





# Noida to relocate 300 mobile towers

Authority identifying locations outside human habitation

ANUP VERMA ■ NOIDA

In the wake of health risk posed by mobile phone towers, the Noida Authority has decided to relocate all such antennas from residential areas of the city. The authority will identify locations in isolated places — far from residential colonies — where they will be relocated.

There are over 300 such towers that need to be relocated. The recent move of the authority has been initiated after court's direction to allocate mobile towers at isolated locations rather than sealing them.

The officials of the Noida Authority said that earlier they had planned to seal illegal towers, but they are working now on the guidelines of Allahabad High Court, which has ordered to shift all such towers from residential sectors to other places.

"We have ordered the officials to conduct a detailed survey and figure out alternate locations so we could ask mobile tower operators to shift their existing towers to those places. We have also ordered to

get rid of the towers from institutional and hospital structures with immediate effect and shift them to other places," said PK Agarwal, Additional CEO of Noida Authority.

In a meeting of senior officials of the Noida Authority recently, the officials planned to shift these towers either to community centers at various sectors or at sparse places so radiation from these towers could not affect the local people.

The officials also decided to stop mobile tower operators from installing more towers in residential areas as city already has around 600 mobile towers for the population of seven lakh. During the meeting, it was also planned to eliminate towers installed atop hospital and institutional buildings.

According to the survey conducted by the Noida authority and city police last year, it was found that out of 600 mobile towers, 300 towers were illegally installed on the roofs of residential units. Twenty per cent of the towers have been illegally installed over institutional and hospital



buildings.

In a 2010 sealing drive initiated by the authority, 200 towers were sealed from residential areas.

Meanwhile, the Federation of Noida Residents Welfare Association (FoNRWA) has also written to Noida authority seeking removal of mobile towers from the roofs of residential units.

"As residents are suffering from various health disorders due to high radiation from these towers, we have urged the competent authority to take penal action against the companies responsible for their wrongdoing," said NP Singh, president of FoNRWA.

# NDMC referral scheme drives staff on the edge

SWETA GOSWAMI ■ NEW DELHI

Introduction of a new referral system for health care scheme — Liberal Health Medical Scheme (LHMS) by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) for its employees — is allegedly creating hurdles for them in availing better medical treatment.

While the employees are complaining that the Government doctors are refusing to refer them to other hospitals, the senior officials, on the other hand, claimed that they have received no such instruction from the council based on which they would refer the patients.

Disgruntled with the move, employees of the civic bodies and their family members initiated a signature campaign which they submitted to Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit on Thursday. Dikshit is also the chairperson of the council.

"Doctors in Government Hospitals and dispensaries are refusing to refer us to private hospitals. Severely ill patients have to come themselves in order to get referral letters from the doctors. Moreover, many times one ailment leads to another. So for treatment of each disease, we have to get separate reference letters which becomes a very

## LIBERAL HEALTH MEDICAL SCHEME



time consuming process. The C and D category employees are facing serious troubles due to this," said Shrikant, an official of Fire Department of NDMC.

However, doctors claimed that they have not received any form of

notification from the NDMC to refer patients to other hospitals. Moreover, many of them are facing trouble as the civic body has not clearly defined the term 'emergency'. "There are so many criteria and types of emergencies. The

**The Council has justified the new scheme stating that the previous cashless health services were proving to be too expensive for the agency and that many cases of misuse had also come to light**

civic body should clearly define which cases can be accounted for emergency cases," said a doctor of Charak Palika Hospital.

After observing the growing dissatisfaction among the people associated with the civic body, the council amended the scheme and exempted pensioners from it.

Last week a brawl was witnessed in Charak Palika Hospital where a relative of a member of the council fought and beat up a doctor.

The Council has justified this new scheme stating that the previous cashless health services were proving to be too expensive for the agency and that many cases of misuse had also come to light.

# Country's first tech varsity for women inaugurated

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Underlining the need for technical education for women, Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit on Thursday said that women's participation in technical education is imperative for economical growth of any country. She was speaking on the inauguration ceremony of the country's first technical University for Women — Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (IGDTUW), in the Capital.

With an aim to promote women education and meet the rising demand of women in the field of science and technology, the Delhi Government launched the IGDTUW that will offer an M Tech and other technical courses to women students.

"Women's participation in technical education plays an important role in the economic growth and development of the country. IGDTUW has been set up to impart quality education to women so that well qualified female engineers become part of the workforce

to meet the growing demands of the industry," said Dikshit.

The University provides an opportunity to female students, holding Btech, MSc or Masters in Computer Application (MCA) degrees, who are looking to pursue research in the field of technology and innovation. The four new Mtech courses will commence from August this year in multiple disciplines like Information Security Management, VLSI Design, Mobile & Pervasive Computing and Robotics & Information.

"It is a historical moment as IGDTUW embarks on its journey to become the first technical university for women in the country. Over the past 15 years, the institute has emerged as the most sought engineering college among girls of Delhi and NCR, and has become a brand name," said Vice-Chancellor Nupur Prakash.

The university is also offering an e-learning facility through its Mtech programmes, with an intake capacity of 30 students for each course.



# 36 buildings partially razed, two sealed



One of the buildings that was partially demolished on Thursday by NMC

Pioneer photo

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a major crackdown against illegal constructions in the Capital, over three dozen properties were demolished and sealed by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC) on Thursday.

According to officials, parts of 36 properties were demolished, while two properties were sealed in Rohini and Karol Bagh zones respectively. The demolished properties were located in areas like Pitampura, Rohini, Shalimar Bagh, Karol Bagh, Shastri Nagar, Daryaganj,

Chandni Chowk and Chawri Bazar among others. The maximum number of illegal properties was demolished in Rohini zone, where portions of 25 buildings were razed.

This was followed by City zone where seven properties were demolished. Three properties each in Sadar Paharganj and Karol Bagh zones faced action.

Municipal Commissioner PK Gupta has directed all zonal Deputy Commissioners to identify unauthorised constructions and properties, which are coming up by violating Provisions of Building

bye laws and Master Plan, and take demolition or sealing action against them.

He also directed to seal the partly demolished properties so that these cannot be reconstructed or used. It is noteworthy that the Corporation has identified nearly 500 illegal properties within its limits. The Commissioner has instructed the officials to provide photographic evidence of sealed and demolished properties. The action taken report on each of these properties has to be filed within 15 days from the date of order.

# Apply your mind before invoking MCOCA, court tells Delhi Police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police was pulled up by a city court for invoking stringent provision of Maharashtra Control Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) against suspended Rajasthan cricketers S Sreesanth, Ankeet Chavan and Ajit Chandila, and 25 bookies allegedly involved in the IPL spot-fixing scandal.

While slamming the Delhi Police, Additional Session Judge (ASJ) Vinay Kumar Khanna said, "The police officer, who is of the rank of Additional Commissioner of Police, is required to apply his mind before invoking the MCOCA and it should so reflect in the approval order."

The court, in its 25-page order said that the Delhi Police has misused stringent provisions of the MCOCA. "The court hearing the bail applications has to guard against it (misuse) and has to perform a profound role of 'gate keeping' and as a guardian the court cannot sit as a mute spectator and accept the story of prosecution as 'a gospel truth'," said Khanna.

While pulling up the police, the judge also said, "In my view, such order (invoking MCOCA) requires to be a speaking order and should at least refer or specify the material on record, which was considered by him. Approval under Section 23(1) (a) MCOCA should not be a mere formality."

**In my view, such order (invoking MCOCA) requires to be a speaking order and should at least refer or specify the material on record, which was considered by him. Approval under Section 23(1) (a) MCOCA should not be a mere formality, — Additional Sessions Judge**

Delhi Police had invoked MCOCA against Sreesanth, his Rajasthan Royals teammates Ankeet Chavan, Ajit Chandila and other 25 accused. It alleged Sreesanth and others were in contact with underworld don Dawood Ibrahim and Chhota Shakeel. However, the court said, "None of the applicants (Sreesanth and others) were in touch with Salman, a bookie of Pakistan, or with Javed Chutani, Dawood or Chhota Shakeel.

"On probing deeper, the material pointed out by the prosecution, prima facie, it cannot be observed that the applicants are members of an organised crime syndicate. There is no satisfactory material on record to indicate any nexus of the accused with the 'underworld' or any organised crime syndicate and on the basis of mere conjecture and surmises, no such link between the accused and the alleged hardcore criminals can be inferred," the court said.

# Police plan 24X7 patrolling on Noida-Gr Noida Expressway

ANUP VERMA ■ NOIDA

Waking up from slumber, Gautam Budh Nagar police have decided to man the 25 km-long stretch from Mahamaya flyover to Greater Noida — known as the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway. The district police have decided to deploy policemen along the route that otherwise remained deserted.

As the residential and industrial units are rapidly increasing along the expressway, the law enforcement agency has planned to ensure police's presence and round-the-clock patrolling on the entire carriageway. To increase the police presence, the senior police officials have decided to create police pickets at three points on both sides of the road and have planned to patrol police vehicles during the day-time too.

"As number of Expressway users is increasing by the day, instances of accident and crime are being reported regularly. To avoid such incidents, we have decided to keep close vigil on the entire carriageway. Initially, we are conducting a detailed survey so we could deploy policemen to ensure public



Ranjan Dimri |Pioneer

safety," said Preetinder Singh, Senior Superintendent of Police, Gautam Budh Nagar.

Apart from this, Noida authority is also working on a traffic management system for the Expressway that is likely to be implemented from next month. Under the proposed traffic management system, authority has proposed to set up public booths. CCTV surveillance and increased movement of rescue vehicles

will also be put in place. The authority officials have also planned to increase the number of bus shelters on both sides. Noida authority has constructed only four bus shelters on one side and has provided one rescue vehicle for the entire highway, causing problems for the local people.

According to the senior officials of the authority, as the civic infrastructure is developing along the highway

by leaps and bounds, it is the need-of-the-hour to introduce better traffic management system on the Expressway so the commuters could enjoy a hassle-free ride.

"We have planned a world-class traffic system for the roads of the city that will be based on international traffic management system. The announcement will soon be made in this regard," said Manoj Rai, OSD of Noida authority.

# 3 minors raped; cop suspended after live-in partner alleges rape

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Three minors were allegedly raped in three incidents while a Delhi Police Sub-Inspector suspended after his live-in-partner lodged a rape case against him.

In the first incident, a 14-year-old student was allegedly gang-raped by two of her neighbours, who kidnapped her when she was returning home from a nearby market in South-West Delhi's Kapashera area. Police said that the accused, identified as Gaurav (19) and Rohit (19), worked for a private company.

"The incident took place on Tuesday evening when the victim, a Class X student of a Government school, was returning home from a nearby market," a senior police officer said.

In another incident, Delhi police has arrested a 28-year-old Rishipal, for allegedly kidnapping and raping a 15-year-old girl in Chankyapuri area.

In the third incident, a 14-year-old girl was kidnapped and gang-raped by three persons in Uttar Pradesh's Badaun. She was kidnapped from South Delhi's Neb Sarai area on June 5.

"A team of south district police rescued from Badaun on Wednesday. One person identified as Jarib Ahmad (28), has been arrested while his relative is on run. The absconding person, who was known to the girl, had lured her to his native place," the officer added.

In a separate incident, a Delhi Police Sub-Inspector was placed under suspension as he was facing allegations of rape.

"Hukum Singh posted with IP Estate police station has been suspended as he was found involved in a rape case in North East Delhi's Welcome area. Few weeks ago, a rape case was registered against Singh at Welcome police station," the officer added.

A Sub-Inspector of 2009 batch, Singh belongs to Gaya district in Bihar and had met the woman, a divorcee during his training at Police Training College (PTC) at Jharoda. He is on the run.

# Gurgaon property dealer held for molesting Vasant Kunj girl

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 34-year-old Gurgaon-based property dealer for allegedly beating and molesting a girl in South Delhi's Vasant Kunj area.

Police said that the accused has been identified as Sunny Makkar, who lived with his family in Gurgaon. "The incident took place on Monday night when the 25-year-old victim was returning from a party in Gurgaon. Sunny approached and offered her a lift, but instead of dropping her home, he took her in his rented flat where one of his associate was already present," a senior police

officer said. The victim claimed that they wanted to rape her and they also molested her. She raised an alarm and somehow managed to call the police control room (PCR). "After receiving a PCR call, local police immediately reached the spot and the victim was rescued. The accused was apprehended from the spot, while his associate managed to flee," the officer added.

Based on the victim's complaint, a case under Sections 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 509 (molestation), 342 (wrongful confinement) and 34 of the Indian Penal Code was registered at Vasant Kunj (South) Police station.

# Greed kills 1, injures another in Karol Bagh

**New Delhi:** In the greed to dig up gold from the sewerage, one man died and another got critically injured after falling inside the sewer pipeline of Central Delhi's Karol Bagh area in the wee hours of Thursday.

The 21-year-old deceased person has been identified as Punnu. "The incident occurred around 3:15 am when two persons entered the sewerage hoping to find gold in the pipeline as the area houses many jewellery manufacturing units. In an attempt to find gold, both of them fell in the sewer," said a police official. The incident occurred in lane 28



Ranjan Dimri |Pioneer

of Bedapur area at Karol Bagh. In the process they both fell in the sewer. Punnu was declared brought dead at the hospital, while his friend Lallan (23) is undergoing treatment at Lady Hardinge Hospital.



# ‘Multiple failures’ to blame for Tuesday’s Metro fiasco

SULAGNA SENGUPTA ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro fiasco on Tuesday was a result of ‘multiple failures’. Communication failure, signaling glitch, abrupt emergency brake and inadequate trials of the snag-hit eight coach train and ineffective evacuation plan collectively led to the incident.

Initial investigations into the incident has revealed that the emergency brakes of train was applied automatically bringing the train to an abrupt halt.

The situation aggravated after the train failed to detect the signals as also the communication system; i.e. walky talky available with the train staff also went out of order.

Consequent to this, the train remained stuck inside the tunnel between Central Secretariat and Udyog Bhawan Metro stations for nearly two hours and thus forcing the passengers to open the rear emergency exit on their own and walk down on the Metro tracks.

What the investigation has

revealed is contrary to the claims of Delhi Metro that their staff did communicate well with the passengers and with the Operation Control Center that was supervising the rescue operation.

According to Delhi Metro, the passengers on board the stranded train had to wait inside for around 26 minutes and then around 9.50 am passengers from the train push opened the emergency door of the train on their own and came on to the track towards Central Secretariat without authorisation.

However, the draft report suggests that the walky talky available with the train operators was not functioning properly and so passengers could not hear the voice.

Further, when they saw a rescue train coming from the other side, they feared a collision and came on to the tracks.

“The lack of communication between Delhi Metro and passengers led to panic, exacerbated by their large numbers. The incident had an impact on the train schedule for several



hours,” sources said.

Top sources in the Ministry of Urban Development con-

firmed that the report also mentioned that the snag-hit train did not go for a trial run

for some days.

“The snag occurred between fifth and sixth coach

as the emergency break was applied automatically due to lack of maintenance. The sig-

## INITIAL FINDINGS

- Multiple failures emerge as the cause of incident.
- Emergency brakes of train were applied automatically bringing the train to an abrupt halt.
- Snag-hit train failed to detect the signals.
- Walky talky available with the train staff was not functioning.
- The train did not undergo adequate trials.
- The lack of communication between Delhi Metro and passengers led to panic.
- The entire evacuation process took around one and half hour

naling system needs to be overhauled for operating three types of trains - four coach, six coach and eight coach trains.

“The signaling system in the seven corridors which is presently running is not updated for a long time and efforts should be taken to install more modern updated signaling system in Phase-I and Phase-II metro to cater to the ever increasing ridership especially during the peak hours,” the report said.

A top official confirmed that had there been a proper

modern signaling system installed, the control room would have received the information much before and they could have ensure better management and operation of trains.

“As the signaling system was not updated, the information came much later resulting in such chaos. Even proper steps should be taken so that evacuation process can be done within a short period,” it said.

“It is mentioned that the entire evacuation process took around oneand half hour after the incident occurred,” it added.

## North civic body offers poll sops to traders

### Waives conversion charges on pre-1962 commercial properties

RAKESH NANJAN ■ NEW DELHI

With elections fast-approaching in the national Capital, the ruling BJP in the North Delhi Municipal Corporation offered a poll sop to retain its traditional vote bank of trading community in the Old Delhi. The Corporation on Thursday exempted thousands of commercial properties in and around Chandni Chowk that existed before 1962 from conversion and parking charges. The move came as a great relief for these properties owners as their properties would no longer face the threat of sealing.

Before announcing the exemption, the NDMC had sought opinion of the Solicitor General in the matter. He had suggested that such properties were not liable to pay any conversion charges.

The property owners will now have to furnish an affidavit claiming that their business had been running in the areas since prior to 1962. For the properties not in commercial areas, the owners would have to provide proof of the history of their business to claim the waiver. Such owners who have been doing commercial activities prior to 1962 would have provide proofs like trade licence, house tax paid at commercial rate, electricity and power bills paid at commercial rate among others.

Commissioner of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation PK Gupta said action against the business establishments in the commercial areas notified in 1962 has been suspended following suggestions of the Additional Solicitor General.

The move comes as a big

**LUCKY ONES**

Jama Masjid, Chitli Kabbar, Bazar Sitaram, Ajmeri Gate, Chandni Chowk, Fatehpuri, Lajpat Rai Market, Kashmere Gate, Mori Gate, Malka Ganj, Sabzi Mandi, Bara Hindu Rao, Sadar Bazar, Nabikarim, Kadam Sharif, Ram Nagar Paharganj, Madal Basti, Manakpura, Naya Bazar and Jhandewalan.

**ASG’S OPINION**

The commercial areas which were in existence prior to 1962 and which are specifically noticed as so in the Master Plan for Delhi (MPD)-1962 and the work studies carried out for the preparation of the said MPD 1962, will be entitled for the benefits and have to be treated as commercial areas and the premises located therein will not be liable to pay any conversion charges

— Additional Solicitor General Rakesh Kumar Khanna

relief for thousands of traders in areas like Chandni Chowk, Jama Masjid, Chawri Bazar, Ajmeri Gate, Fatehpuri, Lajpat Rai Market, Kashmere Gate and Mori Gate among others. According to the Corporation, traders in over 20 markets will be benefited by the decision. Announcement to this effect was made on Thursday in a joint Press conference of Mayor Azad Singh, Standing Committee Chairman Ram Kishan Singhal and Leader of House Mahendra Nagpal.



Pioneer photo

## CM launches online property registration in East Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Resident in East Delhi can now expect hassle-free registration of properties with Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit on Thursday launching an online system to ensure transparency and offer people a seamless experience.

Introducing the new system at Preet Vihar sub-registrar office in East Delhi, Dikshit said, “Our Government has been able to ensure all-round development of all sections because of trust reposed by people in us. People of the city have given us strength to make Delhi one of the best cities in the world.”

The facility has already been introduced in sub-registrar offices at Mehrauli, Rohini, Nand Nagri, Kapashera and Basai Darapur.

The Government plans to introduce the online registration service in all 13 sub-registrar offices by end of this year.

The online system will be highly secured as proper audit trail and cross verification of transaction would be ensured.

Officials said the online system will ensure transparency and eliminate the role of middlemen in the registration process.

Lovely said Revenue department was determined to get completely rid the property registration system of touts and middlemen by making the entire registration process transparent and accessible.

He said under the new system, each applicant will have to come to the sub-registrar office with a pre-fixed appointment. The appointment can be taken online by accessing the website of the Revenue department. The registered documents will be delivered to the applicant the very same day and in case their documents are rejected, they will be informed in writing on the same day.

## Groundswell of demand for DU language courses

IRAHIBA R PARVEEN ■ NEW DELHI

The Department of Germanic and Romance Studies is abuzz with the students queuing up for Four-Year Undergraduate Programme in German followed by French, Spanish and Italian.

The department has a number of 40 seats in each course making it a total of 160 and has already sold 2,320 application forms. The Foreign languages are a new field for Indian students to explore and teachers at the department opine that Indian students can do well in languages as they already are exposed to a minimum of three languages.

“Students have gradually developed interest in foreign languages over a period of time. They are finding ways of employment and none of our students so far has been unemployed.

“Earlier there was a notion that what do we do by knowing French or Italian in India but it’s changed today. There is a lot of scope and students are getting attracted at school level since many schools across the city have foreign languages at middle school,” said Ena Panda, who teaches French at the Department.

A total of 697 students have already submitted the forms and the candidates will have to take an entrance examination on June 22 to make it for the course. Panda said the entrance will be divided on sections of Comprehension, Writing Skills, General Knowledge and Reasoning.

“Only 30 per cent of the entrance

### PLEASANT WEATHER

The drizzle that greeted Delhi on Thursday made it pleasant for the aspirants at the Delhi University where a total of 5,954 OMR forms were sold making it a total of 1,38,412 forms. While the number of forms received remained to be 79,028. The total of the online forms received were 65,707.

would be considered and a total of 70 per cent for admission would depend on the marks in Class 12,” she added and also highlighted the areas in the job market for foreign languages. Students get easily hired by MNCs as language experts and consultants, school teachers, translators, interpreters, tourist coordinators and also foreign embassys have a lot of space for them.

There are about 23 faculty members catering in this department and about 20 college of the Delhi University offer honours course in these four languages. At the Department, they also run a certificate course in Romanian and Portugese.

From this year, the following colleges would offer French, German, and Spanish as Discipline II courses. The Jesus and Mary College will have French and Spanish, the Delhi College of Arts and Commerce will have German and Spanish, Gargi College French and Ramanujan College too will have Frence.



Students enjoy pleasant weather in DU on Thursday

Ranjan Dimri | Pionner

## Repair works worsen outages

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Several parts of the Capital reeled under power crisis on Thursday that started late on Wednesday night. Worst affected were the North, West and East Delhi areas where long outages were reported. The power distribution companies, however, said the outages were due to repair and maintenance works.

With the weather turning extremely humid, power cuts added to the woes of the residents. The outages occurred as the Badarpur Thermal Power Station (BTPS) link to Delhi Transco Limited’s (DTL) Ghazipur 220 KV Grid broke down on Monday night in the Noida segment. “The break-down in the Ghazipur line is constraining the flow of electricity to DTL’s Ghazipur Grid, which in turn feeds electricity to Patparganj, Ghazipur and Mayur Vihar areas of BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL). This has been sporadically affecting power supply in parts of East Delhi for the last couple of days,” said a BYPL official.

Midnight power cuts in parts of South Delhi like Vasant Vihar, Munirka, Chittaranjan Park, Alaknanda, Khanpur, Greater Kailash-I, Nehru Place, Jangpura Extension, Nizamuddin, RK Puram, Sarita Vihar, Mithapur, Aali Gaon, Badarpur, Madanpur Khadar, Sarvapriya Vihar and parts of Saket continued. A few residents of these areas said that power cuts were for shorter durations as compared to previous days but they were frequent and thus caused similar troubles.

“There was no power from midnight at 12:30 to 2 am. Power cuts at night are very distressing after

we work whole day in the office,” said Santanu Goswami, a resident of Mayur Vihar Phase I. Areas like Karkarduma, Karawal Nagar, Laxmi Nagar and Krishna Nagar also faced long power cuts.

At the same time, frequent power cuts in North, South and West Delhi areas made people sweat it out throughout the day. In North Delhi, areas like Civil Lines, Keshavpuram, Pitampura, Mangolpuri, Indra Vihar and Mukherjee Nagar faced power cuts to the tune of two hours. In West Delhi areas like Uttam Nagar, Bindapur, Khayala, Tilak Nagar and Moti Nagar witnessed power cuts for as long as four hours.





DELHI POLICE



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- 10 lines added to the Women's helpline
- Intensified patrolling by beat officers
- More police pickets
- 40 lines added to the Police helpline making them 100
- Additional 370 PCR vans inducted
- 24x7 Women's helpdesk at all Police Stations

DP/BS11/13



## " Serving Customers with a Smile " 440/13 (A)

month, Maoists had ambushed a convoy of Congress politicians in Chhattisgarh, killing at least 19 people.



# Home Min steps in to end IB-CBI face-off

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

## ISHRAT JAHAN ENCOUNTER CASE

### STANDOFF

IB Special Director Rajendra Kumar has expressed his inability to appear before CBI citing illness of his father

Intelligence officials said the investigating body's move could be motivated

Director Ranjit Sinha's name was dropped from the panel earlier for appointment as the chief of the investigating body following an adverse IB report against him

Senior IB officials want Prime Minister's intervention in the matter owing to resentment and demoralisation that will set in among the sources



During the meeting, IB Director Syed Asif Ibrahim is learnt to have pressed for the need to maintain confidentiality in the ongoing probe to which Sinha agreed.

Sinha said CBI had enough evidence to back the summons issued to Kumar, a 1979-batch IPS officer, seeking to examine him again. CBI had questioned Kumar on May 31.

CBI had issued summons to Kumar as an accused under the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure as the previous examination could not yield much in terms of evidence. The CBI may arrest Kumar if he does not cooperate with the probe.

CBI plans to file charge sheet soon in connection with the fake encounter case being monitored by the Gujarat High Court. Kumar's statement could be crucial as he had issued an alert in 2004 saying there was a threat to top BJP leaders from Lashkar operatives, including Ishrat Jahan.

During his questioning on May 31, Kumar had told the sleuths that the input was genuine and there was threat to Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi's life in the aftermath of 2002 riots from the terror groups, especially LeT.

Ishrat along with Javed Sheikh alias Pranesh Pillai, Amjad Ali Rana and Zeeshan Johar were killed in Ahmedabad on June 15, 2004 allegedly by a Crime Branch team led by the then DIG DG Vanzara.

# Cong for CCTVs at Bastar polling booths

## Urges EC to ensure free & fair elections

ANNAPURNA JHA ■ NEW DELHI

After receiving a major jolt in Chhattisgarh due to May 25 Maoist attack, the Congress has decided to approach the Election Commission demanding measures to ensure free and fair election in naxal affected Bastar region by installing camera and CCTVs in polling booths.

A delegation of the party leaders from Bastar led by AICC General Secretary BK Hariprasad and Acting PCC president Charan Das Mahant will meet the Chief Election Commissioner VS Sampath on Friday at 12.30 pm and submit a memorandum demanding these measures.

The Congress feels that the high voting percentage of 80 to 85 per cent in the forest regions during the last assembly polls indicated that elections were



Top Congress leaders have assured the party workers that adequate security will be provided to them during the Parivartan Yatra. Rahul himself has taken up the issue with the Home Minister urging him to provide adequate central paramilitary forces for it

### POST MAOIST CARNAGE

rigged by the ruling BJP in connivance with local administration and Maoists to get the verdict in its favour. The BJP had got 11 out of 12 seats in Bastar during the last Assembly elections.

