



FUEL HIKE STIR

Cong calls for Bharat Bandh

DMK, Left, others extend support to Sept 11 protest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Almost six years after a Bharat Bandh call given by the BJP protesting the fuel price hike in the regime of Manmohan Singh...



bandh as they are in Government. Senior party leaders recalled how BJP had protested and called for Bharat Bandh on May 31, 2012.

if it will "cross the century mark under this Government". Singh said the Government has earned ₹11 lakh crore through taxes on petrol and diesel.

Bengal Govt slightly friendly to Rohingyas: BSF DG

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BSF Director General KK Sharma on Friday said the West Bengal Government is "slightly friendly" to the Rohingyas moving from different parts of the country to the State and has set up camps for 70 families.



the help of NGOs besides support from the local MLA and MP, Intelligence sources said. The BSF had conducted an enquiry in conjunction with the IB to ascertain the presence of the Rohingyas in West Bengal.

the Indo-Bangla frontier, BGB Chief Maj Gen Md said his Force is "very much alert" to prevent unauthorised movement of Rohingyas in their country and towards the border areas.

the Supreme Court has stayed the move following petitions against the move. There are about 40,000 refugees settled in different parts of the country including Jammu & Kashmir.

Rahul posts Kailash Mansarovar pictures, says no hatred here

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Setting aside all rumour mills doubting Congress chief Rahul Gandhi's Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, his party on Friday posted images of his visit and also shared his fitness data with other details of the Gandhi scion's trek to the abode of Lord Shiva.



and expected to be back from his Yatra by end of this week. The Congress chief also tweeted a video of the hills on his official Twitter handle and said, "Shiva is the Universe".

tle, tranquil and calm. They give everything and lose nothing. Anyone can drink from them. There is no hatred here. This is why we worship these waters in India," he had said on Twitter.

BJP accuses Sidhu of insulting India by praising Imran

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hitting out at the Congress for "criticising" country's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and praising Pakistan's Premier Imran Khan, the BJP on Friday accused Punjab Tourism Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu of insulting India and sought an explanation from the Opposition party for the statements made by its leader.

India, saying his military was ready to avenge bloodshed of its men on the border with 'khood ka badla khooon' and in India a Congress leader is thanking Pakistan," Hussain said.

India, France sign pact to reduce greenhouse gas emission

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and France signed an Implementation agreement on 'Mobilise Your City (MYC)' programme in which three pilot cities will be provided support to reduce their Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in urban transport. Under the programme, three Indian cities — Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad — will get grant to the tune of 3.5 million Euros as part of the EU's commitment under the Paris Climate agreement to achieve a "sustainable transport policy".

signed in the presence of Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri and Alexander Ziegler, Ambassador of France in India. MYC aims to extend help to 100 cities globally to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions by promoting sustainable urban transport and to promote sustainability in urban spaces.

benefit from the technical assistance activities. The programme includes learning and exchange formats with other cities across India for exchanges on best practices. The details of the project activities will be worked out by AFD in consultation with MoHUA and the three partner cities including institutions such as the respective special purpose vehicles (SPVs) for smart cities, the municipal corporations and any transport authority or transport related SPV," the Ministry officials said.

India, US Armies to conduct 12-day Yudh Abhyas in U'khand

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Signifying the growing defence ties between India and US, the armies of two countries will hold a joint exercise 'Yudh Abhyas' in Chaubatia, Uttarakhand for 12 days starting from September 16. The exercise takes place days after the maiden 2+2 dialogue here on Thursday between the external and Defence Ministers of two nations covering the entire range of strategic issues besides cross-border terrorism, enhancing defence trade and sharing of cutting edge technology.

terpart James Mattis after the 2+2 dialogue. Incidentally, India and Russia also held the first ever tri-service joint drill this year. Earlier, the three Services used to have separate exercises of their respective units.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with board members of United States India Business Council (USIBC) in New Delhi on Friday

EXISTENCE STUDY OF SARASWATI RIVER

Protect sites from urbanisation, encroachment: Panel

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

A sub-committee of the Government-appointed panel for a multidisciplinary study of the Saraswati river has called for protection of the sites in Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana — where it has found scientific evidences about existence of the ancient river — from urbanisation and encroachments.

the Rann of Kutch after passing through, Sindh and Bahawalpur Provinces of Pakistan. According to a section of historians, on the bank of Saraswati river existed an ancient civilisation of the world known as Harappan Civilisation. They said that the Yamuna, Sutlej and Ghaggar were all once part of the Saraswati, the shrinking of which is linked to the decline of the Harappan civilisation.

defunct rivers — suggested that the Sarsuti-Markanda rivulets in Haryana were the water courses of the "eastern branch of a Himalayan river" and the Ghaggar-Patiali channels were the western branches.

Dr BR Mani, DG of the National Museum, AR Chaudhar, geologist at Kurushetra University from the Centre of Excellence for Research on Saraswati, Prashant Bhardwaj are among the members of the sub-committee. The sub-panel is the part of the advisory committee that was set up by the Union Culture Ministry to draw up a comprehensive programme for the study of the Saraswati basin and identify 16 sites for research and development.

Govt procures 38 mn tonnes rice so far in 2017-18, exceeds target

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre's rice procurement has surpassed the target of 38 million tonnes so far in the ongoing 2017-18 marketing year that will end this month. The rice procurement target set for this year was 37.5 million tonnes. According to Food Ministry, the Government had procured 34.35 million tonnes during the last marketing year (October-September), surpassing the target of 33 million tonnes set for that year.

Over 33 per cent of the country's total rice production has been procured at the MSP

and State agencies have undertaken procurement operation. For the current year, the Government has fixed paddy MSP of 'common' grade variety at ₹1,550 per quintal, while that of 'A' grade variety at ₹1,590 per quintal. According to Agriculture Ministry data, the total area planted during the current kharif season crossed the 100-million-hectare mark this week. And for the first time this year, rice planting overtook the area sown in the previous season. The total area under cultivation, however, is still marginally lower at 1,023 (lakh hectare) as compared to 1,027 lakh hectare covered during the corresponding week last year.

ATTENTION AIRTEL DIGITAL TV SUBSCRIBERS. Bharti Telemedia Limited (BTL), a DTH service provider in India by virtue of a license issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, having its registered office at Bharti Crescent, 1, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj, Phase-II, New Delhi-110070 and its communication address as Airtel Centre, 6th Floor, Plot No. 16, Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV, Gurgaon-122015, hereby informs the general public, as required under Section 4.3 of The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Interconnection (Third Amendment) Regulation, 2006, that due to payment default or failure to arrive at mutually acceptable terms, we shall discontinue exhibition of the following TV channels from our DTH platform with effect from 29th September, 2018.



Anti-fuel price hike demo: BJD leader attacked
Rivals open fire at him; supporters block BBSR-Puri road in protest

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Tension prevailed at Lingpur under the Dhauri police station here on Friday after supporters of a BJD member, Rabi Patra, staged a road blockade protesting attack on their leader.



Chief Minister Raman Singh participates in a roadshow as part of the ongoing State-wide 'Atal Vikas Yatra' at Bagbaha in Mahasamund district on Friday

The incident took place during a demonstration by BJD members in the area as part of the BJD's State-wide stir against the rising fuel prices on the day.

Patra alleged that during the protest, members of a rival group called him to a corner and suddenly opened a couple of rounds of fire at him. However, he managed to escape unhurt.

Patra told the police that he was targeted over past enmity. Following the incident, Patra's supporters blocked the Bhubaneswar-Puri road demanding immediate arrest of the accused. The blockade led to disruption of vehicular traf-

fic for some time. Getting information, the zone ACP and the Dhauri and the Lingaraj police stations IICs

rushed to the spot and pacified the crowd, following which the road blockade was withdrawn. Police said some empty car-

tridges were recovered from the spot and the situation was under control. An investigation was on into the incident.



Chief Minister Raman Singh participates in a roadshow as part of the ongoing State-wide 'Atal Vikas Yatra' at Bagbaha in Mahasamund district on Friday

Govt to soon implement 'National Bio Fuel Policy 2018'



STAFF REPORTER ■ ATAL NAGAR

The Government will soon implement the 'National Bio Fuel Policy 2018' in the State. This was informed in the 16th meeting of Chhattisgarh Biofuel Development Authority chaired by Chief Secretary Ajay Singh at the Mantralaya here.

