

OPINION 8 MILKING THE ARMED FORCES

WORLD 12 TRUMP DITCHED IRAN DEAL TO SPITE OBAMA: UK ENVOY

SPORT 15 HAMILTON WINS BRITISH GP

LUCKNOW, MONDAY JULY 15, 2019; PAGES 16-33



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Pakistan gives in to Kartarpur demands

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Pakistan on Sunday agreed to allow 5,000 pilgrims per day to Kartarpur and acceded to most of the issues raised by India during the meeting held between delegations of the two countries on the Pakistani side of the Attari-Wagah Border to discuss the modalities of the Kartarpur corridor.

Islamabad also assured that no Pakistan-based individuals and organisations will disrupt the pilgrimage to Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara after India handed over a dossier to Pakistan about such elements.

Pakistan has "in-principle agreed" to build a bridge to connect with the Indian side and visa-free travel for Indian passport holders and OCI cardholders.

After the second round of talks on the project on Sunday, Home Ministry Joint Secretary SCL Das said Pakistani officials confirmed that controversial Sikh leader Gopal Singh Chawla had been dropped from various bodies, including as secretary general of Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (PSGPC).

New Delhi had earlier conveyed its strong concerns to Pakistan over the presence of the leading Khalistani separatist in a committee appointed by Islamabad on the project. "We have shared our concerns regarding individuals or



The Indian delegation headed by SCL Das, Joint Secretary (Internal Security) in Ministry of Home Affairs, along with other delegation members returning after the second round of talks with Pakistan to finalise modalities of the Kartarpur Corridor for Sikh pilgrims, at Attari near Amritsar on Sunday. PTI

organisations based in Pakistan who may try to disrupt the pilgrimage and misuse the opportunity," Das told a Press conference at the Attari Border on the Indian side.

"To highlight the concerns, we handed over a dossier today containing information about these organisations and individuals which may pose a kind of potential threat to our pilgrims. We have handed this over with a request that they seriously act upon it," Das said.

The Pakistani side assured the delegation that no anti-India activity would be allowed, the joint secretary who headed the Indian delegation, said.

No anti-India activity, 5,000 visa-free access a day, assures Islamabad

PTI

The Indian delegation also sought consular presence in the Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara to be able to provide assistance to pilgrims if required, a statement by the External Affairs Ministry said. The Indian delegation comprised representatives from Home Ministry, External Affairs Ministry, Defence Ministry, the Punjab Government and the National Highway Authorities of India. India has been urging Pakistan that 5,000 pilgrims be allowed every day and 10,000 additional pilgrims be allowed on special occasions with no restriction in terms of faith. Das said the delegation raised the issue of encroachment and acquisition of land belonging to the gurdwara.

"We have requested Pakistan to honour religious sentiments and remove the encroachment, besides restoring the encroached land to the gurdwara," he said. The statement said Pakistan has agreed to look into the issue. The work on the four-lane highway to the crossing point at the International Boundary is progressing well and is on schedule, officials said.

It will be completed by September-end. India is constructing a state-of-the-art construction passenger terminal facility that can accommodate 15,000 passengers, they said.

Continued on Page 4

England lift cup in thriller Super Over



England team celebrate with the ICC World Cup trophy. The World Cup final between New Zealand and England went into a Super Over after both teams ended with same score of 241 on Sunday. New Zealand scored 241 for eight after opting to bat and the host England were all out for the exact score in the last ball of their innings. The Super Over also ended in a tie at 15 runs each, and England was crowned as the cricket World Champions for the first time on the court of boundaries. AP

Month after quitting, Sidhu makes public resignation to Rahul

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

A month after Navjot Singh Sidhu had given his resignation as the Punjab Cabinet Minister to Congress national president Rahul Gandhi, the cricketer-turned-politician on Sunday made his resignation letter public on social media fuelling speculation regarding his future course of action.

Sidhu shared his resignation letter addressed to "Indian National Congress president Rahul Gandhi" on Twitter, which he "submitted on June 10, 2019", a day after he met Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi in the national Capital.

In related tweet, Sidhu declared that he will also be sending his resignation to Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh. However, till the filing of the report, the Chief Minister's Office denied receiving his resignation.

The 55-year-old Sidhu had met the party central leadership on June 9 after Amarinder divested the former cricketer of



the Local Government and Tourism Departments on June 6 after accusing him of being a "non-performer" Minister that cost the Congress during 2019 Lok Sabha polls in the State's urban areas.

Sidhu had blamed the Chief Minister of "singling him out for no reason" and defended himself by doing out figures and numbers to prove that urban areas performed better than the rural areas of the State during elections.

Continued on Page 4

Another K'taka MLA gives Cong slip, joins rebel team

Nagaraj promises party to rethink on quitting, after reaching Mumbai says no question of U-turn on resignation

PNS ■ BANGALURU/MUMBAI

The Congress efforts to woo its rebel MLAs back in its fold received a jolt on Sunday as one of the lawmakers arrived in Mumbai after assuring the Congress crisis managers of a possible rethink on his decision to quit.

Rebel Congress MLA MTB Nagaraj flew to Mumbai on Sunday, where he made it clear that there was no question of withdrawing his resignation.

Leaders of the Congress-JD(S) coalition held talks with Nagaraj on Saturday and were confident that he would take back his resignation and help them salvage the 13-month-old HD Kumaraswamy-led Government that is on the brink of collapse.

Before explaining a chartered flight for Mumbai, the



Former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah meets the Congress MLAs at a hotel in Bengaluru on Sunday. PTI

Hoskote MLA told reporters that he intended to take a final call on taking back his resignation after talks with Chikkaballapura MLA K Sudhakar. Nagaraj and Sudhakar had submitted their resignation to Speaker KR Ramesh Kumar on July 10.

Later in the day, speaking to reporters in Mumbai, Nagaraj said there was no question of withdrawing his resignation and that he was "firm" on the decision.

Continued on Page 4

Woman coast guard official falls to death

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The death of a former Deputy Commandant in Coast Guard Services was shrouded in mystery after she fell off the top floor of Sushant Golf City (residential apartment) under PGI police area on Sunday morning. She was identified as Sneha Katyot (32). Police claimed that the officer ended her life but could not explain why. However, the police said that the body had been sent for autopsy and further investigations were underway.

As per reports, Sneha was found lying in the open space inside the apartment premises around 8 am on Sunday. Security guards informed the caretaker of the apartment. She was identified by Supriya Singh, who is the wife of the elder brother of victim's husband. Supriya called her husband Ajay Singh, who informed Arvind Singh about the incident.

Arvind is a pilot in a private airlines company. Details on Page 3



Serbia's Novak Djokovic lifts his trophy after defeating Switzerland's Roger Federer during the men's singles final match of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London on Sunday. AP

CAPSULE

'NEXT DALAI LAMA MUST BE CHOSEN WITHIN CHINA' Lhasa/Beijing: The successor of the Dalai Lama has to be decided within China and there should be no interference by India or other Chinese authorities said.

TWO DEAD, 27 HURT AS RIDE COLLAPSES Ahmedabad: Two persons were killed and 27 others injured when an amusement ride collapsed here in Kankaria Lake area on Sunday, officials said.

CHHATTISGARH: 2 NAXALS KILLED IN ENCOUNTER Dantewada: Two Naxals were killed in an encounter with security forces in Dantewada district on Sunday.

SIGNIFICANT DROP IN J&K STONE PELTING IN J&K New Delhi: Stone pelting cases in J&K have come down from a high of over 2,000 in 2016 to barely a few dozen in the first half of 2019.

2 dead, 8 trapped under debris in Solan collapse

PTI ■ SHIMLA

At least two people, including an Army man, were killed and 27 injured after a four-storey building collapsed in Himachal Pradesh's Solan district on Sunday, a district official said.

The building, located on the Nahan-Kumarhatti road, housed a restaurant and collapsed amid heavy rain in the area, he said.

An Army man and a civilian were killed in the incident, Solan Deputy Commissioner (DC) KC Chaman said. Chaman, who is on the spot, told PTI that 37 people were trapped, and till now 27 people have been rescued and



two bodies pulled out of the debris. At least eight more are still trapped under the debris. The rescued Army personnel, including eight Army personnel, sustained multiple injuries and have been admitted to a nearby hospital, he said.

Continued on Page 4

Make-in-India parts for Chandrayaan-2

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Important components of the modules of India's ambitious second lunar mission, Chandrayaan-2, scheduled for early Monday launch, have been manufactured by a Union Government-run centre here, an official said on Sunday.

The Central Tool Room and Training Centre (CTTC) has manufactured 22 types of valves for fuel injectors and other parts for the cryogenic engine of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark III rocket, dubbed "in-built" by Indian scientists for its ability to carry satellites weighing up to 4 tonnes, a top official said.

Seven specific assemblies for navigation and inertial navigation system (INS) and the limbs of the moon rover "Pragyan" have also been manufactured by the centre.



The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) had earlier said all three modules of the moon mission — Orbiter, Lander (Vikram) and Rover (Pragyan) — were getting ready for the launch and the lander was expected to touch down on the lunar surface early in September.

The Bhubaneswar-based institution had started manufacturing the parts for the country's prestigious lunar mission in March 2017, the centre's Managing Director Sibasis Maity told PTI in an interview.

Noting that CTTC had signed an agreement with ISRO in 2016 for technology transfer and a contract for supply of spacecraft component, Maity said the arrangement had helped it further strengthening its manufacturing capability. "For the current mission, the CTTC has created 22 varieties of valves for the liquid

propulsion system of the launching vehicle to control the fuel while releasing it for combustion," he said.

Recalling that the CTTC had supplied critical hardware items for the Chandrayaan 1, Maity said the institution had also made high-precision components this time for the cryogenic engine that will be used in the GSLV Mk-III.

Elaborating on the seven assemblies manufactured by the CTTC for navigation and inertial momentum of the orbiter, he said these were solar array drive assemblies to help the solar panels of the orbiter and lander; momentum wheel assembly, reaction wheel assembly, dynamically tuned gyroscope, Isro laser gyroscope (ILG), mini advanced inertial navigation system (AINS) and rate gyro electronic package device (RGPD).

Continued on Page 4

Organise Kanwar Yatra on the lines of Kumbh: CM

Asks people to welcome kanwaris as guests

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Issuing an appeal to the people to welcome kanwaris as their guests, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said this time the Kanwar Yatra should be organised on the lines of Kumbh and the devotees of Lord Shiva should be allowed to take out their yatra peacefully.

Addressing a gathering during his visit to Shukteerth temple in Muzaffarnagar on Sunday, the Chief Minister said that his government had organised the Kumbh Mela in a majestic way. He said the inspiration of making the Kumbh a grand and divine event came from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Our whole team in Prayagraj worked hard to make it (Kumbh) a big success," Yogi said, and added, "This time we want Kanwar Yatra to be on the same scale with people's participation."

The annual Shravan month's Kanwar Yatra is set to



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath releasing the model of a modern Bhagwat Katha Bhawan in Muzaffarnagar on Sunday

begin on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister has already allowed DJ at Kanwar Yatra and has asked officials to make arrangements for showering flower petals on the Kanwar Yatra from helicopters.

As the last day of Kanwar Yatra coincides with Bakra-Eid on August 12, the officials have been directed to ensure that animals are not slaughtered on the Kanwar Yatra route.

Yogi Adityanath participated in the 15th death anniversary of Swami Kalayandev at Shukteerth and inaugurated the expansion of Shukdev Goshala in the presence of Swami Ommandar.

He also paid a visit to the Shukteerth temple and released

the model of a modern Bhagwat Katha Bhawan to come up there. The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone of the Tourism department's ₹20-crore plan.

The Chief Minister said: "Just like we have developed Prayagraj, we aim to develop Shukteerth on the same lines. Developing holy places of pilgrimage is our first priority. Shukteerth will be developed just like Kashi, Ayodhya and Mathura."

Paying homage to Swami Kalayandev, the Chief Minister said that India had preserved its identity so far due to saints and seers. He also mentioned Bhagwat Mahapurani in his address.

Yogi said that public welfare works were being undertaken across the state. "Muzaffarnagar is very old and it has a long history. It is connected to Bhagwat Bhoomi. Despite lack of resources here, there has always been long queues of devotees. The Shukteerth has been the epicentre of faith for 5,000 years," he said.

Assuring the farmers that their problems would be resolved, Yogi urged people to support the initiatives on water conservation and cleanliness programs started by the Government of India. He also talked about cow protection, saying the government had given instructions for cow protection.

Eight officers suspended for death of cows

LUCKNOW (PNS): Taking a serious note of death of cows in several districts, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday ordered suspension of eight officers and issued strict instructions to others to protect bovine progeny, particularly cows. The axe fell on officers posted in Ayodhya and Mirzapur.

The Chief Minister ordered suspension of Mirzapur's chief veterinary officer CV Singh, additional municipal officer Ramji Upadhyay and executive officer of Nagar Palika, Mukesh Kumar. In Ayodhya, block development officer (BDO) of Milkpur, additional veterinary officer of Milkpur, gram panchayat adhikari of Palyami Milkpur and two doctors of cow protection home were suspended.

These directives were issued during a review meeting with district magistrates here on Sunday. The Chief Minister also ordered probe into the death of cow due to electrocution in Prayagraj.

Specific directions were issued to the district officials of Lucknow and Sultanpur to maintain cleanliness in the state-run cowsheds. "The DMs should ensure protection of cow. If maintenance of cowsheds is not ensured, district officials would be held guilty. Veterinary officers should make regular inspection of cow. Gram panchayat will be held responsible if cows are kept in school compound," he said.

Yogi for 'emotional dialogue' between patients and docs

Inaugurates Smile Mashal Jyoti event

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Inaugurating the Smile Mashal Jyoti event here on Sunday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that there should be 'emotional dialogue' between patients and doctors.

"We have lost this dialogue in the present age of commercialism. Respect for doctors too has diminished due to priority being given to commercial interests," he said. The advice came a day after resident doctors at Lari Cardiology Centre of King George's Medical University struck work after a few doctors were manhandled by the relatives of patients.

The Chief Minister said that Smile-like projects brought happiness on the faces of every section of society and also brought to fore the sensitive and humane face of doctors. "This initiative is an attempt to restore the dialogue between the doctors and the common man," he said.

Describing Smile Mashal Jyoti programme as a big campaign, the Chief Minister said that a large section of society join an awareness programme, it becomes a mass movement. There are three reasons for failure of any government



scheme. First is that we do not plan it properly, secondly, there is lack of awareness of the plan, and thirdly, the people responsible for the programme do not discharge their duty properly," he said.

During the programme, the Chief Minister honoured children associated with Smile Foundation. He also released a book on left care by Dr AK Singh of KGMU. The Chief Minister also honoured many doctors from different districts.

Prior to the inauguration of the programme, Smile Mashal Jyoti rally was organised at 1090 intersection. The rally was flagged off by Additional Chief Secretary Awanish Awasthi. Along with this, an

awareness campaign was organised through a street play. The purpose was to bring smile in the lives of children born with cleft lips.

While flagging off the rally, Awasthi said that special arrangements had been made for the treatment of children with cleft lips.

"It is a good effort to build confidence among children. A new life can be given to the children through the operation by Smile Campaign," he said. During the programme, Cabinet ministers Ashutosh Tandon and Rajesh Agarwal, Mayor Sanjukta Bhatia, all senior doctors associated with the Smile Mashal Jyoti programme were present.

Will spring surprise in UP Assembly bypolls, says SP

LUCKNOW (PTI): The Samajwadi Party on Sunday claimed that results of the upcoming bypolls to 12 Assembly seats in the state will spring a surprise and the party will grab the lion's share in the seats.

"Booth-level work has already been completed by party workers at most places. Like the bypolls in Phulpur, Gorakhpur and Kairana parliamentary constituencies and the Noorpur Assembly seat, the results of the upcoming bypolls will also spring a surprise and the Samajwadi Party will grab the lion's share," SP leader and former UP minister Arvind Singh Gope told PTI.

The SP leader said the bypolls would set the "tone for the 2022 UP Assembly elections", adding that their endeavour was to reach the last man in the village.

When asked about the break-up of the Samajwadi

Party-Bahujan Samaj Party alliance, Gope said, "Despite the break-up of the alliance, there is no loss to the SP. Akhilesh is a large-hearted man. He has forged the alliance with a large heart. It was the Bahujan Samaj Party, which left us. We respect their views."

The senior Samajwadi Party leader said forging the alliance was a major experiment and it was not necessary that every experiment would succeed.

The SP and BSP had announced their tie-up for the Lok Sabha polls in January this year, sharing 38 seats each and keeping the Congress out of the alliance.

With the electoral tie-up between the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party coming to an end after the Lok Sabha debate, the bypolls to the 12 Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh are likely to witness a four-cornered contest.

The alliance could bag just 15 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats in UP after which the BSP parted ways with the SP. The Lok Sabha elections this year and the 2017 UP Assembly elections were rather a triangular fight.

The Samajwadi Party had contested the 2017 Assembly polls in an alliance with the Congress.

In the 2014 parliamentary elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party, Congress, Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party and the Rashtriya Lok Dal had contested individually in the state.

The upcoming bypolls to 11 Assembly seats will be held as the sitting MLAs have been elected to the Lok Sabha while the vacancy in Hamirpur has been caused due to the disqualification of BJP legislator Ashok Kumar Singh Chandel following conviction in a murder case. The Assembly constituen-

cies that fell vacant following the election of sitting MLAs as MPs are Manikpur, Iglas (SC), Zaidpur (SC), Gangoh, Balha (SC), Rampur, Jalaipur, Pratnagarh, Lucknow Cantonment, Govindnagar and Tundla (SC).

Meanwhile, BJP state media coordinator Rakesh Tripathi claimed that their party would emerge stronger in the elections.

He said, "Irrespective of the fact that the by-elections will be a four-cornered or multi-cornered contests, the BJP will emerge the strongest. We have learnt our lessons from previous bypoll defeats and the party has already started it poll preparations."

"The bypolls will also give an opportunity to the party to increase its tally in the UP Assembly and win from Rampur and Jalaipur, the seats we had lost in the 2017 Assembly polls," the state media coordinator asserted.

Move to list Azam as land mafia

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The district administration of Rampur is likely to list senior Samajwadi Party leader and local parliamentarian as 'land mafia' in the 'Bhoo Mafia' portal.

The Rampur district administration has already slipped over two dozen cases on local MP Mohammed Azam Khan for forcibly acquiring private farmland of farmers and land along the banks of river Kosi for Mohammed Ali Jahar University, a private institution promoted by the SP leader.

The 'Bhoo Mafia' (land mafia) portal was launched by the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, in May 2017 to identify land mafia and register land-grabbing complaints of people.

According to Rampur district administration, Azam Khan faces more than 30 cases

ended to be listed on the land mafia portal.

"The District Magistrate and I would be reviewing reports (FIRs/cases) of various police stations in the district relating to land-grabbing by Azam Khan or his aides. Subsequently, his name would be recommended to be listed in the land mafia portal of the government," said the district police chief.

Meanwhile, the Samajwadi Party spokesman Rajendra Chaudhary said here on Sunday that their leader had been the sole voice of opposition across the state and particularly in Rampur district and had been talking tough against the Narendra Modi government in Parliament.

"The action against him (Azam Khan) is not justified. He did not grab any land for his personal use," the SP leader said.

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"The action against him (Azam Khan) is not justified. He did not grab any land for his personal use," the SP leader said.

12 youths booked for assaulting cleric

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Bahgat police have booked about a dozen youths for allegedly pulling the beard of a Muslim cleric and forcing him to chant Jai Shri Ram.

Superintendent of Police Shailesh Kumar Pandey said, "Prime fact it seems to be a matter of physical assault. Even then, the police have registered a case against 12 youngsters on the basis of the cleric's complaint. Action will be taken against them on the basis of probe."

Citing the cleric's complaint, the SP said Imam Imlaq-ur-Rehman, a Muzaffarnagar resident, was going to his village on his motorcycle on Saturday, when nearly 12 youngsters stopped him, beat him up and pulled his beard. The imam alleged that he was also forced to chant Jai Shri Ram, the SP said. The cleric said he was rescued by two people of his village when he raised an alarm, Pandey added.

The complainant also said the youths told him to come to the village only after shaving off his beard.

The SP said the cause of beating up is yet to be known. Pandey said the imam had registered a similar case in Muzaffarnagar district, which was later found to be true.

Police spokesman at DGP headquarters said they were collecting the details of the accused persons. "Some of them have been identified and our teams are raiding their houses," he said.

Heli-parikrama of Goverdhan

LUCKNOW (PNS): To facilitate parikrama of the Goverdhan hillock in Mathura, the Uttar Pradesh government has started heli-parikrama for senior citizen this year. The service will continue till July 16.

Government spokesman said the helicopter service will take pilgrims on parikrama of the Goverdhan hill. This will not only save time but also help aged people to take part in parikrama at a minimum cost, he said. The service is being run from DAV Inter College where a helipad has been constructed. One time fare per person is ₹3,000 and the service will be available till July 16. Devotees can book their seats on www.upstdc.co.in website.

STF arrests liquor smuggler

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Stunts of the Special Task Force nabbed a man smuggling liquor in Bareilly on Friday and recovered 245 cartons of liquor from his possession.

The smuggler, identified as Shamim aka Sonu of Muzaffarnagar, was arrested when he was on his way to Lucknow to deliver the liquor made in Haryana. The cops also recovered 300 sacks of white marble powder, ₹28,200 and a mobile phone from Shamim.

The truck carrying the liquor and marble powder was also seized. The Special Task Force was tipped off that Shamim was smuggling liquor to Bihar via Bareilly-Lucknow from Haryana. The sleuths of Special Task Force laid a trap near Monga Dhaba (close to Dwarakesh Sugar Mill) under Fatehganj East police station area and arrested Shamim.

During interrogation, Shamim disclosed that Haryana-made liquor was high in demand in Bihar after the state declared prohibition. He said he was given the task in Panipat in

Haryana and his job was to reach Lucknow where he had to hand over the liquor to a transporter who would send it to Bihar. Shamim said he was given ₹10,000 for carrying the liquor to Lucknow.

MAN ELECTROCUTED

Meanwhile, a 21-year-old man died of electrocution and two others, who tried to save him, sustained serious injuries in Shahjahanpur, on Sunday, officials said. According to sub-divisional magistrate, Powaya, Saunabh Bhatt, the incident took place at a farmhouse in Khura village under Khutar police station area.

He said on Sunday morning when Gurtje (21) was at the farmhouse, some bulls started exploding due to sudden high voltage, and current was flowing into the main iron gate. Frightened, Gurtje tried to move out of the house, when he came in contact with the electric current flowing in the gate, the official said.

Gurtje's mother and brother rushed to save him, but they sustained serious injuries. The mother and brother of the deceased have been hospitalised.

Shut down all madarsas: Waseem Rizvi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Shia Central Waqf Board chairman Waseem Rizvi once again demanded that all madarsas be shut down as they had become breeding grounds for training terrorists for the ISIS.

Rizvi said madarsas had become the biggest threat to the national security as cache of arms were being recovered

from their premises. Rizvi said in a statement released here on Sunday that the government should shut down madarsas imparting religious education and open schools for secular education.

The Shia Central Waqf Board chairman said if the government delayed the tough action of shutting down madarsas, they would turn into centres for training soldiers for the ISIS and pose a

threat to internal security of the country. The Shia Waqf Board chairman renewed his demand in the wake of recovery of arms and ammunition in Bijoor.

Police also seized a car transporting the arms. Rhinos were reintroduced in the area of the madarsa and six other persons were arrested by the police in this connection.

Rhino carcass found floating in river

Lakhimpur Kheri: The carcass of a rhino was found floating in Ghaghra river under the Dudhwa buffer zone here on Sunday, officials said.

The carcass was spotted by neighbouring Sahabindpur villagers who intimated the forest authorities. Dudhwa Tiger Reserve field director Sanjay Pathak along with Dudhwa buffer zone Deputy Director Anil Kumar Patil rushed to the spot and inspected the dead animal.

"The carcass is that of a male rhino. The highly decomposed carcass shows that it may be about 10 days old," Pathak said. "The rhino's horn and other vital parts seemed to be intact. A post-mortem by a panel of doctors will be carried out to ascertain the exact cause of death," he said. PTI

The carcass may have floated into the Indian area from Nepal through Ghaghra river

"The carcass may have floated into the Indian area from Nepal through Ghaghra river as the area where the animal was found has no rhino movement and is remote from Dudhwa and Katarniaghat," the official added. The Dudhwa Tiger Reserve boasts of an effective rhino rehabilitation programme. Rhinos were reintroduced in Sonapur range of DTR in 1984 in a specially-arranged fenced area with just five such animals. The programme was so successful that the rhino population here stands at 39 as on date. PTI

RAJKIYA ENGINEERING COLLEGE, SONBHADRA

APPOINTMENTS

ADVERTISEMENT No. 38/Adv./REC/SOBNB/2019 Dated: 15.07.2019
Applications are invited for the Post of Director, Rajkiya Engineering College, Sonbhadra in the pay band of Rs. 37,400-67,000 grade pay Rs. 10000/- (Level-14) special allowance Rs. 3000 per month. The appointment will be on contract basis for a period of 3 years.

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The Qualification and Experience for the post shall be as per AICTE Regulations notified on dated 05 March, 2010 (as amended from time to time by AICTE). For details please visit the College website: www.recsonbhadra.ac.in

AGE: The applicant should not be more than 57 years of age on the date of Advertisement.

The eligible candidate may submit their application on plain paper giving their complete BIO-DATA with attested copies of testimonials, certificate of age administrative experience and research work etc. Application of candidates in service will be considered only if it is received through proper channel. However, such candidates may send an advance copy of their application directly with prescribed fees. The complete application along with documents should be sent to Secretary, Technical Education, Pin No. 19, 3rd Floor, Sachhi Bhawan, U.P. Secretariat, Lucknow, Pin 226 001 latest by 14 August, 2019. The name of the post should be clearly written on the envelope containing the application. Incomplete applications and applications received after the due date i.e. 14 August, 2019 will be summarily rejected.

(Member Secretary)
Board of Governors

Man coast guard official falls to death

Police say she committed suicide

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The death of a former Deputy Commandant in Coast Guard Services was shrouded in mystery after she fell off the top floor of Sushant Golf City (residential apartment) under PGI police area on Sunday morning. She was identified as Sneha Kantawat (32). Police claimed that the officer ended her life but could not explain why. However, the police said that the body had been sent for autopsy and further investigations were underway.

As per reports, Sneha was found lying in the open space inside the apartment premises around 8 am on Sunday. Security guards informed the caretaker of the apartment. She was identified by Supriya Singh, who is the wife of the elder brother of victim's husband. Supriya called her husband Ajay Singh, who informed Sneha's husband Arvind Singh about the incident. Arvind is a pilot in a private airlines company.

In his complaint, Arvind stated that he got the news that Sneha had fallen from the top floor of the apartment around 10.30 am. It surfaced during investigation that Sneha had resigned only on July 3 and was planning to enroll in martial arts classes in Goa.

A native of Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand, Sneha was stay-



SSP Kalandi Nathani and other policemen carrying out investigations

ing with Supriya and Ajay since July 7. Arvind claimed that Sneha had voluntarily resigned from her job. There were reports that Sneha was part of the team that carried out a successful operation in the past. Cantonment circle officer Durgesh Singh said prima facie, it appeared to be a case of suicide. The woman was seen going on the top floor by staircase after CCTV footages were scanned. However, he added that it was not clear as to why she took the extreme step.