"In Bastar where people sometime fear going out to buy their daily essential needs in view of the Maoist threat, the 80 per

cent to 85 per cent polling figures raises the doubt about polls being rigged," Hariprasad said.

So, this time the Congress does not want to take any chance and would approach the CEC in advance. The will urge the Election Commission to install GPS in helicopters that are used to take Electronic Voting Machines in these difficult ter-

ains to ensure that they reach the polling booth and are not landed somewhere else so that the elections can be rigged. Also, cameras and CCTV should be installed in all polling booths, he said.

Meanwhile, Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi will meet the tribal leaders from Bastar on Friday to know about their problems and difficulties in carrying out political activities. The meeting is being held to motivate party workers who are highly demoralised after the Maoist attack on Congress Parivartan Yatra which killed then PCC President Nand Kumar Patel, senior Congress leader VC Shukla and Mahendra Karma and others.

The top Congress leaders have already assured the party workers that adequate security will be provided to them during the Yatra, which would be resumed soon. Rahul himself has taken up the issue with Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde urging him to provide adequate central paramilitary forces for it. Mahant's security is also being beefed up, sources said.

# Self-destructive T-72 tanks scare Army

New Delhi: India's T-72 tanks are facing problems with its ammunition as it sometimes bursts in the barrel and 200 such cases have been reported making the Army wonder whether its troops will be "afraid" to fire even after seeing the enemy.

"It (the T-72 ammunition) used to burst in the barrel. If it bursts in the barrel, then the firer is afraid to fire his own gun, which is not a correct thing. If he is afraid to fire his own gun, then even if he sees the enemy he will not fire," the Army



has told a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence.

The Army informed the Government and the Parliamentary Committee that over a period of time, there have been 200 such accidents involving the ammunition and "it brings down the confidence of the firer, especially, with regard to tank ammunition."

Last year, former Army Chief Gen VK Singh had written a letter to the PM explaining to him the shortages of tank ammunition being faced by the force. **PTI**

# BJP-JD(U) like husband-wife, taunts Congress

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

SOMETIMES ONE THREATENING MAIN MAYKE CHALI JAOONGI AND LATER THEY SING HUM SAATH JIYENGE AUR SAATH MARENGE

said that it was a hypothetical question as NDA allies have not yet made any decision about going separate.

He said past experience has shown that the relationship between JD(U) and BJP

has been like a husband and wife with sometimes one threatening *Main Mayke chali jaoongi* and later they sing *Hum Saath jiyenge aur Saath marenge*. So till the time a JD(U) takes a final decision to dissociate with BJP, the Congress will not have any association with it. Adopting a wait and watch policy, Shakeel termed the present division in the NDA as its internal affairs.

Asked about Nitish along with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen

Patnaik exploring the possibility of forming the Federal front, Shakeel said that at this juncture there was no possibility or sign of a third or a fourth front emerging as TMC, JD(U), BJD and AIADMK all are State specific parties which do not have reach outside their respective States.

Shakeel also said that he did not share Nitish's opinion that veteran BJP leader L K Advani as secular and Modi as communal and said Modi is the product of seeds of communalism planted by Advani in 1985-86.

# SEBI to get access to CDRs soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government will soon give market regulator SEBI the powers to get telephone call data records (CDRs) of entities under its investigation in cases of insider trading, money laundering and other market manipulations.

SEBI will be given the powers to get CDRs, access to emails and SMSes through the amendments in the Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951, which is being worked out jointly by the Ministries of Home and Telecom.

The move to give SEBI the



powers getting CDRs came following a request of the market regulator as well as the Ministry

of Finance, official sources said today. SEBI's counterparts in US and UK are enjoying the access to communication facilities to counter money laundering and insider trading.

"We are not asking for powers to snoop on the conversations between two entities or to do phone-tapping. We are only asking for CDR details of the persons that we are investigating and we want to know about the parties they (the entities under probe) have been interacting with," said UK Sinha, SEBI Chairman earlier, adding that it did not want tapping powers.

## INSHORT

### SHUKLA'S BAIL PLEA: SC SEEKS CBI'S RESPONSE

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday sought the CBI's response on an interim bail plea of senior IAS officer Pradeep Shukla, who has been named by the agency as a key accused in the multi-crore NRHM scam of Uttar Pradesh. A vacation bench of justices Gyan Sudha Misra and Madan B Lokur gave the probe agency one week to respond to Shukla's plea for bail on medical grounds.

### INDIA RAISES INTERNET SPYING ISSUE WITH US

New Delhi: India has taken up with the US the reports that it was the fifth most tracked country by the American intelligence using a secret data-mining programme to monitor worldwide internet data and sought further details in this regard. India, which has already termed as "unacceptable" the violation, if any, of domestic laws relating to privacy of information of citizens, said the matter was taken up by NSA with the US Ambassador two days ago.

### CPM TAKES POT SHOTS AT BJP FUNCTIONING

New Delhi: Taking pot shots at BJP over the recent developments within that party, CPI(M) on Thursday said Narendra Modi's rise represented an "unalloyed communal agenda" combined with advocacy of corporate and big business interests. The resignation of LK Advani and his subsequent retreat had brought out "conflicts and contradictions into the open", within RSS, BJP as well as NDA, it said. "The progenitor of the Hindutva's political agenda is at odds with the upstart who seeks to usurp the former's position," senior CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury said in an editorial in the latest issue of party organ 'People's Democracy'.

### CBI FOR GOVT NOD TO PROSECUTE EX-NDMC CHIEF

New Delhi: The CBI has sought Government's sanction to prosecute former Chairman of New Delhi Municipal Council Parimal Rai in connection with alleged graft in contracts for upgradation of Shivaji Stadium during 2010 Commonwealth Games. CBI sources said the agency has completed its probe in the case and would soon file a charge sheet after getting permission to prosecute Rai, who is now posted as secretary in the Goa Government. Rai is a 1985-batch IAS officer of Union Territory cadre.

# Learn hospitality from USA's Cornell School!

## Tourism Min enters into tie-up with prestigious institute

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the Ministry of Tourism having entered into collaboration with the prestigious Cornell School of Hotel Administration, USA on Thursday, Indian students can gain on-campus training in the school's very own Statler hotel in New York without having to go

through the rigorous process of admissions to the US universities involving the complicated GREs and TOEFLs.

According to the officials, the proposed collaboration will be carried out in two phases. In the first phase, experts from Cornell School will study the curriculum of BSc in Hospitality and Hotel Administration and interact with various stakeholders and visit Indian training facilities before giving their recommendations. In the second phase, faculty development programme will be taken up for various Institutes under NCHMCT.

# 1,114 foreigners avail visa-on-arrival in May

New Delhi: Visa on Arrival scheme continues to be popular with foreign tourists with as many as 1,114 foreigners availing it in May this year as compared to 812 in the corresponding period last year, registering a growth of 37.2 per cent.

While maximum tourists availing Visa on Arrival facility were from Japan (372) followed by New Zealand (195) and the Philippines (181) availed the facility, only one tourist from Laos availed the scheme.

The Government had launched the Visa on Arrival (VOA) scheme in January 2010 for citizens of 11 countries including Finland, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Singapore, Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Laos and Myanmar.

Currently, four international airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai are equipped with the VoA facility. During the period January to May 2013, the highest number of VoAs were issued at Delhi airport (4,808), followed by Mumbai (1,743), Chennai (1,157) and Kolkata (558). VoA facility will be extended to five more airports at Goa, Thiruvananthapuram, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Kochi soon. Home Ministry order dated April 1, 2013 also gave a go-ahead to collective landing permits to foreign travellers visiting India in groups of four or more. **PNS**



# GoM: Substantial changes unlikely in CBI's working

New Delhi: Government may effect only minor changes in functioning of the CBI as the Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted for empowerment of the agency would finalise on June 24 its affidavit to be submitted to the Supreme Court, with no presentation from the CBI so far.

The third meeting of GoM headed by Finance Minister P Chidambaram, which was held here on Thursday, felt that some "gaps need to be filled" and the affidavit to be finalised at the next meeting will be put before cabinet before it is submitted to Supreme Court by July 3.

The GoM which saw the attendance of Attorney General Goolam E Vahanvati for the second time discussed the "contours" of the affidavit to be filed

in the apex court for an hour.

Speaking to reporters, Law Minister Kapil Sibal said "the group of ministers met for about an hour. We have discussed the contours of the affidavit that is to be filed in the Supreme Court and the proposals for the amendments that are to be made which will be given to the Supreme Court along with the affidavit.

"Some gaps are still there which have to be filled up. The next meeting is on June 24 when the affidavit will be finalised then we will go to the cabinet and file affidavit before the Supreme Court by July 3," he said. External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid could not attend the meeting. **PTI**

# Come 2028, India will surpass China's population!

ANNAPURNA JHA ■ NEW DELHI

In the next 15 years, India will emerge as the most populous country in the world surpassing China. At 1.2 billion now, India's population will touch 1.4 billion in 2025, surpass China in 2028 and reach 1.6 billion by 2050 before it starts declining by the year 2100 at which point India will have 1.5 billion people, according to a study released on Thursday.

The World Population Prospects — The 2012 Revision — released by the United Nations has projected the world population of 7.2 billion in 2013 to increase by almost one billion people within the next 12 years, reaching 8.1 billion in 2025, and to further increase to 9.6 billion in 2050. By the turn of the century, the population will cross a whopping 10.9 billion.

Half of the population growth will be concentrated in a small number of countries.

Between 201-2100, eight countries are expected to account for half of the world's projected population increase. These will be Nigeria, India, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger, Uganda, Ethiopia and the United States of America.

In comparison, China has 1.3 billion people now with the number expected to grow to 1.4 billion in 2025 after which it starts declining. By 2050, China's population would have dropped to 1.3 billion and further to 1.03 billion by the turn

of the century. Nigeria will have more people than the United States by 2050.

Almost all of additional 3.7 billion people from now to 2100 will enlarge the population of developing countries to over 8 billion in 2050 and further to 9.6 billion 2100. It will mainly be distributed among the population aged 15-59 years (1.6 billion) and 60 or above (1.99 billion) as the number of children under age 15 in developing countries will not increase much.

At the country level, much of the overall increase between 2013 and 2050 is projected to take place in high-fertility countries, mainly in Africa, as well as countries with large populations such as India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Philippines and the United States of America.

Globally, total fertility is expected to fall from 2.53 children per woman in 2005-2010 to 2.24 in 2045-2050 and to 1.99 in 2100.





# Don't walk out of NDA: Sena's advice to JD(U)

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maintaining that the Nitish Kumar Government was surviving on “oxygen” being provided by the BJP and could land in “Intensive Care Unit” (ICU) in the event of its ally pulling the plug, the Shiv Sena on Thursday advised the JD(U) against walking out of the NDA.

“The anxiety of the Akali Dal Government in Punjab is understandable. The Government there is surviving on the BJP's support. The moment the BJP pulls the plug, the Badal Government will be on a ventilator. Likewise, the Nitish Kumar Government is surviving on oxygen being provided by the BJP,” the Sena said.

In an editorial published in its official mouth-piece *Saamana*, the Sena stated, “*Sabse bada rupaiya...Sabse badi satta* is the dictum of current times. At a time when there is adequate oxygen supply to survive in power, why should anyone create problems for oneself and get admitted to the ICU? Be it Nitish Kumar or anyone else. That being the case, one should not cross one's limit”.

Reminding the JD(U) about the Maharajan Lok Sabha bypoll outcome which “established” that the Hindu votes were as decisive as the Muslim votes, the Shiv Sena elaborated, “Give respect and earn respect. Like the Muslim votes, Hindu votes can also prove to be decisive and this was amply demonstrated in the Maharajan Lok Sabha bypoll”.

**SABSE BADA RUPAIYA...SABSE BADI SATTA IS THE DICTUM OF CURRENT TIMES. AT A TIME WHEN THERE IS ADEQUATE OXYGEN SUPPLY TO SURVIVE IN POWER, WHY SHOULD ANYONE CREATE PROBLEMS FOR ONESELF AND GET ADMITTED TO THE ICU? BE IT NITISH KUMAR OR ANYONE ELSE. THAT BEING THE CASE, ONE SHOULD NOT CROSS ONE'S LIMIT**

— SHIV SENA —

**Alluding to LK Advani's resignation from all party posts, the Shiv Sena said that when he put in his papers, the veteran leader knew that today's politics was more about 'pragmatism and practicality than idealism'**



The Sena's comment should be seen against the backdrop of the news reports suggesting that the BJP workers did not actively work for the JD(U) nominee PK Shahi in the recent Maharajan Lok Sabha by-election leading to his defeat, despite a high-profile campaigning carried out for him by Nitish Kumar.

Alluding to LK Advani's resignation from all party posts, the Shiv Sena said that when he put in his papers, the veteran leader knew that today's politics was more about “pragmatism and practicality than idealism”.

“The Congress has been maintaining that it is still strong despite TMC and DMK having quit the UPA. But, when Advani resigned, the Congress went to town, saying that an earthquake has rocked the Bharatiya Janata Party and the NDA is heading for disintegration. But what the Congress did not realise is the fact that Advani had resigned from all posts in BJP but not as chairman of NDA,” the Sena editorial stated.

Lambasting the Congress for trying to derive political capital out of the developments within the BJP after Advani's resignation, the Shiv Sena said, “Making the most of the situation arising out of LK Advani's resignation, the Congress said that the BJP's stock had eroded and its moral values had taken a severe dent.... But the fact remains that it is the Congress which is responsible for weakening of moral values in politics”.

# Modi magic will not work in UP: Akhilesh

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BANGALORE

As BJP's new election campaign chief and Gujarat CM Narendra Modi is planning his campaign ahead of UP elections, UP Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav negated his magic in Uttar Pradesh by saying “people of UP know him hardly”.

Talking to reporters on Thursday in Bangalore on his maiden visit after he became the CM, Yadav said Modi's spell works only on television. Yadav also hinted that the Samajwadi Party would take a known path of keeping distance from both the Congress and the BJP.

He said, “Modi's elevation and his magic will not spell a cast in Uttar Pradesh as Modi is hardly acquainted with the nitty-gritty of UP politics and the people of the State hardly know him. His magic works only on television and in Gujarat. I don't want to say anything further”.

Yadav, who studied his BE in southern city of Mysore, was in Bangalore on a two-day visit and also met Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah. The UP CM not only negated Modi's influence but also finds a place for his party in “alternative” politics.

Yadav said UP has always restricted communal parties which try to divide the society and nation at large. Asked for his reaction on the elevation of Modi, Yadav said the SP has always faced communal forces and UP has always supported secular parties. He further said the people in UP have always taken prudent decisions on issues of secularism,



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav wears a Mysore Peta and garlands presented to him by Samajwadi Party workers during a party meeting in Bangalore on Thursday PTI

farmers and national security.

He said looking at State elections held in the recent past, the people of the country are craving for a visible alternative front at the Centre. “Even the anti-Congress and anti-BJP parties are aspiring for an alternative front at the Centre,” he added.

However, he said it would be difficult for him to perceive the shape of the alternative front. But he said the SP has always played a stellar role to take on the Congress and the BJP. Asked whether he is meeting JD(S) leaders for forming an alternative front, Yadav said the coming together of smaller parties will strengthen the cause for the alternative front.

In tune with their political perspective the UP Chief Minister sent out a signal among the political parties in the country about the need for another political front with the Congress-led UPA and BJP-led NDA failing to give what the country wanted. He said, “It has been seen that all non-BJP, non-Congress powers and the people want another front because at many instances fronts led by both these parties have remained a failure”.

The UP CM said his father Mulayam Singh Yadav would play a major role in bringing all parties to form an alternative front. He said, “You know Netaji's role in the past on issues pertaining to farmers, national security and secularism. He has always stood for these issues”.

Yadav further said the SP believed that it would win seats in ensuing Lok Sabha elections based on the performance of its Government in Uttar Pradesh. “Our Government has been carrying out good work and believes we will win Lok Sabha seats in UP and some seats in neighbouring States,” he said. On Food Bill, Yadav said his party has already taken a decision and is not in favour of it.

# No CPM effort for third front: Karat

PNS ■ THRISSUR

The CPI(M) on Thursday made it clear that it was not going to make an effort in the formation of a third front for the coming Lok Sabha election but said that it would strive for a Left democratic alternative of regional parties based on policies.

Stating that the party was not interested in temporary electoral alliances that were not forged on the basis of policies, CPI(M) general secretary Prakash Karat said in Thrissur on Thursday that some regional parties were not fit to be included permanently in the proposed alternative front because of their divergent policies and programmes.

However, he was categorical in his statement, “The question of an alliance with the Trinamool Congress does not

arise at all.” He alleged that the Trinamool Congress workers, using the influence of political power, had attacked several CPI(M) activists in West Bengal.

On certain, West Bengal CPI(M) leaders' reported proposal for extending support to the Congress as the party had done in the time of the UPA-I, Karat said this was a figment of imagination of the media.

As far as the CPI(M) was concerned, building consensus against the anti-people policies of the two main fronts and forging a people's movement were more important than the constitution of a third alternative against the fronts led by the BJP and the Congress, Karat said.

There should be a united forum of parties that would stand against globalisation and liberalisation, he said.



**Some regional parties were not fit to be included permanently in the proposed alternative front because of their divergent policies & programmes**

# 'Mamata wants centre stage'

Didi's federal front call sans CMP a joke, says Left

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Like on previous occasions, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's effort to erect a third front before 2014 general elections would be a damp squib, Opposition Marxists has said, adding her federal front cry was aimed at “occupying the political centre stage in Delhi”.

Dubbing her call for the non-Congress, non-BJP Federal Front a joke of sorts, Bengal Opposition Leader Suryakanta Mishra said such “knee-jerk endeavours” to settle political scores and “gain political supremacy” in Delhi was bound to fail as the move was “devoid of “long-term planning and common minimum programme (CMP)”.

Pooh-poohing the Chief Minister's call for unity of regional interests Mishra said, “She is just trying to increase her bargaining power with

the Congress and the BJP before the 2014,” and reminded how her Trinamool Congress had shuttled between the two parties since its birth in 14 years ago.

Another Left party Forward Bloc wondered, how the Bengal Chief Minister who was prone to “dictatorial style of functioning”



could go along with the other regional satraps. “How a person who has scanty regards for inner-party democracy would be able to absorb divergent views,” Bloc leader Debabrata Biswas said.

Senior CPI leader AB Bardhan said the likelihood of third front raised by a few Chief Minister becoming successful was faint. RSP leader Kshiti Goswami said the Trinamool Congress was only trying to fish in troubled waters.

The Bengal Chief Minister had earlier on Monday called for a Federal Front comprising non-Congress, non-BJP parties and soon got some kind of endorsement from her Bihar counterpart Nitish Kumar and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

She wrote on the Facebook, “a time has come to form a federal front in the coming Lok Sabha elections” and insisted “let us talk together. Let us stand together.” She urged “all the non-Congress, non-BJP regional parties to launch a united fight to free the country from misuse and anti-people decisions (of the UPA-II Government) and work together to build a better and brighter India.”

The Left leaders also reminded “those who wanted to go with the Trinamool Congress” of its “unreliable ways as can be seen from its repeated changing of sides.”

# UPA using CBI against Opp leaders: Shah

**Denies role in Sohrabuddin case**

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Claiming himself to be innocent in the Sohrabuddin encounter case, the newly appointed BJP general secretary Amit Shah alleged that the Congress-led UPA Government was falsely implicating the Opposition leaders through CBI. He reminded and insisted that it was none other than Supreme Court Justice Aftab Alam who approved his bail in the case.

Addressing a Press conference at the State party headquarters during his maiden visit,

scams worth ₹12 lakh crore which was six times to the Budget of the largest State of the country, UP. He also held the SP and the BSP equally responsible for the woes of the people as these had been supporting the UPA and whenever Central Government faced any trouble they emerged as its saviour.

Shah open-heartedly accepted the queries from the scribes and responded to a volley of questions. When asked that despite facing CBI investigation in the Sohrabuddin encounter case he has arrived in UP as party's in-charge, the former Gujarat Home Minister said that barring this there was not even a case of trivial nature against him. “I will come out



UP BJP in-charge Amit Shah addresses a Press conference at the party office in Lucknow on Thursday PTI

the BJP incharge of the Uttar Pradesh set aside the queries regarding the displeasure of party stalwart LK Advani, his resignations and his relenting subsequently. “That chapter is closed now and party is moving ahead with its programmes and schedules,” he said.

In response to a query, he said that Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi as the head of the party's election campaign committee will play a nationwide role in coming days and will not remain confined to any particular State. When asked whether Modi will contest Lok Sabha election from UP, Shah termed it premature and said that the issue has not come up for any discussion yet.

The BJP general secretary alleged that the UPA Government had indulged in

innocent as prima facie there is nothing against me and I have been granted bail by Justice Aftab Alam,” he said, adding that if due to the CBI investigation leaders stop their functioning then many of the Opposition leaders will have to keep themselves locked in their residences.

Earlier, Shah held meeting with the party legislators, other leaders and BJP workers. He was accompanied by State party president Lakshmikanth Bajpai and co-incharge of the State Rameshwar Chaurasia.

He also met senior party leader Kalraj Mishra and discussed the party affairs. The deputy leader of the BJP Legislature Party Satish Mahana and chief whip Radha Mohan Das Agrawal introduced the party MLAs to him.



An Indian farmer holding an umbrella walks home with his geese as monsoon clouds hover above in Bhubaneswar on Thursday AP

# Bengal SEC decision on elections final: HC

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Thus far on the ‘back foot’ in its battle for supremacy with an increasingly assertive Trinamool Congress Government, the West Bengal State Election Commission on Thursday got a major legal success. This even as a Calcutta High Court ordered established the supremacy of the commission in matters related to the conduct of elections.

The Division Bench of Chief Justice Arun Mishra and Justice Joymalaya Bagchi ruled that the commission had the ultimate power to take decisions on the conduct of the panchayat elections.

The commission's decision was final, the court said, adding that it was the poll body that was to decide on the number of security personnel required for conducting the elections and not the Government adding the Government's duty was only to provide the security forces asked by the commission.

The decision comes in the midst of rampant pre-poll violence in the nomination stage where the ruling party had thus far managed to win more than 7,500 seats uncontested.

The commission had earlier moved the court in the context of a previous order that stipulated the number of security personnel for the polling booths and pre-poll arrangements based upon “consensus” between the two sides.

The commission expressed its reservations on the term “consensus” as mentioned by the court. The earlier order had put the commission on the back foot, insofar as making it dependent on the issues of forces and some other aspects on the decisions of the Government.

The court on Thursday re-established the supremacy of the commission much like the single bench order by Justice BP Samadhar given on May 10.

The Thursday's orders would help the commission take steps against the erring officials of the Government who had thus been ignoring its directions, senior lawyers like Arunabha Ghosh said.

Meanwhile, State Panchayat Minister Subrata Mukherjee, Law Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya and Advocate General Bimal Chatterjee went into a meeting in the wake of the order, Government sources said.



# MP IAS officer among 4 killed in J&K mishap

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

An Indian Administrative Service officer and his wife were among four persons who died in a road accident near Khardungla in mountainous Ladakh region of Jammu & Kashmir on Thursday morning. Two top-ranking civil services officers of Madhya Pradesh cadre have been wounded in the accident.

Sources told *The Pioneer* that three officers of the Indian civil and police services belonging to the Madhya Pradesh cadre were on a private tour along with their families. On Thursday, they started their journey towards Nubra Valley in Ladakh region but one of the ill-fated vehicles skidded off near Khardungla, 35 kilometres from Leh, at around 9 am and fell in a 300 feet deep gorge.

Sources said that senior IAS Officer T Dharma Rao, of the Commissioner/Secretary rank, his wife Vidya Rao, their companion Kumad Singh and local driver Chemet Dorje died on the spot. Khardungla Pass is one of the world's highest motorable passes where vehicles negotiate at 18,380 feet above the sea level at some points.

“There was some downpour during the night and weather was foggy when the accident took place,” a police source said. The accident has taken place apparently due to loss of driver's control over the vehicle.

An injured Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Ashok Avasthi, who heads the Vigilance wing of police in MP and his wife Manjiri Avasthi besides another Commissioner-cum-Secretary rank officer Shaileendra Kumar have been wounded in the accident. They were rushed to Sonam Narboo Memorial Hospital in Leh for treatment. In fact, wounded Ashok Avasthi alerted a senior police officer in Srinagar on cellphone that helped in swinging the Leh police into action.

Visitors travelling on the road in separate vehicles also helped in the rescue operation.

