

**OPINION 6**  
MILKING THE  
ARMED FORCES

**WORLD 11**  
TRUMP DITCHED IRAN DEAL  
TO SPITE OBAMA: UK ENVOY

**MONEY 10**  
REGULATORS LENS ON  
INDIGO LAPSES

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**LEWIS HAMILTON  
WINS BRITISH  
GRAND PRIX  
12 SPORT**

## Pakistan gives in to Kartarpur demands

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

On Chawla, Das said, "We had sought confirmation that individuals like Gopal Singh Chawla were removed from the bodies to which we had raised objection. So they confirmed in that Chawla had been removed from PSGPC and other bodies."

He said the Pakistani side was apprised of the ban imposed by Government of India on the US-based pro-Khalistan outfit 'Sikhs for Justice'. "We told them that we have declared this organisation (SFJ) unlawful and given them our gazette notification banning it. We told them we have information that this organisation is also operating from

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

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

"We have requested Pakistan to honour religious sentiments and remove the encroachment, besides restoring the encroached land to the gurdwara," he said.

The statement said Pakistan has agreed to look into the issue. The work on the four-lane highway to the crossing point at the International Boundary is progressing well and is on schedule, officials said.

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

## England lift cup in thriller Super Over



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

## Month after quitting Capt Cabinet, Sidhu makes its public

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

PNS ■ BENGALURU/MUMBAI

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

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

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

Before emplaning a char-



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

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

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

## Man stabbed to death for resisting loot in Def Colony

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old man working in a restaurant in South Delhi's posh Defence Colony area was stabbed to death for resisting a snatching bid on Sunday around 1am. The man was stabbed thrice in the chest and succumbed to the injuries while being taken to AIIMS Trauma Centre, police said on Sunday.

Shyam Bodh Sah, a native of Bihar and a resident of Zamrudpur in Delhi, was working for Swagat Restaurant for the last four years.

The incident took place when Sah was on his way back to home on bicycle. Police was informed about the incident by a co-worker who was travelling on the same stretch. "Restaurant employee Laalo Ram noticed Shah lying on footpath and crying for help. He informed police. Shah was taken to AIIMS Trauma Centre where he was declared brought dead," DCP Vijay Kumar said.

Stating that all MLAs who have resigned are together, he denied that senior BJP leader R Ashoka had flown with him on the special flight or that the saffron party's influence was behind their resignations. Earlier in the day, Congress MLA and former Minister HK Patil had said, "Nagaraj must have learnt that Sudhakar is in Mumbai and I feel he has gone there to bring him and other legislators back."

## Two Maoists killed in Dantewada encounter

STAFF REPORTER ■ DANTEWADA

Two hardcore Maoists, including a woman carrying cash reward of ₹5 lakh each on their heads were killed in an encounter with security forces in the insurgency-hit Dantewada district on Sunday morning, police said.

The gunbattle broke out in a forested patch near Gumiypal village, located around 400 km from Raipur, when a District Reserve Guard team was out on an anti-Naxal operation, Deputy Inspector General of Police (Naxal Ops) Sundarraj said.

The security forces acting on intelligence input tried to pin down the Maoists which resulted in exchange of fire after which the rebels disappeared into the forest, he said.

During search

of the encounter spot, bodies of two ultras and two firearms — a .303 rifle and a muzzle-loading gun — were recovered, the DIG added.

Those killed were identified as Deva and Mangli alias Mui, who were active members of the Malangir area committee of Maoists.

A suspected woman Naxal, identified as Kosi, was also arrested from the spot, the official said.



## CAPSULE

### 'NEXT DALAI LAMA MUST BE CHOSEN WITHIN CHINA'

Lhasa/Beijing: The successor of the Dalai Lama has to be decided within China and there should be no interference by India on it, Chinese authorities said.

### TWO DEAD, 27 HURT AS RIDE COLLAPSES

Ahmedabad: Two persons were killed and 27 others injured when an amusement ride collapsed here in Kankaria Lake.

### SIGNIFICANT DROP IN STONE PELTING IN J&K

New Delhi: Stone pelting cases in J&K have come down from a high of over 2,600 in 2016 to barely a few dozen in the first half of 2019.

### BL SANTOSH APPOINTED BJP GENERAL SECRETARY

New Delhi: BJP president Amit Shah Sunday elevated party's joint general secretary BL Santosh as its general secretary (organisation).

## 2 dead, 8 trapped under debris in Solan collapse

PTI ■ SHIMLA

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

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

An Army man and a civilian were killed in the incident, Solan Deputy Commissioner (DC) KC Chaman said.

Chaman, who is on the spot, told PTI that 37 people were trapped, and till now 27 people have been rescued and



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

## Make-in-India parts for Chandrayaan

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

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

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

Seven specific assemblies for navigation and inertial momentum of the orbiter and the limbs of the moon rover "Pragyan" have also been manufactured by the centre.



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

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

Noting that CTTC had signed an agreement with ISRO in 2016 for technology transfer and a contract for supply of spacecraft component, Maity said the arrangement had helped it further strengthening its manufacturing capability.

"For the current mission, the CTTC has created 22 vari-

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

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

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

# BL Santosh elevated to BJP gen secy post

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The BJP said in a statement that he will assume his new responsibility with immediate effect.

A RSS 'pracharak' who is working in the BJP since 2006, Santosh is considered an ideologue who is equally well-versed with the dynamics of electoral politics.

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

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



ern States.

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

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

Ananth Kumar from her husband's pocket borough of Bangalore South.

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

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

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

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

# NIA arrests 2 in connection with new terror group

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Health Min asks States to rope in retired AFMC teaching faculty

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Ban 'anti-national' TikTok: RSS affiliate

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

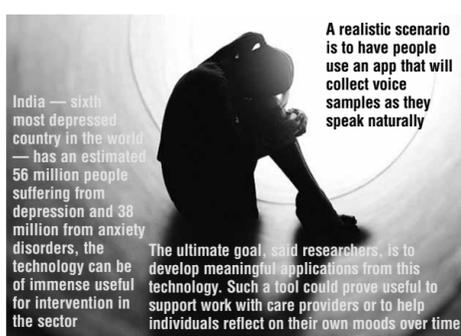
Canada builds on past research that suggests that the timbre of our voice contains information about our mood.

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

A realistic scenario is to have people use an app that will collect voice samples as they speak naturally.

"The app, running on the user's phone, will recognise and track indicators of mood, such as depression, over time. Much like you have a step counter on your phone, you could have a depression indicator based on your voice as you use the phone," said Stroulia.

Depression is ranked by



India — sixth most depressed country in the world — has an estimated 56 million people suffering from depression and 38 million from anxiety disorders, the technology can be of immense use for intervention in the sector

A realistic scenario is to have people use an app that will collect voice samples as they speak naturally. The ultimate goal, said researchers, is to develop meaningful applications from this technology. Such a tool could prove useful to support work with care providers or to help individuals reflect on their own moods over time

WHO as the single largest contributor to global disability. It is also the major contributor to suicide deaths.