SSP Kalandi Nathani, who reached the spot to review the progress of investigation, said the woman got her head banged against the floor and it

was smashed. "Prima facie, no other injuries were detected," he told mediapersons.

Later, the Lucknow police issued a press note stating that Arvind and Sneha knew each other for the last two years and they got married on May 30 earlier this year.

Quoting family members, the police said that Arvind was staying in hometown Pratapgarh. Differences between the couple reportedly cropped up after Sneha decided to enroll on martial arts classes.

Police said Sneha, along with her family members, took tea in the flat around 8.20 am and later went out around 9

am. "The call detail records and CCTV footage have not confirmed any foul play as yet. She looked calm while seen going upstairs in the CCTV footage," police spokesman said.

It surfaced during investigation that she had talked to her mother in the morning before opening the door of the flat. There were reports that Sneha was one of the four women who were commissioned first time into the women combat team formed after the 26/11 Mumbai attack. She had successfully carried out several operations in the past. However, the CO did not confirm the same, saying the police were yet to verify that.

Youth in BJP team found hanging

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A national-level wrestler, working in the team carrying out membership drive for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) these days, was found hanging at the house of party's media incharge Rukhsana Naqvi in Thakurganj on Sunday morning.

The deceased, identified as Resham Singh (26) of Balamau in Hardoi, along with his friend Waris Ghazal had visited Rukhsana's house in Sarfarazganj around 10 pm on Saturday. Rukhsana, who informed the police about the incident, said Resham was found hanging from the ceiling with a bedsheet and dupatta tied around his neck in a room around 10 am.

"As Resham did not wake up in the morning, Waris went there but the door was bolted from inside. We broke open the door and found Resham Singh hanging from the ceiling," she told the police. Sub-inspector Vinay Mishra, who is investigating the case, said Resham Singh was unmarried. "He took part in a wrestling championship at national level," he said. He added that no suicide note was recovered in the case.

Mishra said the body had been sent for autopsy and the family of the deceased had been informed about the incident.

Meanwhile, in Kakori, a youth, identified as Raj Kumar Pal (22), was found hanging from a tree with a rope tied around his neck on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday. Police said the youth committed suicide but failed to explain the reason. Reports said Raj Kumar, worked at a dhaba in Haryana, returned



Cops carrying out investigations at the house of BJP's media incharge Rukhsana Naqvi in Thakurganj where Resham Singh (right) was found hanging on Sunday

home about a week ago. Police said Raj Kumar left his house on Saturday night but did not return. "His family went out to search for him and found him hanging from a tree in an orchard," the police said.

ROAD MISHAP

A 50-year-old milk vendor was crushed to death by a speeding vehicle on the way to home in Thakurganj on Saturday night. Reports said that the victim, identified as Amar Singh Yadav of Barikan village in the area, was returning home after supplying milk to customers on a cycle. "When Amar reached Malajipuram Colony in Balaganj locality, he was hit by an unidentified vehicle," deceased's younger brother Rakesh Kumar Yadav said.



Meanwhile, a youth, identified as Mohit Kumar Singh (19) of Sarojinagar locality, was found dead. His body was recovered alongside railway tracks at Pipersand Railway Level crossing in Sarojinagar. Reports said Mohit left his house saying he was going to Kanpur by a train around 7 pm on Saturday. "We got a call from police around 7 am on Sunday and were told about his death," victim's father Jai Singh said. The police said Mohit fell down from the train and died.

City's Chandrayaan-2 connect!

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

It what can be a proud moment for the state capital, Lucknowite Ritu Karidhal Srivastava, better known as 'Rocket Woman', is the director of Indian Space Research Organisation's Chandrayaan Mission-2 that will be launched on Monday. A native of the state capital, Ritu completed graduation from Mahila PG College and post-graduation in Physics from Lucknow University.

Talking to *The Pioneer*, head of LU's Physics department Poonam Tandon said that students and teachers were excited about the fact that an alumna had reached this position. "We are very happy and we also wanted to invite her to an event, but she has been very busy. Everyone in the depart-



ment knows about it. She is the second person from the department who has had this achievement. Earlier, Anil Bhardwaj of the same department had made a mark due to his association with Mangal Mission," she said.

Lucknowite Ritu Karidhal Srivastava, better known as 'Rocket Woman', is the director of Indian Space Research Organisation's Chandrayaan Mission-2 to be launched today

Manisha Gupta from the Physics department said it was a proud moment for the university and the department. Incidentally, Ritu had enrolled on PhD under Manisha.

Physics, she enrolled on PhD under me although she could not complete it as she went to ISRO," said Manisha, who described Ritu as intelligent, sincere, simple and hardworking. "She also worked as a part-time guest lecturer when she was a research scholar at the department," she added.

Manisha said Ritu completed MSc in Physics in 1997 after which she joined ISRO. Ritu's cousin Ajay Srivastava, who lives in Lucknow, said all the family members were proud of her achievement and would be glued to the television for the launch of Chandrayaan-2. Ritu was a deputy operations director of India's Mars orbital mission. She has also worked for many other projects of ISRO.

Be careful of what you eat in monsoon: IITR director

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Director of Indian Institute of Toxicological Research (IITR) Alok Bhawan said on Sunday it is important to look into what one is eating during the monsoon season when the weather conditions are hot and humid. "There is a high content of moisture in the air during the monsoon and with heat it gives rise to

bacterial infections," he pointed out.

Contrary to popular perception, he one can have fish during the monsoon season. "The belief that one should not have fish during monsoon as it is their breeding season. One major cause of concern is that rivers are polluted but during rains, the rivers overflow and as a result, fishes can be eaten as the water is less

polluted," he reasoned.

Also, he said most of the fishes coming in the market were those cultured and had nothing to do with monsoon.

He said as far as deep-fried food is concerned, one should not consume used oil because of the poly-hydrocarbons which are created as they are carcinogenic.

Regarding other items which are relished during the

monsoon, he said one should be careful about the colours being used. "No colour should be added to foodstuff. If you are using permitted colours, it should only be 100 parts per million," he asserted.

Asked if the colour used in roasted chicken was safe for consumption, he said standards of all colours used in the foodstuff had gone out from IITR.

"The colour does not add any value so there is no point adding red colour to *jalebis*. As for roasted chicken, if permitted amount of colour is being used, it is okay. But we cannot know that until we carry out tests," he added.

CISH releases new variety of jamun

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture released a jamun variety called 'Jamwant', which has very high pulp content of more than 90%, is rich in nutraceuticals and anti-diabetic bioactive compounds. Chairman of the research advisory committee of CISH BS Chundawat released it for commercial cultivation. CISH director Shalendra Rajan said before release, the variety was tested in different geographical regions for yield and quality. "The institute has a large collection of superior jamun varieties, out of which this was identified. It is most suitable for consumption and processing. Its very high pulp percentage attracts consumers and processes for better return of cost. ITC promoted cluster plantation of this in Allahgarh so that raw material for making value added products is easily available," he said.

He pointed out that CISH helped in establishing these clusters and trained farmers for commercial production of jamun. "CISH is receiving regular demand of grafts from most parts of the country. Jamun is making good money in the posh markets and 'Jamwant' attracts people due to its bold size, pulp and negligible astringency, commonly found in jamuns," he added. "CISH perfected the wedge grafting technique in jamun. Different superior jamun types collected as a result of survey in major jamun growing areas of the country were conserved through the grafting technique. A good number of collections were made out of which the selection was identified with unique characteristic of more than 90% pulp. The selected plants were multiplied and tested in different parts of the country. The institute started working on developing jamun variety through selection about two decades back," he added.

'Need to preserve UP's geo-heritage sites'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany (BSIP) and Earth Science Society will be approaching the state government to preserve the geo-heritage sites of Uttar Pradesh. BSIP director Vandana Prasad said that a walk was being organised in Lucknow jointly with 'Save our Geo-heritage' on July 21. "The walk will witness the participation of earth scientists to attract the attention of people at large and policy-makers in particular regarding the importance of conservation of our geo-heritage sites," she said.

General secretary, The Society of Earth Scientists (SES), Satish Tripathi elaborated the need of geo-heritage conservation. He said that a brainstorming session on 'Conservation of geo-heritage: Present scenario and future action plan' was being organised jointly with Indian National Science Academy on August 6. Lawmakers, policy-makers, technocrats and UNESCO authorities would be apprised of the present status of Indian geo-heritage and need to enforce laws to conserve it, he added.

Take the case of Kalpi near Kanpur. This site was visited by international scientists in recent years and has a rich haul of elephant trunks. The site can attract a lot of tourists. The geo-heritage site objects are being used as playfully objects by the people and children from nearby places," he pointed out. Tripathi said the country is a geologically diversified terrain ranging from as old as 4 billion years to recent and records some of the world's

greatest geological events.

"Indian subcontinent was one of the most dynamic landmass which shifted its position in time and space from northern hemisphere to southern hemisphere and back to northern hemisphere and ultimately colliding with Eurasian plate, resulting into the mighty Himalaya during various geological periods. The rising Himalaya in the north, Deccan Plateau in the west, mosaic of geologically oldest terrain in the south and the west, great Vindhyan basin, coal bearing Gondwana basins, basins of Himalaya, the Siwaliks and Indo-gangetic plains, the list is too long," he said.

He added that India's geological heritage attracts scientists from every part of the globe. He said all this needs to be preserved for future generations. "The Indian ancestors had great understanding of geological and geomorphological heritage which is indicated by the establishment of ancient temples near geologically significant locations. While our rich cultural heritage has largely been taken care of, the geological heritage is still awaiting its turn. The fossil sites are being vandalised and fossils being sold to visitors at several places in India," he pointed out.

"In geo-heritage conservation, India is far behind many small countries like Malaysia, Vietnam etc. The great resource of knowledge, tourism in the form of geo-tourism, and geoparks is still untapped in India. The time has come to formulate a law to conserve geo-heritage sites and convert them into knowledge destinations at par with global standards," he added.

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Amidst demands of bylaws to bring private water vendors, coaching and educational properties under its ambit, Lucknow Municipal Corporation presented Jai Kal department's revised deficit budget of Rs 963.82 against the earlier budget of Rs 1279.54 at Triloki Nath Hall on Sunday. Under the present approved status, the corporators will be able to get works related to manhole repair, covers replacement and pipelines done on priority by Jai Kal department. The session lasted for around six hours. Earlier, the session began on a stormy note as opposition corporators, led by Girish Kumar Mishra, sought an explanation from mayor Sanyukta Bhatia on the previous budget's relevance of revised budget.

CITY BRIEFS

PRE-BID CONFERENCE

Around 18 companies participated in the pre-bid conference held in Lucknow for the construction of 24 modern bus stations in various parts of the state by Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC). A senior official said the pre-bid conference witnessed presentations and question-answer sessions by the bidders. He said among the bidders, there was one international company, one local and the remaining national-level companies. The official said that the bidders showed interest in construction of the bus stations at Lucknow, Ghaziabad and Varanasi. He admitted that with Varanasi being the Prime Minister's constituency, the project for its bus station attracted the attention of the bidders. "The Principal Secretary, Transport, has asked the bidders to send in their queries through mails by Tuesday. These queries will be scrutinised after which the tenders will be updated shortly," he said. After the success of Alambagh Bus Terminal, which was constructed on a PPP model, has made UPSRTC go for modern facilities for bus travellers in other parts of the state as well. In Lucknow, two bus stations in various parts of the city have been proposed. In December last year, projects and presentations of these bus stations had been made with details. The official said the companies could bid for construction of more than one bus stand.



Maularia Khalid Rashid Farangi Mahali addressing Mecca-bound pilgrims at Aisbahigh Eidgah ahead of Hajj pilgrimage on Sunday

Tuesday. These queries will be scrutinised after which the tenders will be updated shortly," he said. After the success of Alambagh Bus Terminal, which was constructed on a PPP model, has made UPSRTC go for modern facilities for bus travellers in other parts of the state as well. In Lucknow, two bus stations in various parts of the city have been proposed. In December last year, projects and presentations of these bus stations had been made with details. The official said the companies could bid for construction of more than one bus stand.

RAINFALL

Parts of the city received rains on Sunday as the weath-

er turned cloudy in the evening. The Met department has forecast light rains in the state on Monday. There is warning of heavy rains at isolated places. Lucknow has a rainfall surplus of 43 per cent. Met director JP Gupta said light rains were expected because the system has shifted currently. On Sunday, the maximum temperature in the state capital was 36.3 degree Celsius, which was three notches above normal. Meanwhile, following the directives of District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma, ADM (Sadar) Abhinav Ranjan visited the flood-affected Faizullahganj area on Sunday. The official directed the officials concerned to spray medicine for keeping disease at bay. He said that waterlogging conditions had occurred because of the closing of the 'pulis' in that area. The officials visited the area on motorcycles.

Two brothers killed, woman hurt as speeding car hits motorcycle

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In a tragic incident two brothers who were going on a motorcycle were knocked down by a speeding car on the Prayagraj-Lucknow Highway under the Manikpur police station in Pratnagarh district. A woman of the same family sustained grievous injuries in the accident.



The SRN Hospital for treatment by the doctors on duty there.

On receipt of information, the police reached the spot, took the body of the victims into their custody and sent them to mortuary for the post-mortem examination. The injured woman was first admitted to a local hospital from where she was later referred to

the Manikpur police station, along with his wife, Manju Yadav (34) and his brother, Brijesh Yadav (35), were going to the community health centre (CHC) located at Kunda, Pratnagarh, to see one of their relatives on a motorcycle around 11 pm.

When they reached near Deshraj ka Inara on the Prayagraj-Lucknow Highway, the speeding car hit them from behind as a result of which they slumped on the ground and were grievously injured. On being informed about the tragedy by the passersby, the police reached the spot and took the trio to the CHC in Kunda with the help of

locals. The doctors on duty there declared Babloo and Brijesh as brought dead while the badly injured woman, Manju, was referred to the Prayagraj-Lucknow Highway. There was a heated exchange of fire when the security personnel tried to zero-in on the rebels, following which the latter escaped into the forest, he said.

Two dead as amusement ride collapses in Gujarat

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Two persons were killed and 27 others injured when an amusement ride collapsed here in Kankana Lake area on Sunday, officials said. Condition of 14 of the injured is serious.



The mishap occurred in the evening when a pendulum ride malfunctioned and crashed onto the ground. "Twenty-nine people were brought to the hospital out of whom two died while twenty seven are being treated," said Ahmedabad Mayor Bijal Patel.

Municipal Corporation (AMC) Chief Fire Officer M F Dastoor said the accident took place as a pipe of the main shaft of the amusement ride broke, causing it to fall down. "There are 32 seats in the ride that go round. The pipe of the main shaft broke and crashed on the ground. How that pipe broke is a matter of investigation by Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL)," said Dastoor.

The AMC had given a contract to operate the rides in the area to private contractors. AMC Commissioner Vijay Nehra said an FIR will be registered and strict action will be taken against responsible persons. The cause behind the mishap will be investigated by the police and the FSL. "I have ordered an FIR. Why the ride malfunctioned, the mechanical reason behind it will be probed. Police and FSL will investigate the matter and strong action will be taken," said Nehra.

C'garh: 2 Naxals killed in gunbattle

PTI ■ DANTEWADA

Two Naxals, including a woman, were killed in an encounter with security forces in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh on Sunday morning, police said.

The gunbattle broke out in a forest near Gumiyal village, located around 400 km from Raipur, when a District Reserve Guard team was out on an anti-Naxal operation, Dantewada Superintendent of Police Abhishek Pallava told PTI.

The development has finally put to rest the impasse between Sidhu and Capt Amarinder that has been continuing for long, much before the Lok Sabha elections. In fact, Sidhu and Capt Amarinder had been at odds on a variety of issues, including action against the Badals, Sidhu's bonhomie with Pak Prime Minister and former cricketer Imran Khan, among others.

FELICITATION CEREMONY

A felicitation ceremony was organised for the excellent pre-medical SK/Dians at SKD Academy on Sunday. The programme commenced with the lighting of lamp by Transport

Minister Swatantra Dev Singh, who was the chief guest on the occasion. Former president of UPPCS Sangh Baba Hardev Singh was the special guest. On the occasion, 153 students who got selected in

NEET were felicitated. Some of them included Saharsh Shukla, Vaishali Singh, Usman Javed, Amanjit Tripathi, Rahul Yadav, Upendra Awasthi, Suryavesh Verma, and Ausaf Ahmad.

FIRST PRIZE

Tanya Srivastava, a class III student of C i t y Montessori School, Mahanagar campus, won the first prize in state-level dance competition. Tanya secured 'Suphero' title for her excellent dance performance. The competition was organised under the aegis of Max Little Icon, wherein talented students of various cities of Uttar Pradesh showcased their dancing skills. Tanya exhibited wonderful coordination in lyrics, tune and rhythm while dancing with perfection. Amid a tough competition, she ended up as the winner. The organisers awarded her a trophy, certificate and other prizes.

Govt may consider Army deployment to crush Naxals: Minister

PTI ■ CUTTACK (ODISHA)

Union Minister Nityanand Rai on Sunday urged Naxals to shun violence and lead a peaceful and dignified life but made it clear that if they don't do so, the Centre will exercise all options, including deployment of Army, to free areas held by left-wing extremists.

The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs said Naxals should return to the mainstream by accepting the flexible rehabilitation scheme offered by the government. If they don't, Rai warned, the Centre will be forced to weigh the option of using the Army to crush Naxals. "Naxal-prone areas in the

country are shrinking everyday and there has been a drastic reduction in the cadres of left-wing extremism," he told reporters here. Para-military forces are deployed in sufficient numbers in the last Naxal-hit pockets, he said. Rai said many rebels have given the path of violence and returned to the mainstream because of the anti-Naxal operations by security forces and the rehabilitation scheme. Over the last five years, security forces have minimised Naxal threats in the country, he said, adding that the Central government has been giving due importance to external and internal security matters.

REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS
E-Procurement Notice
(Two-Envelope with e-Procurement Bidding Process)

Employer: Executing Engineer Lower Ganga Canal Fatehpur
Service title: Hiring services of an agency for providing Human Resource to Strengthen Divisional PMA Cell
REQ No: 01/EE/2019-20
Date: 10-07-2019

- The Government of India has received financing from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the Uttar Pradesh Water sector Restructuring Project-II and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards eligible payments under the contract for which this request for quotations is issued. The Executing Engineer Lower Ganga Canal Fatehpur invites quotations electronically from eligible bidders for the following goods/Service.

S. N.	Brief Description of the service	Qualification/ Technical qualification	Unit & Quantity	Assignment period	Earnest money (in Lac.)	Place of assignment
1.	PM Executive	As per TOR	10 nos.	12 months	3.74	under jurisdiction of Executing Engineer Lower Ganga Canal Fatehpur

- This e-Procurement notice includes the terms and conditions applicable to submission of quotations, criteria for qualification, evaluation, and for award of order(s); and relevant forms to be filled by the bidders. Implementing Agency has not issued a separate RFQ document for this purchase. The e-Procurement notice including the terms and conditions etc. can be downloaded free of cost by logging on to the website <https://tender.up.nic.in>
- For submission of Quotation, the Bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the Certifying Authorities authorized by Government of India for issuing DSC. Bidders can see the list of licensed CAs from the link www.cca.gov.in Bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-procurement in this Project, may obtain the same from the website: <https://tender.up.nic.in>.
- Quotations, both Technical Part and Financial Part shall be downloaded/uploaded on <https://tender.up.nic.in> from 22.07.2019 after 11:00 hours to 29.07.2019 before 11:00 hours. Any quotation or modifications to quotation received outside e-procurement system will not be considered. The electronic bidding system would not allow late submission of quotations. The Technical Part of the Quotations will be opened online on 29.07.2019 at 15:00 hours, this can also be viewed by the bidders online. The electronic summary of quotation opening of technical part will be generated and uploaded online.
- If the Employer's office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the Quotations as specified, the "Technical Part" of the Quotations will be opened on the next working day at the same time. The Financial Parts of the Quotations shall remain unopened in the e-procurement system, until the subsequent online opening, following the evaluation of the Technical Parts of the Quotations.
- This is being invited in anticipation of the tender/quote/bid/budget.
- Other details can be seen in the RFQ document. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. A Bidder requiring any clarification of the RFQ Document may notify the Employer online or may visit the office of the Employer at the address given below.

Office Address: Office of the Executive Engineer, Lower Ganga Canal Fatehpur
UP- 142074 Date 12.7.2019
Executive Engineer
Lower Ganga Canal, Fatehpur

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MONTH AFTER...

Sidhu's move that has rubbed everyone in the wrong way within Punjab unit of the Congress party, is being seen as the beginning of end of his relation with the Congress. Speculation is that Sidhu, who had joined the Congress just before the 2017 State Assembly polls, may pave his own way while joining hands with the splinter groups, which were the part of the Punjab Democratic Alliance that contested 2019 elections together.

The development has finally put to rest the impasse between Sidhu and Capt Amarinder that has been continuing for long, much before the Lok Sabha elections. In fact, Sidhu and Capt Amarinder had been at odds on a variety of issues, including action against the Badals, Sidhu's bonhomie with Pak Prime Minister and former cricketer Imran Khan, among others.

It was after Sidhu's "friendly match" jibe campaigning in Bathinda days ahead the State was to go for polls that Capt Amarinder, and other Congressmen, had accused Sidhu of "harming the party's prospects in elections."

Mincing no words, Capt Amarinder had made it clear that he intended to change Sidhu's portfolio, there was finally followed by a major Cabinet reshuffle. Besides four, the portfolios of all the Ministers were changed, with Capt Amarinder allotting Sidhu Power and New and

Renewable Energy. Over a month after, defiant Sidhu refused to assume the charge of his new Ministry, while remaining uncommunicative since then. A senior Congress leader, who did not wish to be named, told The Pioneer that Sidhu decided to quit after he felt that he would not be able to have his way, "and after all this while, it was too late for him and too big for his ego to take charge of Power Department and that is why he decided to resign."

Congress Rajya Sabha member Pratap Singh Bajwa, lashing out at Sidhu, said: "What is the point of making public his letter to Rahul Gandhi? Does he want to show how in Punjab it is only that writ of Capt Amarinder Singh runs? It is obvious that distribution of portfolios is privilege of the Chief Minister. Sidhu should have taken charge of the power portfolio." It has been learnt that Sidhu has all along been insisting on the central leadership to get back his Local Government Department, while refusing to take charge of the Power Department, which complicated the entire issue.

Another Congress leader maintained that in case Sidhu had taken the charge of Power Ministry, the Congress high command could have persuaded the Chief Minister to give him additional portfolios. But by being adamant, Sidhu left no option for the high command, the leader added. Questions are being raised on Sidhu's resignation as a

Minister who has to submit his resignation to the Chief Minister. Moreover, he has sent the resignation to Rahul Gandhi, who has now himself resigned as the party chief. As per the procedure, if the central leadership accepts Sidhu's resignation, it is forwarded to the Chief Minister, who sends it further to the Governor for consideration.

MAKE-IN-INDIA...

A significant part was the creation of the limbs of the "Pragati" with wheels attached to them. The limbs of "Pragati" will rove independently to help the rover negotiate the lunar surface after it lands on the moon, Maity said. The six-wheeled moon rover can travel up to 500 metres and is solar-powered. While the CTC had sent seven assemblies for navigation and inertial system to ISRO inertial systems unit, the parts of the cryogenic engine were sent to the space agency's liquid propulsion systems centre, both located in Thiruvananthapuram, he said.

For proper testing products like valves for the launch vehicle, the CTC has a unit inside the headquarters of the space agency in Bengaluru. Aimed at taking a giant leap in its space programme, India will launch the mission, Chandrayaan-2, on Monday on board its heavy-lift rocket GSLV Mk III from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, to land a rover near the unexplored lunar southern pole. The lift-off of the spacecraft

weighing 3,850 kg and comprising an orbiter, the lander and the rover has been scheduled for 2.51 am on Sunday from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), sources added.

Chandrayaan-2 is an advanced version of the previous Chandrayaan-1 mission which had 11 payloads -- five from India, three from Europe, two from the US and one from Bulgaria. The Chandrayaan-1 mission, launched in 2008, had the credit for discovery of water on the lunar surface.

PAKISTAN GIVES IN...

The bone of contention is connecting the two sides at the zero point which was also discussed. India is constructing a bridge at the zero point and has urged Pakistan to build a similar bridge on its side that will provide safe and secure movement of pilgrims and address concerns regarding flooding. Another option proposed by Pakistan is building a causeway which is also not acceptable to India as it has been insisting on an all-weather bridge. The bridge is over a creek of which the majority part falls in Pakistan.

ANOTHER K'TAKA...

Reacting to media reports that Nagraj was in Mumbai to convince the MLAs to withdraw their resignations, rebel Congress MLA ST Somashekhar said such claims are baseless as he has joined them now. Stressing that the 12 rebel MLAs now in Mumbai are united,

he said Sudhakar was currently in Delhi and would soon join them. Reacting to Congress Minister Shyam Prasad Rai's statement that BJP was behind his travel to Mumbai, Nagraj said his statements were far from the truth.

Blaming the BJP, Shivakumar, considered as Congress' trouble-shooter had said. "The BJP has been fooling around that it has no relation with the current situation. They have been saying that it is the internal matter of Congress and the JD(S) and they have no knowledge about it."

2 DEAD...

The Army personnel had reportedly stopped for lunch at the restaurant when the incident took place. Initially, the Indian Army, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and police jointly carried out the rescue operation.

Director cum Special Secretary Revenue and Disaster Management D C Rana told PTI that two National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams, including one each from Haryana's Panchkula and Himachal's Sunni reached the spot to carry out the rescue work. Third NDRF team will reach from Panchkula Monday morning, Rana added.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur ordered an inquiry into the incident, an official spokesperson said. Thakur would visit the area to take stock of the rescue operation and will enquire about the condition of the injured on Monday, he said.

BL Santosh elevated to BJP gen secy post

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Ram Lal went back to the RSS after holding the post of general secretary (organisation) for over 13 years, BJP president Amit Shah on Sunday elevated party's joint general secretary (organisation) BL Santosh to the all-important post.

The BJP said in a statement that he will assume his new responsibility with immediate effect. A RSS 'pracharak' who is working in the city since 2006, Santosh is considered an ideologue who is equally well-versed with the dynamics of electoral politics.

It is considered that he enjoys the trust of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Shah. His views have often played a key role in the party's decisions related to southern states, especially Karnataka, a place he hails from and where he was the BJP's general secretary (organisation) for eight years from 2006.

In 2014, the BJP gave him a national position, making him one of the associates of Ram Lal as a joint general secretary (organisation). He was given the charge of south-



BL Santosh

ern States. An assertive leader who can effectively espouse the party's Hindutva ideology, Santosh's appointment to the second most powerful post in the party assumes extra significance at a time when it is set to undergo organisational changes.