**THREE OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN CIVIL AND POLICE SERVICES BELONGING TO THE MP CADRE WERE ON A PRIVATE TOUR ALONG WITH THEIR FAMILIES**

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY (Construction Organisation)			
Corrigendum			
The Description, consignee-wise quantity, Tender Value, Earnest money and opening date against the following tender published under Tender Notice No. 07/2013 dated 23.05.2013 may please read as under in place of existing entries.			
SL No.	Tender Case No.	Existing Entries	To be Read as
1	SC201210313/OT To be opened on 27.06.2013	<b>Short Description</b> A: Fabrication & Supply of Glued Joints for 52 Kg to RDSO's Drg No. T-5361 and corrigendum No. 4 of August 2001	<b>Short Description</b> A: Fabrication & Supply of Glued Joints for 52 Kg to RDSO's Drg No. T-5361 and corrigendum No. 5 of July 2012 B: Manufacture and Supply of Glued Joint for 60 Kg to RDSO's Drg. No. T-5843 and corrigendum No. 5 of July 2012
		<b>Consignee-wise quantity for A:</b> i) XEN/CON/HGS = 273 Nos. ii) SSE/PW/CON/GUP = 320 Nos. iii) Dy.CE/CON/II/SC/L = 290 Nos. iv) SSE/PWay/CON/SPTR = 113 Nos. v) SSE/PWay/CON/GB/APDJ = 500 Nos. 1496 Nos.	<b>Consignee-wise quantity for A:</b> i) XEN/CON/HGS = 273 Nos. ii) SSE/PW/CON/GUP = 420 Nos. iii) Dy.CE/CON/II/SC/L = 290 Nos. iv) SSE/PWay/CON/SPTR = 113 Nos. v) SSE/PWay/CON/GB/APDJ = 500 Nos. vi) Dy.CE/CON/NJP = 120 Nos. 1716  <b>For B:</b> i) SSE/PWay/CON/GB/APDJ = 1050 Nos. ii) Dy.CE/CON/NJP = 150 Nos. 1200 Nos.
		<b>Tender Value</b> = Rs. 1,75,50,000/- <b>Earnest Money</b> = Rs. 3,51,000/-	<b>Tender Value</b> = Rs. 3,42,05,800/- <b>Earnest Money</b> = Rs. 5,00,000/-
2.	SC201210231/OT	<b>Consignee wise quantity</b> i) Dy.CE/CON/II/SC/L = 6,53,146 Nos. ii) SE/P. Way/CON/GB/APDJ = 8,12,000 Nos. iii) XEN/CON/RNY = 53,700 Nos. iv) XEN/CON/ILMG = 70,000 Nos. v) SSE/PWay/CON/PNO = 1,50,000 Nos. vi) XEN/CON/GC/SPTR = 13,28,825 Nos. vii) SSE/PW/CON/NCB = 5,11,000 Nos. viii) XEN/CON/INLP = 4,000 Nos. 35,82,671 Nos.	<b>Consignee wise quantity</b> i) Dy.CE/CON/II/SC/L = 6,53,146 Nos. ii) SE/P. Way/CON/GB/APDJ = 8,12,000 Nos. iii) XEN/CON/RNY = 53,700 Nos. iv) XEN/CON/ILMG = 70,000 Nos. v) SSE/PWay/CON/PNO = 1,50,000 Nos. vi) XEN/CON/GC/SPTR = 13,28,825 Nos. vii) SSE/PW/CON/NCB = 5,11,000 Nos. viii) XEN/CON/INLP = 4,000 Nos. ix) Dy. CE/CPON/NJP = 1,25,000 Nos. 37,07,671 Nos.
		<b>Tender Value</b> = Rs. 19,35,00,000/- <b>Opening Date</b> = 21.06.2013	<b>Tender Value</b> = Rs. 20,02,51,300/- <b>Opening Date</b> = 28.06.2013
All other entries in the above Tender will remain unaltered			
For CONTROLLER OF STORES/CON			
<b>NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY</b> "SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"			



# DMK woos CPM for RS election

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Kanimozhi, daughter of DMK chief M Karunanidhi by his third wife Rajathi Ammal, is all set to submit her nomination papers as the party candidate for the June 27 biennial election to Rajya Sabha. Her present tenure is coming to an end in July along with other five members from Tamil Nadu.

The MLAs belonging to the DMK had a meeting in Chennai on Thursday presided over by Karunanidhi. Though the DMK chief told reporters after the meeting that the decision to contest the Rajya Sabha election would be taken at the right time, party sources told *The Pioneer* that all DMK MLAs have been told to stay put at Chennai itself. “We are in discussion with various par-



KANIMOZHI IS ALL SET TO SUBMIT HER NOMINATION PAPERS AS DMK CANDIDATE FOR JULY 27 ELECTION. HER PRESENT TENURE IS COMING TO END IN JULY

ties about the Rajya Sabha election,” said Karunanidhi. But he did not name the parties with which the discussions are being held.

The DMK is trying frantically to get Kanimozhi re-

ected from Tamil Nadu. But the party has only 23 MLAs whereas Kanimozhi needs the support of 34 MLAs. Even if the Congress (five MLAs) and the PMK (three MLAs) extend their support, Kanimozhi is

still short of three votes. Though the DMDK led by Vijaykanth has not announced its plan of action for the Rajya Sabha election, party insiders said the possibility of Vijaykanth extending support to the DMK is remote.

“During the 2011 Assembly election, the DMK went overboard and portrayed him as a drunkard through the television network owned by them. How can Vijaykanth or his partymen forget this,” said a party insider.

There were reports that the DMK leadership had approached the CPI(M) for its support to Kanimozhi. Karunanidhi’s representative is believed to have told the CPI(M) leaders that if they could ensure the victory of Kanimozhi in this election, the DMK would extend their support to TK Rangarajan to get re-

ected as Rajya Sabha member when his term expires in 2014.

The CPI(M) which has 10 members in Tamil Nadu Assembly is yet to take a decision on this “mutually beneficial arrangement”.

If the CPI(M) goes ahead and support the DMK, the party leadership may find it difficult to convince the cadre about the help extended to Kanimozhi, an accused in the 2G spectrum scam.

There are reports that the CPI may field its nominee as the sixth candidate from Tamil Nadu. In the eventuality of the DMDK declares that it would not support the DMK, the Left parties with 18 members could still get their nominee sail through with the available votes.

It is said that Jayalithaa declared the names of five AIADMK nominees with this scenario in her mind.

# Chandy under attack over aide’s ‘links’ to con woman

## Ruckus in Kerala Assembly; inquiry ordered

VR JAYARAJ ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala’s Congress Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, who claims transparency in all official matters by throwing open the functioning of his office to the world of web round the clock, on Thursday came under heavy fire from the Opposition LDF over the alleged links between his personal assistant Tenny Joppen and a woman arrested last week for financial swindling.

Producing records of scores of phone calls between Joppen and the woman, the Opposition alleged in the Assembly that Chandy’s office was being misused for protecting criminals and demanded a judicial probe into the matter. “The Chief Minister’s office is said to be functioning round the clock. Is it for protecting criminals?”

According to reports, Tenny Joppen, described often as Chandy’s shadow, had held telephonic conversations nearly 70 times with the woman, Saritha S Nair alias Lakshmi (35), before her arrest last week for cheating a person by taking ₹40 lakh by promising him to set up solar power plants and windmills.

After several hours of heated exchanges between the Opposition and the ruling side, Home Minister Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan said Additional DGP A Hemachandran would probe the allegations of phone conversations between the Chief Minister’s aide and Saritha Nair disregarding the Opposition demand for a judicial probe.



The Chief Minister's office is said to be functioning round the clock. Is it for protecting criminals



Saritha Nair hailing from Chengannur, Alappuzha and her husband Biju Radhakrishnan of Kollam (first accused in the case) are said to have cheated over 50 investors by taking crores of rupees from them promising to set up solar power plants and windmills in Tamil Nadu. Biju Radhakrishnan is absconding.

The Opposition alleged that Joppen had made the calls to Saritha from the same phone the Chief Minister was using and that such links between the two could not have existed without Chandy’s knowledge. Unable to provide convincing answers to the Opposition’s questions, Chandy adopted the denial technique saying, “I don’t own a phone.”

The issue, which had caused a storm in the House on Wednesday, was raised again on Thursday in the form of a notice for an adjournment

motion by CPI(M) member Raju Abraham, who charged that Saritha and her husband had started their company with the blessings of the Chief Minister. “CM’s office has become a centre for protecting criminals,” he said.

Abraham, who alleged that Chandy and Joppen were trying to protect Saritha, said that a police investigation into the scandal would be insufficient to bring out the truth as the Kerala Police themselves were under suspicion of having links with the swindlers. One of the sponsors of the conference of the police association as the company run by the swindlers, he said.

Calling for a judicial probe into the matter, Deputy Opposition Leader Kodyeri Balakrishnan of the CPI(M) said that it was strange why the Chief Minister had failed to sack the erring aide. “Any probe by retaining Joppen in the CM’s personal staff is unacceptable,” he said placing records of phone calls between Joppen and the swindler woman.

While replying to the notice for adjournment motion, Chandy admitted that people in his office had failed in identifying the swindler woman. “There is no question of protecting anyone. Stringent action will be taken against those responsible but this would be on the basis of an interim report from the police and not based on mere allegations,” he said.

After the Chief Minister’s reply, the Speaker refused leave for the adjournment motion irking the Opposition. Protesting against the Speaker’s decision, the Opposition staged a walkout. At the same time, pro-CPI(M) youth outfit DYFI held demonstrations outside the House demanding Chandy’s resignation over the issue.

# Suraj Pancholi in judicial custody till June 27

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A city court on Thursday remanded Suraj Pancholi, arrested on charges of abetting the suicide of his girlfriend and actress Jiah Khan, in judicial custody till June 27, after rejecting the prosecution’s plea for extending his police custody.

In a development that paved way for the Suraj’s possible bail, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Seema Jadhav rejected a plea made by the Juhu police seeking extension of custody of the lone accused in the Jiah Khan suicide case for some more days and sent him to judicial custody for two weeks.

As she remanded the accused in judicial custody, the Magistrate did not see merit in the prosecution’s argument that the police had come across the word “rape” in the six-page letter purportedly written by Jiah to her boyfriend and that they wanted to probe in this direction.

Similarly, the prosecution’s another argument that Suraj had deleted some messages from his *Blackberry* phone

after learning about Jiah’s suicide and that the police needed more time to retrieve the messages and probe if they threw any light on her death, did not cut ice with the court.



Thirdly, the prosecutor also told the court that two letters were recovered from a servant of the Pancholi family and the police required to probe whether Suraj had written these to Jiah, and take samples of Suraj’s handwriting to prove that he wrote those letters to his girlfriend.

Contesting the prosecution’s application for an extension in police custody of his client, Suraj’s counsel Zameer Khan argued that the police had already recorded the statements of all witnesses including Jiah’s

mother Rabiya Khan, sister and Pancholi family’s servant.

Khan also told the court that the police had completed all their searches at Pancholi’s house and the family had fully cooperated with the investigation, handing them letters, a laptop, I-pad, and Suraj’s mobile phone.

Khan said the exchange of letters between Suraj and Jiah were an offshoot of mutual trust and love between them, and hence Suraj’s custodial interrogation was not necessary. Accepting Khan’s argument, the court remanded Suraj in judicial custody till June 27.

Within hours after the court remanded Suraj in judicial custody, the defence lawyer moved the Sessions Court for bail to his client. “We have filed a bail application before the Sessions Court on after judicial custody was granted to Suraj,” Khan said. In a related development, the police on Thursday submitted an autopsy report before the court which showed that there were no external injuries on Jiah Khan’s body.

# GNLA cadre nabbed, arms & ammo seized

ANUP SHARMA ■ GUWAHATI

The Guwahati Police on Thursday seized an arms consignment bound for Garo militant outfit, Garo National Liberation Army, based in Meghalaya’s Garo Hills region.

Police have also arrested three persons including two GNLA linkmen regarding the consignment, officials said, adding that the consignment was seized from the Inter-State Bus Terminus (ISBT) in Guwahati.

Police said that the seized arms and ammunition included one AK-56 rifle, one magazine, one short-barreled factory-made gun, one RPG launcher, seven RPG Cells, 375 rounds of ammunition, four mobile handsets and ₹50,000 cash.

“The consignment was booked from Dimapur through a courier agency. Our officials seized it after its delivery at ISBT Guwahati. The consignment was supposed to be sent further to Garo Hills in Meghalaya through night ser-

vice bus from ISBT,” Assam Police Inspector General of Police (IGP-Central Western Range) LR Bishnoi said.

He said that it was the second incident this year where the city police succeeded against the GNLA militants.

Bishnoi said that two persons identified as J Marak and Orbit Sangma, both linkmen of the GNLA, were arrested in connection with the consignment. Another person — Jahid Hussain was also arrested.

“Hussain used to handle the consignments for the GNLA in Assam for payments. He is not a member of any militant outfit but he gets ₹50,000 for handling each such consignment,” the IGP said.

Bishnoi further said that the Assam Police have seized five consignment of the GNLA since last year and a total of 22 persons including GNLA cadre, linkmen and arms smuggler have so far been arrested since March 2012.

The seized arms & ammunition included one AK-56 rifle, one magazine, one short-barreled factory-made gun, one RPG launcher & 375 rounds of ammunition

# Former-UP Cabinet Secretary cremated

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Former Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Secretary Shashank Shekhar Singh who died after a prolonged illness, in a private hospital in New Delhi, was consigned to flames in Bhainsakund here on Thursday.

His daughter Poojita Singh lit the pyre in presence of a large number of people including serving and retired bureaucrats, media people and staff of State Secretariat. Shekhar Singh, 63, is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Former Cabinet Secretary’s body was flown to Lucknow in a State plane. Chief Minister’s Secretary Anita Singh laid the wreath on the body of Singh on behalf of the Chief Minister. National general secretary of BSP Satish Chandra Mishra and Congress MP from Barabanki PL Punia also paid floral tributes.

Singh who rose to the top bureaucratic post in the State

started his career as pilot in Indian Air Force. In 1977, he joined State Government service as pilot and during VP Singh’s regime, he was made Director Civil Aviation. Since then he did not look back and climbed to the top post of Cabinet Secretary during the last BSP regime.

Shekhar was suffering from cancer and had breathed his last around 9 pm. He had earlier also undergone kidney treatment at the Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences in Lucknow.

A close confidant of former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati, he was the most powerful bureaucrat during the BSP regime. His posting in the IAS cadre posts of Industrial Development Commissioner and Cabinet Secretary had earned ire from the IAS cadre and the UP IAS Association had even passed a resolution questioning as how a non-IAS officer was posted in IAS cadre posts.



Shashank Shekhar Singh

## ASSAM RIFLES

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL ASSAM RIFLES TRAINING CENTRE AND SCHOOL, DIMAPUR (NAGALAND)

VIII.28028/NIT/Engr/2013-14/450 Dated : 05 Jun 2013

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

1. Applications are invited from Assam Rifles Approved contractors and enlisted contractors working with other Central Govt/ Org meeting eligibility criteria for selection of contractor for issue of tender for the following works :-

Ser No	Name of works	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest money (In Rs.)
(a)	Provn of TC for B & repair and periodical services of Offrs Club at Diphu Grn	4.99	10,000/-
(b)	Provn of TC for B & R repair and periodical services of existing resdl acn of No. 4 Trg Bn at Shokhuvi	4.80	9,600/-
(c)	Provn of tilling to School bldg Library and Computer Room at Dimapur	1.99	4,000/-
(d)	Provn of TC for B & R repair and periodical services of Offrs acn at Diphu Grn	4.80	9,600/-
(e)	Provn of TC for B & R repair and periodical services of existing office building of course wing at Diphu Grn	4.99	10,000/-
(f)	Provn of TC for B and R repair and periodical services of existing offrs building of COE at Diphu Grn	4.99	10,000/-
(g)	Provn of attached toilet cum bath room male ward of unit hosp at Dimapur	4.83	9,700/-
(h)	Provn of TC for B & R repair and periodical services existing resdl acn of signal wing at Diphu Grn	4.80	9,600/-
(i)	Provn of TC for B & R repair and periodical composite coy at Shukhuvi	4.99	10,000/-
(k)	Provn of special repair to VIP Guest room at ARTC & S at	8.23	16,500/-

2. Earnest money at the rate of 2% calculated on estimated cost of work should be deposited alongwith the tender documents. Application will be received upto 14 Jul 2013 and tender paper will be issued to suitable applicants with effect from 16 Jul 2013 after submission of pre paid challan for Rs. 500/- (Rupees five hundred) only Government treasury as tender fee under head of account “2055” Police, Assam Rifles in favour of pay and Account office (AR), Laitukhrah Main Road Shillong-03. Tender paper will be received upto 1200 hrs on 12 Aug 2013 and they will be opened on the same day by a board of officer at 1230 hrs at Engr branch, Assam Rifles Training Centre and School Dimapur, Nagaland. The department reserves the right to reject or accept any tender including the lowest tender paper or application without assigning any reason.

3. Any inquiries by the tenderer may be obtained from the undersigned on any working day from 0830 hrs to 1330 hrs. This tender notice is also available on the Assam Rifles Web site at ([www.assamrifles.gov.in](http://www.assamrifles.gov.in)).

4. This office NIT No. VIII.28028/NIT/Engr/2013-14/399 dated 15 May, NIT No. VIII.28028/NIT/Engr/2013-14/407 dated 17 May 2013 and NIT No. VIII.28028/NIT/Engr/2013-14/408 dated 20 May be treated as cancelled in toto.

Sd/-  
(S K Taggar)  
Lt Colonel  
SO1 (Wks)  
For DIG

Friends of the hill people

## ASSAM RIFLES

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL ASSAM RIFLES (SOUTH) HEADQUARTERS INSPECTOR GENERAL ASSAM RIFLES (SOUTH) C/O 99 APO

VIII.14064/03/Engr-IGAR (S)/2013-14/07 Dated : 03 Jun 2013

### TENDER NOTICE

1. Applications are invited from Assam Rifles approved contractors and enlisted contractor working with other Central Govt Dept/Org meeting eligibility criteria for selection of contractor for issue of tender for the following works :-

Ser No	Name of works	Approx Cost in Rs.	Earnest money in Rs.	Tender Fee in Rs.
(a)	Prov of roof treatment and internal electrification to Nodal Hospital (Bldg No. AR/24/100,112&121 at HQ IGAR (S)	9,97,705/-	20,000/-	500/-
(b)	Provn of improvement to flooring of 02 Nos, SM Bks (Bldg No AR/RG/BK/114 & 115) at HQ IGAR (S)	9,91,384/-	19,900/-	500/-
(c)	Provn of improvement to Type IV qtrs (Qtr No. 01,02,93,94,05,06,07 &AD) of HQ IGAR (S) at Mantripukhri	9,91,811/-	19,900/-	500/-
(d)	Provn of constructionof 2 x Basket Ball grounds for BOPs Khurkhu & Nilakuti of 30 Assam Rifles	12,90,101/-	25,900/-	500/-
(e)	Provn of toilet block for single JCOs acn at BOPs Monthung and KPI of 43 Assam Rifles	14,90,847/-	29,900/-	500/-
(f)	Provn of 12.5 KVA Generator including Generator shed and allied services for BOPs at Mothung, Hengbung & KPI of 43 Assam Rifles	14,96,766/-	30,000/-	500/-
(g)	Provn of repair and maint of Generator sets and pumps sets (Generator NoAR/ GAR(S)/G/GR/02, ESN-06-2401/0600027 & ESN-06-2401/0600024 and pump set No. MPR/BP/01 of 20 HP) of HQ IGAR (S) at Mantripukhri	4,75,370/-	9,600/-	500/-
(h)	Provn of repair and maint of JCOs, Mess (Bldg No. AR/124/JCOs Club/126 & 127 of HQ IGAR (S)	7,77,667/-	15,600/-	500/-
(i)	Provn of improvement to floor of AR Nodal School (Bldg No. IGAR (S)/P/09 of HQ IGAR (S)	9,98,845/-	20,000/-	500/-
(k)	Provn of 250 KVA transformer laying of water supply pipe line with panel board & allied services at Rear 26 Sect AR at Inphal	14,87,475/-	29,800/-	500/-
(l)	Provn of boundary wall and main gate for Rear 26 Sect AR at Minuthong, Imphal	27,92,499/-	55,900/-	500/-
(m)	Provn of Resdl furniture for T/Camp, Dimapur	19,96,176/-	40,000/-	500/-
(n)	Provn of defi of fur for Transit Camp, Minuthong			

2. The last date of receipt of application is **01 Jul 2013**. The tender paper will be issued to suitable applicants wef **04 Jul 2013** at 1200 hours after submission of a prepaid challan as mentioned above in Govt Treasury as tender fee. The tender will be received upto 1200 hours on **25 Jul 2013** and opened on the same day at 1230 hours by a board of officers. For more details in available our website [www.assamrifles.gov.in](http://www.assamrifles.gov.in)

3. The Earnest money deposit (EMD) should be deposited in any scheduled bank.

4. The department reserves the right to reject or accept any tender paper or application without assigning reasons.

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# Third-Fronters in a bind

Can they align with anti-federal Congress?

Every time some ruffling happens in the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance or the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance, the Third-Fronters see a chance to realise their dream of a 'non-Congress, non-BJP' Government assuming power in New Delhi. And so, with the rise of Mr Narendra Modi, the prospect of the Janata Dal (United) breaking off from the NDA and the deteriorating position of the Congress, these dreamers have once again begun to believe that they can cobble together what they are calling the 'Federal Front' as an alternative to coalitions led by the two major national parties. We can only wish them well as, in a democracy every political entity has the right to seek combinations that can propel it to power. But the concept of a Third Front or a Federal Front has inherent flaws that have resulted in disasters in the past. The biggest flaw is that the idea of a Front lacks a cohesive structure. The combine seeks to be a conglomeration of regional parties that have nothing in common except their stated desire to shut the doors on the Congress and the BJP. Each of the potential parties is driven by a parochial regional agenda, and the big national picture is missing. So disparate are they that there is little possibility of these Third-Fronters even approaching the electorate as a united outfit. They hope to do well



individually and then come together to consolidate the numbers and present to the people the fiction that the voters have given them the larger mandate to govern. Essentially, therefore, the Third Front is a post-poll phenomenon and banks entirely on how well the parties perform individually. Since even the best consolidated effort of the disparate regional parties is unlikely to give them the numbers to form a Government on their own, they will yet again have to take the outside support of a larger party or grouping to claim power. But before they look to the Congress, they must recall recent history. We have seen in the past how minority Front Governments led by HD Deve Gowda and IK Gujral came to power through the outside support of the Congress, lasted for a few months at the mercy of the Congress and then fell when the party decided the regime's days were up. In fact, the Congress has a history of such betrayals; remember, it had propped up the Charan Singh and the Chandra Shekhar regimes and then unceremoniously brought them crashing down one fine day.

A more practical solution would be for the Third (or the Federal) Front to extend support to coalition Governments led by either of the two biggest national parties. The Front, after all, will not be in a position to form a majority Government on its own; it cannot even hope to garner more number of seats than what the Congress and the BJP will together get — which should be more than the half-way mark. Given the past bitter experiences such Fronts have had with the Congress, the Third-Fronters have to take a call on whether they would like to align post-poll with a party that has torpedoed similar experiments. Also, stalwarts of the various regional parties have to keep in mind that the Congress-led Government has in recent months taken many decisions that have been patently against the federal spirit of the Constitution. It would be ironical if a Federal Front should end up supporting an anti-federal party such as the Congress.

# Dhaka's war on terrorism

Sheikh Hasina regime tightens screws further

Recent amendments strengthening Bangladesh's anti-terror law reiterate the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League Government's longstanding commitment towards countering terrorism. Since the incumbent regime in Dhaka came to power in 2008, it has cracked down on terrorists and worked to ensure that Bangladesh does not become a haven for extremists. India too has benefitted from Prime Minister Hasina's relentless war on terror. In fact, it was only after she took charge that the original anti-terror law was promulgated in 2009. It was modified in 2012 and then again amended by Parliament this Tuesday. Once signed by the President, the latest amendment will allow courts to accept material posted on the Internet as evidence in terror cases. It will also let the central bank freeze without a warrant suspicious bank accounts. The amendment also empowers police officers as they will no longer have to seek the permission of a District Magistrate prior to investigating a case under the anti-terror law. Overall, the amendment is a necessary upgrade for the 2009 law. The nature of terrorist activity, the tools used by militants and indeed the concept of terrorism as a whole are constantly evolving. If the Government in Dhaka seeks to eradicate this menace, it must keep up with the times, and it is against this backdrop that the changes to the anti-terror law must be viewed. Take, for instance, the inclusion of online material as evidence acceptable in court. It is well-established that terror groups use the Internet to indoctrinate and even train millions to become militants. The Hizb-ut-Tahrir in Bangladesh, for instance, is a growing concern because of its rampant anti-social propaganda that radicalises youth who then go on to join hard-line militant groups. Similarly, there are *jihadi* forums galore that exhort



Muslim youth to take up arms against a supposedly unjust world order. In a situation such as this, it's imperative that online material be considered as admissible evidence — even if it marks a departure from Bangladesh's archaic Evidence Act of 1872, as pointed out by critics of the Amendment.

These critics have also argued that allowing the central bank to shut down suspicious accounts without a warrant is a draconian move which violates the basic principles of the criminal justice system. But given how terror activities are funded, often transnationally, drastic steps are the need of the hour. There is no doubt that the new changes give the state extra-ordinary powers to take on terrorists — but there can also be no two ways about the fact that implementing a zero-tolerance state policy is the only way to crush terrorism. That the Bangladesh Nationalist Party alongside its radical ally, the Jamaat-e-Islami, has still slammed the Government's efforts to bolster counter-terrorism efforts, speaks volumes about the Opposition's political agenda.

# Let's have the old game back. Period

Nobody needs a degree in quantum physics to understand that customer feedback is key to the business of selling. Yet, Mattel's response has been pedantic. And, it has refused to reinstate its earlier scrabble version

What's in a game? Plenty, going by a massive, million-man campaign that has been launched on Facebook, has spread like wildfire to other social media like Twitter and has stirred up enough attention for media houses in the UK, South Africa and Australia to report it. Incensed people around the world have declared an indefinite boycott of all products by US gaming giant Mattel and of the popular social media platform Facebook itself, if the loved online game is not restored.

Till last month and practically since the inception of Facebook, its users could play Scrabble Worldwide, a free online version of the recreational and educational word game patented by Mattel. The interface of Scrabble Worldwide was traditional, subdued, and advertising — admittedly, a necessary evil — was restricted to the beginning of the game, the shortest version of which can stretch up to 45 minutes.

Given the many time zones of the English-speaking world, the game was always active (except, due to copyright issues, in the US and Canada), players could log on round the clock and always find someone online and willing to play. They could choose, depending on the time on their hands, between two-minute, five-minute, day-long and week-long games; and also between beginners, intermediate and advanced players.

Over the years, players not only clocked up impressive statistics but learned to recognise familiar faces and befriended many of those who were logged on — in England, in Europe, in Africa, in the Gulf, in South Asia, in South East Asia, in Australia, in New Zealand. A typical player breakfasting in India would play Australians at tea, Filipinos at lunch, Africans over a drink and England after dinner.

Even as delegations of foreign ministries travel around the world forging ties and improving relations often strained by cultural myopia and a lack of understanding — especially between Britain and its former colonies around the globe — the game brought together 3.5 million people day after day in a global village of understanding, peace, tolerance and acceptance. In that sense, Scrabble Worldwide certainly beat some heavyweight foreign policy initiatives to the post.

There were players with serious health issues: Manic-depres-



sive disorders, chronic shyness, autism, terminal illnesses. There were cancer patients whose hair loss and 'chemo-brain' made them inclined to stay at home but interact happily and unseen with millions of others over a game. Those who shied away from human contact in their vicinity for various reasons could reach out and chat with someone in cyberspace, knowing that their fears and secrets would be safer so far away. The game was a boon for some dyslexic children. And yet, its design kept out child molesters and other Internet criminals by giving users the choice to turn off chat facilities or exit the game.

It gave working people a quick fix in place of the cigarette, a speedy game at any time and day of their choice. The old and lonely did not have to wait for someone to make time for them. Out there in the etherzone, there was always someone. Even some visually challenged played user-friendly Scrabble Worldwide with enthusiasm. For several years and even to the technologically-challenged, Scrabble Worldwide became a private world, a comfortable space to

MANY OF THE OLD SCRABBLE WORLDWIDE PLAYERS ARE IN INDIA, A HUGE MARKET WITH 33 MILLION ENGLISH SPEAKERS. BUT MATTEL HAS TURNED A BLIND EYE AND DEAF EAR TO INDIAN SCRABBLERS TOO

enjoy an entirely harmless pastime.