The meeting discussed various ways for effective implementation of the policy in the State by making all Government departments as stakeholders and implementing MoUs signed previously with all investors. It was also informed in the meeting that a Biofuel Complex will be established in Durg. Discussions were also held on setting up a laboratory for testing biofuel in the State.



Chief Minister Raman Singh participates in a roadshow as part of the ongoing State-wide 'Atal Vikas Yatra' at Bagbaha in Mahasamund district on Friday

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER GENERATION COMPANY LIMITED (A Govt. of C.G. Undertaking) CIN: U04108CT2003GC0015821

Table with columns: S. Tender No., Tender Spec. No./Rtno., Particulars, Last Date/Time of sub. of bid, Tender Fee (Rs.), EMD (Rs.). Includes details for supply of tarpaulin for CHP at 2x500 MW, MTTPS, Marwa.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, E/M CIRCLE, RAIPUR (C.G.)

e-Procurement Tender Notice Online tenders are invited on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh from contractors, registered in D Class & above in new Registration system (unified Registration system) for the following work :-

Table with columns: NIT No., Name of work, Probable amount of contract, Last date of tender download. Lists various engineering works like electrification, court rooms, and electric installation.

The tender documents can be downloaded from the web-portal http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in Only those contractors/bidders, interested in bidding shall pay the tender document cost Online.

Superintending Engineer P.W.D., E/M Circle Raipur (C.G.)

विकास का वाद- मजदूर हारा आपको धी धा, हमने बनाई राह

Credible Chhattisgarh विश्वस्तनीय छत्तीसगढ़

G-55163/4 Ryp/Dtd 06.09.18

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, BRIDGE CIRCLE RAIPUR (C.G.) Tender Notice (1st Call) Contractors, Registered appropriate class in Unified Registration System [ e-Registration ] invited Online tenders for the following works :-

SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED "A MINI RATNA COMPANY" E- TENDER NOTICE 1) NIT No : AGM/HSD/S.O.(M)/e-Tend/18-19/139 dated-28.08.2018, Tender ID 2018\_SECL\_112593\_1...

SYL issue: INLD to observe Haryana Bandh today

Chandigarh: INLD, Haryana's main Opposition party will observe 'Haryana Bandh' on September 8, Saturday on the issues of non-construction of Sutlej Yamuna Link (SYL) canal and scrapped Dadupur Nalvi irrigation project.

"The party has geared up for the state bandh and various trade unions have assured us their support on Saturday," said Abhay Chautala, Leader of opposition in Haryana Assembly and INLD's senior leader while talking to the mediapersons here.

SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED "A MINI RATNA COMPANY" E- TENDER NOTICE 1.NIT No: AGM/HSD/S.O.(M)/e-Tend/18-19/123 date 17.08.2018, Tender ID: 2018\_SECL\_111666\_1, Location of work: Hasdeo Area...

SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED "A MINI RATNA COMPANY" E- TENDER NOTICE 7.NIT No: AGM/HSD/S.O.(M)/e-Tend/18-19/129 date 23.08.2018, Tender ID: 2018\_SECL\_112090\_1, Location of work: Hasdeo Area...

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता लोक निर्माण विभाग, राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग मण्डल, रायपुर (छ.ग.) दिनांक: 01.09.2018 एकोकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

Table with columns: क्र. निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्र. एवं दिनांक, सिस्टम आई. डी. क्र., कार्य का नाम, कार्य की अनुमानित लागत, निविदा की अंतिम तिथि. Lists various construction works with estimated costs and deadlines.

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER MAHANADI PROJECT, RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH) e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE Procurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN RAIPUR (C.G.) e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE Procurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता लोक निर्माण विभाग, रायपुर मण्डल क्रमांक 2 (छत्तीसगढ़) ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट निविदा सूचना (प्रथम आमंत्रण) दिनांक 04.09.2018



Charging ahead

The future of mobility needs to be debated, otherwise India will find itself with its transportation arteries clogged

The Global Mobility Summit, MOVE, organised by the NITI Aayog, is an important summit for all Indians because our roads, airports, railways and seaports are choked and we will need mobility solutions to foster rapid economic growth.

While Amitabh KAP of the NITI Aayog claims that the summit is an opportunity to see how India can leapfrog the West in the anticipated shift towards electric mobility, the fact remains that India's biggest economic rival, China, is already well ahead in the game.

At the same time, while new roads and airports are being built, this Government and the next need to literally step on the accelerator when it comes to transportation infrastructure building.

50 WORD EDIT Pilgrim's progress

Busting every myth, Congress president Rahul Gandhi silenced trolls questioning his Kaillash Mansarovar visit. He posted his fibit data showing he had trekked non-stop 13 hours for about 34 km.

Facial biometrics

Airports are set to enhance passenger comfort through biometric recognition but it has an ugly side too

In a bid to revolutionise air travel and cut down on travails and queues of transiting travellers, the Bangalore International Airport Ltd has decided to use biometric face scans as part of its entry protocol.

But the question is whether biometrics are safe enough and tamper-proof. While they guarantee operational integrity, we have to be particular about data privacy. As is the case with sharing of other biometric details, the data collected may be prone to be shared between airports, authorities as also the airlines.



RINKU GHOSH

Soon after the Supreme Court's verdict decriminalising homosexuality, India's first transgender college principal Manabi Bandopadhyay said it was like getting a marriage offer after retirement.

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POINT COUNTERPOINT

Rahul Gandhi is the biggest buffoon. He is an asset for us, the more he comes (to Telangana) the more seats we will win.



Instead of thanking the Congress, he (Rao) has behaved in a manner which is unbecoming of a Chief Minister.



BHOPINDER SINGH

The 'profession of arms' bestows a certain nobility, morality and sovereign responsibility that are unmatched in its emotional import to the nation state.

In mature democracies, where the armed forces serve under the civilian authority, their wilful adherence to the highest ethical standards, discipline and steel in their popular perception amongst the citizenry.

The America that John McCain had stood up for resolutely and dignifiedly was one where he slammed his own partyman Donald Trump from taking pot-shots at a fallen soldier, Captain Humayun Khan, about whom McCain said, "memory of his sacrifice will make us a better nation — and he will never be forgotten".

and its military, in the finest traditions as a dashing cavalier, feted hero and an unforgettable General. The legend, who commanded the famous Poona Horse (only regiment to have won two Param Vir Chakras) in the decisive battle of Basantar in 1971, had his regiment acknowledged by none other than the Pakistanis as 'Fakhr-e-Hind' (Pride of India) for his battle darderevilly.

Such biojet fuels are estimated to significantly reduce fuel costs of flights and consequently bring down fares and carbon emissions. However, the problem with the much-awaited biojet fuels is that they are a harmful exotic tree belonging to the tropical America. According to agronomist Pankaj Oudhia, Jatropa is "allelopathic" in nature, which chemically suppresses the growth of other plants.

TEMPORARY REPRIEVE Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Change for good" (September 7). The Supreme Court's verdict decriminalising homosexuality is welcome. The British-era law, treating same sex relationship as criminal, was archaic.

SOCIAL CHANGE IS A MUST Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Change for good" (September 7). The Supreme Court is not so many years. In a complex country like India, decriminalising Section 377 is indeed a progressive decision.

safe route mainly because the gay community is too small for them to count on for any significant contribution in terms of votes. Not to mention the obvious orthodox and regressive mindset. But the battle is only half-won.

Mad Govind Noida

Love actually: When we change too

Decriminalising homosexuality is just half the battle won. Will abrogating Section 377 change the way we perceive the LGBTIQ community? We must look beyond their physicality to the soul within



death... Destruction of individual identity would be tantamount to crushing of intrinsic dignity that cumulatively encapsulates the values of privacy, choice, freedom of speech and other expressions." In fact, Chief Justice Dipak Misra even quoted Goethe: "I am what I am, so take me as I am."

The Court, while emphasising that history owes apology to the LGBTIQ community for unwarranted ostracism, even delineated the role of the Government in normalising humanity over sexual preferences, advising it to give wide publicity about LGBTIQs in the media and conducting awareness drives for Government officials.

economic, social and cultural rights for the community, to allow them a share of mainstream opportunities by valuing their mind and skill sets beyond their physical orientation.

A World Bank study on stigma and exclusion for LGBTIQs in India, collecting data from 2006, shows that 41 per cent of Indians would not want a homosexual neighbour and 64 per cent believe that homosexuality is never justified.