The ultimate goal, said researchers, is to develop meaningful applications from this technology. Such a tool

could prove useful to support work with care providers or to help individuals reflect on their own moods over time.

"This work, developing more accurate detection in standard benchmark data sets, is the first step," added Stroulia

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

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

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

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

aims to build a database of cancer-related radiology and pathology images of more than 20,000 profiles of cancer patients with focus on major cancers prevalent in India.

He said the NITI Aayog is working on using AI for early detection of diabetic retinopathy. He added that the NITI Aayog is currently in the process of developing an institutional mechanism, funding framework and other such steps to realise India's AI aspirations. NITI Aayog, after consultation with various ministries and leading academicians, institutions, practitioners and industry players, released India's National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in June 2018.

"Through the strategy and subsequent initiatives, the key recommendations in AI are being pursued," he said.

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

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

The violation came in light after the TCGL through the State Government had sought diversion of .7540 hectares of forest land from the Gir Wildlife Sanctuary for regularisation of lion safari lodge under tourism activity by the TCGL in 2017. The Gujarat Government had moved a pro-

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

However, after detailed analysis of the proposal, the REC found that the TCGL had illegally occupied a patch of land, to be precise around .34 hectares for the safari lodge. Now, it was seeking additional .7540 hectares of land from the wildlife sanctuary to extend its tourism activities.

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

The violation came in light after the TCGL through the State Government had sought diversion of .7540 hectares of forest land from the Gir Wildlife Sanctuary for regularisation of lion safari lodge under tourism activity by the TCGL in 2017

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

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



sub-committee.

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

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

(Protection) Act, 1972.

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

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

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

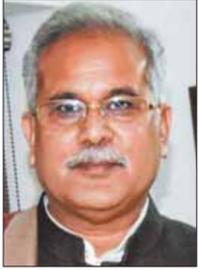
# CM to decide on Egg menu in mid-day meal

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Four of the ministers in state cabinet on Sunday held talk with Kabirpanthis over 'egg controversy in mid day meal' but the meeting remained inconclusive as the later were adamant on their demand of not to serve eggs in schools and 'Anganwadis' of state.

Now reports say that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will take a final decision on the matter soon.

In the meeting with Kabirpanthis convened here at New Circuit House, Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, Women and Child Development minister Anila



Bhedia, Urban Administration minister Shiv Daharia and School Education Minister Dr Prem Sai Singh were present. Prem Sai later while talking to media persons informed that the meeting remained inconclusive as

the Kabirpanthis, who are strongly opposing to the decision of state government of providing eggs in mid-day meal to students of government schools in state, were adamant on their demand.

"As the meeting remained inconclusive now the Chief Minister will make the final decision in the matter soon" Prem Sai further added.

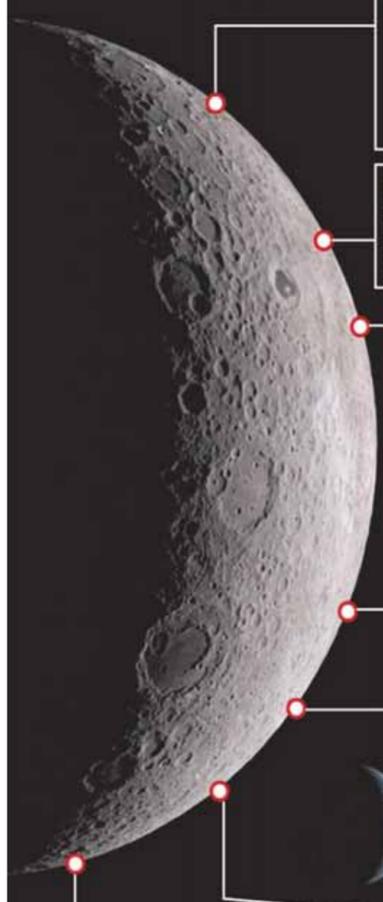
Notable, Kabirpanthis have threatened of launching an indefinite agitation at the pilgrimage of Sant Kabir, Damakheda, by blocking the national highway there from July 16 if government goes ahead with the decision of serving eggs in mid-day meal.

## Two prisoners try to jump off 'jail wall', one dead

KORBA: A jail inmate died while another was injured after the duo tried to cross the jail walls of Katghora sub-jail in an attempt to run away from the prison, police informed here on Sunday. The deceased was identified as Ramesh Kumar while Ashok Kumar suffered leg fracture. Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Korba Jai Prakash Badhai said that the unsuccessful attempt was made on Saturday night. According to police, on Saturday, after the evening prayer both inmates climbed on the first floor with the window of the jail barack and then via the pipe reached to the second floor. The distance between second floor and the outer wall was too much but both gave it a shot and jumped from the second floor to catch the outer wall. However, they could not reach the wall and hit the ground, police informed.

Ramesh suffered internal injuries and was taken to hospital where he succumbed to injuries.

## Challenges Chandrayaan 2 will face during Moon landing



**TRAJECTORY ACCURACY**  
The distance to the Moon is approximately 3.844 lakh km. Ensuring trajectory accuracy while navigating such a large distance poses many challenges as trajectory is influenced by the non-uniform gravity of the Earth and Moon, gravitational pull of other astronomical bodies, solar radiation pressure, and the Moon's true orbital motion.

**DEEP-SPACE COMMUNICATION**  
Owing to the large distance from the Earth and limited on-board power, radio signals used for communication are weak with heavy background noise, which needs to be picked by large antennas.

**TRANS LUNAR INJECTION (TLI) & LUNAR CAPTURE**  
Chandrayaan 2 will perform a series of TLI burns for raising its apogee successfully to reach the vicinity of the Moon's orbit. As the Moon's location is continually changing due to orbital motion, the intersection of Chandrayaan 2 and the Moon's path has to be predicted sufficiently in advance with a high level of accuracy. As the Moon approaches the apogee of Chandrayaan 2, on-board thrusters fire precisely to reduce its velocity for lunar capture. The margin of error in these calculations and manoeuvres is very narrow.

**ORBITING AROUND THE MOON**  
Lunar gravity is 'lumpy' due to uneven mass distribution under its surface. This influences the orbit of the spacecraft. Also, precise knowledge of the thermal environment at orbital altitude is essential for keeping on-board electronics safe.

**SOFT LANDING ON THE MOON**  
This is the most challenging part of the mission and is divided into 'rough braking' and 'fine braking'. Variation in local gravity has to be factored into the lunar descent trajectory. The on-board NGC and Propulsion System has to work in unison, autonomously, and automatically for a successful landing. Further the landing site landscape features should not result in a communication shadow area.