Last month, players woke up to Doomsday. Mattel had shut down the game without warning. In its place, was a new, disastrous, dumbed-down and alien version. Old names, old players, old statistics and, therewith, old friendships simply vanished into thin air.

The new interface is cluttered with and ruled by, advertising — after every other move, in between each game. To restrict advertising to every 10 minutes, a player must pay. To restrict it to every 15, he must pay some more. There are bright and useless icons all over the board: Dollar signs, bags of money and other symbols of profiteering. The new game is a copious and brazen onslaught of hardsell. A single game can neither be abandoned nor shut down, and can carry on for an indefinite period. There are regressive primary colours, new dictionaries which only spell, not explain a word. Perverts on the chat line can neither be ignored nor switched off.

The user-friendliness of the board has been largely scaled down, making it impossible for those with arthritis or other related prob-

## SOUNDBITE



After 10 years, the Union Government has thought about the poor through the food security Bill. We doubt its intentions.

Gujarat Chief Minister — Narendra Modi



Trust is a sacred requirement in our operations. We do not see a trade-off between security and liberty.

US National security Agency chief — General Keith Alexander



Any LeT attack upon our homeland, and Pakistan will bear responsibility for that because of the close relationship between ISI and LeT.

US Congressman — Peter King

## Unfairly denounced

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Worst is hopefully over" (June 13). You have rightly concluded that both the Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi and senior BJP leader LK Advani should work in tandem, to help the party to regain power in New Delhi, which in the past decade has only witnessed misrule and shameless vote-bank politics. Indeed, the Congress-led UPA regime has brought the country to such a pass that only a strong and resolute leadership will be able to pull it from the morass of corruption and misrule it has fallen into.

Today, pseudo-secularists in New Delhi find it expedient to flay Mr Modi for the 2002 Gujarat violence, but no one finds it important to raise a voice against the plight of Kashmiri Pandits from the valley, their persecution at the hands of religious fundamentalists and their displacement from their home and hearth. Such is secularism in this country! The BJP in its election agenda must explain vigorously the de-merits of this kind of 'secularism', to gain control of New Delhi. Mr Modi has been denounced for all the wrong reasons.

JL Ganjoo  
Delhi

## NDA will be better off without such allies

This refers to the news report, "JD(U) ready to burn bridges with BJP" (June 13). Three eastern Chief Ministers who held rallies at Delhi to claim the rights of their States, have tried to revive talks of a Third Front. Apparently the leaders of the regional parties think this is the time to strike and fulfil their 'national' ambitions. The BJP, in the event of JD(U) walking out of NDA, should treat it as good riddance and concentrate on winning the election by offering a sound and credible alternative to the corrupt and weak UPA regime.

The Third Front should henceforth be known as the 'United Prime Ministerial Aspirants Alliance'! It is only after the break-up will the Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar realise how much better off he was in the NDA. The national parties have given a long rope to regional parties, who had influenced governance disproportionate to their numerical strength in Parliament. It is high time the electoral laws are amended to restrict the role of regional parties only to their areas of influence and only parties with pan-India presence be allowed to rule at the centre.

N Ramamurthy  
Chennai



## Happy ending, hopefully

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Worst is hopefully over" (June 13). The editorial very succinctly encapsulates the distressing events of the past week, with the Bharatiya Janata Party lurching between hope and despair. It is welcome news that BJP veteran and patriarch Lal Krishna Advani has relented and withdrawn his resignation, else it would have been disastrous for the party. The news that Mr Advani told senior party leaders that he had nothing personal against Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi's elevation as the Election Campaign Committee chief, if true, is immensely reassuring.

The only way Mr Advani can regain his lost public stature is by graciously allowing Mr Modi to be the party's face for the 2014 poll. No doubt some so-called 'secular' regional parties with vested interests, like the Janata Dal(United), may part away with the NDA on account of Mr Modi's elevation, but that should not worry the BJP. The party needs to focus on strengthening itself, formulate its agenda for the electoral battle ahead and strategise to rope in better allies into NDA.

Seetha Ramaraj  
Via web

## Only a pipe dream

Sir — This refers to the news report, "East India Company" in the making?" (June 13). The combined Lok Sabha tally of the two main parties, the Congress and the BJP, is not likely to fall below the majority mark of 272. Even if that happens, parties like the SP, the BSP, or the JD(U) and the RJD, or the Trinamool Congress, the Left, the DMK and AIADMK, with their conflicting interests and regional constraints, will find it difficult to find common ground and come together on the same platform. No Government can be formed without the support of the Congress or the BJP.

In 1996-98, the Congress-supported United Front Government saw two Prime Ministers in its short span of less than two years and mid-term poll followed. In contrast, coalition Governments of the NDA led by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and, thereafter, the UPA regime, led by Manmohan Singh survived their full terms. A non-Congress, non-BJP Federal Front forming a Government at the Centre is only a pipe dream.

MC Joshi  
Lucknow

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com



PADMA RAO SUNDARJI



POINTCOUNTERPOINT

I view Edward Snowden's actions not as one of patriotism, but potentially a felony. I hope we bring him to justice.  
—US Senator  
LINDSEY GRAHAM



I am not here in Hong Kong to hide from justice. I am here to reveal criminality of the US Government. I'll fight the Government.  
—US whistleblower  
EDWARD SNOWDEN

Differences at a huge cost

Before catapulting Modi to NDA's top job, his supporters need to answer if he has emerged as a credible pan-India leader

The most regrettable feature of the unseemly exercise in one-upmanship, marked by Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi's anointment as chairman of the BJP's Election Campaign Committee for the 2014 Lok Sabha poll, is the obvious desire of one faction to delink itself abruptly from the past. It is a past that is mirrored in the present, and is likely to shape the future. The BJP was propelled to centre-stage by the mounting *Ramjannabhum*i campaign in the 1980s. The mantle of leading this campaign fell on Mr LK Advani, when he steered the Somnath to Ayodhya *Rath Yatra*. By now seeking to stifle the veteran leader's voice, aggressive advocates of change seem to have over-played their hand.



ANURADHA DUTT

For, Mr Modi, though an able administrator and undoubted nationalist, still has many detractors outside his home State Gujarat. It is unrealistic to expect a Modi wave to sweep India in the next general election, given the differing issues and sensibilities that drive regional politics. Mr Modi's brand of populism may not appeal to voters in, say, Kerala, India's North-East, with its sizeable Christian population, Odisha, or even West Bengal. The cow belt, contained in the northern swathe, is swayed by a wide range of issues and satraps, with fiercely loyal followers.

Where the strident Modi brigade has erred is in taking the voting proclivities of the vast electorate, fragmented on caste/identity/regional lines, for granted. An electoral sweep in Gujarat, and recent BJP win in six by-polls, is no guarantee of an impending tsunami swamping the Centre. All that Mr Advani asked for, in addition to the committee for the general election, was a committee for Assembly polls, to be headed by Mr Nitin Gadkari. Since this proposal was ignored, he was forced to guard his dignity by staying away from the Goa National Executive meet and later, resigning from the BJP's Parliamentary Board, National Executive and Election Committee. The fact that the Parliamentary Board turned down his resignation stems from the belated realisation that Mr Advani represents continuity in a party, buffeted by impatient and untested forces of change, with some enthusiastic greenhorns trying to lay down the electoral agenda.



They perhaps need to draw a lesson from the Congress, which still survives as a cohesive unit because it is centred on a dynasty, a family that is both a strong cementing factor and symbol of continuity. It may be undemocratic but it works to keep the party in power. That is why Congress president Sonia Gandhi is allowed to run a shadow Cabinet, in the form of the National Advisory Council, crammed with civil activists and their ilk. This extra-constitutional body is a dual power centre, operating parallel to the constitutionally approved Government, headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Formed on June 4, 2004, during the Congress-led UPA regime's first term, it was meant to ensure implementation of the coalition's national Common Minimum Programme. The NAC's chairperson, Ms Gandhi, was forced to resign over the office of profit controversy on March 23, 2006. But she returned to the post on March 29, 2010. The NAC has pushed important welfare policies and programmes such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment scheme, guaranteeing three months employment to unskilled rural labour, food security and the like.

The schism in the BJP could easily be forced via a similar power-sharing formula between the old guard and the emergent leadership. The UPA's Prime Minister-headed cabal panders to global economic drivers while the Ms Gandhi-headed NAC peddles socialist rhetoric and policies. This is intended to satisfy both the reforms lobby and the old guard by balancing the compulsions and objectives of the two camps. If dual power centres have worked for the UPA, they can also work for the BJP-led NDA. The coalition needs to devise its own NAC. Significantly, while resigning, Mr Advani did not quit as working chairman of the NDA. He seemed to have been motivated to continue in the post in the larger interests of the coalition he heads. Ms Gandhi is both NAC chairperson and UPA chairperson.

Before attempting to ride roughshod over senior leaders, violating all decorum, so as to catapult Mr Modi as NDA's prime ministerial candidate, his supporters need to address this question: Has he emerged as a credible pan-India leader? The intense public relations drive certainly manages to project him as a mass leader. But it would be edifying to point out that howsoever popular he may be in his State, Gujarat is not India. Sensibilities and concerns vary in an important way in different States.

The high growth and development rhetoric, combined with the *Hindutva* agenda, that have spurred Mr Modi and the BJP to victory in Assembly elections for the third time are unlikely to work in, say, West Bengal, where the Communists were banished for encroaching on land rights so as to spur growth. Nor is identity politics a game-changer there.

These differences need to be factored into the BJP election strategy.



ARINDAM CHAUDHURI

If the Europeans can do with small and medium enterprises, why are Indians so dependent on foreign direct investment and big-ticket funding? The SMEs can provide livelihood to a sizeable number of unemployed youth



Road to New Delhi is paved with thorns

Although Narendra Modi has crossed the first hurdle in his prime ministerial race, he has a long way to go

Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi has crossed the first hurdle by becoming the chairman of the BJP's Election Campaign Committee. This decision of the BJP's national executive in Goa is seen as a step towards his becoming the prime ministerial candidate of the BJP. Things are so far going according to Mr Modi's script. But the euphoria on his announcement became a damper when the focus turned towards party patriarch LK Advani who resigned from three of the party posts the next day. The hurdle race has just begun. Mr Modi has to become a unifying force rather than a divisive one within his own party. The immediate challenge is to mollify Mr Advani and get the support of the others who are opposed to him. Though Mr Advani has taken back his resignation but one has to see if he emerges stronger.

The second hurdle is getting the support of other senior leaders like Yashwant Sinha, Uma Bharti and Jaswant Singh — all of whom stayed away from the Goa meet. They are waiting for a chance to see whether one of them could emerge as a dark horse at the proper time. They will be closely watching Mr Modi's performance, who has to prove that he will carry everybody along with him and find a role for each one of them. Although Mr Modi's supporters claim that with or without their support he could perform miracles in the next election, it is common sense that their support is required. This is not an easy thing for Mr Modi. Moreover, how can the BJP face the electorate with a leader who is seen to be opposed by some in his own party?

Will Modi be able to get the nomination from the NDA? What

Pedigreed European brands — from Rolls Royce to BMW, from Armani to Marks and Spencer — all evoke awe-inspiring respect and admiration. And that's the case with many expensive European brands glittering in the lives of the rich and famous across the world since many decades (from Rajiv Gandhi's classic Rolex to Saudi King Abdullah's pristine fleet of Rolls Royce). These brands, marketed globally by a horde of European MNCs, also got visible support from Governments in Europe under the premise that the larger these iconoclastic brands and MNCs grew, the more would grow Europe's employment base. But as has now been evidenced empirically, contrary to common perception, MNCs and such brands have really not turned out to be the proverbial gold mines for European economies.

Far from it, as the situation stands now, multinational enterprises employ less than one per cent of the European industrial workforce; greater than 99 per cent of the workforce is employed in small and medium enterprises. That is a humongous difference and shows that SMEs are the real backbone of job creation in Europe contributing to two-thirds of all private-sector rosters and more than half of business value added in European Union. Even in research and development and innovation charts, the place of SMEs in Europe is right at the top. They are mostly micro-firms providing jobs to a few more than a handful per unit; and yet, the spread of the SME segment is so wide that it has emerged as the previously unheralded citadel of the European economy. Especially now, when the chips are down, SMEs are coming out to be veritable saviours and sustainers of the employment landscape in the continent.

As big venture investments are hard to come by, EU is depending, to a large extent, on furthering the promise of SMEs and especially the potential of start-ups and entrepreneurship to take the economy forward and create jobs. It's not as if the Union did not realise this. In 2006, the Competitiveness Council (responsible for promoting SMEs in EU) set a number of goals to be achieved through SMEs.

about partners like the JD(U)? If Mr Advani continues to be the chairman of the NDA, will he not block Mr Modi at the NDA level? Mr Advani is a much more experienced politician and he can find hundred ways of blocking Mr Modi.

It is clear that the NDA will break sooner than later under Mr Modi's leadership. The JD(U) will be the first to break away. In a coalition era, Mr Modi knows that it is the arithmetic which works and not the chemistry. Is he capable of not only keeping the NDA together but expanding it? Mr Modi's calculation



is that if the BJP gets about 180 seats, the allies will come for the sake of power. The million dollar question is: Whether he can get this many seats. The Modi-magic is yet to be proved outside Gujarat. The party has almost no presence in the south and in the North-East. Even in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the party is not in a strong position.

Mr Modi's friendship with AIADMK chief J Jayalalithaa may be of help but he has to find other political parties to join the NDA. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee have already indicated their disinclination while the Telugu Desam Party supremo Chandrababu

Naidu will shrink away from aligning with a hardliner like Mr Modi. Of course, he can think of wooing smaller parties like the Telengana Rashtra Samithi, but, he is yet to show his abilities to build alliance.

Fifth, what will be his poll strategy? It is a strange contradiction that the BJP cadres are enthused because of his headline image while Mr Modi is talking of development. He might have sold this combination in Gujarat but will he be able to do so in the rest of the country? His social media strategy may attract the educated class but what about the masses? Ironically, the same social media which vilified Mr Modi for the Godhra riots is now going all out to project him as a national leader. Mr Modi is depending on his novel campaign methods but will he commit the same mistakes which Pramod Mahajan did in 2004 with the 'India Shining' campaign? Also, India has several fiefdoms run by regional satraps. The poll strategy has to be region specific.

Mr Modi's success depends on several factors. He seems to have mended his fence with the RSS. He also has the support of the corporate sector. His success also may depend upon how the Congress-led UPA chalks out its poll strategy. Mr Modi must not only market himself as a national leader but also project the BJP as a viable alternative. Congress-bashing alone is not going help.

Above all, Mr Modi has to shed his Godhra baggage. Politics is perception and he is perceived to be a *Hindutva* man. Finally, the electorate may get tired with a disunited BJP, a truncated NDA and disenchanted with the UPA and look for a third alternative consisting of regional satraps.



This included simplifying processes of commencing a start-up, cheaper and faster start-ups, and larger volumes of start-ups etc. By December 2008, the targets were renewed with more ambitious benchmarking. The policy efforts also tried to reduce bankruptcy rates, and doing away with impediments faced by budding entrepreneurs — like high entry barriers and taxation. The stress is now being given on certain specific business lines, like crafts and micro-enterprises, education and training entrepreneurship, audio-visual media, social economy and women entrepreneurs.

Even when seen globally, SMEs have a major role to play. Going by an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development report, the SME segment accounts for over 50-55 per cent of the total GDP and employs around 60 per cent of workforce in developed nations while employing 95 per cent of total workforce in developing and under-developed countries. In many developed nations, SMEs were gradually made more competitive and productive by giving them top-most priority. Unlike what hap-

pens in India, SMEs were included in their national development strategy. Such initiatives allowed SMEs to gain momentum and attract huge investments. In the UK, in 2001, a unique SME development policy was pioneered, titled, 'Think Small First' and was embedded with the national policy. China, last month, launched its biggest over-the-counter equity trading platform to increase access to finance for domestic SMEs along with easing regulations for listing, as compared to regulations required by conventional companies to get listed on stock exchanges.

Similarly, in France, President François Hollande led the inception of a new bank called *Banque Publique d'Investissement* only for SMEs. When talking about SMEs, it would be a crime to ignore Mittelstand (the German nomenclature for SMEs), one of the most successful models of SMEs globally. Most German businesses are small and medium-sized companies and thus fall under the category of Mittelstand. Talking in numbers, Mittelstand comprises more than 3.5 million companies (around 99 per cent of all German companies) and accounts for

19 per cent of total exports by German firms and is the prime reason for lower youth unemployment in Germany compared to many other European countries.

Ironically, a startup SME requires more investment in poor nations compared to a rich nation. An SME investor needs to invest 75 per cent of per capita gross national income in mid-income nations compared to an investment of 10 per cent of per capita GNI in a rich nation.

It's high time that our Planning Commission and Union Ministry of Finance realise the enormity of SMEs and the vast population base that can be assisted by these enterprises. The focus for our policy-makers, instead, is on FDI, Foreign Institutional Investors and multi-million dollar investment initiatives, which encompasses a minuscule section of our population. It's no wonder that few would know who is the Union Minister heading India's Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; or that such a Ministry even exists!

When will our economic elite shed its pigeon-hole outlook and compulsion with MNCs and glitterati and look beyond instead for more practical solutions? In India, where the global recession has seriously impaired our economy and big-ticket investments have almost dried up, it's time we fall back on SMEs and take a cue from the global lessons.

It makes me wonder, if Europeans can do it with SMEs, why are Indians so dependent on FDI and big-ticket investments? It's true that SMEs cannot match the salary benefits provided by MNC firms or big Indian conglomerates but only a small proportion of our educated population is actually employed in these kind of corporations. SMEs can certainly provide livelihood to a sizeable number of unemployed youths not only in urban centers but in hinterlands as well. The burgeoning number of educated youths in our cities can find themselves a place in SMEs. In the rural belt, promoting SMEs is now of paramount importance. It took Europe some decades to realise the potential of SMEs; it shouldn't end up taking India many more to do the same.

(The author is a management guru and honorary director of IIPM Think Tank)

Bhutan shows the way to happiness

King Jigme Singye Wangchuck coined the term, Gross National Happiness, based on a vision of economic development and social welfare that was premised on Buddhist philosophy. It remains universally applicable



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

Disillusionment with life processes, dissatisfaction with the material conditions of one's existence and the banality of many interpersonal dealings is a common experience. This, almost universal situation, reinforces the quest for happiness and the exploration of options which could be conducive to happiness. This search is neither new nor unique. However, in an era where the buzzwords are 'development', 'growth', 'planning', 'investment', 'technology' and more, it would be natural to explore the relationship of 'happiness' to these variables.

Bhutan's King Jigme Singye Wangchuck coined the term 'Gross National Happiness' in 1972. He brought this country into the modern age, based on a vision of Bhutan's economic development that was premised on Buddhist philosophy. The concept received momentum at the Centre of Bhutan Studies under the leadership of Karma Ura. He developed some instruments to measure people's well-being. GNH is rooted in the concept of people-centered holistic development. Materialism and spirituality were the twin issues that had to be addressed and that too in an integrated manner. Happiness was supposed to ride in on these two wheels.

The attempt to root development, prosperity and welfare in the Buddhist concept of *Dharma* underscores the need

to link development with classical principles. Since Buddhism started as a reform movement in reaction to Hinduism, it was easy to see the more evolved Hindu concept of '*Dharma*' in the Buddhist elaboration of '*Dhamma*'. *Dharma* is not religion, as understood in the Greco-Roman tradition, but instead a list of doables and duties. Both concepts lend themselves easily to a developmental paradigm.

The Bhutanese contribution lies in having incorporated this into their planning framework. Moreover, they have made the GNH indicators not just tangible but also universal, without rooting them in religion. The GNH indicators serve as the guiding principles for Bhutan's national planning process. There are four building blocks of GNH — promotion of sustainable development; preservation and promotion of cultural values; conservation of the natural environment; and establishment of good governance.

It is this universality of the principle that needs to be understood and considered. It is almost as if it has nothing to do with Buddhism. Indeed, sustainable development, cultural integrity, environmental conservation and good governance are further defined into eight general contributors to happiness. These are physical, mental and spiritual health; time-balance; social and com-

munity vitality; cultural vitality; education; living standards; good governance; and ecological vitality.

Mr Med Jones, who is best known for having predicted the financial crisis of 2007-2008, has proposed a second-generation GNH concept, treating happiness as a socio-economic development metric and measuring seven development areas. These include economic wellness, environmental wellness, physical wellness, mental wellness, workplace wellness, social wellness and political wellness. These seven matrices were incorporated into a global survey wherein on the one hand, GNH reflected a psychological state based on moral criteria while on the other hand, GNP reflected on the consumption of goods and services.

A concept such as GNH is bound to have challenges in quantitative measurement; yet, applied systems analysis methodology establishes that almost anything which is 'done' is measurable. Applied system analysis methodology has instruments which are capable of doing this as an act of approximation. There are other correlations possible. For example, low rates of infant mortality positively correlate with subjective expressions of well-being. The notion that subjective measures like well-being are more relevant than objective measures, is one of the building blocks of the GNH concept.



# Chidambaram pledges more reforms, says ‘do not panic’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite rupee hitting an all time low and the economy undergoing a dull phase, the Government on Thursday chose to tow the “All is Well” line as Finance Minister P Chidambaram belted out a slew of forward looking measures to sooth investor sentiments and spur economic reforms, though their impact may take some time to leave the desired effect.

Making it clear that the Government will open up all the sectors, Chidambaram said in a press conference that the Government will review every FDI cap which exists and will make sure to open up those areas. Not showing any concern for the shaky economic scenario, the Finance Minister came on the front foot and announced that there won't be any cut in expenditure and whatever allocations have been promised to ministries in the Budget would provide to them.

Continuing with his bold stance, Chidambaram added that the Government will expedite around 30 to 40 big ticket private sector projects in order

to boost economic growth in the coming few days while indicating that some major investor-friendly measures would be announced between now and August this year. Unresolved issues like pricing of coal and gas, too, would soon be resolved along with the critical issue of coal allocation to power plants, he said.

Expressing satisfaction on reduced net gold import which have shown marked fall in the last three weeks, the Finance Minister said that he would be happier if they come down further though adding at the same time that he does not want to be “unpopular” with the common man by further increasing import duty on the yellow metal's shipments.

A reduction in gold imports would dramatically change the current account deficit (CAD) position in the country, the minister said.

Speaking to the media after an eventful Wednesday, which first witnessed a historic rupee fall and later saw some good news coming when Fitch upgraded its rating outlook on India, Chidambaram said there

## CHIDAMBARAM SAYS

- ❑ **Government will not compress expenditure**
- ❑ **FDI will either be relaxed or removed in all the sector (Defence, FM Radio, Insurance and Pension)**
- ❑ **Gold imports down but still a major concern**
- ❑ **To Expedite around 30 to 40 big tickets private sector projects**
- ❑ **Expect more investor-friendly measures in coming months**



was no need for panic over declining rupee as it would regain the losses suffered in last few days.

“There is no reason for panic. . . Countries with large current account deficit have taken a hit on currencies. Rupee will find its level. We are concerned about volatility. It (rupee) will regain losses suffered in the last few days,” he said.

Painting a rosy picture of the not so distant future, he said, “I am looking forward to more reforms. . . I expect a number of decisions in the next few days and weeks. . . In June, you can expect number of decisions taken and implemented that will accelerate reforms and spur investments in critical sectors.”

On FDI cap review, the Finance Minister said that Sebi will take a decision on KM

Chandrasekhar committee report on rationalisation of foreign investment norms on June 25.

With cricket talk dominating news these days, Chidambaram, too, chose to stick to cricketing parlance as he said, “reviving economy, rejuvenating investment sentiment might be slow, but if we don't take our eyes of the ball, desired results are achieved.”

## CAD IN OTHER COUNTRIES

- SOUTH Africa's current account deficit was a little worse than expected in the fourth quarter of 2012, at 6.5 per cent of GDP
- Current account deficit in Brazil for the full year 2012 was approximately 2.4 per cent of its GDP), which was larger than the 2.1% deficit registered in 2011.
- Mexico's current account deficit for all of last year was 0.8 percent of gross domestic product.
- **India's current account deficit rose to a record high of 6.7 per cent of GDP in the October to December quarter, driven mainly by a widening trade deficit, as gold and oil imports surged, and exports stayed sluggish.**

On FDI liberalisation, Chidambaram said things were in the last lap. The report of the Committee headed by Economic Affairs Secretary Arvind Mayaram will be available by next week. After that he and Commerce Minister Anand Sharma would meet and take the issue to Prime Minister.

“We are looking at every sector. The principle is very simple. Does the FDI cap serve any

purpose today? If it does, we will keep that gap. If not, the cap should be either relaxed or removed. That is the mandate of the committee and it is in the final stages. We are

looking at all sectors including defence.”

Further to this he made it clear that Government will not compress expenditure this year and whatever has been provided to ministries will be made

# SEBI to be given powers to get call data records of entities

**NEW DELHI:** The Government will soon give market regulator SEBI the powers to get telephone call data records (CDRs) of entities under its investigation in cases of insider trading, money laundering and other market manipulations.

SEBI will be given the powers to get CDRs, access to emails and SMSes through the amendments in the Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951, which is being worked out jointly by the Ministries of Home and Telecom.

The move to give SEBI the powers getting CDRs came following a request of the market regulator as well as the Ministry of Finance, official sources said on Thursday.

SEBI needs CDRs of entities under its investigation to establish links between two or



more parties who might have had conversations among themselves before or after the incidents of insider trading, prevent black money coming to market or other manipulative activities in the market.

CDRs generally list out the number of conversations between two or more entities and are different from phone-tapping wherein an agency can snoop on or record the telephonic conversations of those suspected to be engaged in

# Markets, rupee down despite FM’s pep talk

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite P Chidambaram's announcement that more economic reforms are on the anvil, Sensex on Thursday slumped by 214 points to end below 19K-mark for the first time in nearly two months while rupee continued with its downward spiral and closed 19 paise lower at 57.98 against the dollar on weak stocks.

The Bombay Stock Exchange 30-share barometer resumed lower due to weak Asian cues on the back of steep fall on Wall Street yesterday and remained in negative terrain throughout the day. It finally settled at 18,827.16, showing a fall of 213.97 points or 1.12 per cent.

In straight three sessions, Sensex has fallen by 613.91 points or 3.16 per cent amid

a weak rupee and hefty capital outflows. The index last closed below 19K-mark on April 17.

