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Trump stirs up Opp broadside at Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

US President Donald Trump's claim that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had urged him to mediate with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue rocked Indian Parliament on Tuesday. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar reiterated in both the Houses that all issues with Pakistan can only be discussed bilaterally, but the Opposition demanded a reply from Modi. The Rajya Sabha saw repeated adjournments, while the Lok Sabha witnessed vociferous attack and walkout by the Opposition.

While hosting visiting Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, Trump claimed that Modi had asked him to play a role of mediator on the Kashmir issue.

Refuting the US President's statement, Jaishankar said in both the Houses that the Prime Minister made no such request about mediating. "I would like to categorically state that no such request has been made by the Prime Minister to the US President," he said.

Making the country's position clear, he said it has been the consistent position of India that all outstanding issues with Pakistan can be discussed only bilaterally. Any engagement with Pakistan will require end to cross-border terrorism, he said, adding Shimla and Lahore



□ The Rajya Sabha saw repeated adjournments while the Lok Sabha also witnessed vociferous attack and walkout by the Opposition

□ Anand Sharma said Trump stated that Prime Minister of India had, at the recent G20 meeting in Osaka in Japan, sought his mediation

□ Since Parliament is in session and considering that the comments were made by the President of the world's most powerful nation to the PM of another country, Modi should come to the House and clarify on the issue, Sharma said

□ External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar reiterated in both the Houses that all issues with Pakistan can only be discussed bilaterally

□ Any engagement with Pakistan will require end to cross-border terrorism, he said



accords provide the basis for resolution of all issues bilaterally.

Jaishankar first gave this categorical denial in the Rajya Sabha soon after it met for the day after Congress leader Anand Sharma raised the issue. He said Trump stated Modi had, at the recent G20 meeting in Osaka in Japan, sought his mediation on Kashmir.

Sharma said India's position has been consistent and clear on Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK) and has always maintained that it will not accept third party medi-

ation in a purely bilateral issue.

Since Parliament is in session and considering that the comments were made by the President of the world's most powerful nation to the Prime Minister of another country, Modi should come to the House and clarify on the issue, Sharma demanded.

CPI leader D Raja wanted to know if there was any change in India's position on third party mediation on the Kashmir issue, adding the denial issued by the External Affairs Minister on late

MEA rejects US Prez's Kashmir 'mediation' offer claim; Opp insists PM must clarify

Monday night was not enough. Opposition parties were not satisfied by Jaishankar's statement and insisted the Prime Minister should come to the House and clarify. This led to heated exchanges between Opposition benches and Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, who adjourned proceedings for nearly an hour.

He said the issue was of national importance and concerned security when the Opposition members including Congress, AAP, TMC, SP and Left parties raised a din. Naidu quipped that the members were ready to believe a foreign leader instead of the Indian Minister and then adjourned the House till 12 pm at 11.15 am.

Similar scenes were witnessed in the Rajya Sabha when the House reassembled with the Opposition members coming into the Well and raising slogans demanding Modi's clarification. Deputy Chairman Hariwansh tried to pacify members but to no avail. Minister of Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said the demand for the Prime Minister's presence was not justified as the statement by the External Affairs Ministry is the collective responsibility of the Cabinet. However, the Opposition continued to raise an uproar forcing the Chair to adjourn the proceedings till after lunch.

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HDK meets inevitable fate

PNS ■ BENGALURU

The 14-month-old Congress-JD(S) Government in Karnataka finally fell on Monday ending more than a fortnight of political drama which saw 15 rebel MLAs camping in Mumbai and repeated intervention by the Supreme Court.

The confidence motion moved by Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy was defeated in the Assembly, with 99 members voting for the motion and 105 against it.

After the Congress leaders failed in their efforts to establish contact with the rebels enjoying a cozy retreat in a plush hotel in Mumbai, Kumaraswamy had no option but to end this drama in view of his mounting criticism for delaying the vote on the motion and extending the debate for well over three days.

"The motion moved by the Chief Minister has fallen through," Speaker KR Ramesh Kumar announced.

Kumaraswamy watched the proceedings sitting in a pensive mood after a spirited reply to the debate. The writing on the wall was clear ever since the Supreme Court ruled that rebel lawmakers could not be compelled to attend the proceedings of the House tipping the scales in favour of the BJP.

The rebel Congress-JD(S) MLAs camping in Mumbai will leave for Bengaluru after BJP leader BS Yeddyurappa is sworn in as Chief Minister of the southern State, sources said. A BJP leader said the rebels, who have been staying

Confidence motion defeated with 99 members voting for it, 105 against it



(Above) BJP State president BS Yeddyurappa with his party MLAs show victory sign after (Below) HD Kumaraswamy lost the vote of confidence during Assembly Session at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Tuesday

at a luxury hotel since early this month are "very happy" after the JD(S)-Congress coalition Government lost the trust vote.

The rebels had earlier denied any BJP role in their resignations and withdrawal of support to the Government.

Twenty one MLAs — Congress-JDS (17), BSP (1),

□ The rebel Congress-JD(S) MLAs camping in Mumbai will leave for Bengaluru after BJP leader BS Yeddyurappa is sworn in as Chief Minister

□ The rebels had earlier denied any BJP role in their resignations and withdrawal of support to the Government

□ 21 MLAs — Congress-JDS (17), BSP (1), Independents (2) skipped the proceedings, reducing the effective strength of the House to 204. The magic figure required was 103

2018 Assembly polls results were out, he had plans to quit politics. "My political entry itself was all of a sudden and unexpected," he said.

Kumaraswamy lashed out at the BJP for repeatedly trying to topple his Government and told the saffron party that its Government would not last long and in the event of collapse, it is better to go for elections. "First bomb will explode in Ministry formation," he said.

Asserting that his Government was not shameless, he asked, "What wrong have we committed. We tried to create history. We worked honestly to provide people friendly Government."

Accusing the BJP of being in a hurry, he said, "I am not going to run away after speech. Let the people of the State know why I was removed. I am not going to run away fearing numbers. Let the votes be counted. Chief Minister's seat is not a permanent to anyone."

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Boris Johnson wins UK PM race, vows to redeem Brexit deal

PTI ■ LONDON

Boris Johnson on Tuesday comfortably won the Conservative Party's leadership race to become the UK's next Prime Minister and vowed to "get Brexit done" by the October 31 deadline, amid the political uncertainty over the country's divorce deal with the European Union that cost his predecessor his job.

Johnson, the 55-year-old former Foreign Secretary and London Mayor, was widely expected to beat foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt in the battle for 10 Downing Street, which was triggered last month when a Brexit-battered Theresa May resigned as party chief and Prime Minister amid a mounting rebellion from within the Conservative Party.

"We are going to energise the country. We are going to get Brexit done on 31 October and take advantage of all the opportunities it will bring with a new spirit of can-do," Johnson said in his first speech as the new Conservative Party leader.



"We are once again going to believe in ourselves, and like some slumbering giant we are going to rise and ping off the guy ropes of self doubt and negativity," he said, in his characteristic ebullient style.

The west London MP from Uxbridge and Ruislip sought to strike a unifying note by thanking his predecessor, May, and his challenger Hunt as a formidable opponent whose good ideas he plans to "steal".

Johnson said, "No one person or party has the monopoly of wisdom. Time and again it is us (Conservative Party) that people have turned. I will work flat out to repay your confidence. The work begins now."

Also see Page 12

SC extends NRC list deadline to August 31

PTI/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

Cracking its whip on errant builders for breaching the trust reposed by homebuyers, the Supreme Court on Tuesday cancelled the registration of Amrapali Group under the real estate law RERA, and ousted it from its prime properties in the NCR by nixing the land leases.

"The registration of Amrapali Group of Companies bordering Bangladesh, and exclusions of persons in the NRC which was to be published by July 31.

While dismissing the pleas of the Centre and the State, the apex court took note of the report of Assam NRC coordinator Prateek Hajela that in the course of consideration and adjudication of the claims, of those who have been left out in the draft NRC, re-verification of 27 per cent persons has already been done. The top court, which had been reiterating that it will not extend the deadline for publication of the final NRC, took note of the report and the reasons for seeking extension put forth by the Assam NRC coordinator and allowed him to finish the task by August 31.

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SC seizes Amrapali properties for homebuyers

Court cancels firm's registration, raps banks for connivance, asks NBCC to complete projects fast

PTI/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

Cracking its whip on errant builders for breaching the trust reposed by homebuyers, the Supreme Court on Tuesday cancelled the registration of Amrapali Group under the real estate law RERA, and ousted it from its prime properties in the NCR by nixing the land leases.

The apex court also lashed at bankers for conniving with the Amrapali Group in siphoning money from projects, leaving thousands of homebuyers without flats despite paying for apartments. It pulled up Bank of Baroda, Syndicate Bank, Bank of India, and Corporation Bank for not monitoring the utilisation of funds advanced by them to the real estate compa-

GAME-CHANGER JUDGMENT



ny. "The Authorities and bankers have violated the doctrine of public trust and their officials, unfortunately, acted in collusion with builders," the top court said.

The verdict, which is first of its kind, may have far-reaching consequences and impact across the country on other realtors like Unitech and Jaypee, which are facing similar litigation in the top court

□ The SC pulled up Bank of Baroda, Syndicate Bank, Bank of India, and Corporation Bank for violating the doctrine of public trust and acting in collusion with Amrapali Group

□ The SC also put the Noida and Greater Noida authorities in dock for acting in collusion with the builders, and ordered the authorities to give completion certificate to the homebuyers of Amrapali Group who are already residing in various projects

□ "We hold that Noida and Greater Noida Authorities shall have no right to sell the flats of the homebuyers or the land leased out for the realisation of their dues," says the verdict

□ The first-of-its-kind verdict may have far-reaching consequences and impact across the country on other realtors like Unitech and Jaypee

□ The SC directed an ED probe into alleged money laundering by Amrapali Group

to be completed as expeditiously as possible," the apex court said.

Emphasising on the "public trust doctrine", a Bench of Justices Arun Mishra and UU Lalit said the public authorities are duty-bound to observe that the leased property is not "frittered away" along with the homebuyers' money. "Concerned ministry of Central Government, as well as the State Government and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, are directed to ensure that appropriate action is taken against leaseholders concerning such similar projects at Noida and Greater Noida and other places in various States, where projects have not been completed," the SC said.

Noting that homebuyers cannot be left in the lurch, the Bench directed the Centre and States to ensure that projects are completed in a time-bound manner as contemplated in RERA and homebuyers are not defrauded, and ordered the Noida and Greater Noida authorities to give completion certificate to the homebuyers of Amrapali Group who are already residing in various projects.

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Shiva's live ornaments on illegal display

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

With the onset of Shrawan (Saawan), many snake charmers are displaying snakes outside temples, flouting the wildlife law. In a joint operation by Uttar Pradesh Wildlife SOS and the Forest Department, 16 snakes were seized from the illegal custody of snake charmers outside three different temples in Mathura and Vrindavan.

16 snakes rescued from charmers from near temples during Saawan

raid by the forest department on Monday, we rescued 16 snakes, including 11 cobras, 3 red sand boas, one rat snake and a juvenile snake, from the illegal possession of snake charmers outside Galteshwar and Rangeshwar temples in Mathura and Gopeshwar Mahadev temple in Vrindavan. They have been transferred to the rescue facility," a Wildlife SoS official said.

The member of rescue team said the most horrifying sight was that of the rat snake. "One of the snake charmers had forcibly pierced a handful of mongoose hair through its head to make it look attractive," the official said. Divisional Forest Officer, Mathura,

Mukesh Kumar Sharma, said, "Using snakes for public demonstration is a punishable offence and is banned under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and the Government of India's notification in 2014. This is a cruel and inhumane practice which exploits the lives of innocent wildlife species that are protected under Indian laws."

Co-founder and CEO of Wildlife SOS Kartick Satyanarayan said, "No animal deserves such barbaric treatment. The truth about snake charming is nothing short of horrifying. Venomous snakes like cobras have their fangs extracted and their venom glands are painfully gouged

out or punctured, thus disabling the snake's only means of defence, feeding and digestion. "Non-venomous snakes are not spared either. Their mouths are stitched making it impossible for them to eat."

Director Conservation Projects, Wildlife SOS, Baiju Raj MV, said, "The snakes are starving for months, without food or water, and will drink milk or water in a desperate attempt to alleviate dehydration, leading to the common myth that snakes at festivals will drink milk presented to them as offerings from devotees. We saw maximum number of such cases during Saawan, every year."

Wildlife Conservation veterinarians are treating reptiles to determine whether releasing them back into natural habitat will be feasible.



Heavy rain in N India from July 25 to 27

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi, adjoining States and other northern States will witness heavy rainfall activities due to reduction in rainfall over Kerala and Coastal Karnataka from July 25 to 27. According to India Meteorological Department (IMD), rainfall activities will be increased over northern plains and Central India during this period.

Dr Rajendra Jenamani, Met scientist, said, "Rainfall activity is very likely to increase over central India, adjoining northern parts of peninsula, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Goa during same period."

Jenamani added, "Hence fairly widespread to widespread



rainfall with isolated heavy falls are likely over Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Goa during same period."

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CAPSULE

CHANDRAYAAN-2 MOVING IN RIGHT DIRECTION: ISRO Bengaluru: A day after launching the country's second moon mission, the ISRO said the Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft is in "good health" and moving in the "right direction".

BSF COs TO SPEND 25 NIGHTS/MONTH AT IB New Delhi: The BSF has directed its battalion commanders to spend at least 25 nights in a month at a forward post along the India-Pakistan International Border in Jammu as part of its renewed efforts to fortify the "anti-infiltration" grid in this region, sources said.

BIHAR FLOODS: 2 MORE DIE, TOLL RISES TO 106 Patna: Two more people died in Bihar death toll on Tuesday, with the flood toll climbing to 106, officials said. Both the deaths have taken place in Madhubani.

Govt bid to promote khadi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Aiming to promote khadi, the UP government has made it mandatory for the government and state-run public sector organisations to purchase khadi from UP State Handloom Corporation Ltd and UPICA. However, the UP Police department has been kept out of this. Besides, Lucknow will get two rail overbridges near Sharda Canal on Faizabad Road. The decisions regarding were taken at the Cabinet meeting held in Lucknow on Tuesday.

Sources said that the government had issued orders asking officials of all government departments and state-run public sector undertakings to purchase khadi from UP State Handloom Corporation, UPICA, UP Khadi and Gramodyog Board and Khadi Ashram.

"The decision will help the cottage industry & weavers, and generate employment. However, the police department has been kept out of this purview," said the sources.

All purchases have to be made through the GeM portal after verifying the rate and quality of products. "If some department wants to purchase clothes from any other source, it should send the proposal to MSME and after department approves, the CM's approval is required," a government source

said. In another decision, the government has approved the proposal to construct two rail overbridges over Lucknow-Barabanki rail line

GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED THE PROPOSAL TO CONSTRUCT TWO RAIL OVERBRIDGES OVER LUCKNOW-BARABANKI RAIL LINE NEAR SHARDA CANAL. THE FOUR-LANE ROB WILL BE CONSTRUCTED ON THE LEFT AND RIGHT SIDES OF THE CANAL. THE TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT WILL BE RS 235.13 CRORE PLUS GST

near Sharda Canal. The four-lane RoB will be constructed on the left and right sides of the canal. The total cost of the project will be Rs 235.13 crore plus GST, and the state government will bear the total cost.

The government has also

approved projects for maintenance and disposal of sewerage in Shahajahanpur, Bareilly and Moradabad under Amrut scheme. For Shahajahanpur, a STP will be constructed at Rs 377.51 crore while for Bareilly, the government has approved Rs 212.20 crore. The Cabinet has given its assent to sewerage maintenance in Moradabad at the cost of Rs 220.78. All the projects will be completed by March, 2020.

In another decision, the Cabinet approved retrofitting work in Anpara-A (3x210MW) and Anpara-B (2x500MW) thermal projects at the cost of Rs 237.01 crore. It was decided that 70 per cent of the total expenditure would be generated from financial institutions and the rest would be borne by the state government. The government has also decided to construct a 765 KV sub-station in Meerut and lay 400 KV and 200 KV lines. The total expenditure is expected to be Rs 239 crore.

The government also amended clauses in Food Processing Policy under which rebate of Mandi Tax has been increased from the existing 5 to 10 years. The tax plus GST will be reimbursed by Food Processing department through its budget.

The Cabinet also gave its nod to bringing bills on water conservation and UP Revenue Act during the ongoing Monsoon session.

'Govt committed to piped drinking water facility in villages'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The UP government informed the Assembly on Tuesday that the government was committed to providing piped drinking water facility in rural areas of the state by 2022.

Rural Development Minister Dr Mahendra Singh said in the Assembly during Question Hour that a Rs 9,000-crore project had been taken up in Bundelkhand region and work on it would commence in September next to have piped drinking facility in every village. Singh said that in order to control excess pumping of underground water, the government had become strict and directed all new buildings in the state to have groundwater recharging facilities.

Replying to a question by Congress member Aditi Singh, the minister shifted the blame on the previous government saying it did nothing in this sector when the situation was becoming critical.

Besides, Singh said that 113 blocks in the state were in the dark zone in regards to underground water in which 59 blocks were in critical stage and 45 semi-critical.

"There are 1,444 villages in 20 districts where water is contaminated with Arsenic and in 2386 villages in 53 districts, water is affected by fluoride," the minister said claiming that the government was taking all preventive measures to provide clean drinking water to people.

Aditi Singh said that the government had made a tall claim earlier but still Niti Aayog had given a critical report on groundwater saying that 50 per cent of the population would not get groundwater by 2040.

Sonbhadra: BSP promises compensation to victims' kin

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi took the lead amongst opposition parties in raising the voice against Sonbhadra massacre, the BSP also sent a delegation in a bid to woo the victims by announcing a compensation of Rs 50 lakh each and 10 bigha land to the affected families and 5 bigha land each to the injured. However, the BSP delegation refused to confirm the same to mediapersons.

Earlier, Priyanka had assured the kin of the deceased a compensation of Rs 10 lakh each. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who earlier announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh each to the victims' families, later raised it to Rs 18.5 lakh during his visit to Sonbhadra on Sunday.

Sources said that leader of BSP in Assembly Lalji Verma along with state party chief RS Kushwaha, met the family members of the deceased and expressed shock at the government's apathy. They alleged that the government was respon-

sible for the massacre.

Verma also conveyed party's full support to the bereaved families and assured them compensation. He also demanded that an intermediate college be opened in Umbha village, where the massacre took place, as also a police outpost so that villagers could feel secure.

When asked, Kushwaha said that after visiting the scene, they would submit a report to Mayawati after which announcements could be made. On whether Mayawati would also visit the village, Kushwaha remained non-committal. Earlier, the BSP delegation was stopped by the administration and later, only 20 members were allowed to proceed to the village to meet the affected families.

PRIYANKA TO VISIT SONBHADRA AGAIN

Buoyed by the political mileage during her recent visit to Sonbhadra, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi is set to re-visit the district to keep the momentum going.

The Congress leader will be in

Sonbhadra again later this week to meet the victims' families and personally hand them cheques of Rs 10 lakh as compensation as announced by her earlier.

Congress sources maintained that some senior leaders, particularly Congress Legislative Party leader Ajay Kumar 'Lalu', advised Priyanka that to keep the momentum going, saying she should visit the district once again and personally hand over compensation to them.

It was felt that timely relief would not only help the victims' families but also reflect Priyanka's concern towards tribals and farmers.

Last weeked, Priyanka's visit to Mirzapur and Sonbhadra had brought the Yogi Adityanath government on its heels. After being detained and taken to Narayanpur (Varanasi-Mirzapur border), Priyanka remained adamant on meeting the families of the victims. She was later taken to Chunar Fort guest house but she refused to leave the place till she was allowed to the meet the aggrieved families.

NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT TO SHOW CAUSE (SCR, Order XXII) IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION PETITION FOR SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (C) No. 1717 OF 2018

Avadesh Kumar Singh & Others Petitioners

..... Respondents

State of U.P. through Principal Secretary (Personnel Department) Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow & Others Respondents

To,

1. State of U.P. through Principal Secretary (Personnel Department), Uttar Pradesh Lucknow 2. Chairman, Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission, Allahabad, 3. Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission, Allahabad, 4. Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission, Allahabad, through its Chairman 5. Manish Upadhyay S/o Ganga Shankar Upadhyay R/o No. 23378, District Village / Post-Buxa, District Jaunpur. 6. Devesh Kumar Singh S/o Jagdeesh Prasad Singh R/o No. 26714 R/o Village-Gopalpur, Post Buxa, District Jaunpur, U.P. 7. Shishir Kumar Singh S/o Jai Nath Singh R/o No. 11026, R/o Vill-117A1, Tarapur Colony, District Jaunpur. 8. Brijesh Singh S/o ShriPrakash Singh R/o No. 3554, R/o Vill-Diha, Post Diha, District Azam-garh, U.P. 9. Vishal Upadhyay S/o Upendra Kumar Upadhyay R/o No. 19209, R/o Near-Indira Chowk, Prabhut Nagar, Civil Line, District-Budana, 10. Sri Chand Goswami S/o Ram Chandra Goswami R/o No. 32486, R/o 554/148, Kailashpuri, Alambag, District - Lucknow 11. Shashank Kumar Srivastava S/o Suresh Chandra Srivastava R/o No. 6466, R/o Mohalla-Khasanpur, Post-Sadar Thana-Kotwali, District Jaunpur. 12. Anil Singh S/o Ram Singer Singh R/o No. 12471 R/o Vill-Bargaon, Post-SaraiKhajua, Thana-SaraiKhajua, District-Jaunpur. 13. Sachin Anand Pandey S/o Bhaskar Pandey R/o No. 15144, R/o Vill-Kanaila, Post-Kanaila, District Azam-garh. 14. Prabhakar Singh S/o Jayram Singh R/o No. 32380, R/o Vill-Akhbarpur, Post-Devia, District-Azamgarh. 15. Tej Pratap Singh S/o Rajendra Pratap Singh R/o No. 3108, R/o Vill-Karanpur, Post Chandeshar, District Azam-garh. 16. Ravi Prakash Shukla S/o Bairam Shukla R/o No. 31453 R/o Vill-Haribathpur, Post-Madapur, District Jaunpur. 17. Pradip Kumar Singh S/o Jay Narayan Singh R/o No. 5701, R/o Vill - Ahmadpur, Post -Ahmadpur, District - Jaunpur. 18. Tojay Singh S/o Dan Bahadur Singh R/o No. 4766 R/o Vill - Sarma, Post -Khaprahar, District-Jaunpur. 19. Pravin Kumar Singh S/o Ram Prakash Singh R/o No. 20861, R/o Vill-Deokaskari, Post-Saronea, District-Mau U.P. 20. Sushil Kumar Pathak S/o Om Prakash Pathak, R/o No. 23826, R/o Vill-Fatehpur, Post -Badanaria, District-Azamgarh. 21. Baldevshukla S/o Vijay Mangal R/o No. 15513, R/o Vill-Post- Kadhari, District-Azamgarh. 22. Shashi Bhushan Shukla S/o Shilpa Prasad Shukla R/o No. 6986, R/o Vill-Pachuan, Post-Bargarda, District-Basti, U.P.

Whereas the Petition for SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) abovementioned (COP) may be obtained from Mr. Sanjeev Mahotra, Advocate, Chamber No. 103, C. D. Daphtary Block, Supreme Court, New Delhi) filed in the Registry by Mr. R.P.Gupta, Advocate on behalf of Petitioner (s) above named, was listed for hearing before the Court on 2nd August, when the Court was pleased to pass the following order:-

"Issue notice. Service and pleadings be completed in meanwhile. Since a large number of parties are involved in these cases, the petitioners can serve the necessary respondents through publication in local newspapers (both in English and Hindi). List the matters after two months."

NOW THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above petition for Special Leave to appeal with prayer for interim relief above mentioned will be posted for hearing in due course when you may appear before this Court either in person or through an advocate on record of this Court duly appointed by you in that behalf within 30 days from the date of publication of Notice. You may thereafter show cause to the Court on the day that may subsequently be specified as to why special leave and interim relief, as prayed for, be not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed.

You may file your affidavit in opposition to the petition as provided under Rule 14(1) of Order XXI, SCR 2013, within thirty days from the date of publication of notice or not later than two weeks before the date appointed for hearing, whichever be earlier, but shall do so only by setting out the ground in opposition to the questions of law or the ground set out in the SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) and may produce such pleadings and documents filed before the Courts against whose order the SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) is filed and shall also set out the grounds for not granting interim order or for vacating interim order if already granted.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearances, as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence.

Dated 11th August, 2018

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

Govt stands with poor whose land usurped by Azam Khan: Khanna

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The UP government has said it stands with the oppressed whose land was forcibly occupied by Samajwadi Party MP from Rampur Azam Khan and included in his private property at Jauhar University.

The government said that law would take its own course and there was no element of political vendetta in the action taken by the Rampur district administration to list Khan as a 'land mafia' on the UP government's anti-land mafia portal. "Azam Khan, as Cabinet minister during the previous Akhilesh Yadav-led SP government, usurped the land of poor Muslim farmers and Dalits and included it in the Jauhar University campus spread across 1,100 acres. What is the government expected to do? Side with the oppressed or with those who tortured the poor farmers and booked them in fake cases and snatched their land in a fraudulent manner?" Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna asked while replying to an adjournment notice tabled by the SP in UP Assembly on Tuesday.

The SP, in its adjournment

notice, alleged that the government action against Khan was inspired by political vendetta and he was being persecuted for narrow political objective of the BJP government for communal polarisation in the state.

Leader of Opposition Ram Govind Chaudhary alleged that the government was preparing grounds to send Khan to jail and eliminate opposition from the state.

Rebutting the charges of political vendetta, Khanna said: "FIRs were lodged against Khan and others after due investigation and he has been listed as land mafia on the UP government portal. Khan has been enlisted as land mafia as per a government order issued on May 1, 2017.

Quoting from the report submitted to the state government by the DM of Rampur, Khanna said: "Over 30 acre of lands of Dalit families were allegedly purchased by Jauhar University without the permission of competent authority (DM). Title ownership of the land belonging to Schedule Caste community cannot be changed without permission of the competent authority."

The minister said that Rampur District Magistrate

had also annexed certificate issued by the sub-registrar of Rampur certifying that the land of over 50 Muslim farmers and some Dalit families was forcibly occupied by Khan and his musclemen Aale Ahmed and no registration of the land in question was executed at the office of the sub-registrar for purchase." Besides Khan, FIRs have also been lodged against former Deputy SP of Rampur Aale Hasan and current chief security officer of Jauhar University.

Khanna said that Muslim and Dalit farmers in their affidavits had said they were terrorised, tortured and booked in false cases like NDPS, and many were sent to jail, forcing them to part with their land. The minister said that then circle officer (City) of Rampur Aale Hasan supervised the "terror campaign" to force the poor farmers to give up their land to the private university and promoted by Khan.

After hearing both sides, Assembly Speaker Hriday Narain Dixhit rejected the notice. Unhappy with the government reply, the SP members reached the Well of the House. The House was later adjourned for the day.

Left parties to corner government

Lucknow (PNS): All Left parties will convene a meeting next week to chalk out a joint programme in the backdrop of Sonbhadra massacre and intensify the agitation in the coming days. "We are waiting for the decision of Supreme Court on forest land to be given on July 24. The programme will be held after that," member of state secretariat of Communist Party of India (Marxist) Deenanath Singh said. Speaking on the eviction of Dalits, forest dwellers and tribals from their lands which they had been cultivating for the last 3-4 generations, Singh said it was the only means for these people. "Different governments have failed to address the problems of these deprived people. In the BJP government, misrule has added to the problems of these people," he said.

Singh said that the CPM demanded that a committee be formed to resolve such issues with a rider that representative(s) of these people (to be chosen from these people only) should also be its members. "Villages in Allahabad, Sonbhadra, Mirzapur and Chadauli are plagued with such disputes and issues where conflict between property dealers or gram pradhans and those in possession of the land. The poor people are being forcibly evicted from the lands they have been cultivating for the last several generations. In Sonbhadra, the victims were cultivating the disputed land for the last 3-4 generations and the issue was in the knowledge of district administration and police. But government officials favoured the land-grabbers," he alleged.

Civil Engineering Department
NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
Executive Engineer (BM-III)
Palika Parking, New Delhi-110001
e-procurement Tender Notice

ID No. : 2019_NDMC_176725_1
Name of Work : Improvement to Vidut Bhawan.
SH : Renovation/Modification of Block A,B,C Vidut Bhawan office Complex at Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Road (Composite Work).
Estimated Cost : Rs. 24,22,19,423/- (Civil Rs. 15,27,63,227/- + Electrical Rs. 7,83,42,701/- + Fire Rs. 1,11,13,495/-)
Date of release of tender e-procurement solution : 20.07.2019
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting on 26.07.2019 at 3.00PM in the Chamber of CE(C-II) 16th Floor Room No. 1601, Palika Kendra, New Delhi.

Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution : 05.08.2019 at 4.00 PM
Further details can be seen at www.govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in
Note :- To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with e-tendering system Sd/- Government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory. Executive Engineer (BM-III)

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Advt. No. U-36/UPRVUSA/2019
WALK IN INTERVIEW FOR MEDICAL OFFICER

U.P. Rajya Vidut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (UPRVUNL) is a progressive & fast expanding state thermal power generation undertaking.

"WALK IN INTERVIEW" will be held for eligible Indian Nationals for the post of Medical Officers for medical & health care of their personnel working at Nigam's thermal power stations, situated at Obra, Anpara, Parichha, Panki, Harduaganj and Jawaherpur in district of Sonbhadra, Jhansi, Kanpur, Aligarh and Etah and future Thermal Power Station etc as per details below:-

Name of the post	Total Post	UR	EWS	OBC	SC	ST
Medical Officer (Male/Female) General & Emergency Duty	07	02	02	01	02	00

The date, time of reporting & venue of Selection process through Walk in Interview are given below:-

Venue of Walk in Interview	Date of Walk in Interview	Reporting time
UPSIDCO (Uttar Pradesh Samaj Kalyan Nirman Nigam Ltd.), Building, Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidut Utpadan Nigam Ltd., 4th Floor, TG-46V, Vibhuti Khand, Gombi Nagar, Near Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-226010	08 August, 2019	09:00 AM to 01:30 PM sharp

For Detailed advertisement, eligibility requirements, general conditions, reservation and instructions for filling the application form please visit UPRVUNL website www.uprvunl.org. If candidate who reports at the venue without completely filled application form or is not meeting the eligibility criteria will not be allowed to appear in the selection process. SECRETARY U.P. RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN SEWA AAYOG

पत्रांक: 207-उपनि/प्रशासन/यू-36/सूचीआरवीयूएसए/2019 दिनांक: 23 जुलाई, 2019

Save energy in the interest of Nation.

DHFL DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED
National Office: HDIL Towers, B-Wing, 6th & 8th Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051.
Branch Office: DHFL, Dreams Mall, 1st Floor, L.B.S Marg, Bhandup (West), Mumbai - 400078.