**LUNAR DUST**  
The lunar surface is covered with craters, rocks, and dust. Firing of on-board engines close to the lunar surface results in backward flow of hot gases along with the dust. Lunar dust is minuscule and is hard, barbed, and jagged. Its negative charge makes it stick to most surfaces, causing a disruption in deployment mechanisms, solar panel performance, and NGC sensor performance.

**EXTREME TEMPERATURES**  
A lunar day or night lasts 14 Earth days. This results in extreme surface temperature variations. Moreover, the ambient pressure of the lunar surface is a hard vacuum. This makes the lunar surface an extremely hostile environment for lander and rover operations.

Source: ISRO

IANS GRAPHICS

## Ration cards renewal to begin from today

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh government has initiated the renewal of all the existing categories of ration cards for which in all village panchayat and wards of civic bodies, the camps will be held to receive the applications.

The applications can be submitted from July 15 to 29, 2019. The distribution of new cards will be held from September 1 to 8, 2019 through camps.

As per estimate, about 58.54 lakh ration cards will be renewed.

State government has rationalized the renewal process for which in single page application form the details and necessary documents have to be submitted.

The documents to accom-

pany the applications are two photographs of family head, aadhaar card and bank account photocopy. It should be submitted at village panchayat or respective ward in urban bodies.

The application and ration card, both will be free of cost, for the card-holders. Till the new ration card is issued, the ration will be distributed through the old one. Once the holder receives the new card, he will have to surrender the old ones at their respective shops. The old ration card should not be submitted at any other place.

People can seek more details about ration card renewal process from their respective village Panchayat or ward office or food department.

## BJP gears up for Chitrakot, Dantewada assy bypolls



STAFF REPORTER ■ JAGDALPUR

Chhattisgarh's opposition BJP has stepped up contact drives in Chitrakot and Dantewada assembly seats where assembly bypolls will be held in coming up months. The dates for both the seats have not been announced so far.

The Chitrakot seat fell vacant after resignation of Congress MLA Deepak Baij who has been elected to Lok Sabha 2019 from Bastar seat while Dantewada seat became vacant after sitting BJP MLA

Bhima Mandavi was killed by alleged Naxals in April this year.

BJP state president Vikram Usendi during a meeting at Tokapal and tour of Chitrakot Assembly constituency urged party workers to wrest the seat from Congress. He said that the party should launch a door-to-door membership drive in the constituency.

Usendi while motivating the party workers said Chitrakot seat had been party's stronghold till late last year and party cadres must ensure that BJP wins the seat.

Former Minister and BJP's tribal leader Kedar Kashyap, former Lok Sabha MP from Bastar Dinesh Kashyap and other leaders also claimed that party would win both the seats on the basis of the hard work and dedication of party workers.

# Elderly woman trampled to death by rouge elephant



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIGARH

A 56-year-old woman was trampled to death by a

wild elephant in a forested patch of Raigarh, a forest official informed here on Sunday. The incident happened in

the wee hours near Tendmudi village in Chhal forest range when the victim, Chamrin Bai Rathiya, went out of her house,

divisional forest officer Pranay Mishra said.

"The tusker caught hold of Rathiya and smashed her on the ground, leaving her seriously injured. The woman died while being shifted to a local hospital by villagers," he said.

The body was later sent for post-mortem, he added.

The kin of the deceased were provided an immediate relief of Rs 25,000, while the remaining compensation will be given on completion of all formalities, the official said.

Notably, wild elephants have killed over half-a-dozen people in Raigarh district and caused serious damage to house and crops. The forest department has implemented several strategies like using solar power fencing, trenching grounds and recently solar lights to stop wild elephants entering into village.

# Punia lavishes praise on Baghel govt for NGGB vision



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Congress national general secretary and party in-charge for Chhattisgarh PL Punia on Sunday lavished praise on Bhupesh Baghel government for its vision to boost rural economy through Narva, Garva, Ghurva and Badi (NGGB) project.

Punia while talking to media per-

sons at party's state headquarters Rajiv Bhawan appreciated the efforts of Baghel government in boosting the rural economy through NGGB.

"It's one of the best schemes for empowering the rural populace and strengthening their economy. With having foresightedness it will yield a major result in the long term", he said.

Regarding one-to-one talks with the ministers in state cabinet, he informed that the ministers have apprised him about the works they have undertaken and also the work-plans to be executed in near future.

Pradesh Congress Committee Chief Mohan Markam was also present during the press conference.

# Fighting Left Wing extremism needs better governance

By Dr Sushil Trivedi

The Government of India had categorically declared, some time ago, that Left Wing Extremists (LWEs) pose the most serious threat to the country's internal security. During the last five years, LWEs have retreated to a limited geographical area, and are now mostly active in the tri-junction along the Chhattisgarh-Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border and Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh-Madhya Pradesh border.

The Indian government, in a recent meeting, has directed central forces and state police personnel deployed in the LWE-prevalent areas to make a decisive push to tackle the LWEs.

The maximum presence of LWEs continues to be in Chhattisgarh. It is important to

analyze the factors for continued violence by LWEs in the area, posing such a serious challenge to the growth story of Chhattisgarh.

The administration in the tribal areas of Chhattisgarh has failed to deliver services required by the people. Consequently, people living in far flung areas have been denied an equal pace of development. Social conflicts arising from this deprivation have not been adequately resolved by harmonizing the competing and conflicting values, identities and interests. The local administration has been more concerned about spending the funds than actual delivery of goods and services.

Corruption and its proliferation are by-products of no-governance and bad governance. The governance record in providing

education, health care and poverty alleviation programmes has been disastrous, leading to public agony and mistrust in the system. This ultimately contributed to internal disturbances and provided an opportunity to the LWEs to establish the epicentre of their movement in the tribal area of Bastar.

The administration in the LWE-hit Bastar area - dominated by tribals - has been afflicted by various ailments: lack of professionalism and poor capacity-building; inefficient incentive systems that do not appreciate upright and outstanding persons, but occasionally even reward the corrupt and incompetent; lack of adequate transparency and accountability procedures; no security for whistle blowers; arbitrary and whimsical transfer

of personnel; political interference and administrative acquiescence and erosion in values and ethics.

In this context, administrative reforms are immediately needed to ensure that a transparent structure is in place. To see that schemes are planned and implemented according to the needs of the people of Bastar, various levels of approval processes should be cut down. The present system of getting everything approved from the state government delays the development process and hampers growth of innovation at the district level. Proper use of modern technology must be promoted to expedite decision making and to reach the last mile with the benefits of governance.

A paradigm shift in the nature of government officials would

help cope with the demands and changes in society. The current crop of government officials seem to have no commitment to public service. They mostly believe in doing their paper work and showing the achievement of financial targets. This ought to be changed and achievement of real targets in letter and spirit must be ensured.

