti, Ambassador of Finland to India at the 20th Annual World Congress on Environment Changes and Climate Change in New Delhi. MOEFCC Secretary(GoI) C K Mishra, Ministry of Steel(GoI) Secretary Aruna Sharma, and MSME Secretary(GoI) Arun Kumar Panda were also present on the occasion



BITES bags the EPCC Gold Trophy for the best export performance for the year 2015-16 in Merchant Exporter category. The Trophy was received by Mukesh Rathore, Director (Technical) and Virendra Singh, ED (Exptech) from Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat

Mercedes-Benz posts record half-yearly sales in India

NEW DELHI: German car maker Mercedes-Benz on Friday reported 12.4 per cent increase in its half-yearly sales in India at 8,061 units strengthening its leadership position. In the January-June period last year the company had sold 7,171 units, Mercedes-Benz India said in a statement. The sales growth also marks the brand's highest ever half-yearly volumes in India.

US fires trade war tariff hikes... China retaliates

BEIJING: The United States hiked tariffs on Chinese imports Friday and Beijing said it immediately retaliated in a dispute between the world's two biggest economies that President Donald Trump says he is prepared to escalate.

Washington increased tariffs at 9.30 am IST on \$34 billion worth of Chinese imports, a first step in what could become an accelerating series of tariffs.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, Hu Chunhua, said retaliatory measures "took effect immediately." Hu gave no details, but Beijing earlier said it would match the US action by targeting \$34 billion

of American goods including soybeans, pork and electric cars for higher duties.

Companies worry the spiraling dispute could chill global economic growth, but financial markets took Friday's developments in stride.

Japan's main stock market index, the Nikkei 225, gained 1.1 per cent while the Shanghai Composite Index added 0.5 per cent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.8 per cent. Shares also gained in early European trading.

On Thursday, Trump told reporters who flew with him to Montana for a campaign rally that higher tariffs on an additional \$16 billion in Chinese



goods are set to take effect in two weeks.

After that, the hostilities

could intensify: Trump said the US is ready to target an additional \$200 billion in Chi-

nese imports — and then \$300 billion more — if Beijing does not yield to US demands and continues to retaliate.

That would bring the total of targeted Chinese goods to potentially \$550 billion — more than the \$506 billion in goods that China shipped to the United States last year.

The Trump administration contends China has deployed predatory tactics in a push to overtake US technological dominance. These tactics include cyber-theft and requiring American companies to hand over technology in exchange for access to China's market.

Chinese officials reject

accusations of theft and say no foreign company is obligated to share technology. But rules on auto manufacturing and other industries require companies to work through state-owned partners, which forces them to share know-how with potential competitors.

"The United States has blatantly violated WTO rules," said Hu, the foreign ministry spokesman. "Any unilateral pressure will be futile."

Washington has strained relations with potential allies in its dispute with Beijing by raising import duties on steel, aluminum and autos from Europe, Canada, Mexico and Japan.

AGENCIES

Government of West Bengal
North Bengal Development Department
Branch Secretariat Uttarkanya, Fulbari, Jalpaiguri

ABRIDGED --NIQ

NIQ No.	ref.	Name of work	Last date & time of application
20	of	Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for proposed 'Repair, Renovation and Beautification of Town Hall at Kalimpong in the District Kalimpong.'	23/07/2018 up to 14:00 Hours

Sd/- Executive Engineer
North Bengal Development Department

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2nd EXTENSION OF TIME

Ref. EOI Notice No.: P&C/P-07/2018-19/PC-IV/Steel (Tender ID: 2018_WBSED_171994_1) for 'Empanment of primary producers of steel for procurement of steel sections through Limited Tenders' originally published in this newspaper on 18.05.2018 and EOT published on 20.06.2018. The Bid Submission End Date is hereby further extended up to 20.07.2018 (up to 14.00 hrs.). Further details may be had from www.wbsedcl.in and <https://wbtenetenders.gov.in>

ICA-T4531(4)/2018



Danilo's ankle injury rules him out of World Cup



BRAZIL international Danilo has been ruled out of the rest of the World Cup with an ankle injury. The Manchester City right-back, who played 90 minutes in his side's opening game against Switzerland, sprained ligaments in his left ankle in training on Thursday. Danilo will not recover in time to feature for Brazil, who face Belgium in Friday's quarter-final, again in Russia, but he will remain with the squad as they aim to secure a sixth World Cup.