Ahead of the recent Lok Sabha elections, he had strongly defended the BJP's surprise decision to not give ticket to its senior leader Ananth Kumar's widow Tejaswini

Ananth Kumar from her husband's pocket borough of Bangalore South. Though the move had ruffled the feathers of a section of the state leaders, BJP candidate Tejasvi Surya easily won from the seat. The BJP also improved its show in the general election in southern States like Telangana and Karnataka but could not make much headway in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

As organisational elections in the BJP are due in the coming months and speculation rife that Shah, who is also the Home Minister, may relinquish his party post, Santosh's role will be crucial in steering the organisation through these changes, while keeping it battle-ready for the assembly elections ahead.

Santosh's predecessor Ram Lal was moved back to the RSS after holding the position for over 13 years.

The post of general secretary (organisation) is always kept by a leader with the RSS background as it allows the Hindutva organisation to have an important say in its affairs while allowing him to serve as a bridge between the BJP and its ideological parent.

NIA arrests 2 in connection with new terror group

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA has arrested Hassan Ali and Harish Mohamed from Tamil Nadu in connection with a new terror group under the banner of Ansarulla that aimed to wage war against India.

The NIA said the accused persons and their associates had collected funds and made preparations to carry out terrorist attacks in India, with the intention of establishing Islamic rule in the country.

The Tamil Nadu Ansarulla Case was registered on July 9 against Syed Bukhari, resident of Chennai, Hassan Ali, native of Nagapattinam, Mohammed Yusufudeen Harish Mohamed, native of Nagapattinam and others under Indian Penal Code Sections relating to criminal conspiracy, waging war against the nation and overawing the Government by use of criminal force besides relevant provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The NIA registered the case following receipt of credible information that the

accused persons, while being within and beyond India, had conspired and conducted consequent preparations to wage war against the Government of India by forming the terrorist gang Ansarulla, the agency said.

The accused persons and their associates had collected funds and made preparations to carry out terrorist attacks in India, with the intention of establishing Islamic rule in India, the NIA said.

On Saturday, the NIA carried out searches at the house and office of accused Syed Mohammed Bukhari, resident of Chennai City besides the houses of Hassan Ali and Harish Mohammed in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu.

During the searches, the NIA had recovered nine mobiles, 15 SIM cards, seven memory cards, three laptops, five hard discs, six pen drives, two tablets and three CDs/DVDs besides documents including magazines, banners, notices, posters and books.

The arrests by the NIA came late on Saturday following questioning of the trio.

Health Min asks States to rope in retired AFMC teaching faculty

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To meet the acute shortage of medical faculty, the Union Health Ministry has asked the States to rope in the retired medical teaching faculty of the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune.

It has shot off a list of names and phone numbers of around 200 retired Professor and Associate Professors to the Board of Governors of the Medical Council of India (MCI), a top medical education regulator to forward it to the medical colleges in the States.

A senior Health Ministry official said that the move is in line with the think tank NITI Aayog's plan which had cleared such a proposal in a meeting a couple of months ago. Niti Aayog Member Dr VK Paul had chaired meeting with Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS), MCI & National Board of Examination (NBE) officials to discuss harnessing the potential of AFMS Hospitals for capacity building of Medical Specialists Cadre.

When contacted, a retired AFMS doctor on the condition of anonymity said that he was aware of the proposal and would be more than happy to impart education to the medical students. "However, nobody has contacted me so

far. Also, I would have to see the place of the posting and what kind of remuneration the Government has in its mind."

Roping in the retired AFMS faculty is just one of the various steps that the Government is taking to fill the posts, for instance increasing undergraduate seats, enhancement of maximum intake capacity at MD/MS level from 150 to 250 and relaxation in the norms of setting up of medical college in terms of requirement for land, faculty, staff, bed/bed strength and other infrastructure.

The Government has also increased postgraduate seats. The ratio of teachers to students has been revised from 1:1 to 1:2 for all MD/MS disci-

plines and from 1:1 to 1:3 in subjects of Anesthesiology, Forensic Medicine, Radiotherapy, Medical Oncology, Surgical Oncology and Psychiatry in all medical colleges across the country.

"For some subjects like Biochemistry, Pharmacology, Microbiology we do not get enough people. Non-medical students can teach, although preference is given to those from medical field," said the official. India has 472 medical colleges and close to a million registered doctors.

However, there is a shortage of doctors as per the World Health Organisation (WHO) norm of 1 doctor per 1,000 population.



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh pays tributes to the fallen soldiers at the National War Memorial in New Delhi on Sunday

20th anniversary of 'Operation Vijay': Rajnath ignites 'victory flame'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commemorating the 20th anniversary of 'Operation Vijay', Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday ignited a 'victory flame' from the National War Memorial here.

According to the Army, the 'victory flame' will be carried by a team of motorcyclists over 11 towns and cities in the northern part of the country, finally merge with the eternal flame at Kargil War Memorial, Dras.

Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year on July 26 to honour those who laid down their lives during the Kargil War. Singh and Army chief General Bipin Rawat paid

homage to the martyrs by laying a wreath at the Amar Jyoti at the National War Memorial here.

"I pay homage to Army jawans who sacrificed their lives while securing the country's borders. I also offer sincere condolences and respect to their families," Singh told reporters.

A number of events have been planned by the Army in Delhi and Dras in Jammu & Kashmir to mark the 20th anniversary of the Kargil War.

The torch relay team will conduct educational and patriotic talks and will interact with the prominent personalities and students in various educational institutes.

Ban 'anti-national' TikTok: RSS affiliate

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) affiliate requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday to ban TikTok and Helo, claiming that these two Chinese social media apps had become a hub for 'anti-national' content.

In a letter written to Modi, Swadesh Jagran Manch (SJM) co-convenor Ashwani Mahajan highlighted the organisation's concerns over the two platforms, which he alleged were exposing India's youth to being influenced by 'vested interests'.

"In recent weeks, TikTok has become a hub for anti-national content that is being shared extensively on the application and which can rupture the fabric of our society," Mahajan said.

Talking about Helo, the app leader alleged that the app was found paying Rs 7 crore for over 11,000 morphed political ads on other social media platforms.

"Some of these ads were using morphed pictures of senior Indian political leaders. Functionaries of the EC during the last general election raising these concerns," he said.

He requested the Government to be a new law that requires testing and regulation of such apps to "protect our national security as well as the privacy of citizens."

In a letter written to Modi, Swadesh Jagran Manch co-convenor Ashwani Mahajan highlighted organisation's concerns over two platforms, which he alleged were exposing youth to being influenced by 'vested interests'.

Mahajan demanded that the Ministry of Home Affairs ban all the Chinese apps, including TikTok and Helo, in the country. "As some segments of the Chinese establishment have negative intentions with regard to the sovereignty and integrity of India," he said.

The SJM co-convenor claimed that the combination of apps like TikTok and interventions by Chinese Government can be used to gain access to the private lives of Indian citizens and "create social turmoil in our country".

Mahajan expressed concern that India currently did not have any regulations to monitor the applications provided on Play Store in Android mobile phones and App Store in iPhones.

He requested the Government to be a new law that requires testing and regulation of such apps to "protect our national security as well as the privacy of citizens."



AI to sift through sound to identify if you are depressed or not!

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To help identify depression early, scientists have now enhanced a technology that uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to sift through sound of your voice to gauge whether you are depressed or not.

Given that India — the sixth most depressed country in the world — has an estimated 56 million people suffering from depression and 38 million from anxiety disorders, the technology can be of immense use for intervention in the sector. In fact, the Union health ministry is already working towards using AI in a safe and effective way in public health.

The study, conducted by Masrura Tasnim and Professor Eleni Stroulla, computing science researchers from University of Alberta in

Canada builds on past research that suggests that the timbre of our voice contains information about our mood.

Using standard benchmark data sets, Tasnim and Stroulla developed a methodology that combines several Machine Learning (ML) algorithms to recognise depression more accurately using acoustic cues.

A realistic scenario is to have people use an app that will collect voice samples as they speak naturally. "The app, running on the user's phone, will recognise and track indicators of mood, such as depression, over time. Much like you have a step counter on your phone, you could have a depression indicator based on your voice as you use the phone," said Stroulla.

Depression is ranked by



India — sixth most depressed country in the world — has an estimated 56 million people suffering from depression and 38 million from anxiety disorders, the technology can be of immense use for intervention in the sector. The ultimate goal, said researchers, is to develop meaningful applications from this technology. Such a tool could prove useful to support work with care providers to help individuals reflect on their own moods over time. "This work, developing more accurate detection in standard benchmark data sets, is the first step," added Stroulla

while presenting the paper at the Canadian Conference on Artificial Intelligence recently.

Union health minister Harsh Vardhan said in Lok Sabha on July 12 that to address gaps in India's AI ecosystem and realise its economic impact, the central government has prioritised building AI technology capabilities.

"The potential of AI in public health is being explored in our country. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is working towards using AI in a safe and effective way in public health in India," he said during Question Hour.

Vardhan said a few of the initiatives undertaken by the central government to use AI in public health are imaging biobank for cancer, for which the NITI Aayog with Department of Bio-Technology

Environment Min suggest ways to wriggle out Gir's unauthorised forest land

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Instead of recommending action against the Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd (TCGL) for illegally acquiring a patch of forest from Gir Wildlife Sanctuary for its tourism activities in violation of the Forest Conservation Act (1980), the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of the Union Environment Ministry has suggested a way to the State entity to wriggle out of the unauthorised forest land diversion issue.

The violation came in light after the TCGL through the State Government had sought diversion of 7,540 hectares of forest land from the Gir Wildlife Sanctuary for regularisation of lion safari lodge under tourism activity by the TCGL in 2017. The Gujarat Government had moved a pro-

posal before the REC claiming that the National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) had already approved the diversion.

After a detailed analysis of the proposal, the REC found that the TCGL had illegally occupied a patch of land, to be precise around 34 hectares for the safari lodge. Now, it was seeking additional 7,540 hectares of land from the wildlife sanctuary to extend its tourism activities.

Seeking reply from the TCGL, the REC in a meeting last year in June deferred the proposal saying that "the user agency needs to clarify its intention about the 34 hectares of land under their possession. As Manager TCGL, clarified during discussion, the area is required to be evacuated as early as possible as it attracts the Forest Conservation Guidelines."

The violation came in light after the TCGL through the State Government had sought diversion of 7,540 hectares of forest land from the Gir Wildlife Sanctuary for regularisation of lion safari lodge under tourism activity by the TCGL in 2017.

The Gujarat Government had moved a proposal before the REC claiming that the National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) had already approved the diversion.

However, after detailed analysis of the proposal, the REC found that the TCGL had illegally occupied a patch of land, to be precise around 34 hectares for the safari lodge. Now, it was seeking additional 7,540 hectares of land from the wildlife sanctuary to extend its tourism activities.

The REC also took exception that during the diversion request proposal no records were made available to the committee regarding the exact year of construction of structures and constructed by the TCGL on 34 hectares of forest land. The same needs to be sought from the TCGL or from the State Government. The panel also found that the proposal lack mandatory details.

For instance, "density of vegetation is not given and there are no trees marked for felling on the proposed forest land. Last year, the REC deferred the proposal in want of information such as signing of lease/extension of lease after 1980 without obtaining prior approval under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 which amounted to violation of the laws," said the panel which referred the matter to a sub-committee.

The project proponent had said that the hotel has been in existence prior to the enactment of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and was on lease till

2013. The lease is required to be renewed now and the recommendation of Standing Committee is needed as it is a non-forestry activity under Sec 29 of Wildlife

(Protection) Act, 1972. The REC examined the proposal for diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. It considered the proposal and

report submitted by the Sub committee of REC and decided that before diversion of 75 hectares of forest land to be considered the unauthorised occupation of 34 forest land shall be evacuated and possession taken by forest department."

The sub-committee formed thereafter in its report on August last year noted that the TCGL had admitted that the said area (34 hectares) required to be evacuated as early as possible as it attracted the Environment Ministry guidelines. Interestingly, instead of imposing penalty for open violation, the REC suggested that "if, however, the user agency/State Government find it difficult to operate the facility without the area having facilities on 34 hectares, the revised proposal for entire area of 1.10 hectares forest land shall be submitted to the Ministry.

NC leader's PSO killed in terror attack in Anantnag

PNS ■ JAMMU

A personal security officer (PSO) of a National Conference leader was killed when at least three terrorists targeted a party convention in Kokernag area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Sunday.

The police constable was attacked with the National Conference leader (Retd) Judge Syed Tauqeer for last few days.

Official sources said, "terrorists attacked a party convention in Kokernag area of Anantnag where National Conference leader was also present. When he escaped unhurt his security guard was hit by bullets and was immediately rushed to the nearby hospital".

Anantnag district police in a tweet late Sunday evening confirmed, "A selection grade constable Riyaz Ahmed posted as PSO, martyred after terrorist attacked him in Hiller, Anantnag on Sunday evening".



Ground reports claimed, the police constable sustained bullet injuries in his abdomen and was rushed to the nearby sub district hospital from where he was referred to the district hospital in Anantnag.

"Before reaching Anantnag, Riyaz Ahmed succumbed to his fatal injuries," official sources said. After receiving the input of terrorist strike in the area, local

police and other security forces launched a manhunt to track down the presence of terrorists in the area.

Condemning the terrorist strike on the party convention, former Chief Minister and National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah Sunday evening tweeted, "My colleague from Kokernag in South Kashmir Judge (Retd) Tauqeer Sb was just attacked by militants. While he escaped unhurt his security officer was hit & killed in the line of duty. I unreservedly condemn this dastardly attack & convey my condolences to the family of the deceased".

"The security officer, Selection Grade Constable Riyaz Ahmed Khan was posted with him for the last few years & was killed when 3 militants attacked a party convention. I've just spoken to Tauqeer Saab to convey my concern & my condolences for Riyaz's death", Omar Abdullah tweeted.

BJP asks HDK to resign immediately

Bengaluru: Asserting that the coalition Government in Karnataka had lost majority, the State BJP on Sunday demanded the Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy immediately resign or seek a trust vote on Monday itself.

"I demand that the Chief Minister, if he is honest and cares for the democratic system, he should immediately resign or should move a motion seeking for trust vote on Monday itself," State BJP chief B S Yeddyurappa said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, sixteen MLAs of JD(S) and Congress have resigned, and also two independents have withdrawn support to the government, and extended it to the BJP.

"You (Kumaraswamy) don't have majority. So let them (coalition) ask for confidence vote or resign immediately. Tomorrow in the Business Advisory Committee meeting I will advise same to discuss to Kumaraswamy and he should, he added.

In a surprise move amid the existential crisis faced by his



government, Kumaraswamy had on Friday announced in the state Assembly that he has voluntarily decided to seek a trust vote to end the "confusion" caused by resignations of rebel MLAs and requested the Speaker to fix time for the same.

According to sources, at the Business Advisory Committee meeting on Friday

Kumaraswamy had proposed that the trust vote be held on Wednesday.

However, no decision was taken as the principal opposition BJP did not attend the meeting. Yeddyurappa's statement came, even as efforts by coalition leaders to mollify rebel Congress MLAs in Nagara seemed to have failed as he has

flowed to Mumbai Sunday. Leaders of the Congress-JD(S) coalition had held negotiations with Nagara on Saturday in a bid to woo him back to save the H D Kumaraswamy-led government that is on the brink of collapse.

Pointing out that the Chief Minister has said that without the support of MLAs he will not continue and will seek a trust vote, Yeddyurappa said, despite all their efforts Congress rebel MLAs M T B Nagara and K Sudhakar have said they will not withdraw their resignations and have gone to (Mumbai).

He also stated that 15 MLAs have approached the Supreme Court and the court may also come to a decision on Tuesday.

Five rebel Congress MLAs had moved to the Supreme Court on Saturday against the Assembly Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar for not accepting their resignations.

MLAs Anand Singh, K Sudhakar, N Nagara (MIT), Munirathna and Roshan Baig

have sought implementation in the already pending application filed by the 10 other rebel MLAs on which hearing is scheduled for Tuesday.

The coalition government, which has been shaky since it came into being last year after a post-poll arrangement in the wake of a hung verdict, is facing a serious crisis now with 16 MLAs-13 of the Congress and three of the JD(S) - resigning their assembly membership.

Besides, two independent legislators, who were made ministers recently to provide stability to the government, have quit the ministry and withdrawn support. The ruling coalition's total strength is 116 (Congress-78, JD(S)-37 and BSP-1), besides the Speaker.

With the support of the two independents, the BJP has 107 MLAs in the 224-member House, where the half-way mark is 113.

If the resignations of the 16 MLAs are accepted, the coalition's tally will be reduced to 100. **PTI**



Flood affected villagers with their belongings travel on a boat in Katakuri village in Brahmaputra, Gauhati on Sunday

Rain continues to wreak havoc in north Bengal, 1 dead

Jalpaiguri/Kolkata (WB): A man died in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district after he fell into an overflowing drain, a police officer said on Sunday, as incessant rain continued to wreak havoc in the low-lying areas of north Bengal.

Bimal Sil, a man in his early 40s, reportedly slipped into the gutter while wading through a flooded street on Saturday night at Shanupara locality of the district, he said.

Sources in the administration said downpour over the past five days has inundated several parts of the sub-Himalayan districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar and Alipurduar.

The Met department has warned of heavy to very heavy rainfall in these districts till Monday. **PTI**

Portfolios to new Goa Mins on Monday, Kavlekar to be Dy CM

Panaji: The four new Ministers inducted into the Goa cabinet would be allotted portfolios on Monday, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said.

Chandrakant Kavlekar, who was earlier leader of the opposition, would be designated as deputy chief minister, Sawant told reporters here on Sunday, but refused to divulge any further details.

Days after 10 Congress MLAs in Goa joined the BJP, Sawant on Saturday reshuffled his cabinet, dropping three members of the ally Goa Forward Party (GFP) and an Independent legislator as ministers.

Michael Lobo, who resigned as deputy speaker of the Goa Legislative Assembly, and three of the 10 MLAs who joined the BJP - Chandrakant Kavlekar, Jennifer Monserratte, Philip Neri Rodrigues - were sworn in as new ministers. **PTI**



The monsoon session of the state Assembly begins on Monday.

Asked how the new ministers would handle questions in the House, Sawant said, "I will be there to help them". Ten Congress MLAs last Wednesday joined the BJP, increasing the saffron party's strength to 27 in the 40-member House.

Prior to the swearing-in on Saturday, Sawant issued a notification, dropping all three GFP leaders - Deputy Chief

Minister Vijai Sardesai. Water Resources Minister Vinod Palekar, Rural Development Minister Jayesh Salgaonkar - and Independent MLA and Revenue Minister Rohan Khaunte from the cabinet to accommodate the new members.

Sardesai said the induction of 10 Congress MLAs into the BJP was the 'death of the legacy' of late chief minister Manohar Parrikar, who was a towering figure in politics of the coastal state. **PTI**

12 youths booked for assaulting Imam, 'forcing' him to chant 'Jai Sri Ram'

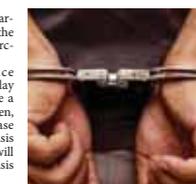
Baghpat: Police have booked nearly 12 youths for allegedly pulling the beard of a Muslim cleric and forcing him to chant 'Jai Sri Ram'.

Superintendent of Police Shailesh Kumar Pandey Sunday said, "Prime facie it seems to be a matter of physical assault. Even then, the police have registered a case against 12 youngsters on the basis of the cleric's complaint. Action will be taken against them on the basis of probe."

Citing the cleric's complaint, the SP said Imam Inlaq-ur-Rehman, a Muzaffarnagar resident, was going to his village on his motorcycle yesterday, when nearly 12 youngsters accosted him, beat him up and also pulled his beard.

The Imam claimed he was also forced to chant 'Jai Sri Ram', the SP said.

The cleric said he was rescued by two people of his village when he



raised an alarm, added SP Pandey.

The complainant also said the youths told him to come to the village, only after shaving off his beard.

The SP said the cause of beating is yet to be known.

SP Pandey said the Imam had issued for a speedy investigation and stern action against the youths who were later produced in court. **PTI**

Gehlot orders 'thorough probe' into cop's killing in Raj

Jaipur: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Sunday directed officials to conduct a thorough and impartial inquiry into the killing of a police head constable in Rajasmand district.

The head constable, Abdul Gani, was beaten to death by four unidentified persons on Saturday while he was returning from Hameela ki Ber village, where he had gone for investigation of a case, police had said.

"It is very sad to learn about the death of Head Constable Abdul Gani. My heart goes out to his family members and I want to assure them that justice will be done. Have given direction to the officials for thorough and impartial enquiry," Gehlot said in a tweet.

Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot also took to Twitter to condemn the incident.

He said directions have been issued for a speedy investigation and stern action against the accused. **PTI**

IDOL THEFT CASES

Investigator accuses TN Govt of callousness

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The investigation into the missing idols from temples in Tamil Nadu has come to a dead end as the special officer probing the case himself coming out in the open and alleging that the State Government was not interested in bringing the culprits to book or in retrieving the idols. The facts disclosed by the top officer probing the case of missing idols from the temples of the State has put the Tamil Nadu Government in a spot as the latter was always against his appointment as OSD to investigate the theft of priceless idols.

Ponn Manickavel, the Special Officer who was appointed by the Madras High Court to probe the missing idol cases after his retirement from Indian Police Service in 2018 November, opened up for the first time while speaking to reporters at the Lord Muruga Temple at Palani on Saturday.

"Though the Idol Wing of the Tamil Nadu Police is handicapped by the non-cooperation of the Government, we have traced 20 idols which were stolen from temples in the State and smuggled to foreign countries. But the State Government is not interested in bringing the retracted idols back and has denied funds for even basic expenses," said Manickavel who was in the temple town in connection with the investigation into another missing idol.

"A Nataraja idol which went missing from a temple in Tirunelveli in 1982 has been located in a museum in Adelaide. The museum authorities told us that the idol was purchased by them for Rs 30 crore in 2001 and expressed their willingness to return it to us. But the Government should bear the expenses for bringing the idol back," disclosed Manickavel.

The officer known for his integrity and honesty throughout his 35 years of service as a super cop revealed that despite his pleas the then police chief T K Rajendran in 2018, no action has

been taken by the government. "What is more disturbing is the attitude of the Tamil Nadu Government. Top bureaucrats and politicians are threatening the witnesses who were willing to furnish all facts regarding the disappearance of the idols from the temples administered by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment (HRCE) Department of the Government.

The temple probing the missing idols have traced 20 antique idols out of the more than 2,000 idols which went missing from Tamil Nadu and that were smuggled out of the country. The US Government's Homeland Security Wing has seized some of the idols which were smuggled from Tamil Nadu. Though the US officials are willing to hand over the idols, we have to depute our representatives to identify the same and bring them back to Tamil Nadu. But the Tamil Nadu government is not willing to bear the expenses," said Manickavel.

T R Ramesh, president, Temple Worshipers Society who is keeping track of the details of the stolen idols, said both the AIADMK and the DMK governments do not want the cases to be resolved for obvious reasons. The rationalists Dravidian parties used the temple properties and the antique idols for furthering their personal fortunes. They literally robbed the temples under the HRCE department. Their opposition to the appointment of Manickavel itself is an 'ideal proof', said Ramesh.

The Madras High Court in 2018 had ordered the HRCE Department to submit to the court within six weeks details about the 50,000 acres of missing prime landed property owned by the temples. "Till date they have not filed any information in the court," said Ramesh. He pointed out that the rationalists and the persons who are not interested in bringing to light the daylight robberies happening in temples across the State are the winners in this round of the legal battle. **PTI**

Bihar flood turns grim: 4 dead, 18 lakh hit; CM conducts aerial survey

Patna: The flood situation in Bihar turned grim on Sunday with the death of four people as around 18 lakh were affected in nine districts of the State, an official report said.

Five rivers of the state are flowing above the danger level due to torrential rains in the catchment areas bordering Nepal, the report by the Disaster Management Department said.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar conducted an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas of several districts.

Of the four deaths, the report said, two were reported from Araria, while one each was reported from Sheohar and Kishanganj districts.

A total of 17,96,535 population has been affected by flood waters in 55 blocks of nine districts - Sheohar,

Sitamarhi, East Champaran, Madhubani, Araria, Kishanganj, Supaul, Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur.

The report added that about 11 lakh people have been affected in the worst-hit Sitamarhi district, followed by 5 lakh in Araria.

It said 13 teams of NDRF and SDRF have been deployed to carry out relief and rescue operations in the affected districts.

The authorities have also opened 152 relief camps giving shelter to 45,053 people, while 251 community kitchens have been made functional.

The chief minister held a high-level meeting to review the flood situation. Later, he conducted the aerial survey of flood-affected areas of Darbhanga, Madhubani, Sheohar, Sitamarhi and East

DMK appoints 9-member team to review Draft NEP

Chennai: The DMK on Sunday appointed a team to review the Draft National Education Policy, saying the decision was necessitated by BJP-led Central Government's "serious" attempts to somehow "impose" Hindi language.

The Leader of Opposition in the Assembly MK Stalin said allocation of funds in the Union Budget to support appointment of Hindi teachers in non-Hindi speaking States was in "contradiction" to removal of compulsory Hindi classes in revised draft education policy issued last month.

"DMK is willing to seek opinions from experts in education on the draft National Education Policy, which is posing

a threat to classical language Tamil," Stalin said in a statement here. The nine-member team, including former higher education minister K Ponnudi and former school education minister Thangam Thennarasu, have been asked to submit a report within 10 days.

The report would be submitted to Union Ministry of Human Resources and Development, he noted.

Alleging that the BJP-led Centre was "serious" in somehow imposing Hindi language, the DMK chief said, "The recent budget allocation to support appointment of Hindi teachers in non-Hindi speaking states is in contradiction to the revised draft education policy." **PTI**

Kerala Govt to set up ₹105 cr elephant rehabilitation centre

Thiruvananthapuram: The Kerala Government would set up a first-of-its-kind elephant rehabilitation centre here at an outlay of ₹105 crore, to take care of jumbos, which were either orphaned or abandoned.

Kottor, an ecotourism village situated nearly 35 km from here, would soon host the country's first-ever elephant rehabilitation centre.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had inaugurated the phase 1 of the project last month.

The rehab centre would house an elephant museum, mahout training centre, a well-equipped veterinary hospital and crematorium for the pachyderms.

Former wildlife warden Shajikumar told PTI that the facility intends to take care of the orphaned or abandoned elephants. "The centre can accommodate 50 elephants, and a residential facility for 80 mahouts has been arranged.

There will be administration blocks, tourist cafeteria spread over 56 hectares of land," Shajikumar, who formerly headed the project said.

The Kottor elephant rehabilitation centre is also planning to accommodate aged captive elephants.

P S Easa, a member of the three-member technical committee of Kottor elephant rehabilitation centre said the project was a comprehensive programme to provide an opportunity to study elephants.

Elaborating he said, the main objective was to ensure that elephants, which are orphaned or abandoned could be provided a facility for a better treatment. "Basically rehabilitation involves sending the jumbos back in to the wild. But these days its quite difficult to implement. If a wild elephant is caught in Wayanad, the locals may not agree to release it back there itself. In such cases, this Kottor rehabilitation centre can take care of them," he said.

