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OF FRIENDSHIP

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TO STOP FLOW OF WATER: PAK

SPORT 15
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ACTION ON DAY 1 OF ISSF WC

LUCKNOW, SATURDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹3

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Pak kept in FATF grey terror list

PSN ■ NEW DELHI

The international terror financing watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Friday condemned the Pulwama terror attack that martyred 44 CRPF jawans and decided to continue the 'Grey' listing of Pakistan for its failure to stop funding of terrorist groups such as Jaish-e-Mohammad, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and Jamat-ul-Dawa.

The Paris headquartered FATF observed that Pakistan is not properly understanding the risk of terror financing and there are many deficiencies in maintaining proper actions to curb terror financing.

In a statement, the FATF said Pakistan should continue to work on implementing its action plan to address its strategic deficiencies, including by adequately demonstrating its proper understanding of the terror financing risks posed by the terrorist groups and conducting supervision on a risk-sensitive basis.

"The FATF notes with grave concern and condemns the terrorist attack last week that killed at least 44 Indian security forces in Pulwama," it said after the week-long FATF plenary held in Paris.

"Pakistan has revised its terror financing risk assessment. However, it does not demonstrate a proper understanding of the TF risks posed by Daesh (ISIS), Al-Qaida, JuD, FIF (Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation), LeT, JeM (Jaish-e-Mohammad), HQN (Haqqani Network) and persons affiliated with the Taliban," the statement said.

Given the limited progress on action plan items due in January 2019, the FATF urged Pakistan to swiftly complete its action plan, particularly those with timelines of May 2019. An Indian official, who attended the FATF plenary, explained that placement in compliance document means putting the country in 'Grey' list and it will be reviewed again in June 2019. In June 2018, Pakistan was



FATF president Marshall Billingslea presents the outcomes from FATF Week to the media

primary where India submitted new information about Pakistan-based terrorist groups, including Jaish-e-Mohammad, responsible for the Pulwama attack.

The FATF continuing Pakistan with the 'Grey' listing means downgrading of the country by multilateral lenders like IMF, World Bank, ADB, EU and also a reduction in risk rating by Moody's, S&P and Fitch, a security official said. Pakistan was nominated for a detailed review of its "serious deficiencies" in countering terror financing in February 2018. This nomination was supported by the US, the United Kingdom, France, Germany and India, the official said.

At the end of this plenary, the FATF has observed that several deficiencies remain in Pakistan's legal regime in dealing with terror financing. Since June 2018, Pakistan has made a high-level political commitment (statement by its Minister of Finance) to work with and address its strategic

counter-terrorist financing-related deficiencies.

At the start of its deliberations, all FATF members observed a minute of silence for the 44 CRPF jawans who were martyred. The President of FATF expressed sincere condolences to the people and the Government of India. The FATF currently has 35 members and two regional organisations — European Commission and Gulf Cooperation Council.

The FATF also said Pakistan should continue to work on implementing its action plan to address its strategic deficiencies, including by adequately demonstrating its proper understanding of the terror financing risks posed by the terrorist groups and conducting supervision on a risk-sensitive basis, demonstrating

that remedial actions and sanctions are applied in cases of Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Combating Financing of Terrorism (CFT) violations and that these actions have an effect on AML/CFT compliance by financial institutions.

Pakistan should demonstrate that competent authorities are cooperating and taking action to identify and take enforcement action against illegal money or value transfer services (MVTS), demonstrating that authorities are identifying cash couriers and enforcing controls on illicit movement of currency and understanding the risk of cash couriers being used for TF, improving inter-agency coordination including between provincial and federal authorities on combating TF risks besides others, it said.

TIGHTENING NOOSE

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- It decided to continue the 'Grey' listing of Pakistan for its failure to stop funding of terrorist groups such as JeM, LeT and JuD
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UNSC names JeM for Pulwama, China belittles resolution

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The UN Security Council (UNSC) statement on the Pulwama terror attack by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) was delayed by one week due to China's opposition.

A day after it emerged that China, an all weather ally of Pakistan, did not want a reference to the JeM in the statement of UN's most powerful 15-nation body, which strongly condemned the Pulwama terror attack, Beijing has tried to downplay the resolution and said the mention of the Pakistan-based terror group does not represent a judgement and is only in "general terms."

The UN condemnation came a day after Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Maleeha Lodhi met top UN leaders, including Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, to brief them about the escalating tensions in the region in the wake of the Pulwama attack but her efforts did not bear any fruit.

China has over the years used its veto power to scuttle a move by India at the UN to put

Jaish-e-Mohammad founder Masood Azhar on the global terror list.

The UNSC on Thursday condemned in the "strongest terms" the "heinous and cowardly" terror attack perpetrated by JeM, in a show of solidarity and support to India.

However, the US assiduously worked as "pen holder" making various adjustments to get the approval by all other members of the UNSC, sources said here.

Sharing details of diplomatic wrangling, the sources said the UNSC statement on Pulwama was to be issued on February 15 but China repeatedly sought extension of timing. China broke "silence" procedure two times suggesting multiple amendments aiming to "derail" the effort.

"However, notwithstanding hectic Chinese and Pakistani efforts, the UNSC agreed to issue the first statement in its history regarding an attack on Indian troops in J&K," the sources said.

The UNSC statement contained specific language proposed by India

Continued on Page 7

Pak at sea as India withdraws MFN

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Removal of Pakistan from the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status is not a knee-jerk reaction post-Pulwama terror attack but a well-calibrated and calculated tactical decision aimed at squeezing Pakistan not only economically but also to increase its dependence on third country ports for import of consumer items like fruits, vegetables and wheat flour besides medicines and raw materials for the textile industry among others which in turn will lead to cost escalation in the Pakistani market.

Dependence on ports of other countries will lead to cost escalation of consumer items especially daily consumer goods like vegetables and grains leading to scarcity and subsequently unrest. Before, the removal of Pakistan from the MFN status, the goods were sent from India via land ports and transport cost was negligible with a nominal tax by Islamabad on imports from India, making such products cheaper for the Pakistanis.

Due to MFN, Pakistani exports to India were duty free but now India has slapped a duty of 200 per cent, dissuading the importers here from picking up the goods. This will also adversely hit the Pakistani exporters negatively



as they will be deprived of a sizeable consumer base here.

While India had unilaterally extended the MFN status treating Pakistan as a SAARC member, Islamabad had not reciprocated.

Assessments here suggest, the imports will be limited to the supplies for the companies owned by Pakistan Army amid soaring prices and the general people will be bound to suffer due to unavailability of daily need consumables.

When unrest will increase on the issue of scarcity of the consumer items, the Pakistan-based insurgent groups and the miffed locals may start hitting the logistics chain for such imports, sources here said.

As much as 85 per cent of the medicine market in Pakistan was dependent on Indian exports and the textile industry was dependent cent per cent on raw material

imports from India. After the removal from the MFN list, goods will be exported to Iran and then re-exported to Pakistan and in the process the items will be costlier.

Counter-terrorism expert Dr Rituraj Mate said, "UAE ports may not be viable due to high tariff for sending consignments to Gwadar port. The tariffs at ports of UAE are higher as they have been in existence for significant period. This will lead to dependence of Pakistan on the Chabahar port of Iran which being new has a lower tariff base. Same is the case for Gwadar."

With a sizeable investment in development of Chabahar port, India will gain by getting tariffs on the goods exported to Pakistan. Once this trade course takes shape, the Chinese, who own the Gwadar port will also ultimately benefit by handling such cargo

from the Iranian port.

With an increasing cargo receipts by the Gwadar port, the Baloch groups may also demand royalty on such imports for exploiting the port infrastructure. In such a situation, Al Qaeda affiliates JeM and LeT will also start targeting the logistics chain as their funding will be hit amid a negative economic environment.

Increased trade via Chabahar-Gwadar ports will create a win-win situation for both India and China to the detriment of Pakistan, sources said.

In the backdrop of economic measures against terror sponsor Pakistan, Indian consumers have turned dead against Pakistan. If this mindset, especially in the aftermath of Pulwama suicide on February 14, continues, the sentiment will subsequently turn against all such countries that support Pakistan financially or carry on business relations with it.

Given the continuous backing both in terms of funding and military hardware by US to Pakistan besides inaction against even sanctioned terrorists like LeT chief Hafiz Sayeed and his deputy Abdul Rahman Makkji and others, the anti-US sentiment is also likely hit American companies as well.

Anupriya threatens to divorce cavalier BJP, meets Priyanka

Shah reaches out to Rajbhar

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Apna Dal (Sonelal), a key BJP ally in UP, has convened a meeting of its leaders on February 28 to take call on continuing alliance with the BJP for the Lok Sabha polls.

Union Minister of State for Health Anupriya Patel, along with her husband and party MLC Ashish Patel, met Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and her colleague Jyotriditya Scindia in New Delhi on Thursday and had a long talk to explore the possibility of a pre-poll tie-up.

The NDA ally had contested and won two seats in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections in UP. It has a support base in the OBC Kurmi community in districts around Allahabad,



Mirzapur, Sonbhadra and Varanasi. The Apna Dal (S) contested the 2017 Assembly polls and won nine seats.

"Some differences cropped up and we gave them time to answer our questions by February 20. But they did not have any answers. So it appears that the BJP is not interested in listening to our complaints," Anupriya said.

"Now Apna Dal is independent to take its own decision. We have called a party meeting and whatever will be decided in the meeting, you will be informed," she said, clarifying that there was no conflict

with the BJP over seat-sharing. Meanwhile, in an effort to keep the flock together, BJP chief Amit Shah reached out to another NDA ally from UP, Om Prakash Rajbhar. Rajbhar's Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party has influence in eastern UP districts bordering Bihar.

The smaller NDA allies have upped the ante after the BJP in the last two months conceded a considerable space to its partners in Bihar and Maharashtra for stitching a larger coalition for the general elections.

Sources in the BJP said that the aggressive posturing by Apna Dal (S) could be because Anupriya wants more seats in the Lok Sabha elections.

The Apna Dal (S) president's husband Ashish Patel denied any conflict with the BJP on seat-sharing.

"We honestly want PM Modi to get re-elected. But for that, the State BJP has to change its attitude," he said.

CAPSULE

PAK GOVT SEIZES JAISH HQ AMID GLOBAL PRESSURE

Lahore: Bowing down to intense international pressure to rein in terrorist groups operating from its soil, the Pakistan Government on Friday took over the control of HQ of Jaish-e-Mohammad, which claimed responsibility for the Pulwama suicide attack that martyred 44 CRPF personnel.

SC TO GOVT: ACT AGAINST ASSAULT ON KASHMIRIS

New Delhi: The SC on Friday directed chief secretaries and DGPs of States and UTs to take "prompt" action to prevent incidents of threat, social boycott and violence against Kashmiris following the Pulwama attack.

SWAMI HANSDEVACHARYA KILLED IN ROAD MISHAP

Lucknow: Swami Hansdevacharya, a key figure associated with the Ram temple movement, died on Friday in a road accident in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao district. Three of his associates traveling with him were injured in the accident. The accident took place early in the morning near Devkhari village of Ganj Moradabad on Agra-Lucknow expressway.

UP ATS arrests 2 suspected JeM ultras in Deoband

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two suspects with alleged links with terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad were arrested from Deoband in Saharanpur in a swoop by an Anti-Terrorist Squad, led by IG Aseem Arun, in the intervening night of Thursday-Friday.

Posing as students without taking admission anywhere, the duo were staying in Deoband and were engaged in recruiting new faces for their organisation.

Chats linked to jihad, videos, pictures linked with JeM and two 30 calibre pistols

and 30 cartridges were also recovered from their possession. DGP OP Singh told the media in Lucknow on Friday that the UP ATS had arrested Shahnawaz Ahmad Teli of Kulgam district and Aquib Ahmad Malik from Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir and they were aged between 20 and 25 years.

Singh said the Jammu and Kashmir police were being contacted to get more inputs about the arrested duo. He also said that information about their period of stay in Deoband was also being collected.

Extinct Fernandina species theory turns turtle

Giant tortoise sighted after 100 years in Ecuador

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Conservationists are thrilled at the discovery of a species of giant tortoise — believed to have been extinct 100 years ago — from the remote volcanic island of Galapagos in Ecuador.

In celebration of this historic discovery, the Turtle Conservancy and the Global Wildlife Conservation are pledging a \$1,00,000 to further conservation efforts of the Fernandina Giant Tortoise. Fernandina Giant Tortoise last

sighted in 1906. The rediscovery has raised hopes of breeding the species which is listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as "critically endangered and possibly extinct."

Forrest Galante, biologist and host of Animal Planet's "Extinct or Alive", who had stumbled upon the adult female tortoise, said it to be around 100 years old.

Galante's team, including Galapagos national park ranger Jeffery Malaga and the director of the Galapagos Conservancy, Washington Tapia, crossed a three-mile stretch of hardened lava flow to arrive at an area identified the previous day as potential habitat that could support a population of Fernandina tortoise, according to a Animal Planet statement.



Having positively identified tortoise scat in the field, the team located an active bedding site before finding the animal nearby. The tortoise was found sheltering from the equatorial sun, buried deep under a pile of brush. A team of international turtle biologists at the Turtle Conservancy studied photos and video of the tortoise and confirmed it is likely to be Chelonoidis phantasticus.

"Since only one other specimen of this species has ever been found (a deceased male collected in 1906), we have never seen a female of the species," said Anders Rhodin of the Turtle Conservancy and IUCN specialist group.

The female tortoise is in good health but underweight, unsurprising considering the sparse vegetation in the area

she lived in on the volcano. She has been taken to the Fausto Llerena Tortoise Breeding Center in Isla Santa Cruz.

"This facility will ensure her ongoing survival, a healthy diet and perhaps, if sperm retention has occurred, fertile eggs and offspring. The hope is that her discovery will prompt new searches and ongoing funding for the location of a suitable mate with the ultimate goal of re-releasing healthy animals back onto the island.

The breeding centre has successfully bred and released 4000 tortoises.

"As a biologist and someone who has dedicated my life to the pursuit of animals believed extinct, this is by far my greatest scientific accomplishment and proud moment," said Galante.

Use tech, Yogi asks teachers at AKTU

CMS launches 21 projects, placement portal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath called upon newly-appointed teachers of the Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU) to provide solutions to burning problems of the society through the use of technology.

The CM launched 21 projects and inaugurated the placement portal of the university on Friday at "Pravidhik shiksha-safalta ke naye aayam" which was organised on the university campus. Hundred girl topers of the UPSEE and hundred from the SC/ST category



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and others at the launch of various projects at AKTU on Friday

were given laptops on the occasion. Addressing students and the teachers present on the occasion, the CM said that

"rishi munis" had always said that all should keep their minds open and try to absorb knowledge from all quarters.

He added that AKTU named after former President Abdul Kalam could play an important role in the develop-

ment of the country and it was encouraging to see the kind of development which had taken place in the past two years at the institute itself.

The Chief Minister said that a total of 250 teachers had been appointed after a 25 years gap at the university. "The appointments in the past did not happen partly owing to the hurdles through legal interventions or because of mismanagement at the college level itself," he said.

Pointing to the fact that there was much talk of increasing the quality of education but results happened only when one put forth an honest effort to solve the problem, he said that the teachers could help students in successfully facing the challenges they faced in their daily lives and also in showcasing their talents.



Students paying tributes to the CRPF personnel martyred in Pulwama terror attack by lighting candles at 1090 crossing in Lucknow on Friday

FORM No. 5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
LUCKNOW
600/1 University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007
(Area of Jurisdiction - Part of Uttar Pradesh)
Summons for Filing Reply & Appearance by Publication
O.A. No. 1003/2018 Date: 01-01-2019
(Summons to Defendant Under Section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993).
Allahabad Bank Ailganj Branch, LucknowApplicant Bank
Versus
M/S Exceedous International & Ors Defendants
To,
1. M/s Exceedous International (a Proprietorship firm through Shri Amir Qureshi S/o Mohd. Abrar Qureshi) Registered Address:- C-2, II nd Floor, Darussalam Building, Kaccha Hata, Aminabad, Lucknow.
2. Shri Amir Qureshi S/o Mohd. Abrar Proprietor of Exceedous International R/o 98/56, Bhoosa Mandi, Latouche Road, Lucknow.
3. Shri Hashim Qureshi S/o Mohammad Abrar R/o 98/56, Bhoosa Mandi, Latouche Road, Lucknow
Defendants
In the above noted Application, you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in Two sets alongwith documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 01/03/2019 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

Thieves decamp with cash, valuables from house

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A theft was committed in the house of Vinay Yadav, a resident of Rajeev Nagar under the Indira Nagar police station on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday. The unidentified culprits made off with valuables worth Rs 50,000 and Rs 5,000 in cash. The police said that Yadav left for his native town Ghazipur along with his family on February 18 to attend a marriage in the family to be solemnized on February 20. He was scheduled to be back on February 23. He was informed by his neighbour on his mobile phone early morning stating that a theft was committed in the house as the doors were wide open and broken locks were found near the house with the lights in the house on. He rushed to the state capital and reached here at 3 pm. He lodged a complaint at the police

station without naming anyone in the incident and added he was away from his house when the burglars barged into his house by scaling the rear wall. They broke open the locks of the almirah and took away valuables and the cash.

ARRESTED

Two criminals, including a history-sheeter, were arrested from two different places. They were identified as Anis, a resident of Mohanlanjan area and the other as Chhanga, a history-sheeter of Talkatora area. Two country-made pistols and five live cartridges were found from their possession. The police said that the former was arrested near his house in the wee hours during the routine patrolling. A country-made pistol and two live cartridges were found during the search. He was booked under the Arms Act. Senior sub-inspector, Mohanlanjan, Munna Lal said

that Anis was also involved in number of the thefts committed in the area and was sent to jail seven time in the past.

The police said that the latter was a history-sheeter of Madaon police station and was wanted by the police for his involvement in the highway hold-up which was reported last month as he extorted a huge money from a truck driver on Sultanpur Road. He was able to deceive the police in the past when raids were conducted at his probable hide-outs. The inspector of the Talkatora police was informed early morning that Chhanga was spotted in front of the main gate of Rani Laxmi Bai hospital. The inspector noticed him sipping tea at a nearby stall. The entire area was cordoned off to nab him. Chhanga tried to escape when he realised the presence of police there but was nabbed by the police personnel.

Metro services remain interrupted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Commissioner for Metro Rail Safety (CMRS) AK Jain, along with his team, on Friday concluded the three-day inspection of Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation (LMRC) before the commencement of commercial operations for the entire section of North-South corridor (phase 1-A).

On account of rigorous speed trials, the commercial train services on the priority section were suspended for the entire day from Transport Nagar to Charbagh

though the announcement was only for 6 am to 12 pm. The inspection which began on February 20 was today completed after thorough testing of all the systems like signaling and telecom, electrical and civil Structure in addition to safety and passenger centric systems, lifts, escalators and other fire emergency-related equipment, LMRC officials said. The CMRS and his team, along with others senior LMRC officials, tested the speed efficiency on Friday by running the train between CCS Airport and Munshipulia multiple times. After testing the systems at the maximum

operating speed of 87 kmph and conducting several braking tests, the migration testing was completed in the presence of the CMRS and his team. The monitoring of trains at the curves and jerks during the train movement were also tracked during the intensive testing. Earlier, the CMRS and his team checked the working of station control rooms (SCRs), from where the trains will be monitored, apart from the automatic fare collection (AFC) system, location of ticket operating machines (TOMs) and ticket vending machines (TVMs) meant for ticketing and recharging 'GoSmart' cards. "The track measurement tests were also carried out along the entire balance section of North-South corridor. The ventilation system of the entire underground section was also inspected and examined apart from other physical aspects pertaining to passenger safety, convenience and integrated functioning of different components," LMRC officials said.

The operation, installation, design and location of lifts, escalators, CCTV surveillance system, fire detection and alarm system and other public amenities were also scrutinised. LMRC managing director Kumar Keshav congratulated the entire team, general consultants and other contractors for their dedication, commitment and hard work.



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग

निरंतर पुनरीक्षण / मतदाता पंजीकरण
हेतु विशेष कैंप का आयोजन
लोकसभा/विधानसभा क्षेत्रों की मतदाता सूची में पंजीकरण कराने हेतु सूचना

मतदाता बनने की पात्रता :-

- भारतीय नागरिक हो एवं उत्तर प्रदेश के सम्बन्धित निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में सामान्यतः निवास कर रहे हों।
- 01 जनवरी, 2019 को 18 वर्ष की आयु पूर्ण कर चुके हों और किन्ही कारणों से मतदाता सूची में नाम शामिल नहीं करा पाये हों।

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- nvsp.in पर मतदाता सूची में अपना नाम सर्च (Search) कर सकते हैं, तथा फॉर्म - 6 के माध्यम से नाम जुड़वाने हेतु आवेदन भी कर सकते हैं।
- यदि निर्वाचक नामावली में सम्मिलित आपकी प्रविष्टि में किसी प्रकार का संशोधन अपेक्षित है तो Correction of entries in electoral roll पर click here करने पर नया online Form-8/प्रारूप-8 खुल जायेगा जिसे भरकर आप अपनी प्रविष्टि को शुद्ध करा सकते हैं।
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- सभी फार्म अपने निकटस्थ पोलिंग बूथ तथा तहसील स्थित मतदाता पंजीकरण केन्द्र से अथवा वेबसाइट www.ceouttarpradesh.nic.in से डाउनलोड कर प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं।
- सम्बन्धित फार्मों पर अपना आवेदन-पत्र (फोटो, पता, जन्मतिथि के प्रमाण सहित) जमा करें।

फार्म निम्न स्थान/अधिकारी के पास जमा करें

- सम्बन्धित पोलिंग बूथ के बूथ लेवल अधिकारी के माध्यम से
- तहसील स्थित मतदाता पंजीकरण केन्द्र
- तहसील के उप जिलाधिकारी / निर्वाचक रजिस्ट्रीकरण अधिकारी
- तहसील के तहसीलदार / सहायक निर्वाचक रजिस्ट्रीकरण अधिकारी
- जिलाधिकारी / जिला निर्वाचन अधिकारी

मतदान केन्द्रों पर पंजीकरण हेतु विशेष अभियान दिवस
23 फरवरी, 2019 (शनिवार) एवं
24 फरवरी, 2019 (रविवार)

काल सेन्टर/शुल्क रहित निर्वाचन हेल्प लाइन नं. -1950

मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी, उत्तर प्रदेश

E-mail: ceo_uttarpradesh@nic.in
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साफ नीयत-सही विकास

स्वास्थ्य मंत्र

सभी जानें-सभी मानें

हम कटिबद्ध हैं, हर आयु-वर्ग के लोगों को उत्तम स्वास्थ्य सेवायें प्रदान कर जीवन में खुशहाली लाने के लिये

स्फूर्तिवान किशोर के मंत्र

राष्ट्रीय किशोर स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रम

माहवारी प्रबंधन

एनीमिया की रोक-थाम

साप्ताहिक आयरन फोलिक एसिड सप्लिमेन्टेशन (WIFS)।

आयरन फोलिक एसिड की गोली के साप्ताहिक वितरण की योजना सभी स्कूल जाने वाले और स्कूल न जाने वाले किशोर, किशोरियों को स्कूलों एवं आँगनबाड़ी केन्द्रों के माध्यम से संचालित है। यह योजना एनीमिया के उपचार हेतु एक महत्वपूर्ण योजना है।

डी वमिंग

किशोर स्वास्थ्य क्लिनिक (ए.एफ.एच.एस)

किशोर स्वास्थ्य दिवस

फार्म-6
पहली बार मतदाता या किसी एक निर्वाचन-क्षेत्र से किसी अन्य एक निर्वाचन-क्षेत्र में स्थानांतरण के कारण निर्वाचक नामावली में नाम को सम्मिलित करने के लिए आवेदन

फार्म-6क
किसी प्रवासी निर्वाचक द्वारा निर्वाचक नामावली में नाम सम्मिलित किए जाने के लिए आवेदन

फार्म-7
मृत्यु/स्थान परिवर्तन के कारण निर्वाचक नामावली में अन्य व्यक्ति का नाम सम्मिलित करने का आक्षेप/अपना नाम हटाने/किसी अन्य व्यक्ति का नाम हटाने के लिए आवेदन

फार्म-8
निर्वाचक नामावली में प्रविष्टि विशिष्टियों की शुद्धि के लिए आवेदन

फार्म-8क
निर्वाचक नामावली में प्रविष्टि को अन्यत्र रखने के लिए आवेदन (एक निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में निवास स्थान को एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान पर स्थानांतरित करने के मामले में)

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उत्तम स्वास्थ्य हेतु अधिक जानकारी के लिए अपनी निकटतम आशा बहू / एएनएम / स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र से सम्पर्क करें.

पिहितता स्वस्थ एवं विकाश कल्याण विभाग व.उ. टोल फ्री नं 1800-180-5145 / राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य विभाग टोल फ्री नं 1800-180-1900 | <https://www.facebook.com/NationalHealthMission.UP> | https://twitter.com/nhm_up

Five held with illicit liquor



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Five persons were arrested from different areas of the state capital in the past 24 hours for possessing 50 litres of illicit liquor. Rakesh Kumar, a resident of Gosainganj area, was nabbed for carrying 10 litres of illicit liquor in two containers during the search carried out near the main market. He told the police that he was on his way to deliver the liquor in the Lalbagh area of the state capital. Sukhram, a resident of Madianganj bazaar, was nabbed for carrying the illicit liquor weighing 15 litres in three containers.

Arjun Bansal, a resident of Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, was picked up by the police near the Wave Mall and the

latter recovered five litres of the illicit liquor. Like the other two, he was also on his way to deliver the consignment of the illicit liquor. He was arrested after confessing his crime. Aman Gupta, a resident of Kurmi Tola under the Hussainganj police station, was nabbed near the CMO office falling under the Wazirganj police station. Ten litres of illicit liquor was found from his possession. Shabad, a resident of Bazaarkhala, was picked up by the police near the local bus stand and 10 litres of the illicit liquor were found from his possession.

The police said it was part of the vigorous driver launched on the initiative of SSP Kalanidhi Naithani to check the flow of the illicit liquor.