A statement published on Brazil's official website read: "Right-back Danilo suffered a ligament injury in his left ankle after sprains in training this Thursday in Kazan. "Accompanied by the doctor of the Brazilian national team, Rodrigo Lasmar, the player performed image tests that confirmed the injury and he does not have sufficient time of recovery in the period of dispute of the World Cup. "In conversation with the technical committee, Danilo requested and will remain with the cast, having begun treatment with the medical department of the national team." Danilo, 26, played 23 of 38 matches in Manchester City's triumphant 2017/18 Premier League campaign, coming off the bench in 10 of those games.

Sweden stand in the way of England's charge

REPINO: Enthused by an exciting young squad and a potentially kind draw against Sweden in Saturday's quarter-final, England fans are starting to believe they can end a 52-year wait to win the World Cup. But the obdurate Scandinavians have a habit of upsetting the odds, particularly against England, having lost just one of eight previous competitive meetings. Confidence in England is soaring after the team ended a long wait to win a World Cup penalty shootout, squeezing past Colombia in a tense and bad-tempered last-16 tie in Moscow. "We'd like to bring it home," said England defender John Stones on Thursday. "I'd love to win a World Cup, England would love to win a World Cup. "It's been a long time since we last won it. We want to make people proud back home." England, World Cup winners in 1966, have already won over a public disaffected by an early exit in Brazil four years ago and an embarrassing defeat to Iceland at Euro 2016. Gareth Southgate's men have been drawing more viewers for their matches in Russia than May's royal wedding, with 23.6 million



Sweden have consistently made life tough for England in the past and there is no reason for them to change in Samara on Saturday

tuning in for the shootout against Colombia. "It's great to see the support back home. Everyone's getting behind us in their thou-

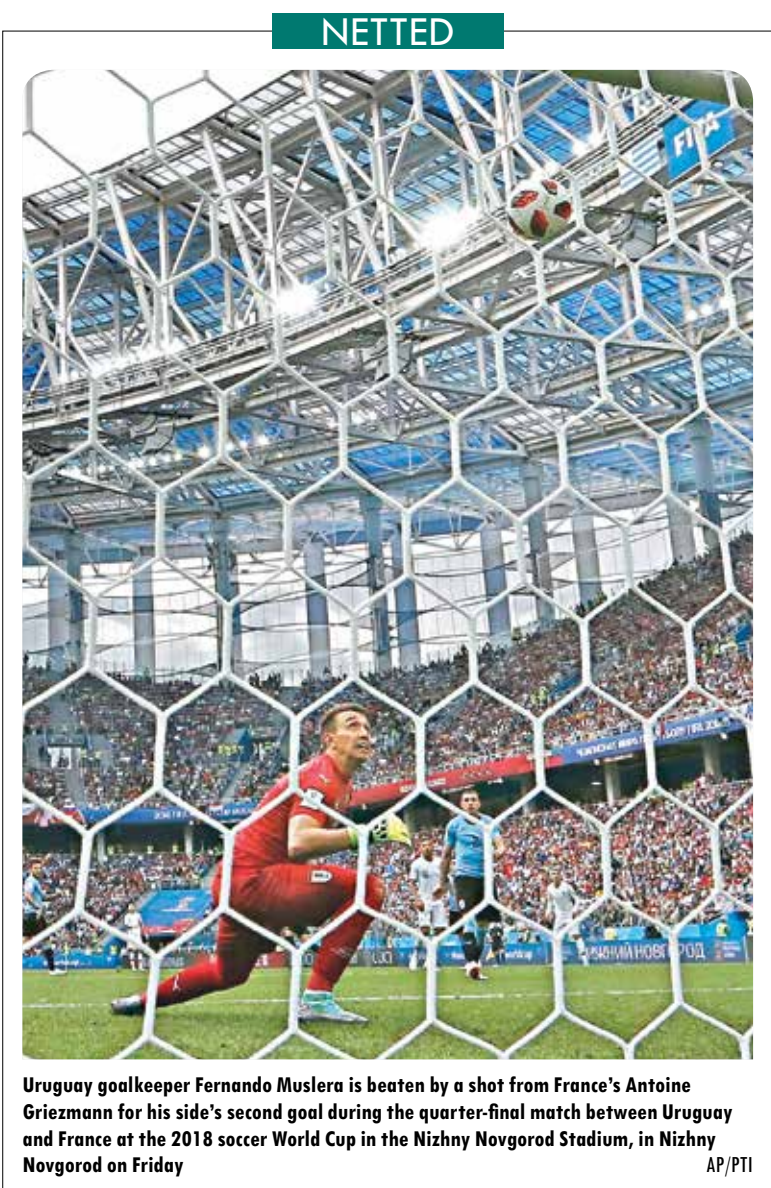
sands," added the Manchester City player. "I'm getting videos and pictures from my friends back home watching the game, in the pubs, wherever they are in the country." With just a four-day turnaround to facing Sweden in Samara, though, England have little time to replenish their energy. And while some are already making plans for a potential semi-final against hosts Russia or Croatia, Stones warned of complacency against Sweden. "I think if you say it's an easy game in a quarter-final of a World Cup then you are pretty stupid to say that." "Sometimes they can throw you, these teams. They can go kind of under the radar, but there is no question they are a good team. They wouldn't be where they are if they weren't." Sweden have arguably faced a much tougher path to get to the last eight, eliminating the Netherlands and Italy in qualifying just to get to Russia and then emerging as winners of Group F as holders Germany crashed out. Shorn of star names since Zlatan Ibrahimovic's retirement from international football, Sweden have thrived off a collective team spirit. Happy to sacrifice possession, defend deep and wait for their opportunity on the counter-attack, they will let England have