Noting that the rehabilitation centre would facilitate a lot of research, a PhD scholar of National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, Sreedhar Vijayakrishnan said, "The facility will help us understand the anatomy and physiology of the elephants. This will facilitate a lot of research." The research scholar also said it was possible to offer specialised care to the elephants. **PTI**

We never promised Gorkhaland: Ghosh

Nagraakata (WB): West Bengal BJP chief Dilip Ghosh, whose party swept the north Bengal region including Darjeeling seat in the Lok Sabha elections, on Sunday said the party has never promised to create a separate Gorkhaland state.



Gorkhaland state.

Ghosh also said the National Register of Citizens (NRC) will soon be implemented in West Bengal on the lines of Assam.

"We want development of Gorkha people. We are sympathetic to the Gorkhaland statehood demand, but had never promised a separate state," he said while speaking to the media after a workers' meet here in Jalpaiguri district.

Reacting to the statement of the BJP chief, Darjeeling MLA and Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) spokesperson Neeraj Zimba said Dilip Ghosh has promised political compulsions but that does not stop us from continuing our demand for separate

"We want a permanent political solution to the issue," he said.

Abdonding Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) leader Bimal Gurung, in an interview to PTI in April this year before the Lok Sabha elections, had claimed the BJP has promised to look into the Gorkhaland demand.

Wanted in many cases including sections of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, under the BJP has promised to look into the Gorkhaland demand.

However, for the first time in about three decades, the

Gorkhaland statehood demand was not a hot issue in the Darjeeling Hills as parties, including the GJM and GNLF, sought development and restoration of democracy in the region.

Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts of the state had witnessed a 104-day strike in 2017 seeking creation of separate Gorkhaland state.

The agitation saw a split in the GJM, that rules the semi-autonomous Gorkhaland Territorial Administration in the hills, with the Binay Tamang and Anit Thapa faction shifting loyalties to the ruling Trinamool Congress.

BJP candidate Raju Singh Biste won the Darjeeling Lok Sabha seat.

Darjeeling Lok Sabha constituency has been returning BJP candidates since 2009, with Jaswant Singh winning parliament that year followed by Surinder Singh Ahluwalia in 2014. **PTI**

Kashmir political issue, needs political solution: PDP

Srinagar: The People's Democratic Party (PDP) on Sunday asserted that Kashmir is a political issue which needs a political solution and announcing mega development projects will never help achieve permanent peace in the State.

"The situation in Kashmir at present is worrisome on many fronts than one and a holistic and pragmatic approach is needed to restore peace and normalcy in the strife-torn region," senior PDP leader Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura said at a workers' convention here.

"For that, the best solution is what the PDP has been advocating since decades. Dialogue, reconciliation and confidence-building measures will help bring a change. The iron fist approach has never done any good to people and such a policy is bound to fail," he said.

Hanjura stressed for a greater coordination between

THE IRON FIST APPROACH HAS NEVER DONE ANY GOOD TO PEOPLE AND SUCH A POLICY IS BOUND TO FAIL

—Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura

the party workers and leaders, saying the need of the hour was to highlight immense hardships faced by the masses "with no one in the power corridors listening to their plight".

The situation at present is not bleak and pathetic with those at the helm least concerned about the plight of the common man," he added. **PTI**

AMARNATH YATRA RESUMES

Biggest batch of 7,993 pilgrims leaves for Kashmir

Jammu: The Amarnath Yatra resumed from Jammu on Sunday after a day-long suspension as a precautionary measure in view of a separatists-backed strike called on "Martyrs' Day" in the Kashmir valley, officials said.

Since its commencement on June 28, the pilgrimage was suspended from here for the fifth time on Saturday owing to the strike called by separatist groups.

On July 8, it was suspended as a precautionary measure in view of the third death anniversary of Hizbul Mujahideen militant Burhan Wani.

The 13th batch of 7,993 pilgrims, the biggest so far, left Jammu for the twin base camps of Baltal and Pahalgam in Kashmir, the officials said.

The pilgrims left in two convoys comprising 310 vehicles from the Bhatnagar Nagar base camp under tight security arrangements early in the



morning and were expected to reach their destinations in the valley later in the day, they added.

The officials said while 5,270 pilgrims opted for the traditional 36-km pilgrimage route in Anantnag district, 2,723 would take the shorter 12-km Baltal track in Ganderbal district.

Over 1.75 lakh pilgrims have so far registered themselves for the 46-day long pilgrimage. The journey towards the

holy cave shrine, located at a height of 3,880 metres in the south Kashmir Himalayas, commenced on July 1 from both the Baltal and Pahalgam routes.

Multi-tier security arrangements in place for a smooth and successful conduct of the pilgrimage, scheduled to conclude on August 15.

As many as 2.85 lakh pilgrims had paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine last year, while the figures were 3.52 lakh in 2015, 3.20 lakh in 2016 and 2.60 lakh in 2017. **PTI**

₹1.22 cr compensation in road accident death case

IN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In one of the biggest-ever compensation packages given to the family of a road accident victim, the State-run Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) has settled a compensation claim of ₹1.22 crore to the family of a marine engineer, who was killed in a road accident involving a State transport bus and a stationary truck in December 2014.



subsumed to injuries at a local hospital.

The MSRTC settled an accident claim for ₹1,22,50,000 at a national Lok Adalat held at Thane on Saturday.

Sachin Ghanekar (33), a marine engineer working with M's Jacob Engineering company, was knocked down by a MSRTC bus as he was walking on a road at Talika Naka in Panvel town of Raigad district in neighbouring coastal Konkan region on December 28, 2014. The mishap had taken place when he came in between a stationary truck and the MSRTC bus. Ghanekar

Following the mishap, Ghanekar's family had moved the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) at Thane and lodged a claim for ₹2 crore on the ground that he was earning a monthly salary of ₹99,380 and was the sole breadwinner of the family.

At the national Lok Adalat held in the presence of Principal District & Sessions Judge NR Borkar, MACT member DN Rokade handed over the settlement papers for

₹1,22,50,000 to the widow Bhakti Ghanekar, her daughter and parents of the victim.

The claimants in the case were victim's wife Bhakti Ghanekar (31), daughter Akshita Ghanekar (9) and parents Ramchandra Ghanekar (64) Lata Ghanekar (56).

While Advocate UR Vishwakarma appeared for the claimants, Advocate H P Patil represented MSRTC at the Lok Adalat.

In a similar case earlier, a Motor Accident Claims Tribunal at Madurai had in the

first week of June 2016 awarded over ₹1.2 crore to the family of a businessman T Prabhakaran who died in a road accident on August 30, 2012.

In that case, the tribunal presided over by Additional District Judge R Shammuga Sundaram had directed the owner of a truck involved in the accident and the company with which it was insured to jointly pay ₹1,20,44,500 along with interest at a rate of 15 per cent from the date of claim made in 2013.

The Judge made it clear that out of the total amount ordered by him, the claimant TN Rekha, wife of T. Prabhakaran, of Mahatma Gandhi Nagar in Madurai, who died at the age of 39, shall be entitled to ₹46.32 lakh and their minor daughter to ₹45.50 lakh.

Prabhakaran had been killed while travelling in a car with his friend, who was driving, from Madurai to Tiruchi.

5 more patients die, Assam JE toll rises to 76

Guwahati: With the death of five more patients on Sunday, the toll in Japanese Encephalitis (JE) in Assam rose to 76, a National Health Mission (NHM) bulletin said.

The registered positive JE cases across the state also increased to 348 from 334 on Friday.

The five deaths were reported from Darrang, Nalbari, Tinsukia, Kamrup and Udalguri districts, the bulletin said.

Giving the cumulative figures for JE/AES (Acute Encephalitis Syndrome), the bulletin said there were 1,350 such cases from January onward this year and the number of deaths is 177.

Measures to control the mosquito borne disease that affects the brain continued to be taken across the state which is currently undergoing a transmission season for Japanese Encephalitis, NHM sources said.

Health Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma has said the emergency measures taken to combat the JE/AES situation would be there till September 30. **PTI**

Trail of juvenile in Kathua gang rape-murder case from Monday

Jammu: A juvenile justice board has framed charges against a minor in the case of gang rape and murder of an eight-year-old nomadic girl in Kathua and has fixed Monday for examining prosecution witnesses and commencing trial.



that the chief judicial magistrate Kathua erred in accepting the accused's claim of being a juvenile.

According to an order served to the Crime Branch here, officials have been asked to bring in their prosecution evidence and witnesses for the trial to begin.

The order has left the prosecution baffled as the crime branch contested before the Jammu & Kashmir High Court last year that he is not a minor. The case has seen only adjournments till date.

According to the notice, the charges were framed against the accused by the Juvenile Justice Board Kathua on July 8 and the next date of hearing has been fixed on July 15.

"The case has been fixed for prosecution evidence... Kindly arrange the presence of public prosecutor appointed in the case as to examine the prosecution evidence/witnesses," it said. The juvenile is accused of raping and murdering the young girl.

The crime branch had filed a petition in the high court against his claim of being juvenile. The crime branch petition had stated

It had also annexed a report of the medical board of Government Medical College, Jammu, which said the accused was "not less than 19 and not more than 21".

The trial in this case was shifted to the Pathankot Sessions Court on the directions of the Supreme Court last year.

The Pathankot Sessions Court had on June 10 this year sentenced Sanji Ram, dismissed special police officer Deepak Khajuria and Parvesh Kumar to life imprisonment while sacked policemen Anand Dutta, Tilak Raj and Surender Verma -- were handed five years in jail.

The verdict came 17 months after the girl was brutally gang-raped inside a 'devasthan' (local temple) and later killed. She was kidnapped on January 10 and her body was found on January 17.

Man held for sending lewd messages to woman TV news anchor

Mumbai: Mumbai police have arrested a 40-year-old man from West Bengal for allegedly sending obscene messages on Facebook to a woman anchor of a television news channel here, an official said Sunday.

Cuffie Parade police arrested the accused, identified as Atanu Ravindra Kumar, an unemployed man, the official said.

The incident came to light after the TV anchor approached the Cuffie Parade police station a few days ago, he said.

"In the complaint, she said that the accused was sending obscene messages to her from his Facebook profile. When she blocked him, he created three more profiles and again started sending similar messages," she added.

Thereafter, the victim shared the matter with her husband, following which the latter

rebuked the accused online. But after that he started sending abusive messages to the couple, the official said.

Fed up with the online harassment, the anchor lodged a complaint with Cuffie Parade police against him, he said.

Accordingly an offence was registered under IPC sections 354 (Assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 506 (criminal intimidation), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) of IPC and section 66 of Information and Technology Act.

During the probe, police found that the Facebook account had been created in West Bengal. Accordingly, a team went there and arrested the accused, he said.

Kumar was produced before a court Saturday, which remanded him in police custody till Tuesday, the official said. **PTI**

KOLKATA FIR lodged against Metro

Kolkata: An FIR was registered on Sunday against the Metro Railway after a complaint alleging negligence on its part was lodged by the family of a man who died after he was dragged by a train as his hand got stuck between two of its doors, police said.

The incident took place at the Park Street station on Saturday when the man, Sajal Kanjilal, a resident of Kasba area of Kolkata, was trying to board a Kabi Subhash-bound train.

According to eyewitnesses, Kanjilal fell on the tracks as the train entered the tunnel. The train came to a halt, with four of its eight coaches still at the platform, after staff and passengers outside raised an alarm.

The man was rushed to the SKM Hospital, where the doctors declared him "brought dead".

Rajkumar Mukherjee, Kanjilal's cousin, said he has filed a complaint at Park Street police station accusing the

metro authorities of criminal negligence.

"We will take up the matter with the highest metro authorities, no matter what," he said. "An FIR was lodged against Metro Railway today on the basis of a complaint filed by Sajal Kanjilal's family, alleging criminal negligence," a police official said.

The Metro Railway authority has ordered an inquiry into the incident by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), an official said.

He said the mishap took place in one of the newly inducted rakes, manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory. The rakes, delivered more than 20 months ago, were put into service only a few months ago.

The CRS will conduct an inquiry to ascertain the cause of the incident and submit a report at the earliest, he added.

"Questions are being raised over the sensor technology used in the rakes and its alleged fail-

ure to detect Kanjilal's hand between the doors, but a clear picture in the matter will be available only after the investigation is completed," he said.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Saturday ordered a police inquiry into the incident, which she described as "very unfortunate".

She asked state Urban Development Minister and Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim to assure Kanjilal's family of full cooperation from the government.

Theatre artists Sunday took out a protest march near the Park Street station, alleging that laxity on part of the Metro Railway led to Kanjilal's death. They also sought a response on the allegations from the authorities.

Kanjilal, who was unmarried, sold magazines at Academy of Fine Arts and Nandan complex, a hub of cultural activities in the city, for a living. **PTI**

Guj expects over 6 crore tourists to visit this fiscal

Kolkata: Buoyed by increasing tourist footfalls and development of various destinations in the state, Gujarat is expecting tourist inflow to cross six crore in the current fiscal, an official said.

The western state which is "focusing on attracting foreign tourists" will come out with a heritage tourism policy soon, the official said.

"In 2016-17, tourists' inflow was 4.48 crore and the same went up to almost 5.8 crore in 2018-19. The annual growth rate was 14 per cent. With the trend of increasing tourists' footfalls, we are expecting that tourist inflow should cross six crore in the current fiscal," said Jenu Devan, Commissioner of the state Tourism Department on Saturday.

He said the tourism sector contributes about three per cent of the state's gross domestic product and its contribution is expected to "improve" in the

years to come.

Over Rs 12,500 crore was invested in the sector in the last five years to improve the infrastructure for the sector, he said.

"The state is preparing a heritage tourism policy and approval for this will come shortly. At present, there are 33 heritage properties. With the implementation of the policy, more of such properties will come within tourism map," Devan said.

Elaborating on the tourism potential and emerging destinations, State Tourism Minister Jawahar Chavda said Gujarat is "a rich place" in terms of its economy, nature and culture.

"The state offers mountains to desert and sea beach," he said. "Apart from the neighbouring states such as Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal is an important for Gujarat tourism as over seven lakh visitors travel to the western state

every year," Chavda said on the sidelines of a road show here on Saturday evening.

In Gujarat, two prominent tourist sites - Somnath and Dholavira - would be developed into iconic tourism destinations as a part of the Central government's Swadesh Darshan Scheme. Devan said, adding that "big packages" are going to come for these two sites to woo visitors.

The minister said the state is focusing on attracting foreign tourists, which currently comprises roughly one per cent of the annual inflow of travellers. "NRI comprises about 2-3 per cent of the annual tourist inflow in the state. In addition, about six lakh foreign tourists visit the state last year. We should be able to attract one lakh more foreign tourists this year. We will do road shows overseas in order to attract tourists from foreign countries," Devan said. **PTI**

'Miya' poet expresses regret if his writing hurt Assamese sentiments

Guwahati: A leading 'Miya' poet, who was among the 10 poets booked after a video of his poem about alleged discrimination towards Bengali-speaking Muslims in Assam was shared online, expressed regret if his writing had hurt Assamese sentiments.

Hafiz Ahmed said he had written the poem in 2016 and it was not related to the citizenship determination exercise, whose final list is slated to be released on July 31.

"I cannot think of insulting Assamese sentiment through my poems. I had contributed to Assamese literature since long," Ahmed said in a statement on Saturday.

assaulted for standing in support of my Assamese language," he said. "Still, if my poem has hurt the sentiments of anyone, then I express my regret."

The controversy erupted after a group of poets recently uploaded on social media a video of the 'I am Miya' poem written by Ahmed.

The poem, in an East Bengal dialect, spoke about the alleged discrimination exercised towards Bengali-speaking Muslims in Assam over the years and especially during the updation process of the National Register of Citizens.

Following this, senior journalist Pranabjit Doloi filed a complaint last Thursday against 10 poets of the genre, accusing them of labelling

Assamese as xenophobic in their poems.

Apart from Ahmed, other poets against whom an FIR was filed are: Rehana Sultana, Abdur Rahim, Ashrafur Hussain, Abdul Kalam Azad, Kazi Sharowar Hussain alias Kazi Neel, Shalim M Hussain, Karishma Hazarika, Banamallika Choudhury and Forhad Bhuyan.

Guwahati Deputy Commissioner of Police Ramandeep Kaur said on Sunday that no arrests had been made, but investigation was on.

"I am not against the genre of the 'Miya' poetry or the Muslims, but I am against the content of the poems," Doloi told PTI. **PTI**

67 bovines rescued, six smugglers arrested in J&K's Rajouri

Jammu: Six alleged bovine smugglers were arrested and 67 animals rescued in Jammu & Kashmir's Rajouri district on Sunday, a police official said.

Five bids to smuggle bovines from Nowshera, Budhal and Thanamandi areas of Rajouri to Kashmir Valley were foiled, the official said.

During an interception in Samote area, one Mohammad Nazir was arrested and 10 bovines being smuggled to Kashmir were rescued, they said.

In another incident, one Manzoor Hussain was arrested and 23 bovines were rescued from Nanga Thub in Budhal, police said. **PTI**

In Thanamandi, a police team intercepted a vehicle and rescued 4 bovines, an official said. The team seized the vehicle. The team seized its driver Mohammad Razaq, he said.

Fifteen bovines were rescued from Lamberi area. The driver of the vehicle in which the animals were being carried also caused NCDs. Naidu urged the medical fraternity to reach out to people, particularly students, to educate them on dangers of lifestyle diseases.

Another 15 bovines were rescued from two vehicles at Rajal top on the Jammu-Rajouri highway and two drivers, Mohammad Wasim and Zahoor Ahmed, and a smuggler, identified as Mohammad Shabir, were arrested, the official said. **PTI**

V-P Naidu calls for national movement against NCDs

Chennai: Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday called for a national movement against non-communicable diseases (NCD), even as he appealed to private hospitals to play a role in setting up NCD Clinics in both urban and rural areas.

Underscoring dangers of sedentary lifestyles and unhealthy dietary habits that also caused NCDs, Naidu urged the medical fraternity to reach out to people, particularly students, to educate them on dangers of lifestyle diseases.

"A national movement against the growing incidence of non-communicable diseases needs to be launched," he said after inaugurating a private

hospital here.

"Although, we have made great strides in reducing infant and maternal mortality rates over the last five decades and in controlling the spread of infectious diseases like HIV and TB, there is need to make concerted action to stop the growing incidence of non-communicable diseases," Naidu said.

He urged the Indian Medical Association to take the lead in promoting awareness among the people, particularly students, to educate them on dangers of lifestyle diseases.

Quoting World Health Organisation 2017 data, that said 61 per cent of deaths in India are attributed to NCDs, the Vice-President said he felt there is a need to establish NCD clinics in both urban and

rural areas.

"The private sector must play a prominent role in setting up such clinics," he said.

Suggesting private hospitals to expand its footprint to villages and remote rural areas, Naidu said the private sector needs to complement the efforts of the government in reaching modern healthcare facilities to the rural areas.

He appealed to doctors in both public and private sectors to create awareness campaigns in nearby schools on the need to maintain healthy lifestyle. Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit who also took part in the inauguration emphasised on the county's "glorious" past in medical education and medical sciences. **PTI**

Alleviating distress

A report by UNDP says India halved multi-dimensional poverty in the past decade. But much remains to be done



The incidence of multi-dimensional poverty has halved in India, going down to 27.5 per cent, which indicates that India has lifted an incredible 270 million people out of the morass in the decade between 2006-2016. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) classifies multi-dimensional poverty not just on the basis of financial poverty but also looks at aspects such as health, education, child mortality and threats of violence. In the 101 countries assessed in this report, the estimate is that 1.3 billion people, or a sixth

of the world's population, remain multi-dimensionally poor. India continues to have millions of poor despite dramatic steps taken by certain states such as Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Nagaland. The so-called "cow-belt" States account for over two-thirds of India's multi-dimensionally poor. One should particularly single out Jharkhand as being one of the poorest regions that improved the fastest. Apparently, that State reduced the incidence of multi-dimensional poverty from 74.9 per cent in 2005-06 to 46.5 per cent in 2015-16. Only Mondul Kiri and Rattanak Kiri in Cambodia, from the Asian region, reduced it from 71.0 per cent to 55.9 per cent between 2010 and 2014.

This study by the UNDP, which has taken years to conduct, does not, of course, account for any of the social schemes launched by the Narendra Modi government such as the Ujjwala and Awas Yojana programmes alongside other projects by State governments which have targeted extreme poverty. They are bound to be more aggressive alleviators. However, even though a quarter of India's population still lives under requisite benchmarks, the challenge Indian policy makers will face is if they want to make India into a middle-income country while continuing to attack the causes of multi-dimensional poverty. At the same time, the skewed development of States will impact the way politicians will deal with the problem. The States where the problem is worst account for over a quarter of the legislators sent to the Lok Sabha and badly-implemented wealth redistribution programmes still make politicians fall in love with them. Instead, India would do well to emulate China, which lifted millions out of poverty by moving them from unsustainable subsistence farming and into factories and infrastructure-building initiatives. For this, attention should not just be paid to social sector schemes but also towards dramatic improvements in healthcare and education, both sectors in India being quite incapable of dealing with the challenges facing them. Other programmes such as Swachh Bharat are improving lives of Indians and proof that even hygiene drives improve well-being indices. The next study will likely find that even more people have been lifted out of the poverty trough. However, one cannot still comprehend how a nation that aims to be the third-largest economy in the world within the next few years still has so many people living in abject conditions. This dichotomy will not go away anytime soon and will continue to be a challenge for Indian policy-makers for years to come. We can only start working towards reducing this problem and to do it fairly without trying out bad ideas. This has to be done not by governments at the Central, State and local levels; these have to be holistic plans. Overall there has to be a sustained growth of the economy and jobs to not only meet standards but ensure dignity of life.

A bridge of memories

The closure of the Lakshman jhula is another warning sign on the pressures of over-tourism in the Himalayas



Perhaps a great way to rewind family histories in India would be to turn the pages of a photo album and find generations frozen forever on the Lakshman jhula bridge in Rishikesh, all the way from sepia to Instagram. Even Bollywood has relied on it as an eternal prop through the ages. That's the span of the iconic suspension bridge, far more everlasting than the 137 m gap it closed on the Ganga and helped people transit from the Tehri to the Pauri side. And though it is being shut after years of gross overuse, for Indians it will

never be a bridge too far. When it was first built in 1929, it served as a jeepable road for British India to transport men and materials and facilitate administration and connectivity in the hill states. But for locals, who believe that Lakshman crossed the river here on a ropeway he made with Lord Ram and has probably the only temple in his name, it is about a gift from the Gods. Over time, it, along with Ram jhula, came the shortest and only transit corridor between both banks of the Ganga, ferrying everything from cows, buffaloes, bikes, jeeps and cars to locals, pilgrims, vendors and visitors. With more time, an entire economy grew around it, be it of the spiritual trail linking a group of temples, souvenir shops and food outlets and the quaint colonnades radiating from it. It also became Rishikesh's best vantage point to watch the mystic river flow, the clear green waters full of fish on a sparkling day and a dark ripple catching flecks of a starlit night sky. With ever-increasing footfalls, the bridge had far exceeded its carrying capacity a long time ago. But its lifeline value far exceeded structural concerns. So when its sagging weight seemed to tilt the poles, the authorities rightfully decided to close it than risk a human catastrophe. In fact, the vintage Ram jhula will also be at risk as some traffic will tend to be diverted here. Authorities have promised another bridge but it will take some coming. They say Lakshman jhula itself was built because an earlier bridge was washed away in the floods. So one hopes an improved version, with latest technology and factoring in today's demands better, continues a much-trusted legacy. Meanwhile, locals will have to depend on the boat crossings that pose a challenge to the waters and fish. Besides the waters are not safe during floods and the monsoon.

The fate of Lakshman jhula is a warning sign of the over-exploitation and over-tourism posing a serious challenge to the hill economy. And places like Rishikesh, which serve as a base town and a resource hub for both adventure and pilgrimage trails, have indeed come under tremendous pressure in terms of providing basic services like adequate hotel rooms, water and electricity. The Uttarakhand High Court had to ban all watersports and paragliding camps in the state, citing water pollution, ecological damage, and garbage piling up on beaches and hills, mostly around Rishikesh. River rafting in Uttarakhand is hugely popular, especially with weekend travellers from Delhi, and generates sizeable business. Thailand and the Philippines are already shutting down over-run tourist sites at the cost of the exchequer and laying new guidelines to open them once they recover. There is an urgent need for eco-friendly guidelines and rationed permits on the basis of an impact assessment report until 2050. Except for the Amarnath yatra, there are no unified codes for the Char Dham yatra yet. Because without sustainable and equitable tourism, the Himalayas may turn into a wasted paradise.

Milking the armed forces

There has been a dramatic shift in the BJP's stance towards our forces post its electoral victory. After using them during campaigns, it hardly has them in the heart, mind or Budget



AJOY KUMAR

It is no secret that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is the darling of many media and news organisations, who treat every step and sneeze of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as an occasion for a prime-time special. Even cricket, India's beloved sport, was a victim of this worrying obsession. Prior to India's hard-fought loss to New Zealand in the World Cup semi-finals, a popular Hindi news channel hosted a show which asked: "Can Prime Minister Modi win us the World Cup?" Like many of us, I worry about such obsession (coupled with an unhealthy dose of compliance) manifesting itself as mainstream acceptability, certainly not good for the country. But this is a conversation (an article) for another day.

For now, let us talk about something that flashed across our television screens during the election season and was a topic of hot debate and discussion: India's armed forces. Although hardly much time has passed since the election summer of 2019, there has been a dramatic shift in the stance the BJP has adopted towards the men in uniform. During the election season, we were often treated to the party's dramatics, which was often obscene. For example, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath insulted our armed forces by calling them "Modiji ki sena", thus implying that they worked at the beck and call of only one man and not in furtherance of their duty to the entire nation. As a former police officer, who tried to serve the people of the country and whose only master was the rule of law, I found such statements appalling, especially from a Chief Minister of a BJP-ruled State.

Sometimes, the drama was nauseating. Like when BJP leader Manoj Tiwari attempted to cash in on the Pulwama attack by wearing military clothing during a political rally. I am pretty certain that such antics make a mockery of what it means to be a soldier and battles a hallowed uniform. Prime Minister Modi, too, often piggybacked on the armed forces. For instance, in some of his rallies, there were photographs of the security forces personnel killed in the February 14 suicide bombing in Pulwama. While these were absolutely crass, there was at least enthusiasm from the BJP about the armed forces. But how do we determine if this Government actually cares about the country's armed forces? Or does it merely aim to rely on them for political purposes?

One way to do so is to look at the way it has dealt with one of the most shocking tragedies on Indian soil: The Pulwama terror attack. It is obvious that the Government will make sure that no such attack happens on Indian soil in the future but why have we been kept in the dark



about the intelligence failures that eventually led to such a deadly attack? In order to ensure that the lives of our soldiers are not in jeopardy, we must understand how these attacks occurred and how do we plan to avert them in the future? On this aspect, however, there have been no questions from the media and no answers from the Government.

Another relevant barometer is the number of terrorist attacks that have taken place in India since 2014. In a written reply by Minister of State for Home Affairs, it was stated that the number of terrorist incidents in Jammu & Kashmir alone jumped 177 per cent in the past five years. This is a frightening number.