Popular media, like Bollywood and particularly streaming platforms, are also reshaping the way we look at "otherness," as humans before their physicality. These have happened without Governmental intervention.

As of now, medical insurance is a nebulous area when it comes to transference rights to same-sex partners. What about discrimination and typecasting at the workplace and ensuring their participation in the larger labour market?

What is needed is a practical awareness drive that begins with the primary school network, counselors and trained teachers. Creating safe spaces for the LGBTIQ to talk about their issues, providing them support and encouraging them to look at themselves beyond their sexuality as capable individuals is the next step.

There should be a dedicated mental health service for the most degrading psychological battles that LGBTIQs face in their reintegration attempts. Human rights can only work if we are conscious about our duties as fellow humans.

Contrasting fate of two warriors

Sadly at a time when the US was eulogising its warrior-statesman Senator John McCain, there was no respect shown towards India's legendary saint-soldier, LT Gen Hanut Singh, whose premises were sealed in Dehradun



and its military, in the finest traditions as a dashing cavalier, feted hero and an unforgettable General. The legend, who commanded the famous Poona Horse (only regiment to have won two Param Vir Chakras) in the decisive battle of Basantar in 1971, had his regiment acknowledged by none other than the Pakistanis as 'Fakhr-e-Hind' (Pride of India) for his battle darderevilly.

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IT IS SAID THAT SOLDIERS DO NOT DIE BUT ONLY FADE AWAY. HOWEVER, LT GENERAL HANUT SINGH'S UNIQUE CHARACTER, RECTITUDE AND UNCOMPROMISING PROBITY ELEVATED HIM WITHIN THE PANTHEONS OF INDIAN MILITARY HISTORY

but only fade away. However, Lt Gen Hanut Singh, whose character, rectitude and uncompromising probity elevated him within the pantheons of Indian military history. A fellow clansman of Lt Gen Hanut Singh from the Marwar region of Rajasthan, Major Shahtan Singh had fought 'to the end' in a fierce display of unparalleled courage, leadership and exemplary patriotism in the Battle of Rezang La in 1962.

No more Palestinian refugees

Donald Trump's efforts to erase Palestinian people have a serious flaw. They may be hungry but probably not hungry enough to surrender unconditionally

Who said this? "The weak crumble, are slaughtered and are erased from history while the strong, for good or for ill, survive. The strong are respected, and alliances are made with the strong, and in the end peace is made with the strong."

It has done a good job in difficult circumstances, with half of its clients living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and the besieged Gaza Strip, and the other half in refugee camps in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

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Madhu Agrawal Delhi Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Government must explore more sustainable biofuel options

his refers to the article, "Need to harness biofuel better" (August 30) by Sirati Kola. SpiceJet's biofuel-powered flight from Dehradun to Delhi is an exciting development which should, hopefully, mark the beginning of an environmentally-sustainable growth of the aviation industry.

DECISIVE STEP Sir — Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu has taken a bold and calculative move by dissolving the State Assembly prematurely. Evidently, Naidu has taken this bold step sensing his return to power with a possible landslide victory, like the one witnessed in the national Capital in 2015, where the Aam Aadmi Party registered an unprecedented political victory, winning 67 out of 70 seats in the Delhi Assembly.

CV Krishna Manoj Hyderabad

(The writer is an independent journalist)









India and the Czech Republic share historical, warm and friendly relations. My state visit is aimed at deepening our economic relations spread over trade, technology and investment collaboration. In our discussions, President Zeman and I, reviewed progress in our bilateral relations and discussed the roadmap for the future

Ram Nath Kovind, President of India

BUZZ FROM GOVT

It has now become essential to bring petrol and diesel under the purview of GST. As these two items are out of the GST, the nation has to bear a loss of about ₹15,000 crore. If petrol and diesel are brought under the GST, it will be better for all including consumers

Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Petroleum Minister



₹ snaps 7-day falling streak, rises 26 paise

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee on Friday staged a turnaround to close higher by 26 paise at 71.73 against the US dollar, snapping its seven-session losing streak after heavy intervention by the Reserve Bank.

Weighed down by trade concerns and rising crude prices, the Indian currency breached the 72 mark to trade at 72.04 to the dollar in morning trade.

However, heavy intervention by the RBI predominantly resisted the rupee's sharp depreciation and helped it rebound from record low levels.

Some calm returned to forex front with sentiment soothed by positive comments and confidence-building measures from the government after what was described as carnage.

Steady crude oil prices and a relief on the trade front as the US did not slap duties on USD 200 billion of Chinese goods after the passing of a deadline

for a public consultation eased pressure on the local currency. Benchmark Brent crude oil was trading at USD 76.74 a barrel in early Asian trade.

The battered rupee lost a whopping 189 paise in the last seven trading sessions which resulted in the worst sell-offs in the forex history. The rupee resumed higher at 71.95 from overnight level of 71.99 at the inter-bank foreign exchange (forex) market on bouts of dollar selling by state-run banks.

However, intense volatility pushed the rupee to break the 72-mark to hit a low of 72.04 on an intraday basis. But, the local unit quickly bounced back to trade in positive terrain following central bank intervention. It later touched a session high of 71.65 before ending at 71.73, revealing a gain of 26 paise, or 0.36 per cent.

The Financial Benchmarks India private limited (FBIL), meanwhile, fixed the reference rate for the dollar at 71.9009 and for the euro at 83.6744.

In the cross-currency trade, the rupee recovered against the euro to settle at 83.25 from 83.70 yesterday.

The home unit, however, remained weak against the Pound sterling to end at 93.19 per pound as compared to 93.08 and also eased against the Japanese yen to close at 64.70 per 100 yens from 64.69.

The 10-year G-Sec yield also softened to end at 8.03 per cent. The Indian currency stands out as one of the most vulnerable and worst performing currency in Asia this year so far with a steep 13 per cent fall in value against the resurgent dollar bulls.

Hardening concerns over slowing capital flows and a wider trade deficit could stretch the funding of India's current account gap due to lower-than-expected goods and services tax collections increased volatility uncertainty in the midst of Trumps geopolitical mess and contagion spreads.

Modi pitches for investments in e-vehicles value chain

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday pitched for investments in electric vehicles across the value chain from batteries to smart charging as he unveiled a mobility road map with common public transport as the cornerstone, saying better mobility can boost growth.

"Congestion-free mobility is critical to check the economic and environmental costs of congestion," he said addressing the Global Mobility Summit 'MOVE' here. Stating that common public transport must be the cornerstone of mobility initiatives, he said focus must go beyond cars to other vehicles such as scooters and rickshaws.

"Clean mobility powered by clean energy is our most powerful weapon in our fight against climate change." With CEOs of global auto majors in attendance, Modi said the government is keen on "investments across the value chain from batteries to smart charging to electric vehicle manufacturing."

The government is targeting electric vehicles to account for 15 per cent of all vehicles sales in five years in a bid to curb greenhouse

gas emissions and dependency on fossil fuels. An estimated 2,000 EVs were sold last year.

"My vision for the future of mobility in India is based on 7 Cs — Common, Connected, Convenient, Congestion-free, Charged, Clean and Cutting edge," he said.

Stressing the need to widely use common public transport to drive mobility initiatives, the Prime Minister said that focus must also go beyond cars to other vehicles.

"We must leverage the full potential for vehicle pooling to improve private vehicle utilisation," he said. "Convenient mobility means safe, affordable and accessible for all sections of the society."

He said it must be ensured that public transport is preferred to private modes of travel as it would result in fewer traffic jams and lower levels of stress for commuters.

"We should champion the idea of 'clean kilometers'," he said adding Indian entrepreneurs and manufacturers are now poised to develop and deploy break-through battery technology that would mean a pollution-free clean drive, leading to clean air and better living standards for people.

Ford India recalls 7,249 units of EcoSport

FORD TO UPDATE POWERTRAIN SOFTWARE IN RECALLED CARS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ford India on Friday said it is recalling 7,249 units of petrol EcoSport to update the powertrain control module (PCM) software.

In a statement, Ford India said it is voluntarily inspecting 7,249 EcoSport petrol vehicles, manufactured between November 2017 and March 2018, to update the PCM software.

The software update action is in line with company's continued commitment to ensure quality of its vehicles and will eliminate any remote chance of sudden deceleration or battery drainage, it added.

In July, Ford had announced recall of 5,397 units of EcoSport to rectify faulty front lower control arm and driver and front passenger seat recliner locks.