most of the ball. But other than in a 6-1 thrashing of Panama in the group stages, England have struggled to create chances from open play, with seven of their nine goals so far coming from set-pieces and penalties. "Normally the other teams have better players on paper and we let them have the ball in the places we want them to have the ball," said Sweden captain Andreas Granqvist. "If you look at the games we have played of course the opponent has more ball possession, but we have created more dangerous chances. This is how we play... this is our way to have success." Sweden's solid defence has kept three clean sheets in four games in Russia, but coach Janne Andersson will be forced into at least one change at the back, with Celtic's Mikael Lustig suspended. "Sweden are good on the counter-attack and we need to be aware of that," warned England wing-back Kieran Trippier. "We just need to move the ball quickly if they do sit off. We need to manage the game well and make the pitch as wide as possible."

Penalty win a massive boost for England, says Stones

SAMARA: England defender John Stones has said that the win against Colombia has given his team mates a massive confidence boost ahead of Saturday's FIFA World Cup quarter-final against Sweden at the Samara Arena here. Stones is the only England outfield player to have started every one of his side's games in Russia and gave huge value to their triumph and the way it came about, ending England's 22-year penalty shootout jinx, reports Xinhua news agency. "It's had a massive impact, knowing that we did the work for it in training and prepared ourselves for those situation... Once we had won, it kind of sank in. "We all know how difficult penalty shoot-outs are, to come

through as the winners is so satisfying for us," he said on Thursday, explaining the success was down to hard work. Colombia complained about the performance of referee Mark Geiger during the game and some fans have even begun an online petition for the game to be replayed. But Stones had little time for the complaints of the South Americans, saying they were "probably the dirtiest team I have ever come up against." He reminded those present how the Colombians had reacted when England were awarded a penalty for a foul on Harry Kane by saying "they were surrounding the referee, even pushing the referee. "The headbutt (on Jordan



Uruguay goalkeeper Fernando Muslera is beaten by a shot from France's Antoine Griezmann for his side's second goal during the quarter-final match between Uruguay and France at the 2018 soccer World Cup in the Nizhny Novgorod Stadium, in Nizhny Novgorod on Friday

Vardy unlikely to face Sweden

SAMARA: England striker Jamie Vardy was unable to take part in his side's training session on Friday morning and is therefore unlikely to be available for their FIFA World Cup quarter-final against Sweden in the Samara Arena on Saturday evening. Vardy suffered a slight groin injury after entering England's last 16 tie against Colombia as a late second half substitute on Tuesday. He was unable to take the penalty he was expected to take in their dramatic shootout win over the South American side, ceding the decisive final

kick to midfielder Eric Dier, reports Xinhua news agency. The Leicester City forward has been unable to train since Tuesday although the fact he was able to participate in the warm-up session with the rest of the squad on Friday suggests he could be available for the semi-finals if England progress. Vardy's absence is unlikely to affect the England starting 11 on Saturday, with Harry Kane, who has scored six goals in this World Cup, expected to lead the attack. And it could well give a chance to Danny Welbeck.