Chhattisgarh has a vibrant democracy and a civil society which enables the procedural aspects of democratic governance. However, the substantial aspect is mostly elusive, with public institutions being inaccessible to a large section of the people. Despite a promising institutional context, the structures of governance have remained ineffectual in fulfilling the basic needs of the tribals in Bastar.

Decentralization and accountability, transparency and responsiveness would make the officers and employees at district level more responsible. This may inspire them to work for peaceful conflict management also. For this, Bastar does not need more strong men, but more committed persons. Without committed persons, no amount of money, no amount of equipment and no amount of resources will bring development and peace in Bastar.

We must strengthen the democratic institutions by good governance. In this regard, political parties and their grass root workers will also have to come forward because democratic assertion and articulation cannot be done by the civil administration or security forces alone. The political parties

will have to go to the people to reiterate that the government is committed to the welfare of the people and also to convince the people that the LWEs are there to bring destruction and have not realized the so called 'goal' of attaining socialism even in one small village. This kind of political move will help win back support of the people for anti-LWE operations.

So, a three-pronged strategy of maximum security measures, welfare and development activities and political commitment will have to be implemented simultaneously to combat extremism and restore normal life.

(The author, a retired officer of the Indian Administrative Service. He can be contacted at [drsushil.trivedi@gmail.com](mailto:drsushil.trivedi@gmail.com))

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# Sidhu's resignation drama from king of theatrics: Ministers

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu's resignation as Punjab Cabinet Minister triggered a political slugfest on Sunday with some leaders, including his Cabinet colleagues, calling it a "drama" and Sidhu a "king of theatrics".

Soon after Sidhu tweeted a copy of his resignation letter, dated June 10, addressed to former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, reactions from not only the political parties but the common man poured in on the former cricketer's move.

Sidhu's Cabinet colleagues, Brahm Mohindra and Charanjit Singh Channi,

ridiculed his "resignation drama" while urging him to show more dignity and decorum in his actions.

"This is nothing but drama from the 'king of theatrics'. If he had to resign, he should have followed protocol and sent it directly to the Chief Minister," said the Ministers, quipping whether Sidhu was so dumb that he didn't know that the Cabinet Minister post was not a party post, and his resignation could not be accepted by the Congress president.

Pointing out that he had sent the so-called resignation to the Congress president on June 10, as per his tweet, the Ministers asked why it took

Sidhu 34 days to announce it on Twitter. "In any case, since when had Twitter become the platform for appointments or resignations," they asked.

The Ministers noted that Sidhu had kept the working of the Power Department in a limbo for almost 40 days by not taking over the new portfolio allocated to him by the Chief Minister. "He did not even take cognisance of the fact that it is such a crucial time for the power sector, with power being vital for paddy sowing. Clearly, Sidhu did not care about the detrimental effect of his actions," they added.

The Ministers advised Sidhu to take any further

action keeping their repercussions in view, not just for himself but the State and its people, as well as the party which had given him so much.

Reacting on Sidhu's resignation, SAD president Sukhbir Badal said that the former cricketer was fond of engaging in theatrics. "There is no need to write any letter to Rahul Gandhi when a one line message to the Chief Minister would have sufficed," he said.

"It is now clear that Sidhu submitted the 'resignation' letter one month back only to blackmail the party and force it to bend to his will. This itself shows that Sidhu is an opportunist who only believes in self promotion," said Sukhbir.

Strongly reacting on Sidhu's announcement, BJP national secretary Tarun Chugh said that it was strange that Sidhu submitted his resignation to Rahul who had already resigned as president of Congress.

"Instead of waiting for Sidhu's resignation, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh should dismiss Sidhu as he has made his intention clear not to continue in the Government as a Cabinet Minister...It's just a drama," he said.

The BJP leader said this move of Sidhu was highly manipulative and political. "Sidhu has today tweeted his resignation which shows that

it was tendered on 10th of June, 2019 but leaves people confused.

"The question is whether it was handed over to Rahul on 10th of June or today, that is on 14th of July. Further, it is also not clear why Sidhu chose to send his resignation to Rahul and not to Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh or Governor VP Singh Badnore," he said adding that it seemed that Sidhu actually wanted to use his resignation as a political tool to create pressure on Congress high command and Chief Minister.

Chugh urged the Governor and the Chief Minister to immediately dismiss Sidhu in the interest of

justice and fairplay. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Aman Arora, appreciating Sidhu's performance as Local Bodies Minister, accused him of "running away from his responsibility and duty of uprooting neck deep institutionalized mafia in his recently allotted portfolio of Power".

Appreciating Sidhu for his clean image and straightforwardness, Arora said that it would have been a wonderful opportunity for Sidhu to expose the previous as well as the present Government's nefarious stance by scrapping PPA's with three private thermal power plants which have been given the license to loot the State for next 25 years and

was duty bound to give relief to the people of the State from exorbitant power tariffs.

Expressing surprise on Sidhu's move to send resignation from Cabinet to Congress President even as the prerogative for the same lies either with the Chief Minister or the Governor, Arora urged Sidhu to clear air on his resignation and wished him good luck for his future endeavours.

Former minister and BJP senior leader Manoranjan Kalia said that Sidhu was in the habit of "making prestigious point on smallest issue, little caring for collective responsibility and co-existence and expects from others to tolerate him".

## PSPCL launches raids to stop electricity theft

PNS ■ PATIALA

To stop power theft in the state, the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited has launched a massive campaign recovering Rs 521.13 lakh as penalty from 2643 consumers for power theft.

The campaign to check power theft was launched following a strict directions issued by the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh recently to curb the menace of theft of electricity in the State. Acting on the same, PSPCL has conducted series of raids and achieved excellent results.

PSPCL chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) Baldev Singh Sran said that within two weeks of July, massive raids were conducted by the PSPCL distribution and enforcement teams in Punjab. "A penalty of Rs 521.13 lakhs has been charged from 2643 consumers for theft of power from across the State and 39,953 premises of consumers were checked during these raids," he said.

Sran appreciated the role and contribution of the different enforcement teams while sharing the excellent results of special drive by five operation

zones of PSPCL.

He said that Amritsar Zone distribution teams have done a great job, and checked 19,290 consumers and found 1,026 for theft and charged them Rs 161.68 lakhs as penalty.

"Distribution teams in Bathinda Zone checked the premises of 1,514 consumers and charged Rs 131.54 lakhs to 590 defaulting consumers. In Patiala Zone, 442 consumers were charged for Rs 76.84 lakhs, while 4,264 consumers of industrial town Ludhiana and Khanna circle were checked and 160 consumers found for theft of power and charged for Rs 37.94 lakhs," he said.

CMD shared that the teams of Jalandhar Zone had checked 7125 consumers and found 260 indulging in theft and a sum of Rs 29.27 lakhs charged.