CITY BRIEFS

SWINE FLU

As many as 14 more patients tested positive for swine flu in Lucknow on Friday. Pihu (7) of Khandhari Bazaar, Qazi Nazrul Islam (62) of Indira Nagar, Ghanashyam (55) of Gomti Nagar, Akshaya Singh (11) of Chinhat, Anoop Gupta (45) of Eldeco Colony, Abhinav (8) of Eldeco Colony, Anushree (4) of Eldeco Colony, Dharmveer Singh (67) of IIM Road, and Vijai Laxmi (65) of Gomti Nagar were detected with H1N1 infection. Besides, Mohit Pal (6), Sakshi Goswami (6), Jigisha (13), Aadya (3), Harinder Kaur (62) and Vijaya Lakshmi have been admitted to Sahara Hospital.

LECTURE

Lucknow University's Social Work department organised the second lecture on 'Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya: Inclusive Development' in the series of programmes on Friday. The programme was presided over by LU's Pro Vice-Chancellor Raj Kumar Singh. Director of Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Shodh Peeth and head of Social Work department Gurnam Singh welcomed the dignitaries and students. Head of the department of Social Work and Sociology, Guru Ghadasid University (Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh) Pratibha Mishra spoke on the inclusive development ideology of Upadhyaya. She highlighted the millennium development and sustainable development goals. Former head of



India Food Expo-2019 inaugurated on Friday

Pioneer

LU's Social Work department Surya Prasad Dixit spoke on the life and ideologies of Upadhyaya. He explained how Upadhyaya's ideologies were relevant in the Indian scenario.

ABHIVYAKTI-2K19

'Abhivyakti-2K19', a two-day mega fest commemorating the Foundation Day of Ramswaroop Memorial Group of Professional Colleges (SRMGPC), was inaugurated on Friday. The chief guest on the occasion was SRMGPC (Lucknow) secretary Narendra Agarwal. Executive director RK Jaiswal spoke on the need of mixing fun with education.

Addressing the audience, the chief guest highlighted the necessity of informal events along with formal educational courses. Faculty members including Nikhil Mishra, Shilpi Bajpai, Indu Prabha Singh, Vinod Singh, Geeta Verma, Rupesh Singh, and Preeti Paurav were awarded on the occasion.

FOOD EXPO

The three-day 'India Food Expo-2019' started at Indian Industries Association (IIA) Grounds where food processing machinery, agro and food processing technologies, farm and food processing products

developed by research institutions, food product testing facilities, innovative food products, consumer food products etc are on display. The exhibi-

tion is useful for all sections of the society, including start-ups and prospective entrepreneurs, existing entrepreneurs, professionals, academicians, students and general public. The expo was inaugurated by Principal Secretary, Horticulture and Food Processing, Sudhir Garg. In his inaugural address, Garg said though UP was a leading state in agriculture produce, the level of food processing was low at 4%. "If we compare the level of food processing in the world, it is as high as 90% in Taiwan. We have to take a resolve to increase the food processing level to 8% in next one year for which IIA can play an important role," he said.

FLO LEGAL AND ADVOCACY CELL

In a bid to empower women with skills and knowledge, FLO Lucknow chapter announced the launch of FLO Legal and Advocacy Cell to equip members and other women with political and legal

tools to influence gender discourse. The event was held at RTI Bhawan in Lucknow. Governor Ram Naik was the chief guest while Cabinet minister Rita Bahuguna Joshi the guest of honour. Other guests included Justice G Sridevi and chief information commissioner (UP) Jawed Usmani. FLO chairperson Renuka Tandon said the objectives of the cell were to identify gaps in policy and law affecting women in India, conceptualising and designing advocacy tools in this direction, provision of interface with government and other relevant bodies for policy advocacy, creating partnerships with relevant national and local bodies, using creative means to change social perceptions of women, creating a platform for progressive thought and knowledge sharing, undertaking legal literacy and capacity building programmes at different levels to create the legal awareness among people, and to encourage members to spread legal awareness on women rights.



Shri Ramswaroop Memorial Group of Professional Colleges (SRMGPC) National Conference on 'Trends in Mathematics with Application' inaugurated on Friday.



उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा सूचना

इस कार्यालय के द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य/सामग्री की आपूर्ति सम्पादन हेतु अनुमती, दहा एवं जीएएसएटी में पंजीकृत टेकदारों से निम्नलिखित ई-निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है जिसका विस्तृत विवरण ई-टेंडर वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in उपलब्ध है।

ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-237/विद्युत/2018-19 विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम कानपुर के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र आरओपीएच 40 परफोरेड ट्रे की आपूर्ति।

ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-238/विद्युत/2018-19 विद्युत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र पनकी पर फायर अलार्म एवं स्मोक डिटेक्शन सिस्टम सम्बन्धी विभिन्न कार्य।

ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-239/विद्युत/2018-19 विद्युत 400 केवीओ उपकेंद्र पनकी कानपुर पर सॉल्वेन्स सिस्टम की आपूर्ति एवं विस्थापन कार्य के सम्बन्ध में।

ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-240/विद्युत/2018-19 विद्युत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र पनकी पर प्लेट टाइप टर्मिनल कनेक्टर की आपूर्ति।

ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-241/विद्युत/2018-19 विद्युत 400 केवीओ उपकेंद्र पनकी पर प्लेट टाइप टर्मिनल कनेक्टर एवं टेन्शन फिटिंग पीओजी कलेम की आपूर्ति।

ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-242/विद्युत/2018-19 विद्युत 400 केवीओ उपकेंद्र पनकी फिटिंग एवं आयल सर्ज रिस्के की आपूर्ति।

ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-243/विद्युत/2018-19 विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम के अन्तर्गत 132 केवीओ उपकेंद्र जैनपुर पर लाईटिंग सम्बन्धी कार्य।

ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-244/विद्युत/2018-19 विद्युत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र पनकी पर (पीओपीओ) अग्निशमन यंत्रों की आपूर्ति।

ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-245/विद्युत/2018-19 विद्युत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र पनकी पर 132 केवीओ एओ वीओ बस के वारिक अनुस्थापन सम्बन्धी कार्य।

ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-246/विद्युत/2018-19 विद्युत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र पनकी पर 220 केवीओ एओ वीओ बस के वारिक अनुस्थापन सम्बन्धी कार्य।

ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-247/विद्युत/2018-19 विद्युत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र पनकी पर सैन्डपिटे टैंक बाल की रिपेयरिंग आदि से संबंधित कार्य।

ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-248/विद्युत/2018-19 विद्युत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र पनकी पर यार्ड में प्रकाश की व्यवस्था हेतु एचओपीएएसबीओ लैम्प फिटिंग लगाने सम्बन्धी कार्य।

ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-249/विद्युत/2018-19 विद्युत 400 केवीओ उपकेंद्र पनकी पर आनालाइन पार्शियल डिस्चार्ज का कार्य।

ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-250/विद्युत/2018-19 विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम कानपुर के अन्तर्गत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र रनिया पर 100 एमवीओएओ परिवर्तक पर विभिन्न प्रकार के कार्य।

ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-251/विद्युत/2018-19 विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम कानपुर के अन्तर्गत 132 केवीओ उपकेंद्र पुखराया एवं 220 केवीओ विद्युत पर 100/40 एमवीओएओ परिवर्तक की फिटिंग का कार्य।

ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-252/विद्युत/2018-19 विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम कानपुर के अन्तर्गत 132 केवीओ पनकी-रनिया लाइन पर पोसिलिन डिस्क इन्सुलेटर बदलाने आदि का कार्य।

ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-253/विद्युत/2018-19 विद्युत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र पनकी पर परिवर्तकों के कूलिंग फैन की मरम्मत एवं रखरखाव सम्बन्धित समस्त कार्य।

ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-254/विद्युत/2018-19 विद्युत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र पनकी पर 245 केवीओ बस एवं लाइन आइसोलेटर की सर्विसिंग एवं ओवरहालिंग आदि का कार्य।

ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-255/विद्युत/2018-19 विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम कानपुर के अन्तर्गत 132 केवीओ पनकी-रनिया लाइन पर पोसिलिन डिस्क इन्सुलेटर बदलाने आदि का कार्य।

ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-256/विद्युत/2018-19 विद्युत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र पनकी पर 220 एवं 132 केवीओ रिचरजार्ड में लेबिलिंग एवं ट्रेसिंग से सम्बन्धी समस्त कार्य।

ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-257/विद्युत/2018-19 विद्युत 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र पनकी पर विभिन्न साइज के केबिल टैच की फिटिंग आदि के कार्य।

ई-निविदा संख्या-ईटी-258/विद्युत/2018-19 विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम कानपुर के अन्तर्गत 132 केवीओ पनकी-अलीगढ़ लाइन पर नये वाइब्रेशन डम्पर लगाने आदि का कार्य।

अक्षय अभियन्ता विद्युत पारंपरिक मण्डल प्रथम पनकी कानपुर पत्रांक 123 दिनांक 20.2.19 उभोमोका सेवा हेतु सम्पर्क करें www.uppcl.org रात्रिहित में बिजली बचावें

Labourer among two injured as concrete block falls on them

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Two persons, including a labourer, were injured when a block of concrete fell on them near Vatsala hospital under Bazaarkhala police on Friday night. They were identified as Ganga Ram Rajput, resident of Victoria Street, and other as Munna Bhai, a petty shop-keeper. They were rushed to the Trauma Centre by the police with the help of locals. The condition of the former is said to be serious while other is stable and will be discharged within a day or two.

Rajput was engaged in installing a pillar at the base of an over-bridge near the hospital while latter came to him to hand over the tiffin box at 8 pm. The hydraulic machine, which was working next to the site where Rajput was working, all of sudden lost its balance as a result of which the concrete block fell on them and they were injured. Interestingly, other labourers and junior engineers who were working at the site escaped and their whereabouts could not be traced till late in the night. The police had to face a tough time to control the mob during the rescue operation as it was the most congested road in the area.

LMC to set up green crematorium at Bhaissakund shortly

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow Municipal Corporation will be setting up a green crematorium at Bhaissakund shortly. According to Municipal Commissioner Indramani Tripathi, tenders for the green crematorium were floated on Wednesday and once the company was decided after the bidding process, the work would be completed in March so that it could be made functional in the coming financial year.

He said the aim was to reduce air pollution and ensure that the quantity of wood used was less, which is essential to lower the burden on the felling of trees. It will be the first green crematorium in the state. The Municipal Commissioner said that the green crematorium would be constructed on the already existing platform at Bhaissakund.

"The crematorium has been designed in such a manner that there will be a base which will surround by a perforated wall and the body will be placed on a tray along with wood as in case of a wooden pyre on this base. A

tall chimney will be placed over it so that the smoke is not scattered but channeled in a proper manner," he said. Tripathi said the perforated walls would help the air to be sucked in faster through the holes, which will cause the pyre to burn. "It has been designed in a scientific manner so that the body burns quickly and less amount of wood is used. We estimate that only one-third of wood will be required as against the normal quantity," Tripathi said.

The Municipal Commissioner admitted that despite electric crematorium, people preferred cremation in the traditional manner. "People have their own religious beliefs according to which they want the cremation to be performed. Respecting the beliefs of people, we thought it would be advantageous to have a green crematorium which people would be ready to use," he said.

He said that another electric crematorium would come up at Bhaissakund and tenders had already been floated. He said another crematorium would come up at Gullala Ghat for which the work would start shortly.

Panic after group clash in Hussainganj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The residents of Hussainganj were in panic following an incident of cross-firing between rival groups near Maharana Pratap crossing on Friday night. Two persons were injured and rushed to the Trauma Centre where their condition was stated to be out of danger and stable.

Superintendent of Police, West, Vikas Chandra Tripathi

said one of them was identified as Alvi while the other could not be identified till late night. He added Alvi sustained bullet injury on one of his ankles.

He said Hussainganj inspector was assigned the task to ascertain the motive for the incident and the investigation was in progress. The police said that the rival group was initially involved in an exchange of hot words but the situation came to a head when they came face to

face and started indiscriminate firing at 9.45 pm. Panic gripped the locals and residents of the adjoining area as they thought communal violence had broken out.

They came out from their houses in an aggressive mood shouting provocative slogans. The message of the incident was flashed to Hazratganj CO AK Mishra who rushed to the spot to take stock of the situation. Interestingly, the culprits

escaped as soon they came to know that the CO was rushing to the spot with the armed constabulary. The CO said the priority was to control the situation which was given a communal colour and made a strong appeal to locals and others to go back to their houses as there was no communal violence. Normalcy was restored after one hour of hard work by the police but snafu prevailed.

SCHOOLSCAN

SCHOLARSHIP

Pratham Singh, a student of City Montessori School, Gomti Nagar Campus I, has been offered a scholarship by six prestigious universities of USA for higher studies. Pratham has been offered admission by the University of Pacific with a scholarship of US\$ 1,00,000, Quinnipiac University with a scholarship of US\$ 98,000, University of Utah with a scholarship of US\$ 48,000, University of Kansas with a scholarship of US\$ 36,000, and University of Dayton with a scholarship of US\$ 20,000 for the entire study period of four years.

Besides, Florida Institute of Technology has also offered admission to him. CMS founder Jagdish Gandhi congratulated Pratham on his achievement and thanked the teachers for their guidance.

'Character in our show relatable'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Actor Paras Arora, who hails from Bareilly, believes that the small town stories are showcased on TV because people from these cities can relate to them. As far as urban audience was concerned, several other platforms had emerged to cater to their interests, he pointed out. The actor was in Lucknow on Thursday along with actress Shivani Badoni for promotion of their show 'Bavale Utavale'. "The show highlights the journey of two curious adults from a small town. The youth has just one goal and it is to find love and get married," he pointed out. The show is the story of Guddu and Funty who are desperate to meet their soulmates and explore companionship. Coincidentally, they meet each other for the first time at a wedding. "The show captures the quirks of society in small town in India," Paras said.

Paras, who is playing Guddu, said: "I feel lucky to be playing this role. As I come



from Bareilly, I had no difficulty in essaying the role. However, we had workshops where we learnt about the tone to be used for the character. The shows highlights the warmth in big families. In big towns, people may not know even their neighbours, but in smaller families, the extended

family members always stand in support of one another." Shivani, who is playing Funty, said: "My character is eager to fall in love and marry her soulmate but I am even more eager to explore Lucknow. I am excited about meeting people here and try the local cuisine."

Police drop sedition charges against 14 AMU students

Aligarh: The police have dropped sedition charges slapped against 14 Aligarh Muslim University after the recent protests on the campus, citing "lack of evidence". The students were booked for sedition after Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) district president Mukesh Lodhi alleged he was assaulted by some students who chanted pro-Pakistan slogans, police said.

Senior Superintendent of Police Akash Kulhari said Friday the charges were dropped three days back as there is no evidence to support them. He said there is no videographic proof or any other evidence "to support the claim that anti-India or pro-Pakistan slogans were raised by these boys during the clash between two student groups at University Circle on February 12".

The clashes appeared to have been triggered by reports that AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi was visiting the campus. Bharatiya Janata Party youth wing BJYM had demanded that the reported visit should be banned. There was also an altercation between some AMU students and a television news crew that had come to cover the anticipated visit, which never took place.

Meanwhile, the police raided a house in Noida Friday, looking for Kashmiri student Basim Hilal over a tweet mocking the security forces after the Pulwama terror attack. They failed to find the student who has already been suspended by the AMU authorities. A case under section IPC 153 A (promoting enmity between different groups) had been registered against him.



Omar Al Schekhli from Morocco takes a dip at Sangam in Prayagraj on Friday. More than 100 foreign delegates visited the Kumbh on an invitation by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations

Cultural representatives from 188 countries visit Kumbh

Allahabad (PNS): Cultural representatives from 188 countries visited Kumbh Mela on Friday with Union Minister of State for External Affairs Gen VK Singh. The delegation arrived here on a special plane and was welcomed at the airport by Uttar Pradesh Health Minister Sidharth Nath Singh.

The delegation reached the cultural village in the trans-Yamuna area of Aarail in luxury buses from where they were

taken to the VIP Ghat near Allahabad Fort. They visited Akshayvat and then took a holy dip at the Sangam before leaving for the North Central Zone Cultural Centre (NCZCC) conference hall in Aarail area (Sector 16) where Swami Avadheshanand Giri addressed them through video-conferencing. After enjoying cultural programmes and participating in them the foreign delegation left for Bamrauli airport.

Sangeeta: Playing witch a challenging task



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Actress Sangeeta Ghosh, who is a veteran in the television industry, said she took up the challenge of playing the role of a "pishachini" for her new show 'Divya Drishti' because she had tried her hands at every other role.

In Lucknow on Friday for promotion of her show, the actress said she was not playing the conventional witch as there was a lot of fun and entertainment associated with her character. The actress is playing a wicked witch equipped with a powerful dag-

ger and a hollow eye. "This witch has a glamorous look and loves to dance and sing. I took up the role since I had done all other roles, including those of daughters, daughters-in-law, working women etc. This was something which I had never attempted before," she said.

Admitting that it was a season of witches on the small screen, Sangeeta said most of the audience enjoyed such shows in the west, so why not in India. "When made in India, these shows are called regressive but similar shows are a hit with audience in the west," she

pointed out. Asked whether she herself had any supernatural experience, she answered in the negative. The story, she said, was about two sisters blessed with superpowers, which could change the course of events. "Divya and Drishti are two sisters who have distinctive powers that make them special. However, destiny has other plans for them and they get separated in childhood. To be the most prevailing when it comes to their powers, they must be together. Hence, every full moon night, they set out on the journey to find each other" she added.

Didi blames BJP again for 'allowing' Pulwama

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■
HOOGHLY

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee once again blamed the Narendra Modi Government for allowing the Pulwama attack to take place and attacked the BJP for trying to divide the electorate by spreading hatred.

The Chief Minister who was speaking at a mass gathering at Tarakeswar in Hooghly district on Friday accused the Centre of neglecting the security issue that allowed the terrorists to launch one of the most dreaded attacks on the Indian security forces in the history of free India.

Wondering as to "what the Government was doing before the attack" and "why they did not take adequate measures" despite having prior reports Banerjee said "they were all doing politics and nothing else over the issue."

Accusing the BJP and the

RSS of fomenting communal tension in Bengal by spreading rumors Banerjee said, "I will do everything for the people but I will never allow riots to take place in our State," adding, how a band of half-literate people were feigning as champions of Hindu religion in the garb of saffron clothes.

"They have no sense of the Hindu ethos, no knowledge of the true Hindu scriptures. They only know how to fan riots by spreading rumors. But I will not allow them to do so in Bengal," she said complaining how the agents of the RSS and BJP were spreading rumor of child-lifters in parts of the State.

"As the Chief Minister I have specific information that they have let loose burqa-clad people in the market to pass off as child-lifters. Then they are spreading rumors about these child-lifters so as to incite people and create a communal disharmony," Banerjee said referring to the recent spate of



mass thrashing of alleged child-lifters in parts of Bengal.

Attacking the BJP Government for creating a mass hysteria to turn the public attention to its failed promises Banerjee asked, "What happened to the promise that you (Modi) made to the people of bringing back black money from abroad and depositing Rs 15 lakh in each account."

The Hindu ethos was against violence she said asking people to remain alert against hate-rumors. "Even I am a Hindu. Even we have seen pujas in our houses since we were children but our parents

never taught to hate other religions," she said asking "who are these people to dictate food habits among others."

Even the "monks of Ramakrishna Mission and Bharat Sevashram Sangha wear saffron attire but they never attack others' religions because they like true Hindus believe in the unity of religions," she said.

In the eight years of TMC rule "not a single temple, mosque or church was touched in Bengal," she said reminding how her government helped in renovating temples in the State, unlike the BJP which was pre-occupied with religious divide.

Accusing the Centre of playing political game with partially State-funded health schemes like Ayushman Bharat Banerjee said, "We don't need Centre's dole... Ayushman Bharat letters which come with pictures (of political parties) will not run in Bengal," reminding half of the central health scheme was funded by the State Government.

Post-Pulwama attack: Kashmiri scribe beaten up in Pune, 3 held

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a second unsavoury incident of backlash after last week's Pulwama terror attack, a journalist from Kashmir was beaten up by some unknown persons in Pune, even as three Yuv Sena office bearers were arrested by the local police at Yavatmal in eastern Maharashtra on Friday in connection with Wednesday's assault on five Kashmiri students.

Zibran Nazeer, a copy editor working with a national English newspaper published from Pune, was roughed up by some unidentified persons. The Pune police have not yet identified the culprits behind the incident.

The Yavatmal police, meanwhile, arrested three Yuv Sena office bearers, including the one Ajinkya Motke, for allegedly beating up four Kashmiri students in Waghapur Road area of the eastern Maharashtra town.

On its part, the Shiv Sena has expelled from the party the Yuva Sena's office-bearers involved in the assault incident. In tweets put out on Friday, Yuva Sena president Aditya Thackeray said, "There was an unfortunate incident yesterday in Yavatmal, with some students of Jammu & Kashmir. The @ShivSena had issued a press note yesterday itself which hasn't been printed today, may be to further sensationalise the issue or defame us, while ignoring our disciplinary action"

"As of last evening, the Party has sacked those involved in the act. J&K is a part of India and no Indian, or for that matter, nobody should face the brunt of anger that is towards terrorism. We understand the angst but it must be against terror, not innocent people," Aditya added.

In all five Kashmiri students — identified as Umar Nazeer Ganai, Umar Rashid Dar, Tajimullah Ali, Owais Mushtaq

and Amir Mulad — humiliated, beaten up and forced by Yuv Sena activists to raise slogans like "Vande Mataram", "Hindustan zindabad" and "Bharatmata ki Jai" at Yavatmal on Wednesday night.

The victim students were from Dayabhai Patel College of Physical Education. The Yuv Sena activists accosted them near their rented homes in Waghapur Road area of the town and physically harassed them as a mark of "protest" against the Pulwama terror strike in which 44 CRPF jawans were killed. Two of the jawans from the neighbouring Buldhana district were among those killed in the Pulwama attack.

A clip of video footage shot by the Yuv Sena activists themselves went viral on social media on Thursday. The footage showed a local Yuv Sena leader beating the Kashmiri students and asking them questions like to from where they were, as to why they had come to Yavatmal and

whether were they linked with terrorists. "What is your name? Why have you come here? You should not come here... What connection do you with the terrorists there?... You relatives are killing our jawans there. Why have you come here? How many students are here like you in Yavatmal?"

The replies from a student like "I have to come to study here... I am the son of a doctor. I have not been to Kashmir for the last one and a half years... There are 15 to 20 Kashmiri students in Yavatmal (the Yuv Sena leader tells the student: Tell them not to be here)," would not satisfy the Yuv Sena leader who continued to beat him and other students up.

The footage of the incident also showed the Yuv Sena leader order the victim Kashmiri students to raise slogans like "Hindustan Zindabad", "Vande Mataram" and "Bharat Mata ki Jai". The victim students readily obliged the Yuv Sena leader.

SC to hear pleas seeking review of Rafale verdict on February 26

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will hear on February 26 the two petitions seeking review of its December 14 verdict that had dismissed pleas challenging the deal between India and France for procurement of 36 Rafale fighter jets.

The review petition has been filed by former Union ministers Yashwant Sinha and Arun Shourie as also activist lawyer Prashant Bhushan.

The hearing of the pleas will be conducted in chambers and not in open court.

The trio said the top court had relied upon "patently incorrect" claims made by the government in an unsigned note given in a sealed cover in the court.

Sinha, Shourie and Bhushan have claimed that the judgement was based on "errors apparent on the face of the record" and non-consideration of subsequent information which has come to light would cause a grave miscarriage of justice.

Besides seeking review of the judgement, they have also sought hearing of the plea in an open court.

The top court will also hear the petition filed by AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh through advocate Dheeraj Singh seeking review of the December 14 verdict.

On December 14, 2018, the apex court had dismissed various pleas challenging the deal between India and France for procurement of 36 Rafale jets saying there was no occasion to



"really doubt the decision making process" warranting setting aside of the contract.

It had rejected the pleas seeking lodging of an FIR and the court-monitored probe alleging irregularities in the Rs 58,000 crore deal, in which both the countries have entered into an inter-governmental agreement (IGA).

A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi had dealt with "three broad areas of concern" raised in the petitions — the decision-making process, pricing and the choice of Indian offset partners (IOP) — and said there was no reason for intervention by the court on the "sensitive issue" of purchase of 36 jets.

It had said the Indian Air Force (IAF) needs advanced fighter jets as the country cannot afford to be "unprepared" or "under prepared" in a situation where adversaries have acquired fourth and fifth generation fighter aircraft, "of

which, we have none".

The apex court had said Thursday that it would consider hearing pleas seeking review of its December 14 verdict. It had considered the submission of Bhushan that his review plea and a separate application, seeking perjury prosecution of some government officials for "misleading" the court be listed urgently.

"We believe there are four petitions in the matter. One by Union of India... Some petitions (having defects) are lying with the registry," the bench said.

"The combination (of the judges) of bench will have to be changed. It is very difficult. We will do something for it," the bench had said.

The December verdict was delivered by the bench comprising the CJI and Justices S K Kaul and K M Joseph.

The two Justices are currently part of different bench combinations.

Vadra appears before ED for 5th time

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Robert Vadra, brother-in-law of Congress President Rahul Gandhi, Friday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for the fifth time in connection with a money-laundering case related to purchase of alleged illegal assets abroad, officials said.

Vadra reached the agency's office at Jangpore House in central Delhi shortly before 11 am, they said.

He has been grilled in this case four times in the past, the last being February 20.

Officials said the agency is confronting Vadra with documents and statements of other accused being investigated in the case and his statement is being recorded section 50 (powers of authorities regarding documents and to give evidence) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

During the last session, the businessman had told the investigating officer (IO) of the case that he was not well and hence, the recording of his statement was discontinued, the officials had said.

Vadra's appearance before the ED is related to a criminal complaint related to allegations of money laundering to purchase assets abroad, in an alleged illegal manner.

He has been questioned by the ED sleuths in this case for about 26 hours over four days of deposition earlier this month.

He has been asked by a Delhi court to cooperate in the probe being conducted by the central probe agency.

The ED case against Vadra relates to allegations of money laundering in the purchase of a London-based property, located at 12, Bryanston Square and worth 1.9 million pounds, which is allegedly owned by the businessman in a "benami" way. The agency had told the court that it had received information about various new properties in London that belonged to Vadra. These include two houses — one worth 5 million pounds and

the other valued at 4 million pounds -- six flats and other assets.