Nifty also dipped by 61.10 points, or 1.06 per cent, to end below 5,700-mark at 5,699.10. MCX-SX flagship index, SX40, ended 102.23 points lower at 11,179.36.

As regards rupee fall, no concrete measures from Finance Minister and Fresh dollar demand from importers weighed heavy on rupee.

At the Interbank Foreign Exchange (Forex) market, rupee resumed sharply lower at 58.10 a dollar from previous close of 57.79. It dropped further to a low of 58.56 after hopes of major steps like NRI bond issuance by the government were not announced by Chidambaram in the press conference in New Delhi.



A passenger walks in Saint-Charles railway station, in Marseille, southern France on Thursday as French rail workers strike to protest a reorganization of the national rail and train companies. Up to 70 percent of train journeys in France will be canceled on Thursday. The action began Wednesday night, affecting overnight, international travel and ends Friday morning AP

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**NOTICE**  
This notice is intended for Mrs. Madhavi Nayyar, w/o Mr. Anil Nayyar, working as Senior Section Officer (A/cs) in the Office of FA&CAO, Northern Railway, Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi and resident of 6/A, DDA Flats, Mansarovar Park, Shahadara, Delhi. It is informed that you have remained absent from service w.e.f. 19.05.2006. Despite issue of notice dated 01.12.2011 and Charge Memorandum dated 19.11.2012, you have not reported for duty or furnished any information. Through this notice, you are advised to report for duty within 10 days of the publication of this notice. Otherwise it would be presumed that you are not interested in pursuing the case and major penalty disciplinary proceedings initiated against you would be finalised ex-Parte and your services could be terminated as per rule.  
**1279/13**  
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**PRESS NOTICE**  
**HARYANA PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING**  
**DEPARTMENT PANCHKULA**  
**Public Health Engineering Division,**  
**Mohindergarh**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
No. \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_  
1. Online bids are hereby invited on the website:- <http://haryanaphed.etenders.in> on behalf of Governor of Haryana for the work as mentioned below:-  

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estt. Cost (in lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Time Limit	Cost of tender document
1	Augmentation Sewerage Scheme Mohindergarh Town under ESP" Providing laying, jointing, cutting & testing of 600mm i/d RCC pipe line N.P.-3 effluent channel fro m STP M/garh to Bucholi Disty. Along Dulana road and all other work contingent thereto.	37.30	Rs. 74600/- for Cont & Rs. 37300/- for L&C Socy.	3 Month	2500/-
2	Construction of balance boundary wall at 3 Nos water works (Nihalawas, Gadania & Nanagwas) u n der PHED M/garh tehsil & Distt. M/Garh. "Const. of boundary wall at water works Nihalawas, Gadania and Nanagwas and all other work contingent thereto.	12.75	Rs. 25500/- for Cont & Rs. 12750/- for L&C Socy.	1 Month	1000/-

S. No.	Activity	Start date & time	Expiry date & time
1	Downloading of tender document & payment of tender fees.	07-06-2013 17.01 hrs.	21-06-2013 12.00 hrs.
2	Online bid preparation, Earnest Money deposit, finalization of rates & submissions of bids –First stage (bid seal/ Hash Submission)	07-06-2013 17.01 hrs.	21-06-2013 12.00 hrs.
3	Submission of online bids -Final Stage (Re-encryption of bids)	21-06-2013 17.01 hrs.	25-06-2013 10:59 hrs.

  
For further details and e-tendering schedule visit website <http://haryanaphed.etenders.in>  
**FOR & ON BEHALF OF GOVERNOR OF HARYANA**  
**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,**  
**P.H. ENGINEERING DIVISION,**  
**MOHINDERGARH**  
RO No. PRDH-Advt No. 1082/11/528/1314/10010 Dt. 13.06.2013

# Bajaj Auto launches upgraded lineup of RE three wheelers

PNS/ PTI ■ NEW DELHI/PUNE

Bajaj Auto on Thursay unveiled its new RE compact passenger vehicles in the petrol, CNG and LPG variants, which aim to replace the company's existing range.

The petrol two-stroke version is priced at ₹1.03 lakh, while the four-stroke petrol variant will cost ₹1.15 lakh, which is at a premium of ₹2,000 to the existing range (all ex-showroom Mumbai.)

The Pune-based firm plans to roll out two new products in the three-wheeler segment besides launching the RE compact version in diesel within the next six months, Managing Director Rajeev Bajaj told reporters here.

Bajaj Auto, which sold 2.26 lakh units, including exports, last year enjoys 65 per cent market share in the three-wheeler segment and 87 per cent in the compact segment.

“We have been saying for some time that we are going to renew the entire range of three-wheelers. We will have a diesel version in a few months as it

constitutes a large part of the demand. We will take around six months to replace the entire range,” Bajaj said.

The RE compact comes with advanced features over the existing range like a DTSi engine (4-stroke), 10-15 per cent higher fuel efficiency, lower maintenance cost and better ergonomics. The product will be launched in a phased manner across the country.

Customers can save up to ₹20,000 per annum owing to increased fuel efficiency, lower maintenance costs and improved mileage, Bajaj Auto President (Commercial Vehicle) R C Maheshwari said.

“We have around 85 per cent market share in the small sized passenger three-wheeler category both in petrol and diesel. The new range will help us defend our overwhelming leadership position and induce existing customers to replace their vehicles,” he claimed.

Of the total three-wheeler sale, 15-20 per cent comes from new permits, while replacement accounts for the rest, Maheshwari said.

# Renault to focus on core model strategy in India

CHENNAI: French auto major Renault will focus on a core model strategy of having 7-8 models rather than offering a “bunch of cars” in India and the company is still a few years away from launching its small car in the country, according to a top official.

“We want to continue to have a core model strategy which is not a bunch of cars that is going to fragment the energy and financial resources of the company, where at the end of the day, if you have to support 20 cars you support none because you don't have enough marketing dollars to do so,” Renault Chief Operating Officer Carlos Tavares said here.

Tavares, who was here to review the company's product plans for India for the next couple of years, said a small car from the Renault stable is not in the immediate horizon.

“In our company you need to go through several milestones to prepare and study a new business proposal based on a new car but I still can tell that we are pro-



gressing on the project,” he said.

The company needs to focus on having 7-8 models with each of them being “extremely appealing and competitive with in their segments”.

“Doing too many cars is a waste of energy, waste of resources, we want to be focused,” Tavares said.

Commenting on the review of India operations and its main

findings, Tavares said there was huge room for improvement in terms of customer care.

“Even though we are working very close to the dealers, we think we can do a better job in making customers happier when they go to our shops,” he said.

Stating that the company is aiming to grow its network in country by 30 per cent, he said: “We have been growing network to cover the whole country. It's not over by far, we still have to grow by 30 per cent.”

On the functioning of the Chennai plant, he said: “We have huge room for improvement in our Chennai plant in terms of making it more efficient and frugal.”

After the success of its SUV Duster in India, Tavares said Renault's biggest challenge would be to sustain it.

“I am very much concerned that after period of success the most difficult thing, like in sports, is not to win one championship but to win second championship, that's what we are exactly facing,” he said. PTI

# Govt corrects IIP growth rate twice in a day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Government said index of industrial production (IIP) registered 2 per cent growth in April, it corrected figures twice within span of a few hours on Thursday saying IIP grew at 2.3 per cent in April instead of 2 per cent as reported on Wednesday.

The first correction this morning put the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) at 2.2 per cent, only to revise it yet again later in the day to 2.3 per cent.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation cited wrong recording of production data for the electricity sector as the reason for revision.

According to official data released on Wednesday, industrial production, measured in terms of index of industrial production (IIP) registered 2 per cent growth in April.

# Infosys, Wipro hike employees salaries

**BANGALORE/MUMBAI:** Country's two IT companies on Thursday announced wage hikes, with Infosys saying its employees in India will get an average 8 per cent increase and Wipro offering 6-8 per cent raise for off-shore employees.

Weeks after Narayana Murthy returned to Infosys, the country's second largest IT firm announced it will increase salaries of its employees in India for the fiscal year 2014 by an average 8 per cent.

Employees based in other geographies, who have not been covered by salary increases in February 2013, would see wages increasing by an average three per

cent, the company said in a statement. The increments will be effective July 1,2013.

Commensurate with industry standards, Wipro said today it has announced an average wage hike of 6-8 per cent for offshore employees and 2-3 per cent for onsite employees, effective this month.

“In line with the practice of rewarding high performers, Wipro has awarded double-digit hikes for these employees”, the Bangalore-headquartered, New York Stock Exchange-listed firm said in a statement.

Infosys said it has increased salaries of its global sales force by an average eight per cent, effective May 1, 2013. Most

Indian IT firms give increments around April or May. Infosys, which has been going through a tough phase, has been reporting lower growth than peers like TCS and Cognizant and there was speculation that it mighty delay hikes this year as well.

Last year, salary increases were given only in October, when the company came under pressure from increments offered by peers.

Commenting on the hike in Infosys in general and the IT services sector in particular, HeadHonchos.Com CEO Uday Sodhi said that IT sector has been conservative in terms of hike. PTI



## MMTC share sale oversubscribed; Govt expects to get ₹568 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government's disinvestment programme for this fiscal started on a positive note with MMTC's Offer For Sale (OFS) getting over subscribed and fetching the exchequer around ₹568 crore.

"The issue was oversubscribed by 1.55 times. Based on the total valid bids received, at an indicative price of ₹60.86 as against the floor price of ₹60 for the face value of Re one per share, the Government expects to realise proceeds of ₹567.90 crore," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

The Offer for Sale (OFS) of MMTC received participation from financial institutions, retail investors and some FIIs.

"The Investors category-wise participation was 65 per cent from Insurance Companies, 21 per cent from Banks and 14 per cent from retail investors," the Ministry added.

A total of 14.42 crore bids were received for the 9.33 crore shares (9.33 per cent of total shares) put on block.

The divestment, the statement added, was done to make MMTC compliant to the public shareholding requirements under the Securities Contract Regulations (Rules) (SCRR).

The stake sale will help the company meet the 10 per cent minimum public shareholding norm of market regulator Sebi. Prior to this divestment, the government held 99.3 per cent stake in the trading company.

## Ranbaxy to launch more drugs in US

PTI ■ GURGAON

Drug major Ranbaxy Laboratories on Thursday said it plans to launch more generic products in the US market with possible marketing exclusivity, while keeping options open for overseas acquisitions to grow its business in various global markets.

"We continue to make regular submissions in the US ... and will continue to make first-to-file (FTF) filings there. Our target is to do somewhere between three to four FTFs every year," Ranbaxy CEO and Managing Director Arun Sawhney told the news agency in an interview.

The USFDA grants FTF status to a company for a product if it is the first to successfully apply and get approval to launch a generic copy of a patented drug, and it gets 180-day marketing exclusivity.

**The issue was oversubscribed by 1.55 times. Based on the total valid bids received, at an indicative price of ₹60.86 as against the floor price of ₹60 for the face value of Re one per share, the Government expects to realise proceeds of ₹567.90 crore**

Meanwhile, MMTC shares on the stock exchanges hit the lower circuit limit in opening trade leading to a halt in trading for full day. The scrip plunged about 10 per cent to Rs 190.35 apiece on the BSE.

There is a huge difference between the floor price and the market price of MMTC as the scrip is illiquid, an official in Disinvestment Department said.

The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) on disinvestment, headed by Finance Minister P Chidambaram had yesterday cleared 9.33 per cent stake sale of the trading giant through OFS mechanism, popularly known as auction route.

## CoalMin's u-turn CIL's segregation, seeks ways to enhance productivity

ANIMESH SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Government which had been initially serious about segregating Coal India Ltd's (CIL) eight subsidiaries into independent entities as part of its endeavour to improve the Maharatna company's productivity, seems to be having second thoughts about implementing the move as it now feels that doing so would endanger the very identity of the country's largest producer of fossil fuel.

According to sources privy to the information, the terms of reference (TOR) for the prospective consultant - which the Coal Ministry is in the course of hiring and which will prepare a report on suggesting measures to improve CIL's performance - have been revised to say that it should come up with alternatives other than segregation of the public sector undertaking (PSU).

Official sources told *The Pioneer* that the ministry has indicated in the TOR for the prospective consultant that it should think of other ways which can improve CIL's productivity and efficiency. Considering the fact that CIL is a listed entity, the measures to be suggested by the consultant also need be market-friendly, sources said.

The consultant is to be finalised within a month and the report to be prepared by it is to be completed and submitted to the ministry by end of this year, they added.

The ministry had received applications from firms like



**The ministry has indicated in the TOR for the prospective consultant that it should think of other ways which can improve CIL's productivity and efficiency**

McKinsey, KPMG, Ernst & Young, Deloitte and Crisil for the consultant's post and of these one entity would be short listed within a month.

This sudden change of heart on part of the ministry could also be attributed to Coal Minister Sriprakash Jaiswal's recent comment that he was not enthused by the idea of segregating CIL.

The minister had said a few days back that while nine consultants have been short listed for suggesting a future roadmap for improving CIL's productivity, he was not in favour of splitting the Maharatna company.

The Planning Commission and various high-level panels,

including the Expert Committee on Road Map for coal sector reforms - also known as T L Shankar Committee - had recommended restructuring of CIL keeping in view the rapidly increasing demand of coal and the need for enhancing production as well as to make the coal sector competitive.

While the Shankar panel had proposed to the Government to commission a study to assess "the need for restructuring of CIL in light of the avoidance of drawbacks inherent in a monopolistic situation, and to prepare a road map for smooth transition towards proposed restructuring", it was

the Planning Commission which had suggested segregating CIL's subsidiaries into separate entities so that each one of them could pursue its own goals, amid growing supply deficit of coal.

The Plan panel has stated that India's total coal production at the end of the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) would be 795 million tonnes against total coal demand at 980 million tonnes.

Though the ministry initially kept the segregation theory in motion, a view within Shastri Bhavan mandarins was that doing so may deprive CIL - which is the largest producer and supplier of coal within the country - of its identity as all its subsidiaries would emerge as competitors in their own right.

At the same time the Government wants that CIL should not be labelled as a monopolistic organisation which takes undue advantage of it being the sole producer and distributor of the fossil fuel - of which it had been accused of during its imbroiglio with the Power Ministry over price pooling and quality of coal issues.

These reasons, sources said, forced the Coal Ministry to modify the TOR prospective consultant.

Coal India has eight subsidiaries - Bharat Coking Coal Ltd, Central Coalfields Ltd, Eastern Coalfields Ltd, South Eastern Coalfields Ltd, Western Coalfields Ltd, Northern Coalfields Ltd, Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd and Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd (CMPDIL).

### SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one lady namely Smt. Tara W/o Nagender R/o C/o Krishan Singh, H.No. 3, Gali No. 1, L-Block, Mahipal Pur, New Delhi has been missing near Mahipal Pur area of PS. Vasant Kunj South, New Delhi. In this regard, DD No. 33-A dated 30.01.2013 has been lodged in PS. Vasant Kunj South. The descriptions of the missing lady are as under:

**Name:** Tara, **W/o:** Nagender, **Age:** 22 years, **Height:** 5 feet, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Normal, **Complexion:** Fair, **Wearing:** Red Colour Saree and Red Sweater.

**SHO,**  
**P.S.: Vasant Kunj South,**  
**New Delhi**

**Ph: 011-26152577, 26152699,**  
**9650962306**

DP/1852/SD/13

### MISSING

General public is hereby informed that this man, named **Bijender Kumar**, S/o Sh. Prem Chand Garg, R/o X-152/5B, Gali No. 12, Brahmapuri, Delhi, has been missing since 14.05.13. In this regard, a **DD No. 18-A, dated 21.05.13, had been lodged at P.S. New Umanpur, Delhi.**



Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace the missing man, but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the missing man is as under:

**Name:** Bijender Kumar, **Age:** 47 yrs, **Height:** 5'8", **Built:** Fat, **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** White shirt and brown coloured pants.

**If anyone has any information about the missing man, then please inform P.S. New Usmanpur, Delhi.**

email: cbc@cbi.gov.in  
Fax: 011-24368639  
Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641

**SHO,**  
**P.S. New Usmanpur, Delhi**  
**Ph. No.: 011-22172410,22175468**

**9. NIT No. 11/Hort.I/DDA/2013-14 Name of work:** M/o Aff. M.P. Green Area J.P. City Forest Ph.II. SH:- S/S Good Earth, CDM, J.Sand, Red Bajri, S/o Chemical fertilizer etc. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 1419877/- **Earnest Money:** ₹ 28398/- and **Time allowed:** 40 Days.

**10. NIT No. 12/Hort.I/DDA/2013-14 Name of work:** M/o Aff. M.P. Green Area J.P. City Forest Ph.I. SH:- Digging of holes, S/S Good Earth, CDM, J. Sand, Removal of malba. S/o Neem oil cake, Tree Plants etc. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 1362939/- **Earnest Money:** ₹ 27259/- and **Time allowed:** 40 Days.

**11. NIT No. 01/Hort.I/DDA/2013-14 Name of work:** M/o Distt. Park Kalkaji Ph-II (Aastha Kunj Ph.-I) i/c Plaza no. 5 & 6. Iskon Temple and around the picnic hut. SH: M/o Developed Park. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 3638004/- **Earnest Money:** ₹ 72760/- and **Time allowed:** 12 Months.

**12. NIT No. 13/Hort.I/DDA/2013-14 Name of work:** M/o Lala Lajpat Rai Memorial Park at Vinoba Puri, Lajpat Nagar. SH:- S/S of Good Earth, CDM, J. Sand, Clearing of grass, Digging of holes, barbed wire etc. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 840731/- **Earnest Money:** ₹ 16815/- and **Time allowed:** 60 Days.

**13. NIT No. 14/Hort.I/DDA/2013-14 Name of work:** M/o Park behind Rajdoot Hotel near Barapullah Nallah Jungpura, Bhogal and green area adjoining Jung pura Block-B. SH:- S/S of Good Earth, CDM, J. Sand, Red Bajri, Chemical fertilizer, Neem oil cake etc. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 978297/- **Earnest Money:** ₹ 19566/- and **Time allowed:** 40 Days.

**14. NIT No. 15/Hort.I/DDA/2013-14 Name of work:** M/o Park at Officer flat at Bhagwan Dass Road. SH:- Supply and floral arrangement of cut flower in flower vase at site. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 1424640/- **Earnest Money:** ₹ 28493/- and **Time allowed:** 9 Months.

**15. NIT No. 16/Hort.I/DDA/2013-14 Name of work:** M/o Aff. M.P. Green Area J.P. City Forest Ph.II. SH:- Digging of holes, S/S Good Earth, CDM, Removal of malba S/o plants etc. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 1370727/- **Earnest Money:** ₹ 27415/- and **Time allowed:** 40 Days.

**16. NIT No. 01/DD(Hort.)-X/DDA/2013-2014 Name of work:** M/o Park Plantation trucks & other equipments in Horticulture Wing N.A. - II M/O 4 Hact. land at Bhalaswa lake Area. SH:- Complete maintenance of garden with entire garden features, etc. at site. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 636297/- **Earnest Money:** ₹ 12726/- and **Time allowed:** 12 Months.

**Note :** The bidder will use one UTR for the work only. In case, it is found that he has used one UTR number for different tenders, all the tenders submitted by him will be rejected and he will be debarred from further tendering in DDA in future.

**Footnote:** For eligibility criteria, mode of payment of EMD/tender cost through RTGS/ NEFT mode etc. processing fee (The fee is to be deposited directly in favour of M/s ITI Limited through e-payment and other details of the tender visit the website [www.tenderwizard.com/DDA](http://www.tenderwizard.com/DDA) or [www.dda.org.in](http://www.dda.org.in) For any assistance on e-tendering, please contact M/s ITI Limited on 011-49424365, 9871317488, 9212520281,9910729113,9953229185, 9654701186 and 9971662903.

**Please visit DDA website [www.dda.org.in](http://www.dda.org.in)**

## Fitch revises outlook of 7 PSUs to stable from negative

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fitch on Thursday revised its Outlook on Issuer Default Ratings of seven state-owned firms, including GAIL, IOC and NTPC, to stable from negative.

Fitch Ratings has revised the Outlooks on the Long-Term (LT) Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) of seven Indian state-owned enterprises (SOEs) -- GAIL, IOC, BPCL, PGCIL, NTPC, NHPC and SAIL -- "to Stable from Negative and affirmed the ratings".

The outlook change follows Fitch's revision of the outlook on India's long term foreign and local currency IDRs to stable from negative.

"This is because the IDRs

of these seven SOEs are either aligned with the sovereign's or their stand-alone credit profiles are currently at, or constrained by, the sovereign's IDRs as per Fitch's Parent and Subsidiary Rating Linkage (PSL) methodology," it said.

Referring to key rating drivers, Fitch said the ratings of IOC and BPCL are equalised with those of the sovereign; their standalone profiles are weaker than their 'BBB-' ratings.

The stand-alone ratings PGCIL, NTPC, NHPC, GAIL India and SAIL are currently assessed at or higher than India's IDR of 'BBB-'; hence their IDRs are at or constrained by the sovereign's ratings.



## Toomey new CEO of Jet Airways

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Aviation industry veteran Agary Kenneth Toomey was on Thursday appointed by Jet Airways as its new Chief Executive Officer, nearly two months after the airline's deal with Gulf carrier Etihad.

The appointment followed the resignation of Nikos Kardassis on June seven after he served two terms as CEO between 1993-1999 and again from October 2009 till May 2013. Toomey, 58, an Australian national, has previously served as President and CEO of the Air New Zealand Group and CEO of Airlines PNG in Papua New Guinea during periods of their major expansion.

Before this, he had served in various positions in Australian carrier Qantas, including as a Director, Deputy CEO and Chief Financial Officer.Soon after Kardassis resigned, Capt Hameed Ali was appointed.

## Unilever gets SEBI nod for \$5.4 bn open offer for HUL

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Anglo-Dutch consumer goods giant Unilever Plc on Thursday said it has received approval from SEBI for its \$5.4 billion-open offer to buy 22.52 per cent stake in its Indian arm-Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL).

The company said it has received approval from the market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for its voluntary open offer to increase stake in HUL from 52.48 per cent to up to 75 per cent, Unilever Plc said in a statement.

"The tender period will commence on June 21, 2013 and will end on July 4, 2013," it added.

The offer is being managed by HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Pvt Ltd, the company said.

Once complete, the open offer would be one of the biggest deals and fifth largest India in-bound M&A transaction on record till date.Unilever will pay ₹600 a share, valuing the open offer at \$5.4 billion.

In April, the world's second-largest consumer goods company had announced to acquire 48,70,04,772 shares representing 22.52 per cent of the total voting share capital from the public shareholders of HUL.



The NCC Mount Everest Expedition was felicitated on Thursday at a grand function held at NCC Auditorium on their return from Nepal. They were received with traditional Indian hospitality at the Airport by senior NCC officials and driven to the NCC Camp with pomp and gaiety. NCC Cadets lined up all along the route to show their support and appreciation for the team. The team was welcomed by DGNCC Lt Gen PS Bhalla, PVSM, AVSM at the NCC Auditorium and felicitated with mementoes and cash awards. DGNCC appreciated that history was created by this young team to be the First pure NCC Expedition to summit the Pinnacle of glory " The Mount Everest. "



Finance Minister Shri P Chidambaram visited the Network Operations Centre of Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) on Tuesday 4th June 2013. The Network Operations Centre is the hub for 24x7 monitoring of all IT services covering Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax across the country. These services include helpdesks for tax payer facilitation, filing of returns, registration and payment of duty, document status tracking, online clearances in Customs and assessments in Central Excise and Service Tax.



## GLOBETROTTING

### MUSH ARRESTED; REMANDED FOR FORTNIGHT

**Islamabad:** Former President Pervez Musharraf on Thursday formally arrested and remanded to judicial custody for a fortnight over the 2006 killing of Baloch nationalist leader Akbar Bugti.Musharraf, 69, was arrested by a team from the Crime Branch of Balochistan Police.The team was sent from Quetta to Islamabad yesterday after an anti-terrorism court in Balochistan rejected Musharraf's bail application and ordered his arrest. Acting on a request from the Balochistan Police team, an anti-terrorism court in Islamabad subsequently remanded Musharraf to judicial custody for 14 days so that he could be questioned over the killing of Bugti.

### HOSPITAL STAFF FAILED TO ADEQUATELY ASSESS SAVITA

**London:** Staff at an Irish hospital failed to adequately assess and monitor Indian dentist Savita Halappanavar who died after suffering a miscarriage, a key report on her death said today and warned that such incidents could happen again in the absence of clarity on abortion law. A clinical inquiry into the death of Savita, which was published on Thursday, found that the most likely cause of her death was infection- with the risk of infection and sepsis increasing after her waters broke. Savita had died of septicaemia in her 17th week of pregnancy at University Hospital Galway.

### MY SUCCESSOR MAY BE WOMAN: DALAI LAMA

**Melbourne:** Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama has waded into Australia's bitter gender debate raging around Premier Julia Gillard by saying his successor may be a female as women have the all qualities needed in leaders."If the circumstances are such that a female Dalai Lama is more useful, then automatically a female Dalai Lama will come," the Dalai Lama said told reporters ahead of a 10-day tour of Australia. The Nobel Peace laureate is scheduled to speak in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Darwin.Asked about the gender war reignited by Gillard, the 77-year-old monk said the world is facing a "moral crisis" of inequality and suffering and needs leaders who can bring compassion to their post.

### JORDAN CLEARS TREATY TO BRING ABU QATADA BACK

**London:** Jordan's parliament has approved a treaty with the UK designed to facilitate the deportation of radical Muslim cleric Abu Qatada from Britain.The treaty is now awaiting approval by Jordan's King Abdullah, the final key stage before the deal becomes law. The vote in parliament means the long-drawn process to deport the cleric from Britain is likely to resume within weeks.53-year-old Qatada, currently in a London jail, has already indicated he will not challenge deportation if the treaty is passed because the document guarantees him a fair trial.