Business Corner

POSOCO BAGS AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN HR

Power System Operation Corporation Ltd. (POSOCO) has been adjudged amongst Top 50 Organisations for following Innovative in HR practices. Meenakshi Davar, Director (HR) received this Award in 17th Asia Pacific HRM Congress held in Bangalore recently.



PDIL INSTALLS DUSTBINS UNDER SWACHCHHATA CAMPAIGN

Projects & Development India Ltd (PDIL), Noida installed Dustbins (Blue and Green colour) and provided Plants in Rajkiya Sarodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi on September 5, 2018 under Swachchhata IEC Campaign of Swachchhata Pakhwara 2018 in presence of Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), PDIL, DS Sudhakar Ramaiah alongwith Principal & teachers of the School and Officials of PDIL.



SURESH PRABHU LAUDS AAI'S CSR INITIATIVES

Airports Authority of India's Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) of ₹7.73 crore recently with Varanasi Municipal Corporation for solid waste management under Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative of AAI. On this occasion, a cheque of ₹3 crores was also presented to National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) for plantation on National Highway. Suresh Prabhu, HMC Applauded the efforts made by Airports Authority of India and Varanasi Airport.

NTPC-NETRA SIGNS MOA WITH CIPET

NETRA (NTPC Energy Technology Research Alliance), the R&D arm of NTPC Ltd, signed the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) recently with Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET) to accelerate the renewable drive by establishing the technology framework for development & production of floaters for Multi-MW Floating photovoltaic (PV) plants.



NHPC AND BHEL SIGN MOU

NHPC Limited has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BHEL for Consultancy and Co-operation in Hydroelectric Projects on 3rd September 2018 at its Corporate Office, Faridabad.



SEMINAR FOR ASIAN STATE OWNED ENTERPRISES!

R Vikraman, Director/HR, NLC India Limited, delivers a speech on behalf of Indian Public Sector Enterprises. R Vikraman, Director/HR, NLC India Limited, Nevelvi represented the Public Enterprises of India at a 2 day International Seminar conducted on the theme - Responsible Business Conduct in State-owned Enterprises at Hyderabad on 06-07th September, 2018.

BHEL CELEBRATES LEARNING WEEK

BHEL Learning Week was inaugurated by Atul Sobti, CMD, BHEL, at the company's Corporate Office in New Delhi. Directors on the Board and other senior employees of BHEL were present on the occasion. The week is being celebrated as a festival of learning and will witness a series of managerial/functional seminars, programmes, competitions, technical symposiums and brainstorming sessions, emphasizing on the overall development of employees.



84% OF INDIAN HOMEBUYERS DON'T KNOW HOW TO CHECK CONSTRUCTION QUALITY: MAGICBRICKS POLL

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As more and more end users look for completed homes to buy and occupy, only 16% of Indian homebuyers know how to check the construction quality

of a residential project while an alarming 84% of real estate consumers are clueless about the due diligence and just wished to know the process to check the quality of their house, revealed a recent poll by

Magicbricks.

Many buyers ignore the construction quality as it is not possible for a common man/buyer to check the construction materials used in a particular building.

Lack of awareness is the biggest challenge in checking the construction of quality of buildings. Homebuyers must go through jargon such as seismic compliance, structural safety certificate, earthquake resistant building but have no means of ensuring that houses are of good quality.

Explains V. Suresh, Vice-Chairman of the National Building Code, the reference document for all buildings in India, there are four major components to quality of construction:

- Structural
Non-Structural
Finishing and Services

Structural includes elements such as column, beam, slab etc where you need a safety auditor to give you a report.

RBI slaps ₹1-crore fine on Union Bank

As it failed to report on fraud on time

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a ₹1 crore penalty on Union Bank of India for failing to detect and report fraud on time.

"This is to inform that Reserve Bank has imposed a penalty of ₹10 million on the bank for delay in detection and reporting of fraud. The penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under ...Banking Regulation Act," Union Bank of India said in a regulatory filing on Friday.

RBI had issued a show cause notice to the bank on January 15, 2018 asking why a penalty not be imposed on Union Bank of India under the Act.

Sensex gains 147 pts as auto leads rally

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Markets remained in better form for the second straight session on Friday, with the Sensex closing over 147 points higher as auto shares zoomed on sustained buying by domestic institutional investors amid the rupee staging a recovery.

The rupee was trading higher by 29 paise at 71.70 (intra-day) against the dollar at the forex market. The domestic unit had hit a fresh life-time low of 72.11 before settling at 71.99 Thursday.

Trading sentiment got a massive lift following the government's decision to exempt electric vehicles (EVs) and automobiles run on alternative fuels from permit requirements in a bid to boost such vehicles in the country.

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

The Deputy Director, Horticulture, Horticulture Division-III, CPWD, New Delhi on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE PERCENTAGE RATE TENDERS from approved & eligible Contractors registered in Nursery Category of CPWD upto 11:00 A.M. on 17/09/2018 for the following work: 1. NIT No.: 143/2018-19/DD/HO-III/DELHI/2

SBFC SMALL BUSINESS FINCREDT INDIA PVT. LTD. Address: 762, Building No 7, 5th Floor, Solitaire Corporate Park, Andheri East, Mumbai - 400031 Telephone: +91 22 67875300

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by Small Business Fincredit India Pvt. Ltd. (Erstwhile Mape Finserve Pvt. Ltd.) on or after 15th September 2018 at 10 AM at Lajpat Nagar Regional Office, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Panipat Branch address: K-17, IInd Floor, Lajpat Nagar 2, New Delhi - 110042, 2B/1, First Floor, N.I.T. Faridabad, Haryana-121001 & 1st Floor, Property No.34/29, Subhash Nagar, New Railway Road, Gurgaon-122001 & 1st Floor, Java Complex, Above Vijaya Bank G Road, Panipat-132103, Haryana. In case the auction process is not completed on date 15th September 2018 then for the remaining auction process shall be continued till 30th of September 2018

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION CONST. DIV. NO. 1, JAMMU NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No. CD-1/97 of 2018-19 Dated 04-09-2018 Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Construction Division No. 1, Jammu Department Jammu on behalf of Governor of J&K State, invite tenders by e-tendering mode from approved & eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. upto 1600 Hrs on 19-09-2018 for the following work: S.No. 1 Name of Work:- Balance work for Completion of road from Chakrol to Nowabad via Hansa and Berta by way of construction of 100 Mtrs Span RCC Bridge on Chai Nallah on downstream side of road, 0.50 Mtr Span RCC Culvert (03 Nos.) and Edge Wall (125 Mtrs) including all links by way of RBM Filing, Providing and laying 150mm thick WBM Grade-II (Shingling) 75mm thick WMM, 50mm thick BM and 25mm thick SDBC (Under NABARD). Name of Division :- PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. 1 Jammu. Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lacs):- 99.35

ANS INDUSTRIES LIMITED Regd. Off: 136 KM, GT Road, Vill & PO Shamgarh, Karnal (Haryana)

Notice is hereby given that the 24th Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held on Friday, the 28th Day of September, 2018 at 11.30 A.M. at the registered office of the Company at 136 KM, PO-Shamgarh, District -Karnal, Haryana-132116 to transact the business set out in the notice of AGM.