I may be trolled and many may say that this proves that the armed forces need more backing and focus from our Government, which Modi ji has done. To this, I say that I wholeheartedly agree with the first part but disagree with the second. While there is a need for India to focus more on its defence forces by upgrading its machinery and ensuring a better life for its soldiers, I disagree that the BJP has any

intention to actually do something to change the current scenario. A clear indication of this and of where the Government's priorities do not lie was when Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the first Union Budget for the new term of the BJP-led Government. While the entire session was extremely underwhelming, as evidenced by the 1,000 point fall in the Senses, the Defence Budget was especially disconcerting. This because as part of the latest allocation, only 1.45 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product, was given to defence expenditure, which may be the lowest since the 1962 war.

This is especially distressing because in the previous fiscal year (2018-19), a shortfall of close to ₹1.12 lakh crore was projected by the three wings of the armed forces (excluding the Defence Research and Development Organisation). When asked about the inadequate funds, the Ministry of Defence stated: "This Ministry is bound by the budgetary ceilings conveyed by the

Ministry of Finance. The reduced allocations were passed on uniformly to all the services." As wonderfully put by my colleague, Shashi Tharoor, with this Government, "defence is favoured when it comes to rhetoric, and treated as badly as other ministries when cost-cutting is done."

For all its rhetoric, the BJP would do well to remember that India has fought four wars since independence (comprehensively winning three), but no political leader has previously attempted to take advantage of the victories until it changed the way politicians view and deal with our forces.

All of this posturing would still be okay if the BJP actually showed some action. However, as is evident from the party's actions, the relationship between it and the armed forces is: Out of sight and out of mind. When elections are out of sight, our armed forces, unfortunately, do not find any place in their hearts or minds.

(The author is president of Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee)

“ THE BJP WOULD DO WELL TO REMEMBER THAT INDIA HAS FOUGHT FOUR WARS SINCE INDEPENDENCE, BUT NO POLITICAL LEADER EVER ATTEMPTED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE VICTORIES UNTIL IT CHANGED THE WAY POLITICIANS VIEW AND DEAL WITH OUR FORCES ”

SOUND BITE

It is important to not only take justice to the people, but also to make it understandable to litigating parties in a language they know.

President — Ram Nath Kovind



Stardom will fade eventually. It's a huge task to keep it going for such a long time. I will try my best to keep it going for another few years.

Actor — Salman Khan



The military must be ready for a multi-spectrum war. The rise of non-state actors and the rapid changes in technology are changing the nature of warfare.

Army Chief — Gen Bipin Rawat

We have maximum shakhsas of Sangh in Kerala where the BJP is not in power. There is no direct relation between growth of the Sangh and the BJP in power.

RSS leader — Manmohan Vaidya



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Encourage other sports

Sir — The World Cup is a closed chapter for most Indians now. But there is a lesson in this if we care to learn. While there is no denying the lovely game of cricket, India needs to widen its horizon. A rising global power cannot sit content with playing just one sport. The entire focus and funding of the Sports Ministry and relevant authorities are mostly directed towards cricket. Other sports, including hockey, snooker, football and tennis, do not receive the same importance, despite good performances by sportspersons.

Other than *Ten Sports*, most sports channels only show live cricket matches or highlights from previous tournaments. In order to develop people's interest, it is important to broadcast various sports disciplines and their competitions to develop interest and also showcase the different platforms these sports have. This will also encourage participating sportspersons as they will receive more support from their home country.

KS Padmanabhan
Chennai

Parole process needs an overhaul

Recently, a notorious godman languishing in jail for a series of serious offenses, including rape and murder, applied for parole and then retracted following public outcry. Parole is a "promise" given by the convict that he/she would return after the period. In special circumstances, it can be a "corrective rehabilitation" for prisoners, who have completed a significant period of their term. In India, the Prisons Act, 1894 and the Prisons Act, 1900, govern parole rules. But many times, the influential accused tend to misuse them, though ordinary criminals respect the laws of the land.

The extent to which the rules of parole are being thrown to the wind can be gauged by the fact that in June 2012, authorities in the Bihar jail had asked the Delhi Government to enforce strict parole laws as 67 convicts were missing for the last five years. In Maharashtra, a monumental 1,451 convicts had jumped parole between 2007 and 2011. Invariably, jail authorities and the police play the blame game to shift the onus of responsibility on each other. Following a Delhi High Court verdict, which had severely castigated the police for its inability to ade-



quately regulate the whole parole process, serious offenders involved in rape-cum-murder and those posing threat to the country's security were strictly barred from being granted parole by the Government. But a lot more needs to be done. There is a need to impose a fool-proof method in place to prevent prisoners taking advantage of certain lax provisions still existing in the law.

Ganapathi Bhat
Akola

Karnataka conundrum

Sir — All along, the marriage between the Janata Dal (Secular) and the Congress was more of convenience than conviction. The tussle between leaders of both parties continued even during the recently-concluded Lok Sabha elections. But the recent turn of events has shown all the three parties — JD(S), Congress and the BJP — in poor light. There is more than mere suspicion that the BJP is behind all this drama. But if the Congress could be swift while forming the Government in the State last year, its leadership should have shown the same zeal to stop this crisis from snowballing.

Bal Goida
Noida

Aviation blues

Sir — The aviation sector is in dire need of basic and structural reforms. The government must play a more interventionist role in the running of aviation companies.

Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Accept defeat

Sir — We enjoyed an exciting finish in the first semi-final match, where New Zealand managed to knock out India narrowly. The latter was the raging hot favourite to lift the World Cup this time. Although the Asian

continent was represented by not less than five teams — half the total number of teams that took part — only India reached the semi-final stage. Rest of the Asian teams finished in this order: Pakistan fifth, Sri Lanka sixth, Bangladesh eighth and Afghanistan last. Ever since the defeat, cricket fans have been

stunned into disbelief. They had expected their heroes, who receive almost a demi-god status, to perform well but that did not happen. A billion people are now in a state of mourning. But in sport, we must be prepared to accept both victory and defeat.

A Shrawan
Hyderabad

FIRST COLUMN

Gig lessons from cricket

It's not easy to lead a team of gig professionals. Just like the sport, where the captain has to take immediate decisions, leaders have to be careful



SANJAY LAKHOTA

Leading a team of gig professionals is a challenge and imparts several leadership lessons, too. To understand it more effectively, we must look at the similarities it has with a successful cricket team. Players in a national cricket team like India come from diverse geographical, ethnic and linguistic backgrounds. Similarly, a team comprising gig experts is likely to include members with diversity, and at times, even people from different nations. Thus, the challenge for the leader is to sanitise everyone towards the common goal, which is winning the trophy in case of a cricket team and successful completion of the project for the gig team.

In a cricket team, every player brings different skill sets to the table. There are some batsmen like Rohit Sharma, who would hurt the opposition through aggression while others could simply block every ball and deny wickets to the rival team. Then there are fast bowlers, leg-spinners and off-spinners—each comes with a distinct style. In the same way, a gig project manager may have to lead a team of graphic designers, HR professionals, content specialists, digital marketers and IT experts to complete a project. Each member has a specific role to play in a project. The graphic designer could create the artworks needed while a content expert may add description to the designs. An IT expert sets everything up digitally and marketing professionals take it to the masses. It is imperative that a captain/team leader is in control of the performance and is able to channelise the team towards successful achievement of the goal.

As is often seen on the cricket field, a captain, who appears highly animated and instructs other players for almost every ball, might prove ineffective. In a gig team, a leader has to deal with a team that is unlikely to be receptive to 'minute monitoring' because flexibility is the core reason for them to be a part of such a team. At the same time, letting everyone work at their own pace would also defeat the purpose of setting up a project team. Hence, the leader must tread a fine line. Since the team comprises specialists, telling them how to perform the duties would be detrimental. However, the leader needs to keep everyone informed and needs to be in sync with project timelines and deliverables needed from each member.

One advantage a gig leader has is a complete understanding of the people, who make the team and what all they can deliver. Every professional signed up for a gig project is well aware of the tasks and the timelines relating to it. Gig professionals understand that while undertaking a dynamic project, there are likely to be challenges and changes on-the-go. They have to be ready to tackle these issues and dynamically look for solutions/alternatives that can help them overcome such situations. It is important for the team leader to acknowledge the team members' dynamism and allow them flexibility and authority to make real-time changes whenever required.

To finish the projects on time, there must be a clear communication with each team member regarding the expectations and timelines. Alterations made by any member/client must also be clearly communicated to all relevant team members. Such crisp and dynamic communication will boost the morale of the team and also help in flawless, timely execution of the project. Another analogy that exists between a gig and cricket team is how change of situations may impact the scope of work that a gig worker has to do. The project goals might get altered and suddenly there may be no need to create graphics or a particular technical feature might get removed from the project.

This can be compared to a situation where a cricket team selects two spinners but the ball is not turning. Suddenly, the spinners become easy to hit and the captain has to take them off bowling. Alternatively, the pitch might start turning sharp, forcing the captain to change the batting order and send someone who can play spin better ahead of an attacking batsman. In a gig set up, the professional hired for the project may become redundant or his/her involvement may get pushed back to some future stage. A leader has to then competently deal with the concerned professional and keep him/her in confidence. In cases where such change of events results in lost remunerations to the expert, the leader needs to ensure that the team member is compensated for. The good thing is that akin to how the 15 players, making the cricket team know that only 11 of them will actually get to play the match at any given time, gig workers also know that, at times, they may not actually get to work on a project they signed up for. It is a part and parcel of their work and they take it in their stride.

(The writer is co-founder of a startup company)

GEHLOT IS DASHING OFF TO DELHI EVERY FEW DAYS. THINGS ARE NOT RIGHT IN THE PARTY. THERE WILL BE INSTABILITY IN RAJASTHAN IN TWO MONTHS.

—BJP MLA
VASUDEV DEVNANI



THE BJP TALKS OF MORALITY BUT ON THE OTHER HAND IT IS TRYING TO PULL DOWN DEMOCRATICALLY-ELECTED GOVERNMENTS.

—CONGRESS LEADER
BD KALLA

Blueprint for job creation

To address unemployment, the Government must adopt a three-pronged approach comprising skill-based education, exportable talent and a focus on manufacturing and agriculture sectors



NITHIN AUGUSTINE

India is standing at a crucial juncture where its evolution into a global power and a developed economy largely depends on how efficiently it tackles the menace of rising unemployment. As per the National Sample Survey Office report, 2017-18, unemployment rate is estimated to be at a 45-year high, reaching 7.8 per cent in urban areas and 5.3 per cent in rural areas.

In one of its recent reports titled, 'South Asia Economic Focus, Spring 2018: Jobless Growth', the World Bank estimates that every month, the working age population increases by 1.3 million people and India must create 8.1 million jobs a year to maintain its employment rate, which has been declining based on employment data analysed from 2005 to 2015. Surprisingly, unemployment rate is alarmingly high among the skilled workforce ie, people with at least a graduate degree, which saw a three per cent rise from 10.39 per cent in May-August 2017 to 13.17 per cent in September-December 2018. The key issue here is employment generation but employability of the workforce, too, continues to remain a major challenge.

Unlike any developing country in the world, India has all the right resources such as low-cost labour, abundant human capital and an insatiable appetite towards entrepreneurship. But the rising requirement for the right kind of skillset often prevents us from reaching our full potential. In this regard, it should be noted that the Government's flagship programmes such as Skill India, Startup India and Standup India were launched with the right intent and in accordance with the changing demands of the labour market. However, these initiatives could not address the key issues at the grassroots level.

In the last 25 years, particularly after the liberalisation of the economy, India witnessed rapid growth and the benefits of the boom years trickled down to the poor and the marginalised, thus lifting thousands of people from the clutches of poverty. Like in every economy, there comes a time when the growth momentum slows down, giving rise to unemployment, income inequality and disquiet among the people. After years of double-digit growth, China's real growth slowed down to 6.6 per cent in FY18 from the double-digit growth of nearly 14.2 per cent in the last decade.

In the wake of the internet revolution that engulfed the world, India's youth showed remarkable inclination and desire to embrace it, thereby laying the foundation of a 'New India', strongly rooted in new-age technologies of the century. However, the digital dividend, which could have potentially become the backbone of 'New India's' growth story, remained underutilised. A large majority of the population even today lives in rural areas where the lack of basic infrastructure, connectivity and employment opportunities continues to dominate their daily lives. The 'New India's' foundation, therefore, should be laid on a mission to generate adequate employment and equal growth opportunities for the people. It is, therefore, important to identify the crucial links in the chain that cover all the stages in an individual's life ensure the infusion, stimulation and development of the right kind of skill.

The Government must opt for a three-

POLICY REFORMS SHOULD BE INTRODUCED AND INCENTIVES SHOULD BE PROVIDED SO THAT MIGRATIONS INTO CITIES IN SEARCH OF BETTER JOB OPPORTUNITIES CAN BE MINIMISED. THIS WILL ULTIMATELY RESULT IN A SELF-SUSTAINING PRACTICE WHEREIN THE COUNTRY WILL BE ABLE TO MEET ITS INCREASING FOOD DEMAND AND PROVIDE ITS PEOPLE WITH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



pronged approach to generate employment and ensure employability of the workforce.

Promote skill-based education
Educational institutions should lay greater emphasis on nurturing employability and skill development of the pupils, while equally focusing on academic excellence. One of the drawbacks of the Indian education system, at times even acknowledged publicly, is that the focus remains centered on academic excellence, and not preparing the child for an uncertain future.

A 2019 Annual Employment Survey report by Aspiring Minds says that there has been no change in the employability prospects of Indian engineering graduates in the past nine years, with only a handful of them possessing next-gen tech skills. Nearly 80 per cent of Indian engineers are not fit for any job in the knowledge economy and only 2.5 per cent of them possess tech skills in Artificial Intelligence (AI) required by the industry. Not possessing the right kind of skill set will result in economic redundancy and subsequent displacement from the job market.

Moreover, schools and colleges in rural India, even in metros, are yet to be awakened to the opportunities and threats that rapid growth in technology will bring about. Yuval Noah Harari, in his latest book, '21 Lessons for the 21st Century' says that we have no idea what the job market will look like in 2050.

It is generally agreed that machine learning and robotics will change every line of work. Therefore, it is high time that we revisit our traditional school-

ing system and replace it, in a phased-out manner, with a curriculum that is conducive to and promotes a holistic growth of the children.

Promote bilateral ties to export talent

With 1.3 billion people, India enjoys a strong and distinctive demographic profile in the world, offering it an edge over other countries that are grappling with an ageing population. This throws open the doors of exporting talent and increasing the scope of remittances. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is believed to be working on a policy framework to officially seek the Cabinet's approval to export talent. Once implemented, this will help millions of Indians find jobs abroad and earn a decent living. However, this needs to be thoroughly thought out and bilateral agreements need to be put in place to facilitate smooth movement of workers. Such agreements will ensure job opportunities for Indian employees and address the challenges arising out of a shrinking workforce. This will be a great way to potentially tap the demographic dividend.

Recently, the German Cabinet announced that it is coming up with an immigration proposal to help non-EU immigrants to move to Germany. To liberate the labour market and to fill the job vacancies, the country will ease the immigration and work permit process for skilled workers. This hints at a like-by-like change in the stringent immigration policies in most countries to attract skilled workers.

Focus on manufacturing

and agriculture sectors

A major part of India's population is reliant on agriculture and allied activities for livelihood. Manufacturing and agriculture together account for 33.8 per cent of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In view of the changing geo-political dynamics and trade protectionism, it is important to shift the focus to manufacturing and agriculture sectors that have immense employment generation potential. China, for example, is now focusing more on reforming its agriculture sector and introducing modern farming methods with a greater emphasis on sustainable agricultural practices. After all, feeding 1.3 billion people will be a herculean task if it's not prepared.

Technology has a great role to play in modernising the two key sectors for India. Policy reforms should be introduced and incentives should be provided so that migrations into cities in search of better job opportunities can be minimised. This will ultimately result in a self-sustaining practice wherein the country will be able to meet its increasing food demand and provide its people with employment opportunities.

In conclusion, India has set an ambitious target of transforming itself into a \$5 trillion economy by 2025. This may seem unachievable but with the right kind of reforms, policy interventions and focused approach, it may become a global economic power and provide its people with adequate employment opportunities.

(The writer is a communications professional)

The hard truth about trade deals

Fresh leaked documents have put the spotlight on the UK's relationship with the US. They show how America is forcing Ministers and officials to confront the difficult choices of life outside the European Union

ANNA ISAAC
JAMES ROTHWELL
ASA BENNETT

Britain has failed to make meaningful progress towards a free trade deal with the US amid 'chronic' staffing shortages in communication breakdowns in Whitehall, according to a cache of documents seen by *The Telegraph*. Details of meetings spanning two years show how overstretched departments have been working 'at cross purposes' as transatlantic talks have repeatedly stumbled over politically sensitive topics such as rules on health, farming and the finance industry. Officials have begun to fear that American frustration with the lack of agreement or even partial agreement could end hopes of a post-Brexit partnership envisaged at the centre of a 'global Britain' trade strategy.

In one message, a British diplomat warned that Liam Fox's, the trade secretary, visit to Washington, DC, could look like a 'bit of a desperate bid' to demonstrate progress. The cache of correspondence and memos

shows gradually rising concern among officials about Britain's ability to conduct such complex negotiations. The documents bring further scrutiny to a relationship under strain following the leak of criticisms of the Trump administration by Sir Kim Darroch, the British Ambassador to the US. His resignation prompted anger across Whitehall over a perceived breach of diplomatic norms. Meanwhile, it is understood that the US cancelled a planned meeting between Fox and Trump's commerce secretary Wilbur Ross. Even in the earliest talks, the UK struggled to keep pace with US negotiators. One email from late last year shows that the Trump administration had begun sending 'less senior' officials to meetings.

The shift, which occurred in July, reflected Britain's inability to get 'the right people in the room', according to the correspondence. It came despite a Whitehall amber-red alert, which signalled a risk of failure and warned that the discussions were talks were rapidly 'falling behind schedule'. British officials blamed the bureaucratic missteps

on a lack of communication between key trade departments of business, energy, industrial and strategy, the Department for International Trade, the Foreign Office, the Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs and the Treasury.

Yet, the amber-red alert remained in place early this year, underlining a lack of progress. A Whitehall source told *The Telegraph* that shortages of expert trade officials were a 'chronic problem'. Changes to the Brexit schedule have also resulted in the most able civil servants being shunted around crucial roles, compounding the instability. The Department for International Trade rejected such assessments. A spokesman said: 'Last Wednesday, the UK-US Trade and Investment Working Group began its sixth meeting involving over 100 officials from the two sides. It has now covered all major policy areas that needed to be covered before our two nations begin negotiations on an actual free trade agreement. Formal talks cannot begin until after Brexit.'

'Only last week, the International Trade Secretary returned from Washington where he held high-level

trade discussions with key figures in the administration, including Ivanka Trump and the US Trade Representative, Robert Lighthizer. We are well prepared for trade negotiations with our biggest trading partner. To suggest otherwise is completely and demonstrably false.'

The documents seen by this newspaper reveal how negotiations with the US are forcing Ministers and officials to confront the difficult choices of life outside the EU. One email, dated last month, warned that British plans to take the US standards in areas such as food and medicine would have a knock-on effect, costing jobs of parts of the EU's single market for British companies.

'The UK has a crucial choice to make in terms of where its own preferences lie, such as on US food standards and the EU regulatory approach to risk,' said one senior EU official.

Notes from one meeting between Fox and Lighthizer in 2017 also show the US official seeking UK backing for reform and 'innovation' at the World Trade Organisation. David Jones, a former Brexit Minister and Tory MP, said that the US animosity towards the EU was understandable as 'the EU has operated as a cartel. It is protectionist, it is an exclusive economy.'

Senior EU sources hit back, saying they were concerned that Britain could become a pawn in US disputes with Brussels. They also warned that adopting US standards in areas such as food and medicine would have a knock-on effect, costing jobs of parts of the EU's single market for British companies.

'The UK has a crucial choice to make in terms of where its own preferences lie, such as on US food standards and the EU regulatory approach to risk,' said one senior EU official. 'How it interacts with the EU will be affected by that choice. In any case, UK business exporting to the EU (will need to be) inside the regulatory sphere of EU, irrespective of what model the UK chooses.'

The desire for a US trade deal



FOREIGN EYE



A GAME FOR LOSERS

Iran believes it's just the start of the relief from the crippling sanctions regime now imposed upon it, and though it knows the US could start a war, hopes the fear of not finishing it will continue to deter Mr Trump. The risk is that the president may be goaded into a war by those around him, particularly if things go wrong on the ground—and that Britain will be dragged in by a White House appeasing prime minister. (The Guardian editorial)

(Courtesy: The Telegraph)