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.(DHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below, in connection with above. Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA date	Description of secured asset (Immovable property)
(LC No. 00042876 of Lucknow- Lalbagh Branch) Satyaprakash Laxminarayn (Borrower) Shaikumar S Divedi (Co Borrower 1)	25-01-2019/ 1850062/- (Eighteen lakh Fifty Thousand Sixty Two) NPA (01-12-2018)	Plot On Part Of Khakra No. 23 Sa Ibrahimpur Ward Ibrahimpur Pargna Bijnore Tehsil Sarojnagar, Lucknow, Lucknow - 226002
(LC No. 00042876 of Lucknow- Lalbagh Branch) Sangeta Bajpai (Borrower) Vinod Bajpai (Co Borrower 1) Surendra Kumar Yadav (Guarantor1)	25-01-2019/ 1366823/- (Sixteen lakh Six Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Seven) NPA (01-12-2018)	H No 340, Khakra No. 284 Singla Residency, Vill Bhuhara, Pargana - Dewa, tehs- Nawabganj, Barabanki, Barabanki- 225003
(LC No. 00042937 of Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Haris Mohd Farid (Borrower) Safiya Parveen (Co Borrower 1)	25-01-2019/ 3775494/- (Thirty Seven lakh Seventy Five Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Four) NPA (01-12-2018)	House No. 529 D/1/665(4) On Plot No. 4 Part Of Khakra No. 267 Adil Nagar Shankar Purwa, Lucknow, Lucknow - 226020
(LC No. 00000806 of Haridwar Branch) Vijay Pal Singh (Borrower) Pavitra W/o Vijay Pal Singh (Co Borrower 1)	25-01-2019/ 712383/- (Seven lakh Twelve Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Three) NPA (01-12-2018)	Old Mpl No. 1/1428 & New No 1/3646, Sharda Nagar Colony, Old Tail Mill, Saharanpur, Saharanpur- 247001
(LC No. 00010660 of Haridwar Branch) Anil Singh (Borrower) Pinky W/o Anil Singh (Co Borrower 1)	25-01-2019/ 108007/- (Ten lakh Eighty Thousand Seventy Two) NPA (01-12-2018)	Plot No 168, Khakra No 399, Wake Dara Milkana Bairoon Dar Abadi, Kashmiri Garden, Saharanpur, Saharanpur- 247001
(LC No. 00001712 of Haridwar Branch) Kamal, Son Of Santa (Borrower) Vinod V (Co Borrower 1)	25-01-2019/ 1366823/- (Thirteen lakh Sixty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Three) NPA (01-12-2018)	Khakra No- 94/2, Akodha Aurangabpur, Manglore Roorkee, Haridwar, Saharanpur- 247663
(LC No. 00000337 of Yamunanagar Branch) Sanjeev Sharma (Borrower) Pavitra (Co Borrower 1)	25-01-2019/ 205504/- (Two lakh Fifteen Thousand Three Hundred Four) NPA (01-12-2018)	Old M P L No. 1/1428 & New M P L No. 1/3646 Old Old Sharda Nagar Near Shy Bahadur, Saharanpur, Saharanpur- 247001
(LC No. 00000011 of Jhansi Branch) Brijesh Kumar Sharma (Borrower) Vibhuti Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	25-01-2019/ 2019920/- (Twenty lakh Nineteen Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty) NPA (01-12-2018)	House No 586, Ward No 47 Outside Khanderao Gate Near Gayatri Mandir, Jhansi, Jhansi- 284001
(LC No. 00000578 of Delhi Branch) Bhushhan Tati (Borrower)	25-01-2019/ 1202456/- (Five lakh Sixty Three Thousand One Hundred Seventy One) NPA (01-12-2018)	Flat No- 227s, block - c, Sector- omicrom-1 Greater Noida Greater Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh- 201308
(LC No. 00041877 of Delhi Branch) Shivjee Rajbhar (Borrower)	25-01-2019/ 1325527/- (Thirteen lakh Twenty Five Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Seven) NPA (01-08-2018)	Plot No. 1, Ground Floor Block - B - 4, Flacket - 3 Sector- G2, Narela New Delhi New Delhi Delhi- 110040
(LC No. 00000195 of Yamunanagar Branch) Shahnawaz So Intsar (Borrower)	25-01-2019/ 786291/- (Seven lakh Eighty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty One) NPA (01-01-2019)	Khakra No 604 MI, Wake Dara Milkana Bairoon, Dar Abadi Mojiampura Colony Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh- 247001
(LC No. 00001471 of Delhi Branch) Kamal Kant (Borrower)	25-01-2019/ 821576/- (Eight lakh Twenty One Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Six) NPA (01-11-2018)	Flat No- 331 SF, Second Floor Block - G Sector M1 01, Greater Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201308
(LC No. 00001928 of Haridwar Branch) Geeta Devi (Borrower)	25-01-2019/ 962943/- (Nine lakh Sixty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Three) NPA (01-01-2019)	Part Of Khakra No -138, Gram- Bhdheri Mahawapur Musthkan, Pargana & Tehsil- Roorkee, Haridwar, Uttaranchal- 247666
(LC No. 00000919 of Yamunanagar Branch) Sanjeev Sharma (Borrower)	25-01-2019/ 597151/- (Five lakh Ninety Seven Thousand One Hundred Fifty One) NPA (01-01-2019)	Plot No- 68 Khakra No- 473, Near Atul Pictline Hardev Nagar Colony Saharanpur Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh- 247001
(LC No. 00000697 of Jhansi Branch) Kusum Raykavar (Borrower) Arjun Raikavar (Co Borrower 1)	25-01-2019/ 1202456/- (Five lakh Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Six) NPA (01-01-2019)	Arazi No. 90 Mauza Nayagan Shivpuri Gwallor Bypass Highway Nr D.D Village Degree College, Jhansi Uttar Pradesh 284003

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to DHFL as aforesaid, DHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of DHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 24 July 2019
Place: Uttar Pradesh

Sd/-
(Authorised Officer)
Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited

महोदय वित्त निगम लिमिटेड ई-निविदा सूचना
अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा अनुमोदी एवं कार्य में दक्ष टेकेंडरों से ई-निविदा दो भागों में निम्न विवरण अनुसार उ०प्र० सरकार के पोर्टल etender.up.nic.in पर आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा सम्बन्धी विवरण www.mvvn.in पर भी अवलोकित किया जा सकता है। 1. **अवकाशीन ई-निविदा सं० 05/विनिर्मा(पी)/2019-20** : विद्युत उपकेन्द्र नादान महल के अन्तर्गत नक्कास में स्थित 11/0.4 केवी 750 केवीए पैकेज टाइप परिवर्तक के स्थान पर 11/0.4 केवी 1000 केवीए परिवर्तक की स्थापना तथा 11/0.4 केवी 750 केवीए परिवर्तक को नवर्तन पार्क में स्थापित करना तथा विद्युत उपकेन्द्र मेंहताब बाग के अन्तर्गत शीशमहल में स्थित 11/0.4 केवी 750 केवीए पैकेज टाइप परिवर्तक के स्थान पर 11/0.4 केवी 1000 केवीए परिवर्तक की स्थापना तथा 11/0.4 केवी 750 केवीए परिवर्तक को नेपियर रोड (निकट डॉ० अतुल खन्ना) पर स्थापित करने का कार्य एवं तत्संबंधी अन्य कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य 3540.00 एवं घरोहर घनराशि रु 12300.00। ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 06.08.2019 समय 17.00 बजे तक तथा ई-निविदा का प्रथम भाग खुलने की तिथि 07.08.2019 समय 14.00 बजे। 2. **अवकाशीन ई-निविदा सं० 06/विनिर्मा(पी)/2019-20** : 220 केवी सरोजनी नगर से गिर्गित नादरंज प्रथम पोषक को इसी उपकेन्द्र से निर्गत 33 केवी गेहरू पोषक के भूमिगत केबिल से जोड़कर 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेन्द्र गेहरू को द्वितीय श्रोत उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य तथा 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेन्द्र गेहरू पर 33 केवी लाइन 'बे' का निर्माण कार्य एवं तत्संबंधी अन्य कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य 1180.00 एवं घरोहर घनराशि रु 6600.00। ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 06.08.2019 समय 17.00 बजे तक तथा ई-निविदा का प्रथम भाग खुलने की तिथि 07.08.2019 समय 14.00 बजे। 3. **अवकाशीन ई-निविदा सं० 07/विनिर्मा(पी)/2019-20** : 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेन्द्र गेहरू की क्षमतावृद्धि 2x10+1x8 एमपीए से 3x10 एमपीए करने का कार्य एवं तत्संबंधी अन्य कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य 1180.00 एवं घरोहर घनराशि रु 2300.00। ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 06.08.2019 समय 17.00 बजे तक तथा ई-निविदा का प्रथम भाग खुलने की तिथि 07.08.2019 समय 14.00 बजे। **अधीनस्थ अभियंता, विद्युत नगरीय निर्माण मण्डल (पंचम) लेसा भवन, रिजिस्ट्री, लखनऊ।** पत्रांक 741, दिनांक 22.07.2019 "राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाये"

Yogi govt tables supp budget of ₹13,594 cr

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Yogi government tabled its first supplementary budget to the tune of Rs 13,594.87 crore for the 2019-20 fiscal in the Assembly on Tuesday. The Finance Bill for supplementary grants was tabled by Finance Minister Rajesh Agrawal in the presence of the Chief Minister.

On February 6 earlier this year, the UP government had tabled an annual budget of Rs 4.79 lakh crore for 2019-20. This is the first supplementary budget for the current fiscal sought by the state government and the budget size in this fiscal has now increased to over Rs 4.92 lakh crore.

The focus of the supplementary budget is on infrastructure as a major share of the grants has been sought for urban development, Purvanchal Expressway, Bundelkhand Expressway and projects of Power, Irrigation and Public Works departments. The other heads of demand are UP Police and Tourism departments. For infrastructure development, the government has sought Rs 850 crore for Purvanchal Expressway, Rs 1,150 crore for Bundelkhand Expressway and Rs 15 crore for Ganga Expressway. The Chief Minister had announced the construction of Ganga Expressway linking Meerut with Prayagraj during the Kumbh Mela in January earlier this year. The government also sought Rs 905.36 crore for power sector which includes power distribution companies and power generation projects. For irrigation department, the government has sought Rs 800 crore for payment of power dues of lift canals and tubewells while Rs 24.84 crore has been sought for construction of ghats at Rapti river in



Finance Minister Rajesh Agrawal tabling supplementary budget in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during the ongoing Monsoon session of Vidhan Sabha on Tuesday

Gorakhpur. For the remodeling of 'Ram Ki Pairs' in Ayodhya, the government has sought Rs 10 crore.

For PWD, a grant of Rs 605 has been proposed, which includes Rs 405 crore for bridges and Rs 200 crore for roads. In the supplementary budget, Rs 250 crore have been sought for UP Police. Of this, Rs 200 crore will be for land purchase for construction of police lines in districts created during the previous Mayawati-led BSP government.

The grants proposed for Tourism department are to the tune of Rs 163 crore and include Rs 105 crore for development of places of tourism, Rs

10 crore for development of Vindhyavasini Dham at Mirzapur, Rs 10 crore for pilgrim centre at Namisharanaya in Sitapur, Rs 20 crore for Mughal museum at Agra and Rs 6 crore for Deepotsav at Ayodhya during Diwali.

The government has also sought Rs 2,175 crore for Urban Development department. Of this, Rs 175 crore are for the Smart City project, Rs 100 crore for sewage and drainage project and Rs 60 crore for construction of parks in each district headquarter with facilities like drinking water, yoga, pathways and benches.

The government has also

sought Rs 349 crore for clearing the liabilities of Kumbh Mela held earlier this year at Prayagraj. The other major head of grant in supplementary budget is Medical Education.

A sum of Rs 7.5 crore has been sought for Trauma Centre at SGPGI, Rs 35 crore for satellite centres of KGMC in Balrampur and Rs 10 crore for 500-bed Paediatric hospital at Gorakhpur Medical College.

A token fund of Rs 14 lakh has also been sought for 14 district hospitals being upgraded as medical colleges. The debate on supplementary grants in the Assembly will be held on Wednesday and the Bill is likely to be passed the same day.

Mother kills infant suffering from liver disease, arrested

3-mth-old dropped from 4th floor of Trauma Centre

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

In a heart-rending incident, a woman killed her 3-month-old child, who was down with liver ailment, by throwing him off the fourth floor of KGMU Trauma Centre early Tuesday morning. To act innocent, she cried foul saying her son had gone missing.

However, intensive scanning of the CCTV footages nailed her lie and she was later arrested. Confessing to her crime, she said she was sad seeing her son lying like a corpse on the hospital bed, and threw him off the building to rid him of his sufferings.

Saranti Devi of Kushi Nagar gave birth to male child at BRD Hospital in Gorakhpur on April 23 last. Her husband Rajan Singh told the police that their son was suffering from jaundice and was later diagnosed with another liver disease. "On the advice of doctors at the BRD Hospital we admitted him to the KGMU Trauma Centre on May 26. My brother Amarnath, my wife and I had been staying with the child since then. However, his condition did not improve despite the treatment," Rajan told the police. He said he and Amarnath were sleeping outside the NICU ward when Saranti reached there and started crying saying the child had gone missing. "We started searching for him, but in vain. Later, we informed the doctors in the ward about the incident. A team of doctors scanned some CCTV footages in which Saranti was seen going towards the window in a room of the ward on fourth floor around 4 am," he said. SHO, Chowk, Pankaj Singh said Saranti was seen going towards the window with her child in her arms. "When she was returning, she



The woman was nabbed after CCTV footages were scanned

was empty-handed. A woman sub-inspector was asked to interrogate Saranti, who later confessed to her crime. On the complaint of her husband, we registered a case and arrested

her," the SHO said. He said the body had been sent for autopsy and further investigations were underway. "We also registered a case under section 201 of IPC (for destroying/giving

false information) against the woman," he added. Rajan told mediapersons that his wife was very sad over the child not keeping well. "He had liver-related ailment since birth. Though the doctors had said it was incurable, we had high hopes that our son would be okay. But, I had never expected that she would kill our son," he said. He added that the death of his son and jail to his wife were two major setbacks for him. The family is poor and they had to sell their land to meet the expenses for treatment of the child.

Meanwhile, a 55-year-old woman was crushed to death by a roadways bus in Hasanganj police station area on Tuesday afternoon. Heerawati of Joshi Tola met the mishap at Daliganj bridge. Commuters chased the bus driver and nabbed him. He was handed over to police. He was identified as Mohammed Laiq of Balrampur.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA

1st Floor, Local Head office, RACPC, Moti Mahal Marg, Lucknow-226 001.

POSSESSION NOTICE [for movable property under Rule 6 (1)]
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized officer of the State Bank of India, RACPC (Vibhuti Khand), Lucknow Branch (16726) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a 13(2). The Bank issued demand notice on the date mentioned against account and stated herein after calling upon them to repay the amount, within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Rule on the date mentioned against the account.

S. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower/Branch/ A/C No.	Description of The movable Property mortgaged	Amount O/s (as per u/s 13(2))	Date of Demand Notice / Possession
1	Borrower: Shri Amar Bahadur Sharma, Vill. Mangal Singh Patna, P.O. Kurebhar, Sultanpur. A/C No.: 37332318412 (Car Loan-CL-644) Branch : Vibhuti Khand (16726)	UP 32 JM 2930 HUNDAI EON Chasis No. MALA251ALHM543405 Engine No. G3HAHM501459	₹ 3,72,467/- + interest + other expenses	05.12.2018 22.07.2019

Date : 24.07.2019, Place : Lucknow Authorised Officer, State Bank of India

Noisy scenes in Assembly as minister, LoP trade charges

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Uproarious scenes were witnessed in UP Assembly on Tuesday, leading to adjournment of the House for about an hour over exchange of words like 'haisiyat', 'chunauti' and 'aukat' between the Leader of Opposition and a minister in the Yogi government. The opposition members created a ruckus demanding an unconditional apology from the minister and trooped into the Well of the House when the minister was replying to a question over piped drinking water project in UP.

Rural Development Minister Dr Mahendra Singh, while replying to a question, remarked that during BJP rule, there was no allegation of corruption like in previous Samajwadi Party government that resulted in a probe by the CBI. At this, Leader of Opposition Ram Govind Chaudhary said that most of the

works of digging of ponds and wells were done during the SP regime and that the minister would be sent to jail after BJP lost power in 2022.

The remark irked the minister, who challenged the Leader of the Opposition responded with words like 'haisiyat', 'aukat' and 'chunauti'.

The Speaker later termed the words unparliamentary and expunged them. The House witnessed noisy scenes thereafter as the Treasury benches and Opposition members traded charges. The opposition reached the Well of the House despite Speaker Hriday Narain Dikshit's efforts to pacify them. Later, the House was adjourned.

After Question Hour, the House reassembled and the minister said that he had full respect for the Opposition and its leader and that he withdrew his words. The opposition wanted the minister to apologise but he refused.

On the intervention of Chief

Minister Yogi Adityanath and Parliamentary Affairs minister Suresh Kumar Khanna, the matter was resolved. The Speaker also announced to remove the objectionable words from records.

Meanwhile, through adjournment notice, Leader of Opposition in the Council Ahmad Hassan raised the issue of Jauhar University and alleged that fake cases were registered against its Vice-Chancellor over land-grabbing and other charges. Later, Leader of the House Dinesh Sharma denied the charges and said that the matter was still being probed and no one was being harassed.

Agitated with the government's reply, the SP members raised slogans and staged a walkout. Leader of Congress in the Council Deepak Singh raised the issue of hike in power tariff in rural and urban areas by the Power Corporation, which was denied by Power Minister Shreekanth Sharma.

CM highlights UP connect

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Both the houses of the state Legislature on Tuesday congratulated Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for the successful launch of its second lunar mission 'Chandrayaan-2' from Sriharikota on Monday. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath tabled the resolution which was supported by leaders of all political parties. "It is an extremely proud moment for the entire nation," said Yogi. On Monday, India successfully launched its second lunar mission 'Chandrayaan-2', propelled by powerful rocket GSLV-MkIII-M1 from a spaceport at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh to explore uncharted south pole of the celestial body by landing a rover.

"It's a historic moment for the nation after ISRO successfully launched the lunar mission from Satish Dhawan Centre at Sriharikota. It's a moment of pride for the citizens and the scientists of ISRO deserve congratulations as they left no stone unturned for the success of the mission. The success has established India as a power in

MOON MISSION

space research and it has joined a club of select nations having this capability," he said.

Underlining the role of scientists from Uttar Pradesh in the mission, Yogi said: "The success of the mission has vindicated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's programme 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' as a woman scientist Ritu Karidhal Srivastava of Lucknow prominently figured in the mission team," he added. The Chief Minister also lauded the role of scientists and engineers of IIT-Kanpur in designing the path generation technology for the rover which will land on the south pole of the Moon.

The mission's success brought in huge relief for ISRO scientists after the July 15 launch was called off following a glitch in the rocket. The Rs 978-crore mission, that will mark a giant leap in India's space research and make it only the fourth country to have landed a rover on Moon, was rescheduled to Monday after scientists corrected the glitch in

the three-stage rocket.

After the passage of resolution, Leader of Opposition Ram Govind Chaudhary said that the government had not followed the rules of business for conduct of proceedings of UP Assembly as opposition parties were not taken into confidence before tabling of resolution. He said that as per rules, all resolution should be tabled with the consent of all political parties represented in the House.

Meanwhile, with Samajwadi Party leaders walking out of the House alleging harassment of MP Azam Khan during adjournment motion, members of Legislative Council lauded the efforts of ISRO scientists for the successful launch of Chandrayaan-2 and highlighted the strong Uttar Pradesh connect in the ambitious mission. The Council congratulated the ISRO team for the successful launch. Leaders praised the efforts of scientists in ensuring that India made a mark in space science. A motion of thanks for the ISRO scientists was moved in the Council amidst applause by all the members.

सबका साथ, सबका विकास, सबका विश्वास

समर्थन मूल्य प्राप्त करना सभी कृषक बन्धुओं का अधिकार है

धान खरीद

वर्ष 2019-20

पंजीयन का शुभारम्भ - 25 जुलाई 2019

योजना का लाभ उठाने हेतु किसान अपने बैंक खाते सी०बी०एस० युक्त बैंक में खुलवायें तथा बैंक खाता नम्बर व आई०एफ०एस०सी० कोड भरने में विशेष सावधानी बरतें ।

राज्य सरकार द्वारा मूल्य समर्थन योजना का लाभ किसानों तक पहुँचाने के लिए पहल

पंजीयन करायें समर्थन मूल्य का लाभ उठायें

- कृषक बन्धुओं से सीधे की जायेगी धान खरीद।
- धान खरीद के लिए ऑनलाइन होगा किसानों का पंजीयन।
- किसी भी जनसुविधा केन्द्र, साइबर कैंफे या स्वयं से करा सकते हैं पंजीयन।
- किसान पंजीयन का राजस्व विभाग के भूलेख पोर्टल से लिंकेज कराया गया है।
- किसान भाई अपनी खतौनी का खाता संख्या किसान पंजीयन में दर्ज कर अपने कुल रकबे को एवं बोये गये धान के रकबे को अंकित करेंगे।
- विभाग के पोर्टल fcs.up.gov.in पर होगा पंजीयन।
- विचौलियों से बचने के लिए अवश्य करायें पंजीयन।
- रु. 1815/- प्रति कुं० (कॉमन) एवं रु. 1835/- प्रति कुं० (ग्रेड-ए) मिलेगा समर्थन मूल्य।
- जो कृषक रबी विपणन वर्ष 2019-20 में गेहूँ खरीद हेतु पंजीकरण करा चुके हैं, उन्हें धान विक्रय हेतु पुनः पंजीकरण कराने की आवश्यकता नहीं है, परन्तु पंजीकृत प्रपत्र में यथावश्यक संशोधन कर या बिना संशोधन के पुनः लॉक करना होगा।
- धान विक्रय के समय पंजीयन प्रपत्र के साथ कम्प्यूटाईज्ड खतौनी, फोटोयुक्त पहचान पत्र, बैंक के पासबुक के प्रथम पृष्ठ की छायाप्रति एवं यथासम्भव आधार कार्ड साथ लायें।

धान क्रय की अवधि

पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश एवं बुन्देलखण्ड में दिनांक 01.10.2019 से 31.01.2020 तक
पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश में दिनांक 01.11.2019 से 28.02.2020 तक ।

किसी भी सहायता के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800-1800-150

या सम्बन्धित जनपद के जिला खाद्य विपणन अधिकारी, तहसील के क्षेत्रीय विपणन अधिकारी या ब्लॉक के विपणन निरीक्षक से सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं।

सुरक्षित होगा अपना जीवन, करेंगे गार ट्रैफिक नियमों का पालन

खाद्य एवं रसद विभाग उत्तर प्रदेश

Bill to tackle 'anti-national' activities in universities

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday tabled in the assembly a Bill seeking an undertaking from private universities that they will not allow their campuses to be used for "anti-national activities".

The Uttar Pradesh Private Universities Bill, 2019 lists several conditions for setting up such institutions, including following a transparent admission process and a common academic calendar prescribed by the state government. If the Bill becomes law, private universities will award honorary degrees to people in public life only with the state government's approval. The Bill demands an undertaking from the sponsors of private universities that their institution will not be involved in or permit anyone to "cause or promote anti-national activities".

If any such activity takes place on the campus, it shall be considered a major violation of the conditions for setting up the university, the draft legislation warns. The government may then take action according to the provisions under the Act or any other law in force, it says. The Bill is meant to enact umbrella legislation to govern

THE UTTAR PRADESH PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES BILL, 2019 LISTS SEVERAL CONDITIONS FOR SETTING UP SUCH INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING FOLLOWING A TRANSPARENT ADMISSION PROCESS AND A COMMON ACADEMIC CALENDAR PRESCRIBED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT

all private universities, it adds. A statement on the objectives of the Bill said 27 private universities have been established and incorporated under different state Acts in Uttar Pradesh. This means there is no uniform law to monitor such private universities, it added. It has become difficult to collect information and ensure quality standards in higher education, the government said.

The draft Bill was approved by the state cabinet recently. An official had then said the universities will have to ensure that patriotism, national integration, communal amity, social harmony, secularism, ethics and international goodwill are included in the curriculum.

The Bill proposes that at least 75 per cent of teachers in each department will have to be the university's regular employees. The proposed legislation demands that the private universities will also conform to the standards specified by central regulatory bodies like the University Grants Commission. The private universities will comply with the norms set up by the state government on a common academic calendar, anti-copying measures, examinations and the award of degrees and certificates. The universities will be required to place in public domain their fee structure and admission procedure before admissions open. The government didn't explain the reason for including the "anti-national" clause in the Bill. However, last year, a Kashmiri student reportedly joined the militancy after going missing from a private university in Greater Noida. He later appeared on social media. After the Balakot airstrikes by India, three Kashmiri girls studying at the Veterinary Research Institute in Bareilly were booked for allegedly making and forwarding anti-Army comments on social media. **PTI**

As admission closes at LU, 300 seats left vacant

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

With the admissions closing at Lucknow University, there are 300 seats left vacant because of students taking admission to other universities. Admission coordinator Anil Mishra pointed out that these many seats were left vacant in the past years.

He said admissions could not be carried out on these vacant seats as per university rules. A total number of 7,500 seats have been filled. Mishra said that one of the highlights of the admission was the successful off-campus online counselling. Meanwhile, a one-day regional-level workshop for teachers was organised by Centre of Environment Education in partnership with Institute of Wildlife Sciences, ONGC Centre for Studies. Around 70 teachers from nine districts of UP and Bihar participated in the workshop. A set of resource material developed for the programme was shared with the participants and ideas were discussed to promote activity-based learning. Winners of 2018 Earthian Paryavaran Mitra programme were given away medallions and certificates.

Boy searching for ball in house of industrialist shot at



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Looking for a cricket ball which had gone into the house of an industrialist of Gorakhpur almost cost a class 12 student his life, when the security staff opened fire, leaving him critically injured on Monday evening.

The victim was rushed to Raghav Das Medical College and later referred to Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences in Lucknow. Surprisingly, despite registering a case, the police made no arrest till late Tuesday afternoon.

As per reports, some students in Gorakhpur area were playing cricket on Monday

evening and the ball went into the house of businessman Chandra Prakash Agarwal. While one of the players, Arvind Kumar, scaled the boundary wall to look for the ball, a security guard deployed there opened fire, causing grievous injuries to Kumar.

His friends later raised an alarm after which the locals shifted him to a hospital from where he was later referred to SGPGI. Senior officers reached the spot and said that investigations were underway.

Meanwhile in Badaun, three members of a family, including a minor, were killed while another injured when a unidentified vehicle ramed their motorcycle on Monday night. Mukesh (30) was going along with his wife Sukhi (24), son Arpit (4) and his daughter on Badaun-Meerut highway on his bike when the tragedy struck at Dahgava crossing of Sahaswan police station limits.

While Mukesh, Sukhi and Arpit died, his daughter was injured. The bodies were sent for autopsy and the police started investigations.

CITY BRIEFS



ANNUAL AWARD DAY

Karamat Husain Muslim Girls' College organised Annual Award Day on Tuesday. Principal Qudsiya Parveen welcomed the guests while director Syed Shuaib Ahmad encouraged the students to work hard. The chief guest on the occasion was former IPS officer Mumtaz Ahmad, who felicitated the students. The Governor's Running Trophy was presented to Mirza Husn Bano for obtaining the highest marks in Medieval and Modern History in BA (III) while Shikha Yadav, Neelam Bharti and Jyoti Verma of BA (II) and Pooja Yadav, Archana Rawat and Samreen Fatima of BA (I) were awarded Dr Nasreen Ahmad Memorial Scholarship. The Umme Habiba Memorial Urdu Gold Medal and Prof Shamim Nikhat Memorial Urdu Gold Medal and Scholarship was awarded to Aisha Ghazala for securing highest marks in Urdu in BA. Samreen Bano and Shawana Khaleel were awarded Prof Shamim Nikhat Memorial Scholarship and Begum Nuzhat Kidwai Memorial Scholarship. Salma Bano, Mansi Rawat and Mahima Rawat were given away Sports Award.

NOTICES TO SCHOOLS

The CMO office has issued notices to three schools over presence mosquito larvae in their premises. The schools included Montford Boys School & Mount Carmel Convent in Mahanagar, and Rani Laxmi Bai School in Indira Nagar. He said the larvae were also found in the police station at Khurramnagar crossing. Additional CMO KP Tripathi said if the larvae were found there during second inspection, action would be taken against the officials concerned.

INSPECTION

Managing director of Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) Raj Shekhar carried out a surprise inspection at Alambagh bus station on Tuesday. In a bid to solve the problems and issues at the bus station, he set up a coordination committee. The first meeting will be held to resolve the issues next week. He inspected some buses and checked essential systems like speed control device (SCD), vehicle tracking system and medical kits. He also interacted with the drivers and conductors and sought their feedback about health check-ups, dress code and medical kits.

SOFTWARE ENGINEER SHOT DEAD

Lucknow: Bike-borne unidentified assailants shot dead a software engineer, identified as Sharad Nigam, in Thakur police area when he was returning home late on Tuesday night. Heavy police force was rushed to scene and the cops launched a manhunt for the attackers. Police said when Sharad was near his house, the assailants waylaid him and opened a burst fire. He was rushed to Trauma Centre where he was declared brought dead. **PNS**

अभिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, रायपुर (छ.ग.)
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur (C.G.)
Tatibandh, G.E. Road, Raipur-492 099 (CG) (www.aiimsraipur.edu.in)

No. AIIMS-RPR/Recr. & Advt. Cell/2019/1573, Date: 22-07-2019

E-TENDER CALL NOTICE
Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Raipur Chhattisgarh, Govt, invites e-tender for following:

Tender Title	EMD Cost	Published on CPPP/Website	Pre-Bidding Meeting date	Closing date
Annual Rate Contract for Supply of Suture Material at AIIMS Raipur	₹ 10,74,000.00	20-07-2019	07-08-2019 at 3:30 PM	19-08-2019 at 03:00 PM
Two Year Rate Contract of Dual connector Injector Syringe 190 ml with QFT for Radiodiagnosis Department at AIIMS Raipur	₹ 91,000.00	20-07-2019	30-07-2019 at 3:30 PM	20-08-2019 at 06:00 PM

The details terms & conditions are available on the website- www.aiimsraipur.edu.in and CPP Portal www.eprocure.gov.in
Stores Officer, AIIMS Raipur

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. : EL-POH/CB/TN/
Centre Pivot/28/2018-19 Date : 18.07.2019

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer (EL-POH), N. Rlys. Locomotive Workshop, Charrabag, Lucknow invites following e-tender from works as given below: **Tender No. : EL-POH/CB/Tender/Centre Pivot/28/2019-20, Name of Work : "Repair/Rehabilitation of Centre Pivot assembly by replacing existing plate with 32mm thick plate in WAP-1/WAP-4 Electric Locomotives. Estimated Cost of Work : ₹ 54,39,020.00 Earnest Money : Rs. 1,08,800.00 only (accepted through net banking or payment gateway only) Cost of Tender Form : Rs. 5,000/- only (accepted through net banking or payment gateway only) Period of Contract : 24 (Twenty four) Months. Date & Time for Submission of Tender : from 02.08.2019 up to 16.08.2019 up to 15:00 hrs. Date & Time for Opening of Tender : 16.08.2019 at 15:15 hrs. The tender form may be submitted at the website www.irps.gov.in from 02.08.2019 to 16.08.2019 (up to 15:00 hrs). Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payment against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, Debit Card, Credit Card etc. Manual payments through demand drafts, Bankers Cheque, Deposit Receipt, FDR etc. are not allowed. The tender will be opened on specified date and time. In case on the above date is a holiday the tender opening would be conducted at the same times on the next working day. No post tender correspondence for submission of additional documents shall be entertained after opening the technical and commercial offers. Even Suo-Moto post letter of tender shall be treated as NULL & Void. All the detail of Tender is available at the website www.irps.gov.in. 2358/2019**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DME/C&WNR/LKO acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. 138-Mech-CW-LW-CAMC-LK019 Closing Date/Time 13.08.2019 up to 15:00 hrs. and to be opened at 15:30 hrs. on same day. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Information regarding this tender is available on website www.irps.gov.in on internet & can be seen/download. The tenders/bidders will have to make payment towards Tender document cost and Earnest Money against this tender through online payment modes like Net Banking, debit/ Credit cards etc. available on IREPS portal. Manual/offline mode of payment through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Cash Deposit receipts etc. are not permitted.

Name of work	Contract for operation and CAMC of laundry machines of departmental mechanized laundry/NR/LKO having capacity 02 Ton/shift of 08 hrs. including handling of linen, blankets for sanitization, loading/unloading and transportation of linen and blankets for sanitization, from station/washing line to laundry and laundry to washing line/station at LKO Railway station for a period of 02 years.
Tender Type	Open
Tender closing Date & Time	13.08.2019 15:00 hrs.
Pre-Bid (Yes/No)	No
Advertised Value (in Rs.)	3,74,50,843.02 (Including @ 18% GST)
Bidding Style	Single rate for each schedule item
Earnest Money (in Rs.)	3,37,300.00
Tender Doc. cost (in Rs.)	10,000.00
Bidding start date	30.07.2019
Bidding System	Double Bid System
Date & Time of Uploading Tender	Upto 24.07.2019
Pre-Bid Query Date, Time	Not Applicable
Tendering Section	Tender CW
Validity of Offer	60 Days
Period of Completion	24 Months

No. : 138-Mech-CW-LW-CAMC-LK019 Dated: 22.07.2019. 2371/2019
Serving Customers with a Smile

Maya expels BSP MLA in K'taka

Lucknow (PNS): Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Tuesday expelled party's lone MLA in Karnataka after he violated the directive of the high command to vote in favour of the HD Kumaraswamy government during the vote of confidence in Vidhan Soudha on Tuesday.

In a tweet, Mayawati said that the BSP MLA in Karnataka, Mahesh, had violated the party's discipline and it was gross indiscipline. "Mahesh has been expelled from the party," she said.

The lone BSP member in the Karnataka assembly did not attend the confidence vote and played truant, inviting the BSP supremo's annoyance. Two days back, Mayawati had asked the BSP MLA to support the JD(S)-Congress government.

19-year-old girl abducted by car-borne youths

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Car-borne unidentified miscreants abducted a 19-year-old girl on way to a field in Maal police station area on Tuesday morning, giving police anxious moments. Victim's mother, who is a cook employed at a government-run school, alleged the role of a relative. However, the accused denied his involvement saying he was staying in New Delhi.

As per reports, the complainant, identified as Sheela of Thawar village in the area, informed the police that her daughter Subhashini had gone to the fields where saplings of paddy were being planted. "I left for school around 9 am while Subhashini left for the fields around 10.30 am. But she

did not return by the afternoon. I went to the field to see what was wrong but did not find her. The farmers told me that Subhashini did not come to the field. This made me apprehensive about her safety and I inquired from some villagers who told me that four car-borne youths abducted Subhashini when she was going to the field," Sheela told the police.

She said the face of one of the kidnappers resembled that of a relative, who she identified as Ravipal of Gosainjanj.

"Ravipal had an evil design for Subhashini and he had been harassing her for a long time. I did not lodge a complaint because my relatives requested me not to, saying it would bring infamy to both the

families. However, Ravipal did not mend his ways and continued with his interference. He finally abducted my daughter," she alleged.

The police registered a case against Ravipal and three of his aides. The cops also talked to Ravipal after the complainant provided his mobile number to them. "Ravipal claimed that he had been staying in New Delhi for the last several months. He also claimed that he was in New Delhi at the time of the incident," Sheela said.

Meanwhile, thieves sneaked into the house of Sheel Kumar Jaiswal in Madaion on Monday night and decamped with cash, jewellery and mobile phone. Reports said the family was asleep when the thieves struck.

2 held for duping job-seekers

Lucknow (PNS): A joint team of cyber cell and Husainganj police busted a gang that had fleeced more than 200 job-seekers on the pretext of providing them employment in private companies in the last three months.

Those arrested were identified as Paras Mishra of Unnao and Saumitra Verma of Jankipuram. Paras is a Science graduate while Verma is a Law graduate. The cops recovered 10 mobile phones from the miscreants' possession.