Vadra has denied the allegation of possessing illegal foreign assets and termed it a political witch-hunt against him. He has said he is being "hounded and harassed" to subvert political ends.

His first appearance before the ED earlier this month acquired political overtones after his wife Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, recently appointed

Congress general secretary in charge of eastern Uttar Pradesh, accompanied him to the investigating agency's office and picked him up after questioning another time.

Vadra had also deposed before the ED twice in Jaipur in connection with another money-laundering case related to an alleged land scam in Bikaner. His mother Maureen too was questioned by the agency once during the same deposition.



Businessman Robert Vadra arrives at the Enforcement Directorate office for questioning in connection with a money laundering case in New Delhi on Friday

'EU stands firm beside India in fighting terrorism'

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The European Union (EU) has affirmed that it is strongly beside India on combating terrorism and there were no differences between them on the issue, it's envoy said here on Friday.

Kozlowski said India and the EU would strengthen cooperation in combating terrorism

Referring to the February 14 terror attack by the Jaish-e-Mohammed at Pulwama that left 40 CRPF jawans dead, EU Ambassador Tomasz Kozlowski said its members had strongly condemned the incident and "and as a partner of India, we reaffirm our solidarity".

He said the EU stood by India in fighting terrorism and against any terror act regardless of the motivation.

Kozlowski told reporters that the Jaish-e-Mohammed had been listed by the EU as a terror outfit along with Lashkar-e-Tayyeba and several others.

"EU has an autonomous terrorist list. We have our own procedures independent of the UN," he said.

The UN Security Council had on Thursday condemned in the "strongest terms" the "heinous and cowardly" terror attack perpetrated by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed in Pulwama.

Kozlowski said India and the EU would strengthen cooperation in combating terrorism.

Assam hooch tragedy death toll rises to 25

IANS ■ GUWAHATI

At least 25 persons, including 15 women, have died and over 40 others have taken ill after consuming spurious liquor at a tea garden in Assam's Golaghat district, the police said on Friday.

The incident took place on Thursday night at the Salmora tea estate in Golaghat, 300 km from here.

"The death toll so far is 25, which includes 15 women and 10 men. While 18 people died at the Golaghat Civil Hospital, the rest breathed their last at the Jorhat Medical College and Hospital," said Rathin Bordoloi, Joint Director of Health, Golaghat district.

He said the people were brought to the hospitals with complaints of severe vomiting and chest pain. "We tried our best, but it was too late," he said.

"A total of 55 people have been referred to the Jorhat Medical College and Hospital for treatment. Seven of them have died while 48 others were still undergoing treatment," said the doctors at the Jorhat hospital.

The locals said several peo-

ple consumed liquor in the tea estate on Thursday night after procuring the stock from a particular seller.

Several of them took ill immediately and many were not even taken to the hospital.

They also complained about a nexus between the police and the illegal liquor sellers. Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal condemned the incident and sent a team to the district to take stock of the situation.

State Excise Minister Parimal Shuklabaidya has ordered a probe into the matter. "The State Government has suspended two excise officials after holding them responsible for the tragedy. We have also asked a four-member team, led by Additional Commissioner of Excise Department Sanjib Medhi, to probe the incident," said Shuklabaidya, adding that the probe committee has been asked to submit its report to the government within three days.

"Based on the inquiry report, stern measures will be taken across the state to plug the loopholes," Shuklabaidya said.

Stop cricket with Pak: Giriraj, it would be a mistake to do so: Tejashwi

PTI ■ NAWADA/PATNA

Union Minister Giriraj Singh on Friday said India should not play cricket matches with Pakistan in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack which killed 40 CRPF personnel.

He advocated halting all types of exchanges with the neighbouring country, including sports, culture and trade. RJD's

Tejashwi Yadav, the leader of opposition in the Bihar assembly, however, said the dastardliness of the attack notwithstanding, scrapping of sporting ties and cultural exchanges would prove to be futile.

"There should be no cricket with Pakistan. We engage in no sports events with the country till it continues to aid and abet terror. Even families do not dine with each other when they

have a feud. So let us have no links with Pakistan, sporting, cultural or economic," Singh, a BJP hardliner, said in his Lok Sabha constituency of Nawada.

He also lauded Union minister Nitin Gadkari, who holds the Water Resources portfolio, for deciding to stop the flow of India's share of water to Pakistan from rivers under the Indus Waters Treaty. Demands have arisen for boycotting

Pakistan in international sports events, especially the cricket world cup scheduled to begin in May this year.

Sections of Bollywood have also expressed outrage. The All India Cine Workers Association has sought a total ban on Pakistani actors and artistes, and cancellation of their work visas, while actor Ajay Devgn had decided that his latest flick Total Dhamaal

will not be released in the neighbouring nation.

When asked about the growing clamour for discontinuance of such exchanges, Tejashwi Yadav said in Patna, "This should not happen. It is not going to achieve anything."

"The Pulwama terror attack deserves condemnation in the strongest possible words and the government must take whatever steps it deems proper on the

security front. But sports and culture must not be dragged into these issues," he said.

The younger son of RJD chief Lalu Prasad, who fancied a career in cricket before take a plunge into politics three years ago, said, "Players embody sportsman spirit. And hence sports persons must be allowed to engage in their activity and bring happiness to the people."



Foreign delegates arrive at the airport for a visit to Sangam during Kumbh festival in Prayagraj on Friday

We are Indians, caste and religion does not exist for us: CRPF officer

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

We in CRPF identify ourselves as Indians...Caste and religion does not exist," the world's largest paramilitary force said through its chief spokesman's Twitter handle on Friday.

Peevd at a news report in a magazine that gave the caste break-up of the 44 personnel killed in the Pulwama attack, CRPF's chief spokesman and Deputy Inspector General (DIG) M Dhinakaran tweeted, "We in CRPF identify ourselves as Indians. Not more, not less. This pathetic divisiveness of caste, colour, and religion does-

n't exist in our blood."

He also tagged the news report saying it "should strictly refrain from insulting all the martyrs as they are not statistics for your demeaning and meaningless write-up".

The force had earlier issued advisories cautioning people against "fake pictures" being circulated online of body parts of the slain men and bogus messages being shared in the backdrop of harassment of Kashmiri students in various places in the country after the terror attack.

The over 3 lakh personnel force is the country's lead force for internal security duties.

Despite ban, Pak epicentre of terrorism

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Notwithstanding denial, Pakistan continues to be the epicentre of terrorism with as many as 69 outlawed outfits many of which continue with their activities despite the ban. Half of India's total 41 banned terrorist groups are either based in Pakistan or their leadership are based in the neighbouring country or the organisations are sponsored by Pakistan government-military combine.

Pakistan's National Counter Terrorism Authority (NCTA) has so far declared 69 terrorist organisations as banned, most of which are active despite the proscription.

Pakistan has especially turned a blind eye to major terrorist groups such as the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen and the Al Badr operating in Jammu & Kashmir, sources said.

Amid the escalating pressure on Pakistan from the international community over

Jaish-e-Mohammad's role in Pulwama attack, Islamabad on Thursday banned the 2008 Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed-led Jamat-ud-Dawa (JuD) and its charity wing Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation. Apparently, this was a ploy to seek grey-listing by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). As many as 40 CRPF men were killed in the suicide bombing on a paramilitary convoy by the JeM on February 14.

The JuD's network includes 300 seminaries and schools, hospitals, a publishing house and ambulance service. The two groups have about 50,000 volunteers and hundreds of other paid workers who recruit gullible youth for terrorism in the garb of charity, sources said.

According to the NCTA, a sizeable number of the organisations, declared as outlawed by Pakistan, are based in Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). They

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have been banned to quell any movement against suppression by the Pakistan military, sources said.

According to inputs with the Union Home Ministry, almost half of India's total 41 banned terrorist groups are either based in Pakistan or their leadership are based in the neighbouring country or the organisations are sponsored by the government-military

complex in Islamabad.

The Pakistan-sponsored groups include the Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Tayyeba, Hizb-Ul-Mujahideen, Harkat-Ul-Mujahideen, Al Badr, Dukhtar-e-Millat, Babbar Khalsa International, Khalistan Commando Force and International Sikh Youth Federation.

The NCTA started declaring organisations as proscribed

in 2001, by banning Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ). The LeJ is based in Pakistan with limited operations in Afghanistan.

The Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (Afghanistan), Balochistan Liberation Army, Balochistan Liberation Front, Lashkar-e-Balochistan, Balochistan Liberation United Front, Tanzeem Naujawan-e-Ahle Sunnat, Gilgit, Anjuman-e-Imamia Gilgit Baltistan and Muslim Students Organization (MSO) Gilgit are among the banned organisations, as per the NCTA documents.

Others in the NCTA list are the Abdullah Azam Brigades (Lebanon, Syria and Arabian Peninsula), East Turkmenistan Islamic Movement (Turkey, Afghanistan), Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (Uzbekistan) and Islamic Jihad Union (Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Germany).

Two groups — the Ghulam-e-Sahaba and the Maymar Trust — have been under the scanner of the Pakistan government while

another, Al-Akhtar Trust, has been declared a proscribed organisation under a UN Security Council resolution.

The Hafiz Saeed-led JuD is a front organization for the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) which is responsible for carrying out the Mumbai attack that killed 166 people.

It was declared as a foreign terrorist organisation by the US in June 2014.

Even though JeM, responsible for the Pulwama terror attack, and LeT, responsible for the 26/11 attack, were banned by Pakistan, founders of both the terrorist groups — Masood Azhar and Hafiz Saeed respectively — are roaming freely in Pakistan and are patronised by the Pakistan government as well as military. Azhar is undergoing treatment for renal failure at the army base hospital in Bahawalpur. The Pakistan Government has re-branded Hafiz Saeed as a democrat by fielding him in the last general elections.

Rahul attacks Modi over Pulwama attack, dubs him 'prime time minister'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Friday said the "prime time minister" continued shooting for a film till even three hours after news of the Pulwama terror strike came in.

There was an ocean of pain in the country's hearts and in the homes of martyrs and he was smiling and doing a photo shoot in the waters, Rahul said on Twitter with #PhotoShootSarkar.

Adding to the controversy surrounding PM Modi's whereabouts after the Pulwama attack, Rahul tweeted four photographs of the Prime Minister in Jim Corbett Park.

Accompanying the photographs, Rahul wrote, "Even three hours after the martyrdom of 40 soldiers in Pulwama,

'prime time minister' was shooting for a film."

"There was a sea of grief in the hearts of Indians and homes of the soldiers, and he was smiling in his photoshoot at a lake," Rahul tweeted in Hindi.

Rahul went on to say, "A river of mourning in the hearts of the nation and the homes of the martyrs and he [PM Modi] was laughing and getting a photo shoot done next to a river."

This was a reference to photos that show the prime minister in a motorboat in the Jim Corbett national park.

Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala, addressing a Press conference, also claimed that the Prime Minister continued to "have tea and samosas at seven o'clock in a PWD guest house when every single Indian household didn't eat food (that day)".

PM photo shoot: BJP slams Cong's claim

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

While asserting that "lies" need not to be responded to, the BJP on Friday dismissed Congress president Rahul Gandhi's claim that Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended a photo shoot allegedly hours after the Pulwama attack on February 14 as "fake news" and maintained that photographs displayed by the Opposition party were clicked in the morning ahead of the terror strikes.

"Rahul Ji, India is tired of your fake news. Stop sharing photos from that morning to shamelessly mislead the nation. Maybe you knew in advance of the attack but people of India got to know in the evening. Try a better stunt next time, where sacrifice of soldiers isn't involved," the BJP tweeted.

The BJP hit back after the Congress president called Modi "prime time minister" and said he continued shooting for a film in Uttarakhand even three hours after news of the Pulwama terror strike came in.

He also attacked photographs of Modi attending the photo-shoot and taking a boat ride. BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra dismissed as lies the Congress's claim that Prime Minister was "completely oblivious" to the terror strike or "insensitive" as he "continued"

with his prior engagements after the attack, and asserted that such lies need not be responded to.

Patra also attacked West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and some other opposition leaders, claiming that they have spoken on the same lines as Pakistan has by questioning the timing of the attack. The neighbouring country has tried to link the attack with the upcoming Lok Sabha polls in India, he said, accusing the Trinamool Congress president of making similar comments.

He referred to the UN Security Council's strong condemnation of the terror attack and naming of Pakistan-based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad by the global body to underscore the Modi Government's efforts to isolate Pakistan.

"On the one hand all countries are standing with India... Humanity is standing with us, some political parties for their petty politics are not standing with the country," Patra said, attacking the Congress.

Condemning media reports that had done a caste-wise analysis of the 40 CRPF personnel who were killed in the attack, Patra alleged that the Congress was behind it. "What kind of articles the Congress is getting printed," he asked, saying that Pakistan sees "casteism" and "Hindu-Muslim" issues as

Centre decides to keep in abeyance powers of arrest given to Assam Rifles

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre decided on Friday to keep in abeyance the special powers given to the Assam Rifles to arrest anyone and search a place without warrant in northeastern States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram, officials said. The Home Ministry will now revisit the issue with the concerned state governments, which apparently opposed the move to give sweeping powers to the paramilitary force.

It has been decided that the enabling notifications issued on February 19, giving powers to Assam Rifles be kept in abeyance and the entire matter be revisited in consultation with the state governments concerned, a Home Ministry official said.

While giving the powers to the Assam Rifles, a Home Ministry notification had said, "An officer of the rank corresponding to that of the lowest rank of members of the Assam Rifles" has been given these powers under the Code of Criminal Procedure. Assam Rifles personnel will exercise these powers and discharge their duties "under sub-section (1) of section 41, sections 47, 48, 49, 51, 53, 54, 149, 150, 151 and 152 of the CrPc within the local limits of the area comprised within the border districts of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram", the notification had said.

Officials said on Friday that powers under CrPc were available to the Assam Rifles under the Assam Rifles Act, 1941. However, after coming into operation of the new Assam Rifles Act 2006, the issue of re-conferring these powers has remained under consideration since then.

Recently, the issue has acquired urgency for effective enforcement of Free Movement Regime on the Indo-Myanmar border (on the 16 km belt on either side).



Congress president Rahul Gandhi being presented with a memento at Lord Venkateswara temple in Tirumala on Friday

Twitter Head of Public Policy to appear before Parl panel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Twitter Chief Executive Officer Jack Dorsey will not appear before the Parliamentary panel on IT on February 25, and instead the company is sending its Head of Public Policy Colin Crowell. The Parliamentary panel on Information Technology had summoned Twitter head Jack Dorsey to appear before it on February 25, and had refused to meet "junior officials" of the microblogging site during its meeting on February 11.

The meeting had been called against the backdrop of growing concerns about safeguarding citizens' data privacy and the possibility of social media platforms being used to interfere in the upcoming elections. After this meeting, the panel is expected to summon top executives of Facebook and WhatsApp on March 5 to discuss similar issues.

Sources in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), however, said efforts were still on to have Dorsey attend the meeting. On February 11, the committee had refused to meet junior officials from Twitter's India office who were present at the meeting venue. During the meeting with Twitter, the panel wants to examine issues such as data privacy. It is also

seeking to better understand the company's business structure, including whether it is a technology company or a media house.

The panel passed an unanimous resolution that the micro-blogging website's CEO should make himself available to show the company's seriousness in safeguarding rights of Indian citizens online, they added.

As per the resolution, the panel would hear only the Twitter CEO or senior member of its global team "who has decision making authority regarding Twitter's operations in India," one of the sources had said, according to news agency Press Trust of India.

Even as it faces heat over allegations of political bias in the country, Twitter has maintained that it is committed to remain unbiased and that its product as well as policies is never based on political ideology.

The Government has been taking a strong view of misuse of social media platforms and is also proposing to amend IT rules to curb fake news and increase accountability of such apps.

Over the last few weeks, Facebook, Twitter and Google have promised to infuse more transparency into political advertisements on their platform, and announced a slew of measures as part of their election integrity efforts.

On Thursday, Twitter said it has

formed an internal, cross-functional group to lead "electoral integrity work" in India that will proactively support partner escalations, and identify potential threats from malicious actors.

Now file complaint with DoT against offensive messages received on WhatsApp

New Delhi: People can now file a complaint with the Department of Telecom (DoT) against offensive messages received on WhatsApp. This is what the AIADMK allocated to the PMK on Tuesday to ensure the Vanniyar dominated party stays with the front led by the ruling dispensation in Tamil Nadu. Stalin who called on Vijayakanth told reporters that there was no politics in his visit to the actor's residence. "We are good friends for the last 35 years and my visit was to enquire about the health of

"If anyone is receiving abusive/offensive/death threats/vulgar whatsapp messages, please send screen shots of the message along with the mobile numbers at ccaddn-dot@nic.in. "We will take it up with the telecom operators and police heads for necessary action," DoT Controller Communications Ashish Joshi tweeted.

The move comes following many public figures, including journalists, complaining of receiving abusive and threatening messages.

All roads in Chennai lead to Vijayakanth

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Vijayakanth, convalescing at his house in Chennai suburb has become the most sought after person in Tamil Nadu politics. MK Stalin, president of the DMK and Tamil film's all time great Rajinikanth called on the ailing actor at his residence on Friday as political alliance formation in the State for the Lok Sabha election reached a feverish pitch.

Vijayakanth, founder of the DMDK has not opened his mind to the media. But news trickling out of his Virugambakkam residence through emissaries of the AIADMK, the DMK and the BJP who met him to court him to their fronts

said that the actor is adamant that he should get at least seven seats and a Rajya Sabha seat from the AIADMK. This is what the AIADMK allocated to the PMK on Tuesday to ensure the Vanniyar dominated party stays with the front led by the ruling dispensation in Tamil Nadu. Stalin who called on Vijayakanth told reporters that there was no politics in his visit to the actor's residence. "We are good friends for the last 35 years and my visit was to enquire about the health of

Vijayakanth," said Stalin after the meet. As usual grapevines in Chennai worked overtime and came out with stories claiming that Rajinikanth's visit was as an emissary of the BJP and he had requested Vijayakanth to join the



DMK president MK Stalin meets DMKD chief Vijayakanth at his residence in Chennai on Friday

AIADMK-led front.

"There is not a drop of politics in my visit to Vijayakanth's house," said Rajinikanth. Sources close to the DMDK first family (which include Premalatha Vijayakanth and her brother T S Suddhes) said that the actor has demanded seven Lok Sabha seats and would not settle for anything less. "He may come round and join the front which pays him the pound of flesh he demands. This could be Lok Sabha seats or in kind" said the source.

Women on top in Mamata's health scheme

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a revolutionary first step that could go a distance in restoring women's pride in the Indian family system, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday unfolded a family health scheme that would primarily revolve around the main woman of the family.

In what she called a card issued in the name of the "woman head of the family" the newly devised smart health card would take care of health expenses of up to Rs 5 lakh in a given family. The card issued to the woman would take care not only of her marital family but also of her biological parents, she said. "This is a great step forward towards women's empowerment," Banerjee said,

adding the person who would be issued the card would be considered as the head of the family and "it would not only take care of her marital family but also of her parents as often such parents become helpless in their old age."

Listing how her Government's achievements have been acknowledged internationally Banerjee said the Utkarsh Bangla scheme like the earlier Kanyashree plan had won UN awards. On social welfare she said how "about 8 crore people of the State get Rs 2 per kg rice" and her Government had waived the taxes on farm land.

"We have also done away with the mutation fees and have been giving Swami Vivekananda scholarships to the boys," she said listing the numerous achievements of her Government.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
Chief Workshop Manager N.R. C&W Workshop Alambagh Lucknow invites following e-tender:	
1 Name of work	Hiring of 05 Drivers for 08 Hrs. Shift for Operation of Diesel Forklifts inside C&W Workshop.
2 Location	C & W Workshop, Alambagh, Lucknow
3 Approx cost of the work	Rs. 12,39,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Thirty nine Thousand only)
4 Cost of Tender Form	Rs. 2,000/- only (accepted through net banking or payment gateway only)
5 Earnest money to be deposited	Rs. 24,800/- only (accepted through net banking or payment gateway only)
6 Completion period of the work	300 Working Days from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance.
7 Date & Time for Submissions of Tender	from 28.02.2019 to 14.03.2019 up to 15:00 Hrs.
8 Format for Affidavit	AFFIDAVIT AS PER ANNEXURE-A MUST BE SCANNED AND UPLOADED
9 Opening of Tender	Tender opening will be done any time after the tender closing time. The tenders are not required to be present during the opening.
10 Address of the office from where the form can be purchased	All complete details of Tender Notice / Documents are available at website www.irps.gov.in
11 Website particulars where complete details of tender can be seen etc.	
Tender Notice No. 2019-AMV-C and W- Etender-07 Dated: 20.02.2019 561/19	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

उपकेन्द्र वाराणसी पर ओपेन स्टोर याई हेतु
बार्ड वयार सिकोरिटी कंसिग एवं सोलिंग
आफ थ्रिक्स का कार्य। घरोहर घनराशि रु०
2,00,000. निविदा दिनांक 02.04.2019 को
16:00 बजे तक ई-टेंडरिंग वेबसाईट
www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जा
सकती है। भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 03.04.2019
समय 12:30 बजे के उपरान्त एवं भाग-2
(प्राइस पार्ट्स) खुलने की तिथि तदनुसार
ई-वेबसाईट पर सूचित की जायेगी। निविदा
प्रश्न मूल्य रु० 236/- मात्र (रु. 200.00+GST
@18% अतिरिक्त)। (3) 258-विभाग(00)
रु०/2018-19. विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड -
तृतीय लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत 220 के०वी
उपकेन्द्र वाराणसी एवं 132 के०वी उपकेन्द्र
मोहनलाल गंज पर विभिन्न आकार के नेम
बोर्ड्स का अमूर्ति एवं अन्य संशोधनों आदि
के सम्बन्ध में सूचना एवं निविदा प्रश्न
उपलब्ध करने हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग वेबसाईट
02.04.2019 को 16:00 बजे तक ई-टेंडरिंग
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भाग-2 (प्राइस पार्ट्स) खुलने की तिथि
तदनुसार ई-वेबसाईट पर सूचित की
जायेगी। निविदा प्रश्न मूल्य रु० 236/- मात्र
(रु. 200.00+GST@18% अतिरिक्त)। ई-निविदा
खुलने की तिथि व समय क्रमशः निम्नानुसार
है : (1) 256-विभाग(00) रु०/2018-19
विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-तृतीय लखनऊ के
अन्तर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्रों पर विभिन्न
अभिन्नान उपकरणों की मरम्मत जोररहा
सिग. रिफ्लिग एवं पेंटिंग का कार्य। घरोहर
घनराशि रु० 2,00,000. निविदा दिनांक
02.04.2019 को 16:00 बजे तक ई-टेंडरिंग
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03.04.2019 समय 12:30 बजे के उपरान्त
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तदनुसार ई-वेबसाईट पर सूचित की जायेगी।
निविदा प्रश्न मूल्य रु० 236/- मात्र (रु. 200.00
+GST@18% अतिरिक्त)। (2) 257-विभाग(00)
(00)रु०/2018-19. विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड -
तृतीय लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत 220 के.वी.

J-K govt seeks transfer of 7 Pak terrorists

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday moved the Supreme Court seeking the transfer of seven Pakistani terrorists from Jammu jail to Tihar prison here on grounds that they were allegedly indoctrinating local prisoners.

A bench of Justices LN Rao and MR Shah sought a response from Centre and the Delhi government on

the plea. Jammu and Kashmir government's standing counsel Shoeb Alam said terrorists belonging to various organisations need to be shifted out of Jammu jail as they were involved in the indoctrination of local prisoners.

If not Tihar, they can be shifted to other high security prisons in Haryana and Punjab, he said.

To this, the bench said it will hear the matter and asked Alam to ensure

that a copy of the notice is served to the seven terrorists also.

A day after the Pulwama attack on February 14 in which 40 CRPF personnel were martyred, the Jammu and Kashmir government had moved the apex court to shift a Lashkar-E-Taiba terrorist, Zahid Farooq, out of Jammu jail.

Farooq was arrested by security forces while trying to cross the border security fence on May 19, 2016.

The state government had said intelligence inputs received indicated that militants belonging to terror outfits like Jaish-e-Muhammad and LeT are indoctrinating the minds of other inmates lodged in the prison.

It was reliably learnt that the prisoner and other individuals have considerable local support and it cannot be ruled out that they may be receiving information, resources as well as other help to carry out terrorist relat-

ed activities, the state government added. The state also sought shifting of the trial to Delhi saying it apprehends that transporting the militant to court and back to prison poses a threat to escorting policemen and common public.

Alam had cited an example of an attack on a police party last year when policemen were killed and a Pakistani terrorist prisoner was freed from custody while on a hospital visit.

SC comes to rescue of Kashmiris under attack

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sought a response from states where incidents of threat and violence against Kashmiris were reported following the Pulwama terror attack and directed their chief secretaries and DGPs to take "prompt" and necessary action. The chief secretaries and director generals of police (DGPs) of Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand, and the Delhi Police Commissioner have been directed by the apex court to prevent incidents of "threat, assault and social boycott" of Kashmiris, including students.

Justice Ranjan Gogoi also directed that the police officers, who were earlier appointed as nodal officers to deal with lynching incidents, would now be responsible to deal with cases of assaults on Kashmiris. The bench asked the Union Home Ministry to give wide publicity so that Kashmiri people after facing such incidents can approach the nodal officers. "The chief secretaries, the DGPs and the Delhi Police Commissioner are directed to take prompt and necessary action to prevent the incidents of threat, assault, social boycott etc against Kashmiris and other minorities," the bench also comprising Justice Sanjiv Khanna said.