Scheme	NAV	1Yr*	ICICI Pru LT Equity Fund (Tax Saving)(G)	377.67	4.69	Sundaram Value Fund-II-Reg(G)	15.74	1.05	DSP Natural Res & New Energy Fund-Reg(G)	31.15	-1.80	Kotak Global Emerging Mkt Fund(G)	15.64	-5.91
DHFL Pramerica Global Equity Opp Fund(G)	19.20	16.50	ICICI Pru Large & Mid Cap Fund(G)	323.79	4.68	SBI LT Advantage Fund-IV-Reg(G)	12.70	0.99	IDFC Tax Advt(ELSS) Fund-Reg(G)	55.46	-1.89	UTI Healthcare Fund-Reg(G)	79.07	-5.91
SBI Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	18.72	15.62	SBI Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)	15.55	4.60	ICICI Pru Value Fund-10(G)	11.46	0.97	ICICI Pru Bharat Consumption Fund-2(G)	9.73	-1.92	Templeton India Value Fund(G)	243.81	-5.95
ICICI Pru Growth Fund-1(DP)	11.56	15.25	DBI India T.I.G.E.R. Fund-Reg(G)	92.50	4.57	Axis Long Term Equity Fund(G)	44.95	0.93	Reliance Pharma Fund(G)	142.18	-2.05	Baroda ELSS 96(G)	43.22	-6.17
DSP World Gold Fund-Reg(G)	13.00	14.21	Canara Rob Equity Diver Fund-Reg(G)	133.63	4.48	DHFL Pramerica LT Equity Fund-Reg(G)	14.33	0.92	ICICI Pru R.I.G.H.T Fund(G)	42.03	-2.05	Sundaram LT Tax Adv Fund-Sr IV-Reg(G)	16.76	-6.28
ICICI Pru Banking & Fin Serv Fund(G)	3111.8613.62		SBI Magnum Multicap Fund-Reg(G)	48.81	4.47	DHFL Pramerica Large Cap Fund-2-Reg(G)	12.52	0.91	Invesco India Feeder - Invesco Global Equity Income Fund(G)	10.37	-2.08	Motilal Oswal Long Term Equity Fund-Reg(G)	16.76	-6.28
Edelweiss ETF - Nifty Bank	16.21	13.46	SBI Technology Opp Fund-Reg(G)	64.64	4.45	Invesco India Growth Opp Fund(G)	33.64	0.87	Franklin India Prima Fund(G)	933.03	-2.14	Aditya Birla SL Global Emerging Opp Fund(G)	12.73	-6.36
Reliance US Equity Opp Fund(G)	501.26	13.26	UTI Banking and Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	100.46	4.27	Sundaram Value Fund-III-Reg(G)	16.41	0.84	UTI LT Adv Fund-III(G)	13.14	-2.17	IDBI Equity Advantage Fund-Reg(G)	25.33	-6.46
HDFC Top 100 Fund(G)	676.15	12.67	ICICI Pru Value Fund-15(G)	10.90	12.02	Invesco India Largecap Fund(G)	28.37	0.82	UTI Focused Equity Fund-VI(G)	9.54	-2.20	IDFC Equity	7.86	-6.47
HDFC Equity Fund(G)	37.01	11.87	SBI Tax Advantage Fund-II(G)	41.92	11.62	Franklin India Largecap Fund(G)	85.16	0.81	SBI Small Cap Fund-Reg(G)	50.51	-2.38	Opportunity-4-Reg(G)	15.47	-6.58
ICICI Pru Value Fund-18(G)	293.86	10.48	Franklin India Focused Equity Fund(G)	38.37	4.14	BNP Paribas Long Term Equity Fund(G)	36.66	4.10	ICICI Pru Exports & Services Fund(G)	56.54	-2.50	HDFC Mid-Cap Opportunities Fund(G)	52.98	-6.58
Reliance Banking Fund(G)	24.19	11.53	Aditya Birla SL Sensex ETF	360.66	4.10	DSP World Agriculture Fund-1(G)	10.11	0.80	UTI Focused Equity Fund-V(G)	9.11	-2.61	Aditya Birla SL Midcap Fund(G)	279.75	-6.61
Sundaram Fin Serv Opp Fund(G)	25.37	10.95	Axis Bluechip Fund(G)	29.15	4.07	DSP World Mining Fund-Reg(G)	8.47	0.78	Sundaram Diversified Equity(G)	99.36	-2.68	Edelweiss Eur Dynamic Equity	10.83	-6.62
Reliance Multi Cap Fund(G)	12.30	10.81	Kotak World Gold Fund(G)	9.12	4.01	UTI Dividend Yield Fund-Reg(G)	62.92	0.78	Axis Focused 25 Fund(G)	27.82	-2.69	Off-shr Fund-Reg(G)	69.68	-6.69
SBI LT Advantage Fund-III-Reg(G)	11.45	10.52	HDFC Growth Opp Fund-Reg(G)	112.42	3.99	ICICI Pru Focused Equity Fund(G)	29.60	0.71	Sundaram Value Fund-VII-Reg(G)	8.73	-2.73	Kotak Small Cap Fund(G)	11.33	-6.75
ICICI Pru Value Fund-18(G)	293.86	10.48	L&T India Large Cap Fund-Reg(G)	27.42	3.72	DHFL Pramerica Tax Plan(G)	31.15	0.71	Motilal Oswal Multicap 35 Fund-Reg(G)	25.73	-2.73	Aditya Birla SL Resurgent India Fund-3-Reg(G)	11.33	-6.75
Reliance Banking Fund(G)	43.70	10.35	SBI Magnum TaxGain'93-Reg(G)	140.99	3.70	DSP World Agriculture Fund-Reg(G)	16.19	0.69	JM Core 11 Fund(G)	30.89	-2.88	IDFC Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)	14.91	-6.75
Sundaram Fin Serv Opp Fund(G)	98.13	9.95	ICICI Pru Global Stable Equity Fund(G)	15.26	3.60	ICICI Pru LT Wealth Enhancement Fund(G)	10.73	0.66	100 Eq Weight Fund-Reg(G)	8.59	-2.92	Invesco India Multicap Fund(G)	45.70	-6.85
Reliance Multi Cap Fund(G)	13.72	9.70	Invesco India PSU Equity Fund(G)	17.49	3.55	ICICI Pru Nifty Low Vol 30 ETF	88.02	0.64	Reliance Capital Builder Fund-IV(A)(G)	11.50	-3.01	Kotak India Growth Fund-Sr 5(G)	9.40	-6.88
SBI LT Advantage Fund-III-Reg(G)	58.43	9.67	SBI LT Advantage Fund-I-Reg(G)	13.57	3.40	Edelweiss Large Cap Fund(G)	35.48	0.54	Sundaram Smart NIFTY	9.60	-3.09	Edelweiss Mid Cap Fund-Reg(G)	25.58	-6.93
Invesco India Financial Services Fund(G)	207.42	9.50	Axis Multicap Fund-Reg(G)	11.58	3.30	Franklin India Bluechip Fund(G)	457.33	0.52	ICICI Pru Midcap Fund(G)	93.19	-3.10	DSP Small Cap Fund-Reg(G)	53.53	-7.31
Tata Large & Mid Cap Fund(G)	32.76	9.37	ICICI Pru FMCG Fund(G)	236.47	3.29	Franklin Asian Equity Fund(G)	22.11	0.50	HDFC Capital Builder Value Fund(G)	284.63	-3.13	Aditya Birla SL Dividend Yield Fund(G)	153.56	-7.43
Franklin India Feeder - Franklin U.S. Opportunities Fund(G)	35.12	9.37	Sundaram Large and Mid Cap Fund(G)	34.26	3.29	UTI LT Adv Fund-IV(G)	10.31	0.50	L&T Equity Fund-Reg(G)	81.18	-3.22	Sundaram Emerging Small Cap-Sr IV-Reg(G)	9.25	-7.48
Reliance Large Cap Fund(G)	52.86	8.81	Kotak Equity Opp Fund(G)	117.89	3.17	Mirae Asset Infra Consumer Fund-Reg(G)	33.64	0.49	SBI Equity Opp Fund-Sr IV-Reg(G)	15.20	-3.27	L&T Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	128.57	-7.49
Mirae Asset Emerging Bluechip-Reg(G)	12.67	8.66	Kotak Bluechip Fund(G)	232.53	3.12	Sundaram Infra Advantage Fund-Reg(G)	32.64	0.42	Edelweiss ETF - Nifty 100	270.91	-3.40	Sundaram Mid Cap Fund(G)	452.91	-7.75
ICICI Pru Value Fund-9(G)	10.63	8.58	Reliance Japan Equity Fund(G)	12.47	3.10	Edelweiss Multi-Cap Fund-Reg(G)	14.50	0.36	Principal Dividend Yield Fund(G)	51.21	-3.43	UTI Mid Cap Fund-Reg(G)	96.13	-7.86
ICICI Pru Value Fund-17(G)	42.20	8.57	Edelweiss Emerging Markets Opp Eq. Offshore Fund-Reg(G)	12.60	3.07	DHFL Pramerica Diversified Equity Fund-Reg(G)	23.37	0.30	Aditya Birla SL Midcap Fund(G)	38.33	-8.04	UTI MNC Fund-Reg(G)	184.78	-7.91
Franklin Build India Fund(G)	10.97	8.51	SBI LT Advantage Fund-V-Reg(G)	10.13	3.07	Equity Fund-Reg(G)	13.39	0.21	Reliance Small Cap Fund(G)	38.33	-8.04	L&T Emerging Opp Fund-I-Reg(G)	9.22	-8.35
ICICI Pru Value Fund-16(G)	17.70	7.97	DHFL Pramerica Large Cap Fund(G)	169.70	3.07	Aditya Birla SL CEF-Global Agri-Reg(G)	23.39	0.21	Baroda Mid-Cap Fund(G)	8.73	-8.49	UTI India Consumer Fund-Reg(G)	24.33	-8.63
Mirae Asset Tax Saver Fund-Reg(G)	15.59	7.97	Reliance Vision Fund(G)	526.65	2.94	SBI Equity Opp Fund-Sr I-Reg(G)	15.83	0.27	IDFC Equity	9.60	-8.64	IDFC Equity	9.60	-8.64
Sundaram World Brand Fund-Sr II-Reg(G)	15.78	7.92	Aditya Birla SL Frontline Equity Fund(G)	223.59	2.91	IDFC Large Cap Fund-Reg(G)	32.13	0.04	Opportunity-5-Reg(G)	49.21	-8.85	IDFC Sterling Value Fund-Reg(G)	49.21	-8.85
Sundaram World Brand Fund-Sr III-Reg(G)	51.09	7.54	Baroda Large Cap Fund(G)	14.46	2.84	Sundaram LT Tax Adv Fund-Sr II-Reg(G)	14.49	0.00	IDFC Focused 30 Equity Fund-Reg(G)	70.33	-3.96	Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series VIII-Reg(G)	13.10	-10.75
Mirae Asset Large Cap Fund-Reg(G)	44.44	7.54	Reliance Value Fund(G)	73.67	2.80	Mirae Asset Healthcare Fund-Reg(G)	10.03	-0.08	SBI Magnum Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	275.26	-3.96	Cap-Series IX-Reg(G)	13.03	-10.92
Kotak Tax Saver Scheme(G)	10.48	7.38	DSP Equity Opportunities Fund-Reg(G)	217.25	2.28	ICICI Pru Growth Fund-3(DP)	10.36	-0.10	UTI-Nifty Next 50 ETF	11.88	-3.96	Cap-Series X-Reg(G)	8.26	-11.10
ICICI Pru Value Fund-13(D)	4058.44	7.19	ICICI Pru Focused Equity Fund-Reg(G)	77.45	2.25	Axis Capital Builder Fund-1-Reg(G)	10.13	-0.10	Edelweiss Gr China Equity Off-Shore Fund-Reg(G)	26.97	-4.03	UTI LT Adv Fund-VII(G)	23.30	-11.25
HDFC Sensex ETF	398.28	7.13	HDFC Focused 30 Fund(G)	77.45	2.25	Edelweiss Large & Mid Cap Fund-Reg(G)	31.20	-0.13	L&T Multi Cap Fund-Reg(G)	90.47	-4.04	L&T Emerging Businesses Fund-Reg(G)	7.66	-11.41
IDFC Sensex ETF	223.89	6.91	Parag Parikh Long Term Equity Fund-Reg(G)	25.19	2.24	Invesco India Contra Fund(G)	46.98	-0.19	L&T Tax Advt Fund-Reg(G)	53.42	-4.28	Reliance Capital Builder Fund-IV(D)(G)	16.19	-11.42
ICICI Pru Value Fund-14(G)	10.70	6.89	UTI Value Opp Fund-Reg(G)	60.06	-0.29	UTI Value Opp Fund-Reg(G)	60.06	-0.29	Sundaram Rural and Consumption Fund(G)	40.02	-4.46	Tata India Consumer Fund-Reg(G)	16.19	-11.42
HDFC Equity Opp Fund-Sr 2-11262-May 2017(1)-Reg(G)	343.56	6.68	JM Multicap Fund(G)	31.30	-0.31	Principal Multi Cap Growth Fund(G)	139.78	-0.34	Axis Emerging Opp Fund-2-Reg(G)	11.40	-4.52	Aditya Birla SL Emerging Leaders Fund-4-Reg(G)	13.76	-11.45
HDFC Index Fund-Sensex(G)	95.33	6.61	Principal Multi Cap Growth Fund(G)	139.78	-0.34	UTI Core Equity Fund-Reg(G)	61.30	-0.44	Aditya Birla SL Tax Relief '96(G)	30.14	-4.68	Sundaram Emerging Small Cap-Sr II-Reg(G)	8.32	-11.59
Tata Index Fund-Sensex Plan(G)	19.60	6.56	Franklin India Opportunities Fund(G)	73.30	-0.41	Franklin India Opportunities Fund(G)	73.30	-0.41	Aditya Birla SL Resurgent India Fund-5-Reg(G)	151.37	-4.56	Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series X-Reg(G)	12.87	-11.67
ICICI Pru Infrastructure Fund(G)	51.58	6.55	Sundaram LT Tax Adv Fund-Sr I-Reg(G)	13.35	-0.46	Sundaram LT Tax Adv Fund-Sr I-Reg(G)	13.35	-0.46	Tata Ethical Fund(G)	9.22	-4.58	Cap-Series XI-Reg(G)	12.02	-17.84
ICICI Pru US Bluechip Equity Fund(G)	18.24	6.40	Reliance Power & Infra Fund(G)	99.30	-0.46	Reliance Power & Infra Fund(G)	99.30	-0.46	Kotak India Growth Fund-Sr 4(G)	105.01	-4.64	Aditya Birla SL Emerging Leaders Fund-7-Reg(G)	9.76	-17.88
Tata India Tax Savings Fund-Reg(G)	10.69	6.37	Sundaram Select Small Cap Series-IV-Reg(G)	13.94	-0.51	Sundaram Select Small Cap Series-III-Reg(G)	13.92	-0.53	SBI Contra Fund-Reg(G)	30.14	-4.68	Sundaram LT Micro Cap Tax Adv Fund-Sr III-Reg(G)	8.33	-18.02
IDBI Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	54.46	6.30	Sundaram Select Small Cap Series-III-Reg(G)	13.92	-0.53	Sundaram Select Small Cap Series-III-Reg(G)	13.92	-0.53	UTI Nifty Next 50 Index Fund-Reg(G)	9.57	-4.99	Sundaram LT Micro Cap Tax Adv Fund-Sr IV-Reg(G)	7.58	-19.27
ICICI Pru NV20 ETF	65.27	6.30	Kotak Emerging Equity Scheme(G)	38.10	-0.60	Kotak Emerging Equity Scheme(G)	38.10	-0.60	Tata Equity P/E Fund(G)	132.64	-5.17	Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series XII-Reg(G)	7.89	-16.24
Canara Rob Equity Tax Saver Fund-Reg(G)	21.24	6.23	L&T India Value Fund-Reg(G)	35.57	-0.61	L&T India Value Fund-Reg(G)	35.57	-0.61	Sundaram TOP 100-Sr VI-Reg(G)	16.04	-5.48	Aditya Birla SL Pure Value Fund(G)	48.87	-13.66
Aditya Birla SL Intl. Equity Fund-A(G)	12.02	6.19	Principal Personal Tax Saver Fund	204.64	-0.71	Principal Personal Tax Saver Fund	204.64	-0.71	UTI Nifty Next 50 Index Fund-Reg(G)	132.64	-5.17	Sundaram LT Micro Cap Tax Adv Fund-Sr V-Reg(G)	8.25	-18.79
ICICI Pru Sensex Index Fund(G)	14.72	6.15	Principal Tax Savings Fund	50.27	-0.75	Principal Tax Savings Fund	50.27	-0.75	ICICI Pru Dividend Yield Equity Fund(G)	13.28	-5.61	Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series XIII-Reg(G)	8.15	-19.43
SBI Focused Equity Fund-Reg(G)	105.40	6.13	Invesco India Tax Plan(G)	96.86	-0.76	Invesco India Tax Plan(G)	96.86	-0.76	DHFL Pramerica Euro Equity Fund(G)	11.81	-5.68	Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series XIV-Reg(G)	7.25	-19.60
SBI Magnum Equity ESG Fund-Reg(G)	48.16	6.13	Baroda Multi Cap Fund(G)	54.43	-0.78	Baroda Multi Cap Fund(G)	54.43	-0.78	Sundaram TOP 100-Sr VII-Reg(G)	9.54	-5.73	UTI Transportation & Logistics Fund-Reg(G)	88.14	-26.52
DSP Tax Saver Fund-Reg(G)	1183.79	6.12	Reliance Tax Saver (ELSS) Fund(G)	54.43	-0.78	Reliance Tax Saver (ELSS) Fund(G)	54.43	-0.78	Aditya Birla SL Tax Relief '96(G)	30.14	-4.68			
Axis Nifty ETF	90.02	6.06	Reliance Consumption Fund(G)	62.56	-0.78	Reliance Consumption Fund(G)	62.56	-0.78	Aditya Birla SL Tax Relief '96(G)	30.14	-4.68			
BNP Paribas Large Cap Fund(G)	1205.51	6.03	Franklin India Equity Advantage Fund(G)	78.82	-0.85	Franklin India Equity Advantage Fund(G)	78.82	-0.85	Relief '96(ELSS) U/S 80C of IT ACT(G)	101.09	-4.69			
HDFC Nifty 50 ETF	14.09	6.00	ICICI Pru Value Discovery Fund(G)	143.45	-0.86	ICICI Pru Value Discovery Fund(G)	143.45	-0.86	Principal Emerging Bluechip Fund(G)	717.77	-4.73			
SBI LT Advantage Fund-II-Reg(G)	118.85	5.98	Sundaram Value Fund(G)	9.12	-0.90	Sundaram Value Fund(G)	9.12	-0.90	L&T Emerging Opp Fund-I-Reg(G)	9.55	-4.73			
IDFC Nifty ETF	292.39	5.95	IDFC Core Equity Fund-Reg(G)	44.41	-0.93	IDFC Core Equity Fund-Reg(G)	44.41	-0.93	IDBI Diversified Equity Fund(G)	20.50	-4.74			
ICICI Pru Multicap Fund(G)	19.80	5.81	BNP Paribas Mid Cap Fund(G)	31.43	-0.94	BNP Paribas Mid Cap Fund(G)	31.43	-0.94	IDBI Nifty Junior Index Fund(G)	46.29	-4.85			
Aditya Birla SL Global Real Estate Fund(G)	19.05	5.81	DSP Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	53.45	-0.98	DSP Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	53.45	-0.98	L&T Large and Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	23.86	-4.85			
Reliance Index Fund - Sensex Plan(G)	75.44	5.80	Reliance Quant Fund(G)	25.04	-0.99	Reliance Quant Fund(G)	25.04	-0.99	ICICI Pru Nifty Next 50 Index Fund(G)	163.12	-4.87			
UTI Nifty Index Fund-Reg(G)	219.43	5.75	JM Large Cap Fund(G)	66.34	1.75	Sundaram Multi Cap Fund-Reg(G)	9.94	-1.02	SBI Magnum Global Fund-Reg(G)	105.01	-4.64			
SBI Large & Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	23.87	5.68	ICICI Pru S&P BSE 500 ETF	151.86	1.72	Sundaram Multi Cap Fund-Reg(G)	9.94	-1.02	UTI Nifty Next 50 Index Fund-Reg(G)	132.64	-5.17			
HDFC Index Fund-NIFTY 50 Plan(G)	105.11	5.62	DSP A.C.E. Fund-Sr 2-Reg(G)	9.77	1.72	Sundaram Multi Cap Fund-Reg(G)	9.94	-1.02	Sundaram TOP 100-Sr VI-Reg(G)	16.04	-5.48			
Tata Index Fund-Nifty Plan(G)	69.78	5.55	UTI Mastershare-Reg(G)	120.69	1.69	Sundaram Multi Cap Fund-Reg(G)	9.94	-1.02	Aditya Birla SL Equity Advantage Fund(G)	398.79	-5.03			
Kotak Standard Multicap Fund(G)	35.53	5.50	DSP Focus Fund-Reg(G)	23.19	1.66	Sundaram Multi Cap Fund-Reg(G)	9.94	-1.02	Principal Global Opportunities Fund(G)	28.63	-5.16			
Aditya Birla SL Focused Equity Fund(G)	60.01	5.48	Aditya Birla SL Equity Fund(G)	715.46	1.59	Sundaram Multi Cap Fund-Reg(G)	9.94	-1.02	Tata Equity P/E Fund(G)	132.64	-5.17			
SBI Nifty Index Fund-Reg(G)	99.18	5.24	Kotak Infra & Eco Reform Fund(G)	20.28	1.54	Sundaram Multi Cap Fund-Reg(G)	9.94	-1.02	Sundaram TOP 100-Sr VI-Reg(G)	16.04	-5.48			
ICICI Pru Bluechip Fund(G)	42.21	5.24	Principal Focused Multicap Fund(G)	63.41	1.54	Sundaram Multi Cap Fund-Reg(G)	9							

Regulators lens on Indigo lapses

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With promoter spat intensifying at the country's largest airline Indigo, markets watchdog Sebi and the corporate Affairs Ministry have started digging deep into allegations of governance lapses and violations that could force the Government to override existing arrangements and pacts at InterGlobe Aviation, officials said.

Bringing into public the differences between long-time friends and promoters of Indigo into the open, Rakesh Gangwal has sought Sebi's intervention into alleged corporate governance lapses at the company and even said that 'paan ki dukaan' (betel shop) would have managed things with more grace.

InterGlobe Aviation, which got listed in 2015, has come under intense regulatory scanner and there are indications of multiple violations of Sebi norms. The role of each and every entity associated with all board members and entities linked to the promoters are being probed amid signs of lapses in complying with governance requirements, fair market trade and insider trading norms, the officials said.

One of the major issues raised by Gangwal was about related party transactions involving co-founder Rahul Bhatia's InterGlobe Enterprises (IGE) Group and the allegations have been refuted by the Bhatia camp.

An official said the corporate affairs ministry would be seeking the 'para-legal documents' from the company on Gangwal's complaint and would also be looking at the related party transactions.

With the promoter feud igniting concerns over corporate governance practices at InterGlobe Aviation, the ministry would examine whether memorandum, articles, agreements and resolutions are in consonance with provisions of the Companies Act.

The company could face strict regulatory action, including overriding of existing pacts, in case there are violations of the Act.

The official said the ministry can even invoke powers under Section 6 of the Companies Act, 2013. Section 6 provides powers to override any memorandum, articles, agreements or resolutions passed at general meeting or by the board of directors in violation of the Act.

Following Gangwal's letter to Sebi, the Ministry and others, the markets regulator has sought response from the company by July 19.

Against his backdrop, Sebi has also widened its probe, launched a few months ago, into suspicious insider trading violations in the shares of InterGlobe Aviation.

The officials said that a number of executives and board members are likely to be summoned by the markets regulator.

Among the issues flagged by Gangwal are that various related party transactions with the IGE Group were executed without seeking the audit committee's approval and without seeking competitive bids from other promoters.

Among the issues flagged by Gangwal are that various related party transactions with the IGE Group were executed without seeking the audit committee's approval and without seeking competitive bids from other promoters.

IndiGo promoter spat: Bhatia group says Gangwal limited his financial risks

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that the arrangement between the promoter groups had been transparent from inception at Indigo, Rahul Bhatia group said Sunday claimed that Rakesh Gangwal always limited his financial risks and was making misadventures to create an unseemly controversy about corporate governance.

In a reflection of the deep differences between the two promoter groups, InterGlobe Enterprises (IGE) Group has now issued three statements in less than a week seeking to clarify issues and reject the allegations by Gangwal.

Gangwal has sought markets watchdog Sebi's intervention to address the corporate governance issues at InterGlobe Aviation — the parent of the country's largest carrier Indigo — where he holds around 37 per cent stake while Bhatia group has about 38 per cent shareholding.

"Even more significantly, during the turbulent period of that a fledgling airline, it was left to the IGE Group, as a responsible founder, to fend for Indigo. Gangwal was missing in action at that time and there were stages where he wanted to de-risk and pushed for the business to be sold," the group said in a statement that also provided details about investments

made by the two sides. Noting that Gangwal has much to answer, the group wondered whether there is sanctity in agreements entered into by business people — freely and at their own will.

"Do business ethics and morals permit a contracting party to walk away from its obligations at convenience after it has enjoyed the benefits under an agreement and pretend to be a victim?" it said.

Referring to purchase of planes from Airbus, the statement said that the IGE Group and Gangwal gave a joint undertaking of support Indigo in November 2005, wherein both sides undertook to invest in the airline at least \$50 million (which then was about ₹200 crore), and maintain that investment until the delivery of the last aircraft.

"As Gangwal was not going to take any further financial risk or obligation, IGE Group (though the undertaking to Airbus was a joint one) took the obligation to further invest up to ₹110 crore in Indigo so that taken together with the then existing investment of ₹99 crore, the conditions placed by Airbus could be met," the group claimed.

According to the statement, IGE Group continued to support the startup (Indigo) without diluting Gangwal's potential upside.

RBI to come out with mobile app for currency notes identification

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India will come out with a mobile application to help visually challenged people in identifying currency notes as cash still remains a dominant mode of transaction.

At present, banknotes in the denominations of ₹10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 2,000 are in circulation, besides ₹1 notes issued by the Centre.

The RBI said that identification of banknote denomination is key to successful completion of cash-based transactions by visually impaired persons.

Intaglio printing based identification marks for helping the visually challenged in identification of banknotes denomination are present in the notes of ₹100 and above. After demonetisation of old ₹500/1,000 notes in November 2016, new banknotes in design and sizes have been put in circulation.

The Reserve Bank of India has been sensitive to the challenges faced by the visually challenged in conducting their day to day business with Indian banknotes," said the central bank while scouting for a vendor to develop the mobile application.



The Reserve Bank of India will come out with a mobile application to help visually challenged people in identifying currency notes as cash still remains a dominant mode of transaction.

Business Corner



To encourage people about environment conservation and make environment beautiful, clean and green, Northern Railway Women Welfare Organisation organised tree plantation programme at Karnal Singh Stadium, New Delhi. On this occasion Harinder Kaur, President NRWVO planted sapling and encouraged people to save environment. Archana Joshi, Vice President, NRWVO, Renu Kapoor, Secy., NRWVO and Members of NRWVO were also present along with large gathering of railway employees.



Actor Ashish Sharma launching LGBTIQ song internationally along with movie film. The anthem/song is called 'Ivanna touch the sky'. The film, written and premiered at the Kashishi Queer Film Festival in 2018, is all set to release internationally on July 18, 2019.



The Growth Hacking Book: Most guarded growth marketing secrets the silicon valley giants don't want you to know was launched on Saturday. The book is written by 35 authors from around the world.

FPIs remain net buyers in July so far, infuse ₹3,551 cr in Indian markets

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Foreign investors have remained net buyers in the Indian capital markets this month so far, as the equity segment saw robust outflows post the Budget.

As per the latest deposits data, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) withdrew a net sum of ₹4,953.77 crore from equities during July 1-12, but poured in a net ₹8,504.78 crore into the debt market, translating into a cumulative net investment of ₹3,551.01 crore.

Overseas investors pulled out money from the equity markets for five of the six sessions following the Budget, which was presented on July 5. According to experts, the proposal in the Union Budget to hike surcharge on income tax for wealthy individuals, including foreign funds which are structured as trusts and association of persons (AOPs), dented FPIs' enthusiasm for Indian equities and may lead to re-evaluation of their exposure to the domestic stock market.

FPIs have been net buyers for the past five consecutive months, infusing a net ₹10,384.54 crore in June, ₹9,031.15 crore in May, ₹16,093 crore in April, ₹45,981 crore in

March and ₹1,182 crore in February into the Indian capital markets (both equity and debt).

"During the Budget, the government announced various measures to boost foreign flows and FDI in Indian markets such as rationalising and simplifying the KYC form for FPIs, allowing FPI investments in debt securities issued by NBFCs and hiking statutory limit of foreign investments in some companies.

"While these were broadly viewed as positive steps, the proposal to hike surcharge on income tax for wealthy individuals, including foreign funds which are structured as trust and AOPs, didn't go down well with the markets," said Himanshu Srivastava, Senior Analyst Manager Research at Morningstar Investment.

V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said, "The proposal to hike surcharge on income tax for wealthy individuals, including foreign funds which are structured as trusts and association of persons (AOPs), dented FPIs' enthusiasm for Indian equities and may lead to re-evaluation of their exposure to the domestic stock market. FPIs have been net buyers for the past five consecutive months, infusing a net ₹10,384.54 crore in June, ₹9,031.15 crore in May, ₹16,093 crore in April, ₹45,981 crore in

Defence products' exports to exceed ₹35,000 cr target

PTI ■ KOLKATA

With the growing trend of shipments in recent years, exports of defence products will exceed the ₹35,000 crore target by 2024-25, an official said.

"I expect the exports will surpass the target of ₹35,000 crore by 2024-25," Defence Production Department Secretary Ajay Kumar told PTI.

Defence companies are key drivers, he said. Kumar is in the city to promote private sector participation in defence production and also inaugurated a facility centre for the defence production at Bharat Chamber of Commerce.

"Defence exports had been growing exponentially. It is like a big rock, which is hard to move, but once it starts rolling, it only gains momentum," he said. Last fiscal, exports were about ₹10,700 crore and in 2019-20, the Centre set a target of ₹20,000 crore. In the first quarter of the current fiscal, exports worth ₹5,600 crore had already been recorded," he said. Exports were just worth ₹1,500 crore in 2016-17 and ₹4,500 crore 2017-18, he said.

Regulator bound by rules, cannot recommend penalty changes in interconnect case: Trai official

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The telecom regulator is not in a position to modify its previously recommended penalty on Vodafone India and Idea Cellular (now merged) and Bharti Airtel as it is bound by the provisions of Trai Act, according to a senior Trai official.

Citing the clauses in the Act, the regulator recently informed the Department of Telecom (DoT) that it is "constrained from offering any further comments" on the matter and the Centre now has to take a final call on the issue.

The regulator has already given its views once in response to a back reference in 2017 by DoT, the Trai official said adding that as per the provisions in the Act there is no scope for any further modification.

The Act makes it clear that once a recommendation is referred back to Trai by DoT, the regulator has to within 15 days, forward to the central government its suggestions during the quarter. This coupled with the provision that Trai is unable to change the penalty it had suggested since it is bound by the provisions of the Act. In October 2016, Trai had recommended imposing a total penalty of ₹3,050 crore on Airtel, Vodafone Idea for allegedly denying interconnectivity to newcomer RJio.



The penalty on Airtel and Vodafone works out to be about ₹1,050 crore each. In case of Idea it comes to about ₹950 crore. Since Vodafone and Idea have now merged their businesses, the new entity Vodafone Idea will have to bear the burden of both companies.

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The Digital Communications Commission, the apex decision-making body of DoT, last month, approved imposing penalty on Airtel and Vodafone Idea for not providing points of interconnection to Reliance Jio.

Selling G-secs overseas: Montek says gains far less than disadvantages

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Montek Singh Ahluwalia, the noted economist who headed the Planning Commission, has advised the Modi regime against its plans to tap the overseas debt market, saying the idea of selling sovereign bonds was contemplated earlier as well but abandoned as the negatives far outweighed the positives.

The comments from the UPA-era technocrat came amid a proposal from the Narendra Modi Government to borrow at least ₹70,000 crore of its planned market borrowings from a sovereign bonds sale overseas, in a departure from the earlier practice of raising the money domestically alone.

When asked about the rationale of setting benchmark rates, he expressed doubts if the market will be liquid.



Both Department of Economic Affairs, and Finance Services are in consultation. The eligibility norms for takeover should be out this week or latest by next week," the official said.

To address the stress in the sector, Finance Minister Nirmal Sitharaman in the Budget proposed that public sector banks would purchase high-rated pooled assets of financially sound NBFCs, amounting to a total of ₹1 lakh crore during the current financial year.

For this, the Government will provide one time six months' partial credit guar-

Govt wants ONGC to sell golf course in Ahmedabad that has oil wells

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government wants Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) to sell its golf courses in Ahmedabad and Vadodara in Gujarat, sending the company into a tizzy as one of them has two producing oil wells, sources said. The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) has deemed golf courses and sports clubs owned by central public sector enterprises as 'non-core' assets and wants to monetise them.

A recent exercise by DIPAM to assess land banks and other non-core assets of government departments as well as central PSUs identified two of ONGC's golf courses in Ahmedabad and Vadodra, as also a sports club owned by Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) in Chennai, Mumbai.

Sources said the exercise identified only properties with real estate potential in prime cities while leaving out golf courses ONGC has in Ankleshwar in Gujarat and Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh. It also did not prioritise the grand golf course Oil India Ltd (OIL) has in Assam and one ONGC has in the North-East.

While the golf courses are used by executives of the PSUs for playing the leisurely game and hosting their business partners, ONGC had built the one in Ahmedabad after it struck oil in the city more than two decades back. After the Motera field was discovered in Ahmedabad, ONGC was wary of encroachment around the oil wells in a city that was developing into a megapolis. So it built a golf course around the wells to ward off encroachers, they said.