Hazratganj circle officer AK Mishra said both the accused used to make calls to random youths and the girl working as their assistant would trap them. The victims would be asked deposit a demand draft of Rs 1,000 initially and later asked to pay Rs 1,000 for opening a bank account and Rs 1,000 as security money," he said.

LDA to join hands with railways to develop township

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) on Tuesday decided to join hands with the Indian Railways to develop a township worth Rs 800 crore on the land spread in 4 hectares in Aishbagh. The construction work will begin in October this year. It was finalised in a joint meeting in

the presence of District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma.

It was also decided to seek the opinion of the general public on what facilities they want to have at their shelters to be built in the township.

This initiative was taken to know the requirements of the buyers. A survey in this regard will be conducted next month.

Indian Railways is diversifying its activities by entering real estate business. It has already made its presence felt in catering which is evoking good response from people.

Presently, the proposed site is being use as the junk yard of the Northern Railways adjacent to Mawaiya. The area has been encroached upon by rag-pickers and is also being

used by nearby vendors.

The LDA administration will help the railways in designing of the project, approval of the blueprints, land use, basic infrastructure and removal of encroachment.

The project includes a 13-storeyed luxury apartment with parking facility in the basement. The estimated cost of the project is said to be Rs

60 crore. There will be a general hospital-cum-trauma centre being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 200 crore. There will also be a college and shopping mall.

It will be develop with the help of partner partners. The LDA administration will start an exercise to clear the land to so that civil work may start by October.

'Candida auris' forces ICU closure

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

King George's Medical University closed its ICU at the Trauma Centre because of the presence of a rare fungus 'Candida auris'. KGMU media incharge Dr Sandeep Tewari said that after 48 hours, they would carry out a culture test and if it came out to be negative, the unit would be re-opened. Two patients tested positive for this fungus and one died on Tuesday.

This fungus impacts people with low immunity and the major problem is that it is

multidrug-resistant. "This infection can come from anywhere in the atmosphere. The hospital cannot be blamed for this. It can occur in immune-compromised patients despite the fact that all precautions are taken. These patients include those who cannot respire themselves and are on ventilators or those whose liver and the kidney are not properly working and those who are diabetics," he said.

He said one patient who has tested positive was discharged four days back. "Precautions are being taken for the other three patients and they have been kept in a room. The unit has been fumigated and there are no new entries being allowed at the moment," he asserted. Dr Tewari said the infection was noticed for the first time in Japan in 2009 while in India, it was seen in 2011, 2015 and 16. This fungus was also found in SGPGI.

"This is a rare type of fungus and it does not directly cause the death of patients, hence its treatment is a little complicated," he added. According to experts, 'Candida auris' is an emerg-

ing issue. "Hospitals in several countries have been affected by this fungus and it hits hospitalised patients. It often does not respond to the common drugs and hence creates problems. It can also spread among patients. Amongst those who have the highest risk include those who have been staying at the hospital for a long times," experts said. They also said that attention should be paid to infection prevention and control. He added that washing of hands was important while people visiting the area should be wearing gloves.

FSDA team inspects Vidhan Bhawan canteen

Lucknow (PNS): The Food Safety and Drug Administration (FSDA) conducted an inspection of Vidhan Bhawan canteen on Tuesday. According to food safety officer Suresh Mishra, two samples 'daal' and 'paneer curry' have been collected for tests.

He said the inspection was carried out after a complaint was made on the portal of the Chief Minister regarding the food available in the canteen. Asked about the state of the canteen, he said it was better than most of the canteens outside Vidhan Bhawan. He said the samples would be sent for lab tests and results would be out within 15 days.

Meanwhile, Additional Chief Secretary Anita Bhatnagar Jain has asked the government for an additional amount of Rs 15.56 crore to strengthen the food and drug testing labs across the state. She said it would increase the number of samples being tested from 6,000 to 12,000.

SCHOOLSCAN



TABLES TENNIS

At the inter-campus table-tennis competition organised by City Montessori School, junior and senior finals concluded on Tuesday. In boys' finals, students of CMS, Kanpur Road, bagged the championship with 16 points. In junior category singles, Yatharth Srivastava of Kanpur Road defeated Amog Shakti of Gomti Nagar Campus-I 11-5, 5-11, 11-9, 5-11 and 11-9 whereas in doubles, Yatharth Srivastava and Adarsh Mishra of Kanpur Road beat Rudransh Singh

and Pranav Singh of Aliganj Campus-I 11-8, 11-0 and 11-3. In senior category of singles, Kritin Goyal of Gomti Nagar Campus-I beat Prashpreet Singh of Kanpur Road 8-11, 11-9, 11-6, 11-7 and 11-7 whereas in doubles, Prabal Singh and Kartikey Jalota of Gomti Nagar Campus-I defeated Prashpreet Singh and Yashwardhan of Kanpur Road 8-11, 11-9, 11-7 and 11-7.

GOI SCHOLARSHIP

Anuj Grover, Hubashia Furqan and Mohd Saad of City Montessori School, Rajendra Nagar Campus I, have been awarded Rs 12-lakh scholarship by the Government of India. Each student will be getting Rs 4 lakh as scholarship.

PARADIP PORT TRUST
e-TENDER NOTICE :
Name of the work "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Smart Meter" at Paradip Port. Estimated cost: Rs. 1,88,36,121/-. Last date & time of submission of bid Dt. 12/08/2019 up to 16:30 Hrs. Refer our website for details <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> Sd/- Executive Engineer (PED-II) PPT/PR/207/19-20 Dt. 23.07.2019

U.P. Raja Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. Obra Thermal Power Station, OBRA-Sonebhadra, -231219 CORRIGENDUM AGAINST TENDER NO. T-03/DIRECTOR/TTI/2019-20 TENDER ID-2019_RVUNL_360013-1
The Online e-bid submission date and part-I (Technical Bid) opening date of Short Term Tender No. T-03/DIRECTOR/TTI/2019-20 is hereby extended and shall be opened on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> as stated below: 1. Tender submission date : 27.07.2019 up to 18:00 hrs. 2. Tender Fee and Earnest Money Deposit Date : 29.07.2019 up to 17:00 hrs. 3. Tender opening date : 31.07.2019 at 16:00 hrs. All other related terms and conditions remain same. Information or corrigendum if any shall be uploaded only on the website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Bidders are advised to visit the website <http://etender.up.nic.in> on regular basis in order to keep themselves update. Dy. Director No. 167 Date 23.7.2019 "SAVE ELECTRICITY ENHANCE NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY"

U.P. Raja Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. Obra Thermal Power Station, OBRA-Sonebhadra, Corrigendum Tender No. T-7/SE-I/BTPS/TMD-I/2018-19 Tender ID-2019_RVUNL_332860-1
The Online date of part-I (Technical Bid) of online e-Tender No. T-7/SE-I/BTPS/TMD-I/2018-19 for the work Annual breakdown/running maintenance of L.P. Valve, Fabrication of bend, O/H of special H.P. Valve and attending leakage from flange bonnet of H.P. Valve/pipeline & etc. work of unit no. 9, 10 & 11 of 5x200MW, BTPS, OBRA is hereby again extended and shall be opened on website:<http://etender.up.nic.in> as stated below :- Last Date and Time for Submission of e-Bids (Technical and Financial) at e-procurement website:<http://etender.up.nic.in> 30-07-2019 up to 18:00 hrs. Last Date and Time for Submission of Hardcopy of Requisite Documents in the Office of Undersigned: 01-08-2019 up to 16:00 hrs. On line opening date and time of Part-I (Technical Bid) : 03-08-2019 up to 16:00 hrs. OR Later. Other terms & conditions of tender shall remain the same. Superintending Engineer O&MM-C-I, BTPS, OBRA No. 168 Date 23.7.2019 SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION

Home Ministry overhauls VIP security cover of 130 bigwigs

MHA's move impacts politicians across party lines from Lalu and Akhilesh to Rudy, besides media personalities, ex-top cops, babus

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Former Chief Ministers of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh Lalu Prasad and Akhilesh Yadav respectively are no longer in the Central List of VIP protectees after the Union Home Ministry reviewed a list of 130 protectees and decided to withdraw or scale down the security cover of many politicians, media personalities and bureaucrats.

Akhilesh was secured by the elite National Security Guards, while Lalu was a Z cat-

egory protectee. Among other prominent personalities removed from the Central List include Z+ protectee and BSP Rajya Sabha MP Satish Chandra Mishra and Z category protectees like former minister in the Modi Government Rajiv Pratap Rudy, former CRPF DG and advisor to Jammu and Kashmir Government K Vijay Kumar besides UP Government Minister Suresh Rana. These protectees were being secured by the CRPF.

Others removed from the Central List include Vice Chancellor of Manipur University Adya Prasad Pandey, former Congress MP and MLA Avtar Singh Bhadana, Deputy CM of Uttar Pradesh Dinesh Sharma, Jitendra Swami (son of former MP, Bihar, Umashankar Singh, Punjab MLA Rana Gurmeet Singh Sodhi, former MP from Bihar Sabir Ali, Editor-in-Chief



of Samachar Plus Umesh Kumar, Publisher of Ananda Bazar Patrika, Kolkata Avek Sarkar, former MP from Bihar Uday Singh and MP from Bihar Veena Devi who were getting security cover from the CRPF.

Security cover of Punjab Kesari Editor AK Minha has been downgraded from Z+ to Z and CRPF cover has been withdrawn. Earlier, he was availing all-India security cover from CRPF except in Delhi. Former Jharkhand CM Babul Marandi will now get Z cate-



gory protection Jharkhand only instead of the earlier Z+ category cover from CRPF.

BJP MLA from Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Som's cover has also been downgraded from Z category to Y and limited only to Uttar Pradesh instead of the earlier protection in the States of Uttarakhand, Delhi, Haryana and Punjab besides UP.

LJP MP Chirag Paswan's cover has been downgraded from Z category to Y type and his CRPF cover has also been removed. IG Nalin Prabhat



will get 'Z' cover in Andhra Pradesh, Chandigarh and Punjab only. Likewise, protection of former MP Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav and Lok Sabha MP Sachidanadhar Sakshi has been downgraded from Z to Y and their CRPF cover has also been removed. Former CRPF DG Prakash Mishra's CRPF security cover has been removed but has been retained in the 'X' category Central list.

Sources said the 'Z' cover of former BJP members Kirti Azad and Shatrughan Sinha,



newly-appointed Himachal Pradesh Governor Kalraj Mishra, former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar, two granddaughters and a grandson of former President Pranab Mukherjee, daughter and grandson of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has been taken off from the central list or has been removed. These VIPs were being secured by the armed commandos of paramilitary forces like the CISF and the Delhi Police.

Others whose security has been withdrawn include Uttar

Pradesh minister Brajesh Pathak, BJP politician Anupam Hazra, ISRO Chairman K Sivan, former scientific adviser R Chidambaram and Congress leader Deependra Hooda.

BJP Rajya Sabha MP O P Mathur, Acharya Pramod Krishnam, who unsuccessfully contested from the Lucknow Parliamentary constituency on a Congress ticket, RSS leader Indresh Kumar, former BJP MP Udit Raj; and sitting BJP MP from Etawah Ram Shankar Katheria have also been taken off from the protection list of central security forces.

The cover of Congress MP from Punjab, Pratap Singh Bajwa, space scientist T K Alex and few others have also been taken off the Central list.

The protection category of Abhijeet Mukherjee, MP son of former President Pranab Mukherjee, Congress leaders Anand Sharma, Raj Babbar,

Digvijay Singh, A K Antony, Manish Tewari, Loktantrik Janata Dal Party leader Sharad Yadav, CPI (M) leader Sitaram Yechury, former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's foster daughter Namita Kaul Bhattacharya and former BJP leader Yashwant Sinha has also been downgraded.

Former Congress MP Raveet Singh Bittu, former Punjab minister Bikram Singh Majithia, NIA Inspector General G P Singh, Madhya Pradesh CM Kamal Nath and Additional Sessions Judge in Delhi O P Saini are among others whose security cover has been downgraded.

Some of those who have been removed from the Central list will be provided security by the police units of various State governments, officials said.

The Home Ministry has sought compliance of security category by the Central paramilitary forces by Thursday.

DELHI METRO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kejriwal can't appoint non-Govt official: HUA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In what could lead to another face off between the Centre and the Delhi Government, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA) on Tuesday said the Kejriwal dispensation cannot appoint non-government representatives to the Delhi Metro Board of Directors. The Ministry has, in the meantime, circulated a Cabinet note to regularise 1797 unauthorised colonies except posh colonies ahead of the Delhi Assembly election early next year. The Centre is likely to issue an order to regularise unauthorised colonies in Delhi within a month.

Making it clear that the Centre will not accept representation of AAP leaders Raghav Chadha, Atishi Marlena Jasmine Shah and the party's Rajya Sabha MP ND Gupta's son Naveen Gupta to the Delhi Metro Board of Directors, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Tuesday there is no scope for non-government official people in the Board.

He cited the case of BJP leader Madan Lal Khurana, who had resigned from the Delhi Metro chairmanship, after the then chief minister Sheila Dikshit objected to his appointment in 2003. Chadha

and Atishi had contested the Lok Sabha polls from South and East Delhi seats respectively earlier this year but they lost.

Taking a dig at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Puri said, "We have now different situation where Kejriwal is not suggesting the name of an MP and he is suggesting names of two people who lost elections for MP. The Delhi government should adhere to the conventions and norms and nominate government officers on the Board of Delhi Metro as has been done earlier."

"I have a situation where the DMRC board is handled with great competence by the serving secretary in the ministry. There is no scope for non-official people in that board," Puri added.

On July 17, the HUA Ministry had objected to the nomination of Chadha and Atishi and two others to the DMRC board of directors and asked the AAP government to withdraw its non-bureaucrat nominees citing official guidelines. According to the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises, officials handling the issue concerned should be appointed as government nominee directors.

In a letter to Delhi Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Dev dated July 17, Additional Secretary (HUA) K Sanjay

Murthy had said the government nominee director bring not only domain knowledge and expertise but are also accountable to various tasks of the company for ensuring time bound implementation of the project.

On the regularization of unauthorized colonies, the HUA minister termed as "incorrect" Kejriwal's claim that the Centre has approved the Delhi government's proposal on the issue sent in November, 2015. Puri said the Centre has circulated among its stakeholders, including the Delhi government, a Cabinet note based on the report of a panel headed by the lieutenant governor for the regularisation of these colonies and not on the AAP dispensation's proposal.

In the next seven to 10 days, the ministry will get comments as sought from stakeholders and then it will get approval from the Union cabinet, he said. As per the proposal, the colonies would be categorised depending on the land they have come up on - government land, agricultural or gram sabha land. The regularisation fee would vary as per ownership. This is not the first time an effort has been initiated to empower residents of unauthorised colonies on Delhi. In 1993, 567 of 607 such colonies were regularised.

US PREZ KASHMIR MEDIATION CLAIM

Modi must tell nation what transpired between him and Trump: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday sought explanation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi over US President Donald Trump's claim that the Indian leader asked him to mediate on the matter.

While Congress president Rahul Gandhi asserted that a "weak" foreign ministry denial wouldn't do and PM Modi must tell the nation what transpired in the meeting between him and the US president, UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi said her party would demand an immediate explanation from Prime Minister. "You will see it in the Parliament. We will raise the issue and Congress is doing now also," Sonia said in her first reaction outside the Parliament before the House started its proceedings.

"President Trump says PM Modi asked him to mediate between India and Pakistan on Kashmir! If true, PM Modi has betrayed India's interests & 1972 Shimla Agreement," said Rahul Gandhi in a tweet message.

Though the Congress welcomed the government's reiteration of India's "no third

party involvement" stand on the Kashmir issue but asked why Modi was "mum" over Trump's claim. Ministry of External Affairs has rejected Trump's remarks, made during his meeting with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, that Modi had asked him to mediate in resolving the Kashmir issue with Pakistan.

Reacting to the MEA's assertion, Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said reiteration of the time tested line on "no mediation on Kashmir" is welcome. The US president's remarks "relate to a meeting between him and PM Modi, wherein our PM had asked him to mediate", he said in a tweet.

"Why is PM 'mum' on what transpired between the two heads of states, more so when it affects our sovereignty?" Surjewala asked.

Congress along with other opposition parties on Monday night demanded a clarification from Modi on whether there has been a shift in India's position of no third party involvement in the Kashmir issue after Trump offered to mediate between India and Pakistan on the matter.

Opp's demands 'inappropriate' that PM should clarify: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday dismissed as "inappropriate" and "irresponsible" the Opposition parties' demand that Prime Minister Narendra Modi make a statement on US President Donald Trump's Kashmir claim and accused them of putting "politics above national interest".

Senior party leader and union minister Prakash Javadekar told reporters that the row over Trump's comments that Modi wanted him to mediate with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue should have ended with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's statement in Parliament in which he "stoutly denied" the US president's claim.

"The way Congress and some opposition parties have protested in Rajya Sabha and created a disorder just to demand the prime minister's statement is condemnable... They are putting politics above national interest," he said.

This attitude is inappropriate and irresponsible, he said.

Javadekar claimed that the opposition's stand shows that it has been unable to reconcile with the Modi government's big win in the recent Lok Sabha polls. These parties are still depressed, he said.

Def Ministry approves more awards given to NCC cadets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved an increase in the number of awards given to cadets of National Cadet Corps (NCC) from existing 143 to 243 and a big hike in cash incentives in various categories, the ministry said on Tuesday. The total expenditure incurred will increase from ₹1.44 lakh to ₹3.44 lakh.

Rajnath also approved substantial increase in DG's commendations

Giving this information here on Tuesday, officials said at present NCC cadets are now entitled to receive two Raksha Mantri Padaks carrying cash incentive of ₹30,000 as against one Padak of value ₹20,000 earlier, four Raksha Mantri Commendations of ₹20,000 each in place three Commendations of value ₹15,000 each earlier.

Singh has also approved a substantial increase in DG's commendations from the existing 102 to 200. Approval has also been given for nine new Best Cadet Awards for NCC cadets in various categories taking the total number of such awards to 27 and the cash incentive for each award has also been hiked substantially. These awards are granted during Republic Day Camp in New Delhi.

INSHORT

GOVT APPOINTS DOSHI, JOSHI AS OSDs IN PMO
New Delhi: The Government on Tuesday appointed Hiren Joshi and Pratik Doshi as officers of special duty in the Prime Minister's Office in the rank of joint secretary. The Appointments Committee of Cabinet also ordered the appointment of 1997-batch Indian Foreign Service officer Sanjeev Kumar Singla as private secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

SC AGREES TO HEAR MAHA'S PLEA
New Delhi: The Supreme Court agreed to hear on Tuesday a plea by the Maharashtra Government seeking demolition of buildings that are in a dilapidated condition in the state.

SC TO DECIDE ON FADNAVIS' 'OMISSION'
New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday said the alleged "omission" by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis of not disclosing information about two criminal cases in his election affidavit in 2014 Assembly polls may be decided in the trial.

SC GRANTS BAIL TO 33 IN 1984 SIKH RIOTS
New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday granted bail to 33 people convicted for rioting, burning houses and violation of curfew in Triokpuri area of the national capital during 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

INDIA'S TIES WITH CHINA STRENGTHENED: RS CHAIR
New Delhi: Welcoming a delegation of young parliamentarians from China, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh on Tuesday said India's relations with Beijing have progressed over the past three decades despite twists and turns in the global economic and political situation.

Govt initiates debate on Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday initiated debate on the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 envisaging strengthening of National Investigation Agency (NIA) and empowering of its chief to seize the properties related to the probe on terrorism. Moving the Bill, MoS Home Kishan Reddy said, "This Government was working against terrorism with zero tolerance."

The Bill seeks to allow an individual suspected to have terror links to be designated as a 'terrorist'. In order to put a check on terrorism, he said, "we have given a free hand to the security forces" and added that in the north eastern states in the last five years there has been a decline in the insurgency related incidents. Due to the sustained effort of the government, the minister said, the situation has improved in the left-wing extremism affected states. The

LS PASSES MOTOR VEHICLES AMENDMENT BILL

New Delhi: Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 which seeks to weed out corruption, improve road safety and usher in use of technology to regulate traffic. Replying to the concerns of opposition MPs, Road and Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari assured the House that rights of the states will not be taken away.

Bill amends the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

He also said the number of terrorist incidents in hinterland during last decade as compared to the previous decade has

reduced by 70% from 71 to 21 and the number of terrorist incidents in Jammu & Kashmir has reduced by 86% i.e. 23,290 to 3187.

Under the Act, an investi-

gating officer is required to obtain the prior approval of the Director General of Police to seize properties that may be connected with terrorism. The Bill adds that if the investigation is conducted by an officer of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the approval of the Director General of NIA would be required for seizure of such property.

Under the Act, investiga-

tion of cases may be conducted by officers of the rank of Deputy Superintendent or Assistant Commissioner of Police or above. The Bill additionally empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases.

Opposing the proposed amendments, Manish Tewari (Congress) said in this country false propaganda is being spread that the law was solution to all the problems. The solution to the problems, he said, was through political initiatives

and not strict laws. Meenakshi Lekhi (BJP) spoke in favour saying the amendment bill is dedicated to the people who have sacrificed their lives defending the sovereignty and integrity of the nation. Moreover, she added, most of the provisions in the amendment bill were of the technical nature and aimed at removing technical glitches. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to reply on Wednesday.

HUMAN TOLL ON MARINE ECOLOGY

Sea mining threatens Scaly foot snail

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

As companies and countries look to extract minerals such as cobalt, copper, manganese and lithium concentrated on the ocean floor to develop faster technologies, the first animal under the sea that would be first affected due to deep-sea mining has been identified: It's the slow moving 'Scaly foot snail' (*Chrysomallon squamiferum*). The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) added it to its Red List of endangered species on July 18.

The Scaly foot snail is found 2,400-2,900 metres down in the Indian ocean, an area where the International Seabed Authority, has issued 29 exploration leases to companies for mining besides in vast areas of the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, covering an area of 1.3 million km² - five times the



surface area of the UK. The ISA is currently developing regulations to manage deep sea mining beyond national boundaries. However, there are rising concerns about the potential for widespread and lasting impacts of deep seabed mining including the loss of species such as the Scaly-foot Snail, said a statement from the IUCN.

Dr Julia Sigwart, senior lecturer in marine biology and associate director at Queen's

University Belfast's Marine Laboratory, said: "The deep sea is home to thousands of species and new species are being discovered all the time.

"These deep sea marine animals like the scaly-foot snail are out of sight, out of mind, but they are still threatened by human activities."

The companies are keen to extract large supplies of nickel, cobalt and rare earth metals, important for products such as electric car batteries, smartphones and other technology.

UP in arms against the deep sea mining, Greenpeace has called for an immediate moratorium on all deep-sea mining for fear of severe and irreversible harm it may do to the oceans. In its report, In Deep Water, the nongovernmental environmental organisation calls for the reprieve and tighter environmental safeguards against the risks of deep sea mining.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a "very special friend" visiting him in his Parliament House office on Tuesday. As soon as he posted two images of him holding and playing with a baby on Instagram, social media went crazy and the guesses ranged from the baby being cricketer Rohit Sharma's child to BJP chief Amit Shah's grandchild. It was later found that she was the granddaughter of senior BJP MP Satyanarayan Jatjia

CBI books unknown people in case where man impersonated as PMO official

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a case against unknown persons for offences under IT Act and IPC section relating to cheating a Gujarat resident who was duped of Rs 18,999 from his bank account by a person claiming to be from the PMO Insurance Cell. The agency registered the case following a reference from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The PMO reference to CBI was sent following an online complaint from Umeshchandra Tank who alleged that one Mathew allegedly claimed to be from PMO Insurance Cell and cheated him by fraudulently transferring the money from his bank account.

"Prima facie, this is a case of impersonation wherein the name of PMO has been misused for committing financial fraud," Assistant Director in PMO PK Issar said in his letter to the CBI.

In his online complaint on PMO public grievance portal, Tank alleged that Mathew asked him to furnish his debit card number and One Time Password for processing his complaint against the insurance company.

LS nod to Bill for amending Motor Vehicle law

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha on Tuesday gave its nod to a bill which seeks to weed out corruption, improve road safety and usher in use of technology to regulate traffic, as the Government assured the House that rights of the states

will not be taken away. The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was passed by a voice vote. Several amendments moved by opposition members were also rejected by voice vote. Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said he

is here "not to show any dream" but to fulfil promises made on better, smoother roads and latest transport technology.

While several members cutting across party lines supported safety and traffic violation aspects of the Bill, they at the same time accused the Centre of trying to take away state's powers with certain provisions of the draft law.

Gadkari said that the Government has no intention to intervene with the power of states.

The bill proposes a National Transportation Policy for ushering guidelines on the transportation of goods and passengers.

The Minister said it will be framed only after holding consultation with the states.

"We will not take away any power of the states...If some states would not like to adopt that, it would be free to do that. It is not a mandatory policy," he said.

The Minister also announced that the Ministry would end the system of road monitoring being undertaken by independent engineers and it would be carried out by an experts' company.

Martyred Aurangzeb's 2 brothers join Army

Rajouri: Thirteen months after the abduction and killing of rifleman Aurangzeb by terrorists in South Kashmir's Shopian district, his two brothers have joined the Army to serve the nation and "avenge his death".

Mohammad Tariq and Mohammad Shabir joined the 156 Infantry Battalion of Territorial Army at a passing out parade at headquarters of the counter insurgency force 'Romeo' in Jammu & Kashmir's Rajouri district on Monday, a defence spokesman said.

The duo aspires to join 'operation all out' against terrorists in Kashmir and fight against the enemies of the nation.

Their father Mohammad Hanif, who also served in Indian Army, is proud of his sons joining the Army "to serve the nation to stamp out terrorism" in Kashmir and "avenge the killing of their brother".

"I have sent my sons to serve Indian Army and ensure stamping out of terrorism in a bid to avenge the killing of their brother Aurangzeb by terrorists in Kashmir," Hanif said. "Their fight against terrorism will be tribute and homage to his martyr son", he

said.

Aurangzeb was abducted in Pulwama and later killed by armed terrorists on June 14, 2018, when he was on his way back home in Poonch to celebrate Eid with his family. He was a rifleman in the army's 44 Rashtriya Rifles.

After his killing, they were determined to join the army, the duo said.

"We have joined the Army. Our mission is to avenge the killing of our brother. This is our father's resolve and directive to us. We will abide by it," Shabir said.

The duo, who were selected among 101 new recruits from over 11,000 participants in a recruitment rally in Surankote belt of Poonch district on March 7, will get training in the Punjab regiment, the defence spokesman said.

The Army conducted the enrolment parade in Rajouri district on Monday, the spokesman said.

Haling from Salani hamlet of Surankote in Poonch border district, their elder brother Mohammad Qasim also has joined Army 12 years ago and younger brothers Asim and Sohail are studying. They also aspire to follow their brothers. **PTI**

TMC worker killed in Bengal, 6 held

Arambagh (WB): A Trinamool Congress worker was beaten to death in West Bengal's Hooghly district, following which six people were arrested, police said on Tuesday.

The ruling party's district president Dilip Yadav accused BJP activists of killing Lalchand Bag for attending Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee's Martyrs' Day rally in Kolkata on July 21, a charge refuted by the saffron party.

Bag (40), a resident of Nakunda village in Goghat 1



block, was beaten up on Monday night when he was returning home from a market, a police officer said.

He was taken to the Arambagh sub-divisional hospital, where doctors declared him brought-dead, police said.

Superintendent of Police Tathagata Basu said, "On the complaint of Bag's father against 27 people, six have been arrested so far and investigation is underway."

Meanwhile, BJP's Arambagh organisational district president Biman Ghosh said the death of Bag was a result of infighting within the ruling party of the state.

The Trinamool Congress organises Martyrs' Day rally on July 21 every year in memory of 13 Youth Congress workers, who were killed in police firing on July 21, 1993. **PTI**



A bus arrives at a partially flooded bus station during unseasonal rainfall in Chennai on Tuesday

PTI

उपरोक्त पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, ई-निविदा विधि विस्तार
सूचना, इस कार्यालय की ई-निविदा संख्या 17 व 23 / वि.पा.म.प्र.स. / 2019-20, जो कि पूर्व निविदा दिनांक के किन्हीं अपरिहार्य कारणों से परिवर्तन होने के कारण अब दिनांक 30.07.2019 को 16.00 बजे तक अपलोड की जायेगी एवं दिनांक 31.07.2019 को 13.00 व 13.30 बजे खोली जायेगी। ई-टेंडरिंग निविदा की अन्य नियम व शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगी। **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता** विद्युत परियोजना मण्डल-प्रथम उपरोक्त पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि, कक्षा सं-111 से 114, नू-तल, परियोजना नवन किमुति खण्ड-11, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ। फ़ोन 1446, दिनांक 23.07.2019 "राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाये"

U.P. Raja Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. Obra Thermal Power Station, OBRA-Sonebhadra-231219 Notice Inviting e-bid Tender No. T-04/SE(HQ)/OTPS/2019-20 Online e-Bids are invited for the work for repairing & maintenance of 04 No.- fire tenders, 01 No.-3T Hydra Crane, 01 No.-16T Hydra, 01 No.-Tractor and 01 No.-Petrol jeep (parade jeep) of OTPS, Obra, Sonebhadra (UP). e-tender has been uploaded on 13-07-2019 at 18:00 pm on UP Govt. e-tender Portal <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Last date of e-bid submission on 05.08.2019 at 18:00 hrs. & tender fees & earnest money will be deposited in the office of SE(HQ), Obra on the dt. 06.08.2019 at 17:00 hrs. Technical Bid (Part-I) will be opened on 08-07-2019 at 16:00 Hrs or later. Estimated Cost of work will be approximately Rs. 2.49 Lac (Two lac Forty Nine Thousand) only. The E.M.D and Tender cost for e-bid submission is Rs. 5,000/- and Rs. 590.00 respectively (with GST). Total Quantity of work, tender specification and other terms & condition is as per tender document available on the e-tender portal. It may please be noted that this is online bid and shall be accepted online only on website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. information related to extension in due dates and corrigendum, if any, shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website on regular basis in order to keep themselves updated. **(Superintending Engineer) Head Quarter**

E-TENDER NOTICE NAME OF WORK: Work for Replacement of old and underground CI pipe line to 250 mm dia new overhead MS pipe from Tower. No. 1 to end point of conveyer No. 07. **TENDER NO.:** T-05/SE-HQ/OTPS/FF&SD/2019-20 **ESTIMATED COST OF WORK:** Rs. 5,02,043.00 (Rs. Five Lac Two Thousand Forty, Three Only) **Last Date and Time for Submission of E-Bids (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website:** <http://etender.up.nic.in> on 09/08/2019 up to 18:00 Hrs. **Last Date and Time for Submission of hard copy Tender Fee, EMD & Annex:** 10/08/2019 up to 17:00 Hrs. **Date and Time of Opening of e-Bids:** 12/08/2019 at 18:00 Hrs. **Place of Opening of e-Bids:** Office of Superintending Engineer-HQ, 'O' TPS, Obra-Sonebhadra. **Address for Communication:** Superintending Engineer-HQ, 'O' TPS, Obra-Sonebhadra, U.P. -231219 **E-mail Address:** se.tti.obra@uprvnl.org **Bid Document Cost:** Rs. 590.00 (With GST) **Earnest Money:** Rs. 10,000.00 (Rs. Ten Thousand only) **NOTE:** - Tender specification is available on e-tender website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. tender will be accepted online only. **(Superintending Engineer) Head Quarter**

E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE /OCMD/BTPS/2019-20 Online e-Bids are invited for the "Annual M&R of Anodized glazing works, false ceiling & steel fabrication works in TPS, Obra TPS, Sonebhadra (UP). E-tender has been uploaded on the e-tender Portal <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Last date of submission of tender will be up to 29.07.2019 at 18:00 hrs and technical bid (Part-I) will be opened on 31-07-2019 at 16:00 Hrs or later. Estimated Cost of work is Rs. 391250.00 only. Period of completion of work is 1 year. The E.M.D and Tender cost for e-bid submission is Rs. 8000.00 and Rs. 590.00 respectively. Last date of submission of Tender Fee & Earnest Money in original in this office is 30/07/2019 up to 17:00 Hrs. Total Quantity of work, tender specification and other terms & condition is as per tender document available on the e-tender portal. Superintending Engineer, OCO&MC OTPS, Obra reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids without assigning any reason. It may please be noted that this is online bid and shall be accepted online only on website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. information related to extension in due dates and corrigendum if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website on regular basis in order to keep themselves updated. **SE,OCO&MC. No.- 170 Date 23.07.2019 SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION.**

U.P. Raja Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. Obra Thermal Power Station, OBRA-Sonebhadra-231219 Notice Inviting e-bid Tender No. T-04/SE(HQ)/OTPS/2019-20 Online e-Bids are invited for the work for repairing & maintenance of 04 No.- fire tenders, 01 No.-3T Hydra Crane, 01 No.-16T Hydra, 01 No.-Tractor and 01 No.-Petrol jeep (parade jeep) of OTPS, Obra, Sonebhadra (UP). e-tender has been uploaded on 13-07-2019 at 18:00 pm on UP Govt. e-tender Portal <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Last date of e-bid submission on 05.08.2019 at 18:00 hrs. & tender fees & earnest money will be deposited in the office of SE(HQ), Obra on the dt. 06.08.2019 at 17:00 hrs. Technical Bid (Part-I) will be opened on 08-07-2019 at 16:00 Hrs or later. Estimated Cost of work will be approximately Rs. 2.49 Lac (Two lac Forty Nine Thousand) only. The E.M.D and Tender cost for e-bid submission is Rs. 5,000/- and Rs. 590.00 respectively (with GST). Total Quantity of work, tender specification and other terms & condition is as per tender document available on the e-tender portal. It may please be noted that this is online bid and shall be accepted online only on website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. information related to extension in due dates and corrigendum, if any, shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website on regular basis in order to keep themselves updated. **(Superintending Engineer) Head Quarter**

Rajasthan HC frees 6 lifers, upholds death penalty to 1

Jaipur: The Rajasthan High Court has acquitted six lifers while upholding the death sentence to one and the life term to another in the 23-year-old case of bomb blast in a bus at Samle in Dausa district, in which 14 people were killed.