### UN SAYS NEARLY 93,000 KILLED IN SYRIAN CONFLICT

**Geneva:** The United Nations' human rights office said on thursday that almost 93,000 people have been confirmed killed in the Syrian conflict, but the real number is likely to be far higher. The analysis found 92,901 documented killings in Syria between March 2011 and the end of April 2013, said the UN's top human rights official, Navi Pillay, but she acknowledged that it was impossible to put an exact figure on the death toll from Syria's upward spiral of violence.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS	
OPEN TENDER FOR MEDICAL DEPTT. WORKS	
[I] No. MED/TREAT/MRI-Tender/2013-14	Dated : 10.06.2013
[II] No. MED/TREAT/CT-Tender/2013-14	Dated : 10.06.2013
Sealed tenders in prescribed Tender Form are invited for and on behalf of the President of India by Chief/Medical Superintendent, Kasturba Gandhi Hospital, Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, P.O.: Chittaranjan, Distt. Burdwan, West Bengal, India for the following works :	
[1]. <b>Name of works :</b> [I] MRI of CLW's employees and their dependents as detailed in the tender document for a period of one year, at the firm's premises; [II] CT Scan of CLW's employees and their dependents as detailed in the tender document for a period of one year, at the firm's premises respectively.	
[2]. <b>Tender Nos. :</b> [I] No. MED/TREAT/MRI-Tender/2013-14; [II] No. MED/TREAT/CT-Tender/2013-14 respectively.	
[3]. <b>Tender Value :</b> [I] ₹ 6,00,000/- (₹ Six lakhs) only; [II] ₹ 10,40,000/- (₹ Ten lakhs forty thousand) only respectively.	
[4]. <b>Cost of tender Form :</b> [I] ₹ 2000/- (₹ two thousand) only; [II] ₹ 2000/- (₹ two thousand) only respectively.	
[5]. <b>Name and address of the office from where the tender form will be purchased :</b> Office of the Chief Medical Supdt. (G), K G Hospital, CLW, Chittaranjan, Distt.: Burdwan, West Bengal, PIN-713331.	
[6]. <b>Amount of Earnest Money :</b> [I] ₹ 12,000/- (₹ twelve thousand) only; [II] ₹ 20,800/- (₹ twenty thousand eight hundred ) only respectively.	
[7]. <b>Period of Contract :</b> [I] 01(One) year, [II] 01(One) year respectively.	
[8]. <b>Date and time upto which tender form can be issued or purchased :</b> [I] From 11.07.2013 to 16.07.2013 (during working hours) [II] From 11.07.2013 to 16.07.2013 (during working hours) respectively.	
[9]. <b>Date and time of submission of tender document and opening of tender :</b> [I] Upto 13.00 hrs. on 17.07.2013 (submission) and 16.30 hrs. on 17.07.2013 (opening); [II] Upto 13.00 hrs. on 18.07.2013 (submission) and 16.30 hrs. on 18.07.2013 (opening) respectively.	
[10]. <b>Details of website where full description of tender form can be seen:</b> <a href="http://www.clw.indianrailways.gov.in">www.clw.indianrailways.gov.in</a>	
[11]. The Administration reserves the right to reject/discharge any tender without assigning any reason therefor. In case of bund/holiday tender will be received on the next working day as per same time.	
[12]. Entry into Chittaranjan complex is regulated by issue of Security Permit by Senior Security Commissioner (RPF)/CLW/CRJ. The tenderers should note this.	
PF-136	Chief Medical Superintendent

# EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

## NOTICE INVITING OPEN TENDER

No. W-7/Tender/05/Open/DNR/2013-14

Danapur, the 06.06.2013.

The Divisional Railway Manager, E.C. Railway, Danapur is inviting sealed Open tender for and on behalf of the President of India from reputed contractor with experience, financial capability including those registered/working with Railway/Irrigation/CPWD/MES or any other public sector undertaking for the following work :-

**Date of Opening - 16.07.2013**

**It. No. : 1. Name of work :** Jack Arch roof replacement (Type II-379 nos., Type III-73 nos. & Type IV-3 nos.) in Danapur and Patna colonies of Danapur Division.

**Similar nature of work means :** Any Civil Engg. Work.

Approx. Tender Value	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest Money	D.O.C.
₹ 6,16,38,214/-	₹ 10,000/-	₹ 4,58,200/-	11 months

**It. No. : 2. Name of work :** Repairs to Doors and windows at Loco colony, Mithapur, RMS, Mahendrughat & New colony at Patna Jn., repairs & maintenance of septic tank of new colony, Loco colony, RMS colony, Mithapur colony, Mahendrughat colony, RJPB colony, Repairs to approach road at Loco colony & New colony and Provision of 300 nos. Sintex tanks in quarters at Patna under ADEN/Ln/Works/Patna.

**Similar nature of work means :** Any Civil Engg. Work.

Approx. Tender Value	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest Money	D.O.C.
₹ 1,24,15,318/-	₹ 5,000/-	₹ 2,12,080/-	11 months

**It. No. : 3. Name of work :** Repairs to platform surface of platform No. 1,2,3, 4-5 at Danapur station under SSE/W/Line/DNR.

**Similar nature of work means :** Any Civil Engg. Work.

Approx. Tender Value	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest Money	D.O.C.
₹ 67,78,044/-	₹ 5,000/-	₹ 1,35,570/-	06 months

**It. No. : 4. Name of work :** Deep screening of Track (by BCM or manual) along with conversion of SWR into LWR of ML/Track of PET, NDW, TEA & NDU Yard and conversion of existing wooden/steel layout turnouts into fanshaped PSC layout turnout with other ancillary works under ADEN/Ln/Line/Patna in Danapur Division.

**Similar nature of work means :** Not required.

Approx. Tender Value	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest Money	D.O.C.
₹ 48,44,913/-	₹ 3,000/-	₹ 96,900/-	09 months

**It. No. : 5. Name of work :** Provision of additional pipeline & pumps for improvement of drainage system of yard & loco colony at PNBE and provision of pipeline network & interconnection of overhead tank at Patna Jn. under ADEN/Works/Patna.

**Similar nature of work means :** Any Civil Engg. Work.

Approx. Tender Value	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest Money	D.O.C.
₹ 4,04,58,901/-	₹ 10,000/-	₹ 5,52,300/-	10 months

**It. No. : 6. Name of work :** Special repairs to staff quarters at FUT, GZH, PNC & KOO on main line under ADEN/LN/PNBE.

**Similar nature of work means :** Any Civil Engg. Works.

Approx. Tender Value	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest Money	D.O.C.
₹ 97,83,857/-	₹ 5,000/-	₹ 1,95,680/-	08 months

**It. No. : 7. Name of work :** Comprehensive maintenance of newly installed as well as existing Automatic Chlorination Plants including supply of chemicals required of drinking water as per B1 S standard Code of India at Danapur railway colonies for Loco colony (5 nos), East colony (2 nos), Officers colony, Medical colony (02 nos), Neora colony (01 no) & Lanka colony (01 no) Total-11 Nos. including supply of chemicals at Danapur under AEN(HQ) DNR. & Old AEN Pump No.-1, RMS Pump, Mithapur Pump, New Loco Pump, Loco colony Pump, MXX Pump, Loco Pump No-1 & 2 (Total-7 Nos.) at Patna under AEN(W)PNBE. **Similar nature of work means :** Work of installation/commissioning of water purification plant.

Approx. Tender Value	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest Money	D.O.C.
₹ 98,02,821/-	₹ 5,000/-	₹ 1,92,060/-	03 years

**Note :-** (1) Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria & tender documents can be downloaded from the CRIS website <http://www.ecr.indianrailways.gov.in> and [www.tenders.gov.in](http://www.tenders.gov.in) or can be made available by the office of DRM(Engg)/DNR & full details of notice can be seen on notice board. All corrigendum will be uploaded on website if required. (2)The tender documents of Item No. 04, shall be obtained and opened at Mughalsarai in addition to Danapur. (3) The tender documents of Item No. 01, 02, 03, 05, 06 & 07 shall be obtained and opened at Mughalsarai, Hajipur in addition to Danapur. (4)The above tender will be opened on 16.07.2013 & also tender paper to be obtained from the office of the Sr. Divnl. Engineer (Co-ordin) E.C.Ry., Danapur, Mughalsarai & PCE/HJP upto 15.07.2013 between office hour upto 17.00 hrs of any working day for tenders in accordance with as mentioned above at note no. 2 & 3. (5) The tender will be received in the office of the Sr. Divnl. Engineer (Co-ordin) J.E.C.Ry., Danapur, Mughalsarai & PCE/HJP upto 12.00 hrs, on the date of opening indicated above i.e. 16.07.2013 and will be opened on the same day at 12.30 hrs. for tenders in accordance with as mentioned above at note no. 2 & 3.

Divnl. Railway Manager(Engg.), Danapur

\*Please carry prescribed identity proof during rail travel on all reserved tickets. This would benefit the genuine passenger and check misuse and black marketing of tickets\*

# US surveillance failed to track Headley: ProPublica

## NSA chief asserts Internet spying helped foil dozens of terror plots

**S RAJAGOPALAN ■**  
WASHINGTON

On a day when the US National Security Agency chief asserted that the government's controversial surveillance programmes have helped foil "dozens" of terror plots, a leading investigative journal has sought to puncture the official claims relating to David Coleman Headley, the key plotter of the deadly Mumbai terror attacks in 2008.

Contesting the official assertions, the ProPublica journal said the US government surveillance actually caught up with Headley only after being tipped by British intelligence. "Even that victory came after seven years in which US intelligence failed to stop Headley as he roamed the globe on missions for Islamic terror networks and Pakistan's spy agency," said ProPublica, which has been closely tracking the Headley case.

Pooh-poohing the rationale cited for the unprecedented sweep of phone calls and Internet activity, it com-

mented: "Supporters of the sweeping US surveillance effort say it's needed to build a haystack of information in which to find a needle that will stop a terrorist. In Headley's case, however, it appears the US was handed the needle first -- and then deployed surveillance that led to the arrest and prosecution of Headley and other plotters."

NSA Director Gen. Keith Alexander, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper and Senate Intelligence Committee chairperson Dianne Feinstein have all cited in recent days the capture of Headley as a success for the US surveillance programmes that have come in for withering criticism, both at home and abroad.

Challenging the contention, ProPublica has argued that "Headley's case shows an alarming litany of breakdowns in the US counterterror system that allowed him to play a central role in the massacre of 166 people in Mumbai, among them six Americans".

It points out how the mysterious Pakistani-American Headley, a drug dealer-turned-informant-turned-terrorist, avoided arrest by the US authorities despite half a dozen warnings to federal agents about extremist activities from his family and associates in different locales. If only those



leads from human sources had been investigated more aggressively, the US authorities could have prevented the Mumbai attacks with little need for high-tech resources, writes ProPublica's award-winning investigative journalist Sebastian Rotella.

An unnamed US law enforcement official who worked on the Headley case has been cited by Rotella as saying: "The failure here is the failure to connect systems. Everybody had information in their silos, and they didn't share across the silos. Headley in my mind is not a successful interdiction of a terrorist. It's not a great example of how the system should work."

The NSA chief, who appeared before a Senate panel on Wednesday, maintained that the surveillance programmes have helped thwart dozens of terrorist attacks, making a pointed reference to

the Headley case and that of Afghan-American Najibullah Zazi, who had pleaded guilty to planning suicide attacks in New York.

When Senator Patrick Leahy asked how many attacks have been thwarted by phone tracking and Internet surveillance, Alexander said: "It's dozens of terrorist events that these have helped. Both here and abroad, in disrupting, or contributing to the disruption of terrorist attacks."

Vowing to make public data showing that the phone sweep programme has prevented attacks, he said: "Over the next week, it will be our intent to get those figures out....I want the American people to know we're being transparent here."

"I think what we're doing to protect American citizens here is the right thing. Our agency takes great pride in protecting this nation and our civil liberties and privacy," Alexander asserted in the face of some hostile questioning by members of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Commenting on whistleblower Edward Snowden's assertion that by using his NSA access he could "tap into virtually any American's phone or e-mail", Alexander termed it a false claim, adding: "I know of no way to do that."

# China accuses US of ‘double standards’ on hacking

**KJM VARMA ■** BEIJING

China on Thursday kept mum on US whistleblower Edward Snowden's attempts to take refuge in Hong Kong but took a moral high ground accusing Washington of "double standards" citing his allegations that it has been conducting hacking attacks on China for years.

"Unfortunately I have no information right now to provide to you", the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Hua Chunying told a packed media briefing here on Thursday declining to reveal how Beijing plans to deal with Snowden.The former US government subcontractor, who exposed massive US phone and Internet spying, has delivered a propaganda coup of sorts for China to counter US' persistent allegations of Chinese hacking attacks.

"On Snowden's case, we have noticed relevant report but unfortunately we have no information to offer", she said.

While stonewalling all questions on his possible extradition, Hua, took a dig at Washington reminding the media how Beijing was complaining of hacker attacks from US for long.In his interview to the Hong Kong based South China Morning Post from a "secret location in the city", the 29-year-old former CIA analyst

made claims that the US government had been hacking into computers in Hong Kong and on the mainland for years.

Snowden said that according to unverified documents, US's National Security Agency had been hacking computers in Hong Kong and in China since 2009.None of the documents revealed any information about Chinese military systems, he said referring to reports of Chinese military involvement in carrying out cyber attacks.

One of the targets in Hong Kong according to Snowden, was Chinese University and public officials, businesses and students in the city. The documents also point to hacking activity by the NSA against targets in China, the Post said.

Snowden believed there had been more than 61,000 NSA hacking operations globally, with hundreds of targets in Hong Kong and China.

"We hack network backbones - like huge internet routers, basically - that give us access to the communications of hundreds of thousands of computers without having to hack every single one," he said.

Reacting to Snowden's allegations, Hua said "as we have repeatedly said on this podium, China is also one of the major victims of hacking and cyber attacks. China strongly advocates cyber security". **PTI**

# Nine-year-old UK girl enters Turkey using toy passport

**PTI ■** LONDON

A nine-year-old British schoolgirl managed to get past Turkish customs officers with a toy passport identifying her as a unicorn.

Emily Harris, from Cwmbran, South Wales, had taken the toy passport she had made for her pink toy unicorn on holiday with the family passed through customs at Antalya airport to start their one-week holiday, Emily's mom Nicky accidentally handed over the toy's passport instead of her daughter's, "The Daily Express" reported.

However, the parents were shocked when they later realised their mistake - and discovered passport officials had even stamped the unicorn's passport.

The passport is quite obviously a fake, Nicky said, pointing out that it is not only a completely different size and shape to the official document, but that it also has gold teddy bears on the front.

"The man even asked Emily how old she was, and she told him nine, before he

**The parents were shocked when they later realised their mistake — and discovered passport officials had even stamped the unicorn's passport . The passport is quite obviously a fake**

stamped it," Nicky said.

"The picture ID wasn't even of Emily, it was of a pink unicorn," she said.It was only when they got outside that Nicky realised that instead of handing in Emily's passport, she had shown her daughter's Bear Factory passport for a Unicorn toy called Lily Harris.

"We saw the funny side, and laughed at the fact that the officer had even stamped the passport. But at the same time, it's a worry to any parent, how easy it would be to smuggle a child through customs and into another country," added.

# Turkey PM gives ‘last warning’ to protesters

**AFP ■** ANKARA

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan on thursday issued a "last warning" for thousands of protesters to evacuate an Istanbul park at the centre of mass anti-government demos, ratcheting up tensions in two weeks of deadly unrest.

A day after meeting with protest leaders and offering to hold a referendum on plans to redevelop Gezi Park, Erdogan resumed his combative stance on the environmental protest that has morphed into the biggest challenge to his Islamic-rooted Government's decade-long rule.

"I'm making my last warning: mothers, fathers please withdraw your kids from there," Erdogan said in a live television broadcast. "Gezi Park does not belong to occupying forces. It belongs to everybody."

Demonstrators have been camping out in the park since May 31, when police cracked down heavily on a small campaign to save the site's 600 trees from being razed.

# ISI gets Rs 600 mn for ‘spl assignment’

**FROM REZAUL H LASKAR ■**  
ISLAMABAD

The Inter-Services Intelligence agency was provided Rs 600 million to accomplish a "special assignment" on the directive of the Pakistani Prime Minister, according to budget documents tabled in parliament.

The sum was released to the Director General of the ISI under the head of "Supplementary Demands for Grants and Appropriations 2012-13".Budget documents tabled in parliament yesterday showed that the Finance Division released Rs 600 million to the ISI chief for the special assignment, The News daily reported today.

Pakistan's defence budget is rarely discussed in parliament and the ISI's budget is not documented in budget documents.The report said the acknowledgement of the payment of Rs 600 million was a "rare example".

No details were given about the special assignment carried out by the spy agency. The Cabinet Division spent Rs 300 million on the operational requirements of the Intelligence Bureau while the internal spy

### LASHKAR IS A TERROR PROXY OF ISI: KING

**WASHINGTON:** Asserting that Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) is a terrorist network supported and nurtured by the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan, a top American lawmaker warned that Islamabad would have to bear the responsibility of any terrorist attack on the US coming from LeT."We should make it clear to Pakistan that any LeT attack upon our homeland, they will bear responsibility for that because of theirclose relationship between ISI and LeT," Congressman Peter King said during a Congressional hearing yesterday. **PTI**

agency's expenses on its employees touched Rs 900 million.

The Defence Production Division spent Rs 103.42 million on the cost and other annual subscriptions of two VVIP Gulf Steam aircraft.

The paramilitary Pakistan Rangers spent Rs 82.5 million on purchasing a helicopter for use in Punjab province and Rs 1.387 billion for acquiring 37 ground surveillance radars for use in Karachi. **PTI**

# UK cops hunt for missing Indian girl

**ADITI KHANNA ■** LONDON

A 17-year-old Indian girl, on holiday here with her family, has gone missing and police have appealed for information about the teenager.Emaan Shah was due to leave the country on the evening of June 10 at the end of the holiday with her family.But in the afternoon she became separated from her mother whilst they were shopping on Oxford Street, one of the city's busiest shopping districts, and has not been seen since.

"The disappearance is out of character and officers are keen to trace her as soon as possible," the Metropolitan police said in its appeal. Emaan is described as 5 feet, 3 inches tall, of slim build with brown wavy hair. When last seen she was wearing a black jacket with a Manchester United logo on the chest, grey trousers and black and white trainers," the appeal adds.

The Shah family was staying at the five-star Marriott Hotel in Marble Arch, near Oxford Street, and they rushed to look for her there but there was no sign of Emaan at the hotel either. **PTI**

<b>HARYANA IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT</b>			
<b>EMERGENT NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-TENDERING</b>			
Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Last date receipt of tenders
1	Providing and fixing of Trash Rack at Pump House JF -1	6.50 lacs	20.06.2013
For further details visit website <a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">http://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>			
<b>Executive Engineer, W/S Mech. Division, Rewari</b>			
RO No. PRDH-Advt No. 1069/11/610/1314/10106 Dt. 13.06.2013			

<b>Stores E-Procurement</b>
<b>Tender Notice No. S/07/2013 Dt. : 06-06-2013</b>
(1) All tenders have been uploaded on Indian Railway-E Procurement portal (IREPS):- <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> For details & necessary guidelines for quoting against e-tender. Please visit IR-E-Procurement portal. Tenderers are due to be opened on 28-06-2013, 01-07-2013, 04-07-2013, 08-07-2013, 12-07-2013 and 19-07-2013. (2) The prospective tender are advised to get them registered on the website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">http://www.ireps.gov.in</a> on line. This registration is mandatory for participation in e-tendering and is free of charge. (3) Offers are to be submitted online only. Offers sent/submitted against such e-tenders through e-mail, post/ fax or in person will be rejected summarily without any consideration. (4) This notice is for information during initial phase only. In future, no such notice shall be published, vendors are requested to get registered with IREPS and visit portal <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> for future tenders. (5) please submit offers online for the following stores.
<b>Description, PL No, Quantity, Tender not respectivly.</b>
Glass fibre bag filter, 11458045, 854 Nos., 60121805/OT/074/13.
Outer spring (Motor Truck), 11410036, 310 Nos. 10121634/OT/075/13.
Suspension coil spring inner, 11410048, 431 Nos. 10121635/OT/076/13.
Pinion pressing and removing equipment, 6590NS01, 1 Nos., 60105064/OT/077/13.
Hydraulic torque wrench for tightening of Crab nut, 7316NS01, 1 Nos., 60105874/OT/078/13.
Hose Water Rubber, 75034955, 2025 Mtrs., 70120844/OT/079/13.
Bleaching Powder, 81030812, 60600 Kgs., 81124085/OT/080/13.
Wood based resin impregnated, 93987080, 5646 Nos., 90121117/OT/081/13.
Wire Steel galvd, 90701136, 6570 Kgs., 90120956/OT/082/13.
Punched Washer, 73700850, 600 Kgs. 70120697/OT/083/13.
Pin split Cotter 10 × 112, 73323317, 73324395, 1671 HDS, 219 HDS, 70120617/OT/084/13.
Kit for Axle Box Packing Ring/BG, 30100367, 229 Set, 30139010/OT/085/13.
For Controller of Stores
<b>NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY</b>
<b>"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"</b>

<b>BHARAT SEATS LIMITED</b>
<b>Regd. Office :</b>
D-188, Okhla Industrial Area Phase-1, New Delhi-110 020.
<b>NOTICE</b>
NOTICE is hereby given that the 26th Annual General Meeting of the Members of Bharat Seats Limited will be held on Monday, the 29th July, 2013 at 11.00 A.M. at Air Force Auditorium, Subroto Park, New Delhi to transact the business as is stated in the Notice of the meeting which is being posted to the shareholders shortly.
Pursant to Section 154 of the Companies Act and Clause 16 of the Listing Agreement, the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from 24th July, 2013 to 29th July, 2013 (both days inclusive).
A member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of himself.
By Order of the Board For Bharat Seats Ltd.
Sd/- New Delhi Ritu Bakshi 12.06.2013 Company Secretary



## Trend Slazer

### It's easier to do action: SRK

**SHAH RUKH KHAN**'s romantic roles may have made him quite popular among his female fans, but it seems Rohit Shetty, director of his film *Chennai Express*, is giving him tough competition. The Bollywood *badshah* says girls find the *Golmaal* series director more attractive than him. "This is for the first time I am working with a director where they find him (the director) more attractive than me. Girls find Rohit more attractive than me. Next time if I am working with him, I will have to probably cover up his face," said SRK. The actor says it's easier to do action in Shetty's film than love songs in any other movie.

**There has been a huge change for me in the last four years. The way Ghanchakkar has been made and the feedback we have been getting from those who have seen the edit, I am very sure that this will be my biggest success** — **EMRAAN HASHMI**



Prachi Desai, Navneet Kaur (Miss India World 2013), Udit Narayan Hussain and Roshni Chopra performed recently at a private party in Delhi, hosted by Josh family. Desai performed on hit numbers including *Dabangg's Fevicol se*. Hussain and Roshni Chopra anchored the event.

### Jackie Chan to write a musical

Actor **JACKIE CHAN** is writing a musical based on his life. The actor has confirmed he is adapting his 1998 autobiography *I Am Jackie Chan: My Life in Action* into a stage musical, which he will narrate. "We are looking for a director for the musical right now," he said. The 59-year-old star will document his life from his early years in Hong Kong to his time in youth acrobatic group Seven Little Fortunes, and his battle to step out of the shadow of martial arts legend Bruce Lee, in the musical. He previously expressed his love for musical films, particularly 1965 Robert Wise's family flick *The Sound of Music*, which starred Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer.



# Viewership matters

After Multi-Screen Media (MSM), the Times Television Network (TTN) and the New Delhi Television (NDTV), Sri Adhikari Brothers followed suit and have pulled out of the TAM ratings. With major broadcasters deciding to stop using Television Audience Measurement (TAM) Media Research data, the ongoing debate is of who will be at how much loss. While the industry insiders suggest that the issue between TAM and broadcasters can only be resolved in a mature manner, what's happening at present is the blame game. DIVYA KAUSHIK spoke to LV KRISHNAN, CEO, TAM and SHAILESH SHAH, Secretary General, Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) on issues surrounding TAM — like low sample size and flawed measurement — and what the future course of action is likely to be. Is it time for a new code? Will perception weigh more than figures and will this result in quality?

## ‘Faulty method and practices’

Unfair trade practices' and 'flawed methodology' are major issues that broadcasters have with the Television Audience Measurement (TAM) Media Research data. Fluctuating ratings from LC1 (local council 1 of the areas with population under one lakh) towns is a major concern. Many argue that as the numbers of television sets bought is increasing, TAM data shows a decreasing viewership. Shailesh Shah, Secretary General of the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), put it bluntly. "TAM is not doing its job. And the measurement is faulty. Ever since Doordarshan pulled out of TAM, it progressed. Need I say more?" He said channels were annoyed with fluctuations in ratings. "There was dialogue. And suggestions were made. But no major step was taken to make the system transparent." IBF is India's premium apex organisation of television broadcasters. It promotes interests of the Indian TV industry. Some insiders said, "TAM's panel size of 9,000 meters cannot work, keeping in mind the country's size." They also claimed that it does not take into account geography and cultural preferences of places. There should be more people meters to check diverse audiences. And factors like language should be considered. Earlier, TAM showed vast difference in ratings of a channel on two different days, which channels say is "highly



impossible." Post-digitisation, ratings have been a problem. Strange ratings have been coming up. And TAM research doesn't take into account expanding viewership. Shah added, "We are dealing with currency here. It is better to have none, rather than having a wrong, corrupt one." Channels say that they are also unaware about the know-how of TAM's rating mechanism. The IBF has been working on creating its own industry measurement body, Broadcasting Audience Research Council (BARC), which will have separate entities installing metres, collecting and analysing data. After MSM, NDTV and TNN, Sri Adhikari Brothers pulled out of TAM ratings. In the short run there might not be any extreme effect but it is felt that both parties must work out a middle path. On condition of anonymity one

TV commentator said, "So far TAM is the only authentic system followed by channels. In its absence, or with channels not following ratings, assessing the brand value of the channel for advertisers will be difficult. Both parties must take a mature step." But Shah said as long as TAM continues to complain about fund issues, nothing can be worked out. "We are ready for dialogue if there is any such thing happening. If they choose to sit down and solve the problem we might arrive at solutions." There has been friction between broadcasters and TAM for long, but it is the first time that such an extreme step has been taken. Experts say the issue has to be resolved amicably and TAM has to do something about giving weightage to actual perception and viewership across India.

## ‘We need funds to operate’

LV Krishnan, CEO of TAM, clarified his stand and the organisation's role in the field of television data research.

#### ON SAMPLE SIZE

One issues broadcasters are talking about is low sample size. The number of meters is less compared to market size. The key question is what is ideal sample size? More than two years back, TAM worked closely with FICCI Amit Mitra Committee report to arrive at the projected/required sample size of 30,000... and we are still waiting for the funding. We were appointed by industry stakeholders — advertisers, broadcasters and media agencies — with a promise of funds. While we specialise in research, conducting and operating it requires funds. My question is, why is TAM always blamed for small sample sizes? We have, over years, built the sample to 9,500 people meters, with whatever funding we could muster from parent companies and subscribers. Let industry open more. We will deliver their dreams.