By beating Russia, Croatia can finally shake 20-year shadow

SOCHI: Twenty years ago, Croatia made its World Cup debut with a result that happened only once previously in the tournament's history and has never been topped. Finishing in third place the first time it participated in soccer's biggest showcase set a lofty standard. The Croatians' memorable run to the semifinals in 1998 remains a moment of pride for the country. It also created a shadow every successive Croatia team has been forced to deal with and has not come close to matching. Until now. Croatia can equal what that 1998 team did if it beats Russia on Saturday in the quarterfinals and perhaps finally rid itself of that 20-year shadow. The current squad of stars such as Luka Modric, Ivan Perisic, Mario Mandzukic and Ivan Rakitic will be held in the same esteem as the stars of '98 such as Davor Suker, Zvonimir Boban and Slaven Bilic with one more victory.



Or if they can't get past the home team, they will be the latest Croatia team to fall short. "It has been talked a lot about the two teams and their similarities," Perisic said. "They achieved a historic result in France. Now we've come close and hopefully we can even do it a little bit better than them.

We know our quality and we believe in ourselves and we are on the right track at the moment." The current group of Croatians has become tired of hearing about what happened in 1998. It's not a matter of respect — there is great admiration for what the '98 team accomplished — but matching or exceeding what that team did has been a burden in every major tournament for the past 20 years. As Rakitic said recently, "At this point we need to forget about them, with all respect to them." Croatia's third place finish in its debut has been equaled only by Portugal in 1966 when the tournament featured just 16 teams. The 1998 team finished second in its group, beat Romania in the round of 16 and knocked off Germany 3-0 in the quarterfinals. Croatia lost to eventual champion France in the semi-finals, but rebounded to beat the Netherlands and finish third.

FIFA tells Putin world is 'in love' with Russia

MOSCOW: FIFA president Gianni Infantino told President Vladimir Putin on Friday the world was "in love" with World Cup hosts Russia and praised him for overcoming negative stereotypes. Infantino spoke at a meeting with Putin and former world football stars including former England defender Rio Ferdinand and ex-Denmark goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel. "We all fell in love with Russia," Infantino told a beaming Putin at the televised meeting in the Kremlin. "Everyone who has been here for a period of time now has discovered a country that we didn't know." Despite high tensions with the West, Putin has presided over a well-organised, good-humoured tournament. Human rights groups warn however that he is using the world's biggest sporting event



Russian President Vladimir Putin poses with world soccer legends, former German soccer player Lothar Matthaus (left), FIFA president Gianni Infantino (second left), former Mexican player Jorge Campos Navarrete (right), First vice-president of the Russian Football Union Nikita Simonyan (second right) and former Danish soccer player Peter Schmeichel during a meeting in Moscow on Friday

to gloss over his authoritarian rule. Human Rights Watch said the tournament is taking place "during the worst human rights crisis in Russia since the Soviet era." But the World Cup has created an unusual carnival atmosphere in traditionally conservative Russia — not

least due to the home team's own unexpected success. "Russia has become a true football country. The virus of football has entered into the bodies of each and every Russian citizen," Infantino said. Hundreds of thousands of foreigners are visiting, with many saying it has allowed them to discover a different, softer side to Russia. "Many stereotypes about Russia have simply collapsed," Putin told his guests, who also included Lothar Matthaus of Germany and Marco van Basten of the Netherlands. "People have seen that Russia is a hospitable country which is friendly to visitors." Infantino praised Putin's government for busting negative anti-Russian stereotypes. "All the fears that some were trying to put on us with regards to this World Cup, well not only they were not true but it's actually the opposite."