The six lifers who were freed on Monday by a Jaipur bench of the high court include five Jammu and Kashmir natives Javed Khan, Latif Ahmed, Mohammad Ali Bhatt, Mirja Nissa Hussain and Abdul Ghani.

The sixth one, Rais Beg, who was acquitted, is from Agra in Uttar Pradesh.

A trial court at Bandikui in Dausa had awarded death penalty to one person, Abdul Hamid, and life terms to seven others in the 1996 bomb blast case.

The division bench of justices Sabina and Govardhan Bardhar, however, upheld the death penalty awarded to Abdul Hamid, saying he was the key person behind planting of the bomb in the bus going to Bikaner from Agra on May 22, 1996.

The bench also upheld the life term awarded to Pappu alias Salim, holding him to be responsible for supplying the explosives.

The court acquitted the six lifers ruling that the prosecution has failed to prove their links with the conspiracy of the blast, said defence counsel Shahid Hasan.

All eight were convicted by the Bandikui sessions court for various offences under Indian Penal Code, the Explosive Act and the

Prevention of Damage to Public Property (PDPPP).

The high court bench also upheld the acquittal of a ninth person, Farukh Ahmed Khan, by the Bandikui court in the case earlier in 2014.

The state government had challenged the acquitted of Khan, but the high court bench dismissed the appeal against him.

The blast had taken place in a state roadways bus, going to Bikaner from Agra on May 22, 1996. Fourteen persons were killed and 37 injured in the blast.

Hamid whose death penalty was upheld in the Samleit bomb blast case is also a key accused in the case related to planting of bombs in the SMS Stadium of Jaipur on January 26, 1996. **PTI**

Modi Govt has betrayed people: Anna Hazare on RTI Act changes

Pune: A day after the Lok Sabha passed amendments to the Right to Information (RTI) Act, social activist Anna Hazare on Tuesday accused the Union Government of betraying Indian citizens through the move.

On Monday, the Lok Sabha amended the RTI Act that allowed the Centre to prescribe the term of office, salaries, allowances and other terms and conditions.

It also changes the status of the Information Commissioners, who were on a par with Election Commissioners as per the original RTI Act.

"It is expected that while drafting a legislation, the government take the opinion of citizens. If the draft and the Act are both made only by the government, then it is not a democra-



cy but a dictatorship," Hazare said.

"India got the RTI Act in 2005 but with this amendment in the RTI Act, the government is betraying the people of this country," he said.

Hazare, 82, said his health is not in a good condition but if people of the country take to the streets to safeguard the sanctity of the RTI Act, he would be ready to join them. Hazare, whose movement

prompted the then Maharashtra government to enact a revised Maharashtra Right to Information Act which was considered as the base document for the Right to Information Act 2005, was speaking to reporters at his village Ralegan Siddhi in Ahmednagar district.

Hazare said he does not know whether the government will listen to him or not but he will still write a letter to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking him to rescind the changes in the RTI Act.

After 13 years, the government is trying to amend the Act, he said. Such Acts are made with people's consultation and so changes, if any, should also be made in consultation with people of the country, he said. **PTI**

Maha Govt approves three new Metro corridors

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a major development initiative taken ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly polls, the BJP-led saffron alliance Government on Tuesday approved three Metro corridors involving 50 km-long route and a cost of ₹24,000 crore.

At a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, the State Cabinet gave a go ahead to the three metro corridors — one of which caters to the people living in south central and south Mumbai and the two others serve the extended suburbs in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

While one route will serve parts of eastern and south Mumbai, the other two routes shall serve the extended suburbs in Thane, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said after the cabinet meeting.

Two of the approved metros cater to the extended northern sub-

urbs of Thane, Kalyan and Talaja — all located in the MMR, while the third okayed metro is for a route between Wadala in south central Mumbai and General Post Office (GPO) in south Mumbai, both points located in the Island city.

Estimated to be built at a cost Rs. 8,000 crore, the Wadala-GPO Metro 11 corridor will be a 14 km-long route. It will be partly elevated and partly underground with 14 stations en route. The stations are: Wadala RTO, Ganesh Nagar, BPT Hospital (elevated) and Sewri Metro, Hay Bunder, Coal Bunder, Darukhana, Wadi Bunder, Clock Tower, Carnac Bunder and CSMT Metro (all underground).

Slated to be developed at an estimated cost of Rs. 5000-crore, the Gaimukh-Shivaji Chowk Metro 10 corridor will be 11 km long and it will have five stations en route. The five stations are: Gaimukh, Gaimukh Retibunder, Versova Charphata,

Kashi-Mira and Shivaji Chowk in adjoining Thane district.

The Kalyan-Taloja Metro 12 corridor is both longest and costliest among the three metro corridors. Set to cost an estimated cost of Rs 11,000 crore, the 25 km Kalyan-Taloja Metro 12 has 18 stations en route. This metro caters to most important industrial centres in the MMR.

The 18 railway stations in this corridor are: APMC Kalyan, Ganesh Nagar, Pisawali Gaon, Golwadi, Dombivli MIDC, Sagona, Sonarpada, Manpada, Hadutane, Kolegaon, Niljegaon, Wadavali, Bale, Vaklan, Turbhe, Pisawe Depot, Pisawe and Taloja.

According to a government spokesperson, the three new metro corridors are expected to reduce the journey timings by 50 to 75 per cent compared to the road and contribute to shifting of road users to metro by 30 to 35 per cent.

7 Maoists, including three women, surrender

Visakhapatnam: Seven Maoists, including three women, surrendered on Tuesday, police sources said.

Of the three women, two— Pangi Talso (28) and Vantala Mangamma (34)—are area committee members of Galkonda, Korukonda and Gurteedu Dalam and were carrying a reward of Rs 4 lakh each announced by the government.

They were allegedly involved in some shootouts, attacks on police camps and murders, sources said.

They surrendered before Visakhapatnam Range DIG Kalidas

Venkata Ranga Rao and superintendent of police Bapujee Attada.

They two had abandoned their squad about 20 days ago and surrendered here officially on Tuesday, police said. "We came out without informing the party. We are afraid of continuous combing operations and also vexed with the party line," Pangi Talso told reporters.

The other Maoists who surrendered were squad member Killo Relli alias Durga, Vantala Babu Rao, Korra Siva, Korra Subbali and Butari Nuka Raju, police said. **PTI**

Pak Army continues shelling along LoC for second consecutive day

PNS ■ JAMMU

A top brass of the Indian Army is busy participating in series of events marking 20 years of 'Operation Vijay', Pakistan Army is bent upon provoking strong Indian retaliation to further escalate tensions along the Line of Control.

Pakistan Army on Tuesday resorted to 'unprovoked' ceasefire violations for the second day in succession in Poonch sector. A rifleman of the Indian Army had sacrificed his life in Sunderbani area of Rajouri on Monday.

According to ground reports, "several forward villages, falling in the direct line of fire, were targeted by the Pakistan army using mortars". Official sources said, over one



dozen posts were directly targeted by the Pakistan army in Poonch, Krishna Ghati, Mendhar and Mankote areas of Poonch.

Defence PRO in Jammu, Lt Col Devender Anand said, "Pakistan army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation along the line of control using small arms firing in Poonch sector around 12.20 p.m.". He said the second ceasefire violation was reported along the line of control in

Krishna Ghati, Mankote and Mendhar sectors. In all these place Pakistan army shelled civilian areas using mortars. In response, Indian army retaliated strongly and effectively, Defence PRO added.

Meanwhile, a coffee table book showcasing the history and achievements of the 'Fire and Fury' corps was released by GoC-in-C, Northern Command Headquarters, Lt-Gen Ranbir Singh at Leh on Tuesday, in the presence of Lt-Gen YK Joshi, GoC 'Fire and Fury' Corps.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Ranbir Singh said that majestic Ladakh has seen some of the fiercest battles in its hostile terrain and is also witness to the epitome of valour and sacrifices of the Indian Army.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, Lucknow Circle Lucknow
Address :- Near Vikas Bhawan, Sarvodaya Nagar, Lucknow.

E-Procurement Notice (IInd Call)
 Letter No.: 1777/RED/Tender/File No-09/2019-20/Computer/Lucknow Dated:-18.07.19

1. **THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT Lucknow Circle, Lucknow** on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids through e-tendering system from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP RED, in appropriate class A and B as the case may be. **The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works.**

2. **Name of work as per table.**

S. No.	Name of District	Name of Work	Total estimated cost (in Lakh) (excluding GST)	Bid security (EMD) in Lakh	Cost of Bid document including GST (in rupees)	Period of completion including rainy season
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	लखनऊ-सरोजनी नगर	रायबरेली राजमार्ग से प्रारम्भ होकर कल्ली पश्चिम एकता नगर होते हुए पीओआई की बाजपुड़ी तक मार्ग का निर्माण कार्य।	165.62	3.32	3500.00	04 माह

3. **Date of availability of Bid documents on website - 29.07.2019**
 4. **Last Date / Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement - 13.08.2019 up to 12.00 Noon.**
 5. **Date of opening of bids through e-procurement - 13.08.2019 at 12.30 pm.**
 6. **The Employer has right to issue addendum/corrigendum as per ITB clause-10 on-line which will not be published in any news paper. All prospective bidders are advised to keep regular watch and visit e-tender portal regularly. For further details please log on to <https://etender.up.nic.in> and download the bid document**

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT Lucknow Circle, Lucknow
 For and on behalf of Governor of UP

U.P.: 142351, Date : 22.07.2019
 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.up.gov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

Chandrayaan-2 moving in right direction: ISRO

Bengaluru: A day after launching the country's second moon mission, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Tuesday said the Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft is in "good health" and moving in the "right direction".

India had on Monday launched Chandrayaan-2 on-board its powerful rocket GSLV-MkIII-M1 from the spaceport of Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh with the aim of landing a rover in the unexplored lunar south pole.

The 3,850 kg Chandrayaan-2, a three-module spacecraft comprising orbiter, lander and rover, has been injected into the earth's orbit. It will be subjected to a series of orbit manoeuvres in the coming weeks to take it to the vicinity of moon, with the rover soft landing planned on September 7.

"The Chandrayaan-2 is in good health. There is no doubt about it. It is moving in the right



direction," an official of the Bengaluru-headquartered ISRO told PTI here.

He said at present, no updates on the mission have been made because there is no need for it at

this juncture. "However, there is a little milestone which we will not reveal

now, but will update when the right time comes," the official said.

In a giant leap for the country's ambitious low-cost space programme, ISRO has undertaken the most complex and its prestigious mission ever aiming to land the rover on the moon.

If successful, it will make India the fourth country after Russia, the US and China to pull off a soft landing on the moon.

The ISRO is aiming for a soft landing of the lander (spacecraft) in the South Pole region of the moon where no country has gone so far.

Immediately after Chandrayaan-2's separation from the rocket, the solar array of the spacecraft automatically got deployed and the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network at Bengaluru successfully took control of the spacecraft, the ISRO has said. PTI

We launched moon mission but where's tech for sewer cleaning: Jignesh Mevani

Gandhinagar: Independent MLA Jignesh Mevani on Tuesday challenged Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani to declare any one village "untouchability-free" before the upcoming Independence Day and maintained the social evil was still prevalent in the state.

Speaking in the legislative Assembly, he came down heavily on the BJP government in Gujarat over the issue of atrocities against Dalits.

Referring to the successful launch of Chandrayaan-2 mission on Monday, Mevani said

while it shows expertise in space, there exists no technology to prevent death of sanitation workers engaged in cleaning sewers or septic tanks.

"It is the need of the hour for the government to visit villages where Dalits are subjected to untouchability and discrimination such as not allowing them to fetch water from common well. The government should book the guilty under the Protection of Civil Rights Act. But, the sad part is that no offence is registered," the Dalit leader said. The MLA from

Vadgam in Banaskantha district was speaking on his 'cut-motion' moved against the budgetary demands of the Social Justice and Empowerment department.

"Whenever an incident of atrocity takes place, media persons ask me 'when will I visit that place'. Now, it is my humble appeal to Vijay Rupani, known to be a sarva-mitra (friend of all), to be a 'Dalit-mitra' and visit such places. I want him to declare any one village of Gujarat untouchability-free before August 15," he said. PTI

Raj Min says Savarkar was against cow worship, BJP hits back

Jaipur: A Rajasthan Minister has invoked RSS ideologue Veer Savarkar's scepticism over cow worship, triggering protests by the Opposition BJP.

Speaking in the Assembly on Monday night, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal said Savarkar had described the cow as a highly useful animal but added that there was no sense in worshipping.

"A superhuman is worshipped and there is no sense in worshipping an animal," he said, in an apparent reference to Savarkar's views.

The minister's statements invited sharp reaction on Tuesday from BJP MLA Vasudev Devnani, who alleged that it was an attack on Indian values in which cows are worshipped since long.

"Our sentiments are hurt. The context of Savarkar's views on cows in that time was different to what the minister has said in the house yesterday," Devnani told reporters.

In the Assembly, Dhariwal claimed the current views of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the definition of a Hindu are contradictory to what had been described in Savarkar's book, 'Hindutva'.

The minister criticised Savarkar's ideology and said the Sangh ideologue's had described Hindus as those whose ancestors were born in India and their holy places are in this country.

Dhariwal said when it is said one has to be a Hindu for living in 'Hindustan', it creates disturbance in the society. PTI

HDK MEETS...

The BJP did not take part in the debate except for interventions and remained silent despite allegations thrown at it by the Congress and JD(S) members.

In his speech, Congress leader Siddaramaiah on Tuesday accused the BJP of trying to come to power through backdoor using bribery and "wholesale" trade of MLAs. He said the 15 MLAs resigning was nothing but "wholesale trade". Siddaramaiah alleged that "Rs 20,25 and 30 crore" were offered to lure the MLAs and asked "Where did this money come from?"

Flashing the victory sign after the voting, Yeddyurappa described the outcome as a "victory for democracy" as people were fed up with the Kumaraswamy Government. He assured the people of Karnataka that "an era of development" would start with BJP in power. On the next step, Yeddyurappa said an appropriate decision would be taken "as early as possible". The Government had defied two deadlines set by Governor Vajubhai Lala, who had asked Kumaraswamy to prove his majority on Friday itself, saying he had "prima facie satisfaction" that it has lost its majority confidence of the House.

The turmoil reached the climax after dramatic twists and turns that saw the MLAs of rival camps being corralled in resorts and hotels, allegations of bribery, rebel lawmakers knock the doors of the Supreme Court to decide on the issues of whip, floor test and Governor's intervention.

Kumaraswamy and the Congress had moved the Supreme Court accusing the Governor of interfering with the Assembly proceedings when the debate on the trust vote was underway and sought clarification on its July 17 order causing hindrance in issuing whip to the legislators.

The court had held that the MLAs cannot be compelled to participate in the Assembly proceedings. The ruling coalition made frenetic efforts to win back the rebels with chief minister making a desperate appeal to them on Sunday to attend the session to save his ministry but they refused to budge, sealing the fate of his Government. The trial of strength took place a day after the Supreme Court ruled on July 17 that the 15 rebel Congress-JDS MLAs "ought not" to be compelled to participate in the proceedings of the ongoing session of the state Assembly.

The Karnataka drama unfolded with Anand Singh quitting on July 1 as an Assembly member, setting off a wave of resignations that swamped the ruling coalition, putting the government in jeopardy.

TRUMP STIRS...

As soon as the Rajya Sabha resumed at 2 pm and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman moved the Appropriation Bill, 2019 and the Finance Bill, 2019, Anand Sharma requested the Deputy Chairman to consider notices given by him and other

members of the Opposition seeking a reply of the Prime Minister in the House.

However, Harivansh did not accede to his plea and asked Ashok Bajpai (BJP) to initiate a discussion on Bills related to the Budget, Congress, CPI(M) and AAP members trooped into the well and started raising slogans demanding that the Prime Minister come to the House to reply on the issue.

Harivansh then adjourned the House till 3 pm. Congress-led Opposition later staged a walkout when the House met again. Earlier, Bhupender Yadav (BJP) said the External Affairs Minister has already stated the Government's view on the matter and the Lok Sabha was functioning.

Reacting to this, Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad said the Government should not try to run Parliament as some "department" of a Ministry. He said it is the responsibility of the Upper House to discuss each and every aspect of a Bill in a thorough manner. He also alleged the Prime Minister never responds and no Minister in the Government has the guts to tell him that it is his duty to respond to queries of members in both the Houses.

In the Lok Sabha as soon as it met for the day, members from the Congress and some other Opposition parties were on their feet shouting slogans over the issue. Later, when the Zero Hour began, Manish Tewari (Cong) said since Trump's statement is serious, the Prime Minister himself should clarify.

Saugata Roy (TMC) said it was in contravention to the position held by India. He also rejected any clarification by Jaishankar on the issue. When Jaishankar rose to make a statement, it was drowned in protest by the entire Opposition. The Opposition then walked out of proceedings. Home Minister Amit Shah requested the Speaker to allow Jaishankar to repeat the statement as it was essential that people hear him clearly. Amid the ruckus, Speaker Om Birla said it was a serious issue and there should not be any politics over the matter.

SC SEIZES...

Putting the Noida and Greater Noida authorities in dock for acting in collusion with the builders and overlooking their interest as well as that of the homebuyers, the Bench said, "We hold that Noida and Greater Noida Authorities shall have no right to sell the flats of the homebuyers or the land leased out for the realisation of their dues."

It said the dues payable by the group to Noida and Greater Noida authorities, amounting to over Rs 5,500 crore, shall have to be recovered from the sale of other properties which have been attached.

The top court also termed the sequence of events in Amrapali Group a "shocking and surprising state of affairs" where such large-scale cheating has taken place and middle and poor class homebuy-

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ers were duped and deprived of their hard-earned money.

The Bench also directed the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) to initiate disciplinary action against Chartered Accountant Anil Mittal, who was overseeing the accounts of Amrapali Group.

It said the high-profile realtor diverted the homebuyers' money in other projects, played fraud on them by not adhering to the time frame to complete projects and also failed to comply with the orders of the apex court. Ousting the real estate major from its prime properties situated in Noida and Greater Noida areas of the National Capital Region (NCR), the top court cancelled the lease deeds granted by the authorities and vested all the rights in a court-appointed receiver --- senior advocate R Venkataramani.

The SC said the banks who had advanced huge loans to the realtor by passing the norms will recover the money after sale of Amrapali properties which have been attached by the court. Providing relief to thousands of homebuyers, the top court said, "We have appointed the NBCC to complete the various projects and hand over the possession to the buyers." It, however, reduced the percentage of commission of NBCC from ten to eight per cent for the work done in completing the project.

To enable the NBCC to get requisite funds for completing the stalled projects, the top court directed the home buyers to deposit the outstanding amount under the agreement entered with the promoters of the Amrapali Group within three months from July 23. It said the amount deposited by them shall be invested in the fixed deposit to be disbursed under the court order on phase-wise completion of the projects/work by the NBCC.

The apex court accepted the forensic audit reports of two auditors --- Ravi Bhatia and Pawan Kumar Aggarwal --- and said their findings indicate prima facie violation of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and anti-money laundering laws.

"In view of the findings recorded by the forensic auditors and fraud unearthed, indicating prima facie violation of the FEMA and other fraudulent activities, we direct Enforcement Directorate and concerned authorities to investigate and fix liability on persons responsible for such violation, and submit the progress report in the court and let the police also submit the report of the investigation made by them so far," the bench said. Giving last opportunity to the directors of Amrapali Group to deposit the homebuyers money they have in their possession, the Bench said if its direction is not adhered to, appropriate action will be initiated against them. It said the court receiver shall execute through authorised person on his behalf, the tripartite

agreement and do all other acts as may be necessary and also to ensure that title is passed on to homebuyers and possession is handed over to them. The SC also directed the authorities to execute the tripartite agreement within one month concerning the projects where homebuyers are residing and issue completion certificate, notwithstanding the dues.

HEAVY RAIN...

Explaining overall monsoon status, the MeT scientist said that a low pressure area is likely to form over coastal areas of West Bengal around July 26. "The ongoing heavy to very heavy along with extremely heavy rainfall activity over Assam and Meghalaya and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim is very likely to reduce after 24 hours." "Widespread rainfall with isolated heavy to very heavy and extremely heavy rainfall less than 20 mm is very likely over Konkan and Goa and over Coastal Karnataka during next 24 hours and decrease thereafter," MeT official said. Meanwhile in Delhi, overnight showers in some areas of the national Capital contributed to high humidity levels on Tuesday morning even as the minimum temperature settled at a notch above the normal. "The minimum temperature was recorded at 28.2 degrees Celsius at 8.30 am, a notch above normal while the humidity level was 83 per cent," a MeT department official said. The Safdarjung observatory received 3.6 mm rainfall, while no rainfall was received by Palam observatory. The Lodhi Road, Ridge area and Aya Nagar observatories recorded 4.5 mm, 25.2 mm and 1.1 mm rainfall respectively. Relative Humidity (RH) was also recorded high.

SC EXTENDS...

"We take the view that having regard to the grounds on which the coordinator in his report of July 10 has sought for extension of time up to August 31 for publishing the final NRC, extension prayed for should be allowed. We accordingly grant the aforesaid extension of time," a bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice RF Nariman said.

Attorney General KK Venugopal and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing Centre and the State respectively, vehemently contended that re-verification of 20 per cent people was needed as the infiltration had been the key issue with locals and it was one of the aspects in the Assam-Centre pact.

The court however went by the report of state coordinator and said, "We have taken note of our previous order..., whereby we had kept the issue alive. We have also read and considered the response of Hajela, the coordinator on this aspect of the matter and specifically, the stand taken by him..., which is to the effect that in the course of consideration/adjudication of the claims, re-verification

to the extent of 27 per cent has already been done."

In fact, in the report of the coordinator has mentioned district wise figures of such re-verification which has become an integral part of the process of consideration of the claims and objections on account of the procedure adopted, it said. "In that view of the matter, we do not consider it necessary to accede to the prayers for a further sample verification as prayed for on behalf of the Union of India and the State of Assam." The Bench said in its order.

Both the Governments had on July 19 told the top court that "India cannot be the refugee capital of the world" and sought extension of its deadline of July 31 to complete the Assam NRC.

They had sought directions to conduct sample re-verification to quell a growing perception that many illegal immigrants may have infiltrated the NRC especially in districts bordering Bangladesh.

Both the Governments told the apex court that several lakh people have been wrongfully included in the NRC, specially in districts bordering Bangladesh due to the involvement of local officers in the massive exercise.

They moved the apex court on July 17 seeking a direction for 20 per cent sample re-verification of names included in the final NRC draft in the districts of Assam bordering Bangladesh and 10 per cent sample re-verification of names included in the final draft in the remaining districts.

The Centre's plea also sought a direction that such re-verification exercise be conducted by Class I officers of the State Government from other districts who have knowledge and experience of handling the process of enquiry/investigation.

The pleas of both the Governments also sought a direction to fix the venue of the sample re-verification at a place which was not in the vicinity of the initial NRC verification to rule out possibility of local influences, bias and threat.

They claimed that names of Indian citizens were excluded and illegal Bangladeshi migrants were included in the draft. They also referred to the apex court's 2018 order by which it had said it could consider a re-verification of 10 percent of the people who were included in the draft NRC. The top court had termed the issue as "human problem with great magnitude" and asked the state NRC coordinator to submit a report in a sealed cover on the ramification of allowing the claimants to file new sets of legacy documents.

The first draft of the NRC for Assam was published on the intervening night of December 31, 2017 and January 1, 2018 in accordance with the top court's direction. Names of 1.9 crore people out of the 3.29 crore applicants were incorporated then.

Assam, which had faced influx of people from Bangladesh since the early 20th century, is the only state having an NRC which was first prepared in 1951. PTI

Govt extends due date for filing ITR for 2018-19 by a month till Aug 31

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday extended the due date for filing income tax returns by individuals for financial year 2018-19 by a month till August 31.

Individuals, including salaried taxpayers, and entities — who do not need to get their accounts audited — were required to file their income tax returns for fiscal 2018-19 (Assessment Year 2019-20) by July 31, 2019.

"The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) extends the 'due date'

for filing of Income Tax Returns from July 31, 2019 to August 31, 2019 in respect of the said categories of taxpayers," the Finance Ministry said in a statement. There have been demands for an extension in filing ITR date since issuance of tax deducted at source (TDS) statement for 2018-19 fiscal was delayed. Income Tax department had last month extended the deadline for employers to issue Form 16 TDS certificate for financial year 2018-19 to its employees by 25 days till July 10.

NCC DIRECTORATE UP : TENDER NOTICE FOR PROCUREMENT OF ITEMS UTTAR PRADESH NAVAL NCC CADETS UP FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2019-20

- NCC Group Prayagraj, on behalf of Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, acting through ADG, NCC Directorate (UP), Lucknow invites bids for supply of items of kitting up Naval Uniform and Multi Uniform from manufacturers or authorized dealers of the manufacturers as per details given in the tender form for the financial year 2019-20.
- Estimated value of the order would be approximately 10,00,000/- (10 Lakh). Earnest money to be deposited Rs. 20,000/- Any vender can bid for any number of items in the tendering process.
- The tender application may be obtained (Non-transferable at the office of Headquarters NCC Group Prayagraj, Chatham Line, Old Cantt Prayagraj, Pin 211004 on any working day from 05 Aug 19 - 26 Aug 2019 for Rs. 100/- Sample for reference are also available. The tender must be accompanied by Demand Draft for Rs. 20,000/- as Earnest Money (Refundable to unsuccessful bidder / after completion of supply for selected bidder) on a nationalised bank in favour of "NCC Group Prayagraj Prayagraj Regimental Fund Account" Payable at Prayagraj.
- The tender bids will be opened at 10.00 AM (FN) on 27 Aug. 2019 at NCC Group Prayagraj, Chatham Lines, Prayagraj-211004. In case of holiday, it will be opened on next day at same time and place.
 - First open Technical bid.
 - There after check sample.
 - There after open financial bid.
- Rates mentioned on the financial bids by the vendors will be applicable up to 30 Nov. 2019.
- The Group Commander, NCC Group Prayagraj does not bind himself to accept the lowest rate and reserves the right to accept or reject all or any part of tender without assigning any reasons, thereof.

Station : Prayagraj
Date : 16 Jul. 2019

U.P.: 142308, Date : 22.07.2019

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(Brijesh Pandey)
Brij

Group Commander
NCC Group Prayagraj

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION-1, PWD RAEBARELI

E-Tender Notice Dated : 18.07.2019

No. 1056/Lakhal/2019

The Executive Engineer, CD-1, U.P. P.W.D. on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the bids from the eligible and approved Contractors/Transporters for cartage of bitumen, registered with H.P.C.L./O.C.L as the case may be.

SL. No.	DISTRICT	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lakhs)	Tender Cost	Address of Executive Engineer of the Executing work	Time of Completion	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer
1	Raebareli	Cartage of Bulk Bitumen from I.O.C./H.P.C.L. Mathura, Refinery to Central Store of C.D.1, P.W.D., Raebareli	38.50	3.85	860.00	CD-1, PWD Raebareli	24 Month	Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow.	Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow.

The Rate adopted in the BOQ all other taxes but excluding GST Taxes, Cost of Bid Document; as per column 6 (non-refundable) To be deposited in the account of UP e-tender online Account through e-tender portal by Internet Banking only. All concerned please note that the bidding process will not move onward if the bid security (EMD) is not paid through e-tender portal by Internet Banking.

Bid Security (EMD): Bids must be accompanied with security of the amount specified for the work in the table as per column 5. Bid security will be deposited in the account of UP e-tender online Account through e-tender portal by Internet Banking only. All concerned please note that the bidding process will not move onward if the bid security (EMD) is not paid through e-tender portal by Internet Banking. No other form of bid security will be accepted. The bidders are required to submit the following:

- 1-Cost of Bid Document (Tender Fee) :-Certificate of proof of payment in the account of UP e-tender online Account by Internet Banking which will be generated when payment made through e-tender portal by Internet Banking.
 - 2-Bid Security (EMD) :-Certificate of proof of payment in the account of UP e-tender online account by Internet Banking which will be generated when payment made through e-tender Portal by Internet Banking.
- Bids can be downloaded online from date 05.08.2019 at 9:00 AM to 16.08.2019 at 12:00 Noon and bid can be submitted online on or before 16.08.2019 at 12:00 Noon. The technical bids will be opened online on date 17.08.2019 at 12:30 PM. According to the provisions of Government Order no. 1/2018/307078-2/2018/42 17/2017 (22) Date 03-01-2018 after opening of the technical and financial bids, the bidder has to submit original documents personally in department/office. In the event of non submission of original documents by the bidder, the appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the provisions of G.O. All terms & conditions can be seen on website <http://etender.up.nic.in>

(Subhash Chandra)
Executive Engineer
Construction Division-1, PWD,
Raebareli

UP- 142294 Date 19.07.2019

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Office of the Executive Engineer U.P.R.E.D. Farrukhabad

Near BSA office-Police Line-Fatehgarh -Farrukhabad

Press notice for Manual tender

Letter NO: 1011 /RED/Tender/File No207/ Bond Clerk/2019-20 dated:16.07.2019

The Executive Engineer, U.P.R.E.D. Farrukhabad on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids GST through manual tender from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP RED, in appropriate class A, B, C, D and E as the case may be. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works 1.Name of work as per table

S. No.	Name of District	Name of work with identification	Total Construction cost (in Lakh)	Bid security (EMD) in shape of FDR pledged in favour of EE RED Farrukhabad (in Lakh)	Cost of Bid document in shape of DD in the name of EE RED Farrukhabad (in Rupees)	Address of completion	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of District Magistrate
1	Farrukhabad	गाम कुम्हारपुर में मास्टरप्लान के पर से सुविधा कागज के पर एक सीरीयलिये व नली कार्य।	4.29	0.09	500+150 +27.0	4 Month	117K19 Sarodaya Nagar Kanpur	Farrukhabad situated in Fatehgarh
2	Farrukhabad	गाम सिरीली अग्रहार नाम से मौजबूद सिंचन नली सीरीयलिये व नली कार्य।	1.64	0.04	500+75 +14.0	4 Month	117K19 Sarodaya Nagar Kanpur	Farrukhabad situated in Fatehgarh
3	Farrukhabad	गाम जलही में बाका नाला नाम से पूरा पूरा सिंचन नली सीरीयलिये व नली कार्य।	8.80	0.18	500+225 +41.0	4 Month	117K19 Sarodaya Nagar Kanpur	Farrukhabad situated in Fatehgarh
4	Farrukhabad	गाम जलही (सिरीली) सीरीली के पर से सुविधा के पर एक कार्य।	2.49	0.05	500+150 +27.0	4 Month	117K19 Sarodaya Nagar Kanpur	Farrukhabad situated in Fatehgarh
5	Farrukhabad	गाम सिरीली कच्चा बाजार से रमदास बाजार के पर एक सीरीयलिये कार्य।	2.26	0.05	500+150 +27.0	4 Month	117K19 Sarodaya Nagar Kanpur	Farrukhabad situated in Fatehgarh
6	Farrukhabad	सिरीली में पीक बजार में इन्टरलॉकिंग कार्य।	4.60	0.09	500+150 +27.0	4 Month	117K19 Sarodaya Nagar Kanpur	Farrukhabad situated in Fatehgarh
7	Farrukhabad	गाम अहिलेवादी में मास्टरप्लान के पर से सुविधा कागज के पर एक सीरीयलिये व नली कार्य।	8.68	0.18	500+225 +41.0	4 Month	117K19 Sarodaya Nagar Kanpur	Farrukhabad situated in Fatehgarh
8	Farrukhabad	गाम अहिलेवादी पूर्ण सिंचन कार्य के पर से सुविधा कागज के पर एक नली कार्य।	6.47	0.13	500+225 +41.0	4 Month	117K19 Sarodaya Nagar Kanpur	Farrukhabad situated in Fatehgarh
9	Farrukhabad	गाम कुम्हारपुर कलान में नली सिंचन के पर से लता सस्तेला के पर एक कार्य।	3.66	0.08	500+150 +27.0	4 Month	117K19 Sarodaya Nagar Kanpur	Farrukhabad situated in Fatehgarh
10	Farrukhabad	अनुपूर कलानपुर हुस्तेनपुर नाम की सुविधा का कार्य।	1.97	0.04	500+150 +27.0	4 Month	117K19 Sarodaya Nagar Kanpur	Farrukhabad situated in Fatehgarh
11	Farrukhabad	गाम कुम्हारपुर में पाकावासी से नलीसला के पर एक सीरीयलिये व नली कार्य।	3.49	0.07	500+150 +27.0	4 Month	117K19 Sarodaya Nagar Kanpur	Farrukhabad situated in Fatehgarh
12	Farrukhabad	गाम कुम्हारपुर के बाजार वाटकुलर की सस्तेला का कार्य।	2.59	0.06	500+150 +27.0	4 Month	117K19 Sarodaya Nagar Kanpur	Farrukhabad situated in Fatehgarh

2. Date of availability of Bids document in the office as mentioned in NIT : 19/08/2019 to 21/08/2019.
3. Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids upto 22.08.2019 at 12:00 Noon in the office of the Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Department Farrukhabad, Superintending Engineering Kanpur circle Kanpur or District Magistrate mentioned in column 8 and 9 of NIT.
4. Date of opening of bids: 22/08/2019 at 01.00 pm.
For further details contact the employer office i.e. office of the Executive Engineer UPRED Farrukhabad. Address-Near BSA office-Police Line-Fatehgarh -Farrukhabad

(Maya Ram Verma)
Executive Engineer
Rural Engineering Department Farrukhabad
On behalf of Governor of UP

UP- 142284 Date 19.07.2019

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Trumping policy

By proposing mediation in Kashmir, the US President has clearly gone a bit too far this time



Going over the US President Donald Trump's latest missive against India that he wouldn't mind mediating or arbitrating the Kashmir issue, one cannot help but be reminded of author Lewis Carroll's famous observation. "Who in the world am I? Ah, that's the great puzzle," his protagonist asks this question of herself in *Alice in Wonderland*, just after she had grown to a giant size and frightened the White Rabbit away. Yes, Trump has been upending prevalent diplomatic norms across

the world and assigning himself the role of a global peace-maker but in the process now runs the real danger of upsetting allies and emergent powers and ignoring the layered complexities of Southeast Asia. And India, now, quite frankly is being too easily tossed about as a thorn in the flesh despite its strategic value to US interests. So India was literally taken aback by Trump's claim that he had had a talk with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Kashmir, who, the US President implied, was quite amenable to the idea of his intervention. Of course, India was quick to clarify its position that the subject was never a part of the discussion at the G-20 talks where the two leaders met, that it continued to be a bilateral issue and that talks were only possible in the event of a cessation of cross-border terrorism by Pakistan. Understandably the US administration spent much of the day calming anxieties, worried by Trump's impromptu observation that only served to highlight his ignorance and misplaced proactiveness. Everybody on Capitol Hill was expectedly worried about burning bridges with India considering they know it has rejected mediation by other governments for decades, insisted Kashmir was a bilateral issue and has never ever budged on reversing that stand even by a whisker. Lobbyists are worried that the gains in Indo-US relations made over the years by staying out could come under a cloud considering this time Trump went a bit too far in attributing statements to none other than Prime Minister Modi himself.