#### ON TRANSPARENCY AND METHODOLOGY

What is their definition of



methodology in the last so many years.

#### ON NOT MEETING THE INDUSTRY

For years at industry forums or during one-on-one client meetings, TAM has been appealing to industry clients to create a central wish list or common brief of aspects that it would like TAM to address. The idea was that, post their revert, we were to submit a blue print of Television Audience Measurement. Unfortunately, years passed not a single common brief reached us. This never discouraged or stopped us from re-attempting to get them together for this purpose.

#### THE WAY FORWARD

Till the time work of BARC kickstarts, why can't the industry constitute a small body to work with TAM and introspect areas where they have a common concern. TAM has always been transparent and will be so. Except for its town list and panel homes. It's to facilitate something in this direction, that TAM attempted to create a separate panel of transparency member team with global experts. The industry can take advantage of this committee to suggest ways TAM should improvise.

VS

## STRUGGLE SAGA

Her initial filmography includes *Khamosh Pani* (2003) and *Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi* (2005) and *Bhindi Baazaar* (2011). But it was *Chak De! India* (2007) that brought her popularity. Unfortunately, Shilpa Shukla couldn't translate the fame into many films. In this interview, she recalled how various projects came her way but never materialised. Excerpts:

#### ■How did you get into films?

I was studying sociology in Miranda House when I auditioned for *Khamosh Pani* in 2000. I got selected but the film didn't take off till two years later. Meanwhile, I had started theatre and enjoyed it. My father wanted me to pursue higher studies. But *mujh mein acting ka keeda aa chuka tha...* A friend told me about a movie and I went to Mumbai. It was called *Juncture*, opposite Abhay Deol. But unfortunately that film also fell apart. Luckily, I cleared the auditions for *Chak De! India*.

#### ■You said *Chak De* was your ticket to stardom...

I had gone to every award ceremony and social gathering for networking, but things just didn't materialise. I assumed *Chak De* would be a turning point and it fell flat on my face. During interviews, I uttered all that crap about being back in the mainstream and it being my ticket to stardom.

#### ■What had happened?

I am yet to figure out. After *Chak De*, I was signed by a few heavy-weights. UTV offered me *Seasons Greetings* which never happened. Then a big director whom I really admire but don't wish to name called me for his venture. It also failed to begin. It was heartbreaking. Then I started shooting *Lucky Boys* for Pritish Nandy Communications. While it was on, Mumbai was attacked by terrorists and this project was stalled. To my surprise the film never resumed. I was shattered.

Many creatures are caught in a vice-grip of amour, in the world painted by Rajesh Parameswaran.

The author of *I Am An Executioner*, (by Bloomsbury) was in town to discuss the book, which has been described as a collection of love stories.

Rajesh himself described them as, "relationship and roughly, comic tales."

They were brought over 10 years. A decade ago, being the date of the oldest one. Parameswaran, based in the US, got them published in various literary journals, including *Granta*.

In the first, and best one, *Infamous Bengal Ming*, a tiger is the narrator. He describes falling in love with his keeper. It's a dead-



## Graduating to success

There was a time when SHILPA SHUKLA wanted to end her life, owing to Bollywood's infamous pressure. In a candid interview with KARAN BHARDWAJ, she talks about her stressful journey and staging a comeback with a bold avatar in *BA Pass*



#### ■Are you difficult?

No! I am a well-behaved person. I don't throw tantrums and am versatile. I can do all that *gana bajana* like any heroine. Maybe people didn't know how to use me. Things were going out of hands and it soon became matter of survival — personally and professionally.

#### ■Were you depressed?

In 2010, a big banner approached me for a film. I had to go abroad to shoot. Media was

writing about it. But a day before I had to leave, I read some other actor had been roped in to play my part. When I approached the director, he SMSed me and apologised. I was very angry but couldn't vent out. I just told him I wouldn't work with him in future. But that terrible phase broke me. I was depressed to the point that I decided to take my life. But some divine energy saved me. I said to myself: Shilpa, you are not a victim. You did a good film (*Chak De!*). Even if you don't work

anymore, you will always be remembered.

#### ■How did you recover?

I started taking myself less seriously. I travelled. Spirituality helped. I knew you cannot blame anyone for failures. I was innocent, gave successful screen tests, everything was happening on papers but didn't materialise. Finally, I got *BA Pass*.

#### ■It's erotica and required steamy scenes. Were there apprehensions?

I asked my parents if they would disown me after *BA Pass*. They are very progressive. My father said you have to take risks for pathbreaking initiatives. It was a fresh beginning. I went ahead. Last year, when it screened at Osian Film Festival, I was present there and I noticed the audience reaction. It was overwhelming. I hugged my mother tightly at the end. I wish my father was alive to watch it. He passed away last March. Bharat Shah bought the film which releases next month.

#### ■Why disappear after *BA Pass*?

I went to my village Vishnupur in Bihar. My father was passionately involved in a girl's school for which he had written letters to the government. I wanted to take that up. I shot a documentary on my visit and handed it to my brother Ven Tenzin Priyadarshi, a scholar with Prajanopaya. They are researching on Bihar's education scenario and this documentary will help. Now I have returned to promote *BA Pass*. Let's see what happens next. I have two other projects.

#### ■Are you part of *Gulaab Gang*?

I was involved it for three years. But when I returned from my native place, things had changed. I wanted to take a giant leap. Do meaty roles. *Ab chhote roles aur chhote budget ki films bahut ho gayi..* Now I want to do good stuff to stabilise my financial situation.

## A man in the making

Disappointed with earlier projects, ARJUN MATHUR is finally in for a breakthrough. The 31-year-old tells IKNOOR KAUR why he stopped expecting too much from films

Taking off as assistant director, Arjun Mehta is finally starring in the medical thriller, *Ankur Arora Murder Case* (AAMC). With nobody to back him, Arjun began young, assisting on films like *Kyun! Ho Gaya Na*, *Bunty aur Babli*, *Mangal Pandey* and *Rang De Basanti*.

"When I was 20, I didn't want to go to college and couldn't even start acting because I didn't know what to do. That is when I felt the best way to learn was to be part of the process." While the mainstream didn't have much to offer, Mathur eventually started his career in short films by Mira Nair and Farhan Akhtar.

His work got him a break in feature films, with side roles in *Luck by Chance* and *My Name Is Khan*. He was a part of *Bombay High*, a short by A y u s h Raina as a

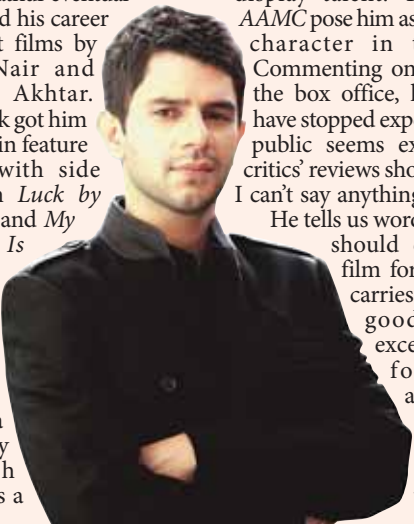
part of *Mumbai Cutting*. He also appeared in *My Friend Pinto*. "The film was supposed to give my character importance. But I was disappointed," he comments.

Arjun considered the film a stepping stone but it was not. As luck would have it, his show on MTV also went unnoticed. "I think *Bring on the Night* was a brilliant concept but didn't get its due," he shares. According to him it was the best piece of work he has done so far. He remarks, "I've realised no one will do you favours unless it's mutually beneficial. Mira, Farhan and Karan were great help but I've never had a godfather."

Mathur adds that he is not choosy about films. "What is important while taking up a film is the director, the strength of a script and possibility of it doing well."

Making his first break in mainstream films, Arjun feels he has finally got a platform to display talent. Trailers of AAMC pose him as an integral character in the film. Commenting on its fate at the box office, he says, "I have stopped expecting. The public seems excited and critics' reviews should be out. I can't say anything till then."

He tells us word of mouth should carry this film forward as it carries with it a good cause, an excellent performance and entertainment. The film releases today.



## Love bites a tiger and other animals

RAJESH PARAMESWARAN chats with SHANA MARIA VERGHIS on his first short story collection. It features futuristic scenarios, along with animals struck by cupid — and why not?

ly love, which can only result in murder or injury. But doesn't this happen with humans too?

Parameswaran said he got the scenario, "from a drawing of a tiger that he saw in a museum."

Other stories have been variously inspired by classics by authors such as Nabokov.

One of them, called the *Four Rajeshes*, is about men whose names are variations of each other, working in the same dull office. They are all attached to



each other in different ways, through their job. Though there is more than a suggestion of homosexual love.

And the man most out of synch with others — with his habit of scribbling numbers all over the place — winds up in the US as a well-known mathematician.

Parameswaran has said he was partially inspired by the story of Srinivasa Ramanujan.

The title tale, *I Am An Executioner*, had shades from *Of*

*Love and Other Demons*, by another famous writer, Gabriel Garcia Marquez. In that a young woman bitten by a rabid dog becomes the source of tragic affection of the priest sent to exorcise her. In Rajesh's story, an executioner develops a kind of love for a very young victim.

While the macabre, *The Strange Career of Dr Raju Gopalarajan*, a quack (who got there, because he enjoyed trying to heal people), finds himself

doing surgery on someone. One story is set in another galaxy, some time in the future. Parameswaran told us he is, "working on a novel next." He turned the technique of writing footnotes into a second story inside a story, of *Elephants in Captivity*, reminding one of about readers on Dryden and Swift. About that he explained, "I felt two voices though some might find style irritating." After flitting between various jobs, including a stint as production coordinator for films, which Rajesh felt would get him into movies, ("I mostly wound up driving buses"), he joined law school, and was a judge's clerk. Now he is jobless but has a fellowship to help him write more stories which have a last century voice.





# Slow-cooked meat and sweet somethings

The music played by an over-enthusiastic duo, who nodded their heads and smiled in high spirits when guests entered the decorated door of Casablanca, made one feel like royalty. The dim-lit space with its colourful Moroccan lamps and zillij mosaics had something appealing about its subtle, yet classy décor. You felt at home on the plush sofas, where you were served dates with almonds and a cup of milk with a fruity fragrance.

Casablanca is apparently the city's first fine dining Moroccan restaurant. Located at DoubleTree by Hilton Gurgaon, it already has regulars walking in for Moroccan chef Rachid Choukki's fare. Unfortunately for us, he was absent when we visited. So Sous Chef Puneet Sethi took over. He had worked in Abu Dhabi for seven years and liked the slow cooking method of Moroccans. Moroccan cuisine is a blend of Mediterranean, Arabic and African cuisines. Most common ingredients used are cherry tomatoes, olives and spices like cinnamon, cumin and black pepper. It is famous for stews and *tagines*. The slow-cooked stews are served in conical pots called *tagines*. The stew is braised at low temperature, resulting in tender meat with aromatic vegetable and sauce. "*Tagine* is served with traditional couscous, Moroccan bread and steamed rice," shared Sethi, as he left to get our starters. The menu has huge variety for non-vegetarians, dominated by chicken and lamb. But if you are vegan, don't despair. Chef has something special with vegetables. The mezzah platter has over six accompaniments, plus pickled carrot, giant olives and potatoes. There was baba ghanoush, eggplant with olive oil, garlic and lemon juice, zalouk, cauliflower paste with paprika, olive oil and coriander. The chickpea paste with oil dressing had a strong, pungent flavour. Thin pita breads that melt in the mouth like oven

Apart from stews in conical pots called *tagines*, there are soups like *harira* and dishes like *pastilla* that reveal the beauty of Moroccan cuisine, being served at Casablanca, DoubleTree by Hilton Gurgaon. DIVYA KAUSHIK had a hearty meal



ARGAN OIL IS FAMOUS WORLDWIDE. IT IS USED COMMONLY BY NORTH AFRICANS FOR DIPPING BREAD IN COUSCOUS AND SALADS

fresh bread were prepared inhouse and Moroccan bread was served along side.

The red tomato paste was spicier than its counterpart. Sethi also introduced Moroccan oil called argan. "It is used commonly for dipping bread in couscous and salads. It is prepared with local plants found there. It is supposed to be very healthy, preventing cancer and is helpful in cardiovascular diseases. It is also traditionally used for skin diseases and as a cosmetic oil for skin and hair," shared Sethi.

There are salads like Calamari salad and Casablanca salad, with chicken, harissa, honey, spinach cherry tomato and beetroot dressing. The next starter was *pastilla*, a traditional Moroccan dish with sweet and savoury flavours. Meat is slow-cooked in broth with onions, herbs and spices, then shredded and chilled overnight. The mix, eggs and toasted almonds are enclosed in crispy layers of phyllo pastry before topping with powder sugar and cinnamon. For vegetarians the filling



contains asparagus, mushrooms and zucchini. If you must have soup, try *Harira*. "It is a national soup cooked on traditional occasions. It is prepared with chickpeas, parsley and fresh tomatoes," informed Sethi. From rabbit artichoke to seafood, veal tenderloin, baby onion, cinnamon and prunes, there are many kinds of *tagines* to be served with saffron boiled rice and couscous. We tried potato, chickpeas, red olive and preserved lemon *tagine*.

The aroma was perfect and flavours lingered. "Couscous, a staple of Morocco, is more popular than rice. It is made of crushed durum wheat semolina," said Sethi. Couscous prepared with vegetables, caramelised onions, placed like a topping, raisins, chickpeas, vegetable broth and *harissa* sauce was the best we had. "Most popular in the dessert section is the platter with *baghrir*, crepe with butter/honey, chocolate sauce and nuts, almond *briouat* and vermicelli milk pudding," said Sethi.

## RECIPE

### LAMB TAGINE

#### INGREDIENTS

Lamb	4 lbs
Chopped onion	1
Chopped garlic	6 cloves
Fresh parsley	1
Ras el hanout	2 tbs
Salt	1/4 tbs
Hot saffron threads	1 tbs
Turmeric	1 tbs
Ginger	1 tbs
Black Pepper	1/2 tbs
White pepper	1/2 tbs
Chopped lemon	1/2
Preserved lemon	½
Olive oil	1/4 cup
Water	3-4 tbs

#### METHOD

■ Mix the meat with the onion, garlic, parsley or cilantro, spices and chopped preserved lemon rind. Transfer the seasoned meat mixture to the tagine (or other deep oven-proof cooking dish). Add the olive oil, preserved lemon wedges and water.

■ Cover the top of the tagine with a circle of parchment paper (it should be cut a little larger than the



diameter of the opening).

■ Cover the parchment paper with a layer of aluminum foil, wrapping and sealing the foil snugly to the tangia. Pierce the foil and parchment paper in two or three places with a fork.

■ Place the *tagine* in a cold oven, set the thermostat to 140 degree celsius, and turn the oven on. Leave the tangia for five to six hours, at which time you can check to see if the meat is adequately cooked. It should fall off the bone and be buttery-tender.

■ Serve the tagine on a large communal platter with Moroccan bread for scooping up the meat and sauce.



## Highway break

Delhiites have a new weekend destination to explore, Hyatt Regency at NH 8. IKNOR KAUR visited the newly launched property

It was difficult to imagine a five-star property laced with world class facilities on a highway known earlier for *dhabas*. Hyatt Hotels Corporation employed six acres of space on NH 8 recently and launched their new property, Hyatt Regency.

"Recognising the city's growth and ability, Hyatt Hotels Corporation found it imperative to open a Regency Hotel in Gurgaon," said Federico Mantoani, General Manager, Hyatt Regency Gurgaon.

With a contemporary theme and subtle décor, the hotel has 16 floors. Located on the Delhi-Jaipur highway, it caters to the Delhi-Gurgaon crowd, and the circle of Agra and Jaipur.

Ma ul i n a Gupta, director of sales and marketing mentioned that a lot has gone into planning the hotel. "Being a Regency Hotel, we

focus more on our event spaces like ballrooms and boardrooms, but along with that we want guests to consider this as a weekend getaway," she said.

The hotel has 37 luxurious suites, with facilities like high speed Internet. It has four specially designed Regency Club floors, a Regency ballroom and three boardrooms.

The second floor is their food and beverage section. Their fine dining restaurant, Lavana, serves Awadhi cuisine. The lounge offers premium teas and coffee with homemade goodies. While The Kitchen District is a multi-cuisine restaurant, The Long Bar can accommodate 40 people.

They also have recreational services. The hotel opened to public two weeks ago. "I always saw potential in this area. People here need a place for meetings and events," added Federico.

**Their fine dining restaurant, Lavana, serves Awadhi cuisine. The lounge offers premium teas and coffee with homemade goodies**



## ‘Baeled’ over!

Referred to as *bael* in India, wood apple is not only a must-have during summers but a cure for several ailments



- The fruit is eaten plain, mixed in a variety of beverages and desserts, or preserved as jam. The scooped-out pulp from its fruit is eaten raw, with or without sugar. Blended with coconut milk and palm-sugar syrup and drunk as a beverage. Or frozen as an ice cream. It is also used in *chutneys* and for making jelly and jam. Its pulp/paste is eaten with sugar or jaggery or even honey.

- The *bael* fruit is more popular as medicine than as food. The *Yajur Veda* mentions the bael tree. But the *Charaka Samhita*, an Ayurveda treatise from the 1st millennium BC, was the first book to describe its medicinal properties.

- The unripe fruit is described as astringent and is used in combination with bala and other medicines in diarrhoea and dysentery.

- The ripe fruit is said to be useful in hiccups and affections of the throat. The leaves are aromatic and carminative.

- The fruit is widely used in India as a liver and cardiac tonic. And when unripe, as an astringent means of halting diarrhoea and dysentery and effective treatment for hiccup and sore throat.

- The pulp is poulticed onto bites and stings of venomous insects, as is the powdered rind. Leaves, bark, roots and fruit pulp are all used against snakebite.

- The seed oil is a purgative, and the leaf juice mixed with honey is a folk remedy for fever.

- The tannin-rich and alkaloid-rich bark decoction is a folk cure for malaria.

- The pulp, taken complete with the seed and fibre, is prescribed as a remedy for irritable bowel syndrome in Sinhalese Medicine. Vasco da Gama's crew, suffering from diarrhoea and dysentery in India, used to the bael fruit for relief.

- A hundred gms of wood apple (bael fruit) pulp contains 31 gms of carbohydrate and two gms of protein, which adds up to nearly 140 calories.

- The ripe fruit is rich in beta-carotene, a precursor of Vitamin A; it also contains significant quantities of the B vitamins thiamine and riboflavin, and small amounts of Vitamin C.

- Wild bael fruit tends to have more tannin than the cultivated ones; tannin depletes the body of precious nutrients, and evidence suggests it can cause cancer.

**Jar of facts**



## For rustic smokiness

Considered the Rolls Royce of charcoal-run cooking equipment, The Claridges gets a makeover with a new Jospier Oven. CHEF RAJIV tells I KAUR about experimenting with food on it

Giving their food new colour and feel, Sevilla at The Claridges recently reworked their menu to make dishes prepared in a Jospier Oven, a wooden charcoal oven enclosed in a metal case.

"The Jospier's speciality is that it gives dishes a rustic, smoky feel," said Rajiv, a chef at the restaurant. He said it was designed in a way that steam penetrates through food, retaining its juiciness.

The Jospier also flavours accompaniments. He gave the example of a soup on the menu called 'Essence of young leaf.' "A lot of times I roasted flavoured leaves in the jospier and mixed it with clear soup. This gave the soup a very nice, pastoral taste."

Calling himself inquisitive and experimental, Chef Rajiv remarked, "There is a famous sauce preparation in Spain called 'romesco', which I make often using the

Jospier. I roast its ingredients in an oven. When I use it as a side dish, it gets a smoky taste," he added.

He believes the new oven has given authenticity to international cuisines.

Some under 'tapas' in the new menu are roasted vegetables with goat cheese, montados grilled asparagus with romesco sauce, Jospier oven cooked chicken wings, grilled lamb chops with honey aioli and jospier baked prawns with garlic and paprika.

"All dishes on the jospier menu are bucolic (characteristics of the countryside). They have a smoky feel and that is only possible to produce genuinely with a jospier oven," said he.



Curiosity led Rajiv to experiencing new styles. He shared, "When I make pumpkin risotto, I always roast the pumpkin in an oven and top the risotto with it. The added country taste makes the flavour stand out."

Rajiv averred that ever since the oven came into the kitchen, the quality of food has improved.

They have also started using the oven for making most of their grilled dishes. Chef continues to discover dishes out of the oven and will keep adding to them.

Existing ones, apart from the tapas are Jospier oven grilled chilean, sea bass with fava bean ragu, fondant potatoes, baby spinach salad and sauce *bordigera* in the main course. Along with Jospier oven smoked pineapple with blue berry gelato in desserts.

**gorgeous**



A mango festival is on at the Eggspectation, Jaypee Siddharth. Be it the classical Mango Caesar or the Caribbean Mango salad, they are all sure to amaze you with their exquisite flavours. Order a glass of Italian house red or white wine with the main course and enjoy the wonderful savoury experience. **Timing:** 11 am-11 pm. **Pricing:** A la carte.



Royal China, the authentic fine dining Chinese cuisine restaurant is celebrating 'Live Crab Food Festival' for all the crab lovers. It is a new concept where one can choose live crabs before cooking and your choice will be served. Come witness the lip-smacking Chinese cuisine. **Pricing:** ₹3500 per crab plus taxes.



Celebrate Father's Day at Cafe Turtle and bring your dad along to get a 15 per cent off on the special menu! It consists of turtle pizza, mediterranean pizza, tuscan pizza and bean burger. Mediterranean pizza is a Greek style pizza, with the perfect combination of feta and olives. For those who love Italian flavours, this is a choice with basil pesto and balsamic sundried tomatoes. **Timing:** 9:30 am-09:30 pm.

Take one historic place, combine it with an enviable food variety, mix in passionate chefs in the house, a good ambiance and an array of other exciting attractions and what do you get – the *Sui Mui* Festival at Fat Ninja. Fat Ninja brings to you the exclusive festival of *Sui Mui* right in the food hub of Delhi, Hauz Khas Village. *Sui Mui* or *Siomai*, is a type of traditional Chinese dumplings. *Sui Mui* is served with pickled ginger, black bean chilli paste, tomato and chilli sauce. All foodies, get, set, go!

**Timing:** 12 noon-11 pm.







**Lovely cold and wet day at Birmingham. Looks like it isn't going to improve over the weekend**  
— **Ravichandran Ashwin**



AUSTRALIA

ENGLAND

INDIA

NEW ZEALAND

PAKISTAN

SOUTH AFRICA

SRI LANKA

WEST INDIES

TODAY  
SOUTH AFRICA VS WEST INDIES  
3:00 PM  
LIVE ON STAR CRICKET

# Lanka on course in must-win tie

Chasing 294 against England, SL post 150 in 30 overs; Sangakkara unbeaten on 72

PTI ■ LONDON

Chasing 294 for a win, Sri Lanka were 150 for two from 30 overs in their must-win Champions Trophy Group A match against England here on Thursday.

At the time of going to press, Sri Lanka's most experienced batsmen, Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene were at the crease on 72 and 26 respectively with their team needing 144 more runs from the remaining 20 overs with eight wickets in hand at the Oval.

Openers Kushal Perera and Tillakaratne Dilshan were the Sri Lankan batsmen who were dismissed scoring 6 and 44 respectively. Perera fell cheaply for six in the third over of the bowling of James Anderson with just 10 runs on the board.

Earlier, three England top-order batsmen hit half centuries before a late flourish by Ravi Bopara as the home side posted a challenging 293 for seven.

Sent into bat, captain Alastair Cook (59) and Jonathan Trott (76) laid a solid foundation by sharing 83 runs for the second wicket from 17 overs after Ian Bell (20) was out early to set the tone for Joe Root (68) to accelerate the innings under overcast conditions at the Oval.

The initial advantage seemed to have frittered away somewhat for England before Ravi Bopara played a cameo of 13-ball 33 not out to take the score near 300 mark. He struck 28 runs with the help of three sixes and two fours from the last over bowled by pacer Shaminda Eranga. England scored 92 runs from the last 10 overs.

Cook and Trott played calculative innings by scoring runs in ones and twos. They cut off the risk and employed a safety-first approach as their partnership had just three boundaries.

Cook consumed 85-balls and hit just three fours while Trott found the boundary ropes five times in his 87-ball innings. The cautious

approach was apparent from the very beginning with prolong periods without boundaries.

However, England somehow got the runs and kept the scoreboard ticking. Their ability to negotiate fast bowler Lasith Malinga (2/58), whose first spell of four overs yielded just 10 runs, without any damage saw them in a sound position by the halfway mark when the home side were 124 for one.

Cook was also dropped twice in his 'strokeless' innings — on 23 and 56 — both by Tillakaratne Dilshan.

The England captain finally fell in the 29th over of the bowling of left-arm spinner Rangana Herath as he was trapped LBW while attempting a sweep shot playing across the line. Cook called for review which went against him.

Trott and Root then shared 87 runs for the third wicket from 13.3 overs before the former was out in the 42nd over with Herath taking his second wicket, also a LBW decision.

It was left to Root and Eoin Morgan (13) to get the maximum out of the slog overs but both perished in consecutive balls in the 46th over as England lost the initial advantage a bit.

Root, who was involved in a bar brawl with Australian David Warner in Brimingham on Sunday, was foxed by a Malinga slower delivery as the ball took the top edge for Mahela Jayawardene to take an easy catch at deep midwicket. Next ball, Morgan was adjudged LBW as he missed a fuller delivery.

Malinga, Herath and Eranga grabbed two wickets each while Kulasekara got a wicket.

## BRIEF SCORES

**ENGLAND:** 293 for 7 in 50 overs (Jonathan Trott 76, Joe Root 68; Lasith Malinga 2/58, Shaminda Eranga 2/80) against **Sri Lanka:** 150/2 in 30 overs (T Dilshan 44, Kumar Sangakkara 72 not out; James Anderson 1/16). Sri Lanka need 144 runs from 20 overs.



England's Joe Root plays a shot against Sri Lanka

AP



England's James Anderson (left) reacts after bowling to Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara during their ICC Champions Trophy match at the Oval cricket ground in London on Thursday

AP

## CRICKET SINGLES

### HOPING FOR POSITIVE RESULT: CHAVAN

**MUMBAI:** Rajasthan Royals cricketer Ankeet Chavan, who is out on bail after being arrested for alleged involvement in the IPL spot-fixing scandal, on Thursday said he is hoping to get a "positive" verdict from the judiciary to restart his cricketing career. The 27-year-old Rajasthan Royals player refused to comment on the case against him. "I have always given my 100 per cent, always played my cricket with passion. I just hope that I get a positive result from the judiciary so that I can start my career and my cricket again," he told reporters here. "I would just like to say, the matter is subjudice, I really don't want to comment on it," he added. Chavan and his Rajasthan teammate, India Test pacer S Sreesanth, were released from Tihar jail on Tuesday along with 17 other accused. All of them were granted bail by a Delhi court. "I would like to thank the judiciary for giving me bail. I would also like to thank my lawyer, he has really worked a lot for me. Secondly my family and friends, they have supported me a lot," said a relieved Chavan.