The golf course identified by DIPAM has two producing oil wells, sources said, adding the field exists in a non-mining block that according to rules ONGC cannot sell off or farm-out to outsiders.

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The golf course identified by DIPAM has two producing oil wells, sources said, adding the field exists in a non-mining block that according to rules ONGC cannot sell off or farm-out to outsiders.

Investors will also monitor trade-related developments, as well movement in the rupee and crude oil prices, they added.

"Trade disputes, muted expectation from quarterly results and premium valuation will lead to under-performance in the near term. For the week ahead, market will start to react on the actual performance of Q1 FY20 result which seems subdued," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Infosys counter may see some movement on Monday after the IT major came out with its July quarter results post market hours on Friday.

BHEL bags ₹100-cr EPC order from NTPC to set up solar power plant

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned engineering firm BHEL on Sunday said it has bagged a ₹100 crore order from NTPC for setting up a 25 MW floating solar photovoltaic power plant at Simhadri in Andhra Pradesh.

The plant will be set up on the raw water reservoir of NTPC's Simhadri Thermal Power Plant. BHEL said in a statement.

"BHEL has won an order for setting up a 25 MW floating SPV power plant on EPC (engineering, procurement and construction) basis, at Simhadri in Andhra Pradesh. Notably, this is the second order of floating SPV plant from NTPC Ltd, the earlier being 100 MW floating SPV plant at Ramagundam in Telangana," it said.

Tata Steel's Q1 consolidated steel output grows 9% to 7.61 MT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Domestic steel giant Tata Steel on Sunday said its consolidated steel production rose by 9.18 per cent to 7.61 million tonnes (MT) in the first quarter of the current fiscal.

The company's output in the year-to-date period was 6.97 MT. Tata Steel Ltd said in a BSE filing.

During April-June 2019, Tata Steel India produced 4.37 MT as against 3.64 MT in the same quarter a year ago. In Europe, Tata Steel Europe produced 2.66 MT in the quarter as compared to 2.81 MT in the same period of 2018-19.

Tata Steel South East Asia produced 0.58 MT in April-June over 0.52 MT in corresponding quarter last fiscal. Tata Steel's consolidated sales during the quarter under review stood at 6.75 MT, up from 6.39 MT in the same period a year ago. During April-June 2019, Tata Steel India sold 3.87 MT as against 3.34 MT in the same quarter last year. In Europe, it sold 2.27 MT

as compared to 2.45 MT. In South East Asia, the company sold 0.61 MT in the quarter as against 0.60 MT in the same period previous fiscal.

"Global business confidence has dipped sharply in recent months amidst broader economic weakness and the uncertainty around the ongoing US-China trade conflict, which has had an adverse effect on investment decisions, capex spend and trade flows. Consequently, steel prices across many geographies declined in Q1FY20."

"This coincided with a sharp rise in iron ore prices due to supply disruptions and elevated coking coal costs. As a result, market spreads for steel producers globally have been affected," Tata Steel said in the filing.

In India, the company said that liquidity issues in the NBFC and banking sector along with rural stress have negatively impacted sentiments and demand for all economic activities, including domestic consumption.

quarter increased by 20 per cent year-on-year with consolidation of Tata Steel BSL for the full quarter and higher capacity utilisation at both Tata Steel Sandstone and Tata Steel BSL, it said. In Europe, the steel industry is facing significant headwinds in terms of lower economic growth and trade flow uncertainty that is impacting steel consuming products, the company added.

"Tata Steel Europe's 1QFY20 production was impacted by planned shutdowns and unplanned outages during the quarter. This coupled with sluggish demand affected the sales volume in 1QFY20," it said.

The company further said that resumption of trade talks between the US and China, and the recent Union Budget announcements to resolve some of the liquidity issues are expected to trigger an improvement in business sentiment globally and in India. This is also expected to translate into a stronger business performance in second half of the current financial year.

Trump ditched Iran deal to spite Obama: UK envoy

AFP ■ LONDON

Britain's ambassador to Washington believed US President Donald Trump pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal because it was associated with his predecessor Barack Obama, according to leaked documents published on Saturday.

"The administration is set upon an act of diplomatic vandalism, seemingly for ideological and personality reasons -- it was Obama's deal," said ambassador Kim Darroch, who wrote in a diplomatic cable in May 2018. The cable was included in a second batch of leaked reports published by the Mail on Sunday newspaper, the first of which caused Darroch to resign earlier this week.

Separately, the Sunday Times reported that a government investigation into the leak had identified a civil servant as the person responsible.

Working with officials from the National Cyber Security Centre, part of spy agency GCHQ, and MI6, the probe has homed in on a suspect who had access to historical Foreign Office files, the paper said.

The first leaked reports authored by Darroch were published last weekend, causing major turmoil between Britain and its closest ally. The ambassador was reported to have described the White House as "inept", prompting Trump to claim the ambassador was a "pompous fool" whom he would no longer deal with.

Darroch resigned on Wednesday, saying it was now "impossible" to do his job.

In May 2018, British foreign minister Boris Johnson wrote to Washington to try to persuade Trump not to abandon the Iran deal.

In a cable sent afterwards, Darroch reportedly indicated there were divisions in Trump's team over the decision, and criticised the White House for a lack of long-term strategy.

"They can't articulate any 'day-after' strategy; and contacts with State Department this morning suggest no sort of plan for reaching out to partners and allies, whether in Europe or elsewhere," he reported back to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, during his talks with

Johnson, "did some subtle distancing by talking throughout about 'the President's decision'".

The newspaper reported that, according to Darroch, Pompeo also hinted that he had tried but failed to "sell" a revised text to Trump.

In 2015, the United States, China, Britain, France, Russia and Germany signed a deal with Iran to limit its nuclear programme in exchange for a partial lifting of international economic sanctions. Trump had long been critical of the deal and withdrew the United States on May 8, 2018.

As well as a government investigation into the leaks, police are also looking into a potential breach of the Official Secrets Act. London's Metropolitan Police sparked widespread condemnation on Saturday after a warning to journalists that publishing leaked documents could be a criminal matter.

Johnson, who is now in the race to succeed May as prime minister, said that prosecuting media outlets would have a "chilling effect on public debate".

Clashes erupt as Hong Kong protest targets Chinese traders

AP ■ HONG KONG

Violent clashes broke out after several thousand people marched in Hong Kong against traders from mainland China in what is fast becoming a summer of unrest in the semi-autonomous territory.

After issuing a warning, police on Saturday moved forward to disperse the crowd of mostly young protesters who say peaceful demonstrations have failed to bring about change.

Police used pepper spray and batons. In panicky scenes, fleeing protesters scrambled over each other, some falling to the ground. Some donned protective masks and helmets ahead of the confrontation.

Major demonstrations in the past month against a proposal to change extradition laws that would allow Hong Kong suspects to stand trial in mainland China have reawakened other movements in the city.

Thousands marched last weekend against middle-aged protesters who were seen shouting and dancing somewhat provocatively in a public park.

The protests have a common refrain: Hong Kong's government, led by a non-democratically elected chief executive, is not addressing the people's concerns. Another rally is



Hundreds of journalists display banners with words 'Stop police violence, defend press freedom' during a silent march to police and government headquarters in Hong Kong on Sunday.

planned for Sunday.

Walking behind a banner that read "Strictly enforce the law, stop cross-border traders," Saturday's marchers passed by pharmacies and cosmetic shops that are popular with Chinese tourists and traders who bring

goods back to sell in the mainland.

Many of the stores were shuttered because of the protest. Amy Chan, a 25-year-old bank employee, called the protest a continuing action building on the momentum of

the anti-extradition law rallies.

"There isn't an anti-extradition protest every day to keep us going," she said. "I hope that through today's action, people in Hong Kong will not forget that there are actually many other social

issues waiting to be solved."

The city's leader, Carrie Lam, has pledged to do a better job of listening to all sectors of society, but many protesters want her to resign. Her government proposed legislation in February that would have allowed suspects to be extradited to China.

The proposal ignited concerns that the rights and freedoms guaranteed to the former British colony for 50 years after its 1997 return to China are being chipped away by a pro-Beijing government in Hong Kong.

Lam suspended the legislation indefinitely after protesters blocked the legislature on June 12, preventing the Legislative Council from meeting to debate the extradition bill.

Faced with continuing protests, she declared the "dead" on Tuesday, but protesters remain unsatisfied, demanding it be formally withdrawn. The march Saturday took place in Sheung Shui, a district that straddles the border from the mainland city of Shenzhen.

Organiser Ronald Leung, a leader of the North District Parallel Imports Concern Group, said residents have been complaining about the issue of Chinese traders for many years.

Spain rescues 141 migrants from drowning

AFP ■ MADRID

A total of 141 migrants from the sub-Saharan region were rescued at sea Saturday between Spain and Morocco, from a variety of makeshift vessels, the Spanish maritime rescue service said.

Two boats carrying 86 people, one of which was already beginning to sink, were recovered in the Alboran Sea, the stretch of the Mediterranean between the two countries, a spokesman for the service said.

Some of the people were already in the water by the time the rescuers arrived, but everyone was rescued, he said, adding that among the 86 were 14 women and three children.

Further west, in the Straits of Gibraltar, rescue boats picked up three men in a kayak, and another 52 people -- including 14 women -- in a dinghy.

Around 11,000 migrants have arrived in Spain by sea since the beginning of the year and 203 people have died attempting the crossing from north Africa, according to the latest figures from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), issued on Wednesday.

Macron showcases Europe military prowess at Paris parade

AFP ■ PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday sought to showcase European military cooperation in the annual Bastille Day parade at a time of growing tensions between Europe and the United States.

Key EU leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, joined Macron to watch the parade down the Champs-Élysées that marks the July 14, 1789 storming of the Bastille fortress in Paris at the start of the French Revolution.

Over 4,000 members of the armed forces, including regiments from other European armies, marched down the famed cobblestones of the avenue in a tradition that dates back to the aftermath of World War I.

Army gods festooned with medals, members of France's celebrated Foreign Legion and mounted cavalry in glittering uniforms brandishing ceremonial sabres all paraded in front of the high-ranking guests.

Meanwhile, French inventor and entrepreneur Franky Zapata showed off his futuristic flyboard, soaring above the assembled leaders.



France's President Emmanuel Macron gestures in his command car next to French Armies Chief Staff General Francois Lecointre as they review troops before the start of the Bastille Day military parade down the Champs-Élysées avenue in Paris on Sunday.

Standing in an open-top command car alongside France's chief of staff General Francois Lecointre, Macron inspected the waiting forces and waved to the crowds.

But in a reminder of the domestic troubles the president has faced in the last months, he met jeers and whistles from supporters of the "yellow vest" movement who have staged weekly protests against the government.

Two prominent members of the movement, Jerome Rodrigues and Maxime Nicole, were both detained by the police, sources told AFP.

Closer European defence cooperation has been one of Macron's key foreign policy aims and the president shows no sign of wavering despite growing political turbulence in Germany and Britain's looming exit from the European Union.

Paris clashes follow military parade

AFP ■ PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday showcased European military cooperation in a Bastille Day parade but the glittering event was tarnished by violent clashes between police and protesters.

Key EU leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, joined Macron in Paris to watch the annual parade that included representatives of nine other European armies in a show of unity.

But the celebrations of France's national day were tarnished by clashes that subsequently erupted between protesters and police that recalled violence seen at the peak of the

"yellow vest" protest movement earlier this year.

Police fired tear gas to clear protesters from the Champs-Élysées. Protesters tore down security barriers and set fire to rubbish bins and portable toilets, AFP correspondents said.

The evening parade itself had gone without a hitch. Some 4,300 members of the armed forces marched down the avenue's famed cobblestones in a tradition that dates back to the aftermath of World War I.

But standing in an open-top command car alongside France's chief of staff General Francois Lecointre, Macron was met with some jeers and whistles from supporters of the yellow vest movement.

Two prominent members of the movement, Jerome Rodrigues and Maxime Nicole, were both detained by the police, sources told AFP.

Even before the clashes erupted, Paris authorities said 152 people had been detained.

A futuristic highlight of the parade came when French inventor and entrepreneur Franky Zapata showed off his futuristic flyboard, soaring above the Champs-Élysées and the assembled leaders.

"The army is transforming; it is modernising for our soldiers, our sovereignty and our independence," Macron told France 2 television in brief remarks.

Closer European defence cooperation has been one of

Macron's key foreign policy aims and the president shows no sign of wavering despite growing political turbulence in Germany and Britain's looming exit from the European Union.

At the 2017 parade, Macron's guest of honour was the newly inaugurated President Donald Trump as the young French leader sought to form a bond with his US counterpart.

But since then ties between Trump and Macron have soured over the US pullouts from the Paris climate accord and the Iran nuclear deal, as well as France's new law for a tax on digital giants, most of them US companies.

"President Trump has been an excellent ambassador for a Europe of defence," Armed

Canada says another citizen detained in China amid row

AFP ■ MONTREAL

China detained another Canadian citizen amid sour relations between the two countries, Canada's foreign ministry said on Saturday, though the reason for the jailing remains unclear.

"Global Affairs Canada is aware of the detention of a Canadian citizen in Yantai, China," a spokesman said.

He added that "Canadian officials are providing consular assistance" but no further details could be disclosed due to privacy laws.

The detention follows Beijing's jailing of two Canadians earlier this year after Meng Wanzhou, chief financial officer for Chinese tech giant Huawei, was taken into custody in Vancouver on a warrant from the United States.

However a source familiar with the latest detention said there is no indication it's related to the cases of Canadians Michael Kovrig, an ex-diplomat, and Michael Spavor, a consultant.

Bangladesh's former military dictator Ershad passes away

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh's former military Dictator Hussain Muhammad Ershad died on Sunday due to complications from old age at a hospital in Dhaka, officials said here.

He was 91 and is survived by his wife Raushan Ershad, a teenage son from his now severed second marriage and two other adopted children.

Ershad, the Jatiya Party chief and also the leader of the opposition in Parliament, was admitted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) on June 22 after his condition deteriorated.

The former president breathed his last at 7:45 am on Sunday at the intensive care unit of the facility where he was kept in life support for the last nine days after his organs gradually stopped functioning, the Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) said.

Previously, he used to try to respond through his eyes, but on Saturday he could not even blink his eyes," Ershad's younger brother and Jatiya Party leader G M Quader told reporters here yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Choudhury mourned Ershad's death and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Ershad's namaz-e-janaza (funeral prayers) was held at the Army Central Mosque after Zuhr prayers, Jatiya Party secretary general Moshir Rahman Ranga told reporters here. Three more funeral prayers have been planned for the former president.

His second namaz-e-janaza will be held at South Plaza of the parliament building at 10 am on Monday. The body would then be taken to the party's central office located at Kakrail road for partymen and common people to pay their tributes.

On Tuesday, Ershad will be flown to his ancestral home district in Rangpur, from where he will be brought back to Dhaka on the same day for burial at the Banani army graveyard.

A former army chief, Ershad took over the state power in a bloodless coup in 1982 and subsequently ran the country for eight years until he was forced to quit in a pro-

democracy mass uprising in 1990.

Despite being imprisoned subsequently on several occasions, he emerged as one of the most powerful political leaders in the 1990s after his Jatiya Party became the country's third biggest political outfit.

He was elected to parliament several times, once contesting from the prison even.

Ershad, who was also a prolific poet, was considered to be a soft hearted person in private life though he faced with iron hand the opposition street campaigns to topple him during his nearly a decade of rule, first as a dictator and then as an elected president.

His rule was marked by a controversial move to make Islam the state religion of the officially secular Bangladesh.

Ershad was born in 1930 in Dinahata, a sub-division of Coochbehar district of present-day India's West Bengal to Mokbul Hossain and Mazida Khatun. His parents migrated from Dinahata to Bangladesh (then East Pakistan) in 1948 a year after the Indian-Pakistan partition.

Small aircraft crash kills nine in Sweden

AFP ■ STOCKHOLM

Nine people died Sunday when a small aircraft being used for tourism crashed in northwest Sweden, the regional authority said. "The nine people on board are dead," Gabriella Bandring, spokeswoman for the Vaesterbotten region, told AFP.

She did not say who they were. According to Swedish media reports, the plane was carrying people for a parachute jump but crashed a little after 2:00 pm (1200 GMT).

Huge power outage that plunged Manhattan into darkness ends

AFP ■ NEW YORK

A power outage that gripped New York's Manhattan ended on Saturday after it plunged Broadway theaters into darkness, brought shutters to a halt and flicked off billboards in Times Square.

The power returned, ending electricity in the early evening, according to power utility Con Edison, which did not indicate a cause of the power failure. The power returned around 10:00 pm (0200 GMT), accompanied by applause that could be heard throughout the formerly darkened streets.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Twitter that the outage was caused by a "manhole fire," but later told CNN it was under investigation. Earlier in the day, dozens of people posted photos on social media of streets, subways and apartments shrouded in darkness.

The blackout disrupted services across the United States' most-populous city, with New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority on Twitter encouraging "every-one to avoid below-ground subway stations," which account for most of the city's rail network.

Firefighters said they responded to numerous requests for help, particularly from people trapped in elevators, and the strobes of police cars and ambulances were some of the few to stand out in a city where light is rarely in short supply.

New Yorkers in general took Saturday's outage in stride, with passersby manning intersections to direct traffic and a disrupted Carnegie Hall concert continuing in the street.

Officers shouted "let's go!" at drivers as they tried to keep traffic flowing, while people strolled nonchalantly on streets

that were temporarily closed to vehicles.

In the Dow NYC hotel on 8th Avenue dozens of guests were sitting on the sidewalk outside the property.

Hotel staff had asked them not to go inside as there were no lights for them to see by and the elevators weren't working. 16-year-old Spanish tourist Alba Moreno said.

Con Edison said it would have most of its customers back online by midnight, but there were few details about the cause of the outage.

"This appears to be something that just went wrong in the way that they transmit

power from one part of the city to another to address demand," said de Blasio.

The mayor was not in New York but rather Iowa, where he was pursuing the Democratic nomination for president despite low poll numbers -- which did not escape the notice of New Yorkers.

"Drop out of the presidential campaign," one commenter wrote on Twitter. "You clearly have to be in the city to -- you know -- do your job."

The cut affected the western chunk of Manhattan, particularly the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood and the Broadway theater district.

Major 7.3 quake hits remote Maluku in eastern Indonesia

AFP ■ LABUHA (INDONESIA)

A major 7.3-magnitude earthquake hit the remote Maluku islands in eastern Indonesia Sunday, sending panicked residents running into the streets, but no tsunami warning was issued.

The shallow quake struck about 165 kilometres (100 miles) south-southwest of the town of Ternate in North Maluku province at 6:28 pm (0928 GMT), according to the US Geological Survey.

"The earthquake was quite strong, sending residents to flee outside," said a spokesman.

"They are panicking and many are now waiting on the roadside," said local disaster mitigation official Mansur, who said that there were no like many Indonesians goes by one name.



Residents sleep on the ground after leaving their homes to find higher grounds following an earthquake in Gane Utara, North Maluku, Indonesia on Sunday.

Officials were assessing the situation, but there were no immediate reports of casualties, he told AFP.

Floods, landslides claim 60 lives in Nepal

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal Army and police personnel have so far rescued 1,104 people from several places across the country with 185 alone from Kathmandu.

According to Nepal Police, a total of 27,380 police personnel have been deployed across the country for search and rescue operations.

The Flood Forecasting Section (FFS) said that monsoon is active and the rainfall will continue for two to three days in most places across the country. The Himalayan Times reported.

Trend Slazer

John to play lone ranger

Actor-producer JOHN ABRAHAM'S love for the action genre is no secret. He will now produce and play the lead in the action thriller- *Attack*. It is a story of rescue by an 'Attack team' led by a lone ranger, played by John.

The film is a fictional story inspired by true events, set against a hostage crisis that brought a nation to its knees.

"At JA entertainment, we believe in 'content first'. It is our endeavour to push the envelope and produce films that entertain and have something significant to show to the increasingly discerning audience," said John.



'In my film, *Saad Ki Aankhi*, I am playing one of the most challenging roles of my career. I feel making a decision of taking up acting wasn't as challenging than taking up this role but I have no regrets about it. In fact, I am very excited and anxious about it and after getting good response to the teaser of our film, the level of excitement has gone up.'

—Taapsee Pannu



Actor HRITHIK ROSHAN'S new film *Super 30*, had a decent start on its opening day, minting over 11 crore in the domestic market according to trade reports.

The film, based on the life of Patna-based educationist and founder of the *Super 30* programme Anand Kumar, seems to have appealed to the big-city markets more than the mass audience. "I could bring Anand alive on screen only because our writer Sanjeev Dutta penned his character so well," Hrithik tweeted.

ONLY FOR YOU

As secret music gigs hit the city, YASHNA SHETTY discovers how the trend is taking over the crowd as well as the busy and noisy clubs around which hardly pay attention on the artists

Imagine three curated bands and artists playing your favourite kind of beats in an unconventional venue (think beyond an auditorium or stage) — hint: could be someone's living room — a few music connoisseurs and enthusiasts swinging with the tunes and some fairy lights in the background, lifting up the mood. Melodic and intimate, isn't it?

Attending a gig of the Sofar Sounds or House Concerts could be identical. Captivating through its music and an intimate setting, it can make one forget that s/he is attending a gig at somebody's living room. While attending a regular gig in the city might imply going to a crowded pub or a bar to listen to artists whose music is drowned in various other noises. Most of the lot are not able to hear the artists, while others are distracted or busy chatting around. This, in turn, defeats the entire purpose of a gig. So, unlike other regular sessions in the city, these two host gigs in an enclosed setting (usually someone's house), with less than a hundred people circling the artists. These aim to build a special connection between the artist and the audience. The crowd includes artists, travellers, entrepreneurs, students and music-lovers. These are some of those like-minded people who want to bring about a change in the regular pattern that gigs have in the city, bringing back the concept where people actually listen and pay attention to what is being performed.

Tanya Nath, from Sofar Sounds, which is a decade-old global music community where guests and artists come together and put on hundreds of secret, intimate events per month, through volunteers across 428 cities around the world, feels that more such initiatives should be promoted. Talking about how it all started, she says, "The name is an acronym for 'songs from a room'. It aims to transform everyday spaces like a living room or retail shop, turning it into a captivating venue for secret live shows, creating an immersive experience that brings guests and artists closer together. It started when in 2009, Rafe Offer invited me to attend a gig at a flat in London for a low-key, intimate gig. Eight people gathered in the living room for a live music performance by a friend and musician Dave Alexander. They poured themselves a drink, sat on the floor and started listening to the music attentively. The room was so quiet, one could

hear the clock ticking in the background, even while the light music was on." She narrates that what gradually started as a hobby in London, later spread into a global community for artists and the audience to come together in unique and welcoming spaces, with an added element of surprise, to share, discover, create, and, hopefully make a friend or find their new favourite band along the way. Today, the community hosts around a thousand artists, hosts, fans, travellers, and more, putting on around hundreds of secret, intimate events per month in across 438 cities around the world.

Moving further, even the way of putting up the gig tickets for sale is equally interesting. The show, following its aim of inclusivity, allows enthusiasts to sign up for shows and get selected based on a random lottery draw. Sticking with the theme of discretion, the schedules, artist line-up and location are revealed a day before the event to the confirmed attendees. Some of their past artists have included DOT, Dualist Inquiry, Kavya & Chaz, Anhad + Tanner, and Advaita among others.

On being asked about how the capital has responded to this, Tanya tells us that the response has been "pretty overwhelming." She says, "Since we started out in 2016, we've seen a major rise in our application count. We now get over 1,200 applications per show." However, she does not think that the show has been successful in replacing the usual way gigs take place in the city yet, but the development is on the rise. "It has taken time but despite having relatively less dedicated music spaces and venues, as compared to global cities, it has been heartening how the city has seen a substantial growth in a variety of intimate gigs over the last few years. The future of house gigs does look promising in India. There is a growing appetite for curated experiences and a curiosity in seeking out lesser-known artists and genres of music," she says.

At such dos, the artists also get a chance to interact with the audience, build new fan base and sometimes even get honest feedback. Talking about how they find artists for their gigs, she tells us that many artists send in their applications to them via their website. "We get their music reviewed by our team and invite them to perform at our show if they fit the criteria." The artists who perform at these unique gigs seem to thoroughly enjoy their experience as well. Singer and musician, Nisa Shetty, describes her experience performing at one such gig. She says, "I did a my first Sofar gig, when I was singing with Corridors (Ritual Victor), when I featured on some of his tracks. It was quite amazing, organised and it had a DIY (do-it-yourself) feel. It's nice to see people come out to support musicians. And I love that there are different locations, sometimes some of the spaces are really beautiful and inspiring, which make the whole experience even more memorable." Nisa emphasises on how important it is for the audience to be involved for a gig to work its best.



Making a connection while performing is very helpful for the artist. She says, "Going out on a weekend could also be a hectic task sometimes. And this is when these small gigs come to the rescue. Here, you meet like-minded people and listen to great music. You get to know the artist and it just all becomes worth it. It's so soothing as compared to a loud and disappointing Saturday evening, waiting for hours outside noisy clubs and being stuck in traffic jams."

Manu Matthew from House Concerts is another such person who believes in bringing back such house shows, where people can connect with the artist directly. He tells us about how the group had started over four years ago in July 2015 at a friend's basement in Gurugram. "And we have hosted more than 50 unique sessions since then across Delhi-NCR. We started out with a need for a dedicated space for artists and an attentive audience alike, where artists can perform their original music or arts without restrictions or demands made by traditional bars. Due to our unique presentation, our community now comprises people from all walks of life, from college-going youth to families with children," says he.

Manu was equally overwhelmed by the response from the city's music-lovers. "Our attendees have now become an active community and our ambassadors in spreading the word about secret concerts that we hold. Everyday, new people reach out to us on social media asking about the next session. We are humbled and grateful to them who help us in making each session possible and a success."

However, he was also quite disappointed with the city's current gig scene. He says, "The current music scene in Delhi's pubs is in a sorry state with the lack of enough dedicated clubs showcasing original music performances. This is leading the artists to explore alternatives like secret shows. We do collaborate with clubs when it comes to outstation acts who are looking to do an intimate and unplugged performance for a limited audience."

Musician Suraj Rajan felt happy with the intimate setting of House Concerts and would be willing to perform "a gig like that again." "The best part about performing at a secret concert is the audience. They come out to support their local acts, which is amazing. And it is the kind you connect with, instantly," says he.

Not the other

SALMAN KHURSHID'S new book, *Visible Muslim, Invisible Citizen*, aims to present a view about the growing sense of insecurity felt by Muslims in India. By TEAM VIVA

What does it mean to be a Muslim in India today? Are both Hindus and Muslims under a false impression and have been fed misconceptions about their religions? A wide variety of audience gathered to understand how Congress leader Salman Khurshid, who is also a designated senior advocate, eminent author and a law teacher, explains the situation of a Muslim in the contemporary India dealing with the current political situation of the country.

The book titled *Visible Muslim, Invisible Citizen*, sought to express his view about the growing sense of insecurity felt by Indian Muslims but extending to other minorities as well. Recently, Rupa publications held the book launch of Khurshid.