It is not too difficult to analyse the context of Trump's statement. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan met him and, considering the negative perception around our neighbour over terror funding and sponsorship and Trump's own statement that he had to literally force his hand on arresting Hafiz Saeed, the US President may have felt the need to accommodate him a little. Particularly, since Pakistan has a strategic trumpcard in managing the Taliban and a significant role in the Afghan peace process where the US is invested too. India, so far, is against direct talks with the Taliban. So if this remark was indeed meant to be a pressure tactic, it is definitely nothing but a cheap shot. Also, Khan had not too warm a welcome in the US and Trump may have humoured him. There is no need to mention the brownie points that Pakistan would naturally score from this statement as it has always welcomed an external mediator. But Trump's offer, coming as it does post-Balakot, with the US claiming to have pulled back both nations from an escalation of hostilities, now seems like favouring Pakistan at India's expense and a return to the old line. It is said that Trump's meeting with Khan was reportedly arranged through the Saudi crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, who also had a hand in quelling sensitivities post-Balakot and neutralised a few trust issues that the US has with Pakistan. Apparently, US media reports said he had used his friendship with Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law, to help arrange the meeting. So desperate is Khan for American investment that he even claimed that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) had led the US to the hideout of Osama bin Laden, reversing years of official denial. Whatever may be the US nationalist, protectionist and selfish concerns and our understanding of Trump's need to serve his constituency, the pressure points cannot be so much as to undo years of progress made in the Bush through Obama years. As it is we are dealing with the US blowback on new defence deals with Russia and sanctions on crude oil from Iran. Trump may feel that his diplomatic unpredictability with North Korea, walking out from the 2015 Paris climate agreement and withdrawing from the deal with Iran may change geopolitics. But when he overcooks it, which he has clearly done with India this time around, the consequences can only affect Indo-US relations.

India's golden girl

Hima Das is making waves at international meets but we must keep expectations in check as she has to peak standards



The news that Hima Das won a string of athletic meets during the European summer season was heartening. The girl from Assam, who watched from afar as her State was ravaged by floods and even donated her winnings to emergency funds for river refugees, is making headlines. Yet Das, who came into prominence after winning the 400 metre sprint at the Under-20 Championships last summer and won four straight 200 metre events in Europe just now, has not qualified for the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) World Championships that take place later this summer. Das might have won plaudits but the fact is that her timings are not good enough for the big leagues. Much work remains to be done for her and several other Indian athletes, including sprinter Dutee Chand. Muhamed Anas, sprinter in the men's 400 metres, has, however, qualified for the World Championships. The tremendous media hype around Das, therefore, should be a bit tempered.

That said, Das is the first female athlete in ages who has the Indian public engrossed in athletics. For years at major international competitions like the IAAF World Championships and the Olympics, Indian athletes did not register even as a blip among the competitors, truly a matter of shame for this vast nation, one that has tremendous potential. Like Das, young javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra is making waves in his event and should be a shoo-in to qualify for both the World Championships and the Tokyo Olympics. His athletic prowess has been built on the back of intense training and competition, particularly abroad. It is, therefore, vital that Das keeps on attending meets abroad where she will get some good competition. And hopefully, her ambitions to qualify for the World Championships in Doha and for the Tokyo Olympics come true and not just that, she progresses and becomes even better as she gets into the prime of her career in the next half-decade. Most sprinters peak in their late 20s and Das is just 19. Credit must also go to the tremendous work put in by the Sports Ministry and the Khelo India and Olympic Gold Quest programmes, which have nourished young athletes and are building a credible contingent of talent across disciplines who can go out there and win medals. Athletes like Das will play a critical role in ensuring that India does not make up the numbers at global meets or is ranked at the bottom of the medals tally. Onwards and upwards towards Gold.

Mired in controversy

With debates on the merits and demerits of triple *talaq* an ongoing process, the shadow of the famous Shah Bano case has some lessons for us



FASIHUR RAHMAN

With debates on triple *talaq* an ongoing process, the Shah Bano case resurfaces time and again not only in Parliament but even in the media. Recently, during an interview with a news portal, a former Union Minister described the Shah Bano case as being related to triple *talaq*. Although the latter did surface during the parliamentary debate on the Shah Bano case, it was not an issue and the judgement did not say a word on triple *talaq*. The core issue in the said case was related to the provision of "maintenance" by a Muslim husband after he divorced his wife. Being a witness to this debate in the Lok Sabha, I was prompted to write on this subject.

Mohammad Ahmad, a resident of Indore, Madhya Pradesh, divorced his 62-year-old wife, Shah Bano, in 1978. The case was finally heard by the Supreme Court in April 1985. The court ruled that under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), a divorced Muslim woman was entitled to receive maintenance from her husband. The court also observed that Section 125 overrides the personal law. The court, while referring to interpretation of Verses (*Aiyats*) 241 and 242 of the *Quran*, contended that "there is an obligation on Muslim husbands to provide for their divorced wives." The court observed that: "It is also a matter of regret that Article 44 of our Constitution has remained a dead letter." It provides that: "The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India..." (Mohd Ahmad Khan vs Shah Bano Begum, 1985). On May 10, 1985, GM Banatwala, the then Member of Parliament from the Muslim League, moved the Code of Criminal Procedure Bill for amendment of Section 125 and 127. Speaking on the Bill, Banatwala argued that "under Islamic law, a husband is bound to maintain a divorced wife only during the period of *iddat*, which is nearly three months and not thereafter."

Arif Mohammad Khan of the Congress and the then Union Minister supported the Supreme Court judgement. A few weeks later there was a wave of protest in States such as Kolkata, Patna, Mumbai, Delhi, Kanpur and Hyderabad among others. "One must admit", conceded Asghar Ali Engineer, a social activist and the then director of the Institute of Islamic Studies, that this "agitation is the biggest ever launched by Muslims in post-independent India" and that "another parallel is impossible to find."

A 19-member delegation of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), led by former president Maulana Abul Hasan Ali Hasani Nadwi, met the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and handed over a memorandum stating: "The Muslim community regards this judgement of the Supreme Court as a clear interference with the *Shariat* (Muslim personal law) and their freedom of religion and conscience contained in the Articles 25, 26 and 29 of the Constitution...The Supreme Court in its



judgement has misinterpreted two isolated verses of the *Quran*, quoted by it out of context, and has ignored other verses..." Ziaur Rahman Ansari, the then Union Minister of State for Environment, during his three-hour speech (delivered in two parts) in the Lok Sabha, lambasted the court's judgement and described it as prejudice, discriminatory and full of contradictions. He wondered how there is going to be a complete national integration by merely changing the Muslim personal law.

After Rahman's intervention, no one from the Congress opposed his views in Parliament despite the persistent Opposition from its MPs, who were in support of the judgement. Tahir Mahmood, then a teaching faculty at the Delhi University observed: "The provision of modern Hindu law that a Hindu wife, who ceases to be Hindu" (by conversion to Islam or Christianity) cannot claim maintenance from her Hindu husband (Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act 1956, Section 18 read with Section 24) is too progressive to earn any criticism. But the rule of Muslim law that a wife, who has been subjected by her husband to the indignity of divorce, need not look to him for maintenance beyond a certain limit must earn strictures in foul language." Is this, indeed logical?

On the contrary, Shaileendra Nath Ghosh, in an article (April 5, 1986) claimed: "While Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Libya, Qatar, Indonesia, Sudan, Tunisia, Jordan, Syria, Yemen and even Pakistan have made new marriage, divorce and compensation laws, Indian Muslims persist in

defending practices..." He wondered if the prevailing practices are just the opposite of the teachings of the *Quran* and *Hadith*. Prof Mahmood, an authority on Islamic law, who was also quoted in the Shah Bano case judgement, asserts: "If anybody has said that a Muslim woman in any of the Islamic countries can seek maintenance from her former husband after the expiry of the period of *iddat* with or without the help of the court, it is absolutely baseless." (*Sunday Observer*, March 9, 1986).

Ahmad Hasan, quoting an expert opinion from the Ministry of Justice of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), contends that, "...living allowance given to a woman after divorce extends up to three months. This has been an accepted fact all through the Islamic history. All well-known schools of Islamic law are unanimous on this" (March 9, 1986). Another researcher, Nadia Barakat from the Ministry of Justice, UAE, known for her contribution to "family laws", maintains: "...[A]ccording to jurists, the Quranic injunction '*Tasreeh bin Ahsan*' did provide for a compensation amount. (However) it was left to the Muslim judge...to rule how much compensation should be payable to a woman who, in the opinion of the judge, does not have any means to support herself. This, of course, did not apply to a divorced woman who had relatives capable of supporting her (March 9, 1986).

After a great deal of consultation with the Muslim intellectuals, academia, the Muslim Personal Law Board (MPLB)

members, particularly Maulana Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi, then president of MPLB as also Muslim MPs, Rajiv Gandhi decided to introduce the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Bill. It intended to exclude the former husband of a divorced Muslim woman from the liability of maintaining her beyond the three months of *iddat* and instead said that it should be maintained by her father or brother. It excluded the Muslim women from Section 125 and 127 of the CrPC to ensure that the apex court judgment on Shah Bano case did not apply to them. Amid strong resentment from a section of members from the then ruling Congress as well as Opposition parties, the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on May 5, 1986.

While Arif Mohammad Khan resigned from the Council of Ministers in protest against the introduction of the Bill, several heads rolled to check the dissonance in the Congress. Justice VR Krishna Iyer, retired judge of the Supreme Court, in a letter dated February 29, 1986, to Rajiv Gandhi wrote: "The Bill is a sin against the *Quran*. Many Islamic scholars hold that the Quranic command to husbands to pay upkeep expenses to a divorcee beyond *iddat* is clear."

The outpouring sympathy shown by non-Muslims for Muslim women was seen with scepticism and suspicion rather than appreciation. There were claims by many that the Supreme Court judgement in the Shah Bano case will enhance secular-

ism and national integration in the country. Asghar Ali Engineer argued that the Shah Bano case had adversely affected the Hindu-Muslim relations besides causing harm to secularism. Justice VR Krishna Iyer, in a letter dated February 28, 1986, to Prime Minister wrote, "The best gift for national integration and incendiary communalism is the anti-secular, anti-Shah Bano Amendment Bill now under way. Please desist."

Mahmood argued: "There are maintenance provisions also in the Hindu law enactments (1955-56), Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act (1956). The CrPC has not repealed them. Nobody has ever regarded the maintenance law under the Hindu law statutes as unconstitutional. How can, then, a codified Muslim law on maintenance be called unconstitutional? Similarly, if special laws applicable to Hindus do not make them 'separatists', how can a special law enacted for the Muslims make the Muslims 'separatists'?"

Pondering on the issue of national integration and citing examples of some of the past Acts, Rajshakar, an eminent journalist, questioned the rationale for adhering to religious identity. When the Hindu Marriage Act was passed in 1955 and the Hindu Succession Act in 1956; there was already an Indian Succession Act. If the intention then was for Common Civil Code, they could have straight away called the Hindu Marriage Act as the "Indian" Marriage Act and the "Indian" Succession Act with suitable amendments if necessary. This would have taken care of all Indians. Still, they passed the Hindu Marriage Act and the Hindu Succession Act exclusively for themselves. Where was their sense of "national integration" at that time?

Describing the merits and shortfalls of the Muslim Women Act, Prof Mahmood wrote: "The Muslim Women Act... does not leave divorced Muslim women in a 'total state of vagrancy' or to 'beg from door to door', as is claimed by some of its critics. ... Under the 1986 Act, a Muslim divorced woman can be awarded by the criminal courts ₹50,000 (or five lakh or more, there being no statutory ceiling) — as a lump sum or payable in installments — never to be re-opened in a civil court." Yet, it is believed, said and propagated that the Act has "taken away" from Muslim women all that the CrPC had "given" them along with other women and has left them to "beg" from "door to door."

(The writer is author of *Wings of Destiny: Ziaur Rahman Ansari-A Life*)

SOUNDBITE

It's not BJP leaders who backstabbed me but the rebels in Mumbai. Do not worry, they will do the same to all of you.

Congress leader —DK Shivakumar



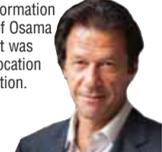
It's the beautiful and powerful story that called out to me in a way that made me want to act in it (*Natkhat*) and also turn producer.

Actor —Vidya Balan



It was ISI that gave the information which led to the location of Osama bin Laden. If you ask CIA it was ISI which gave the initial location through the phone connection.

Pakistan Prime Minister —Imran Khan



Despite the Government refuting the idea of third party mediation on J&K, the disclosure made by Trump marks a huge policy shift.

PDP chief —Mehbooba Mufti



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Job well done

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "India on the Moon" (July 23). It is often said, "do not ask for the moon", meaning, one should not make requests or demands that are perceived to be extraordinary, unreasonable or difficult to accede. With India on the moon, thanks to the successful launch of Chandrayaan-2, we can surely ask for the moon. The launch has proved that nothing is impossible. Every single person, who worked for the mission, deserves praise.

VS Jayaraman
Chennai

Architect of Delhi

Sir — This refers to the report, "Sheila Dikshit: A requiem" (July 21) by Chandan Mitra. In the passing away of Sheila Dikshit, we have lost a person with rare acumen and ability, who transformed the capital into a vibrant and modern city. Her contribution to the development of Delhi was immense and she can rightly be called the architect of modern Delhi.

Sonbhadra's story of neglect

Tucked between the Vindhya and Kaimur hills, Sonbhadra, a district in Uttar Pradesh, was the Switzerland of India for former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Sadly, over the years, it quietly turned into a feared den of land mafia and goons. Using fudged revenue documents, these unscrupulous land-grabbers indulged in capturing vast stretches of lands from hapless Adivasis relentlessly. Gram Pradhan Yagya Dutt, who had acquired a cultivable land from a senior civil servant and had only fudged revenue records with him, brought some 200 armed men on tractors to take its illegal possession. When the tribal tillers protested the forcible occupation, Dutt's men fired at them indiscriminately.

Ghorawal Tehsil, where the 10 Adivasis farmers were gunned down in cold blood, is testimony to the ruthlessness of the feudal land mafia that has flourished in the State. Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar was a public garden walled on all sides. Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer and his troops entered the garden, took

Further, she also transformed the public transport system. The many expressways, flyovers, roads and elegant roundabouts that were built during the time when she served as three-time Chief Minister of Delhi have led to hassle-free access to public transport. Although, the staging of the Commonwealth Games in Delhi during her tenure was marked by

some controversies, she will be remembered as one of the best performing Chief Ministers that the country had. The fact that scores of people turned up to pay homage to her indicates that she will be remembered as an affectionate and a humble person.

Devendra Khurana
Bhopal



position on a raised bank and fired rifles on the unsuspecting crowd gathered there until the ammunition supply was exhausted. India wept over the Amritsar massacre inconsolessly for decades. Alas, the Sonbhadra carnage evoked just a whimper; the polarised polity in independent India seemed to be too eager to brush it aside too hastily.

Haridasan Rajan
Kozhikode

The real transformer

Sir — This refers to the report, "Sheila Dikshit: A requiem" (July 21) by Chandan Mitra. Senior Congress leader and three-term Chief Minister of Delhi Sheila Dikshit can be called a "transformer" of Delhi. It used to be a full-fledged Union Territory till

1991 and even today has multiple power centres, but she was able to manage Delhi much better than many others who held power before she took over the reins in 1998.

Gujarat used to be touted as the best governed State under Narendra Modi, but unlike Delhi, the State did not face the problem of people migrating in large numbers. Unlike other homogenous States, Delhi has become the residence of people from all across the country and she did struggle to handle the law and order as the Delhi Police continued to be under the Central Government.

Later, many unsubstantiated allegations of corruption against her over the 2010 Commonwealth Games spoilt her clean image. She was lucky as during her term, she had the support of the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and then Manmohan Singh, unlike the present Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who continues to face hostilities from the powers that be.

N Nagarajan
Secunderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

The last PM of a 'united' kingdom?

The British are living in interesting times. Their Government, now headed by Boris Johnson, is hell-bent to drag the UK out of the EU



GWYNNE DYER

It has been suggested that Boris Johnson (who became the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom yesterday) is what you would get if US President Donald Trump had been educated at Eton and Oxford. Maybe, although there is a great gulf between Trump's bombastic self-promotion and Johnson's self-deprecating, rather shambolic persona. There is such a thing as a national style and Trump's shtick would fail as badly in Britain as Johnson's would in the US. But questions of style aside, the two men are almost identical.

They are both inveterate, shameless liars. They are both what lay people call narcissists and the experts call "sociopaths": Men (they are mostly men), who accumulate numerous wives, girlfriends and children as they go through life but never really engage with anybody. And neither of them has any real purpose in politics.

They are quite good at winning and they target the same sector of the electorate: Older, less well-educated people, frightened about their economic future and often racist. Some of those, who support them, are none of those things, of course, but the courting of White nationalists by both men is unmistakable. The shriek of the dog-whistles is deafening. What Trump and Johnson conspicuously lack is a set of objectives that goes beyond merely winning and keeping power. Trump's determination to expunge every trace of Obama's legacy (healthcare and the Iran deal among other things) gives him a kind of agenda but an entirely negative one. Boris Johnson doesn't even have that. His only role in British politics is to save the Conservative Party by "delivering" Brexit.

Johnson wouldn't be in the Downing Street today if there had not been an election in Britain two months ago. It was only an election for the European Parliament, but Britain had to vote in it because it still hadn't left the European Union (EU) despite two postponements. The EU election did, however, give British voters an opportunity to express their views on Brexit and it was catastrophic for the Conservatives. On the whole, the vote split pretty evenly between pro-Leave and pro-Remain parties, but the Conservatives came fifth, behind the Greens and just ahead of the Monster Raving Loony Party.

Panic at Conservative headquarters! Their traditional voters are mostly Leavers and they are so angry at their party for failing to get the job done, three full years after the referendum, that they are abandoning it for Nigel Farage's newly formed Brexit Party. If there is a national election in the UK, the Conservatives will be wiped out — and given the deadlock in Parliament, an early election is quite likely. So where's Boris when we need him? We all know that he's lazy, feckless, insanely ambitious, utterly unprincipled and liable to make huge mistakes but we desperately need to rally the troops and he's the one they love.

Boris generously agreed to help the party out, so they unceremoniously dumped Prime Minister Theresa May and set up a contest for a new party leader that Johnson was bound to win. That automatically makes him Prime Minister as well, but he may be the last Prime Minister of a genuinely 'united' kingdom. Johnson can only succeed by taking Britain out of the EU by October 31. He swears that he can get a better exit deal than May negotiated (which Parliament refused to pass three times), but the EU says no further negotiations are possible. He could try the traditional remedy of shouting loudly at them in English, but it may not succeed.

If that doesn't work, he says he'll take the UK out of the EU anyway, without a deal. That would inflict serious economic hardship on the British population but true Brexiters reckon that's a small price to pay for leaving an organisation they detest. Half the English population doesn't agree — and two-thirds of the Scots voted Remain. If a largely English Government drags the UK out of the EU and into economic misery, then the Scots will probably decide to leave the UK and stay in the EU. The Scottish National Party is already promising another referendum on the question.

What happens in Northern Ireland with a no-deal exit from the EU and a 'hard border' between the North and the Republic is harder to predict. The shooting and bombing could start up again, or there could be a bitterly fought referendum on a united Ireland, or hopefully something less dramatic than either of those options would happen. But it will not stay the same. So there's rather a lot at stake, including the 300-year-old Union, and the man in charge is the farthest thing imaginable from a safe pair of hands. "Boris is the life and soul of the party, but he's not the man you want to drive you home at the end of the evening," as Energy Minister Amber Rudd put it recently. If Parliament can stop Johnson from doing a no-deal Brexit, of course, then none of this comes to pass. But it's not at all certain that Parliament can do that. The British are living in interesting times.

(The writer's new book is *Growing Pains, the Future of Democracy and Work*)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

PRESIDENT TRUMP SAYS PM MODI ASKED HIM TO MEDIATE BETWEEN INDIA & PAKISTAN ON KASHMIR! IF TRUE, PM MODI HAS BETRAYED INDIA'S INTERESTS.

—CONGRESS PRESIDENT RAHUL GANDHI



NO SUCH REQUEST HAS BEEN MADE BY PM MODI. SIMLA AND LAHORE ACCORDS PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR RESOLUTION OF ALL ISSUES BILATERALLY.

—EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER S JAISHANKAR

The right route to funding

With a vast range of options for funding available today, the selection of a suitable source is quite tricky for founders. With a detailed, compelling pitch, they can ride the tide



HIMA KOTA

In India, start-ups are growing at an astounding rate with a record fund raising of \$3.9 billion for the first six months of 2019. Last year, they clocked more than 100 per cent growth with funding doubling from \$2 billion to \$4.2 billion, from 2017 to 2018, according to NASSCOM. The country is on its way to becoming a start-up hub with more than 1,200 new businesses coming into existence in 2018, including eight unicorns, thus taking the total number to 7,200 start-ups last year. When compared to the first six months, investments this year across 292 deals saw a 44.4 per cent jump from the \$2.7 billion received by domestic start-ups in the first half of 2018, according to Venture Intelligence.

Private funding through private markets like equity, venture capital and angel investing, is the reason for this phenomenal growth of start-ups in India. In the past, private firms often went public when their need for capital exceeded what investors could provide. However, in the last decade, firms have found a good alternative in private markets. This is because of two reasons. First, drawn by the potential of high returns, more investors have entered the space, thus creating an influx of available capital. This has in turn altered the trajectory of private companies because they are no longer forced to raise capital on public markets. Second, as more investors pour money into private markets, it has now become easier for new private companies to get funding needed for growth. As a result, there has been a sharp influx in the number of Venture Capital (VC)-backed startups and PE-backed companies in recent years. In other words, as more money flows into this space and as more firms stay within, private markets will continue to grow in value and opportunity.

Even though the private funding market is booming, it is not easy for start-ups to raise funds. They require several things — capital, strategic assistance and introduction to potential customers, partners and employees among other things. Entrepreneurs will be better prepared to obtain funding if among other things, they understand the basic difference between distinctive type of private funding available. VC is the finance that investors provide to start-up companies and small businesses. These are believed to have long-term growth potential and can be provided at different stages of the companies evolution. VC generally comes from well-off investors, investment banks and any other financial institutions. However, it does not always take a monetary form; it can also be provided in the form of technical or managerial expertise. It is basically a subset of Private Equity (PE), which focusses on emerging firms seeking substantial funds for the first time. PE tends to fund larger and more established firms that seek an equity infusion or a chance for company founders to transfer some of their ownership stakes. Apart from the stage of investment, PE firms make investments in a few companies only and provide funds to matured firms that have a good record while VC firms make their investments in a large number of small companies, who may not necessarily have the desired track record.

Third, PE investment can be made in any industry as opposed to VC in which investment is made in high growth potential industries like energy conservation, biomedical, quality upgradation, information technology and so on.



Fourth, the risk profile in VC is comparatively higher than PE. Lastly, the use of funds is different in both cases. In PE, funds are utilised in financial or operational restructuring of the vendee company. On the other hand, VC funds are utilised in streamlining business operations by way of developing and launching new products or services.

While the roots of PE can be traced back to the 19th century, the birth place of VC was in the US. It developed as an industry only after the Second World War. Georges Doriot, Harvard Business School professor, is generally considered to be the "Father of VC", who raised \$3.5 million fund to invest in firms that commercialised technologies developed during WWII. ARDC's first investment was in a company that had ambitions to use X-ray technology for cancer treatment. The \$200,000 that Doriot invested turned into \$1.8 million when the firm went public in 1955. In a VC deal, large ownership chunks of a firm are created and sold to a few investors through independent partnerships that are established by VC firms. Sometimes these partnerships consist of a pool of several similar enterprises.

Another important way of raising funds, particularly for small business and companies in emerging industries, is through angel investors, which is typically a diverse group of individuals, who have amassed their wealth through a variety of sources. However, they tend to be entrepreneurs themselves or executives recently retired from the business empires built by them. Self-made investors providing VC typically share several key characteristics. The majority look to invest in companies that are well-managed, have a fully-developed business plan and are poised for substantial growth. These investors are also likely to offer to fund ventures that are involved in the same or similar industries or business sectors with which they are

familiar. If they haven't actually worked in that field, they might have had academic training in it. Another common occurrence among angel investors is co-investing where one angel investor funds a venture alongside a trusted friend or associate, often another angel investor.

Although angel investors and venture capitalists have a number of similarities like catering to innovative start-up businesses, there are also a number of differences between them. First, an angel investor works alone. Venture capitalists are part of a company. Angels are rich, often influential individuals, who choose to invest in high-potential companies in exchange for an equity stake. Given that they are investing their own money and there is always an inherent risk, it's highly unlikely that an angel will invest in a business owner who isn't willing to give away a part of their company. Venture capital firms, on the other hand, comprise a group of professional investors. Their capital comes from individuals, corporations, pension funds and foundations. These investors are known as limited partners. General partners, on the other hand, are those, who work closely with founders or entrepreneurs; they are responsible for managing the fund and ensuring that the company is developing in a healthy way.

Second, they invest different amounts. While angel investing is relatively limited in its financial capacity, this mode of investing can't always finance the full capital requirements of a business. Venture capitalists, on the other hand, can raise large amounts of fund.

Third, they have different responsibilities and motivations. Angel investors are primarily there to offer financial support. While they might provide advice if asked for or introduce to important contacts, they are not obliged to do so. Their level of involvement depends on the wishes of the company and the angel's own inclinations. A venture capitalist looks for a strong

product or service that holds strong competitive advantage, a talented management team and a wide potential market. Once venture capitalists are convinced and have invested, it is then their role to help build successful companies, which is where they add real value. Among other areas, a venture capitalist will help establish a strategy and recruit senior management. He/she will be on hand to advise and act as a sounding board for CEOs. This is all with the aim of helping a company make more money and become more successful.

Fourth, angel investors only park funds in early-stage companies. They specialise in early-stage businesses, funding the late-stage technical development and early market entry. The funds an angel investor provides can make all the difference when it comes to getting a company up and running. Venture capitalists, on the other hand, invest in early-stage companies and more developed firms, depending on the focus of the venture capital firm. If a start-up shows compelling promise and a lot of growth potential, a venture capitalist will be keen to invest.

A venture capitalist will also be eager to invest in a business with a proven track record that can demonstrate it has what it takes to succeed. The venture capitalist then offers funding to allow for rapid development and growth. Lastly, they differ in due diligence. Venture capitalists focus more on due diligence. These are some of the differences between PE, venture capital and angel investors and the decision of which to approach is personal. To improve the odds of securing investment and appealing to an investor, a start-up company should take the time and consideration to create a detailed, compelling pitch. With sufficient luck, it can end up with the financial and entrepreneurial support to skyrocket its business.

(The writer is Assistant Professor at Amity University)

Post debacle, rumour mill has it...

While there has been no consensus on who would succeed outgoing president Rahul Gandhi, speculation is rife that Priyanka Gandhi could be the chosen one. Even if for a moment we believe she does take charge, she will be wearing a crown of thorns



KALYANI SHANKAR

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra took the lead last week by visiting Uttar Pradesh's Sonbhadra district, where allegedly 10 tribals were gunned down by the village headman over a land dispute. While other Opposition parties like the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) were caught napping, Priyanka went ahead with her gamble even as the police stopped her. She responded by saying that she was visiting the village only to commiserate with the affected families. Thereafter, she spent a night at the Mirzapur State guesthouse, refusing to furnish a bail bond.

Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh compared her visit to Indira

Gandhi's Belchi visit and tweeted, "Aap ka ye kadam Indiraji ki Belchi yatra ki yaad dilatha hai. Priyankaji aap sankarsh kare ham sab aap ke saath hai". He was referring to Indira Gandhi's big political moment after her defeat in 1977 when she visited Belchi village in Bihar where there was a Dalit massacre. She even rode an elephant to reach the village. Priyanka made similar efforts by refusing to return without meeting the affected families and remained in the front-page news for at least two days.

Priyanka's visit has created some cheer in the local Congress as her campaign earlier had lost sheen when she could not even get her brother Rahul Gandhi elected from the family pocket borough Amethi. The 'Brahmastra', as the party touted her, had misfired. She was lying low until now. But Priyanka has now snatched the first political opportunity with her own Belchi moment. Blaming Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, she held that the shooting was the latest sign of deteriorating law and order in the State.

Priyanka's visit was part of her



Uttar Pradesh strategy. Her goal is the 2022 Assembly polls. Now that she has been made the general secretary in charge of the entire State, she is addressing the important issue of how to build up the party. The Congress' impact on past elections for decades — barring 2009 — has been largely marginal. Her tweets and her statements targetted against Chief Minister Adityanath are meant to achieve this goal.

At another level, after futile efforts to make Rahul Gandhi withdraw his resignation, the Congress is readying itself for a post-Gandhi phase. With no

takers outside the family, will the party choose Priyanka to take the place of her brother? For this, she needs the support of the old guard but seniors are upset at the way Priyanka reacted to the 2019 electoral defeat in the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting on May 25, where she blamed those in that room for the defeat. According to insiders, Priyanka said, Congress "ke hathiyare" are sitting in this room.

This is why there has been a muted response from the old guard. Also, Congress leaders have not pushed her name openly as Rahul Gandhi had said that the party should find someone out-

side the Nehru-Gandhi family for the position. But now, a lobby for Priyanka led by Congress leaders Sriprakash Jaiswal and Bhakta Charan Das has demanded that she be made the next party president.

While the party is dilly-dallying about Rahul's successor, insiders say that the problem appears to be that there's no consensus within the Gandhi family itself. Priyanka is not averse to taking over the party though Sonia Gandhi would like to persuade her son to withdraw his resignation. Moreover, it is not clear what the family will decide.

If chosen as party president, will Priyanka be able to deliver at a time when there is large-scale erosion? This is a difficult time as the party is totally demoralised after the humiliating defeat in the 2019 Lok Sabha election. There is no organisation or second-rung leaders. There is no strategy. She has to spell out what the Congress stands for today. She has to find a new team and also placate the old guard, who are weary of her.

Elections to States like Maharashtra, Jharkhand and

Haryana are due in a few months and the party is still ridden with factionalism, groupism and indiscipline. There are too many issues to be resolved. Moreover, though she is a crowd puller and charismatic, what experience does she have to steer the party during difficult times like these? She has not been tested on her organisational skills nor has she worked at the grassroot level. She became a full-time politician only in the last six months. So she will only be wearing a crown of thorns.

Clamour for Priyanka has gathered steam in recent days after Jaiswal and Das had started it. She may well go on to prove herself at some point in the future, but so far, she has shown none of Indira Gandhi's political skills. The Uttar Pradesh results have proved that there is no Priyanka magic but her supporters dismiss this by pointing out that she came into the scene too late. Ultimately the party cannot live without the family and the family cannot give up its hold over the party. So they are stuck with each other.

(The writer is a senior political commentator and syndicated columnist)



FOREIGN EYE

THE VISION THING
 The sterility of our current politics may not last, though it is hard to see how it might end any time soon. What is up for grabs in politics is which party will be at the centre of progressive change in Britain. In terms of its parliamentary weight and policies, Labour has been the most effective vehicle for the fair and just transformation. For Swinson to change that will require a stable base of voters and an attractive bedrock of principles. (The Guardian editorial)

Make learning fun

The role of Arts in school curriculum has been ignored. KARTIK BAJORIA tells you how it can be integrated to strengthen academic learning

The arts, a subject-group that is often side-lined in favour of the more serious Sciences, followed by Commerce. Perhaps we as a society have not fully appreciated the value and role the arts can play, even when it comes to the learning and understanding of traditional subjects. Especially in our schooling system, if only we integrate the arts into the academic curriculum in a manner where they become a regular teaching method, we will see immense benefits in the degree of receptiveness in learners.