Spanish media says 'ciao' to Ronaldo amid Juventus rumours

MADRID: Spanish media said goodbye to superstar Cristiano Ronaldo on Friday after persistent reports that the five-time Ballon d'Or winner will leave Spanish giants Real Madrid for Italian champions Juventus. "Ciao CR7" said the headline of Barcelona newspaper Mundo Deportivo. "Real accepts his departure, the key day will be today (Friday) and Juve wants to wrap up the operation so it can announce it," the newspaper said. Spanish sport newspaper AS said that the player could be unveiled to Juve supporters in Turin as early as Saturday, with the date 7/7 symbolic for number 7 Ronaldo. Juventus "hopes to

announce (the news) tomorrow in its stadium," said the paper, which had the headline "Cristiano exit imminent." Ronaldo was applauded at Juventus Stadium by the club's fans last season after scoring a spectacular overhead kick in the Champions League quarter-finals. Spain's Marca newspaper claimed that Ronaldo has "already given his word to (Andrea) Agnelli" the president of Juventus. "His desire to play for Juve is strong," Marca said, cautioning that the Turin club had not yet received a firm offer from Real Madrid. The paper also said that while Real maintains Ronaldo's buy-out clause is 1 billion euros (1.17 billion) -- which would nix any potential transfer -- "the player and his representatives say there is a signed document freeing him for 100 million". Numerous media outlets have reported since Wednesday that Juventus offered the galactico a four-year contract with 30 million euros per year. The 33-year-old, whose Portugal were knocked out of the World Cup last 16 by Uruguay on Saturday, hinted after May's Champions League victory that he was considering leaving the Santiago Bernabeu. Real Madrid has won the La Liga twice and the Champions league four times since Ronaldo moved there from Manchester United in 2009.



Muguruza out of Wimbledon as seeds scatter

LONDON: Serena Williams's chances of winning an eighth Wimbledon and 24th Grand Slam title were boosted on Friday when Madison Keys became the seventh top 10 seed to be eliminated.

Tenth seed Keys, who had made at least the quarter-finals of her last three majors, lost in the third round 7-5 5-7 6-4 to Russian qualifier Evgeniya Rodina, ranked 120th in the world.

She joins defending champion Garbine Muguruza, world number two Caroline Wozniacki, two-time champion Petra Kvitova and US Open winner Sloane Stephens in falling in the first week.

Serena, seeded 25 this year after taking time away from the tour to give birth to her daughter, faces Kristina Mladenovic of France for a place in the last 16 later on Friday.

The 36-year-old American now cannot meet a top 32 player until the semi-finals after the scattering of the seeds this week.

Keys lost nine games on the trot from 5-2 up in the first set to 0-4 down in the second.

She rallied to level the third-round match



Alison Van Uytvanck celebrates after defeating Garbine Muguruza in London

AP/PTI

before Rodina sealed a maiden place in the last 16 of a major. Keys fired 15 aces in the match but also committed 48 unforced errors.

"I have played the qualies and three matches this week which were all three sets," said 29-year-old Rodina, one of six mothers in the draw at the start of the tournament.

"She hits the ball so hard. I am a little surprised that I won, I was a little bit lucky today." Later Friday, eight-time champion Roger Federer takes on German comeback specialist Jan-Lennard Struff.

The world number 64 has had to fight back from two sets to love down in his first two matches to beat Leonardo Mayer and 39-year-old Ivo Karlovic.

Defending champion and top seed Federer, by contrast, has made the third round without breaking sweat. The 36-year-old Swiss has won 26 consecutive sets at the All England Club.

Federer beat Struff in the second round of the Australian Open in January in straight sets.

German fourth seed Alexander Zverev made the third round, seeing off Taylor Fritz of the United States 6-4 5-7 6-7 (0/7) 6-1 6-2 and faces Latvian qualifier Ernests Gulbis for a spot in the last 16. Russia's Ekaterina Makarova defied second

round victim Wozniacki's churlish prediction that she wouldn't progress further in the tournament by reaching the last 16.

Makarova, who made the quarter-finals four years ago, beat a weary-looking Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic 4-6 6-1 6-4.

She next faces Italy's Camila Giorgi who saved a match point to beat Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic 3-6 7-6 (8/6) 6-2.

Giorgi last made the fourth round six years ago.

Five-time champion Venus Williams, 38, and making her 21st Wimbledon appearance, faces fellow big server Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands.

Williams has dropped the opening set in both her matches so far and needed to save match points to beat Bertens in Miami this year.