The bench was hearing a plea of Tariq Adeb seeking a direction to the Centre and the states to prevent incidents of assaults, threats and social boycott of Kashmiris in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed. Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves appearing for the petitioner claimed that at the outset, 10 more incidents of assaults have taken place in various states after filing of the petition and necessary directions be issued urgently to stop them. Attorney General (AG) KK Venugopal, appearing for the Centre said the ministry had issued the requisite advisory to states and Union territories (UTs) on this issue on February 17. "The Centre has already issued advisory to all states and UTs on February 17 but we can't tell the states about their specific actions



that can be taken in such cases because law and order is a state subject," the AG said. Taking note of the submission, the bench referred to its earlier decision by which it had asked the states and union territories to appoint a senior police officer as nodal officer in each district to deal with

the cases of mob violence. It said the police officers will deal with the incidents pertaining to Kashmiris and other minorities in these states in the wake of the recent terror strike. The bench has now listed the matter for further hearing on next Wednesday. The plea had sought a direction to the Centre and other authorities for prosecuting people engaging in hate speech, and to appoint a nodal officer in every state and union territory, including politically-sensitive districts, to prevent acts of violence, discrimination and vigilantism. It had also sought immediate setting up of a nationwide helpline number and a website containing contact details of the nodal officers appointed in politically-sensitive districts. "There is a sudden rise in the inci-

dents of crimes against Muslims and Kashmiris after the Pulwama terrorist attack on February 14 in which over 40 soldiers were killed... Immediately after the attack, mobs and vigilante groups engaged in vitriolic hate speech and began attacking, and threatening Muslims and Kashmiris throughout the country, the petition had said. "These incidents are a part of organised hate campaign against Muslims and Kashmiri, most cases which are fabricated and the hysteria that now surrounds India has been engineered to gain political mileage. "The extremist groups have led vigilante mob attacks across the country to enforce nationalism by leaders of various groups who claim to promote and instigated hate crimes," the petition had said.

VIVEK DOVAL DEFAMATION PLEA

Court reserves order on whether to summon Jairam, Caravan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi court on Friday reserved its order on whether to summon Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, The Caravan magazine and its reporter as accused in a defamation plea filed by NSA Ajit Doval's son Vivek against the magazine. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Samar Vishal said it will pass the order on March 2 on whether to summon them as accused in the plea. Vivek, in his complaint, had said the magazine and Ramesh had attempted to "deliberately malign and defame" him to "settle scores with his father". The Caravan had alleged that Vivek Doval, "runs a hedge fund in the Cayman Islands" which is "an established tax haven".



Nikhil Kapur, Vivek's friend and his business partner Amit Sharma had recorded their statements before the court saying the allegations levelled in the article were false, including the one which said that Vivek's business was linked to his elder brother Shaurya Doval.

On January 30, Vivek had recorded his statement before the court, saying all allegations levelled by the magazine and later repeated by Ramesh at a press conference were "baseless" and "false" and damaged his reputation in the eyes of family members and professional colleagues. According to the complaint filed by him, the contents of the article present "no illegality" on his part, but the entire narration has been presented in a manner, which suggests "wrongdoings" to readers. With regard to Ramesh, the complaint said the press conference addressed by him went "beyond the mere narration in the article" and that he was already geared and armed to launch an attack, "merely waiting for the publication of the article", which could then provide a "smoke-screen to the otherwise targeted and deliberate attack on the reputation of the complainant and his family". The complaint said the article has been used as a political tool to "foster in unscrupulous hands" to "seek vendetta and wreak vengeance".

According to the complaint, Ramesh had held a press conference on January 17 reiterating the "baseless and unfounded facts" as narrated in the article. On February 11, two witnesses had given court statements in support of the defamation complaint, saying the published article, and subsequent use of its content by Ramesh, had resulted in huge unrest among investors of Vivek's firm.

It also said that the very act of setting up and launching of a hedge fund, whether in the Cayman Islands or any other place in the world, is not by itself an illegal and unlawful act.



Exhibitors at a stall during the Aero India-2019 air show at the Yelahanka air base in Bengaluru on Friday

Modi receives Seoul Peace Prize

PTI ■ SEOUL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the prestigious Seoul Peace Prize for 2018 on Friday for his contribution to international cooperation and fostering global economic growth.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives the Seoul Peace Prize, at the award ceremony in Seoul on Friday

The award was presented to him by the Seoul Peace Prize Foundation at a grand ceremony here. A short film on the life and achievements of Prime Minister Modi was also screened at the event.

Modi expressed his gratitude for the prestigious honour and said, "this award belongs not to me personally, but to the people of India."

"The success that India has achieved in the last five years is due to aspirations, inspiration and efforts of the people of India. On their behalf, I accept the award and express my gratitude," he said.

He said he was honoured that the award is being conferred on him in the year that India celebrates the

150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. He dedicated the USD 200,000 prize money to 'Namami Gange Programme', which is flagship programme of his government to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of River Ganga.

Modi is the 14th recipient of the award and the past laureates included former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and renowned international relief organizations like Doctors Without Borders and Oxfam. The Seoul Peace Prize was established in 1990 to commemorate the success of the 24th Olympic Games held in Seoul.

The award was established to crystallise Korean people's yearning for peace on the Korean peninsula and in the rest of the world. Speaking at the event, Prime Minister Modi expressed concern over the growing menace of terrorism and recalled that a few weeks before the Seoul Olympics in 1988, an organisation called Al-Qaeda was formed. "Today, radicalisation and terrorism have become global and are the biggest threats to world peace and security," he said. He said that like Korea, India has also suffered the pain of cross-border strife.

PM to lay foundation stone of India's longest LPG pipeline tomorrow

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Sunday lay the foundation stone of the country's longest LPG pipeline that will cater to cooking fuel needs of a fourth of the country's population, said Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. State-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC) is laying an LPG pipeline from Gujarat coast to Gorakhpur in eastern Uttar Pradesh to cater to growing demand for cooking gas in the country. IOC plans to import LPG at Kandla in Gujarat and move it through the 1,987-kilometre pipeline to Gorakhpur via Ahmedabad (in Gujarat), Ujjain, Bhopal (in Madhya Pradesh), Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi and Lucknow (in Uttar Pradesh). "The pipeline possibly is the longest LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) pipeline in the world," Pradhan said adding the pipeline would be laid at a cost of Rs 9,000 crore. The pipeline will carry 3.75 million tonne per annum of LPG. LPG will be fed into the pipeline at Kandla port as well as IOC's Koyali refinery in Gujarat.

This will be the biggest LPG pipeline in the country. GAIL currently operates a 1,415-km line from Jamnagar in Gujarat to Loni near here. The line carries 2.5 million tonne of LPG annually. GAIL also has a 623-km Vizag-Secunderabad pipeline. IOC also has a 274-km pipeline from Panipat in Haryana to Jalandhar. "Prime Minister will on February 24 lay the foundation stone of the pipeline project that will supply LPG to 22 bottling plants along the route," he said. IOC in its application to oil regulator Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) for laying the pipeline had in 2016 stated that: "The demand for LPG is increasing consistently in recent years. Further, due to the Government of India's emphasis to make LPG - a clean and environmentally friendly fuel, available to every domestic household in the country, LPG demand is expected to increase at a much steeper rate in the coming year."

It expected the deficit between what its refineries produce and the demand to reach about 10 million tonne per annum by 2031-32. LPG demand has grown 10.5 per cent this fiscal with just about half of the 8.4 million tonne consumed being locally produced. "Considering the deficit figures for LPG, it is essential to import LPG at the nearest port and then transport it to the bottling plants through the most economical modes," IOC had said. IOC is building additional import capacities at Paradip, Cochin and Kandla to meet the increasing requirements of imports.

"West coast remains most suitable to import LPG to meet the demand of North and Central India. Though there is a common carrier pipeline to link West Coast to North ie Jamnagar-Loni pipeline, there is no LPG pipeline in existence or in construction to link West Coast to Central India or Eastern India," it had said. The proposed pipeline will connect eight of IOC's LPG bottling plants in Central and Northern India. It will also supply LPG to bottling plants of other companies such as BPCL and HPCL. IOC caters to nearly half of the country's 26 crore LPG consumers.

UNSC names JeM for...

From Page 1

In the statement, the UNSC also reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice. The UNSC also urged all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with India and all other relevant authorities to bring perpetrators of the Pulwama attack to justice. Pakistan's Permanent representative at the UN Maleeha Lodhi even met the President of Security Council but her efforts did not bear any fruit, they said.

Asked about the statement highlighting the role of JeM claiming the responsibility of the Pulwama attack, China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters that Beijing was closely following the developments related to the terror incident.

"The UN Security Council issued a Press statement that mentioned that a particular organisation but only in general terms. It does not represent a judgment on the attack," Geng said. He also said, "China also noted that the Pakistani Government showed readiness to cooperate with India on the investigation and that it is also ready to resolve differences with India through dialogue. China hopes all parties will work to find the truth about this attack. We hope Pakistan and India will engage in dialogue to jointly safeguard regional peace and stability," he said.

Govt issues details of stopping flow of water to Pakistan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Union minister Nitin Gadkari said India had decided to "stop" the flow of its share of river water to Pakistan under the Indus Water Treaty, the Water Resources Ministry on Friday issued details of various projects being worked upon to enforce it.

"Under the leadership of Hon'ble PM Sri @narendramodiji, Our Govt. has decided to stop our share of water which used to flow to Pakistan. We will divert water from Eastern rivers and supply it to our people in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab (sic)," Gadkari had tweeted on Thursday.

However, additional director general of media and communications in the ministry Neeta Prasad later clarified that it was not a "new decision" and that the water resources minister was "simply reiterating" what he had always said.

The Water Resources Ministry on Friday issued a statement giving details of the projects being implemented to stop the flow of waters that belong to India. Asked what prompted the ministry to issue the statement, a source said the minister's tweet prompted the ministry to give details of the projects being worked upon.

small share for China and Afghanistan, the ministry said in the statement.

Under the Indus Water Treaty signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, all the waters of the three rivers, namely Ravi, Sutlej and Beas (eastern Rivers) averaging around 33 million acre feet (MAF) were allocated to India for exclusive use.

The waters of western rivers — Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab averaging to around 135 MAF were allocated to Pakistan except for specified domestic, non-consumptive and agricultural use permitted to India as provided in the treaty. India has constructed the Bhakra Dam on Sutlej, Pong and Pandoh Dam on Beas and Thein (Ranjitsagar) on Ravi. These storage works, together with other works like Beas-Sutlej link, Madhopur-Beas link, Indira Gandhi Nahar Project etc. has helped India utilise nearly entire share (95 %) of waters of the eastern rivers.

However, about 2 MAF of water annually from Ravi is reported to be still flowing unutilised to Pakistan below Madhopur. The ministry also listed the projects being worked on to stop the flow of the waters that belong to India for its utilisation in the country.

Among the projects is the Shahpurkandi project that will help in utilising the waters coming out from powerhouse of Thein dam to

irrigate 37,000 hectares of land in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Punjab, and generate 206 MW of power, the statement said.

"The project was scheduled to be completed by September 2016. However, following a dispute between the states of J&K and Punjab, the work on the project had been suspended since August 30, 2014.

After an agreement reached on September 8, 2018, between J&K and Punjab, the construction work has now been resumed by the Punjab government, under the central government's monitoring.

Another project aimed at restricting the flow of the waters belonging to India is the Ujh multipurpose project that will create a storage of about 781 million cubic metre of water on river Ujh, a tributary of Ravi, for irrigation and power generation in India, the statement said.

The Detailed Project Report of the venture has been technically approved for the total estimated cost of Rs 5,850 crore in July, 2017. This project is a national project and the central assistance of Rs 4,892.47 crore on works portion of irrigation component as well as the special grant is under consideration, the statement said. "The implementation of the project will take 6 years from beginning of the implementation," the statement said.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD

Tender Notice No. 13020182019 E-Tendering Tender Notice Dated: 12.02.2019
Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/North Central Railway/Allahabad, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tenders for the following works up to 13.30 hrs. on 27-03-2019. The details of the Tenders are as under:-

S. No.	Tender No. & Name of Work	Approx. Cost (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)	Completion Period
1.	328: Drestressing of track on Main line in the section of ADEN/FZD under Sr. DEN/IV/ALD	₹ 40,89,903/-	₹ 81,800/-	12 Months
2.	329: Drestressing of track on Main line in the section of DEN/ETW under Sr. DEN/IV/ALD	₹ 40,89,903/-	₹ 81,800/-	Months
3.	330: Complete Track Renewal (Secondary) of Loop lines in section of SSE/PWay/ETW Under ADEN/NCR/ETW	₹ 85,17,402/-	₹ 1,70,400/-	Months
4.	331: Repairs to miscellaneous works in Hirangaon & Bhadan Railway colony in the section of SSE/WFZD under ADEN/NCR/FZD	₹ 53,37,674/-	₹ 1,06,800/-	Months
5.	332: Replacement of old & worn out water pipe line at Tundia under ADEN/HQ/TDL.	₹ 2,25,41,896/-	₹ 2,62,700/-	Months
6.	333: Provision of Galvalume sheet roofing with trusses at Bridge no. 84 (RUB) at KM 1231/0-2 near Firozabad station under ADEN/NCR/FZD.	₹ 44,03,800/-	₹ 88,100/-	Months

Cost of Tender Form (₹): For SI. No. 1, 2 & 6 : ₹ 3,000/-, For SI. No. 3 & 4 : ₹ 5,000/- and For SI. No. 5 : ₹ 10,000/-, Date of Opening of tender: For SI. No. 1 to 6: 27.03.2019, Note: 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website www.i-reps.gov.in up to 13:30 hrs. on the due date of tender opening i.e. 27.03.2019. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entry in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Documents being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 5. This tender notice have also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 6. Cost of Tender Document and Earnest Money can only be deposited Online through Internet Banking or Payment Gateway. 7. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 8. Supplier of Goods and/or Services would be a subject to GST Act, and Rules as applicable from time to time. 9. The tenderers shall submit a notarified affidavit on a non judicial stamp paper of ₹ 100/- as given tender document in standard format, without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily rejected. 25/19(R)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

Starve terror funding

While the UNSC has named JeM in its resolution, it should follow up by curtailing funds to Pakistan-based terror outfits



Given that China has always obliged its puppet state of Pakistan in the past and blocked any anti-terror resolution against groups that use the territory of India's western neighbour to launch a constant stream of small attacks on our country, it was telling that even it was forced into approving the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution. With trade talks with the United States stalled and China's economy feeling the heat due to the Trump Administration's talks on that front, China finally gave up its blatant hypocrisy and approved this resolution. One must not

forget that despite China's covert support for Islamist terrorists in Pakistan, that country has been brutalising its Islamic minority in its north-west region. The Uighurs in particular have been incarcerated in mass camps, which according to scant reports from that region, are akin to Nazi Germany's concentration camps. Unfortunately, JeM chief, Masood Azhar, while able to indoctrinate youths into killing themselves, does not quite comprehend the concept of irony of being protected by a country whose policy towards his Muslim brethren, whom he claims to be fighting for, is so frighteningly barbaric.

But even if China condemns the attack on Indian paramilitary forces, albeit indirectly through a UNSC resolution, it will not change Pakistan's behaviour. As long as funds continue to flow into Pakistan from Saudi Arabia, China and even Western powers, which are desperate for peace in Afghanistan, can do little. The Pakistani meddling has left its western neighbour poverty-stricken and under-developed yet flush with weapons. The US and the European Union through their central banks must do more to block the routes of terror fundings. The United States Treasury Department, for example, claims jurisdiction whenever the US dollar is used in bribes or terror and following the 9/11 attacks has done a lot to clean out the global banking system of terror funding and money laundering. Yet, much more needs to be done to clean up the system. In India as well, despite digitisation and the impact of demonetisation, money-laundering continues to grease the wheels of the terrorist machine in Kashmir. It is likely that the authorities are aware of how the system works, often through seemingly legitimate businesses. They have to crack down on these.

While cutting the money machine will not completely stop terrorism in the Valley, it can dramatically aid the situation because indoctrination only goes so far. Without money, terror activities also dry up. This is similar to the methods used by the Israelis in combating terror. While the Government has acted against wanton sources of foreign money coming into India, which earlier had little or no accountability, it has dawdled in cracking down on those who fund Kashmiri separatists. And this has to stop now.

Erring Governor

The BJP has failed in fulfilling its Constitutional duties by not acting against Tathagata Roy's anti-Kashmiri remarks



It has almost become routine now for the nation to expect directives from the Supreme Court on what should have been an easy enough executive function of the State, to protect the rights of its citizens, majority or minority. So though the Home Ministry issued a directive to secure Kashmiris following the hitbacks of rage and hate post-Pulwama, the failure of implementing it was evident from a series of attacks and slurs on Kashmiri students and traders across the country. One that led to a PIL and the top court telling the government how it is done. It directed chief secretaries and DGPs of 11 States, where the hate-mongering was severe, to take "prompt" action to prevent incidents of threat, assault and social boycott of Kashmiris and specifically assigned police officers, who were earlier appointed as nodal officers to deal with incidents of mob lynching, to look after affected Kashmiris.

The question is whether the current NDA government could not have done this on its own? The question also is if the government, seeking a second term in general elections just weeks away, doesn't want to be seen as *sabka saath*? Or does it want to pander to the majoritarian discourse and play up the hyper-nationalist narrative following the biggest terrorist attack in the Valley? Everybody is angry about this gross brutality but to ostracise an entire community of people just because it had been blighted by some indoctrinated militants is to simplify the problem to suit a certain narrative than deal with the complexities of it. Clearly, the government of the day has not helped douse inflamed passions or emotions by playing down the extent of hate crimes, even by way of an appeal by one of the Ministers. What is inexcusable is its staunch refusal to upbraid the Meghalaya Governor Tathagata Roy, who has been fanning hatred by calling for a boycott of Kashmiri goods and people on his social media handle, implicitly turning Indians *versus* Indians though he believes Kashmiris are not worth being called that. Neither has the top leadership of the BJP asked him to issue an apology or delete his tweet, except distancing itself from his remarks. Strangely, there is no talk of recalling the Governor for acting contrary to his Constitutional duties. And while President Ram Nath Kovind is bound to act on the advice of his Council of Ministers, fact is there is no statement or action by his office to condemn the fissiparous comments. For a chair that was once held by luminaries, at least there could have been a moral censure, displeasure or conscience call. That he is allowed to make in keeping with the spirit of the Constitution. By allowing the Meghalaya Governor to go scot free despite his abusive statements, he too would be seen as failing in executing his constitutional duties. Roy's comments clearly fall within the ambit of the legal principle of "compelling reasons" to initiate action against him for going against the spirit embedded in our Preamble and clearly violating the principles of liberty, equality, fraternity and justice. Can we afford to alienate Kashmiris further when counter-insurgency should be matched by a counter-social engagement? Evacuating them from other Indian states, where they have gone to better their lives away from militancy through education and jobs, is like pouring cold water on mainstreaming efforts. By failing to act against Roy, the government seems to be giving a tacit approval to sick polarisation attempts simply because they can cause an emotional wave during the elections. The BJP may want to keep him as a party member but he sure should not be Governor anymore.

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Tough terms of friendship

Given Saudi Arabia's own priorities and strategic roadmap imperatives, Pakistan will remain a preferred ally as long as it does not harm Saudi interests directly



BHOPINDER SINGH

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad-bin Salman (MBS) is touring the three most important capitals beyond Washington, DC, in his post-Khashoggi phase. The Western capitals were ultimately not amused by MBS' ingrained feudal instincts in carrying out the rash internal purge, *l'affaire* Khashoggi and other unwarranted military interventions, after the initial hoopla surrounding the ostensible modernisation drive by the "real power behind the throne." His initially feted socio-economic promises of "Vision 2030" and steps to liberalise and reform the society were soon undone by reports of increased human rights violations and clumsy interventions in Syria, Yemen and Qatar as also a purported kidnapping of the Lebanese Prime Minister!

However, the crude and brutal assassination of Saudi dissenter Jamal Khashoggi, attributed directly to the recklessness of the young Prince himself, was the last straw for the Western nations in condemning MBS openly. His style of management by intimidation, coercion and "buying out" became obvious as indeed his deep-rooted insecurities and ambition that saw him systematically "neutralise" all opposition.

Recent international opprobrium has led to heightened insecurities and the Saudis have, therefore, made a deliberate outreach towards the alternative global platform of the East as they hope to enhance their economic and geo-political stability with two of their top three export markets, namely China, the biggest, and India, the third biggest revenue generator. However, his pit-stop at Islamabad was, perhaps, the most significant for it addressed the perennial and foremost fear in the minds of the Saudi Royal family — regime change.

Historically, Saudi Arabia's closest Muslim ally, Pakistan has been the trusted go-to nation for managing all internal and external threats to the vulnerable House of Saud. The role of the Pakistan Army's Special Services Group (SSG) in overcoming the seizure of the Grand Mosque at Mecca in 1979 typified both the sort of domestic challenges that beset the rule of the Saud family as indeed the faith reposed on Pakistani soldiers.

In the 1970s and 1980s, up to 20,000 Pakistani soldiers were said to be deployed within Saudi Arabia to protect its sensitive spots. With the sixth largest military in the world, reasonable combat-exposure and even nuclear capabilities on Pakistan's side, the Saudi-Pakistan relationship became more symbiotic, logical and mutually-gratifying.

Custodianship of the two holiest mosques and as the ready "investor" in all domestic urgencies of Pakistan led a former Pakistani Ambassador to Saudi Arabia



to famously state that the security of Saudi Arabia was a "personal matter." It is often claimed that the Saudis had even secretly funded the Pakistani nuclear programme as it allowed them the plausible option of deniability as also ensured the requisite protection *via* Pakistan in the face of growing threats from its sectarian-nemesis, Iran and also states like Saddam's Iraq and Israel.

The Saudi funding of the Pakistan-controlled Afghan *mujahideen* in the 1980s and 1990s is a matter of recorded fact. Today, a leaner Pakistani contingent in the form of "advisors," trainers and even combat soldiers, ensures the continuity of this crucial comfort-factor for both nations. Deteriorating relationship with the US and parallel growing proximity of both nations with the alternate power centre of China is yet another matter of strategic option and convergence.

The influence that the Saudis can wield on the Pakistani state and also its powerful military was in full display when the Saudi brokered release and exit for the

deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in the 1999 military coup by the then Pakistani General, Pervez Musharraf.

Later, the Saudis were able to rope in the just-retired Pakistani Chief of Army, General Raheel Sharif, to head the controversial 41-nation Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Alliance (IMCTA), based out of Riyadh — without General Raheel Sharif completing the mandatory two-year "cool-off" period required before accepting any international assignment.

There was a minor bump in the relationship with Pakistan shying away from committing its military forces in Saudi Arabia's misguided war in Yemen, owing to sectarian implications within the tinderbox of Pakistan itself. Soon, security desperation for the Saudis and the dire economic desperation for Pakistanis ensured that the two nations perpetuate and strengthen the umbilical cord of *quid pro quo*.

Expectedly, Pakistan pulled out all stops to roll out the red carpet for MBS and he did not disappoint his hosts with a slew

of \$20 billion investments for cash-strapped Pakistanis. More pertinently, the loaded statement, suggesting the dissuasion of "politicising the UN listing regime," when India was in the midst of making international efforts to name and shame Jaish-e-Mohammad's Masood Azhar, did not go unnoticed in New Delhi. Maturity, gravitas and nuanced diplomacy is not a known MBS strength, and particularly at this moment of vulnerability for himself, he would be driven by the urge to buy out Pakistani guarantees for securing the Kingdom's worst nightmare — regime change.

No other country of the 41 nation IMCTA grouping has either the quantity or quality of readily-deployable military or is as deeply indebted to Saudi Arabia for its own economic survival (2.5 million Pakistani work in Saudi Arabia) as the Pakistanis — affording a win-win solution for both by deepening ties. Imran Khan's charm offensives elicited a candid and spontaneous, "Consider me Pakistan's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia," from MBS.

Therefore, given Saudi Arabia's own priorities and

strategic roadmap imperatives, Pakistan will remain a preferred ally that will always benefit from a deliberate overlook for any of its misdemeanours as long as they do not harm Saudi Arabian interests directly.

India shares common ground with Saudi Arabia on religious extremism (finally) and on organisations like the Islamic State (IS) or Al Qaeda — though a similar aversion and clamp-down on the subcontinental extremist bodies like the Jaish-e-Mohammad or even the Pakistan-sponsored Taliban, may not be as forthcoming.

On the contrary, equity with the likes of the Afghan Taliban may actually give Saudi Arabia counter-leverage against the US in its battle of wits. Diminishing the Pakistani establishment, especially its military, would be perceived to be extremely counter-productive to Saudi interests, as it risks portents of regime-change in Saudi Arabia — a nightmare that Pakistan willy-nilly guarantees against.

(The writer is former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry)

SOUNDBITE

To forfeit the cricket match would not just cost two points: It would be worse than surrender since it would be defeat without a fight.



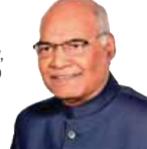
Congress leader —Shashi Tharoor

The mention of JeM in UNSC statement was only in general terms and does not represent a judgement.



China's Foreign Ministry spokesman —Geng Shuang

Technology can be a great enabler in the endeavour to enhance quality of life and dignity, particularly of those who reside in villages.



President —Ram Nath Kovind

We are not preparing for war, you (India) are issuing threats...We are not preparing to initiate but planning to defend and retaliate which is our right.



Pakistan Army spokesman —Maj Gen Asif Ghafoor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Human emotions

Sir — Jealousy is a special form of emotional anxiety that occurs due to the lack of a sense of security in relation to the one who is loved. It is an emotion that has the components of both anger and fear and is most common among children. There is a subtle difference between 'envy' and 'jealousy'. In the case of the former, the need for a loved one is not essential. It is a desire for things that belong to the competitor. Jealousy arises apprehending loss of affection. Apprehension of losing it leads to an attitude of resentment. A child feels insecure and never wishes to lose that person's affection.

Jubel D'Cruz
Mumbai

Be accommodative

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "No gods in Tamil Nadu" (February 22). Though it was alleged that the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) was in discussions with the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) to contest the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections together, it is a blessing in disguise

for the latter that the former is not a part of the alliance now. It's understandable that most cadres in the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) are against its unholy alliance with the PMK and the BJP.

Having conceded 10 Lok Sabha seats to the Congress, DMK president MK Stalin should now be pro-active and show deserving generosity in

accommodating the party's other alliance partners without exhibiting a big brother attitude towards them.

Stalin has his task cut out and he should use all his wit to stitch a coherent and winning team that would work in tandem if he wants his alliance to defeat his rivals in the hustings.