■ Making learning fun

Most students love to partake of some form of the arts. It may be painting, singing, drama, a performing art - there will rarely be a student who is negatively predisposed to every kind of art form. We humans have a natural affinity and lure for the arts. The arts present an immersive experience to the viewer/listener, and a wonderfully creative expression to the performer. If we take what is typically perceived as a mundane subject, something theoretical such as History or Geography, and communicate it through the medium of art, learners will automatically imbibe lessons more willingly, and rather than mugging-up entire texts, will remember the lessons much more vividly, because their very dispensation would have been in a fun, entertaining manner. A classic case in point is to dramatise a History lesson, say that of the British Rule in India. If we make a play out of that lesson, involve the students by assigning roles and having them enact scenes (chapters), not only will the participants enjoy performing it, even the other students who are viewing it will become positively predisposed to the lesson. It will simply not feel like studying any more. And isn't the point of education to be fun?

■ Critical and analytical thinking skills

By employing the arts in mainstream education, through classes such as art appreciation, film appreciation, we will develop the vital skills of critical and analytical thinking in our learners. Today, ask any student to share his or her opinion on a current issue, what you are likely to get in return is a factual report, not a well-thought out opinion. It can be argued that this is due to our learners not being exposed to opportunities of developing their opinion-formation in



Ask any student to share his opinion on a current issues, what you are likely to get in return is a factual report, not a well-thought out opinion. It can be argued that this is due to our learners not being exposed to opportunities of developing their opinion-formation in the first place



the first place. By integrating lessons such as art appreciation, learners will get a chance to acquaint themselves with interpretive thinking, which will form the foundation of them honing their critical and analytical thinking, which, eventually, is an ethos that will permeate their general way of being, and will get applied to subjects across the board. The arts, can do this very effectively.

■ Lateral thinking

Another facet of a young learner that the arts can springboard is lateral thinking. With international boards slowly coming into Indian schools, the focus is shifting from rote-learning to a more exploratory, free-thinking based education philosophy. However, the vast majority of our schools still do not espouse this learning method. Integrating the arts into a school's cur-

riculum can prove to be that critical step towards developing a student's lateral thinking abilities. The arts tend to be abstract. They have room for multiple points of view. There is no one right or wrong answer. If a student watches a film he or she might feel completely differently about it than his peer; and neither would be wrong. Further, a painting, a sculpture, instigates interpretation on the part of the learner, and compels the onlooker to view the creation from several standpoints, which directly influences the ability to think laterally, a skill sorely lacking, and desperately needed in the me-too world that we currently exist.

■ Communication Skills

Inculcating a robust arts-based curriculum will also aid in learners developing strong communication skills. A good piece of art always tells the artist's story. This may be political, societal, personal; that is besides the point. But rather than trying to get our learners to only write and deliver speeches and debates; if we can get kids to express themselves through art from an early age, they will likely develop an entirely new and creative way of expressing themselves, one that is fun, personal, imaginative.

■ Discipline

In an era of attention deficit and fast-diminishing patience, practicing some form of art as part of a school's regular, ongoing curriculum can imbue students with a lifelong ethos of patience and hard-work. Any creation of art calls on the creator to work arduously on it. If this kind of dedication and discipline can be inculcated in learners from formative stages, we would have permanently resolved the attention-deficit problem of modern generations!

The positive in today's situation is that if not schools, many external organisations are working hard to conduct programmes at schools, using the arts as a means of propagating academic curriculum, bundled therefore with all the fringe benefits that the aforementioned points outline. However, a lot more can be done, and ought to be done. If together, parents, educators, schools, make a concerted effort in this direction, it will be plain to see just how dramatic an effect an arts-integrated pedagogy can have on academic learning.

The author is Writer, educator and moderator

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Education is not just about going to school and getting a degree. It's about widening your knowledge and absorbing the truth about life
— Shakuntala Devi

DIPLOMA COURSE

Cradle of Management Institute invites applications for admissions to its diploma programme in Operation Theater Technician.

The programme aims to provide efficient and balanced training in OTT. This course offers core clinical skills and a sound knowledge of specialist equipment and drugs provides the students with the ability to reassure and support patients emotionally through the stressful experience of surgery.

Duration: One year

Eligibility: Minimum qualification for securing admission to diploma programme is Class XII pass from any recognised board.

How to apply: Log on to www.cmi-hm.com.

Last date to apply: July 24, 2019.

BANKING & FINANCE

TKW's Institute of Banking & Finance invites applications for admissions to its advanced diploma programme in Banking & Finance.

This programme aims at providing students, a strong academic foundation in accounting together with advanced qualifications and industry relevant skills to kick start their career in banking and finance industry. After completing Advanced Diploma in Banking and Finance a student can find employment in Banks, financial companies or in corporate finance across the industry.

Duration: Three years

Eligibility: Minimum qualification for securing admission to degree programme is Class XII pass in commerce stream with minimum 55 per cent marks from a recognised board.

How to apply: Log on to www.tkwsibf.edu.in

Last date to apply: July 29, 2019.

FASHION DESIGN

International School of Design invites application for



admissions to its bachelors, masters & diploma programmes in Fashion Design.

Eligibility: Class X pass for diploma, Class XII for bachelors & diploma and graduates for masters degree or diploma (any stream).

How to apply:

Log on to <http://www.insd.edu.in/apply-online.html>.

Last date to apply: July 31, 2019.

MASTERS PROGRAMMES

Luxury Connect Business School, Gurgaon invites applications for admissions to its masters programmes.

The courses include post graduate diploma in Luxury Management, executive masters: executive diploma in Luxury Management, Luxury Brand Management (Online), Luxury Retail Services Skills (Online).

How to apply: Log on to <https://lcb.s.edu.in/>, <https://lcb.s.nopaperforms.com>.

APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies invites applications for admission to its BA/BSc (Hons) — Applied Psychology programme.

Duration: Three years

Eligibility: Pass in Class XII examination/equivalent examination with at least 50 per cent marks in aggregate in five subjects including English as compulsory subject along with four subjects with the highest score out of the remaining subjects.

How to apply: Log on to www.manavrachna.edu.in.

Last date to apply: April 17, 2019.

AI is the new flavour

With the emergence of technologies, there are speculations that it will eliminate human jobs. SUDESHNA DATTA tells you how one can work along with technology

With the advent of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), natural language processing (NLP) and big data, the jobs of today are going through major transformations, where machines are gaining greater prominence in daily business functions. This has also given rise to a large number of new career opportunities, both in terms of product innovation and optimising operations for a more effective output. As a result, the skills required by employees are changing, too, giving rise to the need for reskilling and upskilling the workforce in order to meet the new demands.

Given that emerging technologies are bringing about widespread changes within the job landscape, there has been some speculation about the extent to which automated tools will eliminate human jobs. The fact remains that the growing number of careers in AI and related fields will actually be a boon in terms of catering to the needs of an increasingly

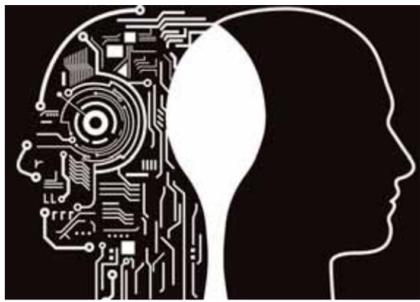
digitised business ecosphere.

The new roles are also bringing about the demand for new or realigned skill sets amongst the workforce, and there is a considerable shortage of talent in the tech industry with the necessary skills. However, due to the growing demand, several amongst the IT industry talent pool have begun considering it as a lucrative career choice. There are several existing options, and others to be created in the near future, for those looking to join the industry in an AI or ML role.

Before considering a job in AI, it is a good idea for aspirants to build a strong foundation in skills such as coding in various commonly-used languages, statistics, cognitive science theory, engineering, robotics and Bayesian networking. Here's a list of some of the most in-demand jobs in the industry at present:

■ Machine Learning Eng

In order to effectively carry out the role of a machine learning engineer, it is important to be well-versed



with AI programming and have a deep understanding of multiple coding languages. ML professionals should also be privy to the practical application of predictive models and natural language processing.

■ Data Scientists

In a world that is fuelled by all-things-data, these professionals are the ones who make sense of it all to put forth useful insights and information for a business. For this, data scientists must have a thorough understanding of statistical computing and programming

languages, as well as good communication skills in order to effectively present insights to various stakeholders. Using tools such as machine learning and predictive analysis, the role of a data scientist is to collect, analyse, and interpret complex and large pools of data.

■ Research Scientists

The role of research scientists are vital to gathering and interpreting data that is relevant to a particular business. They must also be highly experienced in AI disciplines across the board such as ML, applied mathematics

and computational statistics. Their expertise should lie in the key areas of graphical models, reinforcement learning, NLP and computer perception.

■ Robotic Scientist

Building a robot requires a professional with specific knowledge and skillsets. In order to become a robotic scientist, one will need a bachelor's degree in computer science, engineering or similar fields. A robotic scientist creates mechanical devices that can carry out a number of processes and functions as per the requirement.

AI is optimising operations, thus helping businesses do better while cutting costs, and helping employees focus on tasks that create more value and aid to their growth. By focusing on revamping their skillsets for the future of jobs, aspirants can secure their dream jobs while effectively contributing to their personal growth and that of their organisation as well.

The writer is Co-founder & Executive VP, Absolutdata Analytics

Choose wisely

Students often confuse MBA with PGDM and end up making wrong choices. DR RAMAKRISHNAN RAMAN tells you ways to differentiate

Pursuing post-graduation in management remains one of the most preferred options for Indian students. Generally graduates from engineering, commerce & arts and economics stream aspire to pursue their post-graduation in the management discipline.

This is evident by the number of applications that the competitive exams like CAT (Common Aptitude Test), SNAP (Symbiosis National Aptitude Test) and XAT (Xavier Aptitude Test) receive year after year. Students often face dilemma to choose amongst the two most popular options, namely MBA (Master in Business Administration) and PGDM (Post Graduate Diploma in Management). Some aspirants are not sure about the difference between these programmes. In order to make the right decision, it is important to know how MBA and PGDM are different. According to the present Indian legal framework and rules, only a University can offer an MBA degree. Also, educational institutions which is affiliated to a university can also offer an MBA programme of the university. The legal framework allows a Post Graduate Diploma in Management (PGDM), which is a diploma course to be offered by the institutes that are recognised by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).



These autonomous institutions are not affiliated to any university. However, accreditation by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) makes an institute's PGDM course equivalent to an MBA.

This is the reason for institutions like SIBM Pune, FMS Delhi and NMIMS Mumbai to offer an MBA degree whereas institutes like XLRI, NITIE and MDI among many others offer the PGDM program. In 2017, Lok Sabha approved the IIM Bill 2017 that promises to grant autonomy to the elite B-schools and allow them to award full-fledged degrees to their graduates instead of post-graduate diplomas in management. IIMs will be able to grant MBA and doctoral degrees once the law is enacted. As on date, even the IIMs (Indian Institutes of Management)

offer only PGDM and not an MBA program.

While both MBA and PGDM programmes essentially train you for managerial and leadership positions, the corporates largely give importance to the institution from which you graduate.

Autonomous institutes which offer PGDM programme and private and deemed universities which offer MBA programme design the curriculum by taking the requirements from the corporate. The curriculum is also revamped very frequently. Hence from a corporate perspective and from the perspective of starting package that is offered to students, the institution's brand is what that matters.

The writer is Director, Symbiosis Institute of Business Management (SIBM), Pune

New courses on offer

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Building India's talent base to compete in the global economy, Amity launched Amity Future Academy. In order to provide better understanding of various technological trends for the ever-changing future, it will allow individuals to explore futuristic trends. The courses offer advanced training programs that are specially designed to create a pool of high-quality professionals and help young professionals gain in-demand skills.

At a time when India is looking to build a 21st century knowledge economy, Amity has designed the Academy of Tomorrow. From digital classrooms to collaborative learning, students and industry professionals will get an exposure to skill-based learning. The pro-

grammes offer industry-relevant skills certified by the world's most renowned academic institutions such as Wharton online, eCornell, Arizona State University, The Open University and more institutes of repute.

Ajit Chauhan, Chairman, Amity Future Academy said: "India Skills Report 2018, reflected about 47 per cent of future jobs in India will be in the areas of analytics, artificial intelligence and robotics. We embrace Education 4.0 learning by being the first in India to rationalise the concept of knowledge for tomorrow."

Amity Future Academy brings 10,000+ courses from across the domains blockchain technology, data science, machine learning, digital marketing, programming, cyber security and HR management & analytics.

Funding for open innovation challenge

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad incubated Startup BeAble has won ₹25 lakh in funding at Open Innovation Challenge 2019 of India Innovation Growth Programme (IIGP) 2.0. The startup is a spinoff from the first batch of Fellowship in Healthcare Entrepreneurship at Center for Healthcare Entrepreneurship (CfHE) — IIT Hyderabad, and works in the convergence of good design and technology to rehabilitate stroke patients.

The IIGP 2.0 Open Innovation Challenge 2019 received more than 1,600 applications from across India. BeAble Health was selected as one of the winners and awarded seed grant of ₹25 lakh to support its market penetration and scale-up operations.

The IIGP 2.0 is a tripartite initiative of Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, American global defense manufacturer Lockheed Martin and Tata Trusts. Supporting the Government's missions of Start-

up India and Make in India, IIGP 2.0 works to enhance innovation ecosystem by enabling innovators and entrepreneurs through the stages of ideation, innovation and acceleration to develop technology-based solutions for the future.

ArmAble is BeAble Health's first product and is aimed at solving the pressing need for an intensive, engaging and regular rehabilitation therapy for Upper Limb. It is aimed at conditions such as cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, traumatic brain injury, fracture and frozen shoulder.

Pay after placement

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A unique academic establishment, Sunstone Eduversity, continues to make headlines for offering India's only Pay after Placement management programme, which is in great demand among the management aspirants. The programme focuses on developing skilled yet job-ready managerial professionals who can bridge the skill set gap existing between the academia and industry. To meet the growing demand of the programme, Sunstone recently partnered

with Harlal Institute of Management and Technology (HIMT), approved by the All India Council for Technical Education, Ministry of HRD, Bar Council of India and affiliated to Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University, Lucknow and Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut.

Piyush Nangru, COO & Co-Founder, Sunstone Eduversity said: "Operating on the tech-led asset-light model, we partner with the top colleges to utilise their infrastructure for our management programmes with a focus on employability."

Sensex, Nifty end lower for 4th day; bank, auto stocks drag

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty clocked losses for a fourth straight session on Tuesday due to intense last-hour selling mainly in financial and auto stocks.

After swinging 319 points, the 30-share index ended 48.39 points or 0.13 per cent lower at 37,982.74. It hit an intra-day low of 37,898.90 and a high of 38,217.81.

The broader NSE Nifty slipped 15.15 points or 0.13 per cent to close at 11,331.05. During the day, the index hit a low of 11,302.82 and a high of 11,398.15.

Top losers in the Sensex pack included SBI, HDFC twins, Bajaj Auto, ONGC and Tata Steel, falling up to 2.49 per cent.

On the other hand, PowerGrid, Kotak Bank, Hero MotoCorp, ITC and Asian Paints rose up to 2.94 per cent.

Market has been witnessing a sell-off broadly brought about by foreign investor outflow, disappointing budget and a generally dismal earnings season, Sanctum Wealth Management Chief Investment Officer Sunil Sharma.

"Markets could likely continue to be under pressure in the near term as we move through a challenging earnings season," he said.

Elsewhere in Asia, Shanghai Composite Index, Hang Seng, Kospi and Nikkei ended higher. Similarly, bourses in Europe were also trading in the green in their respective early sessions.

On the currency front, the Indian rupee depreciated marginally to 68.94 against the US dollar (intra-day).

Meanwhile, the global oil benchmark Brent crude futures were trading 0.16 per cent lower at USD 63.16 per barrel.

Investments in KVP to double in 113 mnths

NEW DELHI

New Delhi (PTI): In view of falling interest rates, the government has increased the time period by 1 month for doubling the money invested in Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) to 9 years and 5 months.

The funds parked in KVP with effect from July 1, 2019, will double in "9 years and 5 months" or 113 months as against "9 years and 4 months" or 112 months earlier, the finance ministry said while amending the Kisan Vikas Patra Rules, 2014.

The interest rate on KVP has been lowered to 7.6 per cent for the September quarter, compared with 7.7 per cent in the April-June period. The interest rates on the government's small saving instruments are revised every quarter. Individuals can invest their money in saving instrument KVP in multiples of Rs 1,000 and there is no upper ceiling for investments. KVPs are issued in denominations of Rs 1,000, Rs 5,000, Rs 10,000 and Rs 50,000. KVPs are sold at post offices and the certificate can be encashed after two-and-a-half years from the date of issue.

In case of premature withdrawal after two-and-a-half years, a person will get Rs 1,173 for every Rs 1,000 invested. After 3 years, the amount will go up to Rs 1,211 and after three-and-a-half years, the amount would be Rs 1,251.

IT Ministry may only back storage curbs for critical, sensitive data

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The IT Ministry is likely to propose that personal information which neither qualifies as 'critical' nor 'sensitive' should be allowed to be stored and processed anywhere, while data classified as 'critical' should be kept only in India under the draft Personal Data Protection Bill.

The proposal is significant as it marks a departure from the original draft of the Personal Data Protection Bill, which had recommended that copy of all personal data should be stored in the country. The

tweaking of this provision, if accepted, will spell a relief for companies.

The draft Data Protection Bill submitted by Justice BN Srikrishna committee last year had also suggested that personal data that is of 'critical' nature should mandatorily be stored only in India, a stance that will be backed by the IT Ministry. According to a government official, the IT Ministry is, however, of the view that not all personal data needs to be stored in India, and only critical and sensitive data should be kept here.

While 'critical' personal

data should be mandatorily stored only in India, 'sensitive' personal information should be stored and processed in India but permitted to be transferred outside the country, the official pointed out.

The IT ministry feels that there are adequate safeguards in the proposed Bill and even if a copy of all personal data is not stored in India, such information will anyway be governed by the stringent provisions of the data protection law, including penalty in event of a breach.

After the Justice Srikrishna panel submitted its draft ver-

sions of the Bill, the IT Ministry had sought public feedback on the provisions, and fine-tune the proposed document. The draft legislation will now be placed before the Cabinet, after which it will be introduced in Parliament.

The official said the change in the clause pertaining to all kinds of personal data was primarily driven by industry feedback — both Indian and global companies which argued that maintaining one copy of all information may become cumbersome, expensive and increase compliance burden on firms.

Gold price falls on muted demand, weak global cues

New Delhi (PTI): After touching an all-time high in the previous session, gold prices on Tuesday fell Rs 250 to Rs 35,720 per 10 gram in the national capital amid weak trend overseas and fall in domestic demand, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Silver declined marginally by Rs 10 to Rs 41,950 per kg on reduced offtake by industrial units and coin makers.

Trading sentiment turned bearish after gold declined in overseas markets as a strengthening US dollar reduced the demand for the precious metal as an alternative investment, traders said.

Besides, lacklustre demand from jewellers also weighed on gold prices, they added.

Globally, spot gold was trading lower at USD 1,418.20 an ounce in New York, while silver was up at USD 16.47 an ounce.

"Gold prices witnessed decline after dollar index gained strength ahead of ECB meeting and US Debt ceiling deal," HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patil said.

In the national capital, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity fell by Rs 250 each to Rs 35,720 and Rs 35,550 per 10 gram, respectively.

Sovereign gold also declined by Rs 100 to Rs 27,400 per eight gram.

On Monday, gold prices touched an all-time high of Rs 35,970 per 10 gram.

Silver ready dropped Rs 10 to Rs 41,950 per kg, while weekly-based delivery fell Rs 38 to Rs 41,035 per kg.

WB stops implementing PMFBY from this yr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The West Bengal government has stopped implementing the central scheme on crop insurance PMFBY from Kharif 2019 and instead rolled out its own scheme, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

From Kharif 2016, the centre had introduced yield-based Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and weather-index based Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) to provide financial support to farmers

suffering crop loss/damage arising out of natural calamities, adverse weather incidence, to stabilise the income of farmers.

PMFBY is voluntary for states. West Bengal government had implemented both the schemes during 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19. "But state government has withdrawn from the scheme from Kharif 2019 and is implementing its own scheme 'Bangla Fasal Bima Yojana', Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said

in Lok Sabha in a written reply.

Under the PMFBY, all food and oilseed crops and commercial/horticultural crops can be notified subject to availability of past yield data based on requisite number of crop cutting experiments (CCEs) and capacity of the states to conduct the requisite CCEs for each crop and insurance unit area.

However, for coverage of crops under RWBCIS required weather data is the prerequisite. As per the pro-

visions of the scheme, specific crops and areas under the schemes are notified by the concerned state government.

Actuarial/bidder premium rate is charged by the insurance companies. But farmers have to pay maximum of 2 per cent of sum insured for Kharif and 1.5 per cent for Rabi food and oilseed crops and 5 per cent for commercial/horticultural crops. Remaining part of actuarial premium is shared equally between the central and state govern-

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	11372.25	11398.15	11302.80	11331.05	-15.15
POWERGRID	204.70	211.00	204.20	210.00	5.90
KOTAKBANK	1460.00	1512.00	1455.25	1494.15	39.85
HEROMOTOCO	2415.55	2480.00	2401.70	2465.00	61.30
ITC	265.50	271.70	265.00	270.95	6.55
ASIANPAINT	1409.00	1443.95	1401.85	1430.30	26.10
NTPC	131.45	133.45	130.50	132.00	2.05
BPCL	353.50	360.00	351.60	359.00	5.50
TITAN	1090.00	1109.90	1086.40	1101.00	15.45
UPL	642.60	654.80	641.00	645.95	7.10
BAJFINANCE	3257.00	3297.35	3208.15	3274.00	27.40
INFY	787.00	804.00	785.55	790.00	5.60
GAIL	137.95	140.80	137.75	138.95	0.95
HINDUNILVR	1683.00	1701.55	1667.30	1690.05	9.35
VEDL	167.35	168.40	164.75	168.00	0.85
TCS	2127.90	2130.00	2102.40	2119.00	10.05
BAJAJFINSV	7164.80	7254.95	7115.00	7184.00	21.55
BHARTIARTL	342.95	348.20	337.40	343.50	0.95
HINDALCO	202.05	204.25	200.40	202.60	0.20
EICHERMOT	17200.00	17381.35	17041.60	17089.05	17.05
AXISBANK	732.90	739.30	726.10	728.00	0.55
WIPRO	264.90	270.00	263.80	264.65	-0.15
ICICIBANK	412.80	416.00	409.75	410.90	-0.60
BRITANNIA	2739.00	2749.95	2701.00	2729.50	5.50
LT	1414.80	1414.80	1386.20	1400.00	-3.70
INFRAEEL	262.00	265.60	258.05	263.35	-0.70
TECHM	673.25	675.55	665.75	670.00	-1.95
IOC	147.65	148.70	145.10	147.50	-0.45
CIPLA	531.00	535.20	521.00	529.10	-1.85
SUNPHARMA	431.00	435.50	427.10	428.65	-1.60
TATAMOTORS	157.40	159.00	154.80	156.15	-0.60
INDUSINDBK	1425.70	1432.80	1404.40	1413.05	-5.35
RELIANCE	1285.00	1293.90	1260.40	1275.50	-5.50
HCLTECH	1020.65	1025.95	1007.15	1011.05	-7.90
MARUTI	9910.00	9972.40	9820.20	9855.30	-57.20
YESBANK	89.00	93.90	87.10	90.25	-0.90
ULTRACEMCO	4584.10	4619.90	4521.50	4534.00	-50.10
TATASTEEL	466.20	467.90	456.75	460.00	-5.55
JSWSTEEL	266.00	266.00	259.80	261.25	-3.15
ONGC	146.50	147.75	144.15	144.85	-1.80
M&M	566.10	567.00	555.85	557.70	-2.20
DREDDY	2640.00	2644.65	2580.45	2598.00	-34.50
COALINDIA	222.00	222.90	217.00	218.40	-3.00
GRASIM	892.50	898.45	878.80	880.00	-12.15
HDFCBANK	294.50	294.50	282.05	285.50	-31.75
ZEE	363.55	362.20	354.50	359.00	-5.05
BAJAJ-AUTO	2569.00	2570.00	2515.20	2520.05	-42.85
ADANIPTNS	409.00	409.00	398.00	400.30	-6.90
HDFC	2181.40	2189.75	2126.05	2140.00	-6.90
IBULHSGHN	654.00	658.60	634.60	641.50	-14.40
SBN	351.20	353.00	341.00	342.10	-8.75

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
YESBANK	89.40	93.85	87.15	90.70
SPIECEIT	143.00	147.90	141.60	145.05
DHFL	52.10	61.80	50.55	60.05
HDFCLIFE	491.90	511.50	482.30	508.60
RELIANCE	1285.70	1294.00	1261.30	1272.85
KOTAKBANK	1459.90	1511.75	1455.75	1493.70
SBN	352.80	353.10	341.05	342.05
INFY*	785.45	804.25	785.45	789.90
RELCAPITAL	51.10	56.65	51.10	52.95
RELINFRA	43.40	46.80	43.40	44.40
BAJFINANCE	3251.40	3297.85	3209.20	3275.45
HDFCBANK	2297.05	2297.10	2242.05	2263.95
IDEA	10.94	10.95	10.45	10.48
COROMANDEL	361.00	395.90	361.00	382.05
AVANTI	337.00	345.00	326.00	328.40
POWERGRID	204.20	211.00	204.15	210.40
NTPC	131.00	133.50	130.60	133.10
BEL	1915.00	1915.60	1854.05	1870.05
POM	91.60	92.80	87.60	88.10
NDL	1340.00	1358.10	1338.90	1353.65
AUROPHARMA	571.00	574.85	558.45	565.75
TECHM	672.00	675.80	666.30	671.15
HAVELLS	722.70	724.55	708.60	714.20
GAIL	138.00	140.95	137.30	138.65
BPCL	353.95	360.00	352.00	359.15
RAIN	88.20	92.40	88.15	90.20
SUVEN	2.54	2.66	2.50	2.60
GIYENT	462.85	493.40	460.00	476.55
CJCL	316.35	325.35	316.35	324.65
RECLTD	149.50	151.30	146.05	147.45
QUICK	405.00	467.00	447.50	455.70
LICHSGFN	515.00	523.40	508.65	520.45
ORIENTAL	58.50	59.25	58.15	58.20
HSCJL	534.95	534.95	521.20	528.80
BAJAJELEC	298.25	306.40	297.00	304.00
NCC	80.60	80.70	78.45	78.90
KRBL	129.80	129.80	125.75	127.00
JISLAJEQ	23.05	23.75	22.65	23.10
SYNGENE	326.50	327.85	317.00	321.80
PGHL	403.60	468.00	443.50	461.45
TV18BRDCST	21.95	23.10	21.85	22.05
ENDRUST	92.25	96.70	90.58	95.80
GODREJALND	476.60	482.20	472.00	480.55
TATACOFFEE	75.00	75.40	74.20	74.40
JINDALSA	330.00	316.50	306.50	314.55
KATACAMHI	310.60	317.70	310.25	316.30
KEC	30.80	31.60	30.65	31.40
ORIENTCEM	102.25	103.65	101.25	101.55
BHASKARCOOK	188.20	196.50	183.10	190.50
PNBHOUSING	722.70	728.95	720.00	727.80
REPCOHOME	303.80	341.25	321.25	307.40
PAGEIND	1940.00	1982.30	1931.00	1937.95
ADALAH	296.00	237.60	233.25	235.70
APLTD	517.95	536.15	515.00	529.85
BIRLACORPN	519.50	616.10	581.95	608.60
PRESTIGE	266.60	270.50	260.40	263.65
NHPC	23.05	23.20	23.05	23.10
DEPAKFER	86.80	89.80	86.80	89.30
LAKSHVILAS	63.00	67.35	60.80	61.15
GICRE	222.85	222.85	218.35	219.40
IFDC	34.70	35.10	34.20	34.35
APOLLOHOSP	1366.75	1378.40	1356.00	1365.95
RAMCOCEM	761.70	766.00	753.70	761.50
RALLIS	156.95	159.45	154.70	156.55
MOTILALOFS	584.10	586.55	541.15	548.95
MAHINDCIA	1945.50	196.75	189.25	195.05
TRENT	42.50	42.50	41.50	

Pak ready to release doctor who helped CIA track Osama

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Prime Minister Imran Khan has offered to release jailed Pakistani surgeon Shakeel Afridi, who helped the CIA track down al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden, in exchange of neuroscientist Aafia Siddiqui serving an 86-year US prison sentence after her 2010 conviction in shooting at FBI agents and American soldiers in Afghanistan.

Khan, who is visiting Washington on his maiden official trip, in an interview to Fox News appeared reluctant to give any commitment on the release of Pakistani doctor Afridi. He said that the release of Afridi is an "emotive issue" for the country as in Pakistan he is considered a spy for the US.

He, however, said he would be willing to consider releasing Afridi in exchange

for Pakistani neuroscientist Aafia.

"So, we could negotiate some sort of swap," Khan said, adding that this was not talked about during his meeting with President Donald Trump in the White House.

The negotiations for swap of Afridi and Siddiqui could take place in the future, he said. "We can negotiate. I mean, no negotiations have started," Khan told US President Donald Trump's favourite news channel.

Afridi, a 57-year-old former surgeon of Khyber Agency, had run a false vaccination campaign in the Pakistani garrison city of Abbottabad to help the CIA track down Osama, who was then killed in a covert US raid on May 2, 2011. Afridi was arrested from Peshawar later that year.

Initially, he was accused of organising a fake immu-

nisation campaign for the CIA to confirm presence of Osama but later awarded 33 years sentence on multiple charges of anti-state activities, including extending support to militant outfits. His sentence was later reduced to 23 years. The US has been demanding Pakistan to release Afridi.

The issue of Afridi's release is reportedly one of the major obstacles to the improvement of ties between the US and Pakistan. The US State Department has previously said that Afridi has been unjustly imprisoned in Pakistan and Washington has clearly communicated its position to Islamabad in his case, both in public and in private.

Pakistani neuroscientist Aafia, who was convicted in 2010 on charges of attempted murder and assault of US personnel, is serving an 86-

year sentence at the Federal Medical Centre, Carswell in Fort Worth, Texas.

A court in New York sentenced Aafia, an MIT graduate, on September 23, 2010.

The sympathisers of the 47-year-old claim that she was arrested in Pakistan and handed over to intelligence agencies who then transferred her into US custody. Both US and Pakistani officials, however, say that she was arrested in Afghanistan.

Aafia allegedly went missing for five years before she was discovered in Afghanistan. It is said that she snatched a gun during interrogation in Ghazni and tried to shoot a US soldier. She has also been accused of working for Al Qaeda. During his election campaign, Khan had said if elected he would make efforts to repatriate Aafia and other Pakistani prisoners serving jail term in foreign countries.



President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan in the Oval Office of the White House on Monday in Washington AP

POTUS remarks will hit Indo-US ties: Experts

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Donald Trump's controversial remarks that Prime Minister Narendra Modi sought his mediation on resolving the Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan will "damage" bilateral ties, according to former diplomats and experts, with one of them saying the US president did not do his homework.

India has already firmly rejected Trump's claim, which he made on Monday during a meeting with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan at the White House, saying that New Delhi's consistent position has been that all outstanding issues with Pakistan are discussed only bilaterally.

"I would like to categorically state that no such request has been made by the Prime Minister to the US President," External Affairs Minister S

Jainshankar said in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

Reacting to Trump's statement, former US Ambassador to India Richard Verma told PTI that "The President did a lot of damage today. His comments on Kashmir and Afghanistan were way off the mark." According to Husain Haqqani, a former Pakistan Ambassador to the US, the President would soon learn the complexity of South Asian issues.

"President Trump wants Pakistan's help with a deal on Afghanistan and has dangled the prospect of help with what he thinks Pakistan wants," he said. "He praised Imran Khan like he praised North Korea's Kim Jong-un. This is his standard procedure in trying to get a deal," he noted.

"Just as he has not got a deal on the Korean peninsula, he will soon learn that South

Asia's historical issues are also more complex than fashioning a real estate deal," Haqqani said.

Former State Department diplomat Alyssa Ayres, who is now with the Council for Foreign Relations think tank, said Trump did not come prepared for the meeting.

"I am worried about the President's lack of preparation for his meetings, and his impromptu statements. His statement on Kashmir today (that PM Modi sought mediation from Trump) was categorically denied by the Indian government within hours," Ayres told PTI.

"Diplomacy requires careful attention to detail, to language, and to the facts of history. We did not see that today," she said in response to a question.

Nicholas Burns, who served as under Secretary of State for Political Affairs under

the Bush Administration and played a key role in the Indo-US civil nuclear deal, said the Indian government has been consistent for many years in rejecting the US as a mediator in the Kashmir dispute.

The former diplomats and experts were responding to questions on President Trump's remarks that he is ready to mediate between India and Pakistan on the contentious Kashmir issue.

"We have seen President Trump's remarks to the press that he is ready to mediate, if requested by India and Pakistan, on the Kashmir issue. No such request has been made by Prime Minister to the US President," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said in New Delhi on Monday.

"It has been India's consistent position that all outstanding issues with Pakistan are dis-

cussed only bilaterally. Any engagement with Pakistan would require an end to cross-border terrorism. The Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration provide the basis to resolve all issues between India and Pakistan bilaterally," Kumar said.

President Trump, who is known to make inaccurate statements, claimed that Prime Minister Modi asked him to mediate on the Kashmir issue when they had a bilateral meeting on June 28 on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan. "I was with Prime Minister Modi two weeks ago and we talked about this subject (Kashmir). And he actually said, 'would you like to be a mediator or arbitrator?' I said, 'where?' (Modi said) 'Kashmir'," Trump said on Monday during his talks with Khan, their first since the latter came to power in August, 2018.