"Enforcement teams, under Engineer-in-chief (Enforcement Wing), had also checked the premises of 1459 consumers and found 165 indulging in theft and charged them Rs 83.86 lakhs as penalty," he said.

Sran said that at two-three places, PSPCL squads were gheraoed and obstructed from checking by locals in Wajidke,

Zira and Fazilka areas and local staff accompanying the enforcement squad was also manhandled by the notorious persons.

"FIRs have been lodged against the people involved in obstruction of theft detection drive at Wajidke," he said while pointing that the Chief Minister had asked the Chief Secretary and the state police chief to ensure adequate police protection to PSPCL staff engaged in taking action against unscrupulous elements engaged in pilferage of power through 'kundi connections'.

He explained that theft of power indirectly results in rise in tariff due to low revenue collection which will put burden on honest consumers also.

"PSPCL has appealed to all its consumers to help Corporation in controlling the menace of theft of electricity by providing information about theft of power for campaign against theft of electricity in the state. Consumers or informers can also inform about theft of electricity on Whatsapp no 96461-75770," said Sran while assuring the PSPCL consumers that their identity will not be disclosed.

## People appreciate Raahgiri event in Hry

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Sunday said that with a view to increase happiness in the life of people and to reinforce brotherhood feeling in society, the Raahgiri programs were started two-and-a-half years ago in Haryana, which the people has appreciated very much.

"The Raahgiri programme reflects that social concern is one of the top priorities of the present government. This Raahgiri's social message is connected with the water conservation campaign," the Chief Minister said while participating in the state level Raahgiri prize distribution program in the campus of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University at Hisar.

The program was attended by Finance Minister Capt. Abhimanyu, MP Brijendra Singh among others.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister encouraged the youth and said that this program started two-and-a-half years ago has become very popular among the people today. The aim of this program is to free the hectic life from stress, he said.

He said that the Happiness is considered the national pro-



perity index in Bhutan. We have also started this program with the same intention whose sole purpose is social concern, he said.

Manohar Lal said that every program of Raahgiri has some social message. This

been started to tell people the importance of water and to make them aware of its wastage, he said.

He further said that we do not have to stop such programs at any time, but also have to introduce them at the sub-division and block level and ensure maximum participation of the people. On one hand, such programs maintain health of the participants and secondly, there is an atmosphere of meeting and interaction with people, which increases the spirit of brotherhood too, he said.

He said that the purpose of these programs is not to take any political advantage.

The Chief Minister said that in order to encourage the youth and the players, vyayamshalas have been built in villages and such a sports policy has been developed for sports persons, which is being appreciated across the country. A Yoga Council has been set up in Haryana so that more and more people can live healthy lives by adopting yoga, he said.

Manohar Lal also honoured the districts performing notable in the Raahgiri programs held at the district level with award in different categories. For organising maximum Raahgiri function from April 2018 to March 2019, the

Chief Minister honoured Karnal, Gurugram and Fatehabad.

Gurugram, Karnal and Hisar districts were honoured on the basis of the number of participants in the Raahgiri programs, Karnal, Rohtak and Jhajjar were honoured for getting maximum media coverage, Fatehabad, Kaithal and Panipat were honoured on the basis of participation of the Deputy Commissioners and on the basis of the participation of Superintendent of Police in Raahgiri.

Apart from this, the Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police of Ambala, Fatehabad, Bhiwani, Karnal and Narnaul districts were honoured. IPS Bharti Arora, Pankaj Nain, Sonal Goyal and Sarika Panda were also honored for their contribution towards popularizing the Raahgiri program.

The Director General of Police Manoj Yadava presented the annual report of the Police Department regarding Raahgiri. He said that 367 programs of Raahgiri have been organized in the state in the last one year, in which 8.59 lakh persons have participated.

## HP to develop Janjehli as Eco-Tourism destination

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Sunday said that the State Government is committed to develop Janjehli as a favourite eco-tourism destination of the country, since the area has tremendous scope of tourism due to its salubrious climate, pristine setting and mesmerising scenic beauty.

The Chief Minister, while presiding over the closing ceremony of Janjehli Tourism Festival-2019 held at Janjehli in Seraj area of Mandi district announced Rs one crore for construction of Seraj Kala Manch so that the event could be organized in a befitting manner.

He also announced Rs 3 crore for construction of Mini Secretariat at Janjehli so that all the offices could be housed in one complex.

The Chief Minister said that this festival was an effort to showcase the rich cultural diversity and natural beauty of the area.

He said that Himachal Pradesh has several tourists' destinations such as Shimla, Manali, Kullu, Dharamshala etc, but still there are several virgin destinations which needed to be developed from tourism point of view.

Thakur also said that this would not only reduce the ever increasing pressure of tourists on the already overcrowded tourist destinations,

but also provide better boarding and lodging facilities to the tourists, but also help in supplementing their income, he added.

The Chief Minister said that an ADB Tourism Project is also coming up in Jhanjehli which would be an added attraction for the tourists.

The PWD Rest House would be constructed soon which would also facilitate the tourists visiting the area. The road to Janjehli would be upgraded and improved so that more tourists could be attracted to visit the area, he added.

Thakur announced Rs 20 lakh for development of Fishery farm at Janjehli. He also announced that a multi-storey Parking would be constructed at Janjehli and Rs 20 lakh would be given for construction of Bridge over Bakhli Khad.

His other announcements included Rs 10 lakh each for construction of bridge over Kaveli Nala and Basla Road, Rs 11,000 each to all the 21 Mahila Mandals participating in the festival.

The Chief Minister also flagged off the colourful cultural troupe procession to mark the closing of Janjehli Tourism Festival-2019.

He visited exhibition stalls on the occasion and envisaged keen interest the items displayed by various Departments, Boards, Corporation and NGOs.

## Capt appreciates Pak decision on removal of permit for passage through Kartarpur

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Sunday welcomed Pakistan's decision to remove the requirement of separate permit system to allow pilgrims to travel through the historic Kartarpur corridor.

At the same time, he has also requested the waiver of passport to facilitate devotees from the rural areas of the State.

Chief Minister hoped that the Government of India would press Pakistan to accept other key demands being raised by him over the past several months including further increase in the daily limit of pilgrims allowed passage by Islamabad to enable 'khulle darshan' to mark the historic occasion of the 550th anniversary celebration of Guru Nanak Dev.

"This is vital to ensure smooth flow of pilgrims on important days during the celebration period in November," he said.

Pakistan has now agreed to 5,000 devotees a day as against its original proposal of 500 but Capt said that the number needed to be further raised, at least on special occasions, in view of the huge demand for permissions expected to come from the Sikhs and other devotees who were likely to descend from around the world.

The CM, however, hailed Pakistan's decision to allow OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) and PIO (Persons of Indian Origin) card holders, as urged by him, in an earlier to the Government of India on the issue. It may be recalled that in their MoU, Pakistan had suggested allowing only Indian yatris.