South Africa's Kevin Anderson, seeded eight, swept past Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-3 7-5 7-5 on the back of 22 aces and 42 winners.

Anderson has reached the last 16 for the fourth time and goes on to face either Sam Querrey of the United States or France's Gael Monfils. AGENCIES

Rani to lead Indian women's hockey team in Asian Games

NEW DELHI: Striker Rani will lead an 18-member women's squad for the 18th Asian Games to begin from August 18 in Jakarta, Hockey India announced on Friday. Goalkeeper Savita has been named the vice captain and she will be joined by Rajani Etimarpu at the goalpost for the prestigious event where India will vie for the gold to earn a direct qualification for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. India's defence will feature the experienced Deep Grace Ekka, Sunita Lakra, Deepika, Reena Khokhar and dragflicker Gurjit Kaur while the team's midfield will include Namita Toppo, Lilima Minz, Monika, Udita, Nikki Pradhan and Neha Goyal. The forward-line will be led by the skipper Rani who has over 200 international caps for India. AGENCIES

Pacer Shardul replaces Bumrah for ODIs vs Eng

CARDIFF: Rising paceman Shardul Thakur has been called in as replacement for injured Jasprit Bumrah for the upcoming three-match One-day International (ODI) series against England, a BCCI release stated on Friday.

Bumrah injured his left thumb during the first Twenty20 International against Ireland and was subsequently ruled out of the second T20I against them and also the following three T20Is against England.

"Bumrah underwent a surgery on Wednesday in Leeds before returning to India. The surgery was successful and he will commence rehabilitation under the supervision of the BCCI medical team," the release said. Shardul is already in England as a part of India A and played in the recently concluded one-day tri-series involving England Lions and West Indies A.

In the four matches he was a part of, he picked up eight wickets, two of which came in the final against the Lions.

The 26-year-old has been a part of India's setup in recent times, having made his international debut last year against Sri Lanka. His last ODI appearance was in South Africa where he returned his best figures of 4/52.

He's also been a constant feature in India's recent T20I scheme of things, playing two of the three T20Is in South Africa before playing all games in the Nidahas Trophy in Sri Lanka. He, however, was overlooked for the Ireland T20Is and the ongoing T20I series against England. AGENCIES

HEAD ATTIRE



A spectator sports a tennis themed hat at the Wimbledon in London on Friday

AP/PTI

Anirban Lahiri tied second after halfway stage in Round II

WHITE SULPHUR SPRING (US): Anirban Lahiri was on fire in the second round after a solid 69 in his first round Greenbrier Classic. A bogey free 3-under 67 gave Lahiri a good start in the opening round. Then he had four birdies in first five holes to move to 7-under and was tied-2nd at one stage.

He has still has more than nine holes to play in second round.

The 31-year-old Indian, who has been slowly coming into the form that fetched him two top-10 finishes and some other good results at the start of the wrap-around season last October, opened with a birdie and then had 10 pars before finding further birdies on 12th and 18th.

In the second round, he had three in a row to start the day with birdies from 15 feet, 12 feet and 19 feet. He parred the 13th, his fourth hole of the second day, and then again holed 14-footer for his fourth birdie.

On Thursday, despite the fine start, Lahiri was lying tied 24th with Webb Simpson, who shot 9-under 61 to lead the field by a shot over Whee Kim.

It was Simpson's best career score and it came after waiting out a two-hour weather delay with six holes left in his round.

He came up short in his bid to shoot the eighth sub-60 round on the PGA TOUR. He needed birdies on the par-5 17th and the par-3 18th for a 59 but found only pars on both.

Kim had six birdies and two bogeys, which were back-to-back, between the second and ninth and on back nine he had four more birdies for a total of 10 birdies and two bogeys in his 62. The 26-year-old Kim has never won on the PGA TOUR.