Trump accepts Imran' invite to visit Pakistan: Qureshi

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Pakistan on Tuesday said US President Donald Trump has accepted Prime Minister Imran Khan's invitation to visit the country.

The visit, if made, will make Trump the sixth US president after George W Bush to visit the South Asian nation after a gap of over a decade.

Bush visited Islamabad on March 2006 when Pakistan was under the military rule of the then president Pervez Musharraf.

Addressing a press conference in Washington, Pakistan's Foreign Minister F M Qureshi said the matters pertaining to the Trump's visit will be agreed upon soon, Pakistani news channel Geo

News reported.

The US president has accepted the offer to visit Pakistan upon the invitation extended by Prime Minister Khan, the report said.

Earlier on Monday, the US president, while responding to a question posed by a journalist on whether he would like to visit Pakistan, jibed that Khan had not extended him any invitation but, if given, he would definitely accept it.

"Well, I can't say that yet because, so far, he has not extended me an invitation," Trump said amidst laughter.

"And after today's meeting, maybe he won't. But I have a feeling he might. Yes, I'd love to go Pakistan at the right time," he said.

Dwight David "Ike" Eisenhower was the first of the

five American presidents to visit Pakistan in 1959, followed by Lyndon Johnson in 1967, Richard Nixon in 1969, Bill Clinton in 2000 and Bush in 2006.

The Pakistani premier is currently on a three-day visit to Washington. He met Trump at the White House on Monday, a meeting which Islamabad hopes would reset the strained bilateral ties between the two nations.

Ties between the US and Pakistan strained after Trump, while announcing his Afghanistan and South Asia policy in August 2017, hit out at Pakistan for providing safe havens to "agents of chaos" that kill Americans in Afghanistan and warned Islamabad that it has "much to lose" by harbouring terrorists.

Portugal wildfire is mostly under control



Firefighters try to extinguish a wildfire at the village of Chaveira, near Macao, in central Portugal. More than 1,000 firefighters are battling a major wildfire amid scorching temperatures in Portugal, where forest blazes wreak destruction every summer. About 90% of the fire area in the Castelo Branco district, 200 kilometres (about 125 miles) northeast of the capital Lisbon, has been brought under control during cooler overnight temperatures, according to a local Civil Protection Agency commander. AP

Lisbon (AP): Emergency services in Portugal say they have brought under control 90 per cent of a huge wildfire which has raged for four days and injured 39 people.

But officials are warning Tuesday that forecasts for afternoon temperatures close to 40 degree Celsius and gusting winds could drive the flames further through dense pine and eucalyptus forests on hilly terrain.

The Civil Protection Agency says just over 1,000 firefighters

and 328 vehicles are continuing at the blaze.

Local commander Luis Belo Costa tells a news conference that 17 water-dropping aircraft are also on standby.

Cooler night time and morning temperatures are helping firefighters make progress against the blaze.

Eleven bulldozers are being used to create firebreaks. But Belo Costa says the rising temperatures and wind "will cause us problems."

Johnson elected new UK PM

PTI ■ LONDON

Boris Johnson on Tuesday won the Conservative Party's leadership race to become the next Prime Minister of Britain, amid the political uncertainty over the country's divorce deal with the European Union.

Johnson, the former foreign secretary and London Mayor, was widely expected to beat foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt in the battle for 10 Downing Street, which was triggered last month when a Brexit-battered May resigned amid a mounting rebellion from within the Conservative Party.

Addressing the Tory party members at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre in London, near the Houses of Parliament, soon after the results were declared, Johnson, 55, said: "No one person or party has the monopoly of wisdom. Time and again it is to us [Conservative Party] that people have turned.

"At this pivotal point in history... I know that we will do it. The mantra is deliver Brexit, unite the country and defeat (Labour leader) Jeremy Corbyn.

"I will work flat out to repay your confidence. The work begins now."

The co-chair of the Tory party's 1922 Committee Cheryl Gillan MP opened the envelope to declare that Johnson won

92,153 votes compared to 46,656 polled for Hunt by a voting base of 159,320 Tory membership, with 509 rejected ballots. The poll turnout was pegged at 87.4 per cent, with Boris Johnson racing ahead with a vote of nearly two to one.

Johnson has been the frontrunner in the race ever since a group of Tory MPs put their hat in the ring for the first phase of the leadership election within the Conservative parliamentary party.

The flamboyant politician, however, is not set to take formal charge until Wednesday, once May has been driven up to Buckingham Palace to tender her resignation to Queen Elizabeth II.

The new Prime Minister is expected to spend some time finalising his key Cabinet and ministerial posts soon after the results. A number of Brexiters, including Indian-origin MPs Priti Patel and Rishi Sunak – both supporters of Johnson, are expected to be part of his new team.

"With Boris Johnson leading the Conservative Party and as Prime Minister, the UK, will have a leader who believes in Britain, will implement a new vision for the future of the country and a roadmap to move forward and thrive as a self-governing nation that re-establishes our ties with our friends and allies around the world such as India," said Patel, in reference to the leadership



CE

contest results.

Both Johnson and Hunt had made special interventions to reach out to the party's Indian diaspora base, with Hunt pledging to engage with India to "negotiate a free trade agreement" post-Brexit and Johnson promising a "new and improved" trading relationship with India if he is elected.

The former Mayor of London, who has in the past described himself as a "son-in-law of India" by virtue of his now estranged wife Marina Wheeler's Indian mother, also played up a strong "personal relationship with Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi".

The vote to choose between the two final candidates with the most backing went head-to-head before the wider Conservative Party membership up and down the country. The Tory membership base, estimated to be around 160,000, had until Monday night to get their postal ballots in to the party's influential 1922 Committee – in charge of

the poll process.

Hunt, 52, had pegged himself as the underdog in the race who, as an entrepreneur himself, had the negotiating skills required to lead the Tories through the tough phase ahead of meeting the October 31 deadline for Britain's exit from the European Union (EU).

The two contenders clashed in a number of hustings around the UK, with Johnson's refusal to take the prospect of a chaotic no-deal Brexit off the table exposing the divisions within the Tory party even further. Many Cabinet ministers, including Chancellor Philip Hammond and justice secretary David Gauke, have already said they would step down rather than serve under Johnson as PM with his "do or die" pledge over the Brexit deadline.

Foreign Office minister Alan Duncan became one of the first to step down in opposition of Johnson's Brexit strategy even before the results were declared. Another minister, Anne Milton in the education department, also sent in her resignation to May ahead of the result over similar concerns. Johnson's colourful personal life has also been under some scrutiny during the month-long leadership contest, with speculation rife in the UK media on whether his girlfriend Carrie Symonds is likely to join him as partner at 10 Downing Street.

Climate change is making animals smaller: Study

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Climate change is shrinking the body size of animals, according to the evidence collected by researchers over a 23-year-period between 1976 and 1999.

Researchers from the University of Cape Town (UCT) studied changes in the weight of mountain wagtails, a type of bird, along the Palmiet River in Westville, South Africa.

Climate change is having profound effects on Earth and its ecosystems, and during the past 100 years, global temperatures have increased by close to one degree

Celsius. From the fossil record, it is known that during past periods of global warming, both marine and land-based animals have become smaller.

Scientists have proposed that contemporary warming could lead to smaller animals, but so far, evidence supporting this has been scarce.

"All else being equal, larger animals can tolerate cold conditions better than smaller animals, so one could expect that a warming climate is relatively more advantageous for smaller animals," said Professor Res Altwegg from UCT.

"A lot of other factors also affect

body size, though, so we weren't expecting to find clear temperature effects over a quarter of a century. "Yet, the results clearly supported the idea that climate change was the reason why these birds became smaller over time," he added.

Body size is an important indicator of an animal's fertility, lifespan and ability to survive times of stress, such as food shortages or drought, researchers said.

Body size also affects how much food an animal needs, how vulnerable it is to predators and what type of food it can eat, they said.

Mountain wagtails are slender black, gray and white birds so named

because of the up-and-down pumping motion they do with their tails. They live near small fast-flowing rivers across sub-Saharan Africa.

Based on data from a local weather station near the Palmiet River, the researchers knew that temperatures in the area had increased by 0.18 degrees Celsius.

However, they didn't know how this had affected the birds' size.

Their results, published in the journal *Oecologia*, showed that as temperature increased along the Palmiet River, the mountain wagtails living there had become lighter.

Specifically, they found lighter individuals were replacing heavier

ones in the population and that they survived better under high temperatures. This indicated that an evolutionary pressure was acting on the birds to become lighter.

"Other studies have shown that animals are shrinking in various places around the world," Altwegg said.

"But, they generally didn't have the detailed data to show that temperature actually affected the animals directly by changing their ability to survive," he said.

The results support the idea that shrinking body size is a response to climate change, researchers said. Scientists have already shown

that climate change is affecting where animals live, how they interact and their seasonal behaviour, such as the timing of their breeding.

The study provides clear evidence in support of another impact: on the size of animals.

However, even if many animals are becoming smaller in response to warming, their responses will vary: some might respond more extremely, others may not alter their body size at all and some may even increase their body size, the researchers said.

This effect of climate change could result in changes across ecosystems, they said.

Body size is an important indicator of an animal's fertility, lifespan and ability to survive times of stress, such as food shortages or drought, said researchers.

Johnson to use 'personal' Modi connect for better ties with India

PTI ■ LONDON

Boris Johnson, the new British Prime Minister, is expected to rely on his declared personal connect with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to deliver a "truly special" UK-India relationship and strike a "new and improved" trading relationship. The 55-year-old senior Tory MP, who is seen as the face of Brexit for the ruling Conservative Party, had made a special effort to reach out to the Indian diaspora base of the party during the month-long leadership race and pledged not only closer trade ties but also easier access for Indian professionals and students.

Johnson, the former foreign secretary and London Mayor, on Tuesday beat foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt in the race to be crowned the new Conservative Party leader, amid the political uncertainty over the country's divorce deal with the European Union.

"Boris is committed to securing a new and improved trading relationship with our friends in India and ensuring that the values we share - the rule of law, democracy and dynamic entrepreneurial spirit - should be at the heart of one of our most important partners on the global stage," said Priti Patel, one of the senior-most Indian-origin Tory MPs who is expected to be a part of the new premier's ministerial team as a key member of the "Back Boris" campaign.

In a letter earlier this month, Johnson had played up his "personal relationship with Prime Minister Modi" as he promised to deliver a "truly special UK-India relationship". "When I was with Prime Minister Modi, I stressed that the UK and India are two modern democracies who should work closely together to promote trade and prosperity, improve global security and tackle the challenges our countries face," Johnson wrote in an open letter addressed to the Indian diaspora Tory membership base. "If I am elected Conservative Party Leader and



Jeremy Hunt, left, congratulates Boris Johnson after the announcement of the result in the ballot for the new Conservative party leader, in London, on Tuesday

Prime Minister, I will work closely with our friends in the Indian Government, business and society to deliver a truly special UK-India relationship," he said. In keeping with his firm pro-Brexit stance and determination to leave the European Union (EU) by the October 31 deadline, the senior Tory MP branded it a "travesty" that the 28-member economic bloc had failed to treat free trade agreement (FTA) talks with India as a priority for over a decade. He said: "One of the most important reasons why we need to leave the European Union on October 31, 2019 is so that we can take back control over our trade policy. India is an economic powerhouse and set to become the third largest economy by the middle of the century, with annual economic growth far outpacing the EU."

"The sooner we leave the EU and take back control of our trade policy, the sooner we can strike a new trade deal with India that will deliver new jobs, growth and prosperity for both our countries. Securing this new and improved trading

relationship with our friends in India will be a priority for me."

The former Mayor of London, who has in the past described himself as a "son-in-law of India" by virtue of his now estranged wife Marina Wheeler's Indian mother - Dip Kaur, stressed that the UK's relationship with India must run deeper than just trade. "We share so many values with India - the rule of law, democracy, and dynamic entrepreneurial spirit - and I believe that is why India should be one of our most important partners on the global stage," he said.

He also plugged his proposals for a so-called "Australian-style points-based system" of immigration, which would ensure "friends, family members and business contacts in India do not face undue discrimination or barriers when seeking to work, travel or study in the UK". During the course of the leadership electoral hustings, Johnson expressed his disappointment at UK retailers like Sainsbury's and Waitrose not being able to set up base in India and said he would "like to see India opening up to

more of our great brands".

He has in the past also made several interventions over the high duties imposed by India on Scotch whisky. These are likely to feature on his agenda in terms of any new trade talks with India.

"India is a massive static market for the UK, but I would also like to see India opening up to more of our great brands. 'In India Sainsbury's can't set up, they have no Waitrose in India. Just imagine that," he had said, in his characteristic style of mock incredulity.

"Trade with China has gone up about 45 per cent in the last ten years. Trade with India has not increased, actually I think volumes have remained almost static. We need to do far more," he noted.

Johnson is set to take formal charge at Downing Street on Wednesday after Theresa May hands in her resignation to Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace. May, who stepped down over her failed Brexit strategy, has been functioning as a caretaker Prime Minister during the course of the leadership election.

Indian Embassy issues advisory for expats in UAE

Dubai (PTI): Indian Embassy in the UAE has advised its nationals in the Gulf kingdom to renew their passports at least six months before travelling to ensure a smooth transit, a media report said on Tuesday. The Embassy issued an advisory for renewal of passports as residents take advantage of the summer holidays to go on vacation, the Gulf News reported. M Rajamurugan, Counsellor at Embassy of India in Abu Dhabi said, "Check the validity of your passport, the number of blank leaves left in your travel document and last, don't forget to check the expiry on your UAE residence visa."

According to the officials, instances have occurred where Indian expats have come to the Embassy, requesting for renewal after their passport expires or the travel document falls short of blank pages. He said, "We directed them to BLS International Passport Services - UAE for the passport issuance. This situation can be avoided and a lot of time and money can be saved by just making due checks of your travel documents every now and then."

Rajamurugan advised people to start the process at least six months before wanting to travel, the report said. "Again if you are travelling to India and returning to UAE, then even four months validity is fine. But if you are applying for an international visa - they generally ask for the passport to have a six months validity," said Rajamurugan. Rajamurugan added that the Embassy helps expats to get passports early, in emergency cases only, on humanitarian grounds, even on public holidays and weekends. For expired passport and visa, the counsellor suggested, the non native residents, to first renew passport and then visa so that it shows on the new passport.

Neeraj Agarwal, acting consul-general and consul for the press, information, culture said, "I have been living in the Gulf for ten years and it is quite a norm for people to forget to renew their passports."

Ghani seeks 'clarification' after Trump war comments

AFP ■ KABUL

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said on Tuesday the US should clarify remarks President Donald Trump made about Afghanistan, including a claim he could easily win the war but didn't "want to kill 10 million people". Trump had made several controversial statements a day earlier alongside Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan at the White House, including that he had plans that would ensure a speedy end to the Afghan conflict, but which would wipe the country "off the face of the Earth".

His comments sparked outrage in Afghanistan, where the war-weary and traumatised population is already worried about a precipitous pull-out of US forces and whether that means a quick return to Taliban rule and civil war. Afghanistan "would be gone. It would be over in literally, in 10 days", Trump said, adding, "I don't want to go that route", and that he didn't want to kill millions. Trump's statements came as his peace envoy for Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, travelled to Kabul ahead of a new round of peace talks with the Taliban. The insurgents - who now control or influence about half of Afghanistan's territory - have been talking to Washington about a possible deal that would see foreign military forces quit in return for various security guarantees.

"The government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan calls for clarification on the US president's statements expressed at a meeting with the Pakistan Prime Minister, via diplomatic means and channels,"



Ghani's office said in a statement. Trump also said Pakistan would help the US "extricate" itself from Afghanistan, adding there was "tremendous potential" in the relationship between Washington and Islamabad. Afghanistan has long blamed Pakistan for fuelling the Afghan conflict and for supporting the Taliban - which Islamabad denies - and Ghani is furious about being continually sidelined by the US in ongoing peace talks with the Taliban. Pakistan's influence over the Taliban, who have waged an insurgency since they were ousted by US-led forces in 2001, is seen as key in facilitating a political settlement with Ghani's government.

"While the Afghan government supports the US efforts for ensuring peace in Afghanistan, the government underscores that foreign heads of state cannot determine Afghanistan's fate in absence of the Afghan leadership," Ghani's office said. Everyday Afghans took to social media to vent after Trump's comments. "I feel shocked, threatened and humiliated. We trusted Americans to help us in the

war against terror, and now President Trump is threatening us with genocide," Facebook user Mohd Farhad wrote. "I cannot believe he said it. I know it is him but I'm still in shock," Nadene Ghouri, another Facebook user, wrote.

Trump's envoy Khalilzad meanwhile arrived in Kabul on Tuesday ahead of a trip to Qatari capital Doha for what will be the eighth round of direct talks he's held with the Taliban. Those discussions are expected to begin in the coming days, with Ghani and his administration once again locked out. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has set an ambitious goal of securing a deal by September 1. In a tweet, Khalilzad said he would be "focused on achieving an enduring peace that ends the war, ensures terrorists do not use Afghanistan to threaten the US, honours the sacrifices that US, our allies & Afghans make, and cements an enduring relationship with Afghanistan."

Even as the US pushes for a deal, violence in Afghanistan has in recent weeks intensified with both Afghan forces and the Taliban claiming to have inflicted heavy casualties on each other.

Kim Jong inspects new sub, wants military bolstered

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has inspected a newly built submarine and ordered officials to further bolster the country's military capabilities, state media reported Tuesday, as the North increases pressure on the United States ahead of the possible resumption of nuclear diplomacy.

Last week, North Korea said it may lift its 20-month suspension of nuclear and missile tests to protest expected military drills between the United States and South Korea that Pyongyang says are an invasion rehearsal.

The submarine report comes as the US and North Korea work to resume talks after a meeting late last month on the Korean border between Kim and US President Donald Trump. Diplomacy has been stalled since the second Kim-Trump summit in Vietnam in February fell apart due to differences over US-led sanctions on North Korea.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency reported on Tuesday that Kim expressed "great satisfaction" with the submarine after learning about its operational and tactical data and weapon systems. Kim "stressed the need to steadily and reliably increase the national defense capability by directing big efforts to the development of the naval weapons and equipment such as submarine," according to KCNA.

KCNA said the submarine's operational deployment "is near at hand." But it didn't say exactly when or where Kim's inspection of the submarine occurred. The construction of a new submarine suggests North Korea has been increasing its military capability despite nuclear diplomacy with the US that began early last year.

North Korea has repeatedly said it's willing to abandon its

nuclear programme in return for political and economic benefits. It wasn't immediately known exactly what kind of a submarine North Korea has built. But its efforts to develop submarine-launched missile systems are a serious concern for rivals and neighbours because missiles from submerged vessels are harder to detect in advance.

According to a South Korean defense report in 2018, North Korea has 70 submarines and subsurface. Before it entered talks with the United States, North Korea claimed to have successfully test-fired ballistic missiles from submarines, though many outside analysts say the country likely remains years away from having an operational system.

There has been little public progress despite the most recent Trump-Kim meeting, and the North's release of the submarine photos could be a way to both increase pressure on the United States ahead of any renewed talks and remind its rival of its demands.

North Korea wants wide-spread relief from harsh US-led sanctions in return for pledging to give up parts of its weapons program, but the United States is demanding greater steps toward disarmament before it agrees to relinquish the leverage provided by the sanctions.

While a submarine that North Korea used to fire a missile in 2016 and 2017 should be regarded as a test platform with a single launch tube, the new submarine is likely to be one with two to three launch tubes that can be operational, said Kim Dong-yub, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies.

The development of a submarine with ballistic missile tubes would be a "sensitive" issue because it could be linked to an effort to strengthen North Korea's nuclear capability, Kim said.

Australia to bar return of citizens who fought for Islamic State

Sydney (AFP): Australia is poised to bar its citizens who have fought for the Islamic State militant group from returning home for up to two years, under new laws discussed in parliament Tuesday.

The controversial legislation would give Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton the ability to invoke "exclusion orders" to prevent suspected terrorists from returning to the country. It is based on sim-

ilar legislation introduced in the United Kingdom, where a judge is tasked with deciding whether to impose an exclusion order. Dutton told parliament in early July the bill targets 230 Australians who travelled to Syria and Iraq to fight for Islamic State, 80 of whom he said were still in active conflict zones. Concerns have been raised that the Australian proposal could be unconstitutional and places too much power

in the minister's hands, with the opposition Labor Party calling for it to be referred back to a parliamentary intelligence and security committee for further consideration. However, shadow home affairs minister Kristina Keneally said in a statement the opposition would support the bill but wanted a scheme that was "constitutional, keeps Australians safe and that withstands High Court challenges".

'12 Palestinian buildings destroyed in controversial demolition'

Jerusalem (AFP): Israel said on Tuesday a total of 12 Palestinian buildings it considered illegally constructed were demolished in a controversial operation the previous day, while a UN preliminary assessment showed 24 people displaced. The demolitions of Palestinian homes, most of which were still under construction, drew condemnation from the European Union and UN officials. Israel says the homes south of Jerusalem were built too close to its separation barrier cutting off the occupied West Bank, posing a security risk, and the demolitions were approved by its supreme court following a lengthy process.

Palestinian leaders expressed outrage at the demolitions in the Sur Baher area, which straddles the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem. They note that most of the buildings were located in areas meant to be under Palestinian Authority civilian control under the Oslo accords of the 1990s. Before dawn Monday, hundreds of Israeli police and soldiers sealed off buildings in the area while residents and activists were dragged out. UN humanitarian agency OCHA said a preliminary assessment showed 24 people, including 14 children, were displaced.

Iran to meet with nuclear partners amid tanker crisis

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iran said on Tuesday it will attend an urgent meeting with countries still party to the troubled nuclear deal, as it declared itself the "guardian of security" in the Gulf amid a tanker crisis. The planned July 28 meeting is aimed at salvaging the hard-won deal, on life-support since the United States withdrew from it last year and reimposed biting sanctions against Iran.

Amid rising hostilities with the United States, Iran's Revolutionary Guards seized a tanker sailing under the flag of US ally Britain on Friday. State television aired new footage of the crew aboard the Stena Impero tanker which Iran has impounded at the port of Bandar Abbas for allegedly breaking "international maritime rules".

In the video, the crew made up of 18 Indians, three Russians, a Latvian and a Filipino are seen sitting around a table on the ship and seemingly going about their daily routines. The seizure of the Swedish-owned vessel has been seen as a tit-for-tat move after British authorities detained an Iranian oil tanker on July 4 in the Mediterranean on suspicion it was shipping oil to Syria in breach of EU sanctions.

"Throughout history, Iran has been and will be the main



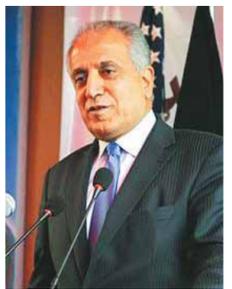
guardian of security and free navigation" in the Gulf, President Hassan Rouhani said late Monday in a meeting with visiting Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi. "There is still no adequate and lasting stability and security in the region," he added, emphasising that Tehran was not seeking to stoke tensions.

Since the United States began reimposing sanctions on Iran, tensions have mounted with drones shot down and oil tankers mysteriously attacked in the sensitive waters of the oil-rich Gulf. US President Donald Trump called off air strikes against Iran at the last minute in June after the Islamic republic downed a US drone. Iran also said Monday it had arrested 17 suspects and sentenced some to death after dismantling a CIA spy network, which was dismissed by Trump as "totally false".

The standoff has seen the price of oil spike, with Brent

The United States peace envoy is en route to Afghanistan and then Qatar to resume negotiations with the Taliban and iron out a deal that could end nearly 18 years of military intervention, the State Department said Monday.

Special Representative Zalmay Khalilzad left on Monday for the mission lasting through August 1 "as part of an overall effort to facilitate a peace process that ends the conflict in Afghanistan," the State Department said in a statement. In the capital Kabul, he will discuss with the Afghan government the "next steps in the peace process, including identifying a national negotiating team that can participate



in intra-Afghan negotiations," the statement added.

Forming such a team is a fraught issue as the Taliban refuse to negotiate directly with the Afghan government.

Khalilzad will then travel to Doha, where "he will resume

talks with the Taliban," the State Department said.

Washington is hoping for a political agreement with the insurgents ahead of the Afghan presidential election scheduled for late September.

A breakthrough could pave the way for a withdrawal of international troops some 18 years after the 9/11 attacks, which led the US to launch a massive offensive to dislodge the Taliban government from Kabul. The US negotiator has had several meetings with the Taliban in the past year, the most recent being on July 9 in Doha. Earlier, the Taliban and other senior Afghan officials held intra-Afghan talks in the Qatari capital, pledging to deliver a "road map for peace" in Afghanistan.

Spain PM Sanchez's prospects challenged with confidence vote

AFP ■ MADRID

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's prospects of remaining in power were challenged Tuesday as he faced a first parliamentary confidence vote with his potential allies up in arms against him.

Sanchez is currently a caretaker premier after coming first in an April general election but without the majority he needed, forcing him to look for support in what could result in Spain's first coalition government post-dictatorship.

As debates continued on Tuesday ahead of the obligatory post-election parliamentary votes this week, regional parties that could back Sanchez accused him of not reaching out to possible allies despite needing their help. If Sanchez cannot secure the votes he needs, he has another two months to find a solution, failing which the Spanish will face another general election.

"What we are seeing in Spanish politics is effectively the natural tensions that occur as a political system transitions from an old way of operating (single-party governments) to what appears to be the new normal... (coalition governments)," said Alfonso Velasco, analyst at the Economist Intelligence Unit.

"Spain might need

another election for politicians to accept the new reality."

With just 123 parliamentary seats out of 350, Sanchez's socialists need support to make it through this week's votes. The first one later on Tuesday requires an absolute majority, which Sanchez will not get. The second on Thursday only requires a simple majority.

With the support of far-left Podemos's 42 lawmakers, and a few others from small regional parties, he would go through. But given the anger of these potential allies, that support looks uncertain. Sanchez's Socialist party has been locked in months of negotiations with Podemos and only recently reluctantly agreed to form a coalition government with the party that was once its arch-rival. But Podemos leader Pablo Iglesias angrily lashed out at Sanchez in a parliamentary debate on Monday.

He accused the socialists of refusing to give his party positions that carry any kind of weight and wanting them to be "a mere decor" in the government. As the clock ticks down to the votes, a deal with Podemos has yet to be sealed.

On Tuesday, as the debate continued, Catalan separatist party ERC accused Sanchez of being "irresponsible" for not appearing to want to negotiate with anyone.

Lanka to farewell Malinga



Lasith Malinga prepares to bowl during Sri Lankan team nets session during ICC World Cup Twitter

AFP ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka will start looking to replace key wicket-taker and former skipper Lasith Malinga when the shaggy-haired fast bowler calls it quits after the first one-day international against Bangladesh on Friday.

Both teams go into the three-game series nursing a World Cup hangover, with Sri Lanka facing an especially tough rebuilding task with the loss of the instantly recognisable Malinga.

The blond-highlighted bowler with the distinctive sling action proved his enduring worth when he tormented England during the World Cup, taking four for 43 as Sri Lanka stunned the eventual champions in the group stage.

Malinga, 35, is Sri Lanka's third-highest ODI wicket-taker with 335 wickets from 225 matches, behind only Chaminda Vaas (399) and Muttiah Muralitharan (523). Malinga needs three wickets to overhaul Anil Kumble's 337 for ninth place on the international list.

Sri Lanka captain Dimuth Karunaratne said finding a replacement for Malinga, who is retiring from one-day internationals, is just one of many challenges ahead following a disappointing World Cup.

"I think if you take the World Cup, we did fairly good. In patches we did really well and sometimes we didn't do very well," he said.

"We know we need to find a wicket-taking bowler because Lasith Malinga is not available after this series.

"We need to find the bowlers who can take wickets in the middle part and the early overs. Those are the areas. I need some good youngsters, we need to groom some youngsters for the next World Cup," he said.

However, Sri Lanka's problems don't end there, as coach Chandika Hathurusingha and his assistants will be shown the door after the Bangladesh series because of their sixth-place finish in England.

Bangladesh, who finished eighth of the 10 teams, are also entering a new era after they sacked coach Steve Rhodes following the World Cup.

I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO TAKE SRI LANKA TO THE NEXT T20 WC. I HOPE I WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY IN THAT TOURNAMENT, BUT IF THERE ARE BETTER PLAYERS THAN ME, I DON'T MIND BEING LEFT OUT

MALI HOPES TO PLAY T20s

AFP ■ COLOMBO

Veteran Sri Lankan pace bowler Lasith Malinga on Tuesday confirmed he will retire from one-day international cricket after the first match against Bangladesh but hopes to play T20 cricket.

Malinga invited fans to his farewell ODI at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Friday and said the cricket board agreed to his request to retire from the 50-over format of the game.

Posting a video message to his fans on his wife's Facebook page, Malinga said he felt no ill will towards officials and players who may have tried to push him out of the team.

The 35-year-old said he was sidelined by selectors two years ago but was able to prove his value to the

national team at the recent World Cup.

"Friday will be the last day you will see me playing a ODI match," Malinga said. "If you can, please come for the match." During practice on Tuesday ahead of the first ODI against Bangladesh, Malinga said he hoped to play T20 cricket and had his sights on the 2020 World Cup in Australia.

"I hope to be able to take Sri Lanka to the next T20 World Cup," he said.

"I hope I will have an opportunity to play in that tournament, but if there are better players than me, I don't mind being left out." Malinga's retirement was first announced by skipper Dimuth Karunaratne, who on Monday told reporters the right-arm fast bowler indicated Friday's match would be his last ODI appearance.

The visitors are also without key players, including skipper Mashrafe Mortaza and inspirational vice-captain Shakib Al Hasan.

Mashrafe has a hamstring injury while Shakib, who scored 606 runs and claimed 11 wickets in the World Cup, is being rested.

Opening batsman Tamim Iqbal, interim captain for the series, said Bangladesh's younger players will get a chance to impress.

"I thought we had a pretty decent World Cup. There were a few games that we should have won. We, the cricketers also felt that we could have done more," said Tamim.

"I think that whoever plays the first one-day match they need to cash in on the opportunity," he added.

Bangladesh are the first foreign sports team to visit Sri Lanka since the Easter Sunday suicide attacks this year, which killed more than 250 people.

The team were given security usually reserved for visiting state dignitaries, with extra forces at their hotel and armed guards for their bus.

"I think the security has been fantastic. All the facilities they have given to us have been top notch," said Tamim.

Kane 'worthy recipient' of NZ of Year accolade: Stokes



Kane Williamson plays football during New Zealand's practice session AP

PTI ■ LONDON

Nominated for New Zealand of the Year award, England's World Cup hero Ben Stokes has graciously turned it down, saying Black Caps skipper Kane Williamson is the "worthy recipient" of the accolade.

"I feel the whole country should align their support to New Zealand captain Kane Williamson. He should be revered as a kiwi legend. He led his team in this World Cup with distinction and honour.

"He was the player of the tournament and an inspirational leader of men. He shows humility and empathy to every situation and is an all-round good bloke. He typifies what it is to be a New Zealander. He would be a worthy recipient of this accolade. New Zealand, fully support him. He deserves it and gets my vote," Stokes concluded.

In the final, Stokes smashed 84 runs to help England level the scores at 241 and take the match to the Super Over. Along with Jos Buttler, Stokes then plundered 15 runs in six balls.

"I am flattered to be nominated for New Zealand of the Year," he posted on his social media accounts.

"I am proud of my New Zealand and Maori heritage but it would not sit right with me to be nominated for this prestigious award. There are people who deserve this recognition more and have done a lot more for the country of New Zealand."

Stokes amassed 465 runs and took seven wickets in the

Van Dijk dreams of Ballon d'Or victory

AGENCIES ■ LIVERPOOL

Virgil van Dijk admits winning the Ballon d'Or after an exceptional season with Liverpool would be a dream come true.

No defender has claimed the award since Fabio Cannavaro in 2006, the year he lifted the World Cup with Italy, but centre-back Van Dijk is a strong contender to break the drought.

The 28-year-old shone as Liverpool won the Champions League last season and was crowned PFA Players' Player of the Year for his part in helping the Reds finish second in the Premier League.

Already a revered figure at Anfield, Van Dijk could become the club's second Ballon d'Or recipient after Michael Owen in 2001.

"If people are talking about it — you can't say it doesn't [excite you]," Van Dijk told Sky Sports. "But it's a subject we don't have any influence on. I can't change anything right now other than get fit, stay fit and that's the situation."

"Winning something like that is a dream come true for every footballer in the world. If you don't then you just get on with it and try to perform better than last year."

"It would be fantastic and I would be very proud."

"But the main thing will be to focus on what we do all together and achieving the bigger goal — that's getting silverware with the club."

Van Dijk and Liverpool are in the United States for pre-season ahead of another gruelling campaign.

The European champi-

ons must contend with the usual domestic and Champions League commitments along with a trip to Qatar for the Club World Cup in December.

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp views the demands on modern players, including regular international matches and tournaments, as unsustainable.

"It looks like nobody can imagine a week without football in the year," Klopp told reporters. "When did that happen? A game again, a game again."

"It is difficult for the boys. Everything will be fine this season, but in the long term we have to change it. There must be breaks."

"Come on, let them go. Be brave. Don't treat every game like it is the last of a decade."



Gareth Bale trains during practice session Twitter

Zidane: Bale declined to play

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane has denied disrespecting Wales star Gareth Bale as he discussed the expected transfer of the 30-year-old forward from the La Liga giants on Monday.