Company is pleased to provide remote e-voting facility to shareholders through National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), to cast their right to vote from a place other than venue of AGM in respect of business set out in the notice of AGM. The e-voting period commences on Tuesday, the 25th day of September, 2018 at 9.00 A.M. and end on Thursday, the 27th day of September, 2018 at 5.00 P.M. during this period shareholder holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form may cast their vote electronically, the remote e-voting shall not be allowed beyond the said date and time and Cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote by remote e-voting 21st September, 2018.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Notice Inviting e-Tender

The Executive Engineer, Building Division South-East (M-421), PWD (R&C/T), Police Colony, Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi invites on behalf of the President of India percentage rate tender in two bid condition for following work(s): NIT No.: 63/South-East(B)/M/New Delhi/2018-19, Name of Work: A/R & M/O Non Residential Building under South-East(B)/M, Sub Division IV, during 2018-19 (SH: Repair of roof, floor and toilet renovation work at food and supply office Kasturba Khablan, Lajpat Nagar-II). Estimated Cost: Rs. 29.38798/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 50,676/-, Drawn in favour of EE, CEMD-M-421, PWD, New Delhi, time of completion of work 02 Months. The last date & time for receipt of tenders through e-auction is 17.09.2018 upto 15:00 hours & Tender ID No 2018\_PWD\_157971.1.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sunita Tyagi Dio Koral Singh Tyagi R/O C-912 GC Centrum Ahinsha Khand-II, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad have lost my 2 original sale deed dt. 9/12/2009. Doc. No. 15325 executed by Smt. Sneh Tyagi in favour of Sunita Tyagi, and another dt. 3/9/2009. Doc. No. 10973 executed by Shri. Anil Tyagi in favour of Sneh Tyagi in office of Registrar VIII, Delhi in respect of my property (one portion on GF) 59-A/1, Gali No. 3, Gurbanakpura, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092. Finder Contact: 9992978682

CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

F.No. 54(1)/SSKHD/2018-2019/ Dated: 06/09/2018 Corrigendum Name of work:- RMO AC Plant & Appliances at KSCH, New Delhi. E-Auction No. 6/AB/EE/SSKHD/Auc./ 2018-19. Estimated Cost: Rs. 22,000.00 Earnest Money: Rs. 2,200.00 Due to Administrative reason date of submission and Closing E-Auction are extended as below: Date of submission E-Auction: 17.09.2018 upto 11:00 AM. Date of Start E-Auction: 17.09.2018 at 13:00 Hrs Closing E-Auction: 17.09.2018 at 14:00 Hrs. Other terms and conditions shall remain same. Executive Engineer (E) SSKHD, CPWD, New Delhi.

# Bumrah strikes India's comeback

Indian bowlers clinch three wickets in quick succession to cut down England's advantage



English opener Alastair Cook plays a shot during his 71 run innings on the first day of Oval Test



Virat Kohli (right) shakes hand with Alastair Cook after he comes to bat in his final Test

## COOK GETS GUARD OF HONOUR FROM INDIAN TEAM, OVAL APPLAUDS

**LONDON:** Alastair Cook received a guard of honour from the Indian team, a handshake from Virat Kohli and a standing ovation from the Oval crowd as he walked out to bat in his final Test Friday. The 33-year-old Cook is playing his final Test for England after which he will retire from international cricket, a decision which he took earlier this week following a prolonged lean patch. As the batting great walked out to bat, he got a guard of honour from the visiting side, at the end of which he shook hands with captain Kohli. In 161 Tests, the country's highest run-getter has so far scored 12,254 runs at an average of 44.88 with 32 hundreds and 56 half centuries.

PTI ■ LONDON

Opener Alastair Cook hit a patient half-century in the final match of his career as England reached 123 for one at tea on the opening day of the fifth and final Test against India at the Oval on Friday.

The 33-year-old Cook, who is playing his final Test for England after which he will retire from international cricket, had eight hits to fence in his 177-ball unbeaten innings as he shared 60 runs with opening partner Keaton Jennings (23) and then forged an unconquered 63-run stand with Moeen Ali (23) for the second wicket.

At the break, Cook was unbeaten on 66 runs, while Ali was batting on 23 not out having faced 102 balls.

Post lunch, India toiled hard and tightened their lines as the pacers got some seam movement. Jasprit Bumrah (0-31) and Ishant Sharma (0-17) bowled threatening spells, and could have easily accounted for both batsmen.

In the 31st over, Ajinkya Rahane dropped Cook (on 37\*) at gully off Sharma. Three balls later, Virat Kohli dropped Ali (on 2\*) at third slip off Bumrah.

Ali also survived an lbw shout in 33rd over off Bumrah, with India's DRS appeal being turned down. In fact he was lucky to survive this ses-

sion at all, as Mohammed Shami (0-27) beat him on umpteen occasions but simply didn't find the edge.

Cook was more solid at the other end, and duly reached his 57th half-century off 139 balls to a rousing reception from the packed crowd. In doing so he put on 50 with Ali off 158 balls for the second wicket stand.

Despite India's toils the breakthrough didn't come, even as England scored at a slow pace with only 55 runs coming in the two-hour session with 100 coming up in only the 59th over.

Earlier, England made their best start of the series, reaching 68-1 at lunch after skipper Joe Root won his fifth consecutive toss of the series and

opted to bat.

Cook as given a 'guard of honour' by the Indian team as he walked out to bat in his final Test.

Opening bowlers Bumrah and Sharma found some movement in the initial overs, but the wicket turned out to be best for batting in this series so far.

The early movement disappeared very quickly as Cook and Jennings made a sedate start. Hanuma Vihari (0-1), who earned his maiden Test cap replacing Hardik Pandya, was also in action as he came on to bowl first-change in the 14th over.

It was his solitary over though, as Jadeja (1-36) and Shami took over bowling duties after the drinks' break.

Cook and Jennings brought up only their second 50-partnership this series off 107 balls, and went on to put up their best opening stand in five Tests — 60 runs. Their previous highest was 54 at Trent Bridge.

Jennings though couldn't go on for longer, as he edged Jadeja to leg slip in the 24th over with KL Rahul adding another catch to his tally.

Ali and Cook then batted out the remaining session until lunch, with India hardly creating any threatening chances.

England have already taken an unassailable 3-1 lead in the series with wins in Birmingham, Lord's and Southampton. India won the third Test at Nottingham.

## SINGLES

### WOODS AND MCILROY SHARE LEAD AT BMW C'SHIP

**PHILADELPHIA:** Tiger Woods fired his lowest opening round in nearly 20 years to join Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy at the top of the leaderboard at the BMW Championship on Thursday. The 14-time major winner Woods and McIlroy have a one-stroke lead after both shot eight-under 62 which marked the American's best PGA first round since the 1999 Byron Nelson Classic. Woods managed an eagle and seven birdies and his only hiccup being a late bogey on his back nine at the Aronimink Golf Course in Philadelphia. Woods was joined in the lead by McIlroy who highlighted his round of 10 birdies with a career-best six in succession, beginning with the last hole of his front nine. This is the first time Woods has shared a PGA Tour lead after any round since capturing the 2013 WGC-Cadillac Championship.

### MARADONA TO COACH DORADOS IN MEXICO

**LIACIN:** Argentine legend Diego Maradona has been hired to coach Mexican second-division football club Dorados in his latest foray into management, the club announced Thursday. Maradona's colorful career has included stints coaching the Argentine national team and a series of clubs around the world, and he had just started a job as president of Belarus side Dinamo Brest in July. But after parting ways with coach Francisco Ramirez Gamez, Dorados managed to convince 57-year-old Maradona to sign up for a spell in Mexico at the club known as 'Big Fish'. "Dorados of Sinaloa is pleased to announce Diego Armando Maradona is the new manager of the 'Big Fish,'" the club said in a statement.

### MUZARABANI TO JOIN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

**HARARE:** Zimbabwe pace bowler Blessing Muzarabani has agreed to join English county Northamptonshire on a three-year contract from the start of next season. Muzarabani revealed last month that he is putting his international ambitions on hold to chase a lucrative career in English county cricket. The 21-year-old had played in one Test, 18 one-day internationals and six Twenty20s for Zimbabwe, taking 27 wickets across the three formats. "I've come here to chase my dreams. I want to perform and achieve. I just can't wait to get started," he said. Muzarabani impressed in the World Cup qualifier earlier this year, taking career-best figures of four for 47 against Afghanistan.

### KANE TO FACE SPAIN IN EYE-CATCHING BOOTS

**LONDON:** England captain Harry Kane will wear gold boots in Saturday's Nations League clash against Spain to celebrate finishing as the World Cup's top scorer. Kane will be making his first England appearance since winning the Golden Boot trophy awarded for finishing as the most prolific player in World Cup. Tottenham striker Kane scored six goals during the tournament in Russia, helping England reach the semi-finals. Kane tweeted a picture of the boots, provided by Nike, and wrote: "Buzzing to wear these tomorrow night. Gold boots." Kane was the second England player to win the Golden Boot at a World Cup after Gary Lineker at the 1986 tournament in Mexico.

### SARRI FOUND OUT HE WAS SACKED AS NAPOLI COACH

**LONDON:** New Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri revealed on Friday that he found out he was sacked as coach of his previous club Napoli on television. Sarri had two years left on his contract after leading his hometown club to challenge champions Juventus for the title last season. But after Sarri asked for more time to consider his future, former Chelsea and Real Madrid boss Carlo Ancelotti was appointed as new coach of the Serie A runners-up. The 59-year-old Sarri told Il Mattino: "We were having dinner ... discussing whether or not to stay. We turned on the TV and we saw Ancelotti entering Filmauro. I had some doubts, that's fair, but there was a clause in the contract and it wasn't something I had asked for."