Teenager Joaquin Niemann of Chile was another stroke back at 7-under 63. Kelly Kraft carded 64 while Jason Kokrak, Keegan Bradley and J J Henry were at 65. Simpson, whose four-shot victory at THE PLAYERS Championship in May was his first win in more than four years, finished third here in 2014 and lost a one-stroke lead on the back nine in the final round in 2011 and 2012. AGENCIES

**Indira Gandhi National Open University**

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TRACE LYSETTE, JAMIE CLAYTON

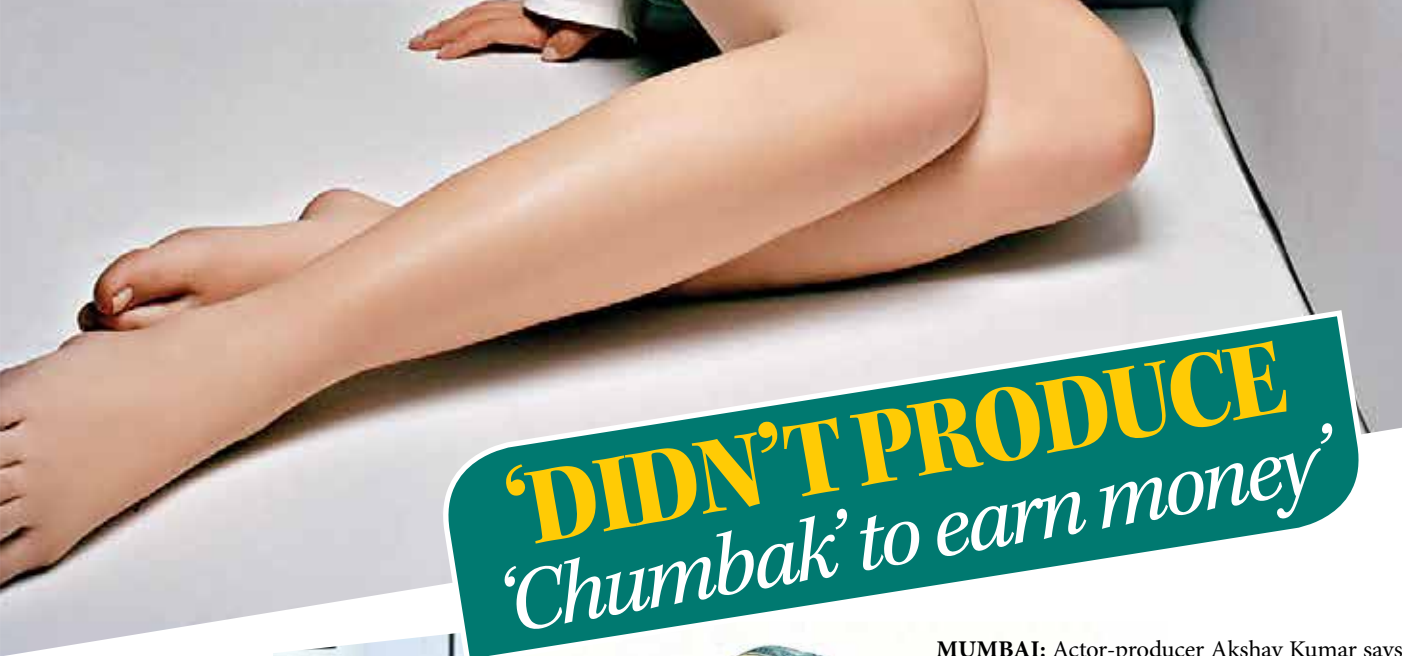
slam Hollywood double standards on casting transgenders

Popular transgender actors – Trace and Clayton openly talked about inequality the trans tribe is facing in Hollywood in terms of acceptance



Trans actors Trace Lysette and Jamie Clayton have criticised the casting of Scarlett Johansson as a 'transgender' in newly-announced film, *Rub & Tub*. In the film, to be directed by Rupert Sanders, Johansson will portray Jean Marie Gill, who succeeded in Pittsburgh's 1970s and 1980s massage parlour and prostitution business by assuming the identity of a man, Dante 'Tex' Gill. Lysette, who is best known for starring in Amazon's 'Transparent', slammed the Hollywood's double standards in casting transgender actors. "Oh word? So you can continue to play us but we can't play y'all? Hollywood is so F*cked. I wouldn't be as upset if I was getting in the same rooms as Jennifer Lawrence and Scarlett for cis roles, but we know that's not the case. A mess," she wrote. "And not only do you play us and steal our narrative and our opportunity but you pat yourselves on the back with trophies and accolades for mimicking what we have lived... so twisted. I'm so done..." she added. Clayton, who starred in Netflix's 'Sense 8', echoed Lysette's views and said that trans actor should play trans characters. "Actors who are trans never even get to audition for anything other than roles of trans characters. That's the real issue. We can't even get in the room. Cast actors who are trans as non trans characters. I dare you," she tweeted. Johansson's representatives had responded to the criticism by alluding to the performances of Jeffrey Tambor, Jared Leto, and Felicity Huffman, who all have played trans characters despite being cisgender.