### DALMIYA MAY ATTEND ICC CONFERENCE

**NEW DELHI:** BCCI's interim chief Jagmohan Dalmiya is likely to represent the Indian Cricket Board at the ICC's Annual Conference scheduled to start in London from June 2 after president N Srinivasan 'stepped aside' recently. "Dalmiya is all set to represent BCCI in London. As of now, there is certainly not going to be any change in this plan," a senior BCCI official said on Thursday. In the meeting, ICC is likely to take a stand on whether the Decision Review System (DRS) can be uniformly implemented across all Test playing nation. It will be very interesting to know what will be Dalmiya's stand on the issue as Srinivasan has vehemently opposed the use of DRS. "The BCCI currently has a stand on DRS, so it will be unfair on my part to make any comments on this issue till I have a detailed look at the relevant documents. Once I have a look at the documents will I get a clearer picture," Dalmiya said over phone from Kolkata.

### HOLY DAY FOR SUSPENDED KUNDRA

**NEW DELHI:** Suspended Rajasthan Royals co-owner Raj Kundra sought heavenly intervention while his Bollywood actress wife Shilpa Shetty took solace from her mother's comforting words as the duo dealt with the tough times that have followed the NRI businessman's questioning by the Delhi Police. "A very holy day for me as spent the day doing an 8 hour long puja at home. It's all about having faith. #peace #love #prayers," tweeted Kundra. Shetty, on the other hand, turned to her mother for support. "Was Low nd mom said this to me 'People will hate you, rate you, shake you, and break you. How strong you stand is what makes you'. 'Those words gave me strength immediately. Parents unconditional love and prayers put a smile on my face. Shd never take that fr granted :),'" she tweeted.

PNS/Agencies

## Warner suspended for CT and Ashes tour games

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Australian batsman David Warner was on Thursday suspended for remainder of the Champions Trophy as well as the two Ashes series warm-up games and slapped with a fine of 11,500 dollars (approx Rs 6.35 lakh) for being involved in a physical altercation with an England player.

Warner, who appeared for a disciplinary hearing, pleaded guilty to breaching Rule 6: Unbecoming Behaviour.

"Cricket Australia advises that David Warner has been suspended and fined for breaching the Cricket Australia Code of Behaviour," the CA said in a statement.

"CA Senior Code of Behaviour Commissioner, The Hon. Justice Gordon Lewis AM, fined Warner \$11,500 and suspended from the remainder of Australia's ICC Champions Trophy campaign as well as the Australian team's two tour matches before the first Ashes Test against Somerset and Worcestershire," the statement added.

Warner will be eligible for selection for the first Ashes Test to be held in Nottingham from July 10.

The punishment effectively means Warner will miss out on only one international match if Australia fail to qualify for the semifinals of the Champions Trophy. Yet to register a win, Australia play their last match against Sri Lanka on June 17.

Warner was involved in a physical altercation with England player Joe Root in the early hours of Sunday morning following the Champions Trophy match between the teams in Birmingham.

The incident reportedly took place in a Birmingham bar and involved alcohol after Australia lost by 48 runs to England in their tournament-opener.

The CA further stated, "Rule 6 states: Without limiting any other rule, players and officials must not at any time engage in behaviour unbecoming to a representative player or official that could (a) bring them or the game of game into disrepute or (b) be harmful to the interests of cricket."

Warner, who played for Delhi Daredevils in the IPL, most recently hit the headlines after being fined 5,750 Australian dollars last month for breaching CA's code of behaviour following his Twitter rant against a cou-



Australia's David Warner is in trouble again

AP

ple of journalists. He subsequently apologised for it but insisted that he did that to defend himself.

### IT'S A MINOR INCIDENT: BAILEY

Describing David Warner as "generous and giving", Australia's stand-in captain George Bailey downplayed the opener's bar-room brawl with England batsman Joe Root, calling it a "minor" incident but "disappointing" nonetheless.

After the ICC Champions Trophy Australia versus New Zealand group A match here was abandoned due to rain, the post-match media conference of Bailey centred around Warner.

"It's been dealt with from my point of view. It's disappointing, but a very minor incident and it's been dealt with in house and that's it," Bailey said.

"I thought he took it on the chin, and he's had a cheer around the group, so it was outstanding. No pun intended. Sorry about that," he added.

Bailey said despite the storm over Warner, the Aussie dressing room has been calm. "Very comfortable. Very easy. The situation for us, believe it or not, was bigger than this — it was about making sure we won this game to stay in the tournament and play some better cricket than we had against England. And with this sort of a result I am still not sure if we have done that," he said.

Bailey was asked to comment on Warner as a teammate and the batsman was effusive in his praise. "I love playing cricket with him. I love his enthusiasm. Love his energy around the group. Love the way he plays. Wish I had the talent that he does," the standing captain said.

## With one spot to grab, Proteas battle against Windies

PTI ■ CARDIFF

With the semifinal slot up for grabs, South Africa and the West Indies would be locked in what is a virtual quarter-final when they take on each other in their last Group B match of the ICC Champions Trophy here on Friday.

South Africa lost their opening game to India before getting the better of Pakistan, results which are similar to what the West Indies have managed so far in the tournament.

India are already through to the semifinals after two wins out of two, while Pakistan are out of contention. That leaves the Proteas and the West Indies locked in a battle for the second semifinal spot.

South Africa have got a shot in the arm ahead of the crucial match with pacer Dale Steyn returning to fitness. He bowled in the nets on Wednesday without any discomfort after being laid low by a side strain.

"Dale is progressing quite well. He came through his net session today without any discomfort," Mohammed Moosajee, South Africa's team manager, who is also a doctor, said on Wednesday.

"We will watch him overnight to see if he wakes up with any stiffness. If he comes through tomorrow's practice then he should be available."

As far as the batting prowess goes, both teams seem evenly matched even though the Chris Gayle factor could tilt the scales in the West Indies' favour if the swash-buckler comes up with one of his hurricane knocks.



**South Africa have got a shot in the arm ahead of the crucial match with pacer Dale Steyn returning to fitness. He bowled in the nets on Wednesday without any discomfort**



In absence of Dale Steyn, South Africa skipper AB de Villiers (17) has trusted the likes of Ryan McLaren (right) and the right-arm medium fast bowler needs to continue the good work against West Indies on Friday as they possess a lot of aggressive batsmen like Chris Gayle (left).

AP

For South Africa, Hashim Amla's form remains crucial as he would be expected to play the sheet-anchor's role. The likes of A B de Villiers, Faf du Plessis and J P Duminy are the gamechangers, who can accelerate on a solid start.

The West Indian batting also features quite a few aggressors apart from Gayle, who is yet to score big in the ongoing edition despite being top run-getter in the overall Champions Trophy stats.

Kieron Pollard and Darren Bravo are two other big-hitters who would be expected to come good.

On the bowling front, South Africa have the distinct edge, especially if Steyn returns to the squad tomorrow.

For the West Indies, spinner Sunil Narine remains a crucial cog and he proved his worth yet against when he picked up a couple of wickets against India, albeit for a losing cause in their previous match.

## Jadeja a complete package, says coach

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

He has been coaching in England for past three decades but for Debu Mitra, it was an immensely enjoyable experience as he witnessed one of his favourite wards Ravindra Jadeja's brilliant spell from the Oval stands.

"It was great to hear the crowd cheering his name whenever he took wickets. Such adulation is normally reserved for the big boys of Indian cricket like a Tendulkar. For me, Jadeja is a complete package," Mitra, who has also been Sourav Ganguly's childhood coach, said.

Mitra, who has been guiding the likes of Jadeja, Cheteshwar Pujara as Saurashtra coach had a word of caution for the all-rounder.

"Jadeja can't take his place for granted in the India team. He has to keep performing," the veteran

stated.

"The only way you can keep your place in the Indian team is by performance. The captain only believes in you, when you are delivering. Otherwise, you are nothing," the 65-year-old, who is known to be precise in his assessment of players said.

Mitra revealed how Jadeja had become disillusioned after not being able to make it to the Indian squad for the 2011 World Cup.

"Two years back, after he was dropped from the India team and not even considered for the 2011 World Cup, Jadeja was disillusioned about his bowling. He seemed to have lost focus and the urge to hone his bowling skills," Mitra said.

"It took a bit to tell him that his only passport to the national side was his left-arm spin bowling. He heeded what I said and then really worked very hard, bowling



Ravindra Jadeja bowls

**TWO YEARS BACK, AFTER HE WAS DROPPED FROM THE INDIAN TEAM AND NOT EVEN CONSIDERED FOR THE 2011 WORLD CUP, JADEJA WAS DISILLUSIONED ABOUT HIS BOWLING. HE SEEMED TO HAVE LOST FOCUS AND THE URGE TO HONE HIS BOWLING SKILLS**  
**SAURASHTRA COACH DEBU MITRA**

for hours at the nets," said Mitra.

Mitra however gets worked up the moment one mentions that Jadeja has reaped the benefits of his close association with skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

"It quite angers me when the media tries to find such silly links. Did Dhoni save Jadeja when

he was dropped from the Indian team for the World cup? If you perform, no one can stop you. Jadeja's main job is to bowl and the fact that he can bat too, is a great bonus," Mitra said.

"No captain can ignore his worth in the team. He will get you wickets, score 30-40 odd runs in quick time and he is a superb fielder. Just the kind of abilities you want in a No. 7-8 player in your team," one could easily gauge the pride in his voice about his student's achievements.

Jadeja's all-round skills make him a great choice for Test cricket as well.

"You can't compare him to a Pragyan Ojha, who specializes in left-arm spin. Jadeja is unique and will always have an edge. But as I said, he has to do well in all three departments and that is the biggest challenge for him every day," the veteran coach said.

**Warner, who appeared for a disciplinary hearing, pleaded guilty to breaching Rule 6: Unbecoming Behaviour**



# Poor start by India

## Held 4-4 by minnows Ireland; Eves thrashed 0-7 by New Zealand

PTI ■ ROTTERDAM

Rupinderpal Singh scored two goals as India survived a scare before eking out a 4-4 draw against lower-ranked Ireland in a hard-fought Pool B match in the men's competition of the FIH World League Round 3, here on Thursday.

Rupinderpal (40th, 66th minute) converted two penalty corners in the second half to save India the blushes after Akashdeep Singh (21st) and Shivendra Singh (47th) scored two field goals.

For Ireland, Alan Sothern (25th), Paul Gleghorne (30th), Andrew McConnell (64th) scored three field goals while the other came from a penalty corner conversion by Conor Harte in the 57th minute.

Even though India (11) are ranked four places higher than Ireland (15) in the world rankings, it didn't really show in their game on Thursday.

The defensive line has been their perennial problem and the area once again came to hound India against the Irish, who looked impressive and threatening in the entire 70 minutes.

There was clear lack of co-ordination between the Indian mid-field and forwardline, at least in the opening half, and they were also guilty of giving away the ball far more easily to their opponents.

The Indians, however, surged ahead in the 21st minute when Akashdeep trapped a cross from Mandeep and slammed home a winner with a fierce hit from top of the circle.

India's joy, however, remained short-lived as Ireland drew parity four minutes later when Sothern scooped over a charging Indian goalie P R Sreejesh after some fine stick work on the left flank.

India soon got their first penalty corner but Sandeep Singh flick was brilliantly saved by goalkeeper David Harte.

Ireland rubbed salt on India's wounds in the 30th minute when Gleghorne scored to give his side a 2-1 lead.

The Indian defence was yet again caught napping by Ireland's fast attack-



The Indian team face an uphill task in their bid to qualify for the 2014 FIH World Cup

File Photo

FIH WORLD LEAGUE  
ROUND THREE

## HUMILIATION FOR EVES

ROTTERDAM: India women's team made a horrific start to their campaign in the FIH World League Round 3 as they were mauled 0-7 by New Zealand in the opening match of Pool B, here on Thursday.

Ranked third in the world, New Zealand entered the tournament as the second-highest ranked squad in the eight-team field and the top team in Pool B. Expectedly, the Black Sticks had no problem against the 12th-ranked Indians, who looked completely out of sorts.

The Indians though looked impressive in the initial few minutes of the game, they lost their way as the game progressed.



Indian women's team

File Photo

Charlotte Harrison (8th) a field goal and a few minutes later the Indians conceded an own-goal to double New Zealand's lead. Katie

Glynn (26th) and Sian Fremaux (31st) added a goal each to go into the breather with a comfortable 4-0 lead.

The second half was no different as New Zealand continued their attacking game and pumped in three more goals to hand India a humiliating defeat.

Harrison (52nd) and Glynn (69th) scored two more goals in the second half, while Krystal Forgeson also shot in her first of the game in the 53rd minute to complete the rout.

Except for own goal, all of the New Zealand goals came from field efforts. The Indians will now play Belgium on Friday, while New Zealand will play Germany.

PTI

FOR IRELAND, ALAN SOTHERN (25TH), PAUL GLEGHORNE (30TH), ANDREW MCCONNELL (64TH) SCORED THREE FIELD GOALS WHILE THE OTHER CAME FROM A PENALTY CORNER CONVERSION BY CONOR HARTE IN THE 57TH MINUTE

ing moves as an unmarked Gleghorne scored from close range.

The Indians, however, came out with more purpose and looked far more organised in the second half.

The break seemed to have worked wonders for India as Rupinderpal drew parity just five minutes into the second half converting their second penalty corner.

Veteran striker Shivendra Singh, who made a comeback to the Indian team here after the London Olympics, then celebrated his birthday in style, beautifully deflecting home a diagonal pass from V R Raghunath in the 47th minute to give India a 3-2 lead.

But the Irishmen were in no mood to be bogged down by the twin strikes as they fought back strongly.

First, Harte utilised one of their four penalty corners and then a diving McConnell tapped in to brighten the prospect of an upset win over India.

But it was not to be as Rupinderpal came to India's rescue two minutes later, converting India's third penalty corner with a high flick to the left of Irish custodian Harte.

India will play hosts Netherlands on Saturday, while Ireland will play New Zealand.

## Govt approves bid for U-17 WC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday gave the go-ahead to India's ambitious bid to host the U-17 Football World Cup in 2017, thus boosting the country's chances of organising the tournament that is already being backed by FIFA secretary-general Jerome Valcke.

"The Union Cabinet today gave its approval to the proposal of submitting guarantees sought by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) from the Government of India for their bid to host the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Under 17 World Cup Football Tournament in 2017 in India," a statement issued by the Sports Ministry said.

Till now uncertainty loomed large over India's bid as FIFA, world football's governing body, needed guarantees on tax exemption, security, transport and accommodation of players, visa and foreign exchange.

India's first bid was rejected early this year, in January, due to insufficient assurances from the

**India's first bid was rejected in January, due to insufficient assurances from government. But now the government's green signal has paved the way for a strong bid**

government. But with the government today giving the green signal in providing guarantees that would meet FIFA's basic requirements, it has paved the way for a strong bid.

While the expenses of hosting the event will be borne by FIFA and AIFF, the government has assured additional financial assistance. "While the expenditure for upgradation of stadia (Rs.95 crore) will be provided as additional central assistance to the State Governments, a sum of Rs. 25 crore is kept as a contingency to ensure smooth conduct of the tournament.

## Saina enters quarterfinals in Indonesia

PTI ■ JAKARTA

Defending champion Saina Nehwal on Thursday entered the quarterfinals of the Indonesian Super Series Premier after registering a comfortable straight-game victory over Sayaka Takahashi of Japan here.

R M V Gurusaidutt advanced to the men's singles quarterfinals with a hard-fought win over Kazumasa Sakai of Japan, while it was curtains for Sourabh Varma.

Saina took 39 minutes to outplay her opponent 21-13, 21-19 in a women's singles second round match.

Saina will take on Carolina Marin of Spain in the quarters. Saina, seeded second, relied on her smashes and superior net play to steer clear of her Japanese rival.

The two started on equal footing and were tied till 6-6 before Saina surged ahead to open up a gap of six points.

The Japanese managed to clinch a few straight points to reduce the gap to 13-14 at one stage, but the Indian showed her class and easily wrapped up the first game 21-13.

Takahashi got her act together in the second game as two rivals got engaged in a fierce battle. Tied at 12-12, the Japanese won three points



Saina Nehwal in action

File Photo

NEHWAL REMAINS 2ND IN RANKINGS  
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal retained her second position in the world rankings despite making the quarterfinal exit at the Thailand Open in the women's singles.

Rising teen sensation P V Sindhu has also maintained her 11th position and is just a step short of breaking into the Top-10 for the first time in her career.

Meanwhile, Ajay Jayaram jumped three places to 25 while RMV Gurusaidutt gained two places to be placed at 23 in the men's singles.

Parupalli Kashyap, who had crashed out of the Indonesian Super Series Premier after losing his campaign opener on Wednesday, retained his No.10 position.

and Pradnya Gadre lost 13-21, 19-21 to locals Anneke Feinya Agustini and Della Destiana Haris. Ponnappa along with her mixed doubles partner Tarun Kona were handed a 14-21, 21-17, 13-21 defeat by Robert Mateusiak and Nadiezda Zieba of Poland.

AP ■ ARDMORE (PENNSYLVANIA)

Clouds gave way to peeks of sunshine, squeegees gave way to putters, and the 13th hole gave way to birdies during the first round of the US Open's return to Merion Golf Club on Thursday.

Drenching storms caused a 3 1/2-hour delay, halting play less than two hours after it began. When the golfers returned to the course, one thing was evident: a 102-yard hole was easy pickings for the world's best players.

Twelve of the first 16 players to try the par-3 No. 13 scored 2, including 2011 Masters champion Charl Schwartzel, who used the hole to start a run of three consecutive birdies that included a chip-in at No. 15.

Sergio Garcia also birdied No. 13, but that was an aberration in a terrible start for the Spaniard, who has spent the lead-up to the tournament trying to make amends with Tiger Woods. Garcia had a quadruple bogey, double bogey and a bogey in his first five holes.

The golfer was greeted with mild applause and a few audible boos when he was

introduced at the start of his round. He is playing his first tournament in the US since a recent exchange with Woods hit a low point when Garcia said he would serve fried chicken if Woods came to dinner during the Open. Garcia has since apologized for the remark. He shook hands with Woods on the practice range this week and left a note in Woods' locker. He was also noticeably friendly to the gallery during Wednesday's practice round, stopping several times to sign autographs.

Cliff Kresge, a Floridian ranked No. 551 in the world, hit the first tee shot of the tournament at 6:45 a.m. The horn blew at 8:36 a.m., and thunder, lightning and downpours followed, sending everyone scurrying for cover.

Safety was a concern on a course that required fans to take long shuttle rides from remote parking lots. At a fan zone,



Rainy weather marred the opening day's play at US Open

AP

where a replay of the limited action was on a jumbo screen, a worker used a microphone to implore an overflow crowd to move to the merchandise tent.

"We're not feeling safe having this many people in here," he told them. Many folks heeded his message and moved on. Play resumed shortly after

noon.

The course was already soaked from a half foot of rain during the past week, although sunshine Tuesday and

Wednesday helped to dry things out a bit on the historic course, hosting the Open for the first time in 32 years.

The marquee group originally was scheduled to begin shortly after lunchtime, but the rains pushed back the tee time for Woods, Rory McIlroy and Adam Scott — the top three players in the world rankings — to mid-afternoon.

Even with all the rain softening up the shortest major championship course in nine years, Merion was expected to be no easy stroll. Phil Mickelson and Steve Stricker saw the notoriously sloping greens live up to their reputation after just a few minutes of play when each had a birdie putt roll 8 feet past the hole, Mickelson at No. 11 and Stricker at No. 12. Both ended up with bogeys.

Mickelson's early tee time presented a logistical challenge. He arrived at Merion after an overnight flight from San Diego, where he watched his oldest daughter graduate from the eighth grade.

Early on, he played like someone who didn't get much sleep. Starting on the 11th hole — one of the unorthodox arrangements in the setup at this course — he opened with the 3- bogey and put his tee shot in the rough at No. 12. But he saved par at the 12th and birdied the short par-3 13th to pull back to even par.

Any major weather disruption would be a shame, given that the U.S. Open has waited 32 years to return to the course where Olin Dutra overcame a serious stomach illness to win in 1934, where Ben Hogan hit the picture-perfect 1-iron approach to No. 18 before winning in a playoff in 1950, where Lee Trevino pulled a rubber snake out of his bag at the first hole of the playoff when he beat Jack Nicklaus for the title in 1971, and where David Graham became the first Australian to win the trophy in 1981.

It would also dampen the drama of Woods' pursuit of his first major in five years, a reasonable proposition given that he's already won four times on the PGA Tour this year. And Scott's hopes of becoming the first to win the Masters and U.S. Open back-to-back since Woods in 2002.

## singles

INDIA IN WORLD SQUASH QUARTERS

NEW DELHI: Saurav Ghosal and Ramit Tandon defeated Hong Kong and entered quarterfinals of the WSF Men's World Teams Squash Championship in Mulhouse, France. Ghosal beat Max Lee, putting India 1-0 ahead with a comfortable 3-1 win. In the next game, Tandon defeated Yip Tsz Fung 3-0 in 38 minutes. In just under 100 minutes, India had booked a berth in the quarterfinals with still a match to go. However, in the dead rubber, Harinder Pal Sandhu lost to Leo Au 1-2.

INDIAN ARCHERS IN PRE-QUARTERS

KOLKATA: Five Indian recurve archers have made it to the pre-quarterfinals of the World Cup Stage II being held in Antalya, Turkey. Rahul Banerjee and Atanu Das in the men's recurve section while Dola Banerjee, Laishram Bombayla Devi and Rimil Biruly in the women's recurve kept India's hope alive with victories in their respective sections on Wednesday. On a day when top Indian archers duo of Jayanta Talukdar and Deepika Kumari made early exits, Olympian Dola pipped Miranda Leek of the USA 6-5 in round 1 and then thrashed Italian Guendalina Sartori en route to the last 16.

NEHA ADVANCES IN CHINA OPEN

NEW DELHI: Neha Aggarwal entered the main draw of women's singles in the China Open Super Series at Changchun on Thursday, while Achanta Sharath Kamal failed to make the cut in the men's section. Despite going down fighting to Wing Nam NG (79) of Hong Kong 3-4 in the final qualification match, 23-year-old Neha sealed a spot among top-32 paddlers for the competition by finishing second in her group. Neha (373), after losing her opening match to Japan's Yui Hamamoto 2-4, had beaten Isabelle Siyun Li of Singapore 4-1 yesterday to brighten her chances of entering the main draw. Neha will now take on world number 13 Viktoria Pavlovich of Belarus on Friday. Meanwhile, ace Indian paddler Achanta Sharath Kamal faltered in his last qualification match, going down 1-4 to lower-ranked Li Ahmet of Turkey to finish second in the group.

ANAND 2ND IN TAL MEMORIAL BLITZ

MOSCOW: Viswanathan Anand got off to a good start in his Tal memorial campaign by finishing second in the blitz tournament here. Remaining undefeated, Anand scored 6.5 points and stood clear second. Hikaru Nakamura of United States won the tournament comprehensively scoring seven points in all and the American was other player besides Anand, who remained undefeated in the 15000 Euros prize money event. Anand ensured he would get five whites out of nine rounds and the Indian ace will meet Fabiano Caruana of Italy who recently overtook him in live ratings.

LAHIRI AT TIED 25TH IN QUEEN'S CUP

SAMUI: Anirban Lahiri was the sole Indian to shoot a par score as his compatriots struggled on the opening day of the \$ 312,000 Queen's Cup here on Thursday. Lahiri, a three-time winner on Asian Tour, carded an even par 71 to be placed 25th, while the next best Indian was Sujian Singh (73) in tied 59th place. Rahil Gangjee and C Muniyappa carded 76 each and were placed 99th, while Abhijit Chadha and Ajeetesh Sandhu shot 78 each and Himmat Rai shot 79. The cut at the end of the first round looked likely two-over 73. Japan's Daisuke Kataoka continued his fine form by firing a flawless six-under-par 65 to grab a share of the first round lead with Finland's Jaakko Makitalo and Malaysia's Danny Chia.

PUNJAB WIN JR NATL HOCKEY TITLE

SONEPAT: Punjab defeated Odisha 2-1 to lift the third Hockey India Junior Men National Championship here on Thursday. Punjab scored their opening goal through skipper Gaganpreet Singh who converted a penalty corner in the 10th minute, while Odisha leveled the score in the 24th minute with a field strike from Joseph Toppo. In the second half, both the teams fought hard but before captain Gaganpreet converted yet another penalty corner in the 63rd minute, his second of the day, to hand Punjab the title. Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy (MPHA) defeated Hockey Maharashtra 5-4 to finish third in the championship. MPHA scored through Mohd Nizamuddin (19th, 28th min), Arjun Sharma (26th, 69th) and Arman Qureshi (42nd) while Ashutosh Lingesh (9th) and Mithlesh Kumar (60th, 63rd) were on target for Hockey Maharashtra. The other goal for Maharashtra came from through an own goal in the 30th minute.

'WE CAN IMPROVE I-L STANDARDS'

NEW DELHI: Jindal Vijayanagar Steel (JSW) said on Thursday it was committed to improving the standards of the I-League. "Commercially speaking, there's enormous potential as far as the I-League is concerned. We appreciate the efforts being made by AIFF. At the same time we are optimistic that we can do our bit as well to simultaneously increase the standards of the I-League and our team," said Mustafa Ghouse, CEO, JSW.

PNS/Agencies



## McIlroy does the Rocky

ARDMORE: Rory McIlroy took the chance to re-enact a scene from the Rocky movie before teeing off in the US Open.

The world's No. 2 ranked player said earlier this week that he was "half-thinking" of heading into Philadelphia to the spot where the fictional Rocky Balboa jumped up and down triumphantly after running up the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

On Wednesday the 24-year-old from Northern Ireland tweeted: "Can't come to Philadelphia and not see the 'Rocky' steps!!" along with a photo, shot from behind, that shows a jubilant figure with arms raised Rocky-style and wearing a Phillies baseball cap backward.

The museum is about 10 miles (16 kilometers) from the Merion Golf Club, where McIlroy and the rest of the US Open field tee off Thursday.

AP