Agencies

## B'DESH RECALL MOMINUL FOR ASIA CUP

AFP ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh have added batsman Mominul Haque to their squad for the Asia Cup as backup to several players carrying injuries, selectors said on Friday.

"He is a top-order batsman, who can play as an opener or in (the) one-down position. So we thought his inclusion might be useful in the tournament," said Habibul Bashar.

Opener Tamim Iqbal has an issue with his finger while uncapped left-hander Nazmul Hossain hurt his left thumb during a recent training session. "We are hopeful they will both play. But we thought Mominul might play just in case they feel any problem," Bashar added.

Bangladesh are Pool B alongside Sri Lanka and Afghanistan in the six-nation Asia Cup, which will run from September 15-28 in the United Arab Emirates.

The Tigers also have some fitness concerns regarding all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who was keen to skip the Asia Cup to have a surgery on a finger.



B'desh players in training session

But the Bangladesh Cricket Board insisted on playing him in the tournament, putting his surgery on hold until October when they host Zimbabwe.

Shakib in a recent interview with the English-language Daily Star said that he is only 20-30 percent fit, a statement that was quickly dismissed by Bangladesh coach Steve Rhodes.

"I don't believe he is 20-30 percent fit. I think he is a lot fitter than that," Rhodes said in Dhaka on Thursday.

"He is not fully fit. But if he plays anything like he played in the Caribbean, then that will be a massive asset to Bangladesh cricket," Rhodes said.

## HIMA OPTS OUT OF IAAF CONTINENTAL CUP

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sprint sensation Hima Das has pulled out of the IAAF Continental Cup as the Athletics Federation of India wants her to give rest after a hectic season which saw her become the junior world 400m champion.

The prestigious tournament is to be held in Czech Republic on Saturday.

Hima was initially among seven Indian athletes who were to take part in the season-ending IAAF event in Ostrava on September 8 and 9 but has now been replaced by Australia's Anneliese Rubbie as the second runner from Asia-Pacific.

The Continental Cup is competed among four teams — Europe, Africa, America and Asia-Pacific — in 18 events each in both men and women's sections and the mixed 4x400m relay. The top two athletes in the season's rankings from each of the four regions take part in the Continental Cup.

"Yes, Hima is not running in the IAAF Continental Cup. The AFI has decided to give her rest. She has run so many races this year from the Commonwealth Games to the World Juniors and the Asian Games. It is not good to make her run so many races," a top coach said on Friday.

The coach, however, ruled out any injury to Hima, though reports had said she sustained minor side strains during

the mixed 4x400m relay race during the Asian Games due to 'obstruction' by a Bahraini runner. She was also seen limping after running the 4x400m relay race in Jakarta.

"There is no injury to Hima. Athletes need good recovery time after a hectic season. She is very young, she has just started her career and we have to preserve and manage her workload lest she is burnt out," the coach said.

The 18-year-old from a village near Dhing in Assam started running only in late 2016 but has quickly risen to be the new Indian sprint sensation in a short span of time.

She created history by becoming the first Indian to win a track Gold in World Junior Championships in Finland in July. In the just-concluded Asian Games, she broke two national records in a span of two days in the women's 400m (51.00 and 50.79 seconds) race though she had to be content with a Silver behind Salwa Naser (50.09) of Bahrain.

Hima was also part of the Gold-winning 4x400m relay team and silver-winning mixed 4x400m relay quartet.

Neeraj Chopra (men's javelin), Arpinder Singh (men's triple jump), Mohd Anas (men's 400m), Jinson Johnson (men's 800m), Sudha Singh (women's 3000m steeplechase) and P U Chitra (women's 1500m) are the Indians taking part in the Continental Cup.



India Blue players pose with Duleep Trophy

## INDIA BLUE WIN DULEEP TROPHY

PTI ■ DINDIGUL

India Blue thrashed defending champion India Red by an innings and 187 runs in the final Friday to win the Duleep Trophy at NPR College ground here.

Spinners Deepak Jagbir Hooda (5 for 56) and Saurabh Kumar (5 for 51) needed just 10.5 overs for the fourth day to bundle out India Red for 172 in the second innings.

Overnight not-out batsmen Ishan Kishan and Wriddick Chatterjee fell in the space of 10 runs to left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar and Hooda respectively.

The talented, young Kishan could only add five runs to his score of 25, while Chatterjee moved from 13 to 15 before being caught by Ricky Bhui off Hooda.

Off-spinner Hooda picked up the wickets of M Prasadhi (7) and Ishan Porel (6) to finish things off for India Blue.

Earlier, Saurabh had Mihir Hirwani (5) caught behind by Smit Patel.

Left-arm spinner Swapnil Singh, who took 5 for 58 in India Red's first innings, bowled only three overs and went wicketless in the second.

Swapnil had a pretty good match as he scored 69 in India Blue's only innings apart from the five-wicket haul. Nikhil Gangta was named man of the match for his superb knock of 130.

## Srikanth, Prannoy way below in race for World Tour Finals

**NEW DELHI:** With big guns K Srikanth and HS Prannoy battling poor form, Sameer Verma emerged as the best-placed Indian in the race for a place in the BWF World Tour Finals with two-thirds of the season completed.

Sameer, who had clinched the Swiss Open earlier this year, remained in the hunt to qualify for the USD 1,500,000 season-ending event as he is currently in the sixth place in Race to Guangzhou Rankings.

However, Srikanth, who had an exceptional season last year, languished at 41st place as his best finish this season was a semi-final at the Malaysia Open.

Prannoy, who had a topsy-turvy year with a series of injuries, was at the 42nd place.

In women's singles, Olympic and World Championship Silver medallist P V Sindhu was firmly at the second place, while Saina Nehwal was at 27th.

The BWF World Tour Finals will be held from December 12 to 16 at Guangzhou, China and only the top eight players in each of the five disciplines of the HSBC Race to Guangzhou Rankings will qualify to compete in the season finale.

PTI

## 'WHY DO YOU NEED PSYCHOLOGIST?'



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian hockey team's perennial problem of conceding late goals has raised concerns about nerves but men's coach Harendra Singh Friday rejected the idea of getting a psychologist on board, saying the word has a "negative vibe" to it.

The men's team fetched a rather disappointing Bronze at the recently-concluded Asian Games after losing in a shoot-out to Malaysia in the semi-



Indian players present during the official launch of new World Cup Collection in Mumbai on Friday

nals. India eventually defeated Pakistan for the Bronze in the play-off.

The setback didn't just cost the team a shot at a second successive Gold but also direct qualification to the 2020 Olympics.

Asked if the side needed help to deal with pressure situations with professional help, Harendra was dismissive.

"Why do you need psychologists?" he asked.

If gaining confidence is the aim, then you can even consult a commoner and take motivation from him. The word psychologist itself carries a negative vibe and the players feel that they are doing something wrong for which they need to consult a psychologist," he said on the sidelines of the team's jersey launch.

"I don't know that word. In any team the biggest psychologist is the coach and you yourself. If I'll not motivate myself then no one in the world can motivate (me)," said Harendra.

He said it is the coach's job to ensure that the players' emotional needs are understood and addressed.

"...Rather than going and getting the help from a psychologist, who has no clue about the team and sports, no clue about how the players behave," he explained.

As for the team's overall Asia performance, Harendra described it as a bad memory and a learning curve.

"Look at the positive side, look at the data and then move to the World Cup. Whatever happened at the

Asian Games, that's a big learning curve for the players, coach and the staff," Harendra said.

"...That should not be repeated, that is more important, whatever happened we can erase that bad memory when we do well in the World Cup," Harendra told reporters here referring to the premier tournament in December.

The coach and the entire team, along with legends such as Ajit Pal Singh, Ashok Kumar, Dilip Turkey, Dhanraj Pillee and Sandeep Singh, was at the Friday event.

"They (the team) have a lot of positive things and if we move forward with that positive mindset. We are mentally and physically capable of turning (things around)," the coach said.

## Sameer faces Gurusaidutt in semis

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Indian shuttlers Sameer Verma and RMV Gurusaidutt set up a semifinal clash after staving off spirited challenge from their respective opponents in the men's singles competition of the \$ 75,000 BWF Tour Super 100 tournament here Friday.