He also thanked the Indian Government for persuading Islamabad to accede to his request for passage of pilgrims on all seven days of the week.

Capt said the historic corridor would not serve its full potential unless Pakistan agreed to become even more flexible with regard to the various issues raised by him to enable all the pilgrims visit the Sri Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara.

## BARGARI INCIDENT

### Stop shedding crocodile tears over closure report by CBI: Cong to SAD Prez

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Congress on Sunday lambasted the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Badal for shedding crocodile tears over the issue of CBI filing the closure report in the Mohali court in connection with the Bargari sacrilege case against three followers of Dera Sacha Sauda in the aftermath of the killing of Dera follower Mohinderpal Bittu in Nabha high security jail.

"If Sukhbir Badal is feeling so agitated over the closure report by the CBI, he should immediately ask Harsimrat Kaur Badal to resign from the Union Cabinet as the CBI falls under the Central Government purview," said Punjab Cabinet Minister and senior Congress leader Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and party MLAs in a joint statement.

Randhawa, along with party MLAs Kushaldeep Singh Kikki Dhillon, Raja Amarinder Singh Warring, Harpartap Singh Ajnala, Fatehjung Singh Bajwa, Kulbir Singh Zira and Barindermeet Singh Pahra, challenged the SAD chief to match his words with concrete action in this regard.

Taking the attack right into the SAD ranks, Randhawa said that the actual crux of the matter is that the CBI is pro-

tecting the Badals who are the main conspirators in the case. "They hatched a deep-rooted conspiracy to seek votes of Dera premis (followers). In 2012, the Badal Government withdraw charge-sheet filed in Bathinda Court in Guru Gobind Singh Swang case against Ram Rahim mere five days prior to Assembly election to please the Dera premis," he pointed.

Alleging that the CBI is working as a puppet in this case, the Congress leaders stated that the premier agency did not investigate the case properly and come in to action only when Punjab Police's SIT, headed by RS Khatra, cracked the case and arrested the accused. "We already had apprehensions about the intentions of CBI. For this very reason, Punjab Government withdrew the Kotkapura and Behbal Kalan Police firing cases from the CBI," said Randhawa.

He said that it was beyond comprehension that what force Sukhbir to still maintain ties with the BJP whose government in neighbouring Haryana is considering parole to Dera Sacha Sauda chief just to garner votes in view of the impending Assembly polls.

Warning Sukhbir that he can't avoid justice on this very emotional issue, Randhawa

said that every single soul in Punjab knows who was responsible for the sacrilege incident and the events following smeared with blood of innocent protestors. The party leaders also reminded the SAD president that the latter cannot be fool the public on the issue anymore and the doomsday for the Akalis is fast approaching as they are the guilty ones in the eyes of the Sikh panth.

Meanwhile, Punjab Ekta Party (PEP) president and Bhlohath MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira alleged that the Central Bureau Investigation (CBI) has filed closure report in the Mohali CBI court in two cases of sacrilege registered against Dera Sacha Sauda followers under pressure from the SAD and BJP.

He said that the BJP is hell bent to appease Dera leaders with an eye on Dera support during assembly elections in Haryana later this year.

He alleged that the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh had also stabbed Sikh community in the back by misleading them on probe in the sacrilege cases as he didn't exercise any legal and administrative steps to implement the Punjab Vidhan Sabha resolution and allowed cases to collapse.

"I am always convinced that Capt Amarinder is working to protect Badal family in the sacrilege cases and also working as spokesman of BJP," said Khaira adding that even on the issue of SYL canal, "Capt Amarinder seems standing on the side of BJP to give them benefit in the Haryana assembly elections".

At the same time, Khaira sought an explanation from the Badals on their role in the BJP's attempts to bail out Dera followers of sacrilege charges. He reminded that it was Sukhbir Badal who had forced Akal Takht to exonerate Dera Chief Gurmit Ram Rahim Singh and now his party is in alliance with BJP in Haryana.

Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs  
North Western Region  
In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, section 14 of Companies Act, 2013 and rule 41 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

AND

In the matter of M/s. Vandana Ispat Limited having its registered office at Vandana Building, M.G. Road, Raipur, 492001..... Applicant.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the company intending to make an application to the Central Government under section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid rules and is desirous of converting into a private limited company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 11.07.2019 to enable the company to give effect for such conversion.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change/status of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, Ahmedabad, ROC Bhavan, Opp Rupal Park Society, Behind Ankur Bus Stop, Naranpura, Ahmedabad-380013 within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office.

For and on behalf of the Applicant-  
M/s. Vandana Ispat Limited  
Sd/-  
Subhash Chand Agrawal  
Director  
Add. House No. 27/607, MG Road  
Vandana Building, Raipur (CG) 492001  
Date: 13.07.2019, Place: Raipur  
Din: 00103886

Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs  
North Western Region  
In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, section 14 of Companies Act, 2013 and rule 41 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

AND

In the matter of M/s. Vandana Rolling Mills Limited having its registered office at Vandana Building, M.G. Road, Raipur 492001..... Applicant.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the company intending to make an application to the Central Government under section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid rules and is desirous of converting into a private limited company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 11.07.2019 to enable the company to give effect for such conversion.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change/status of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, Ahmedabad, ROC Bhavan, Opp Rupal Park Society, Behind Ankur Bus Stop, Naranpura, Ahmedabad-380013 within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office.

For and on behalf of the Applicant-  
M/s. Vandana Rolling Mills Ltd.  
Sd/-  
Subhash Chand Agrawal  
Director  
Add. House No. 27/607, MG Road  
Vandana Building, Raipur (CG) 492001  
Date: 13.07.2019, Place: Raipur  
Din: 00103886

Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs  
North Western Region  
In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, section 14 of Companies Act, 2013 and rule 41 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

AND

In the matter of M/s. Shivali Udyog (I) Limited having its registered office at Plot No. 3 & 4, Sector-D, Uria Industrial Area, Raipur 492001..... Applicant.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the company intending to make an application to the Central Government under section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid rules and is desirous of converting into a private limited company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 11.07.2019 to enable the company to give effect for such conversion.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change/status of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, Ahmedabad, ROC Bhavan, Opp Rupal Park Society, Behind Ankur Bus Stop, Naranpura, Ahmedabad-380013 within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office.