In his book, he has explained Islam to non-Muslims, who do not know enough about it and places the identity of the Indian Muslim in the context of Indian democracy. The book tries to decipher the Muslim mind in social and political contexts, beyond theology. Khurshid has presented various facts and figures relating to education, employment and crime to support his hypothesis.

Following an introduction by Kapish Mehra, the managing director of the publication, there was a lively debate anchored by newsmen Bhupen Chaubey. Participants included Asaduddin Owaisi, politician and president of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimen, Seema Chishiti, editor at the Indian Express, Nalin Kohli, chief spokesperson for the BJP, professor Hilal Ahmed and author and a social activist Harsh Mander.

A stimulating, sometimes humorous and at times contentious debate followed, where the very title of the book was questioned by the panelists. Owaisi shared his angst at being heckled by 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans proffered by members of the ruling party. This was quickly countered by Nalin Kohli, who reminded Owaisi of the inflammatory statements made by his brother, Akbaruddin Owaisi. There was a detailed discussion on the Indian Constitution as an idealistic and forward-thinking document, which is often ignored by political parties in the hurly-burly of vote-gathering.

A distress young woman in the audience questioned all the panelists and said, "I am disturbed at how Muslims are being treated in the country today. Will your book help in changing the current hostility in the air?"

On a philosophical note, Khurshid said, "The word liberal is often used in a negative manner in the current scenario. I wonder how secular has not overshadowed the word liberal, as secularism is a component of liberalism." The audience shared their views on the subject of tolerance and violence. Mander lamented the lack of compassion in the vitiated atmosphere created by henchmen and communalists.

The presence of some senior legal luminaries like Justice Ahmad and former solicitors Fali Nariman and Soli Sorabjee brought a gender balance to the sometimes heated discussion. Nariman proposed that a simple solution would be to make a Parsi the president of India. Sorabjee agreed to it and said that the Parsi's sense of humour would probably save the day."

The band has recently collaborated with a NGO, ActionAid, which provides shelter to the homeless girls. Altogether, it promises a better future. Sunanda says that they are determined to make a change in the opportunities we are getting now. It's great to be able to sing songs composed by big names. A part of our reward from the competition is also to sing in a Bollywood album. She is quite excited to take it forward. On paving their way into Hollywood, she says, "We would definitely want to take the effort to release a song in Hollywood. We have so many dreams to achieve. I would request all our fans to be with us through this music journey."

Tracing back to how it all started, Mustarin Ahmed sums it up by saying, "Through this initiative, more girls will be encouraged to come and join the music industry of Bangladesh."

THEY HAVE A DREAM

The *Laisfita* girls sing for people, emotions and causes. SAKSHI SHARMA finds out the story of Bangladesh's first all-girl band

“ WE WANT OUR SONGS TO BE INSPIRING, HOPEFUL AND POSITIVE. SWAPNO AAKHON AAMAR HAATEY, COMPOSED BY HRIDYO KHAN, IS A POP-ROCK NUMBER, WHICH WILL DROWN YOU IN A POOL OF EMOTIONS AND TEACH YOU TO DREAM



in full swing now. Bands and rock-and-roll music has never gone down in terms of popularity, be it today or in the 60s-80s." All of this signals how the music industry is catering to the need of

people of all age groups. Since the band is making waves globally, Moumita gets an insight about the global music trends. She tells us that it keeps changing with time. "Over the

If Bollywood was blown away by Bangladeshi singer James, it is soon to be swayed by an all-girl band from our next door neighbour, who have not just challenged sub-continental conventions but are determined to link their existence to the cause of the girl child. As India's own all-girl bands have made spot appearances and faded away, *Laisfita*, which literally means ribbons that young girls wear to school — want to embody the aspirations of young girls looking to reclaim their space in an unequal world through their songs.

It was to give legitimacy to the female angst and voice that a private Bangladesh network organised the first-ever female music reality show called *Sunsilk Divas* with the sole aim of forming the first professional, all-girl band. The top four winners then joined hands to form *Laisfita*. The music scene of Bangladesh has always been male-dominated and there were few efforts made by the female singers but they did not last. So, this initiative was important to bring a change in the industry," says band member Mustarin Ahmed Sheetal. The girls feel their nomenclature will carry the aspiration of young women from the grassroots and not appear elitist. The girls' debut track, *Swapno Aakhon Amar Haatey*, composed by Hridyo Khan, is a pop-rock number, which will drown you in a pool of emotions and teach you to dream. We dabble in various genres like soft rock, ballad, rock and heavy

metal. And we are sure of getting opportunities in the competitive music industry, both at home and abroad because of our novelty factor."

Antora Rahman tells us the challenges of the band formation. She says, "The only challenge was to blend the unique styles of four of us and fit it into one song. But I would love to share that we smoothly combined our distinctive voice tone and pitches, which has led to the formation of a new style in the music industry. We are glad that our fans are really appreciating the effort." Continuing the same line of thought, Firidousi adds, "The struggle was not only to introduce an all-girl band and their music style but also to get fans who would connect with pop and pop rock music genre smoothly. But we have made our way against all odds."

Sunanda Sharmin, another band member describes the intricacies of Bangladeshi music. She apprises us, "It is rich with different genres such as classical, folk, Nazrul, Rabindranat sangeet and *adhinok* or modern songs. We have ethnic music which focusses on farming, fishing or boating with soulful tunes often accompanied by *banglar dhol*. I love how we use music to focus on informal sectors, which generally do not attract attention. Each genre of music has its use of different types of instruments. Ektara, dotara, eraj, dhaka, dhol and flute are used depending on the mood and type of the song. Harmonium is widely used in Bangladeshi *adhinok* and nazrul songs."

Djoker beats Fedex in final

AFP ■ LONDON

Novak Djokovic saved two match points to clinch a fifth Wimbledon title and 16th major on Sunday, shattering Roger Federer's bid to become the oldest Grand Slam champion in the longest final ever played at the tournament.

Despite being outplayed by the 37-year-old Swiss for large parts of the knife-edge encounter, the world number one triumphed 7-6 (7/5), 1-6, 7-6 (7/4), 4-6, 13-12 (7/3).

At 4 hours and 57 minutes, it was the longest Wimbledon final ever played and settled by a final set tiebreak for the first time.

Djokovic is the first man in 71 years to win the title from match points down. He is now level with Bjorn Borg as a five-time Wimbledon winner.

"I think that if this is not the most exciting final then definitely it's in the top two or three of my career against one of the greatest players of all time, Roger, who I respect," said Djokovic.

"Unfortunately in this type of match someone has to lose. It is quite unreal to be two match points down to come back and strange to play a tie-break at 12-12." Djokovic is just four Grand Slam titles shy of the all-time record held by Federer who is more than five years older.

It was incredibly tough on Federer, chasing a ninth Wimbledon crown, who didn't face a break point until the eighth game of the fourth set.

He even had two match points in the 16th game of the deciding set which lasted over two hours.

"It was long and it had everything. I had answers, so did he and we played some great tennis," said Federer.

"I hope I give some other people at 37 the feeling it is not over yet."

Djokovic's win meant that the 'Big Three' of men's tennis -- himself, Federer and Rafael Nadal -- have won the last 11 Slams.



He has now won nine of his last 11 clashes against Federer and three of their four Wimbledon meetings.

With William and Catherine, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge looking on from the Royal Box, Federer carved out the only break point of the opening set.

But Djokovic saved it and with serve dominating, the set was decided by the tiebreak.

Two match points saved - The top seed was 3-1 up, then Federer inched to 5-3 before Djokovic swept the

next four points.

At 58 minutes, it was two minutes longer than the women's final on Saturday.

Djokovic, however, then went completely off the boil, losing his footing as he was broken in the first game of the second set.

Federer broke twice again and after just 25 more minutes the final was all-square with Djokovic managing just two winners in the set.

Federer was comfortably on top in the third set, flashing winners from all parts

of the court but was unable to convert a set point in the 10th game.

Djokovic made him pay. Despite not managing a single break point in the tiebreak, he pounced again in the tiebreak to reclaim the lead.

Federer wasn't finished. Back came the veteran with a double break for 5-2.

Djokovic then carved out his first break points of the match in the eighth game.

The first was saved after a breathtaking 35-shot rally before the Serb finally



broke for the first time.

It was too little, too late, however, as Federer deservedly levelled the final.

Into a tense finale, Federer saved three break points in the fourth game but a drilled, backhand passing shot gave Djokovic the break in the sixth game for a 4-2 lead.

The world number one couldn't back it up and Federer had Centre Court on their feet when he restored parity in the next game.

Despite twice being just two points from defeat, Federer broke for 8-7 but was unable to serve out for the match.

As the clock ticked past the previous longest final of 4 hours and 48 minutes it took Nadal to beat Federer in the 2008 final, the match was decided by the first 12-12 tiebreak in a singles match at the tournament.

Djokovic prevailed, moving to three championship points and claiming victory when Federer shanked a return wide.

Federer finished with 25 aces and 94 winners to Djokovic 10 aces and 54 winners.



Sixer of wins

AFP ■ LONDON

Lewis Hamilton made the most of a favourable safety car intervention on Sunday to claim a record sixth British Grand Prix victory at a packed Silverstone.

The defending five-time world champion clocked fastest lap on his final lap to finish 25 seconds clear of Mercedes team-mate and nearest title rival Valtteri Bottas after an action-packed contest.

The Briton moved 39 points clear of the Finn behind in the title race, but Bottas was unlucky with the timing of the safety car which effectively gave Hamilton a free pit stop.

Charles Leclerc of Ferrari was third.

Pierre Gasly finished fourth ahead of his Red Bull team-mate Max Verstappen, whose race was compromised by a late collision when Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari drove into him, and Carlos Sainz of McLaren.

It was Hamilton's seventh win in 10 races this year and the 80th win of his career. He had shared the British Grand Prix record of wins, on five, with fellow-Briton Jim Clark and Frenchman Alain Prost.

Daniel Ricciardo was seventh for Renault ahead of Kimi Raikkonen of Alfa Romeo, Daniil Kvyat and his Toro Rosso team-mate Alex Albon.

"What a day," said Hamilton. "To all the crowd, thank-you so much for coming out."

Hamilton, who stopped on his slow-down lap to collect a British 'Union Jack' flag, added: "I love you Silverstone. I appreciate everything and the opportunity to be a part of this."

"I couldn't have done this without these guys or without my team."

A glum Bottas said: "Congrats to Lewis... It wasn't my day."

A much happier Leclerc said: "It's probably the race I've enjoyed the most in my career."

The safety car was deployed when Antonio Giovinazzi spun into a gravel trap in his Alfa Romeo - gifting Hamilton a free first, and only pit stop. The luckless Bottas, on a two stop strategy, had already pitted before the incident.

Aras smashes NR; Hima wins 3rd Gold

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mohammad Aras bettered his 400m national record in men's 400m to clinch Gold and qualify for the World Championships while Hima Das won the women's 200m event for her third international triumph in less than two weeks at the Kladno Athletics Meet in Czech Republic.

The 24-year-old Aras clocked 45.21 seconds as he won an easy race, finishing nearly one second ahead of Silver winner Omelko Rafal (46.19) of Poland in the race run on Saturday night.

Apart from re-writing his earlier national record of 45.24 seconds which he recorded last year, he also qualified for the World Athletics Championships to be held in Doha

from September 27 to October 6.

The World Championships qualification time is 45.30 seconds in men's 400m race.

In the women's 200m race, Hima clocked a much improved time of 23.43 seconds to win the Gold. She has a personal best of 23.10 sec in 200m. This was her third international Gold in 11 days.

In her first competitive 200m race of the year, the 19-year-old Assam runner had clocked 23.65 seconds on her way to Gold at the Poznan Athletics Grand Prix in Poland on July 2. After that, she won her second 200m Gold at the Kutno Athletics Meet, also in Poland, on July 7 with a time of 23.97 seconds.

At this Czech Republic city of Kladno, the Indian trio of Vipin Kasana, Abhishek Singh and



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Davinder Singh Kang took the top three spots in men's javelin final with efforts of 82.51m, 77.32m and 76.58m respectively.

In men's shot put event, national record holder Tejinder Pal Singh Toor managed a creditable best throw of 20.36m to win the Bronze. He holds the national record of 20.75m.

In the women's 400m, V K Vismaya clocked her personal best of 52.54 seconds to win the race. Saritaben Gayakwad was third with 53.37.

Meanwhile, in the XXII International Memorial Competition in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Indians also bagged 6 Gold, 3 Silver and 1 Bronze, with national record holder M. Sreesankar winning the long jump event with a creditable 7.97m.

PTI ■ NEWARK

Indian boxing star Vijender Singh remained an unstoppable force, clinching a Technical Knockout over the more experienced Mike Snider on his debut in the US professional circuit here.

In what was to be an eight-round super middleweight contest on Saturday night (early Sunday morning in India), the 33-year-old from Haryana prevailed in four rounds for his 11th consecutive victory in the circuit.

"It was excellent getting back in the ring after a long time off. It's great to be here in the USA and to get the win. It was really exciting. I am really happy for my winning

No stopping Vijender Gold for Vinesh at Istanbul



debut in USA," Vijender said after the bout.

The triumph came in the second minute of the fourth round when Vijender cornered Snider with a flurry of straight punches, prompting the referee to stop the bout in the Indian's favour.

"It took me about four rounds to get back in the swing of things. I expected it to take two or three rounds, but it took me four. I felt good," said Vijender.

This was Vijender's eighth knockout win in all.

PTI ■ ISTANBUL

Star India grappler Vinesh Phogat won her second consecutive gold in 53kg, winning the Yasar Dogu International with a commanding victory over Russia's Ekaterina Poleshchuk, here.

The top Indian woman wrestler, who stood atop the podium at Grand Prix of Spain last week, beat her Russian opponent 9-5 in the final of the UWW ranking series tournament.

Vinesh's was third gold in the women's competition for India after Seema (50kg) and Manju (59kg) triumphed in their respective categories.

En route the gold medal bout, Vinesh won two of her three bouts by Technical Superiority.

Divya Kakran (68kg), who won a gold in Madrid, and Pooja Dhanda (57kg), who won a silver, did not reach the medal rounds. While Divya could not clear the qualification



round, Pooja lost in the quarter-finals. Sakshi Malik, who was making a comeback after a

minor injury, did not reach the medal rounds.

Sakshi lost her pre-quarterfinal but later got a chance

to be in contention for a bronze medal but lost the repechage round by a close margin to Russia's Uliana Tukurenova.

In the men's freestyle, Rahul Aware (61kg) had clinched his first career Ranking Series title with a tactical 4-1 victory over Munir Aktas of Turkey. Utkarsh Kale had won bronze in the same category.

Deepak Punia settled for silver in the 86kg after losing the final to Azerbaijan's Aleksandr Gostiyev 2-7.

Sumit added to India's tally by winning a bronze in the 125kg. In the absence of Bajrang Punia, it was Sonha Tanaji Gogone, who competed in the 65kg but lost his bronze medal bout to Turkey's Cengizhan Erdogan by Technical Superiority.

Rajneesh (70kg) and Viky (92kg) too lost their bronze medal bout while Amit Dhanar (74kg) and Staywart Kadiyan (97kg) could not even cross their qualification rounds.

Neymar renews war of words with PSG

AFP ■ PARIS

Neymar fired another shot in his battle with Paris Saint-Germain after saying his favourite football memory is Barcelona's incredible 2017 comeback win over PSG, which Neymar helped inflict on his current club.

Asked by online sports channel Oh My Goal about his best changing room memory, the world's most expensive player chose the aftermath of that win.

"We all went crazy afterwards. I think it was the best possible feeling for all of us," the Brazilian star said in the interview, which was posted on Saturday.

Neymar was speaking in Sao Paulo ahead of his belated return to the club on Monday,

after insisting last week that he had prior agreement from PSG to stay in Brazil to help his foundation, the Neymar Institute.

His comments are set to further strain his relationship with the club. He wants out of the Parc des Princes and would prefer a return to Barca, but is struggling to find suitors due to the 222 million euros (\$252 million) the capital splash used to take him away from Barcelona two years ago.

The chances of him rejoining the Catalan giants are further complicated by Antoine Griezmann's arrival from Atletico Madrid for 120 million euros.

When Neymar missed last Monday's first training session PSG issued a statement declaring they would take "appropriate action"

against the star.

Sporting director Leonardo has nevertheless said that "Neymar can leave PSG if there is an offer that suits everybody".

Later Saturday, Neymar added fuel to the fire over a possible return to the Camp Nou, with an Instagram post.

It was a 10-second video of himself in a Barcelona shirt, his father, and a quote from the Bible: "No weapon turned against you will prosper." (Isaiah Chapter 54, Verse 17).

Barcelona's famous rout of Paris Saint-Germain took place in the final 16 stage of the 2017 Champions League.

PSG had won the first leg of that Champions League last 16 tie 4-0 and were seconds away from the quarter-finals.

Neymar scored in the 88th and 91st minutes of the famous match before setting up Sergi Roberto for a winner five minutes into stoppage time.

That sealed their 6-1 win over PSG, who then shelved out the world-record fee to bag the Brazilian the following summer.

"What we felt when we scored the sixth goal I've never felt anything like that, it was incredible," Neymar told Oh My Goal on Saturday.

India win six medals on Day 2 of Shooting World Cup

NEW DELHI: India on Sunday bagged six medals, including two gold, to remain on top of the medal standings after day two of the ISSF Junior World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun in Suhl, Germany.

India shooters have accounted for four gold, five silver and two bronze for a total of 11 medals so far in the competition. In men's 50m Pistol, India's Gaurav Rana and Arjun Singh Cheema finished first and second respectively.

While Rana scored 553 after 60 shots, Cheema settled for the second spot with 551. The duo also combined with

Sourabh bows out of US Open after losing in semifinal

FULLERTON: India's campaign at the US Open badminton tournament ended after Sourabh Verma lost his men's singles semifinal match to Tanongsak Saensomboonsuk of Thailand here on Sunday.

The world no. 43 Sourabh lost 9-21 18-21 against the Thai shuttler in a contest that lasted just 39 minutes. Sourabh struggled in the first game but gave a tough fight in the second before losing in straight games. Other Indians in the fray -- Parupalli Kashyap, HS Prannoy, Ajay Jayaram and Lakshya Sen -- had bowed out of the tournament earlier.

CricketCradle

Cricket World Cup 2019

#KaneWilliamson now has more runs at #CWC19 than any other captain in a single World Cup campaign.

Leading from the front

#CWC19Final | #BackTheBlackCaps

Kevin Pietersen

A lot spoken about England's aggressive batting... but, this bowling is tremendous! Short, fast, accurate & effective.

Former England skipper Kevin Pietersen was all praise for English bowling attack after they restricted Kiwis for 241 runs in the World Cup final at Lord's Cricket Ground on Sunday

Rajdeep Sardesai

Fine margins of sport... @imVkohli given lbw to a 50-50 umpires call; Jason Roy gets away with the same umpires call when he looked pretty plumb... #CWC19Final

Indian journalist Rajdeep Sardesai questions third umpire's decision after Root Tucker gives decision in England's opener favour despite ball hitting the stumps

Michael Vaughan

Come on @joshbutler... I will buy you wine for life if you win us this from here... #CWC19

Former England captain Michael Vaughan tweets after Eoin Morgan's dismissal

Mak Pougatch

The population of New Zealand is half that of London. Half. That. Of. London. #CWCFinal19

21:27 · 14 Jul 19 · Twitter for iPhone

Piers Morgan

I was texting President Trump to let him know the score...

Culmick

Cricket World Cup 2019

England's record without Liam Plunkett at #CWC19

P4W1L3

England's record with Liam Plunkett at #CWC19

P6W6L0

Can England's lucky charm work his magic again?

#CWC19Final | #WeAreEngland

Cricket World Cup 2019

"It's two more runs than we got against India."

"It's always possible with New Zealand. We've just got to scrap, as we always do."

The #BLACKCAPS fans haven't lost faith ahead of England's chase in the

England 'rule' out Kiwis

Survive Super Over thriller to win maiden WC

AFP ■ LONDON

England won the Cricket World Cup for the first time in extraordinary circumstances, beating New Zealand by a tiebreaker of boundaries scored after the match was tied after regulation play and then the first Super Over in the tournament's history.

England wicketkeeper Jos Buttler ran out Martin Guppill off the last ball of the Super Over as the New Zealand opener scrambled back for a second run that would have earned the Black Caps also their first world title.

Both teams scored 241 after the regulation 50 overs per side, with England hitting 14 off the last over — including a six made up of two runs followed by an accidental four deflected off the bat of the diving Ben Stokes — to tie New Zealand's 241-8.

That meant the World Cup's first ever Super Over, which fans watched with hands around their heads and with a rule explainer required on the big screens inside the home of cricket.

Stokes and Jos Buttler were England's first designated batsmen and they struck 15 — including two fours — off six balls delivered by Trent Boult.

New Zealand pair Jimmy Neesham



England players mob Jofra Archer after he bowled the super over to win the Cricket World Cup final match between England and New Zealand at Lord's cricket ground in London on Sunday

Top run scorers in WC 2019

Pos	Player	Contry	M	R	Avg	SR	4s	6s
1	Rohit Sharma	IND	9	648	81.00	98.33	67	14
2	David Warner	AUS	10	647	71.89	89.36	66	8
3	Shakib Al Hasan	B'DESH	8	606	86.57	96.04	60	2
4	Kane Williamson	NZ	9	578	82.57	74.97	50	3
5	Joe Root	ENG	11	556	61.78	89.53	48	2

and Guppill also struck 15 off Jofra Archer but England won courtesy of a superior boundary count — 22 to 14 — in regulation play.

While New Zealand has lost two straight finals, the country that invented cricket has finally become its world champion. England had previously lost three finals, including one at Lord's.

After Buttler collected Jason Roy's throw from deep midwicket and removed the ball with his left hand, England's players erupted in celebration — but still had an agonizing wait before the decision was confirmed by the TV umpire.

"OUT," read the message on the big screen after Guppill was shown to be about a yard (meter) out of the crease. Buttler threw his glove into the air and was soon mobbed by some teammates. Roy was carried on another's shoulders. Archer ran off on his own, sliding on his chest across the Lord's turf.

Earlier, Liam Plunkett took three key wickets as England restricted New Zealand to 241-8.

Fast bowler Plunkett dismissed New Zealand captain and star batsman Kane Williamson for just 30 before removing established opener Henry Nicholls for an innings-best 55 in a return of 3-42 from his 10 overs. Chris Woakes followed up with 3-37. New Zealand, however, successfully defended a total of 239 in their shock semi-final win over India, when they reduced one of the world's strongest batting line-ups to 2-4-4.

Nicholls was still on knight when given out lbw to Woakes but successfully reviewed umpire Kumar Dharmasena's decision.

Fellow opener Martin Guppill, the leading run-scorer at the 2015 World Cup, hit fast bowler Jofra Archer two boundaries in three balls — an upper-cut six over third man followed by a straight drive back over the paceman's head.

Guppill has struggled at this tournament, however, and on 19 he was lbw to Woakes. He reviewed but was walking back to the pavilion even before replays confirmed the ball would have smashed into his middle stump.

It left number three Williamson, who started the match with 548 runs in the tournament at an average of 91.33, having to mount yet another rescue mission. But after putting on 74 for the second wicket with Nicholls, he fell when he edged a rising cross-seamer from

Plunkett to wicketkeeper Jos Buttler. Dharmasena initially said not out but an England review confirmed the end of Williamson's 53-ball innings, which featured just two fours. New Zealand found themselves 118-3 when Plunkett struck for the second time in 14 balls.

Nicholls, who had completed a 71-ball fifty, fell for 55 when he played on after being cramped for room by a Plunkett delivery that curved back into him.

New Zealand were now looking to senior batsman Taylor to bail them out of trouble but he could only manage 15 before falling lbw to Wood.

When Jimmy Neesham (19) chipped Plunkett to Joe Root at mid-on, the Black Caps were 173-5 with 11 overs left.

Tom Latham defiantly hit Wood for six but Colin de Grandhomme, who topped a look off Archer into his helmet, took 28 balls for a 16 that finished when he chipped a Woakes slower ball mid-off. Latham's 47 off 56 balls ended when he chipped a low Woakes full toss to mid-off.

Chasing the modest total, England were reduced to 86/4 but Ben Stokes and Jos Buttler heroics took their game into super over.

PNS ■ LONDON

A lot of the Bollywood Brigade was in the stands of Lord's to watch the England-New Zealand World Cup Final. From Siddharth Roy Kapur to Aditya Roy Kapur to Boman Irani they were all there — to support India — but just 45 minutes of bad cricket by Kohli and the boys, compelled them to, well, as Irani said, "I am supporting no one. I am supporting the game." In a non-India show at Lord's many of the stars who had tickets for both the big Sunday games, it was being said, had opted to go to Wimbledon instead where Roger Federer was bidding for his next title against Novak Djokovic in a classic Final.

ENGLISH CELEB LINE

But that did not make the celebrity line-up for the England side any less. Cricketing hero Andrew Flintoff was there to support his team in making history. Popular radio show host Chris Evans who just the other day suggested abusing The Shard, the fifth largest building in Europe with the top four all in Russia, was in attendance along with Matt Smith of the highly popular film Fantastic Beasts, top rated comedian Frank Skinner and Piers Morgan, the controversial English broadcaster, journalist, writer and television personality who co-anchors the ITV Breakfast programme *Good Morning Britain* and was also the judge on *America's Got Talent* and *Britain's Got Talent*. These, beside the long line of England's former cricketers,

Stars in the stands



some of them there with their prestigious MCC badges on red and yellow striped blue blazers. "I am texting President Trump to let him know the score..." he tweeted from the ground.

THE LORDLY FLAMANT

Viewing the famous Lord's Pavilion building directly opposite the equally famous spaceship Media Centre you wonder why the quaint structure in red and yellow brick sits on such a distinct slant. The Pavilion, built in 1890 by Thomas Verry, is a Grade II listed building and houses the players' dressing rooms on the first floor from where they pass through the Long Room, with walls adorned with historic paintings, before emerging out onto the field. The playing area slopes around 2.5m from right to left as you look from the Media Centre, creating a unique challenge for batsmen and bowlers. But it is the Long Room that comes steeped in tradition, the place where MCC club members can sit

and have a drink with some cricket on the field. Famously for India, Diana Edulji was denied permission in there when she was India captain. It was only in 1998 that women were allowed into this zone through law, prompting her to say MCC is actually MCP! Before that, only Queen Elizabeth had access into this all-man area!

ALL ROADS TO LORD'S

India did not make it so you would have thought the atmosphere in the stands would take a beating. Not so at all. From English fan begging for tickets, to all the light blue flooding the tube station from anywhere to St John's Wood, to stewards warning against being run out on the escalators, it was cricket all the way. The noise, you would have thought would be lower. Not at all, singing *The Pranas* song, the fans kept the fire going inside even as a band of drummers and acrobats revved up the atmospherics near the North Gate, compelling the huge crowd to take a break and some videos. Even the Lord's Merchandise Shop, which is all but over with World Cup merchandise had a long waiting queue for customers to get in, early morning onwards. All of 28,500 seats were full to capacity at the Lord's Cricket Ground where hosts England reached to fight for their place in the Hall of Fame.