Top seed Sameer, who had clinched the Swiss Open this year, had to dig deep into his reservoir to outwit compatriot Pratul Joshi 16-21, 26-24, 21-7 in a match that lasted 55 minutes.

Gurusaidutt, a former Commonwealth Games Bronze medallist, recovered from a game down to outwit Malaysia's Lim Chi Wing 13-21, 22-20, 21-11 in a 59-minute quarterfinal match.

Among other Indians in fray, Commonwealth Games Silver medallists Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty outclassed India's Tarun Kona and Malaysia's Lim Khim Wah 21-13, 21-10 to sail into the last four.

Fourth seeds Arun George and Sanyam Shukla also entered the final four with a 21-17, 21-15 win over Hong Kong's Chan Tsz Kit and Yeung Shing Choi to set up a semifinal clash with Satwik and Chirag.

The top Indian mixed doubles pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and N Sikki Reddy defeated Hong Kong's Yeung Ming Nok and Ng Tsz Yau 22-20, 14-21, 21-17 in a 52-minute match to also progress to the semifinals.

The world no 24 Indian pair will face another Hong Kong combination of Chang

Tak Ching and Ng Wing Yung, seeded fifth, on Saturday.

However in women's singles, Sri Krishna Priya Kudaravalli and Rasika Rajee bowed out after suffering defeats in the quarterfinals.

While Jia Min of Singapore ended Sri Krishna's run in the tournament with a 21-12, 21-12 win, Rajee was outwitted 19-21, 8-21 by Sim Yu Jin of Korea in another quarterfinal clash.

The mixed doubles pairs of S Sunjith and Sruthi KP and Arjun MR and Maneesha K also crashed out of the contest. Second seeded men's doubles pair of Arjun MR and Ramchandran Shlok and women's doubles pair of Pooja D and Sanjana Santosh also failed to cross the quarterfinal hurdle.



प्रदेश की उन्नति के लिए प्रार्थना, प्रयास और यात्रा

अटल विकास यात्रा के तीसरे दिन की शुरुआत मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. रमन सिंह ने बागबाहरा के घुंघापाली स्थित माँ चण्डी माता के दर्शन के साथ की. उन्होंने उद्गुप्त शक्ति पीठ श्री चण्डी माता मंदिर में पूजा अर्चना कर प्रदेश की तरक्की और खुशहाली की कामना की. प्रदेश ने विगत वर्षों में विकास के कई नए कीर्तिमान स्थापित किये हैं. प्रदेश हमेशा ही विकास की दौड़ में सबसे आगे रहा है. डॉ. रमन सिंह परिसर में श्री आदिवासी धुव गोड़ समाज द्वारा नवनिर्मित बड़ा देव मन्दिर की स्थापना और पूजन कार्यक्रम में भी शामिल हुए. उन्होंने मंदिर के निर्माण में गोड़ समाज के सहयोग की भावना और उनकी मेहनत की सराहना की.

संकल्प अटल, विकास अटल



सबका साथ-सबका विकास

**नवा छत्तासिंह 2025**

“नवा छत्तासिंह 2025” के निर्माण हेतु अपने विचार एवं सुझाव नीचे दिये माध्यमों से दे सकते हैं. ✆ 8287812345 पर मिस कॉल करें.  
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# STAGE SET FOR HISTORIC FINAL

Chasing record 24th major Serena Williams will face Naomi Osaka in the championship decider

AFP ■ NEW YORK

Six-time champion Serena Williams swept aside Anastasija Sevastova on Thursday to reach a ninth US Open final, where she'll face Japanese trail blazer Naomi Osaka.

Williams, seeded 17th as she seeks to add to her 23 Grand Slam titles for the first time since the birth of her daughter Olympia last year, needed just 66 minutes to dispatch the 19th-seeded Sevastova 6-3, 6-0.

Osaka, seeded 20th, became the first Japanese woman to reach a Grand Slam final with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over American Madison Keys — last year's beaten finalist.

Williams called her return to the US Open final for a ninth time "incredible" given that she was undergoing surgery for life threatening blood clots this time last year in the wake of giving birth.

"To come from that, in the hospital bed, not being able to move and walk and do anything, now only a year later, I'm not training, but I'm actually in these finals, in two in a row," said Williams, who also reached the final at Wimbledon.

"To come this far so fast .... I'm really looking forward to the possibilities." Williams lost out in the semi-finals of her last two US Opens, in 2015 and 2016.

But with six titles in New York she needs just one more to surpass Chris Evert for most all-time — and she needs just one more Grand Slam title to equal Australian Margaret Court's all-time record of 24.

Osaka, 20 and in the last four at a Slam for the first time, admitted she was driven by the idea of facing Williams.

Asked how she managed to save all 13 break points she faced, Osaka said: "I was just thinking I really want to play Serena."

Asked to elaborate, Osaka seemed stunned. "Because she's Serena — what do you mean!" said Osaka, who had already made



history along with men's semi-finalist Kei Nishikori as the first Japanese man and woman to reach the last four at the Slam. "It still feels really weird because I've never beaten Madison before," she said. "I'm just glad I was able to get through this match."

**'JUST GETTING STARTED'**

Serena Williams once again targets a record 24th Grand Slam singles title at the US Open on Saturday.

Win or lose, the US great says she's just getting started in the latest phase of her career.

"I'm still on the way up," said the 36-year-old, who is playing her seventh tournament since the birth of daughter Olympia on September 1 2017. "There's still much more that I plan on doing."

Williams came agonizingly close to matching Australian Margaret Court's all-time record of 24 major titles at Wimbledon, but fell to Angelique Kerber in the final.

It was the high point of a return that began in March and has not surprisingly been, at times, erratic. But once again Williams has shown she can rise to the occasion on the game's biggest stages.

Another US Open title — four years after her sixth — would be not a culmination but a springboard, she said.

"I just feel like there's a lot of growth still to go in my game, that's actually the most exciting part," she said.

"Even though I'm not a spring chicken, I still have a very, very bright future."

The players that have faced her so far in Flushing Meadows say the current Serena is tough enough — perhaps as good as ever.

"It's tough to say," said Anastasija Sevastova after Williams swept past her 6-3, 6-0 in the semi-finals. "She played finals in Wimbledon. She's playing finals here. I think this year is not bad for her."

Eighth-seeded Karolina Pliskova, who briefly rose to number one last year, fell to Williams in the quarter-finals, two years after shocking her in the semis.

"I don't feel any difference," Pliskova said of Williams's game. "She's playing with the same power. She can still serve well. I think maybe she's back on the level where she was."

**'I LOVE YOU' OSAKA TELLS SERENA**

Naomi Osaka told US Open title opponent Serena Williams "I love you" just moments after she became the first Japanese woman to reach a Grand Slam final.

The 20-year-old breakout star of the tournament swept into the record books and Saturday's championship match against

the 23-time major winner with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Madison Keys, the runner-up in 2017.

When asked on court what she told herself as she served for the match, she said: "Don't double fault".

"Why," asked the interviewer. "Serena," replied the charismatic Osaka.

"I love you, Serena," she added before adding "I love you, mom; I love everybody".

Osaka, the 20th seed, has met and defeated Williams once — at Miami in March. That win came just a week after she had lifted her first top-level trophy at the prestigious Indian Wells event in California.

Saturday will be the fulfillment of Osaka's childhood dream of facing Williams in a Grand Slam final.

"It still feels a little bit, like, surreal. Even when I was a little kid, I always dreamed that I would play Serena in a final of a Grand Slam," she said.

"Just the fact that it's happening, I'm very happy about it. At the same time I feel like even though I should enjoy this moment, I should still think of it as another match."

"Yeah, I shouldn't really think of her as, like, my idol. I should just try to play her as an opponent." The contrast on Saturday cannot be greater.

Serena will be playing in her 31st Grand Slam final and ninth at the US Open where she is a six-time champion.

When the American, 16 years her senior, won her first US Open in 1999, Osaka was not yet two years old.

Whatever happens in the final, Osaka said she will remain a fan of the American who is chasing a record-equalling 24th major, just a year after giving birth and undergoing four post-natal surgeries.

"When you just come back and then you make the finals of two slams, I think that's really amazing," added Osaka in reference to Williams's runner-up spot at Wimbledon in July.