Speaking to reporters on the eve of Real Madrid's friendly with Arsenal at FedEx Field — home of the NFL's Washington Redskins — Zidane said it was Bale who chose not to play in Madrid's 3-1 friendly defeat to Bayern in Houston on Saturday.

"I did not disrespect anyone, least of all Gareth," a

frustrated-sounding Zidane said. "I said that the club is working to facilitate Bale's departure, nothing more."

"The other day, Gareth did not dress for the game, he did not want to because the club was negotiating his departure," he added.

Zidane had been branded a "disgrace" by Bale's agent for his comments after the Saturday match, when he said he hoped Bale's move from the club happened soon "for everyone's sake."

Bale has been frozen out in Madrid by Zidane despite helping his side to a Spanish title and four Champions Leagues since arriving from

Tottenham Hotspur six year ago.

His brace, including a brilliant bicycle kick, sank Liverpool in the 2018 final, but he was shunted aside by Zidane as soon as he returned to the Real bench in early March.

After Zidane's reappointment, Bale played 90 minutes in just three of the remaining 11 matches, was left out completely four times and frequently substituted when he did play.

"Today, he is a Real Madrid player," Zidane said, adding that the striker would train with the team Monday night.

Hazard: You must always win trophies at Madrid

AGENCIES ■ MADRID

Eden Hazard stressed the importance of winning trophies every season at Real Madrid as the star signing eyes silverware in 2019-20.

Hazard swapped Chelsea for Madrid in a big-money move during the off-season after the LaLiga club's difficult 2018-19 campaign.

Madrid finished third behind bitter rivals Barcelona in LaLiga, crashed out of the Champions League in the last 16 and lost in the Copa del Rey semi-finals.

Hazard — who led Chelsea to Europa League glory last term — understands the importance of titles at the Santiago Bernabeu. "When you play for Real Madrid you need to win things every season. You need to win, win, win," Hazard told Jay Shetty via Madrid's official website.

"If you don't win the Champions League the fans get down and that's to be expected. At this club

you always want to win and that's why I'm here.

"I want to play games, score goals and, come the end of the season, lift trophies."

Hazard made his debut for Madrid in last week's 3-1 loss to Bayern Munich at the International Champions Cup.

The Belgium international and Madrid are back in action against Arsenal in Maryland on Tuesday late night.

"I play with freedom. That's difficult in football because there are defenders, midfielders... but that's the kind of player I am," Hazard said. "If I don't have that freedom I don't play well and end up on the bench. I like to get on the ball, move to the right, to the left, shift around and play with my instinct."

"I don't think I have to do this, play the ball to the right, to the left. I just play, get on the ball and decide what to do."

Fekir completes Betis switch

AGENCIES ■ LYON

Nabil Fekir has left Lyon and joined Real Betis, potentially paving the way for Giovanni Lo Celso's departure.

France international Fekir, 26, entered the final 12 months of his deal at the start of July and LaLiga club Betis swooped to complete a transfer that could cost them €29.75million, with the deal also including a potential 20 per cent sell-on bonus for Lyon.

His younger brother, Yassin Fekir, has also moved to the Benito Villamarin, and Lyon will receive 50 per cent of any future transfer fee for the 22-year-old. The versatile attacker, who has hit 36 Ligue 1 goals in the last three years, almost moved to Liverpool in 2018 and was linked to Arsenal after declining to discuss new terms with Lyon, the club he captained for two seasons.

Fekir progressed through the Ligue 1 side's academy and helped France win the World Cup in Russia last year.

His arrival in Seville is expected to free up midfielder and fellow left-footer Lo Celso for a switch to Tottenham.

A full Argentina international, the 23-year-old is reportedly keen to work with compatriot Mauricio Pochettino in London.

Lo Celso joined Betis on loan from Paris Saint-Germain at the start of last season, before the move was made permanent in April.

World wrestling c'ship trials venue shifted to IG Stadium

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on Tuesday shifted the men's trials for the World Championship from Sonapat to Delhi's IG Stadium, keeping in mind "better organisation facilities."

The parent body also insisted that the decision to shift venue was not taken in anticipation of disruption from unruly fans at the Bahalgarh complex.

Recently a few referees had requested the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) to change the venue for Friday's trials since they feared for their safety at the small hall at SAI centre in Sonapat.

There is no place for fans to sit and watch the proceedings at the Bahalgarh Centre and it usually becomes difficult to contain supporters in case they do not agree with the decision of the officiating referee and judges.

"We have shifted the venue to IG stadium in Delhi because there is huge interest in World Championship trials. Fans, thousands in number, are expected to come and watch. The small wrestling hall at Bahalgarh cannot accommodate so many fans,"

WFI Assistant Secretary Vinod Tomar said.

Asked if the referee's request has forced them to change the venue, Tomar replied in negative.

"No no. It's not about referees. Wherever the WFI conducts trials, the referees will have to report. It's about better management. IG stadium has good seating capacity and trials can be conducted smoothly there," he insisted.

However, history suggests that even IG stadium witnessed ugly scenes during the 2018 Commonwealth Games trials when supporters of star grappler Sushil Kumar and Praveen Rana exchanged blows.

The men's trials will begin at 8am on Friday and it has been decided to hold trials for only six Olympic weight categories — 57kg, 65 kg, 74 kg, 86 kg, 97kg and 125 kg.

Two-time Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar, who competes in 74kg, has sent his entry for the trials.

The trials four other categories which are part of the World Championship will be conducted later. The trials for women are scheduled to be held on Sunday in Lucknow.

LOCAL EVENTS

TEAM ANNOUNCED

Lucknow District Amateur Aquatic Association on Tuesday announced Lucknow team for the 62nd Senior State Aquatic Championship, to be held at KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium from August 2 to 4. TEAM: (MEN'S) Anirudh Pratap Singh, Arun Kumar, Ansh Tiwari, Anvay Mishra,

Abhikarsh Vishwakarma, Manoj Yadav, Aditya Prakash Singh, Ishan Rastogi, Harsh Raj, Tushar Rai, Prajal Joshi, Ankit Punia, Shubham Mishra, Praveen Kashyap. (WOMEN'S) Vidushi Sanwal, Samridhi Srivastava, Satakshi Singh, Yavnika Gossain, Avidha PAndit, Anushka Rana, Vaishnavi Singh, Arpita Singh, Twinkle Bharti.

GOLDEN BOY'S, AMC WIN

Golden Boy's FC beat Kumaon FC 3-1 in a Lucknow Football League match at La Martiniere ground on Tuesday.

Pravjal, Priyanshu and Sachin netted goal each. In another match, AMC defeated Brayen XI FC 3-1.

Narine, Pollard recalled for T20s

Mystery spinner, Kieron & Russell included in Windies squad for first 2 games

PTI ■ ST JOHN'S

The veteran duo of Sunil Narine and Kieron Pollard were on Tuesday recalled to a 14-member West Indies squad for the first two games of the three-match T20 International series against India, beginning August 3 at Florida in the United States.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Anthony Bramble is the only uncapped player in the squad selected for the first two T20s to be played on August 3 and 4 at the Broward County Stadium, Lauderdale, Florida.

The selection panel could make changes to the squad for the third T20I on August 6 at the Guyana National Stadium, the West Indies Cricket Board said.

The squad, to be led by captain Carlos Brathwaite, also includes all-rounder Andre Russell subject to passing a fitness assessment prior to the series. Russell had made an early exit from the World Cup to undergo an operation on his troublesome left knee.

Interim chairman of the selection panel Robert Haynes said veteran opener Chris Gayle had notified that he was unavailable for the series due to playing commitments at the GT20 in Canada. This has given the opportunity for left-handed compatriot John Campbell to fill the slot.

Left-handed opener John Campbell and left-arm spinner Khary Pierre have also been included alongside a number of regulars, as the interim selection panel seeks to explore options with the ICC T20 World Cup looming next year in Australia.

"This squad is an excellent balance of experience and youth. It is not just about the present — the India Tour of the West Indies — but we are also looking at the T20 World Cup coming up next year and it is important that we find the right combination of players



Sunil Narine plays a shot during Indian Premier League clash against Rajasthan Royal

IPL/Twitter

and the right formula for defending our title," said Haynes.

"We have to make sure that we put certain things in place now, so that when it comes to picking the squad for the T20 World Cup, it becomes easier, so we are giving more players the opportunity to play and get the exposure."

Haynes said he expects

the T20I series to be a keenly contested one.

"Most of the players that we have selected have played in the IPL and they know all of the Indian players well. We will have the edge for sure because we are playing at home. At the end of the day however, it is important that the players go out there and play to win, not just to compete, and I think we

have the right balance to do so."

Mystery spinner Narine last played in a T20I for West Indies against England almost two years ago at Chester-le-Street and batting all-rounder

MYSTERY SPINNER NARINE LAST PLAYED IN A T20I FOR WEST INDIES AGAINST ENGLAND ALMOST TWO YEARS AGO AT DURHAM AND BATTING ALL-ROUNDER POLLARD APPEARED LAST NOVEMBER ON THE TOUR OF INDIA

Pollard appeared last November on the Tour of India.

"We felt that players like Narine and Pollard, who have played well in T20 leagues around the world, once they are fit and mentally ready to play, we must give them the opportunity to represent the West Indies again," said Haynes.

The 28-year-old Bramble will provide wicket keeping back-up to Nicholas Pooran despite not having played an official T20 in close to three years. He did, however, captain West Indies 'Bat last year's Canada GLT20 and was picked up by Guyana Amazon Warriors in the CPL draft in May.

"Though Nicholas Pooran will be the first-choice wicket-keeper, we needed to have someone to deputise in case something unexpected happens and he (Bramble) is the perfect choice," said Haynes.

India play three ODIs and two Tests against the West Indies after the T20Is.

West Indies Squad for first two T20 Internationals: Carlos Brathwaite (capt), Sunil Narine, Keemo Paul, Khary Pierre, Kieron Pollard, Nicholas Pooran (wk), Rovman Powell, Andre Russell, Oshane Thomas, Anthony Bramble (wk), John Campbell, Sheldon Cottrell, Shimron Hetmyer, Evin Lewis.



Wriddhiman Saha in a file picture

BCCI/Twitter

Saha ready to shoulder responsibility in A game

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND

Wriddhiman Saha will begin his reintegration after a major shoulder injury with his first first-class game in 18 months when India A take on West Indies A in an unofficial Test starting on Wednesday.

Wriddhiman and Hanuma Vihari the two Test specialists who have been included in the A squad to prepare for the two-Test series starting late August.

Wriddhiman, who is only three months shy of his 35th birthday, is returning after a career-threatening injury that many believe has been completely mismanaged at the National Cricket Academy.

It will not be out of place to label his comeback 'Wriddhiman 3.0' with the keeper-batsman beginning everything from the scratch, something that is not easy in the mid 30s.

Having stayed under MS Dhoni's shadow for the better part, Wriddhiman was finding his mojo in an injury-ridden career but the injury during the last IPL was a massive blow.

With Rishabh Pant proving his credentials with centuries in England and Australia, it's again that phase in his career where he could be seen wearing the orange or green bib and rushing with the towel and energy drink during breaks.

The teamman that he is, Wriddhiman will do it without batting an eyelid but the ques-

tion that crops up is what exactly will be left for him post West Indies tour, when India play twin series against South Africa and Bangladesh at home.

People in the know of things are still at their wits end as to how the same kind of injury that had K.L. Rahul back in action in two months, saw the Bengal stumper out for more than a year till the Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

"KS Bharath just about missed out on an India team berth. For the first time in 18 months, Wriddhiman will be keeping for a day or may be 120 overs if required. Then he will have to bat. The NCA had initially messed up his rehab and it required a surgery. It needs to be seen how it holds up," a senior BCCI official privy to developments at the NCA said.

For Vihari, a good innings will keep Virat Kohli and Ravi Shastri interested for the one middle-order slot even though vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane is the favourite to take up the No 5 spot for now.

The two openers, Priyank Panchal of Gujarat and Abhimanyu Easwaran of Bengal, will like to continue their good work and keep Rahul on toes, especially after two below-par tours of England and Australia.

Bharath is expected to get a chance in the third Test and a good knock can make him the second keeper at home as the Andhra player is considered to be good keeping up to the spinners.

Anderson out of Ireland Test with Roy to make debut

AFP ■ LONDON

James Anderson has been ruled out of England's four-day Test against Ireland at Lord's starting on Wednesday but World Cup star Jason Roy will make his debut.

Opening bowler Anderson has failed to recover from the right calf injury he sustained when playing for his county Lancashire against Durham on July 2.

"Jimmy will continue to be assessed" ahead of the first Ashes Test at Edgbaston on August 1, an England and Wales Cricket Board statement said on Tuesday. Chief selector Ed Smith stated when naming the squad last week that England's record wicket-taker would not be risked ahead of the Ashes series if there were any lingering doubts over his injury.

Bowling resources have already been stretched by side strains sustained by Mark Wood and Jofra Archer in the recent World Cup victory over New Zealand.

Warwickshire paceman Ollie Stone will make his Test debut in Anderson's absence, with World Cup-winning batsman Roy also playing his first Test after featuring in 84 one-day internationals.

England will play two spinners in Jack Leach and Moeen Ali in an attack led by Stuart Broad, with uncapped all-rounder Lewis Gregory missing out from the original 13-man squad.

Test skipper Root, speaking at Lord's on Tuesday, said Anderson could have played against Ireland but stressed that England did not want to take any chances with their prize asset ahead of a five-Test Ashes series.

"Jimmy probably would have been able to get through this Test match but (it's) just making sure that he's absolutely ready,"

England vs Ireland
Live from 3:30pm IST
SONY ESPN NETWORK

Root explained.

"We thought the last thing we want is him carrying a niggle going into a series so we tried to be sensible about it and give him as much time to be 100 percent going into that series — a five-match series. So we're very confident that he'll be fit (for the Ashes)."

The powerful Roy will open the innings, as he did during the World Cup, even though he is a middle-order batsman in first-class cricket.

"With Jason, we want him to be himself, express himself and trust his instincts as much as possible," Root said.

"He brings something different to our Test batting side, he's a proven performer in international cricket and fully capable of making big contributions. I hope he doesn't try to play differently, I hope he'll go and be himself."

"There were occasions in the World Cup when he had to trust his defence and he might have to draw that out a bit longer in Test cricket — but he can go and put the pressure back on the opposition. He's one of the best in the world at that."

Anderson, 36, no longer plays ODI cricket so did not play in the World Cup.

The Lancashire swing bowler, with 575 scalps, trails only the spin trio of Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan (800 wickets), Australia's Shane Warne (708) and India's Anil Kumble (619) in the all-time list of Test wicket-takers.

England team to play Ireland: Jason Roy, Rory Burns, Joe Denly, Joe Root (capt), Jonny Bairstow (wkt), Moeen Ali, Chris Woakes, Sam Curran, Stuart Broad, Ollie Stone, Jack Leach.

Away Ashes triumph the pinnacle: Lyon

AFP ■ EDGBASTON

Australia off-spinner Nathan Lyon says it would be a dream come true to win the Ashes in England and he has even thought about how he would celebrate if it happened.

The 2019 campaign will be Lyon's third Ashes tour to the UK, where Australia have not won a Test series since the 4-1 triumph of Steve Waugh's men in 2001.

In the 18 years since, four touring parties have returned home empty handed, twice under captain Ricky Ponting (2005 and 2009) and twice (2013 and 2015) with Michael Clarke at the helm.

Clarke was Lyon's captain on his previous visits to England where the off-spinner has played eight Tests with a record of two wins, four losses and two draws, a stats sheet he is desperate to



Nathan Lyon bowls during Australian team practice session ahead of Ashes

improve.

Lyon has been part of Australian Test teams that have won the Ashes at home, including a 5-0 whitewash in 2013-14. He has won away in South Africa and Asia, and been part of the Test side crowned No.1 in the world.

But the 31-year-old says winning an Ashes series in England is the ultimate.

"It's like a dream," Lyon said on the latest episode of *The Unplayable Podcast*.

"As a kid you always dream of firstly playing cricket for Australia but then winning the Ashes."

"Winning the Ashes is always (up) there but winning it away makes it more special."

Driving Lyon as much as anything is the vision of Test legend Shane Warne jubilantly celebrating winning the 1997 Ashes series at Trent Bridge with a Test to play.

With the stumps in both hands above his head, Warne danced victoriously after Australia won the fifth Test by 264 runs to take an unassailable 3-1 lead in the six-match series.

The memory of Warne grooving on the away dressing room balcony in front of thousands of fans is a fantasy he hopes to live in less than two months.

And he's been practicing just in case it comes to fruition.

"The big memory for me is seeing Shane Warne with the stump," Lyon said.

"That's the biggest thing. I'm desperate to replicate that. I reckon it would be brilliant."

"If we win the Ashes I'll do it. I've been practicing, don't worry about that."

"Like Steve Smith batting in his room, I've got a stump up there."

Pick your best for Ashes: AB

IAN S ■ SYDNEY

Former captain Allan Border feels Australia should pick their best six batsmen for the upcoming Ashes series against England beginning August 1 in Birmingham.

Border revealed his first choice team to *foxsports.com.au*, naming southpaws David Warner, Marcus Harris and Usman Khawaja as his preferred top three.

"The top three batsmen are left-handers, which is not necessarily the wrong thing," Border said.

"A lot of people jump up and down about picking too many left-handers but if they are your best players then go with them. If they were right-handers, no one would say anything," he added.

The former Australia skipper also stated that wicketkeeper-batsman Matthew Wade should come into the side considering his good domestic form.

"I'd be very tempted to go with Wade. You talk about picking the guys in form, and he's in great form. (Marnus) Labuschagne might get that guernsey in that he can bowl some pretty handy leg-spin and he's good in the field too," Border said. "Wade can bowl some medium pace. He can get it through alright, you could sling



Marcus Harris bats during nets

AFP

him half a dozen overs if you had to here and there."

The 63-year-old also advised the Australian team to resist from temptation of playing an all-rounder at the number six spot and instead play a proper batsman.

"I wouldn't go the all-rounder at No.6. I'd pick a straight out-and-out batsman. England's conditions are a bit softer underfoot and temperature wise. There's not as much physicality and stress on the bowlers," he said.

Allan Border's XI: David Warner, Marcus Harris, Usman Khawaja, Steve Smith, Travis Head, Matthew Wade/Marnus Labuschagne, Tim Paine (c,wk), Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Nathan Lyon, Josh Hazlewood.

Barca lose in Griezmann's debut

AGENCIES ■ SAITAMA

Antoine Griezmann made his Barcelona debut on Tuesday but was unable to prevent the LaLiga champions slipping to a 2-1 friendly defeat to Chelsea in Saitama.

World Cup winner Griezmann — who joined the club in a €120million move earlier this month — made little impact during his 45-minute appearance against Frank Lampard's side, who went in front through Tammy Abraham's 34th-minute goal.

Barcelona looked bright at the start of the second period before Ross Barkley's fine finish nine minutes from time sealed the win, despite Ivan Rakitic's late strike.

Chelsea continue their preparations for the 2019-20 season with a game against Championship side Reading on Sunday, while Barca take on Vissel Kobe — and their former player Andres Iniesta — a day earlier.

Barcelona could — and perhaps should — have gone ahead inside the opening minute but Oriol Busquets' header from eight yards sailed over Kepa Arrizabalaga's goal.

Abraham was equally wasteful in the 23rd minute, blazing a



Antoine Griezmann and David Luiz battle for ball possession

AP

half-volley over from six yards after Marc-Andre ter Stegen had failed to hold Christian Pulisic's powerful strike.

The striker made up for that miss soon after, though, coolly rounding Ter Stegen and slotting into an empty net after Jorginho had cut out Sergio Busquets' sloppy pass on the edge of the penalty area. Pulisic could have doubled their advantage five minutes before the interval but crashed a left-footed effort into the side netting, while a subdued Ousmane Dembele saw his low strike kept out by Kepa at the other end.

Barca were a team reborn after making 11 changes at the break, Rafinha, Carles Perez and Carles Alena all testing Kepa with low strikes in the opening stages of the second half.

Chelsea substitute Kenedy inexplicably headed well wide after latching onto Barkley's lofted pass but the England international made no mistake in the 81st minute, squeezing an effort inside Neto's right-hand post from 18 yards.

The Spanish side at least ended the game on a positive note, Rakitic thundering into the top corner from distance in stoppage time.



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FOCUS

China's H1 GDP grows 6.3% Economic transformation and upgradation show effects

China National Bureau of Statistics announced on July 15th that the country achieved an estimated GDP of 45093.3 billion yuan in the first half of 2019, up 6.3 percent year on year at constant prices. "China's national economy continued to operate in a reasonable range in the first two quarters. Overall, the country achieved stable performance while securing progress in its economic development," said Mao Shengyong, spokesperson for China National Bureau of Statistics.

Such an economic growth rate is one of the highest among the world's major economies. The interviewed economists believe that China maintained overall stability in employment, a moderate

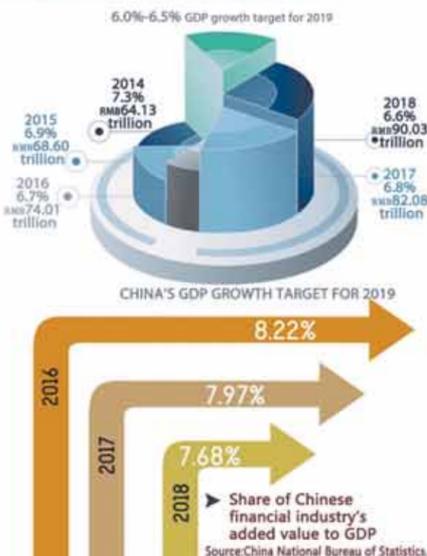
increase in prices and a relatively fast income increase of urban residents. The energy consumption per 10,000 yuan of GDP decreased by 2.7 percent than previous year, and the ecological environment improved across the board, indicating that the 6.3 percent growth is of high quality and sustainable.

According to Cheng Shi, chief economist of ICBC International, China's economy went through trade frictions and other challenges in the second quarter, but still achieved the target growth rate of 6.0 to 6.5 percent as set forth in the government work report and continued to advance its industrial structural upgrade. In the past six months, both the value added of industrial enterprises

above the designated size and the rate of year-on-year increase in consumption were significantly higher than market expectations, proving that China's economic growth is still resilient.

"China's economy has withstood a test," said Wang Jun, member of the Academic Committee of the China Centre for International Economic Exchange. In his view, the economic growth is within the expected range. As highlights of China's economy in the first half of 2019, no obvious risk of inflation or austerity occurred, and no systematic risks are likely.

China's target economic growth for this year is 6.0 to 6.5 percent. The 6.3 percent growth rate has laid a good foundation for fulfilling the annual target.



9 DATA HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINA'S ECONOMY IN H1

6.3%

GDP growth

China's economy grew 6.3 percent year-on-year in the first six months of this year, in line with the government's annual target of 6.0 to 6.5 percent. The economic performance was generally stable, NBS spokesman Mao Shengyong said, adding that China was still one of the world's fastest-growing major economies.

5.8%

Fixed-asset investment growth

Fixed-asset investment grew by 5.8 percent year-on-year in H1. Investment in high-tech manufacturing surged 10.4 percent, 4.6 percentage points faster than total investment growth, while investment in high-tech services also registered faster-than-average growth

of 13.5 percent.

\$ 2.8 trillion

Retail sales of consumer goods

Retail sales of consumer goods rose by 8.4 percent year-on-year in the first half to 19.52 trillion yuan (about \$2.8 trillion). Service consumption accounted for 49.4 percent of total national consumption expenditures, 0.6 percentage points higher from a year earlier.

3.9%

Foreign trade growth

Foreign trade increased by 3.9 percent year-on-year, totaling 14.67 trillion yuan, with exports growing by 6.1 percent to 7.95 trillion yuan and imports rising 1.4 percent to 6.72 trillion yuan, data from the General Administration of Customs showed.

20,131

New Foreign funded enterprises

enterprises

The actually utilized foreign investment in China rose 7.2 percent from a year ago to reach 478.33 billion yuan (\$68 billion) during the first half of this year, with a total of 20,131 new foreign-funded enterprises established, data from the Ministry of Commerce showed. The determination of the Chinese government to support the development of foreign enterprises in China will not change, said Gao Feng, a spokesperson for the ministry.

8.8%

Per capita disposable income

China's per capita disposable income stood at 15,294 yuan in the first half of 2019, up 8.8 percent year-on-year in nominal terms, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. The inflation-

adjusted growth was 6.5 percent, 0.2 percentage points higher than the 6.3 percent growth rate for the Chinese economy from January to June. During the period, the per capita disposable income in rural areas continued to grow faster than that in urban regions, indicating the closing of the urban-rural income gap.

7.37 million

New urban jobs

The country created 7.37 million new urban jobs in the first half of 2019, finishing 67 percent of the target for the whole year. China's job market remained stable in June, with the surveyed unemployment rate in urban areas standing at 5.1 percent. The booming service industry has played a vital role in promoting employment.

2.2%

Consumer price index

Prices remained stable,

with the consumer price index rising moderately by 2.2 percent year-on-year for the first half of this year. Except for pork prices, other factors that drive up CPI have a relatively weak effect, said Liu Xuezhong, a senior researcher with the Bank of Communications' Financial Research Center, adding that there will be no obvious inflationary pressures during the second half of this year.

9.0%

High-tech manufacturing industry expansion

High-tech industries maintained fast expansion, with the output for high-tech manufacturing up 9 percent year-on-year in the first half, 3 percentage points faster than overall growth. The output of new energy vehicles and solar cells grew 34.6 percent and 20.1 percent, respectively. It shows that middle- and high-end manufacturing, together with consumer goods manufacturing, are promoting economic growth, said Zhao Qinghe, a senior official of the National Bureau of Statistics.

XI'S VIEW

China follows the principle of achieving shared growth through discussion and collaboration in engaging in global governance. China stands for democracy in international relations and the equality of all countries, big or small, strong or weak, rich or poor. China supports the United Nations

in playing an active role in international affairs, and supports the efforts of other developing countries to increase their representation and strengthen their voice in international affairs. China will continue to play its part as a major and responsible country, take an active part in reforming and developing the

global governance system, and keep contributing Chinese wisdom and strength to global governance.

—From Report of Chinese President Xi Jinping at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China on October 18, 2017

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Ethnic villages benefit from poverty alleviation projects in Xichou

Xichou is a county under the jurisdiction of Wenshan Zhuang and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, southeast Yunnan province.

As a multi-ethnic region, it has five different ethnic minority groups dwelling on its soil, including Zhuang, Miao, Yi, Yao and Mongol. Ethnic villages can be found across the county.

However, Xichou for a long time has been labeled as one of the most underdeveloped places in China, mostly because of its highly desertified landforms which

hamper the local agricultural practices to a great extent.

Bearing in mind a belief that no single farmer can be left behind, the county has put enormous effort to help local residents get rid of poverty.

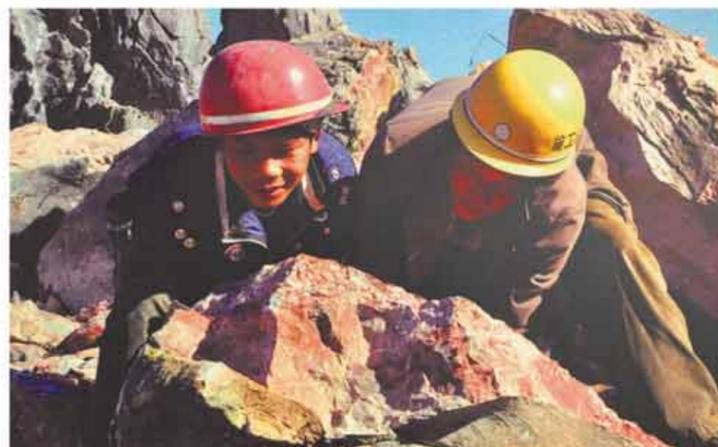
As a result, over 5,000 rural households have already benefited from a series of poverty alleviation projects initiated by the county government.

Infrastructure is seen as a linchpin to foster the development of Xichou. Now, ethnic villages in the county are interconnected not merely by newly-paved

roads, but broadband and even 4G networks. And with increasing investments, the local water supply and sewage disposal systems have been largely upgraded.

The conservation of traditional ethnic cultures is another key indicator to Xichou's development. While an increasing number of folklore museums have been turned into tourist attractions, ethnic dances, rituals and embroidery arts gain further fames for the county.

(By Wang Jingzhong)



Workers are moving stones to build roads which will greatly change the life of Xichou people

Photo by YDPG

PEOPLE IN YUNNAN

Xu Zuokun: A master kite-maker



Xu Zuokun with his kite masterpiece Photo by Zhang Mi

The mention of Yunnan kites often reminds people of Xu Zuokun, a master kite-maker and a city-level successor of intangible cultural heritage in Kunming. Xu, 73, has been making kites in his spare time since the 1980s. In 2003, he won the first prize in an international kite festival and became a member of the International Kite Federation, making Yunnan Bee kites famous all over the world.

Xu's home is simply a

fairlyland of kites: an eagle kite on the ceiling, a dragon kite by the TV set, and hand-painted mini kites on the antique-and-curious shelves. He keeps hundreds of kites in his apartment. You name any of them, and he can readily locate it.

According to Xu, the bamboo-framed kites were brought to Kunming from the Central Plains when Kublai Khan attacked the Kingdom of Dali (937-1253). Based on these kites, which could

only fly on fine, windless days, people developed the current Yunnan bee kites. Unlike the kites of other styles, Yunnan-style kites have downward wings and can cope with stronger winds. In Kunming, spring days are particularly windy and ideal for flying such kites.

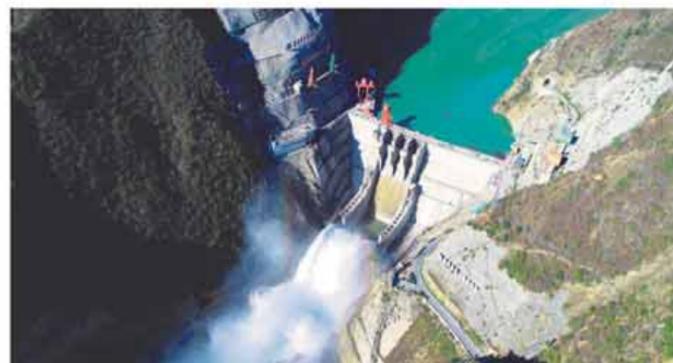
The biggest kite that Xu has ever made is the dragon kite he brought to the Shanghai World Expo. It was 256 meters long and weighed about 8 kilograms. The dragon head alone was made up of more than 170 bamboo sticks. To fly this kite, he spent more than 10,000 yuan (\$1428) buying a thumb-thick mountaineering rope. "It was so big that the smallest mistake would have prevented it from rising in the air," he said.

Xu put all his heart in every kite that he makes. "Life is short. I'm contented to be able to make good kites," he said.

(Comprehensive report)

REMARKABLE 70 YEARS

China attaches importance to water conservancy



Picture shows the Wunonlong water conservancy in Langcang River

Photo by YDPG

Editor's note: The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Over the past seven decades, China has developed from a poor, weak country to the second largest economy in the world. This issue, we continue the column called "Remarkable 70 Years" to help you understand the great changes that have taken place in New China.

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese government attached great importance to the development of water conservancy projects

and achieved a series of achievements in infrastructure construction such as flood control projects and water supply projects.

According to statistics, in 2018, the investment in China's major water conservancy projects was 687.27 billion yuan (around \$98 billion), and the investment in water conservancy construction in poverty-stricken areas was 110 billion yuan (around \$15.7 billion).

BELT AND ROAD

South and Southeast Asian Medical Education and Health Alliance established in Kunming

On July 12th, the inaugural ceremony of South and Southeast Asian Medical Education and Health Alliance was held in Kunming.

Kunming Medical University and Shanghai Jiaotong University School of Medicine jointly initiated the alliance. The founding members were 20 medical education and health institutions in China and 19

medical education and health institutions in South and Southeast Asia, including China Medical University and Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences. The permanent secretariat of the alliance is at Kunming Medical University.

The alliance will engage its member institutions in cultivating medical talents and promoting cross-country and cross-institutional exchanges. The cooperation among

member institutions will cover joint training, exchanges of students, mutual recognition of credits, mutual conferring of degrees and joint teaching programmes.

The members will jointly carry out teacher training and jointly hire world-class experts in the field of medical and health to carry out teaching, research and clinical guidance.

They will jointly carry out cooperation in scientific

research. They will actively share literature, information and resources, and hold various high-end academic seminars on medical education and health.

The institutions will jointly establish international health service, exchange and cooperation platforms. They will explore and propose solutions regarding major public medical and health issues in the region and the

world, and build a regional disease prevention and control system as well as public health exchange and cooperation platforms.

They will also jointly organise clinical internships, knowledge contests, academic seminars and other exchanges, which will focus on medical courses and cultural experience and aim to improve skills of participants.

By Chen Xinlong

TRAVEL

Mushroom season begins in Shangri-La



The matsutake Photo by YDPG

In July, Shangri-La in Northwest Yunnan's Diqing Tibetan Autonomous prefecture has a mild climate with a temperature of around 18°C,

making it a good place to avoid summer heat.

Beside snow-capped peaks, forests and lakes for sight seeing, the delicious wild mushrooms

like matsutake also stir the taste buds of the tourists in Shangri-La.

Shangri-La is located in the Hengduan Mountains in the southeast of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, where several large rivers in Asia rush through. And the wild mushrooms of matsutake are nourished by pristine natural environment here.

When matsutake begin to mushroom in late June every year, the Tibetan folks in Shangri-La also kick off their daily activity: picking wild mushrooms in the mountains.

In Shangri-La families, matsutake is often cut into slices and grilled with butter. The pine mushroom can also be stewed with chicken. Both cooking methods are favored by locals.