For and on behalf of the Applicant-  
M/s. Shivali Udyog (I) Limited  
Sd/-  
Ashok Kumar Agrawal  
Director  
Add. House No. 27/607, MG Road  
Vandana Building, Raipur (CG) 492001  
Date: 13.07.2019, Place: Raipur  
Din: 00591859

## SAD convenes committee meeting on Tuesday

Chandigarh: To discuss the CBI closure report in the Bargari sacrilege case, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) has convened an urgent meeting of its core committee on July 16, Tuesday, at the party head office in Chandigarh. Party president Sukhbir Badal would preside over the meeting which would discuss the issue of closure report of CBI

in the most sensational case of sacrilege of Sri Guru Granth Sahib, said the party's spokesman Daljit Singh Cheema. Cheema said that the SAD has already expressed its displeasure over this action of CBI and would further resolve how to take up this case to the logical conclusion. PNS

# Trump ditched Iran deal to spite Obama: UK envoy

AFP ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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

The first leaked reports authored by Darroch were published last weekend, causing major turmoil between Britain and its closest ally.

The ambassador was reported to have described the White House as "inept", prompting Trump to claim the ambassador was a "pompous fool" whom he would no longer deal with.

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

In May 2018, Britain's then-foreign minister Boris Johnson went to Washington to try to persuade Trump not to abandon the Iran deal.

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

"They can't articulate any 'day-after' strategy; and contacts with State Department this morning suggest no sort of plan for reaching out to partners and allies, whether in Europe or the region," he wrote.

He reported back that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, during his talks with

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

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

In 2015, the United States, China, Britain, France, Russia and Germany signed a deal with Iran to limit its nuclear programme in exchange for a partial lifting of international economic sanctions.

Trump had long been critical of the deal and withdrew the United States on May 8, 2018.

As well as a government investigation into the leaks, police are also looking into a potential breach of the Official Secrets Act.

London's Metropolitan Police sparked widespread condemnation on Saturday after a warning to journalists that publishing leaked documents could be a criminal matter.

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

# Clashes erupt as Hong Kong protest targets Chinese traders

AP ■ HONG KONG

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

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

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

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

Thousands marched last weekend against middle-aged mainland women who sing loudly and dance somewhat provocatively in a public park.

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



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

AP

planned for Sunday.

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

goods back to sell in the mainland.

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

the anti-extradition law rallies. "There isn't an anti-extradition protest every day to keep us going," she said.

"I hope that through today's action, people in Hong Kong will not forget that there are actually many other social

issues waiting to be solved."

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

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

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

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

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

# Spain rescues 141 migrants from drowning

AFP ■ MADRID

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

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

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

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

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

# Macron showcases European military prowess at Paris parade

AFP ■ PARIS

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

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

Over 4,000 members of the armed forces, including regiments from other European armies, marched down the famed cobbles of the avenue in a tradition that dates back to the aftermath of World War I. Army dogs festooned with medals, members of France's celebrated Foreign Legion and mounted cavalry in glittering uniforms brandishing ceremonial sabres all paraded in front of the high-ranking guests.

Meanwhile, French inventor and entrepreneur Franky Zapata showed off his futuristic flyboard, soaring above the Champs Élysées and the assem-



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

AP

bled leaders.

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

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

government.

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

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

# Paris clashes follow military parade

AFP ■ PARIS

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

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

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

"yellow vest" protest movement earlier this year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Closer European defence cooperation has been one of

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

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

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

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

Forces Minister Florence Parly told the Parisien newspaper Sunday, pointing to "questions, even thinly veiled threats he made towards Europe or on the durability of American commitment".

Macron, who pushed the idea of the European Intervention Initiative (E2) to undertake missions outside of existing structures like NATO, insisted on the importance of European defence cooperation.

"Never, since the end of World War II has Europe been so important," Macron, who after coming to power in 2017 controversially dispensed with the president's traditional July 14 television interview, said in a written statement.

that were temporarily closed to vehicles. At the Row NYC hotel on 8th Avenue, dozens of guests were sitting on the sidewalk outside the property. Hotel staff had asked them not to go inside as there were no lights for them to see by and the elevators weren't working, 16-year-old Spanish tourist Alba Moreno said.

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

"This appears to be something that just went wrong in the way that they transmit power from one part of the city to another to address demand," said de Blasio.

# Major 7.3 quake hits remote Maluku in eastern Indonesia

AFP ■ LABUHA (INDONESIA)

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

The shallow quake struck about 165 kilometres (100 miles) south-southwest of the town of Ternate in North Maluku province at 6:28 pm (09:28 GMT), according to the US Geological Survey.

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

They are panicking and many are now waiting on the



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

AP

roadside," said local disaster mitigation official Mansur, who like many Indonesians goes by one name.

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

# Small aircraft crash kills nine in Sweden

AFP ■ STOCKHOLM

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

She did not say who they were. According to Swedish media reports, the plane was carrying people for a parachute jump but crashed a little after 2:00 pm (12:00 GMT).

# Huge power outage that plunged Manhattan into darkness ends

AFP ■ NEW YORK

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

About 42,000 customers lost electricity in the early evening, according to power utility Con Edison, which didn't indicate a cause of the power failure.

The power returned around 10:00 pm (02:00 GMT), accompanied by applause that could be heard throughout the formerly darkened streets.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Twitter that the outage was caused by a "manhole fire," but later told CNN it was under investigation.

Earlier in the day, dozens of people posted photos on social media of streets, subways and apartments shrouded in darkness.

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

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

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

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

that were temporarily closed to vehicles.

At the Row NYC hotel on 8th Avenue, dozens of guests were sitting on the sidewalk outside the property.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Floods, landslides claim 60 lives in Nepal

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Floods and landslides caused by incessant rains in Nepal have till now claimed 60 lives and left 38 others injured, police said on Sunday.

Thirty five people are reported to be missing in the rain-related incidents that have thrown normal life out of gear in central and eastern parts of the country.

Heavy rainfall since Thursday has hit more than 25 districts, affecting 10,385 households.

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

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

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

## Alleviating distress

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



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

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

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

## A bridge of memories

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



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

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

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



AJOY KUMAR

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

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

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

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

# Milking the armed forces

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



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

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

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

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

intention to actually do something to change the current scenario.

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

This is especially distressing because in the previous fiscal year (2018-19), a shortfall of close to ₹1.12 lakh crore was projected by the three wings of the armed forces (excluding the Defence Research and Development Organisation).