## Germany hold France, Bale stars for Wales

AFP ■ MUNICH

World Cup winners France were held to a 0-0 draw by Germany in a flat start to the new UEFA Nations League on Thursday, as Gareth Bale starred in a big win for Wales.

The heavyweight showdown at the Allianz Arena between the last two winners of the World Cup looked like the perfect game to mark the opening night of the new international competition.

However, on a rainy night in Bavaria, the meeting of the last two world champions never really sparked into life, although the French were grateful to goalkeeper Alphonse Areola for a couple of fine saves in the second half.

Areola was starting in goal in place of the injured Hugo Lloris, winning his first cap in the only change made by France coach Didier Deschamps compared to the side that started the World Cup final win over Croatia in July.

The Paris Saint-Germain goalkeeper intervened brilliantly to deny Marco Reus and keep out a Matthias Ginter header, while Antoine Griezmann's well-struck shot that was saved by Manuel Neuer was as close as France came.

"I know that we are getting greedy, but a draw in Germany is a good result," Deschamps told French television channel TF1.

The Netherlands are the other team in Group 1 of League A, and Ronald Koeman's team travel to Paris on Sunday, when the French will turn out at home for the first time since their glorious campaign in Russia.

The top sides in each of the four groups in League A will advance to a mini final tournament in June next year, with the overall Nations League title at stake before the Euro 2020 qualifiers begin.

Below the elite league, there is promotion and relegation and also a potential path to the European Championship for those who do not make it via the traditional qualifiers.

**GOOD NIGHT FOR GIGGS**

Bale scored a stunning goal as an impressive Wales beat the Republic of Ireland 4-1 in Ryan Giggs's first competitive match as manager.

Bale followed up his fine start to the season with Real Madrid by curling in a



Marco Reus (l) and N'Golo Kante challenge for ball AP

sensational strike from outside the box in the 18th minute of their League B encounter in Cardiff.

It was a 30th international goal for Bale, who is Wales' all-time leading goal-scorer. Tom Lawrence had already given Wales the lead before that, and 17-year-old Ethan Ampadu set up Aaron Ramsey for the third goal before half-time.

Ireland's 1-0 win in Cardiff last October had ended Wales' World Cup dream, but Martin O'Neill's side were dreadful this time.

Bale set up Connor Roberts for the hosts' fourth after the break, before substitute Shaun Williams pulled a goal back for the Irish after robbing Ramsey of possession.

"We wanted to put in a performance in front of the fans and put out a statement," Bale told Sky Sports.

Wales go to Denmark on Sunday, with the Danes expected to field a full-strength side in that game after sending out a team of lower-league and futsal players in a 3-0 friendly loss in Slovakia on Wednesday.

Also in League B, Ukraine came from behind to win 2-1 in the Czech Republic with Oleksandr Zinchenko scoring the decisive goal in stoppage time.

In League C, Fulham's Stefan Johansen scored twice as Norway beat Cyprus 2-0, and Bulgaria won 2-1 in Slovenia.

The first ever goal of the new Nations League was a stunner, scored by Giorgi Chakvetadze in distant Astana, as Georgia beat Kazakhstan 2-0 in Group 1 of League D. In the same league, Arsenal's Henrikh Mkhitaryan had a penalty saved as his Armenia beat Liechtenstein 2-1.

## Portugal draws with Modric's Croatia

AP ■ FARO

With Cristiano Ronaldo absent and Luka Modric in action, Portugal and Croatia drew 1-1 in a friendly Thursday.

In its first game since reaching the World Cup final, Croatia got on the board with forward Ivan Perisic's goal and defender Pepe equalized before half-time.

The Portuguese had most of the scoring chances but could not break through the Croatian defense at Algarve Stadium in southern Portugal.

Coach Fernando Santos did not call up Ronaldo saying the player needed more rest following a busy summer that included a transfer from Real Madrid to Juventus.

Modric, a finalist with Ronaldo and Salah for the FIFA player of the year award, was substituted in the second half.

Portugal was eliminated by Uruguay in the round of 16 of the World Cup. Croatia lost the final to France.

Defending European champion Portugal will make its UEFA Nations League debut against Italy on Monday. Croatia will open at Spain on Tuesday.



Luka Modric fights for the ball with Mario Rui, right, during the friendly AP

## SNEIJDER DEPARTS WITH WIN

AFP ■ AMSTERDAM

Wesley Sneijder turned out for the Netherlands for the 134th and final time on Thursday as Memphis Depay's brace secured a 2-1 friendly win over Peru here.

On an emotional night at the Johan Cruyff Arena, Dutch coach Ronald Koeman handed over the captain's armband to Sneijder, who is now 34.

Sneijder, the former Real Madrid and Inter Milan playmaker who moved to Al Gharafa of Qatar earlier this year, took the microphone and encouraged fans to join him for a beer on their way out of the stadium.

A star of the Dutch team that got to the 2010 World Cup final, Sneijder received a warm ovation from the 50,000 fans at the home of Ajax, the club where he

began his career.

The most-capped Dutch player of all time, who won his first cap in 2003, leaves behind a team trying to rebuild after failing to qualify for Euro 2016 or the last World Cup.

Koeman is trying to build a side capable of making it to Euro 2020 built around Liverpool centre-back Virgil van Dijk and also featuring young Ajax starlet Matthijs de Ligt.

They fell behind against the Peruvians through a Pedro Aquino goal early on, but Lyon forward Depay equalised on the hour mark before netting the winner seven minutes from time.

Koeman later confirmed he would make "several changes" for Sunday's trip to face World Cup winners France in their first match in the new UEFA Nations League.



Wesley Sneijder acknowledges the applause after getting substituted during international friendly match against Peru on Thursday AP

## Junior shooters deliver 2 Gold, 1 Silver

PTI ■ CHANGWON

There was no stopping the golden run of India's junior shooters with Friday Hazarika claiming the 10m air rifle top honours before the women's team combined for a new world record and Gold at the ISSF World Championships here on Friday.

Elavenil Valarivan also won the individual Silver in women's 10m air rifle, going down narrowly to China's double senior World Cup Gold-medallist Shi Mengyao, in the final.

Elavenil shot 249.8 to Shi's 250.5. The 17-year old Shreya Agrawal won the Bronze with an effort of 228.4 in the final. This is the tournament's 52nd edition.

Four podium finishes on the sixth day of competition took India's tally to 18, their best-ever showing in the International Shooting Sport Federation's (ISSF) premier tournament. The country's previous best was the six medals won during the 49th edition in Zagreb, Croatia.

Hazarika, the lone Indian to qualify for the men's final with a score of 627.3, was tied with Iran's Mohammed Amir Nekounam on 250.1 once the field was pruned to the regulation top eight. But the 17-year-old Indian clinched



Indian shooters celebrates after Friday Hazarika wins Gold in 10m air rifle during ISSF World C'Ship ISSF

the yellow metal after prevailing in a shoot-off at the prestigious tournament.

As the individual shots began, Hazarika strung together a fantastic series of high 10s and by the end of the 20th shot, he was leading the field by 0.5.

He held on to the lead till the 22nd shot from Nekounam. Then a 9.4 for his

23rd shot meant that at the end of the allotted 24 shots, both Hazarika and Nekounam found themselves tied at 250.1 points each.

In the shoot-off, Hazarika had the last laugh with a 10.3 to the Iranian's 10.2.

In the women's 10m air rifle, the team of Elavenil (631), Shreya Agrawal

(628.5) and Manini Kaushik (621.2) then produced a sensational performance to total 1880.7 for a Gold with a world record to boot.

The score by Elavenil, a junior world cup Gold-medallist, was also a new junior world record.

The men's team, comprising Hazarika, Divyansh Panwar and Arjun Babuta, finished fourth with a combined total of 1872.3.

There was disappointment for the country in the senior men's 50m rifle three position competition as none of the Indians in fray managed to make the cut for the finals.

Asian Games Silver-medallist Sanjeev Rajput was the lowest placed Indian at 58th with a score of 1158.

Swapnil Kusale was 55th with a score of 1161 while Akhil Sheoran took the 44th position with 1167.

The Indian team, comprising the trio, ended 11th with a total of 3503.

In women's 25m pistol, teenager Manu Bhaker was the best-placed Indian after the first precision stage of qualification, shooting an impressive 294 out of 300 to be among the joint top four scores. Asian Games champion Rahi Sarnobat was lying 27th with 289 while Asiad Bronze medallist Heena Sidhu shot 284 to be in 61st position.