Shalini Gerald
Chennai

Friends with the devil

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "A modern-day Faust" (February 22). We all know how Imran Khan became the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Without visible help from its Army, it would not have been an easy ride for him. Khan's demand for proof from India for Pakistan's involvement in the

Imran Khan: A puppet of Pakistan Army

This refers to the editorial, "A modern-day Faust" (February 21). Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has demanded that India must furnish proof about his country's involvement in the Pulwama terror attack. But already, enough material has been provided to Islamabad in relation to the Mumbai terror attack and other such incidents thereafter that prove beyond doubt the involvement of terror outfits on its soil. Most times, Islamabad has outrightly rejected evidence and if at all someone was booked, the Government deliberately built a weak case which could not stand in the court.

The world knows that Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) has openly claimed responsibility for the Pulwama terror attack which claimed the lives of over 40 jawans. What more proof does Khan want? JeM is a Pakistan-based terror organisation headed by Masood Azhar, which has its headquarters at Bahawalpur. In the past, too, JeM has targeted many Army posts and strategic locations in India, including the Pathankot airbase. Pakistan Army's sponsorship of anti-India



terror groups, too, is well-known. Khan's anti-India attitude and sympathy for the terrorist groups is also not hidden. The Inter-Services Intelligence and the Pakistani Army wanted Khan to become the Prime Minister. Being sure of him becoming a puppet in their hands, they manipulated things for Khan. He is a puppet and a caged parrot of the Army and speaks what he is being tutored.

MC Joshi
Lucknow

Pulwama terror attack despite Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) claiming responsibility for the same is nothing but a joke. India has provided sufficient proof in the past but nothing moved even then.

So Khan's credibility is doubtful. Yes, we should not expect anything positive from him for he has decided to sleep with the devil like the JeM. Khan is walking on thin ice and will pay a huge price for siding with the JeM and other terrorists outfits.

Bal Govind
Noida

Predictable line

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "A modern-day Faust" (February 22). Breaking his silence after the Pulwama attack, Pakistan Prime Minister's statements were only shocking. It's ironical that Pakistan needs more proof. It is amusing that the Pakistan Government, which is unable to control terror activities on its soil, is now talking about retaliation.

Shubham
Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

War beyond borders

India is not the only country facing terrorism. It has to, therefore, ensure a global alliance to break the backbone of terror and its illicit funding



SHIVAJI SARKAR

The Pulwama terror attack that claimed the lives of 40 Indian soldiers has caused remorse and frenzy across the country to take revenge. There has been a cry to teach Pakistan a lesson. Many have even advocated for a war. Indians are hurt but howsoever one may wish, the solution is not easy. India has military preparedness but war will be expensive, and this not just in monetary terms. The sub-continent is passing through severe uncertainty as its neighbours — Afghanistan and China — change tack every now and then. This, combined with the changing situation in Afghanistan, where the US is in a hurry to withdraw its troops, and the Taliban's muscle-flexing, have made matters worse. Russia and Iran are not shy of striking a deal with the Taliban. All of this apart, big money plays a crucial role. It is not just the nation states that are pouring funds. In fact, they, including the US, are having trouble arranging for it. India is just next to a troubled Western Asia sipped by the Islamic State (IS).

The IS war is being fought not for a "holy cause of jihad." Terror is a complex mix of arms-drug peddlers, cyber frauds, human traffickers and other hegemonists. School girls from Europe to West Asia are used in the sex trade. This generates illicit funds. Will the Taliban take control of Afghanistan, where India has invested huge sums of money, as also in diplomacy, with the US' withdrawal? It may be seen as yet another American failure after its loss in Vietnam, Somalia, Iraq and Syria. Since 2001, after spending billions, the US controls not even half of Afghanistan. Afghan soldiers and civilian casualties are heavy. Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE are working out the face-saver for the US' withdrawal. They are also pressurising Pakistan to help as also providing financial aid to boost its forex reserves that are as low as \$ 6 billion. Saudi Arabia has given \$32 billion aid to Islamabad.

Conflict is rising in northern borders of Pakistan. Even Iran lost 28 soldiers in a blast on its borders with Pakistan on February 12. Frenzy is ripe there too. The country vowed retribution. The sub-continent is on a tinder box but war is too complex an affair. Astute diplomacy is needed to save India's economic assistance and friends in Afghanistan and Iran. The Taliban's resurgence is a problem for Islamabad. It fears losing its might to it. Moreover, tribal regions on Pakistan's borders are on ferment with sub-nationalism. Slight change in equilibrium would cause major problems for India and other states. The Pakistani Government is not in full control. The diplomatic question is: Who do you fight? Pakistan? Or in case of a war, Taliban, Jaish-e-Mohammad and other riff-raff elements? The situation today is more complex than in 1971, when Bangladesh was created despite radicalisation even at that time. There are many non-state actors.

Today, it's not an issue of an Islamic bomb on India. It is managing within the country and outside in multi-dimensions and directions. An aggressive diplomacy, lobbying, negotiations and operations need huge investment as also manpower. Conflict with Pakistan cost three per cent of India's GDP, according to Indian think-tank, Strategic Foresight Group, in 2004. India lost 3,843 soldiers in 1971 and captured 93,000 soldiers. Almost a million people in India were refugees. It had bled the economy then. The post-1971 war costs were higher. It had caused over 13 per cent inflation and severe unrest. The imposition of internal emergency was another fall-out. The proxy war since 1990 has claimed more casualties and economic cost — be it in Kashmir, the Kargil conflict of 1999, the Parliament attack in 2001, the 2008 Mumbai attack or the subsequent several other blasts and raids. Military and civilian casualties are more than it was in full-fledged wars in 1965 and 1971.

It is estimated that since December 2001, every year, almost \$600 million is spent to protect the western border. Pakistan's spending is estimated to be a little less but it is higher in percentage terms for its GDP and geographical area. The Federation of Indian Chambers for Commerce and Industry estimated a huge business cost to the ongoing Indo-Pak conflict and trade volume is small. In other words, denying MFN status to Pakistan would have little economic impact.

So what does Pakistan gain? A conflict with India has seen huge economic gains in assistance from West Asia, the US and the West. The US, despite the World Trade Tower attack, considered Pakistan a strategic ally and gave Musharraf enormous aid. Even the current President Donald Trump is doing it today. India-baiting is survival technique for the artificial state. For us, apart from financial and political cost, there is human misery. Certain powers want the rogue state to survive as they have business, territorial and other interests. India has to chart out a course. A war may not be easy but breaking the tentacles of those who lead to war is a necessity. What have we done post-Pulwama? India has to re-strategise and ensure global alliance to break the backbone of terror and its illicit funding.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

INDIA HAS DECIDED TO FULLY UTILISE ITS SHARE OF UNUSED WATER FROM RIVERS RAVI, BEAS AND SUTLEJ THAT HAS BEEN FLOWING INTO PAKISTAN.

—UNION MINISTER
NITIN GADKARI



THE GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO PACKAGE HIGH OCTANE JINGOISM TO SUBTERFUGE NATIONAL SECURITY FAILURES.

—CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON
MANISH TEWARI

Dravidian pride at stake

With the Congress and the BJP stitching alliances with DMK and AIADMK respectively, some interesting action awaits Tamil Nadu with both regional parties having to battle contradictions



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Well, Tamil Nadu is ready for the quinquennial Lok Sabha election which may take place in the month of April. With the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Congress announcing the formalisation of their alliance to fight the Lok Sabha election together, the line-up in the State is ready. The *mahagathbandhan* in the Dravidian land would be led by MK Stalin with the Congress, the Left, the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK), the Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) and the Islamist parties riding piggyback on the shoulders of the DMK. Meanwhile, the ruling All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) has announced the mega alliance that features the Vanniyaar-dominated Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The AIADMK is in talks with the Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK), led by former film star Vijayakanth and the Tamil Maanila Congress of GK Vasan, son of former Congress strongman, GK Moopnar.

Since all constituents in the DMK-led front are themselves struggling to stay afloat, they would be happy with whatever the DMK throws at them. The VCK, a fringe outfit led by Thol Thirumavalavan, has been out in the political wilderness since 2009. It has no representation in the Tamil Nadu Assembly since 2011 and its leaders have been losing successively since 2009. The communists are also facing uncertainty in the State after they failed to win at least a single seat either in the Lok Sabha or in the Assembly since 2014. But they claim that they are the ones who determine the future of Tamil Nadu.

Till the AIADMK succeeded in making deals with the PMK and the BJP, by allocating seven and five seats to them respectively, it was widely believed that the DMK was in for a big win in the Lok Sabha election. The AIADMK has been fretting and floundering since the passing away of party supremo, J Jayalalithaa, in December 2016. The group led by Sasikala (former aide of Jayalalithaa), popularly known as the 'Mannargudi Mafia', had walked away with one faction of the party while the official faction led by Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami looked vulnerable, fragile and weak. While Sasikala had to surrender to the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison in Bengaluru in February 2017, following a Supreme Court order which quashed the Karnataka High Court's verdict that had acquitted Jayalalithaa, Ilavarasi and VN Sudhakaran in the disproportionate asset case, TTV Dinakaran, Sasikala's nephew, emerged as the *de facto* leader of the AIADMK, much to the anguish of the cadre.

But within months, the Mannargudi clan was eased out of the AIADMK and Chief Minister Palaniswami slowly but steadily started taking control of the party and the Government. Though he is yet to emerge as a charismatic leader who could match the prowess of Amma (as Jayalalithaa is addressed by the cadre), Palaniswami has proved that he is not a pushover. As he completed two years in office on February 17, the small-time politician from the Edappadi village in Salem has tightened his grip over the party and Government apparatus.

Since day one of his swearing in as the Chief Minister, Palaniswami was under attack by Stalin, the Leader of the Opposition. The Income Tax and



Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) raids on the offices and residences of Health Minister C Vijaya Baskar and his department heads, the *gukha* scam, which led to CBI raids in the houses of top police officers in the State and the vigilance probe into the civil contracts given by the AIADMK Government to a cartel of contractors, successively added to the worries of the Chief Minister. Stalin had been claiming that the Government would not last for more than a month.

The DMK chief's agony can be understood. The party has been out of the corridors of power in Chennai since 2011 and out of the Delhi power circle since 2013. It is a struggle for survival for him and his party. The 2014 Lok Sabha election saw a political tsunami with Jayalalithaa devastating the DMK in all 39 constituencies in Tamil Nadu. Interestingly, the Congress and the DMK fought the election separately with the latter forfeiting its security deposits in all constituencies except Kanyakumari, where the party finished second to the BJP. The DMK is facing a series of disadvantages from within as well as outside. The major issue hanging like a sword of Damocles over Stalin's head is his own elder brother, MK Alagiri. Though Alagiri has been expelled from the DMK following the machinations of Stalin, the Madurai-based son of late M Karunanidhi is a force to reckon with in many pockets of Tamil Nadu. The media in the State has never been a fan of the blunt-talking Alagiri. If one has to know the influence wielded by Alagiri, all one has to do is to check the results of the 2001 Assembly election, which the DMK was widely believed to have won easily. Alagiri is a veteran expert in tilting the scales of electoral battles. Dayanidhi Maran and Kalanidhi Maran, the grand nephews of late Karunanidhi, are running from court to court to derail the trial in the illegal telephone exchange case in which the brothers are the prime accused.

Then there are inherent problems. The DMK itself is a secessionist party as Stalin had declared in March 2018 that the idea of a separate Dravidian nation was still alive in the constitution of the party.

The presence of the Congress in the DMK camp itself is a contradiction because the latter is for the immediate release of all the seven assassins undergoing life imprisonment in the 1991 assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The other constituents in the DMK front have made it known that they would fight for the release of the seven assassins, leaving the Congress flabbergasted.

The AIADMK front, too, has contradictions and weaknesses. The PMK is in the forefront, fighting for exempting Tamil Nadu from NEET. M Thambi Durai of the AIADMK, who is the deputy speaker of the Lok Sabha, was against any kind of alliance with the BJP, which he describes as a communal party. Anwar Raajhaa, the Muslim face of the AIADMK, has declared that he would fight against the triple *talaq* Bill till his last breath. It may sound interesting but the truth remains that Anbumani Ramadoss, the chief ministerial candidate of the PMK, had submitted a massive memorandum to Governor Banwarilal Purohit, listing nearly 30 corruption charges against the AIADMK Government. But the PMK and the AIADMK are strong alliance partners now.

Then there are issues like education. Tamil Nadu is the only State in the country which does not have a single Navodaya Vidyalaya, a public school concept introduced by the Rajiv Gandhi Government in 1986. Reason? Dravidian parties are against teaching of Hindi and Sanskrit in schools. What has happened is that students in Tamil Nadu have fallen behind in the standard of education because the State-level school syllabus is poor, compared to the quality of education in other standards. The children of Tamil chauvinist politicians learn Hindi and English in high-end schools. The non-teaching of Hindi in the State has created a sense of alienation in the minds of the people.

The split in the party and the absence of a powerful leader like Jayalalithaa has made the AIADMK vulnerable. TTV Dinakaran hopes that the Thevar community would vote for him, which would further weaken the AIADMK. But Palaniswami, who

hails from the Vellala Gounder community, is confident that his brethren in south and south-west Tamil Nadu would stand with him because he is the first Chief Minister from this community. The inclusion of PMK was also not without reason. The Vanniyaars are an influential lot in the districts — ranging from Tiruvallur to Kanchipuram, Vellore to Tiruvannamalai and from Viluppuram to Cuddalore. Though the PMK and the DMDK failed to win at least a single seat in the 2016 Assembly election, results show that they retained their vote percentage in the State, which fluctuates between five per cent to six per cent. The caste factor plays an important role in Tamil Nadu despite claims made by the Dravidians that theirs is a casteless society. The AIADMK was staging a 'coup' when it signed the deal with the PMK.

The DMK front looks formidable on paper, like the Brazilian team for the 2018 World Cup Football Championship. Stalin reminds one of Neymar, a paper tiger. The DMK president is a pale shadow of his late father Karunanidhi. Add to this the Periaris and Dravidian intelligentsia of Chennai, which has spread the 'news' that the DMK front would win all the 39 seats from the State. They also spread the news that the BJP high command was threatening the AIADMK for 20 seats. The allocation of five seats by the AIADMK, which was accepted by the BJP, demolishes a part of the falsehood spread by media and intelligentsia.

It is true that the AIADMK has failed in countering the propaganda by Dravidians. But by Tuesday, when the AIADMK-BJP-PMK alliance was announced, it had become clear that the DMK would not have a smooth sailing in the bout. The AIADMK looked like a party which would be outplayed by the DMK with a tennis score (40-0). But not any more. There is some interesting action in store as the AIADMK, the DMK and Dinakaran stake to the field. To add to the glamour, there is Kamal Haasan, who thinks he is the greatest of all politicians. Let the game begin!

(The writer is Special Correspondent, The Pioneer)

Revisiting the Iranian revolution

Had the post-modernists bothered to look beneath the meta-narratives of 20th century revolutions, they would not have come up with a naïve account

written by the late professor of politics Sephr Zabih. Writing just three years after the revolution, Zabih said that the revolution was driven by a wide coalition of anti-Shah forces, which included democrats, liberals, secular-nationalists, communists, socialists and "Islamists." According to Zabih, after the Shah dictatorship collapsed in January 1979, there was a "power grab" among various groups that worked in unison during the revolution.

However, some historians continued to explain the revolution as "Islamic." While dealing with the immediate pre-revolution scenario, however, even they agree that multiple forces, advocating a diverse range of ideologies, were involved during the upheaval. They agree upon the point that Iran's senior religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini was the most widely accepted figure of authority during the revolution — even by those who hold the claim that the clergy hijacked the revolution.

But foreign affairs expert Robin Wright in her book *The Last Great Revolution* wrote that even though many secular, liberal and even some Leftist forces agreed to accept

Khomeini as the revolution's central figure, they did so to keep the movement intact and, more so, because they believed Khomeini did not have any overt political ambitions.

Just before leaving for Tehran from Paris (where he had been in exile) Khomeini told the French daily, *Le Monde*, that it was not his intent to make religious leaders run the Government. What's more, as Bowden notes in his 2006 book, *Guests of the Ayatollah*, on his return to Iran after the Shah's fall, the Ayatollah retired to his home in Qom after agreeing to form an interim set-up of "secular technocrats" led by the anti-Shah "liberal-democrat" Mehdi Bazargan.

According to Wright, just a year after the revolution, Khomeini decreed that no cleric was allowed to run in Iran's first post-revolution elections in 1980, even though he had already declared Iran to be an Islamic republic. A centre-right liberal, Syed Banisadar, won the election, attracting 75.6 per cent of the popular vote.

The candidate of the Islamic Republican Party, which was pushing for an entirely theocratic set-up, bagged just 3.35 per cent. But by 1981,

Khomeini was being hassled by the clerics to dismiss Banisadar "because he was acting against the clergy." In June 1981, after realising that he had lost Khomeini's backing, Banisadar managed to escape abroad.

Political scientist John Limbert, in his book, *Iran: At War With History*, wrote that Iran was ravaged by violence between various groups that had taken part in the revolution. After Banisadar's escape, the nationalist and liberal groups were systematically eliminated by pro-Khomeini Islamic militias. The Leftist outfits picked up arms to push back the influence of the clerics. But after ordering a purge in Iran's universities, which had been hotbeds of Leftist student agitation during the revolution, the emerging Islamic regime went all out against the Leftists. By December 1983, the pro-Khomeini Islamic Republican Party had managed to grab absolute power and turn Iran into a theocracy. The irony of it all is that many clerics were some of the last to join the movement against the Shah.

One important commentator of the revolution who called it Islamic was the famous post-modernist

French philosopher Michel Foucault. But in the book, *Foucault and the Iran Revolution*, Jennet Afary and KB Anderson wrote that, in his "post-modernist" pursuit of challenging the idea of "materialistic" rationale, Foucault fell for "the seductions of militant Islam." They wrote that in his search for "political spirituality", he ended up romanticising an idea which was totalitarian in nature.

It was Foucault's romanticised reading of the Iranian revolution which made most post-modernists claim that Iran's revolution was "unique" in the context of 20th century revolutions because it was religious in character. But since post-modernism often gets caught up in attacking grand narratives as an end product alone, it often fails to investigate the more complex historicity of events and forces which are present beneath the meta-narratives.

For example, to Foucault, in an era of communist revolutions, the Iranian revolution was unique because it was driven by "political spirituality." This was a naïve account. The Iranian Revolution actually unfolded like most 20th-century revolutions did — different

forces holding differing (even opposing) ideologies coming together to uproot a common enemy and then competing with each other in a grab for power. Had the post-modernists bothered to look beneath the meta-narratives of 20th century revolutions, they would not have ignored the following facts: The October 1917 "Bolshevik/communist revolution" in Russia was the outcome of a more broad-based revolution in February 1917 in which revolutionary and democratic groups of various shades of left Russian nationalists and urban middle-class groups collaborated to overthrow the Tsar.

The "hard-left" group (the Bolsheviks) led by Marxist ideologue Vladimir Lenin, grabbed power in late 1917 through a *coup d'état*. Lenin wasn't even present during the February revolution. He returned to Russia from exile in Switzerland in April 1917.

The 1949 Communist revolution in China emerged during a tussle between Mao Tse Tung's communists and Chinese nationalists. Both had collaborated to oust the occupying Japanese forces during World War II. But in the post-War conflict for

power between the two, the communists managed to grab power.

The "Islamist" Muslim Brotherhood collaborated with secular Egyptian nationalists during the 1952 uprising in Egypt which overthrew the Egyptian monarchy. In the post-1952 tussle between the two, the nationalists managed to oust the Brotherhood from the equation.

The 1959 Cuban revolution was a nationalist uprising. It wasn't until two years later, in 1961, that Fidel Castro — after consolidating his power — declared that his was a communist regime. During the 1979 Nicaraguan revolution, the communist 'Sandinistas' were overtly supported by that country's Catholic priests.

The post-modernists in their haste to declare the Iranian Revolution unique not only ignored the uniform patterns of 20th-century revolutions, but they also missed the 'political spirituality' present in the Nicaraguan revolution and the 1952 Egyptian uprising. What's more, to challenge the whole idea of the meta-narrative, they eventually created their own meta-narrative, by declaring the revolution in Iran as 'Islamic.'

(Courtesy: The Dawn)



NADEEM PARACHA

Eleventh February, 2019, marked the 40th anniversary of the Iranian Revolution, which is also remembered as an "Islamic revolution" by some historians. But was it? Not according to celebrated American journalist and author Mark Bowden. In a November 18, 2009 piece for the *Wall Street Journal*, Bowden wrote that "the movement which ousted the Shah dictatorship was primarily a nationalist one." He added that many of those, who took part in the commotion, "were not motivated by the desire to establish a theocracy, but a desire to cast off authoritarianism."

Bowden is not the only prominent writer to hold this view. This assessment first emerged in 1982 in the book, *Iran Since the Revolution*,

Waste to wonder park in Delhi opens for all

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 'Wonders of World Park', constructed by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) at Sarai Kale Khan

Delhi's latest tourist attraction, comprising the replicas of the Taj Mahal, the Great Pyramid of Giza, Eiffel Tower, Leaning Tower of Pisa, Christ the Redeemer statue of Rio de Janeiro, Rome's Colosseum and Statue of Liberty is now opened to the public.

Lauding the efforts of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), the Union Home Minister said that the development of this park will provide a boost to the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan'. He said that it is time to move forward towards waste to wealth. "The SDMC has not only utilised waste piled up at landfill sites but has converted substantially in containing air pollution," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Anil Bajjal said that this park is itself a wonder. He appreciated the development of waste to wonder park and underlined the need for putting in place a proper mechanism of maintenance.

A senior SDMC official



said that the seven replicas are made of 150 tonnes of scraps of automobile parts and other metal waste like fans, rods, iron sheets, nut-bolts, bicycle and bike parts and age-old appliances. "The replicas have been fabricated artistically and the park has been commissioned in six months," he said.

To avoid the rush of visitors, the civic body has decided to charge ₹50 for adults and ₹25 for children (3-12 years) as an entry fee. However, senior citizens and children of

corporation-run schools will not be charged any amount.

In order to light the park, the SDMC has installed solar trees and rooftop panels that will generate 50 KW powers. The surplus power will be sold to the power distribution companies to earn revenue, the official said.

Highlighting the steps taken to manage solid waste, SDMC Commissioner, Dr Puneet Kumar Goel said that the SDMC will achieve 100 per cent target of waste processing in the next year.

OFB GETS BULK PRODUCTION CLEARANCE FOR 'DHANUSH'

The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) has received the bulk production clearance (BPC) from the Indian Army and the Ministry of Defence for production of 114 of the first ever indigenous 155mm x 45 calibre artillery gun—'Dhanush'.

The weapon is the first, long-rang artillery gun to be produced in India and is considered to be a major success story of the 'Make in India' initiative. The gun is equipped with inertial navigation-based sighting system, auto-laying facility, on-board ballistic computation and an advanced day and night direct firing system. The self-propulsion unit allows the gun to negotiate and deploy itself in mountainous terrains with ease.

'Dhanush' has been mechanically upgraded to fire standard NATO 155 mm ammunition and can accommodate both, boll bags and the bi-modular charge system (BMCS), which have resulted in increasing the range. The gun has also been electronically upgraded to enhance the firing accuracies, laying speeds of the existing gun and to provide compatibility with various kinds of ammo as well.

The performance of 'Dhanush' has been evaluated



under arduous conditions in several phases. The guns travelled extensively in towed and self-propelled mode in all terrains viz desert and high altitude with each gun clocking over 1600 km. Such an extensive exercise was carried out by the user for the first time for any gun system under the process of induction.

The manufacture of a 155 mm modern artillery gun was initially seen as a challenge for OFB as it was to change the vision parameters from 155 x 39 calibre to 155 x 45 calibre. The organisation received the transfer of technology (ToT)

documents pertaining to the 155x39 calibre and then converted it to 155x45 calibre successfully.

'Dhanush' is the product of joint efforts by the OFB and the Indian Army with contributions from Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA), Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) such as Bharat Electronics Limited, public sector undertakings such as Steel Authority of India Limited and several other private sector enterprises.

NALCO aims for over ₹2,000 crore profit by 2020



The chaircum-cum-managing director of the National Aluminium Company (NALCO), Dr Tapan Kumar Chand believes that achievements give motivation and purpose gives objectivity to any organisation but to remain sustainable and successful, business organisations need to have insulation from detrimental effects of business environment.

"One must remain well aware in advance of the changes in technology, statutory regulations and preferences of the customers", he said. Dr Chand was speaking at the inauguration of the two-day long 5th National Management Conference (NamCon-2019) on 'Weatherproof organisation: Challenging the Challenge' at the Asian School of Business Management (ASBM).

Sharing the success story of NALCO, he elaborated that when the global economy was

reeling under economic slowdown, with the metal sector being affected the worst; NALCO took a conscious decision of introducing an all weather business model that focuses on benchmarking and quantification. With the business model in place, the company doubled its net profit from ₹669 crore in FY 2016-17 to ₹1342 crore in FY 2017-18. Now the company is all set to scale higher on financial front and envisages achieving a net profit of more than ₹2000 crore by 2020 and ₹2500 crore in the next three years.