“ We never even get to audition for anything other than roles of trans characters. That's the real issue. Cast actors who are trans as non trans characters ”



‘DIDN’T PRODUCE’ ‘Chumbak’ to earn money

83’ to release on April 10, 2020

MUMBAI: Actor Ranveer Singh starrer 83’ is set to release in April 10, 2020. A tweet from the official Twitter account of the film recently read: “Relive the historic glory when 15 minions from India ruled over the mammoths of world cricket. Film releases on April 10, 2020.” The Reliance Entertainment movie is being directed by Kabir Khan. Ranveer will be seen playing the role of star cricketer Kapil Dev. Ranveer had earlier told: 83’ is an “incredible underdog story. It’s an honour to be a part of one

After his remarkable performance in Padmavat, Ranveer is all set to essay the role of star cricketer Kapil Dev in 83’ – the exciting story of World Cup 1983

of the most incredible sporting stories of our nations history, the 1983 Cricket World Cup. We have the honour of telling this story and mortalising this on celluloid.”

Dev, the Indian cricket team defeated West Indies in the final of the World Cup in 1983. It tracks the coming-of-age of not just a cricketer team, but of a young nation in the eyes of the world.

83’ follows

how, under newly-appointed captain Kapil



‘My prayers are with Sonali’

BHOPAL: Bollywood actor Huma Qureshi, who has replaced cancer-stricken Sonali Bendre as a judge in a TV show, today said she was praying for her speedy recovery. “I am saddened. My prayers are with her. She will return shortly,” Huma said. Huma said that she had grown up watching movies of Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol in 1990s and (late) Sridevi and Madhuri Dixit-Nene are her role models.

Responding to a query on the condition of women in the society, the actress said a movement should be started from every home to ensure that women members get the respect they deserved. “I feel that we should empower our mothers, daughters and wives at home. If we start treating them in a fair manner, I feel, it would bring a change. This is not a big task,” she added.



MUMBAI: Actor-producer Akshay Kumar says that he did not produce the forthcoming Marathi film Chumbak with the intention to earn money at box office. He was interacting with media at the film's trailer launch along with the film's actors Swanand Kirkire, Sahil Jadhav, Sangram Desai and director Sandeep Modi recently. Asked what prompted him to associate his name with Chumbak, Akshay said: “I don't want to earn money by producing this film. I do lot of films through which I earn money and this film is not one of them. This film will show you right path. I have seen many films but not every time, I want to associate myself with the film but this film touched my heart.”

The actor believes that the film is a must watch as it will send out a very good message

“The kind of message that this film gives, these are the things what I would like to teach my children.” On being asked about the message given in Chumbak, Akshay said: “I feel parents should take their children to watch this film. The film Chumbak is slated to release on July 27 in India.



Evangeline Lilly almost quit acting after Real Steel

LOS ANGELES: Actor Evangeline Lilly has said that she thought about quitting acting after the film Real Steel. The actor rose to prominence with TV show 'Lost' where she played the role of Kate Austen across six seasons. She later starred in films such as Hugh Jackman's Real Steel and The Hurt Locker. Recalling her “unique journey” in Hollywood, Lilly said she felt “uncomfortable” with stardom she received for 'Lost' and had planned to take a sabbatical after completing Real Steel. “I did a film called 'Real Steel' with Hugh Jackman and then I walked away. I said, 'I'm done, I'm never doing this again.' I had a baby, I was writing scripts, I had a quiet little



life, and two years later and I mean, throughout those two years, I had no contact with Hollywood at all,” the actor told The Hollywood Reporter. “And I was so torn because I had genuinely retired, I thought I was done, but I really wanted to do the movie,” she added. The actor said she had once again planned to take a sabbatical from acting but she was offered Ant Man by the Marvel Studios.