Besides, to retain business excellence, the company has consistently been working on with focus on sustainability through innovation, adoption of new technology, lower production cost and nurturing its human resources, added Dr Chand. During the event, the conference compendium and newsletter of ASBM was also released.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	10,782.70	10,801.55	10,758.40	10,791.68	1.8
IOC	131.75	138	131.7	137.9	6.8
HINDPETRO	223.75	232.8	223.3	231.5	8.55
JSWSTEEL	276	286.8	271.8	286	8.95
BPLCL	337	347	335.7	345.95	10.65
VEDL	164.45	170	163.6	169.65	5.05
TATAMOTORS	170	175.3	167.85	174.9	5.2
YESBANK	214.5	223.7	213.1	221.3	6.15
NTPC	136.75	140.25	135	139.5	3.05
M&M	635	648.6	632.25	646.25	12.05
MARUTI	6827.00	6939.00	6819.00	6919.00	117.45
DRREDDY	2584.75	2650.00	2555.70	2630.00	43.7
HCLTECH	1044.20	1070.50	1044.00	1069.65	16.25
HEROMOTOCO	2652.90	2697.90	2620.00	2678.45	37.2
GRASIM	747	762	742.05	758	10.2
BHARTIARTL	309.2	316.5	308.05	314	4.1
HINDALCO	194.3	197	192.3	196.8	2.4
ONGC	148.6	150.5	147.1	148.75	1.8
WIPRO	375	380	373.5	379.05	4.5
SBIN	267.9	271.9	267.6	270.8	2.8
EICHERMOT	20577.00	20700.00	20300.00	20660.00	212.55
TCS	1917.20	1930.00	1905.10	1929.00	14.8
HINDUNILVR	1760.00	1730.00	1751.95	1767.65	12.95
AXISBANK	697.45	704.45	691.2	702	4.8
TATASTEEL	497	504	492	502	3.15
COALINDIA	214.85	216.9	213.45	214.95	1.25
TECHM	824.9	827.5	818.1	825	4.35
BAJAJFINSV	6170.00	6272.70	6166.95	6199.00	29.9
INFRAEEL	311.45	321.8	309	314.05	0.9
ICICIBANK	443.75	450.8	441.25	447.5	1
INFCY	732.5	738.2	728	734.9	1.45
UPL	351.4	354.1	351.3	352	0.7
BAJAJ-AUTO	825.9	829.9	819.3	827.35	1.1
ITC	282.50	284.70	280.85	281.00	3.05
POWERGRID	275.6	275.95	271.1	274.8	-0.25
SUNPHARMA	181.7	182.6	180.5	181.55	-0.25
TITAN	431	436.75	428.45	429.95	-0.75
HINDUNILVR	1035.50	1044.00	1030.30	1040.20	-2.3
HDFC	1893.95	1899.00	1877.50	1887.00	-4.45
LT	1282.00	1283.40	1265.50	1280.80	-3.3
IBULHSGFIN	688	712	675.55	681.3	-2.65
ULTRACEMCO	3631.00	3664.50	3604.85	3615.10	-16.15
ADANIPOR	355.55	358.6	352.7	354.05	-1.7
INDUSINDBK	1474.00	1486.95	1458.10	1464.00	-7.55
ASIANPAINT	1399.00	1407.75	1384.20	1389.00	-8.8
CIPLA	543.8	546.1	539.1	541.5	4
BAJFINANCE	2652.55	2674.00	2632.40	2632.40	-22.3
HDFCBANK	2119.40	2128.10	2089.10	2091.00	-24.9
RELIANCE	1244.60	1245.30	1226.00	1231.70	-15.2
GAIL	335	335	326.65	326.5	-5.2
KOTAKBANK	1251.00	1258.00	1225.00	1238.25	-50.9

BSE 500

SCRIP	Open	High	Low	LTP	UBL
KOTAKBANK	1,252.00	1,259.90	1,234.00	1,241.05	1,363.85
RELIANCE	1,241.25	1,245.90	1,226.10	1,232.60	247.4
YESBANK	214.9	223.5	213.4	221.95	286
IBULHSGFIN	689.9	711.5	676	680.35	HCLTECH
HDFCBANK	2,120.00	2,124.90	2,089.10	2,091.65	INFIBEAM
RELIANCE	1,244	1,245.90	1,226.10	1,232.60	BANDHANBANK
INFCY	732.5	738.2	728	734.9	COLPAL
ULTRACEMCO	3,631.00	3,665.00	3,604.85	3,621.05	CANFINHOME
JUBLFOOD	2,984.00	3,013.00	2,989.50	2,998.00	ULTRACEMCO
BAJFINANCE	2,659.95	2,674.40	2,631.00	2,641.05	WOCKPHARMA
IT	1,282.25	1,282.80	1,267.00	1,279.45	NIITTECH
SUPRAJIT	198.9	208	192	198.3	BOSCHLTD
TATASTEEL	496.2	503.7	492.4	501.95	18,099.00
ICICIBANK	351.95	353.95	351.4	351.75	84.9
PEL	2,254.00	2,313.15	2,248.00	2,302.20	84.1
APOLLOHOSP	1,146.60	1,156.55	1,135.25	1,143.20	84.75
STAR	423	426.25	417.3	419.35	84.75
ZEELE	448.9	450.8	441.2	448.6	84.75
INDUSINDBK	1,475.00	1,487.05	1,460.10	1,463.35	84.75
TATAMOTORS	170	175.25	168	174.55	84.75
QUESS	675.75	694.25	675.75	683.5	84.75
ITC	276	276	273.25	274.3	84.75
KSCIL	419.7	424.25	399.85	404.35	84.75
TECHM	828.9	830.8	818.3	825.2	84.75
DXFL	137.35	142.4	137.35	139.25	84.75
ASISBANK	696.3	704.95	691.4	703.05	84.75
HINDALSTEL	156.05	160	152.55	159.1	84.75
SIN	268	271.8	267.25	270.75	84.75
DRREDDY	2,614.80	2,649.95	2,558.00	2,637.40	84.75
IOCC	131.7	137.45	131.7	136.2	84.75
ASIANPAINT	1,400.00	1,406.95	1,383.95	1,398.30	84.75
RCOM	6.38	7.53	6.28	6.54	84.75
VEDL	164.8	170	160	169.3	84.75
ADANIPOR	355.55	358.6	352.4	354.1	84.75
EICHERMOT	20,469.90	20,613.95	20,300.00	20,540.10	84.75
INFRAEEL	312.85	321.75	309.6	315	84.75
RPOWER	11.25	11.9	11.05	11.35	84.75
INFCY	733.9	736.65	728	733.35	84.75
M&M	634.5	648	632.2	646.1	84.75
BEML	795	822	799	817.65	84.75
BRITANNIA	3,015.00	3,054.45	2,972.15	3,014.30	84.75
ASHOKLEY	81.1	82.95	80.65	81.85	84.75
SUZELON	4.53	6.15	4.5	5.8	84.75
JSWSTEEL	276.85	286.05	271.95	285.15	84.75
JETAIRWAYS	238.5	242.45	235.4	236.7	84.75
SUNPHARMA	431.75	436.8	428	430.4	84.75
TCS	1,920.00	1,930.50	1,905.10	1,925.90	84.75
RNAM	193.75	224.45	191	198.45	84.75
ONGC	148.25	150.35	147	148.55	84.75
JUSTDIAL	510.05	515.35	497.05	501.3	84.75
SHK	154.95	155.55	146.4	146.9	84.75
MOTHERSUMI	136.8	144.5	135.15	142.85	84.75
DISHTV	36.6	37.7	34.65	37.25	84.75
IBVENTURES	297.8	324.5	295.4	302.65	84.75
PNB	72.9	73.95	72.6	73.2	84.75
GAIL	333	334.05	325.15	327.3	84.75
HEROMOTOCO	2,640.75	2,735.55	2,629.95	2,687.35	84.75
HAVELLS	700	706.15	691.8	692.25	84.75
BATAINDIA	1,286.00	1,320.55	1,285.65	1,311.10	84.75
SUNTV	586	598.4	581.2	584.7	84.75
HINDPETRO	223.15	232.3	223.15	230.4	84.75
HINDUNILVR	1,761.95	1,771.20	1,753.50	1,767.80	84.75
LICHSGFIN	465.05	477.15	465.05	469.8	84.75
COPSENER	30.8	31.65	30.5	31.2	84.75
BAJAJFINSV	6,170.00	6,270.00	6,156.20	6,182.55	84.75
GRAPHITE	420	425	411.45	415.5	84.75
RECLTD	129	133.45	128.65	132.8	84.75
ADANIPOWER	39.6	40.45	39.3	39.85	84.75
L&TFL	127.95	128.95	125.7	126.45	84.75
BANKBARODA	102.6	103.65	102.3	102.85	84.75
BPLCL	336.5	346.85	336.45	344.85	84.75
JAIROPULTV	94	97.2	91.05	94.15	84.75
CUB	179.65	179.8	176.9	179.1	84.75
BANKINDIA	83.1	84.6	82.6	82.95	84.75
LUMINA	771	782.55	766.9	776.85	84.75
TVMOTOR	462.5	475	462.5	471.3	84.75
DEFIRSTBZ	45	45.8	44.8	45.5	84.75
IFC	109.9	111.55	109.9	111	84.75
SHK	154.95	155.55	146.4	146.9	84.75
JSLJALEQS	57.1	58.65	5		

India, S Korea sign 6 pacts, to step up cooperation in infra, combating crime

PTI ■ SEOUL

India and South Korea signed six agreements on Friday to enhance cooperation in key areas, including infrastructure development, media, start-ups and combating trans-border and international crime, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the country.

Modi, who is on a two-day visit to South Korea to strengthen India's strategic ties with the country, was accorded an official reception at the Blue House, the executive office and official residence of the South Korean President Moon Jae-in here. He also met First lady Kim Jung-sook.

The memorandum of understandings (MoUs) were signed after the two leaders held "constructive" talks on enhancing bilateral cooperation in a number of areas including trade, investment, defence and security. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Ravesh Kumar said that six documents between India and South Korea were signed/exchanged in the presence of the two leaders on cooperation in media, start-ups and police among others.

Earlier, the MEA said that a total of seven documents were signed/exchanged. However, it later said that six agreements were inked.

An MoU was signed between Korean National Police Agency and the Ministry



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korea's President Moon Jae-in applaud while witnessing the exchange of MoU documents in Seoul on Friday

PIB/PTI

of Home Affairs to enhance cooperation between the law enforcement agencies of the two countries and combat trans-border and international crimes.

Another agreement was signed for releasing a joint stamp, commemorating Princess Suriratna (Queen Hur Hwang-ok), a legendary Princess of Ayodhya, who went to Korea in AD 48 and married King Kim-Suro. A large number of Koreans trace their

ancestry to the princess.

The two sides also signed an agreement to continue operations of Korea Plus organisation that facilitates investments by Korean companies in India. Korea Plus was operationalised in June 2016, and comprises representatives from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Energy of South Korea, Korea Trade Investment and Promotion Agency (KOTRA) and Invest India.

The two countries will pro-

mote collaboration among start-ups and set up a Korea Start-up Centre (KSC) in India to commercialise ideas, technologies and designs of start-up companies.

The Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) and Prasar Bharti have agreed to facilitate the broadcast of DD India Channel in South Korea and KBS World Channel in India.

Another MoU was signed between the National Highways Authority of India

and Korea Expressway Corporation to promote bilateral cooperation in road and transport infrastructure development projects of India, and facilitate technical and institutional knowledge exchange in the field of road and transport.

Modi is visiting South Korea on the invitation of President Moon. This is his second visit to the Republic of Korea since 2015 and second summit meeting with the South Korean president.

Modi asks global community to act against terror networks

PTI ■ SEOUL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that the time has come for the global community to "unite and act" to completely eradicate terror networks and their financing supply channels as he identified radicalisation and terrorism as the biggest threats to global peace and security.

Modi, who is here on a two-day visit to South Korea, expressed his gratitude for South Korea's support following one of the worst terror attacks by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad terror group that killed 40 CRPF soldiers in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on February 14.

Addressing the media after his talks with President Moon Jae-in, Prime Minister Modi said that the time has come when the world, going beyond the talks, should "unite and act" against terrorism.

Later, speaking at an event after receiving the prestigious Seoul Peace Prize for 2018 here, Prime Minister Modi said that like Korea, India has also suffered the pain of cross-border strife.

"Our endeavour towards peaceful developments has only too often been derailed by cross-border terrorism," he said in an apparent reference to Pakistan, which is accused of providing safe havens to several terror groups.



While India has been the victim of cross-border terrorism for over 40 years, all nations today face this grave threat which respects no borders, he added.

"The time has come for all those who believe in humanity to join hands, to completely eradicate terrorist networks, and their financing supply channels and counter terrorist ideology and propaganda. Only by doing so, can we replace hate with harmony, destruction with development, and transform the landscape of violence and vendetta into a post-guard of peace," Modi said.

He recalled that a few months before the Seoul Olympics in 1988, an organi-

zation called al-Qaeda was formed. "Today, radicalisation and terrorism have become globalised and are the biggest threats to global peace and security," he said.

Prime Minister Modi expressed his gratitude to President Moon for his condolences and support on the Pulwama attack.

"We are committed towards strengthening our bilateral and multilateral cooperation against terrorism," he said. He said an MoU signed between India's Home Ministry and South Korea's National Police Agency today will further take forward the counter-terrorism cooperation between the two sides.

Not concerned over India's plan to stop flow of water: Pak

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan is not concerned over India's plan to stop the flow of its share of water to Pakistan from the Ravi, Sutlej and Beas rivers under the Indus Waters Treaty, a top official said.

The response came hours after Union minister Nitin Gadkari said in New Delhi that India has decided to "stop" the flow of its share of water to Pakistan from rivers under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) after the ghastly Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed.

Talking to Dawn on Thursday, secretary of Pakistan's Ministry of Water Resources Khawaja Shumail said: "We

have neither concern nor objection if India diverts water of eastern rivers and supplies it to its people or uses it for other purposes, as the IWT allows it to do so." He said Pakistan did not see Gadkari's statement as worrisome in context with the IWT.

"Actually India wants to construct Shahpurkandi dam at the Ravi basin. This project is abandoned since 1995. Now they (India) want to construct this in a bid to use its own share of water that goes unutilised and finally flows to Pakistan. So if they want to use this whether through storing it, through construction of this dam or any other way for their people, they can do as we have nothing to do with it."

"But we will definitely

express our concerns and raise objections strongly if they use or divert waters of western rivers (Chenab, Indus, Jhelum) on which our right to use prevails," Shumail said.

According to Pakistan's Commissioner for Indus Waters Syed Mehr Ali Shah, as the IWT has already given a right to India in 1960 to use the water of eastern rivers, it is now up to it to do so or not.

"Whether they diverted and used their unutilised share of eastern rivers' waters in 1960, we had no problem. They want to do it now, we have no problem. And if they don't want to use this, we have no issue," Shah said.

He said the planned Shahpurkandi dam was actually the stage-2 of the Ranjith Sagar

dam. "Though this project will also generate power, it will be used for irrigation purposes," he said.

While commenting about the proposed visit of Indian experts (India's commissioner for Indus waters) to Kotri Barrage (in Sindh province) keeping in view the tension between the two countries after the Pulwama attack, Shah said: "Let's see what happens in this regard. But we hope for the best." A three-member delegation of Pakistani experts headed by Shah completed its general tour of inspection (from Jan 28 to Feb 1) to various hydropower projects — 1,000MW Pakal Dul, 48MW Lower Kalnai, 850MW Ratlay and 900MW Baglihar dam at Chenab Basin in India.

UK admits key trade deals won't be ready by Brexit day

AP ■ BRUSSELS

The British government acknowledged Thursday that trade deals with major countries such as Japan and Turkey will not be in place by the planned Brexit day of March 29, while the European Union's chief said he remains downbeat about Britain avoiding a chaotic departure from the bloc.

Britain's international trade secretary, Liam Fox, claimed in 2017 that by the day the UK left the EU, the country would be in a position to continue the trade deals with 70 other nations it has as an EU member.

But only a handful of the deals have been finalised, including one with the tiny

Faroe Islands.

As for the rest, Britain's Department for International Trade said Thursday "it remains our priority to conclude trade continuity agreements with these countries by exit day or as soon as possible thereafter."

The most significant of the pending deals is with Japan. A Japan-EU free-trade agreement took effect at the beginning of February, removing hundreds of millions of euros (dollars) in duties paid by EU exporters to the Asian nation.

A proposed UK-EU divorce agreement includes a 21-month transition phase that would keep Britain operating under EU rules while the government works out future trade

arrangements.

Britain's Parliament has rejected the deal, and the government has failed to win concessions from the EU that lawmakers demanded.

EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said Thursday that despite constructive talks with British Prime Minister Theresa May on Wednesday night, he doesn't have much hope a divorce agreement will be in place by March 29.

A no-deal Brexit "will have terrible economic and social consequences both in Britain and on the continent," Juncker said at a EU conference, adding he was doing his utmost so "the worst can be avoided." But he said, "I am not very optimistic when it comes to this issue."

Without a deal, British businesses will face tariffs and other barriers to trade with both the EU and third countries. May and Juncker said after their meeting that negotiators would urgently seek a way to prevent Britain from withdrawing out of the Brexit quagmire to prevent Britain from withdrawing without a smooth transition.

The Confederation of British Industry said the government must rule out a "no-deal" Brexit.

"Many companies are unaware it is not just their relationships with EU customers at risk from a no-deal Brexit, but those across the globe," said the group's director of international trade and investment, Ben Digby.



In this photo released by the Press Information Department, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan (left) chairs a meeting of the National Security Committee in Islamabad on Thursday. Pakistan's prime minister authorised the armed forces to "respond decisively and comprehensively to any aggression or misadventure" by neighboring India, as tensions soared between the nuclear-armed rivals

AP

North Korea asks UN to help address food shortage

AFP ■ UNITED NATIONS

North Korea has asked UN aid agencies for help to address a looming food crisis after figures forecast a sharp drop in crop production for this year, a UN spokesman has said.

Pyongyang has told the United Nations that it is facing a shortfall of 1.4 million tons in food production this year, including crops of rice, wheat, potato and soybean.

"The government has requested assistance from international humanitarian organisations present in the country to address the impact of the food security situation," said UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric.

UN agencies are holding talks with Pyongyang "to take early action in order to address humanitarian needs," he said.



Some 10.5 million North Koreans, or 41 per cent of the population, are in need of food aid, according to UN figures.

The appeal from the government came ahead of a summit next week between President Donald Trump and leader Kim Jong Un to agree on steps toward ending Pyongyang's nuclear and ballistic missiles program.

North Korea is demanding an easing of international sanctions after it halted its nuclear and missile tests and to build trust with the United States in the diplomatic dialogue.

During a first summit in Singapore last year, North Korea agreed to work toward the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula but there has been no concrete step to dismantle its weapons program.

French bishops agree to compensation for sex abuse victims

AP ■ PARIS

Still struggling to come to terms with their share of responsibility in the clerical sex abuse scandal rocking the Catholic Church, France's bishops have agreed to award financial compensation to victims whose cases fall outside of France's statute of limitations.

"We have agreed in principle to make a financial gesture," Vincent Neymon, head of communications for the French bishops' conference, told The Associated Press in an interview this week. He said he

hoped to have a system for paying victims in place in less than a year.

France has not been immune to the scandal that has prompted a credibility crisis for the Catholic hierarchy, and that is the topic of a summit at the Vatican this week on preventing sex abuse and prosecuting pedophile priests.

Two years ago, an investigation by online publication Mediapart unearthed 342 cases of abuse over 50 years that French bishops were accused of covering up in France and abroad, involving at least 34

priests. Some were convicted, most were at least investigated. But some escaped punishment because the statute of limitations on sex crimes against minors, which was recently extended from 20 to 30 years after a victim turns 18, had run out.

France's conference of bishops said that over the past two years, 211 people have reported being victims of abuse — almost as many as the 222 for the six previous years. Of the more recent cases, the bishops said 75 have been reported to French prosecutors and 10

clergy members have been charged. It's unclear how many cases exceed the statute of limitations, but Neymon said 43 took place before 2000.

While many dioceses and national bishops' conferences around the world have created compensation programs for victims, the French Catholic Church had been reluctant to follow suit because it does not acknowledge that bishops are automatically responsible for the wrongdoing of their priests.

"When somebody working for a company commits pedophilia, his boss is not necessarily regarded as responsible," Neymon said.

Now, under pressure from victims whose cases have exceeded the statute of limitations, French bishops say they are taking action and looking at other countries for inspiration.

"We consulted with the Swiss, the Belgians, the Americans, the Irish," Neymon said. "In Belgium and Switzerland, the state has been strongly involved. We need to find out what fund will be supporting the scheme, and make sure we don't announce things

we cannot implement. The French church is poor, and we have to watch every penny," Francois Devaux, from the French victims' group La Parole Libérée, or Liberated Word, said the church's resistance to awarding money to victims stems in part from its reluctance to admit a collective guilt.

"Beyond the financial support for the victims to heal themselves, financial compensation implies one thing: To recognize the church moral's responsibility," Devaux told the AP. "And the church finds it

hard to do so."

Ahead of the three-day Vatican summit on sex abuse that began Thursday, the president of the bishop's conference, Archbishop Georges Pontier, met with four victims, including a 70-year-old man who was abused when he was 8 and who wept at the memory. Neymon said the victims pushed for financial and spiritual reparation, and submitted a list of demands to Pontier, who said he would push for changes in the church's canon law at the Vatican summit.

Among other things, Neymon said Pontier would ask to dispense the Catholic Church's own statute of limitations for sexual abuse, which is 20 years after the victim turns 18. This would allow the Vatican office charged with defending Catholic doctrine, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, to still investigate the older cases.

"Even after 20 or 30 years, one must be entitled to accuse the priests who might have committed such acts," Neymon said. "The faith of many has been damaged."

Mention of JeM by UNSC not a judgement: China

PTI ■ BEIJING

China, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, Friday sought to downplay the scathing statement issued by the powerful organ of the world body naming Jaish-e-Muhammad in the Pulwama terror attack, saying the mention of the Pakistan-based outfit was only in "general terms" and "does not represent a judgement".

Forty Central Reserve Police Force personnel were killed in a suicide attack by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on February 14, sparking outrage in the country.

The powerful UN Security Council (UNSC) on Thursday strongly condemned the "heinous and cowardly" terror attack.

"The members of the Security Council condemned in the strongest terms the heinous and cowardly suicide bombing in Jammu and Kashmir, which left 40 Indian paramilitary forces dead and dozens wounded on February 14, 2019, for which Jaish-e-Muhammad has claimed responsibility," it said in a statement.

Asked about the statement highlighting the role of JeM claiming the responsibility of

the Pulwama attack, China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters that Beijing was closely following the developments related to the terror incident.

"Yesterday, the UN Security Council issued a press statement that mentioned that a particular organisation but only in general terms. It does not represent a judgement on the attack," Geng said.

His remarks were seen as an attempt by China, without whose endorsement the UNSC statement could not have been released, aimed at placating its close ally Pakistan and play down the indictment of the JeM. China has been repeatedly blocking India and several other countries' efforts to bring about a global ban on JeM chief Masood Azhar in the UN's anti-terror 1267 committee.

While China's endorsement of the UNSC statement was reflection of wariness on the part of Beijing to repeatedly defend JeM in the UN body, which casts a shadow on its relations with India, observers say it is to be seen what stand Beijing would take when France moves its resolution seeking to list Azhar as a global terrorist in the UN.

France, also member of the permanent five of the UNSC, has officially announced that it would move

a resolution soon in the 1267 committee seeking Azhar's listing.

Since 2016, China has consistently blocked moves first by India and later by the US, the UK and France to designate Azhar as a global terrorist by putting repeated technical holds.

In his response on Friday Geng said that "China also noted that the Pakistani government showed readiness to cooperate with India on the investigation and that it is also ready to resolve differences with India through dialogue".

"China hopes all parties will work to find the truth about this attack. We hope Pakistan and India will engage in dialogue to jointly safeguard regional peace and stability," he said.

The UN statement also underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of these "reprehensible acts of terrorism" accountable and bring them to justice".

The UN condemnation came a day after Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Maleeha Lodhi met top UN leaders including with Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to brief them about the escalating tensions in the region in the wake of the Pulwama attack.

Maduro shuts border with Brazil

AFP ■ CARACAS

President Nicolas Maduro has ordered the closure of Venezuela's border with Brazil in an increasingly fraught power struggle with Juan Guaido, the opposition leader spearheading efforts to bring humanitarian aid into the country despite a military blockade.

Guaido set out in a convoy of vehicles to personally pick up US aid being stockpiled on the other side of the Colombian border, defying Maduro's military to stop him.

Recognised as interim president by more than 50 countries, he left the capital Caracas for the Colombian border in a convoy of several vehicles for the 900-kilometer (560-mile) trip.

Embattled Maduro has dismissed Guaido's humanitarian caravan as a "cheap show" and slammed aid as a precursor for a US military intervention in the oil-rich but crippled Latin American country.

The 35-year-old leader of the Venezuelan legislature proclaimed himself acting president January 23 and wants to oust Maduro, set up a transitional government and hold new elections.

A separate caravan of buses and trucks containing opposition lawmakers had earlier left eastern Caracas bound for the border.

Several of the trucks were stopped by security forces and their drivers forced to get out,



but the rest of the caravan was allowed to continue, lawmakers said.

"We know that the regime is going to put all obstacles to prevent us from reaching the border, but nothing is stopping us, we are going to continue," said opposition lawmaker Yanet Fernin.

Guaido scored important symbolic boosts Thursday as 11 Venezuelan diplomats based in the US declared their support for him.

Hugo Carvajal, a retired general and former military intelligence chief to Hugo Chavez, also recognized the opposition leader and called upon the armed forces to break from Maduro.

Elsewhere, Peruvian President Martin Vizcarra received Guaido-appointed ambassador Carlos Scull, Peru's state agency Andina reported.

Signaling his growing disquiet, Maduro announced Thursday that the border with Brazil — which along with Colombia is one of the main potential avenues for aid delivery — would be "completely and absolutely" closed from 8:00 pm (local time) until further notice.

But Maria Teresa Belandria, Guaido's designated ambassador in Brazil said 100 tons of food, medicines and emergency kits were waiting to be trucked from Boa Vista to Pacaraima on the Venezuelan

border.

Maduro also warned Thursday he was considering "a total closure of the border with Colombia" to Venezuela's west.

He has already ordered the military to barricade a major border bridge to prevent supplies from entering the country from Cucuta, Colombia, where tons of humanitarian aid are being stockpiled, most of it from the United States.

Meanwhile, Maduro — mirroring Guaido's move in an attempt to show his socialist government was able to look after its people — ordered a shipment of thousands of food boxes to be distributed to the needy along the Colombian

border.

He also announced on Thursday the arrival of another 7.5 tons of medicine and medical supplies from Russia.

Shipments of food and medicine for the crisis-stricken population have become a key focus of the power struggle between Maduro and Guaido.

Guaido, who says 300,000 people could die without an influx of aid, says he aims to rally a million volunteers to start bringing it in by Saturday.

It remained unclear how he proposed to do so if the blockade continues, but experts have pointed to the notoriously porous 2,200-kilometer (1,360-mile) border, which is perforated by well-worn drug trafficking and contraband routes.

Guaido said the planned entry points for aid were the Brazilian and Colombian borders, the island of Curacao and the seaports of Puerto Cabello and La Guaira.

Venezuela's vice-president Delcy Rodriguez said the government was shutting down air and sea links between Curacao and Venezuela.

However Carlos Faría, one of the leaders of a group of Venezuelans organising aid shipments via Curacao, told AFP a plane carrying 50 tons of food and medicine was expected from Miami on Thursday and would be loaded onto a Venezuela-bound ship on Friday.

2019 elections in India could be world's most expensive, says expert

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The upcoming general elections in India will be the most expensive in Indian history and perhaps one of the most expensive ever held in any democratic country, a US-based expert has said.

The Election Commission of India is soon expected to announce its schedule for the polls to be held to elect 543 members of the Lok Sabha.

"The combined US presidential and congressional elections in 2016 cost USD 6.5 billion. If the 2014 Lok Sabha elections cost an estimated USD 5 billion, there is little doubt the 2019 election will easily surpass that — making India's elections the world's most expensive," Milan Vaishnav, senior fellow and director of the South Asia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace think-tank told PTI.

"The uncertainty associated with the coming election — polls suggest a narrowing gap between the BJP and the opposition — only provides more fodder for an arms race in spending," he said.

Vaishnav has emerged as an authoritative voice on Indian elections, in particular the funding aspects of it, over the years. "While the outcome of the next general election is up in the air, one attribute about it is already well known: it will be the most expensive general election in Indian history and perhaps one of the most expensive ever held in any democratic society," Vaishnav wrote in an op-ed for Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a top American think-tank.

Noting that the 2014 general elections cost USD 5 bil-

"While the outcome of the next general election is up in the air, one attribute about it is already well known: it will be the most expensive general election in Indian history and perhaps one of the most expensive ever held in any democratic society"

lion, Vaishnav said it was not inconceivable that overall expenditure will double again this year.

"The exorbitant cost of Indian elections has become a cardinal fact of the Indian political economy that is widely acknowledged and lamented — including by politicians and their donors. But it is not simply the material outlays that grab one's attention, it is the manner in which the money flows," he said.

Vaishnav rued that in India there is virtually zero transparency when it comes to political contributions. It is next to impossible to either identify who has donated money to a politician or party or to figure out from where a politician has obtained his or her campaign funds, he said.

Very few donors are willing to disclose their political giving for fear of retribution should their preferred party not come to power, he noted.

The system of electoral bond, brought in by the current government, has not helped either, he argued.

The system lacks transparency, he said.

President Trump to leave 200 troops in Syria as peacekeeping group: WH

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Trump administration will leave 200 US troops in Syria to act as a "small peacekeeping group", the White House has announced following President Donald Trump's order for a "full" withdrawal of the American military from the war-torn country.

The White House announced the decision on Thursday after Trump spoke with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan over the phone.

"A small peacekeeping group of about 200 will remain in Syria for a period of time," White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement after the call between the two leaders.

In December, Trump abruptly declared victory against the Islamic State (ISIS)

in Iraq and Syria and announced that the more than 2,000 US troops in Syria would be withdrawn immediately.

The president ordered staff to execute the "full" and "rapid" withdrawal of US military from Syria, declaring that the US had defeated ISIS.

The administration has since changed its timeline and said that it will seek a withdrawal of most troops by the end of April.

Trump's surprise decision prompted the resignation of former Defense Secretary James Mattis and the president has since received strong pushback from lawmakers who worry the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) — Kurdish forces who helped in the fight against ISIS — would be threatened by Turkey without US protection.

According a White House

readout of the call, the two leaders underscored the importance of the bilateral relationship and discussed a number of issues including Syria and trade.

"On Syria, the two Presidents agreed to continue coordinating on the creation of a potential safe zone," the White House said.

Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs General Joseph Dunford will be hosting their Turkish counterparts in Washington this week for further talks.

Senator Lindsay Graham praised Trump for his decision to leave 200 American troops in Syria as part of an international stabilising force.

"This will ensure ISIS does not return and Iran does not fill the vacuum that would have been left if we completely with-

drew. This also ensures Turkey and SDF elements that helped us defeat ISIS will not go into conflict," Graham said.

Currently the US has some 2,000 troops in Syria.

The US troop withdrawal has left America's Kurdish allies vulnerable to an attack from Turkey. Ankara views the Kurdish forces as terrorists aligned with insurgents inside Turkey.

Last month, Trump threatened to "devastate" Turkey economically if the NATO-allied nation attacks US-backed Kurdish forces in Syria following the US pullout and also urged the Kurds not to "provoke" Ankara.

Ground troops first arrived in Syria in autumn 2015 when then-President Barack Obama sent in a small number of special forces to train and advise YPG fighters.

Saudis bag oil deal with China

AFP ■ BEIJING

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman met Friday with China's President Xi Jinping and bagged a USD 10 billion oil deal, pressing on with his diplomatic charm offensive in Asia following a global outcry over the Khashoggi killing.

Mohammed arrived in Beijing on Thursday following visits to Pakistan and India, showing the world that his country still has allies after the grisly murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

He met with Chinese Vice Premier Han Zheng earlier on Friday. "Is the crown prince's tour symbolic of Saudi Arabia's

pivot to the East? Yes," Najah al-Otaibi, a senior analyst at the pro-Saudi think-tank Arabia Foundation, told AFP.

"Riyadh wants to strengthen alliances in Asia — especially now with the continuing fallout with the United States over Khashoggi's murder and other issues and attempts by the EU to put Riyadh on a black list over money laundering allegations," she said.

Khashoggi, a fierce critic of the prince, was killed at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in October, a murder that tarnished the image of the kingdom and of the crown prince in particular.

Riyadh initially denied the murder, then gave several con-

flicting accounts of Khashoggi's death, and now claims he was killed in an unauthorised operation that did not involve Mohammed. The murder sparked global indignation, with US lawmakers pushing for the United States to distance itself from the crown prince, but the White House has maintained close relations with Riyadh, a major Middle East ally.

Separately, the European Commission wants to add Saudi Arabia to a money-laundering blacklist of governments that do too little to thwart the financing of terrorism and organised crime.

But China is looking to strengthen its economic ties

with the kingdom, as Beijing pursues its ambitious Belt and Road trade infrastructure initiative, while Riyadh rolls out "Saudi Vision 2030" — the crown prince's major programme to diversify the national economy away from oil.

During their meeting, Han suggested that the two countries deepen partnerships in energy, infrastructure construction, finance, and high-tech. Riyadh's national oil giant Saudi Aramco said it had signed an agreement to form a Saudi-Chinese joint venture — worth more than USD 10 billion — to develop a refining and petrochemical complex in northeastern Liaoning province.

Taliban have not changed, warn Afghans living under their rule

AFP ■ KANDAHAR

Ali Ahmad Alizai has no choice but to obey when the Taliban come knocking on his door demanding food, shelter or a slice of his hard-earned harvest to fund their insurgency.

"The Taliban run a dictatorship here. They have their own laws. We have some security, but no freedom," the farmer told AFP by telephone from a militant-controlled district of Afghanistan's southern Helmand province.

Alizai is one of millions living under Taliban rule in Afghanistan, where the group controls more territory than at any time since being toppled in 2001 by US-led forces.

As momentum for peace talks builds, with a fresh round

of negotiations between the Taliban and Washington set to begin in Doha on Monday, testimonies from Afghans like him paint a picture of what life might be like should the militants return to power if the US exits its longest war.

In some ways Taliban governance appears to have evolved, with the insurgents open to some small compromises as Afghans refuse to part with their hard-won freedoms.

But zeal for the harsh brand of Islamic justice that defined their former regime is unwavering, and remains pivotal to enforcing obedience today in countryside under its influence.

Abdul Bari, who abandoned his home in an insurgent fiefdom in Uruzgan province

three months ago, spoke darkly of life under the white flag of the Taliban.

"They would stage public executions from time to time," the 66-year-old told AFP in Kandahar, where he fled with his family.

"Their fighters would decide the fate of people."

Taliban courts preside over justice in huge swathes of the country — even areas ostensibly under government control, said Ashley Jackson, a research associate with the Overseas Development Institute.

Verdicts under their own strict interpretation of Sharia law are swift, and punishments severe, from limbs amputated for theft to condemned prisoners hung by roadsides as a warning.

"People are terrified of

them," said Sayed Omar, who escaped Taliban brutality in Uruzgan.

"They have not changed, they are the same as they were during their rule," Mohammad Qasem, a shopkeeper who spoke to AFP by phone from another Taliban bastion in Kandahar, said the militants had banned smartphones and confined women to the home — effectively reversing the clock to 1996, when they stormed to power. But they were "a bit easier" on men having shorter beards — a floggable offence under their former regime.

The Taliban have told AFP they want to establish "an Islamic system" as opposed to the democracy built since 2001, but that they have modified their stance on some issues including dropping a ban on

the education of women and girls.

AFP was unable to speak to any women currently living under Taliban rule.

Human Rights Watch senior researcher Heather Barr said in some areas the militants now allow girls to attend primary school, "if it was segregated by gender, the teachers were female, and the Taliban controlled the curriculum".

However, it was "ridiculous and harmful" to suggest that proved the Taliban had softened their stance on women, she said.

"Limiting girls to primary education is an extreme form of misogyny... Too many men are in a rush to argue that a Taliban deal will be fine for women. Women know better — but is anyone listening to

them?" Qasem said the restrictions were unpopular. Times have changed since the Taliban were deposed, he added.

"This time, if they don't change, it might create a backlash," he told AFP.

There are some signs the insurgents are listening. Phone use is permitted during the day and television watched without fear of punishment, a far cry from the violent Taliban purges against technology in the past.

"What they say is don't listen to music, listen to sermons and religious programs. But there is no smashing of TV sets anymore," Thomas Ruttig, from the Afghanistan Analysts Network, told AFP.

The Taliban are also keen to show they can govern a modern nation.

In territory where control is split with the government, the militants ensure teachers and clinic staff show up for work and prod electricity providers to fix power outages.

Jackson said this Taliban "shadow government" exists partly to embarrass corrupt local politicians, but also to exert soft power and demonstrate competence.

"It's both carrot and stick. I think they realise they have to provide... some tangible benefit," Jackson said.

Mullah Rauf, a former Taliban commander, said the insurgents had evolved.

"They can't have a hardline government anymore. Nowhere in the world do such governments exist," he told AFP by telephone from Panjwae, a Taliban district in

Kandahar.

As America pushes for a peace deal, many Afghans want to know the Taliban's intentions once foreign troops leave.

The militants say they do not want to rule by force, but share power with other parties.

Taliban justice is one area "where compromise will be the hardest", Jackson said.

Ruttig said the militants had not abandoned their ideology, but know "they cannot rule against the population", and therefore might be open to some compromise.

"But whether that's good enough for most Afghans — who now have tasted completely different freedoms than what they had under the Taliban — that will be up to the Afghan population," Ruttig said.

SHORT CIRCUITS



MANISHA KOIRALA

I was about to lose my life and now I see everything with gratitude. Whatever time I'm alive, I'm going to live well. I am going to give my best, make the most of my life and share the joy with all pitfalls and bumps. Earlier I lived in an unaware phase. This is definitely my second inning to not only my work but my life as well.



AMIT TRIVEDI

An upcoming artiste can face a number of challenges and, having been on this journey myself, I can fully attest to how impactful the right platform and the right mentors can be for an artiste at the onset of his or her music career. My message is to "Do what moves you" and keep chasing your dream.



PALLAVI SHARDA

Being versatile has always been my interest. Early on in my Hindi film career, people wanted to pigeonhole me into an understandable, manageable, quantifiable thing. But I am very pleased that I stuck to my convictions, took risky decisions and did not get caught up in the archetype of the Bollywood heroine.



SUSHANT SINGH

How do we ban the already banned? Please wake up and look around, the film industry has not been working with Pakistani artistes since the Uri attack. Post attack (in 2016), producers and the Federation (Federation of Western India Cine Employees) had banned Pakistani artistes.

MILO VENTIMIGLIA

There are things that people live through, so to be able to have a forum to discuss it and speak about it honestly, I'm incredibly proud of Mandy (Moore) for just being who she is, an inspiring woman. To let someone know that they're not alone in a feeling, I think that's a great thing to do.



ENCOUNTER 50 MINUTES

The smart hatter

Actor AJAY DEVGN dabbles in comedy with his latest film, *Total Dhamaal*, but is equally at ease in other genres, says SAIMI SATTAR



Ajay Devgn has found quite the spot. While the rest of the cast of *Total Dhamaal* is cooped up inside a hall in a hotel, he has a small set-up just outside, open to the sky, which is certainly pleasant given the weather. "Oh, that's because I smoke," he says with a laugh and one can't help but notice a pack of cigarettes lying prominently on the table. As is wont, I try to put on the recorder on my phone for the interview while Ajay narrates that he was born in Delhi but does not know much of it, even as I keep fiddling with the device waiting for it to switch on. When I confess that it has frozen, Ajay asks me if he can help and tries to, but clearly the app has a mind of its own and won't succumb even to the charms of a celebrity actor who has more than a hundred films to boot. Casting it aside, I decide to go the old fashioned way and jot down what he says.

Ajay explains that the film is called an adventure comedy as there is hardly a moment where the cast is in a situation which cannot be classified as an escapade. "Except for one court scene with Anil Kapoor and Madhuri Dixit, the entire cast is either mid-air or in water or in trouble. It has an *Indiana Jones* like feel," says the actor who rode astride two bikes into collective national conscience with *Phool Aur Kaante* in 1991 for which he got the best Filmfare Male Debut Award.

However, it is Ajay's funny bone that has given him huge career hits and is on display in the third installment of the *Dhamaal* franchise. "The content in comedies is what makes you laugh. That depth has been there in the *Golmaal* series. Making people laugh is not easy in general. Add to it the fact that you can't tickle them twice with the same joke, the humour loses punch. So the content has to be fresh. Then as performers, after the gag has been written, it is also essential to understand how much to stretch the joke, the appropriate amount of energy needed to perform it and also an understanding of when and how it can nosedive if not executed well. Some jokes need a poker face and others need a lot of action," says the actor who in the initial years of his career was known for his intense and action roles.

However, Ajay made a transition and can dabble in different genres with seemingly equal ease. "If you aren't classified, that is the best place to be in as an actor. If I did one genre all the time, that is what is likely to happen. I keep on reinventing myself which keeps me going. In fact, I would say I do not understand a genre. What I understand are the characters and I play them. Guddu in *Total Dhamaal* doesn't know the genre. He knows what he has to do and does it," says the actor.

'IF I DID SOMETHING LIKE ZAKHM (1998) TODAY OR FOR THAT MATTER RAINCOAT (2004), THE AUDIENCE WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE RECEPTIVE AND APPRECIATED ME BETTER. BOTH THE FILMS GOT A LOT OF CRITICAL APPRECIATION AND WERE PRAISED BUT THE BOX OFFICE COLLECTIONS DID NOT REALLY MATCH UP'

The seamless switch between the characters is not surprising given his avid interest in world cinema. However, Ajay points out, "I do like to watch world cinema but you need to be in the mood to do so. If you are viewing it with someone, they need to identify with that kind of films. Plus, even when watching it alone, you need to be in a certain frame of mind. However, when you go out with friends or family, it is more likely that you would opt for something which is a comedy or is light-hearted."

Talking about why formula or big stars are no longer a guarantee of success as was obvious from the flops that most of the major stars had to face last year, he says, "Actors now need to know that they can no longer fool the audience. Earlier, it was possible to work around with the same formula but it is not happening any longer. Charisma won't work until the content is good. Besides, the audience, which is more educated and exposed to different experiences now, is more discerning and is constantly evolving." That's what he misses for two milestone performances of his career. "If I did something like *Zakhm* (1998) today or for that matter *Raincoat* (2004), the audience would have been more receptive and appreciated me better. Both the films got a lot of critical appreciation and were praised but the box office collections did not really match up. Today, they would have got the money too," he says.

For somewhere who has traversed a wide arc of creativity, filling out different characters, he has his keen eyes on the script as well as his instincts to invest each role with originality. "I played a gangster in *Company* and then repeated it again in *Once Upon A Time in Mumbai* but no one can say that the characters were similar," says the intelligent actor.

Ajay is starring next in *De De Pyaar De*, which is scheduled to release tentatively around May this year. Also on the cards is Neeraj Pandey's *Chanakya* where he embodies the role of the political thinker, economist and royal advisor. Another historical that he is producing and starring in is *Tanaji - The Unsung Warrior*. "My reason for taking up *Tanaji* is primarily because I liked the script. He was a great historical figure and sacrificed a lot but many people in Maharashtra and most outside have not heard of him. This makes our effort to bring his story to the big screen worthy," says he. However, many historical have invited the ire of self-appointed censors of history. So does he fear controversies? Reasons Ajay, "The problem with our country is that it is really diverse and one group or the other might find something offensive. The final say should be that of the court if there is any difference of opinion and people should just go with the verdict."

A connected citizen, Ajay has taken a clear stand on issues. When #MeToo rocked the Hindi film industry last year, he wrote on his Twitter handle, "I'm disturbed by all the happenings with regards to #MeToo. My company and I believe in providing women with utmost respect and safety. If anyone has wronged even a single woman, neither ADF (Ajay Devgn Films) nor I will stand for it." And he makes no bones about it even now and says, "We respect women. We always believed in this. If two people are involved and it is consensual we are no one to judge them. But it should not be forced."

On another issue, that of nepotism that keeps on making a buzz in the industry time and again, Ajay says, "It is not as if other people do not get chances. They do. If you are connected you do get an initial shot at it but then you have to prove yourself. Ultimately it depends on whether the audience likes you or not." Incidentally his daughter Nyssa is not interested in films at all and he says that she does not have an aptitude for the medium. "She is studying in Singapore," he says.

Recently, Ajay and his actor wife Kajol promoted a Unilever campaign called StartLittleGood to spread awareness about proper recycling of plastic. "I've been aware of global warming. I have been obsessed with being environmentally conscious at home. I am that person who is teased constantly by his sisters for putting off lights and fans when not in use," he says.

Clearly, he does like to dabble in a whole lot of things with equal ease.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

STUDIO CHAT 30 MINUTES

Hear my name

Singer ADNAN SAMI believes that the concept of blind auditions is the proof that *The Voice* is solely based on creating a space for talent and skill.

By TEAM VIVA

♦ What made you take up *The Voice*?

This music competition show transcends all barriers of physical appearance, background, religion and gender, to provide a platform for the budding singing talent solely based on their core competence. The entire concept of the "blind auditions" is very innovative where we do not see the contestant and just hear them and if their voice strikes a chord, we turn our chairs for them. It is a journey of finding raw talent, polishing and nurturing it through the mentorship by coaches and enabling them to reach their potential. The platform gives an opportunity for talent to work with their dream coaches and that is a massive opportunity for any aspiring singer. For the first time ever in the history of the show, the format has been altered to introduce the concept of a super guru with the one and only A R Rahman stepping into the shoes. I am joined by popular singers Harshdeep Kaur, Kanika Kapoor and Armaan Malik as coaches.



♦ Could you elaborate on your role as a coach and what you plan to bring to the show?

As a coach, I will nurture the contestants and help them in unleashing their potential as a singer. I will not only play the role of music coach but will be a life coach as well, sharing my own experiences and never-give-up stories to keep them motivated. Out of all the coaches, I think I will be the surprise package and bring a lot of musical input to the show, right from playing instruments to giving technical comments.

♦ What do you think differentiates *The Voice* from other reality singing shows?

I mentioned the blind auditions before. I also like that there are no judges but only coaches who provide contestants with the technical know-how and skills for them to grow.

♦ How challenging is it to judge a reality show? How excited or nervous have you been?

I am very excited to be a coach on this show that airs on StarPlus as the talent pool is remarkable and amazing. I am a guiding force on the show, providing feedback and perspectives to the contestants based on my own experiences and facilitate them to take their musical prowess a step ahead.

♦ How does it feel to share space with the maestro A R Rahman?

It is always a pleasure to work with A R Rahman and for the first time I will be seeing him from the lens of a superguru. He will be seen sharing valuable feedback and perspectives which are truly inspiring. His insights about the entire process of creating music and his personal life changing stories are remarkable.

♦ How is your rapport with the other coaches on the show?

We get along really well and it reflects on the show. There is a great variety of different types of musicians who bring something distinct with them. Each coach has come from a different school of music, had prolific musical experiences and achieved immense success. So there is a one-stop shop of expertise.

♦ What kind of voice on the show will stand out and catch your attention?

I am not in search of any specific voice. A voice which influences and touches my heart will earn a chair. Everything else can be taught if the quality of the voice is great.



Fabricated over a span of nine months, artist Vibhor Sogani's installation at Kishangarh, Rajasthan titled *Through the Depths* represents the process of extraction of raw stone from the depths of the earth and its subsequent refinement into an aesthetic symbol. It is an ode to passion, endeavour and intent. Standing 12-feet tall on an elevated stone, it is crafted in 316-grade stainless, mirror-finished steel.

London clubs reach last 16

Arsenal overcome first leg deficit to see off BATE Borisov 3-0(1); Chelsea beat Malmo in similar fashion

AFP ■ LONDON

Arsenal and Chelsea reached the last 16 of the Europa League on Thursday after the Gunners comfortably saw off BATE Borisov 3-0 and Maurizio Sarri's troubled side relieved some of the pressure on him with the same scoreline against mediocre Malmo.

After falling 1-0 in Belarus, Arsenal was level on aggregate after just three minutes when Zakhar Volkov sliced Aubameyang's low cross past Denis Scherbinski in his own goal.

Unai Emery's side deservedly went through thanks to two thumping headers from Shkodran Mustafi and Sokratis either side of the break which put them into Friday's draw.

Ahead 2-1 from the first leg in Sweden, Chelsea had to wait until 10 minutes after the break for the first sign of excitement, Olivier Giroud tapping in the decisive goal of a humdrum encounter at Stamford Bridge.

Ross Barkley made sure of the win with a super free-kick in the 74th minute, just after Malmo's Rasmus Bengtsson was sent off for his second bookable offence, before 18-year-old Hudson-Odoi made the most of a rare start by crashing home the third.

Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli breezed to a 2-0 win over FC Zurich that saw them win 5-1 on aggregate, while Inter Milan went through 5-0 after sweeping four goals past Rapid Vienna without reply at the San Siro.

RENNES MAKE HISTORY

French side Rennes are into the last 16 of a major European tournament for the first time after winning possibly the most entertaining tie of the round 6-4 on aggregate following a barnstorming 3-1 win at Real Betis.

Goals from Remy Bensebaini and Adrien Hunou fired Rennes into a two-goal lead within the opening half-hour but the tie was put back in the balance when Giovanni Lo Celso pulled one back four minutes before half-time.

With Betis pushing to equalise and go through on away goals, M'Baye Niang finished off an injury time break to see the mid-table Ligue 1 side through.

RB Salzburg, Dinamo Zagreb and Zenit Saint Petersburg all overturned



first-leg deficits, with Austrians Salzburg hammering Club Brugge 4-0 to go through 5-2 and Croatian champions Dinamo 4-2 winners on aggregate after a storming 3-0 victory over Viktoria Plzen.

Zenit overcame Fenerbahce 3-1 in Russia, Magomed Ozdov and Sardar Azmoun giving the hosts an aggregate lead before Mehmet Topal put the Turks ahead on away goals just before the break.

Pablo Fornals snuck Villarreal past Sporting Lisbon with a fine curling strike that gave the La Liga side a 1-1 draw on the night and a 2-1 win overall, while Benfica eased past Galatasaray 2-1 after a goalless draw in Portugal.

Krasnodar shocked Bundesliga outfit Bayer Leverkusen with a 1-1 draw that saw them through on away goals.

Eintracht Frankfurt saved



Sokratis Papastathopoulos, left, celebrates with Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang after scoring AP

"We wanted this result but also we wanted to play for our supporters here. We did our best to come back (in the tie) and the team worked very well."
—Unai Emery (Arsenal manager)

"The boys really played well today. We worked hard throughout the game. The goal that came at the end was definitely a bonus for the way that we played."
—Callum Hudson Odoi (Chelsea winger)

Germany's blushes by sweeping past Shakhtar Donetsk with a pulsating 4-1 win that gave them side a 6-3 aggregate victory.

Scotland's participation in Europe ended after 10-man Celtic fell 1-0 at Valencia, already 2-0 up from the first leg in Glasgow and winners in Spain thanks to Kevin Gameiro's 70th-minute strike.

FIFA hands Chelsea transfer ban

LONDON: Premier League club Chelsea have been banned from signing new players in the next two transfer windows as punishment for breaking rules on registering under-age players, FIFA said on Friday.

It means the club — who immediately said they would appeal the decision — will be unable to make signings until the end of January next year.

"The disciplinary committee sanctioned Chelsea with a ban on registering new players at both national and international level for the next two complete and consecutive registration periods," FIFA said in a statement. In addition, Chelsea were fined 600,000 Swiss francs (\$600,000, 530,000 euros) and given a period of 90 days to regularise the situation of the minor players concerned.

The ban does not prevent players being released by the club and it does not apply to Chelsea's women's and futsal teams.

Chelsea have been given three days to appeal against FIFA's decision, which could prove highly damaging, for example preventing the club from signing a replacement for Eden Hazard if the star player leaves the club. AFP

Arsenal face Rennes in last 16

AFP ■ PARIS

Arsenal will face French side Rennes in the last 16 of the Europa League, while Chelsea were paired with Dynamo Kiev in Friday's draw.

Both Premier League clubs will be at home in the first leg on Thursday, March 7, with the return matches scheduled for March 14.

Arsenal's draw means that their veteran goalkeeper Petr Cech will return to face the club he represented for two seasons before joining Chelsea in 2004.

The Britanny club finished fifth in Ligue 1 last season and are currently in mid-table, but have impressed since the 38-year-old Julien Stephan was appointed as coach in December.

Arsenal manager Unai Emery — who won the Europa League three years running as coach of Sevilla — is familiar with Rennes from his two seasons in charge of Paris Saint-Germain.

London rivals Chelsea, the other Premier League club still in the competition, might also view winning the Europa League as their most likely route into next season's Champions League.

After beating Swedish side Malmo, they might find the going tougher against Ukrainian giants Dynamo.

The clubs met in the group stage of the Champions League in 2015-16,

drawing 0-0 in Kiev before Chelsea won 2-1 at Stamford Bridge.

Elsewhere, Sevilla, who have won the trophy five times including twice in its former guise as the UEFA Cup, will face Slavia Prague.

Widely-fancied Napoli will take on the Austrian champions Salzburg, who reached the semi-finals last season.

Former European Cup finalists and UEFA Cup winners Eintracht Frankfurt were drawn against Inter Milan, who won the UEFA Cup three times in the 1990s.

Benfica face Dinamo Zagreb, while Valencia's reward for knocking out Celtic is a tie against FC Krasnodar of Russia.

That is one of two ties between Russian and Spanish sides, with Zenit Saint Petersburg drawn against Villarreal.

The final of this season's Europa League will be played in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, on May 29.



Low expectations is great place to start from: Vihari

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hanuma Vihari has been punching above his weight ever since he made his India debut and that's why he is ready to deal with "low expectations" in a bid to change the popular perception of not being good enough for the T20 format in the upcoming IPL.

Vihari is back in the IPL, which starts March 23, with the Delhi Capitals after going unsold at the auction for three years primarily due to an unimpressive strike rate of sub 100.

"I think because of the slow strike-rate of the past, people won't have expectations from me, which can be a great thing. I take it positively, because now I have a chance to prove them all wrong," Vihari said.

The Delhi Capitals have a star-studded top order with Shikhar Dhawan, Prithvi Shaw, skipper Shreyas Iyer and the indomitable Rishabh Pant in the ranks.

Vihari knows it will be a fight to get into the playing XI but he is ready to don the role of a finisher the same way he agreed to open in unfamiliar conditions in Melbourne.

"Honestly, given that I am playing the IPL after a three-year gap, I am ready to go out there and bat anywhere the management asks me to, whether it's at the top of the order, or in the role of a finisher.

"On my part, I am really in a great mental space and a great position as far as my game is concerned. I am really well-prepared for everything right now," the 25-year-old Andhra batsman said.

He was a part of Sunrisers Hyderabad in 2013 but a lot has changed since then. He has scored loads of runs for India A and also struck a fifty against England on his Test debut.

"I am excited, and fully ready for the season ahead with Delhi Capitals. Mainly because in these three years, I have developed so much as a player.

"I am much more confident of performing now. Also, we have a great mix of Indian and foreign players. I am really looking forward to playing under Shreyas and Ricky's (Ricky Ponting) leadership," Vihari said.

Vihari feels his India stint will make a difference as it has upped his confidence so necessary in a slam-bang tournament. "It gives me a huge boost for sure. I think things have worked out quite timely for me. The IPL opportunity could not have come to me at a better time."

He is most comfortable in the middle order but won't mind facing the red cherry at the start of an innings if asked to do so once again.

"Yes, I will do whatever is needed for the team. These are situations you face as a sportsman, and you have got to learn to accept it. I don't want to be tagged as the guy who is not a team man," Vihari said with conviction.



Short working on his spin to enhance selection chances

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Dashing Australian batsman D'Arcy Short is working on his left-arm spin bowling with former India twaker Sridharan Sriram to enhance selection in the team for the limited over series starting with the first T20 in Vizag on Sunday.

"I did a lot of work with him (Sriram) in the A tour in August and September. That was good then and I've done a bit of work with him yesterday and today, just refining things and getting a little bit better," he was quoted as saying by cricket.Com.Au.

"If I can give two or three overs or even four or five in one-day cricket then it's always going to help my selection in the end and hopefully it goes in my favour," added Short, who is in the 15-man squad as cover for Shaun Marsh. The 28-year-old has claimed 10 wickets in 15 games for Hobart Hurricanes this season besides averaging 637 runs at 53.08 and a strike rate of 140.61.

Sriram said Short can offer a lot to the team with his spin bowling.

"We've seen in the Big Bash, he's bowled a lot more than the previous years which I think is a very good sign for our cricket team going forward," he said.

"He's come a long way. One of the main things we talked about was aligning his technique and then consistency of length.

"If he can do that and spin the ball both ways, which he does, when he's bowling at his best I think he offers a lot to the team along with his batting."

Australia will play second T20I on February 27 at Bangalore, before competing in the five-ODI series next month.

LOCAL EVENTS

LUCKNOW HOSTEL EMERGE WINNER

Lucknow Hostel blanked Lucknow region 2-0 to win the State-Level Junior Girl's Hockey Tournament at Mohd Shahid Stadium on Friday. Pallavi Kumar netted the opening goal for Hostel in the 24th minute. After five minutes, Pitambari found the net to seal the match 2-0. Former director (sports) Vijay Singh Chauhan gave away the prizes to the winners.

NAGAR AYUKT XI WIN LIFT TROPHY

Nagar Ayukt XI rushed Mahapaur XI by eight wickets to lift the Nagar Nigam Cricket Trophy at KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium on Friday.

Batting first, Mahapaur XI scored 141 runs in the allotted 25 overs with Saurabh Singh (30) being the top scorer. Amit Kumar and Ankit claimed three wickets each. In reply, Nagar Ayukt XI achieved the target in 19.1 overs for the loss of two wickets.

BRIEF SCORES:

Mahapaur XI: 141 (Saurabh 30, Mukesh 18, Chand 17; Amit 16/3, Ankit 43/3)

Nagar Ayukt XI: 143 (Ankit 51, Sonu 45, Anuj 25; Mohd Saleem 42/1)

NATIONAL YOUNGSTERS WIN

National Youngsters Cricket Club edged past Lucknow Cricket Nursery by three wickets in a league match of the 15th Babu Banarasi Das Cricket League at Aryavrat ground on Friday.

In a D division matches, Lucknow Cricket Hostel beat Manchester Cricket Club by 78 runs while Dhruv Sports Promotion Group thrashed Soni Cricket Academy by 160 runs.

BRIEF SCORES:

LCN: 104 (Arjun 27, Prabhajot 20, Ankit 16; Anjani 7/4, Anu 29/3)

NYC: 105 (Prateek 16, Prajwal 16, Anil Arora 14; Ankit 13/4, Prabhajot 36/3)

LCA: 135 (Tufail 24, Sujit 19, Abhishek 18; Pradeep 26/4, Anu Kumar 28/3)

MCC: 57 (Vivek 8; Aditya 18/4, Abhishek 15/3, Harsh 7/2)

DSPG: 186 (Ayush 54, Sujhant 29, Saurabh 22; Turin 20/2, Rashid 39/2, Sriyansh 51/2)

SCA: 57 (Rashid 13, Shashank 11; Aman 33/6, Shiva 16/4).

Kishan powers Jharkhand's triumph

PTI ■ MULAPADU

Skipper Ishan Kishan blasted a 55-ball 100 (8X4, 7X6) to power Jharkhand to a facile nine-wicket win over Jammu and Kashmir in a Group 'A' match on Friday.

In other matches, Delhi routed Manipur by 10 wickets while Andhra Pradesh thrashed Nagaland by 179 runs to notch up four points.

Sent into bat by Jharkhand, J&K made 168 for 9 in 20 overs with Jatinder Singh making the top-score of 47 while Rahul Shukla took five wickets.

The talented Kishan took the J&K attack by the scruff of the neck, hammering boundaries and sixers at will. He lashed shots to all parts of the ground, taking the team home in the 17th over, for its second straight win.

Meanwhile, Delhi bounced back after losing to Jharkhand on Thursday, by racing to the target of 119 in just 11.4 overs after Manipur was restricted to 113 for 6 in 20 overs.

Ricky Bhui hammered a 42-ball 108 to power Andhra to 244 for 4 in the quota of 20 overs before Nagaland was shot out for 65 in 13.1 overs.



KARNATAKA HAMMER BENGAL CUTTACK: Young Rohan Kadam struck an unbeaten 81 as Karnataka cantered to a nine-wicket win over Bengal to register their second successive Group D win.

MUMBAI ROMP PUNJAB

PTI ■ INDORE

Led by pacer Dhawal Kulkarni, Mumbai defended a modest 156-run target as they defeated Punjab by 35 runs in their Group C match, registering their second successive win.

In another Group C game, Test specialist Cheteshwar Pujara, who had hit an unbeaten 100 in 61 balls against Railways, continued his good form as he scored 68 to help Saurashtra defeat Madhya Pradesh by 6 wickets.

This was Saurashtra's first win in the tournament. On Thursday, Mumbai had kicked-off their campaign on a winning note, thrashing minnows Sikkim by a staggering 154 runs.

Asked to bat first, Punjab bowlers led by Baltej Singh (3-30) and left-arm seamer Barinder Sran (3-34) dished out a clinical performance as they bundled out a formidable Mumbai for a modest 155 in their 20 overs Friday.

Surya Kumar Yadav was Mumbai's top-scorer as he hit a quick-fire 80 in just 49 balls and stitched a crucial 126-run stand for the third wicket with in-form Shreyas Iyer (46).



After Iyer's dismissal, 'crisis man' Siddhesh Lad went for a duck and then Mumbai lost wickets in a heap and eventually folded up for 155.

Unheralded 18-year-old Punjab opener Prabhsimran Singh, who has been picked by Mumbai Indians, gave Mumbai a scare with a blazing 54 in just 20 balls, an innings studded with six boundaries and four sixes.

But he lacked support from other end. All other Punjab batsmen, including Yuvraj Singh, had an off-day in office as their innings folded up at 120.

Kulkarni (4-22) was ably supported by Shubham Ranjane (2-14), while Shams Mulani, Shardul Thakur picked a wicket each.

No decision on Pak WC match, CoA to consult Govt: Vinod Rai

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Committee of Administrators (CoA) running Indian cricket on Friday decided against taking any stand on the World Cup clash against Pakistan but urged the ICC and other nations to "sever ties" with countries from where "terrorism emanates".

There has been a call to boycott the June 16 World Cup face-off against Pakistan at the Old Trafford in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack, which killed more than 40 CRPF personnel.

In a meeting to address the spiralling speculation around the match, the CoA deliberated on the matter but did not take any position for now.

"The 16th of June is very far away. We will take a call on that much later and in consultation with the government," CoA chief Vinod Rai said after the meeting.

Asked if players have been consulted on the issue, Rai replied in the negative.

"In an e-mail to the ICC, we have expressed our concerns about the terrorist attack that has taken place. We are telling them that security of players and match officials should be appropriately taken care of," Rai said.

"And number two, we must sever ties with nations from which such terrorism emanates. We will express our concern on an appropriate forum," Rai said indicating that the matter will be raised at the ICC quarterly Board meeting in Dubai.

No IPL opening ceremony

All funds to go for Pulwama martyrs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The IPL will not have an opening ceremony this year after the Committee of Administrators (CoA) running Indian cricket on Friday decided to allocate the money set aside for it to the families of the CRPF personnel killed in the Pulwama terror attack.

The opening ceremonies of the cash-rich T20 league are a heady mix of glitz and glamour with Bollywood stars being the highlight.

However, as a mark of

respect to the slain CRPF men, it has been decided to scrap the ceremony for the event's 12th edition beginning March 23.

"We will not have any inaugural function for the IPL and the money budgeted for that goes to the martyrs' families," said Committee of Administrators chairman Vinod Rai.

It was BCCI acting president CK Khanna, who had officially made the proposal to donate at least ₹5 crore for the martyr's families.

It is learnt that 2018 IPL opening ceremony's budget was in the tune of ₹15 crore and something similar to that amount will be donated.

The ICC meeting is scheduled to be held from February 26 to March 2.

In the mail sent to the world body, BCCI said it is concerned about the security of Indian players heading into the World Cup.

"BCCI fears for the safety and security of players and match officials participating in upcoming ICC events including the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019. Most countries from which the members of the ICC hail (including United Kingdom) have strongly condemned this terrorist attack and expressed solidarity with India," the letter stated.

"The BCCI trusts that the ICC and ECB will ensure that the most robust security is

provided to players, match officials and fans of Indian cricket for the upcoming World Cup," it said.

It was a foregone conclusion that CoA would not take any decision on the matter as the ICC can't ban Pakistan as per rules.

"We can never win a floor Test if we try and pass a resolution to ban Pakistan from the World Cup. We currently don't have majority in ICC. In fact, ICC chairman Shashank Manohar, in his individual capacity, has more votes than BCCI at the present moment," a senior BCCI official said.

It is understood that BCCI officials are also concerned that such a stand might cost them the hosting rights of the 2021 Champions Trophy and the 2023 World Cup.

IOC suspends discussions with India for hosting global events

PTI ■ LAUSANNE/NEW DELHI

The denial of visas to Pakistani shooters in the Delhi World Cup has jeopardised India's chances of hosting the Olympics or any global event with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) suspending all such discussions with the country and recommending that no big tournament be awarded to it.

India denied visas to Pakistani shooters for the World Cup that starts on Saturday in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack. As a result, the IOC revoked the two Olympic quotas on offer in the men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol competition of the event.

However, the bigger repercussion was the world body's declaration that it would not engage with India on discussions to host major events. The country aspires to host the 2026 Youth Olympics, the 2032 Summer Olympics and the 2030 Asian Games.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has already sent an expression of interest to the IOC for the 2032 Games and the bidding process for the 2026 showpiece is expected to start next year.

The IOC said its stand against the country will remain until clear "written guarantees are obtained from the Indian government to ensure the entry of all participants in such events in full compliance with the rules of the Olympic charter."

"This situation (at the ISSF World Cup) goes against the fundamental principles of the Olympic charter, in particular the principles of non-discrimination..." the IOC stated after a meeting of its executive board in Lausanne on Thursday evening.

"As a result, the IOC executive board also decided to suspend all discussions with the Indian NOC and government regarding the potential appli-

IOC TAKES AWAY 2 QUOTA, SPARES 14

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) decided against withdrawing all the Olympic quotas from the shooting World Cup here and revoked just two after visas were denied to Pakistani shooters in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack.

Within hours of International Shooting Federation (ISSF) President Vladimir Lisin's declaration that all the 16 quotas have been revoked due to the situation with Pakistan, the IOC said the Olympic qualification status has been withdrawn from only the men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol event. This event had two spots on offer.

"The IOC restricted the withdrawal of recognition as an Olympic qualification event to the 25m rapid fire pistol competition in which the two Pakistani athletes were supposed to participate," the IOC said in a statement after its executive board meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland.



"This happened in the interest of the other 500 athletes from 61 countries participating in the other events who are already in India for their competition," it added.

The National Rifles Association of India (NRAI) heaved a sigh of relief a day before the start of the competition.

"The Organising Committee of the New Delhi World Cup wishes to unequivocally thank the ISSF President Vladimir Lisin, the ISSF Secretary General Alexander Ratner, the IOA President Dr Narinder Batra, and the Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Col (Retd) RVS Rathore for ensuring the best possible outcome to a vexed and complex scenario," NRAI President Raninder Singh said.

ISSF World Cup: Apurvi, Anjum, Elavenil in action on day 1



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Anjum Moudgil, Apurvi Chandel and Elavenil Valaraivan will lead India's charge in women's 10m air rifle event on the first day of competition at the season-opening ISSF shooting World Cup on Saturday.

The immensely talented Mehuli Ghosh will shoot in Minimum Qualification Score (MQS) at the Dr Karni Singh Range.

They are among 102 competitors from 44 nations in the fray in the women's 10m event. India have secured both their Olympic quotas in the event through Moudgil and Chandel at the World Championships last September.

Besides the men's 25m rapid fire pistol and the two 10m mixed team air rifle and air pistol events, the rest of the seven events in the five-day competition will distribute two Olympic quotas each.

India will compete for 12 quotas in six events, besides trying to win medals.

Spinner Bisht guides India to 66-run

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Left-arm spinner Ekta Bisht snared four wickets as Indian bowlers dished out a clinical effort to beat England by 66 runs in the first ODI of the ICC Women's Championship here on Friday.

Bisht returned with impressive figures of four for 25 to help Indian women defend a modest 203-run target by bundling out England women for a paltry 136 in 41 overs to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Bisht was ably supported by pacer Shikha Pandey (2/21), Deepti Sharma (2/33) and veteran Jhulan Goswami (1/19) as India comfortably grabbed two points in the ICC Women's Championship.

For the visitors, Natalie Sciver top-scored with a 66-ball 44, while skipper Heather Knight remained unbeaten on 39.

Chasing the modest target, England, in fact, were in a comfortable position at 111 for three by the end of the 30th over before the visitors crumbled like a pack of cards, losing their last seven batswomen for just 24 runs to surrender the match.

Bisht wrecked England women by taking three wickets in a span of five balls in the 41st over to register the comfortable win for her side.

Earlier, young Jemimah Rodrigues top-scored for Indian women, scoring 48 off



58 balls while skipper Mithali Raj made 44 off 77 deliveries.

Asked to bat, openers Smriti Mandhana (24) and Rodrigues (48) gave a steady start to India's innings sharing 69 runs for the opening wicket.

But just after the drinks break, Mandhana played on a Georgia Elwiss delivery

while going for a pull. India then lost Deepti Sharma (7), who was stumped by Sarah Taylor off Sophie Ecclestone.

Ecclestone, stuck in her very next over, removing a well-set Jemimah as India slumped to 92 for 3.

Then Sciver struck twice in the 22nd over -- first

removing debutant Harleen Deol (2) and then Mona Meshram (0) as India looked in a spot of bother.

But Raj and wicket-keeper Bhatia then joined hands and steadied the ship with a 54-run stand off 94 balls for the sixth wicket.

Raj, who struck four boundaries, was poised for

another fifty before she was trapped in front of the wicket by Elwiss in the 42nd over.

After Raj's dismissal, wickets kept tumbling at the other end before Goswami chipped in with a handy 30-run knock off 37 balls, which included three fours and a six, to take the hosts past the 200-run mark.

Pak Olympic Association hails IOC decision

PTI ■ KARACHI

The National Olympic Association of Pakistan (POA) on Friday supported its parent body IOC for removing Olympic quotas in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol event of the ongoing ISSF World Cup in Delhi, where its country's shooters could not compete due to visa issues.

POA President, General (retired) Arif Hasan, said it was disappointing that two Pakistani shooters were not allowed to participate in the ISSF event in Delhi.

The Indian High Commission didn't issue visa to the two shooters and team manager after the Indian Shooting body, NRAI, had assured the International Shooting Federation (ISSF) that it had got clearance from the host country's home ministry for the visa.

"We were very disappointed once our athletes were not allowed to participate for an event for which they had been preparing for a very long time. We have always been of the view that sports must be used as a means to build bridges between communities and countries," Arif Hasan said in a statement.

"Greatly disappointed we had no option left but to refer the matter to the IOC. As a consequence, the IOC Executive Board took a very prudent and balanced decision," he said. We are very grateful to the IOC for this very well considered decision whereby the right of athletes to participate without any let or hindrance has been upheld."

Pakistan had nominated Ghulam Mustafa Bashir and Muhammad Khalil Akhtar, to contest in the 25m rapid fire pistol event.

Disappointing to see cricket being targeted: Sarfaraz

PTI ■ KARACHI

Sarfaraz Ahmed is "disappointed" that cricket is being targeted after the Pulwama terror attack and said the high-profile India-Pakistan World Cup game should go ahead as planned despite calls for the match's boycott from several quarters of the neighbouring country.

The Pakistan captain insisted that sports should never be mixed with politics and said in the interest of the cricket crazy fans of both the countries, the match should be played.

"The India and Pakistan match should be played as per schedule as there are millions of people who want to watch this game. I just don't think cricket should be targeted for political gains," Sarfaraz told the CricketPakistan.Com.Pk website.

"It is disappointing to see cricket being targeted after the Pulwama incident. I don't recall Pakistan ever mixing sports with politics," he said.

The fate of the much-anticipated World Cup match to be held on June 16 at the Old Trafford lies in limbo after several former Indian cricketers called for its boycott in the aftermath of the ghastly terror attack.

"Sports should just be

taken as sports," Sarfaraz added.

The call to boycott the match has come from some prominent names in Indian cricket such as senior off-spinner Harbhajan Singh and former captain Mohammed Azharuddin.

But offering a different view, batting great Sunil Gavaskar and Sachin Tendulkar have stated that India should not hand over points to Pakistan by boycotting the game. They, however, advocated continued shunning of bilateral cricket ties.

Former Pakistan captain and batting great Javed Miandad too was of the view that the game shouldn't be targeted.

"I felt bad after hearing about our pictures being removed from their (Indian) stadiums. Now this talk of boycotting the World Cup. I think India need to understand they can face consequences of such an action," Miandad said.

"I don't understand the mindset. Do they really think they (India) can get away without playing the World Cup match?" he asked.

He said India need to change its policy of mixing sports with politics.

"I just hope better sense prevails."

Need to play spin better: Knight

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Undeterred by the 66-run loss in the opening women's ODI international against India, England skipper Heather Knight on Friday said the World Cup holders are capable of bouncing back in the three-match series.

"The total was perfectly chaseable. We lost the first game in the World Cup. We have lost games earlier in the series and come back as well. We are taking one game at a time. We need to build partnerships," Knight said at the post-match conference.

"We bowled well, but were unlucky not to take more wickets up front. But we were more than happy with 200 (plus) to chase," insisted Heather, who remained unbeaten on 39 in 66 balls.

Conceding that the team were unable to play spin well on Friday, Heather said the key was to play a couple of overs to gauge the turn and bounce.

"I don't think we played it



(spin) particularly well today. The pitch started to turn and deteriorated too. There was inconsistent spin as well which makes it harder. It was

sticky, it turned but once you got to play 15-20 balls it became easier to play shots. The first 10-15 balls were the key," she said.

First time I've taken three wickets in an over in ODIs: Ekta

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Left-arm orthodox bowler Ekta Bisht, who starred in India women's 66-run win over England women in the opening ODI here on Friday, said this was the first time she had scalped three wickets in an over in the fifty over format although she has a hat-trick in T20 cricket.

The 33-year-old left arm spinner from Uttar Pradesh, who finished with fine figures of four for 25 against the current world champions, also credited newly-appointed coach W V Raman, for her success.

"I have taken a hat-trick in T20, but this is the first time in ODIs that I have taken three wickets in an over. But, I have figures of 10 overs, 8 runs and 5 wickets against Pakistan," the Almora-born Bisht told



reporters at the post match media conference.

Bisht took three wickets in the 41st over to seal India's win and help the hosts take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series, and more importantly, grab two points in the ICC Women's Championship.

"Whenever Raman sir

finds any fault, he makes it a point to come and rectify those errors. He stresses on little points and that helps us. Earlier, I was bowling sideways, but he told me to change that action a bit and that helped," said Bisht, crediting Raman, who started his career as a left-arm spinner.

Bisht also said that they expected the pitch to help the spinners later in the day.

"In the morning it looked the ball would skid. But later, when I spoke to Poonam (Yadav) and other spinners, we figured out that we will reap benefits in the second innings. With

time, it will turn and it happened that way. Even other bowlers got help," she added.

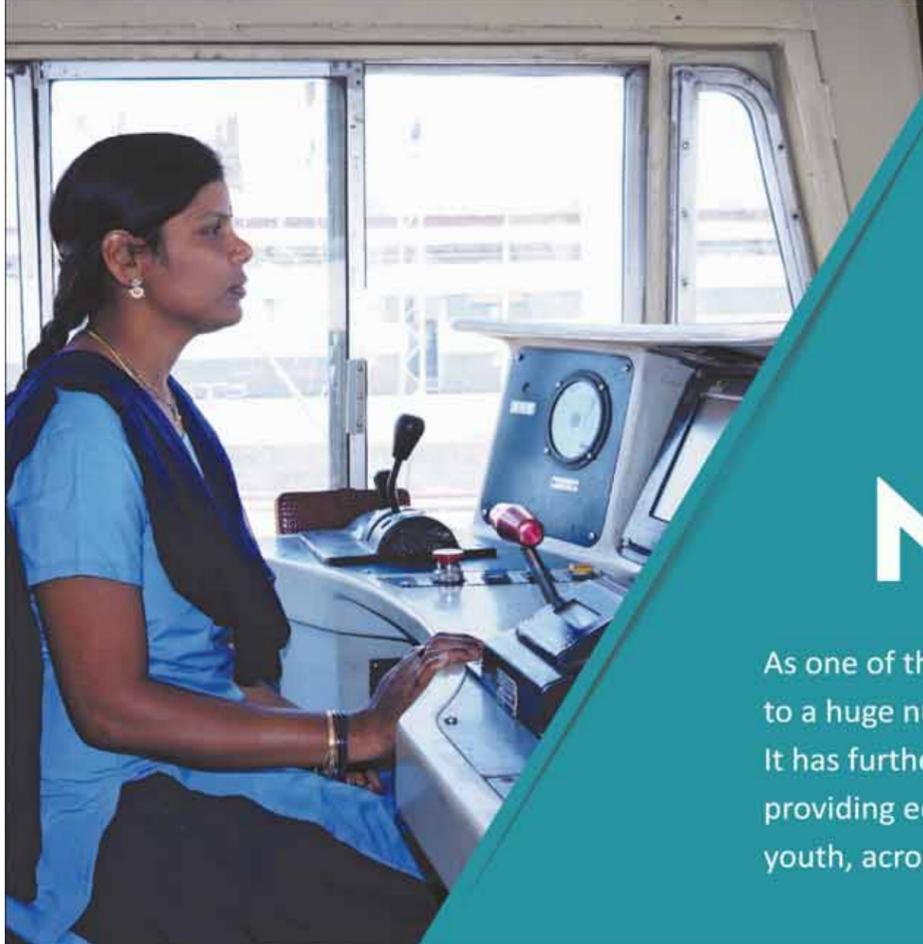
She also praised pacers Jhulan Goswami and Shikha Pandey for bowling well up front.

"When they were three down for 114, we decided not to give up. We fielded well and bowlers like Jhulan di and Shikha backed us well. Shikha bowled very well," Bisht said.

"Jhulan di and Shikha gave breakthroughs and took key wickets. When I came in the 11th over, my target was to keep up the pressure. I did not go for wickets. The idea was to restrict runs. Initially I bowled slow, but in the second spell the wicket had dried up. Then, I bowled my normal deliveries and did not try too many variations."



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