When asked about the inadequate funds, the Ministry of Defence stated: "This Ministry is bound by the budgetary ceilings conveyed by the

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

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

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

(The author is president of Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee)

## SOUNDBITE

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



President — Ram Nath Kovind

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



Actor — Salman Khan

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



Army Chief — Gen Bipin Rawat

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



RSS leader — Manmohan Vaidya

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Encourage other sports

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

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

KS Padmanabhan  
 Chennai

### Parole process needs an overhaul

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

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



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

Ganapathi Bhat  
 Akola

### Karnataka conundrum

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

Bal Govind  
 Noida

### Aviation blues

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

Girish  
 Via email

### Accept defeat

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

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

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

A Shrivani  
 Hyderabad

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

**FIRST COLUMN**

## Gig lessons from cricket

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



SANJAY LAKHOTIA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—BJP MLA  
 VASUDEV DEVNANI

**POINT COUNTER POINT**



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

—CONGRESS LEADER  
 BD KALLA

# Blueprint for job creation

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



NITHIN AUGUSTINE

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

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

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

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

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

The Government must opt for a three-

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



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

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

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

Moreover, schools and colleges in rural India, even in metros, are yet to awaken to the opportunities and threats that rapid growth in technology will bring about. Yuval Noah Harari, in his latest book, '21 Lessons for the 21st Century' says that we have no idea what the job market will look like in 2050. It is generally agreed that machine learning and robotics will change every line of work. Therefore, it is high time that we revisit our traditional school-

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

**Promote bilateral ties to export talent**

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

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

**Focus on manufacturing**

**and agriculture sectors**

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

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

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

*(The writer is a communications professional)*

# The hard truth about trade deals

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

ANNA ISAAC  
 JAMES ROTHWELL  
 ASA BENNETT

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

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

shows gradually rising concern among officials about Britain's ability to conduct such complex negotiations. The documents bring further scrutiny to a relationship under strain following the leak of criticisms of the Trump administration by Sir Kim Darroch, the British Ambassador to the US.

His resignation prompted anger across Whitehall over a perceived breach of diplomatic norms. Meanwhile, it is understood that the US cancelled a planned meeting between Fox and Trump's commerce secretary Wilbur Ross. Even in the earliest talks, the UK struggled to keep pace with US negotiators. One email from late last year shows that the Trump administration had begun sending "less senior" officials to meetings.

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

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

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

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

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

The documents seen by this newspaper reveal how negotiations with the US are forcing Ministers and officials to confront the difficult choices of life outside the EU. One email, dated last month, warned that British plans to make Silicon Valley giants pay more tax risked a roadblock in trade negotiations. The Government aims to impose a digital services tax that will target Google and Facebook, among others, but faces pressure from the US trade department to wait for the OECD to agree international rules.

Documents show that throughout trade discussions, American officials have sought to draw Britain out of the EU's sphere of influence. British negotiators said Washington had repeatedly "painted the EU Commission as the bad guys" as they sought to influence the post-Brexit legal system. American officials said "it was easier to change a

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

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

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

"How it interacts with the EU will be affected by that choice. In any case, UK business exporting to the EU (will need to be) inside the regulatory sphere of EU, irrespective of what model the UK chooses."

The desire for a US trade deal

among British politicians, including Tory leadership frontrunner Boris Johnson, does not guarantee one will be signed.

Britain's struggles in negotiations are matched by a shopping list of international concerns for the Trump administration. One former US trade negotiator said: "If Trump decided to go for it, he's got his hands full with Nafta and (North) Korea and even then, the UK would have to free itself from the EU. We're talking about somewhere down the road" Joe Owen, director of the Institute for Government's Brexit programme, warned it was doubtful that Whitehall had the capacity to manage conflicting demands from the US and the EU on trade.

"The risk is big policy decisions get made by the UK based on US demands for a free trade deal, rather than thinking about what the UK's requirements are first and reconciling them with the US. So you could end up with a back-to-front approach," he said.

A senior MEP told *The Telegraph* that the UK would be "easy pickings for America" in talks.

*(Courtesy: The Telegraph)*



**FOREIGN EYE**



## A GAME FOR LOSERS

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

# NC leader's PSO killed in terror attack in Anantnag

PNS ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

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



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

"Before reaching Anantnag, Riyaz Ahmad succumbed to his fatal injuries," official sources said.

After receiving the input of terrorist strike in the area, local

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

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

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

# BJP asks HDK to resign immediately

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

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

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

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

In a surprise move amid the existential crisis faced by his



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

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

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

However, no decision was taken as the principal opposition BJP did not attend the meeting.

Yeddyurappa's statement came, even as efforts by coalition leaders to mollify rebel Congress MLA M T B Nagaraj seemed to have failed as he has

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

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

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

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

MLAs Anand Singh, K Sudhakar, N Nagaraj (MTB), Munirathna and Roshan Baig

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

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

Besides, two Independent legislators, who were made ministers recently to provide stability to the government, have quit the ministry and withdrawn support.

The ruling coalition's total strength is 116 (Congress-78, JD(S)-37 and BSP-1), besides the Speaker.

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

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



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

## Rain continues to wreak havoc in north Bengal, 1 dead

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



The monsoon session of the state Assembly begins on Monday.

Asked how the new ministers would handle questions in the House, Sawant said, "I will be there to help them."

Ten Congress MLAs last Wednesday joined the BJP, increasing the saffron party's strength to 27 in the 40-member House.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



raised an alarm, added SP Pandey. The complainant also said the youths told him to come to the village, only after shaving off his beard.

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

SP Pandey said the Imam had registered a similar case in Muzaffarnagar district, which was later found to be true. **PTI**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## IDOL THEFT CASES

# Investigator accuses TN Govt of callousness

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

T R Ramesh, president,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Champaran districts.

Water Resources Minister Sanjay Jha, Chief Secretary Deepak Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary (Water Resources department) Arun Kumar and Disaster Management Department Principal Secretary Pratyaya Amrit accompanied Kumar during the aerial survey.

At the meeting, the chief minister directed the officials to keep decent arrangement for the flood-hit people at the camps.

He also ordered for expediting the relief and rescue operations, an official release said.

Around 280 to 300 mm rainfall has been received in the past three-four days in Terai region of Nepal against 50 mm of average rainfall recorded during the past years, it said. **PTI**

## DMK appoints 9-member team to review Draft NEP

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Kerala Govt to set up ₹105 cr elephant rehabilitation centre

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

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

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

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

Former wildlife warden Shajikumar told PTI that the facility intends to take care of the orphaned or abandoned ele-

phants. "The centre can accommodate 50 elephants, and a residential facility for 80 mahouts has been arranged.

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

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

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

Elaborating, he said, the main objective was to ensure that elephants, which are orphaned or abandoned could be provided a facility for a bet-

ter treatment. "Basically rehabilitation involves sending the jumbos back in to the wild. But these days its quite difficult to implement.

If a wild elephant is caught in Wayanad, the locals may not agree to release it back there itself. In such cases, this Kottoor rehabilitation centre can take care of them," he said.

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

# We never promised Gorkhaland: Ghosh

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

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

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

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



Gorkhaland state."

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

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

Wanted in many cases including sections of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, murder and rioting, Gurung is on the run for over two years.

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

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

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

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

BJP candidate Raju Sing Bista won the Darjeeling Lok Sabha seat.

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

# Kashmir political issue, needs political solution: PDP

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

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

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

Hanjura stressed for a greater coordination between

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

—Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura

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

"The situation at present is peculiar and pathetic with those at the helm least concerned about the plight of the common man," he added. **PTI**

## AMARNATH YATRA RESUMES

# Biggest batch of 7,993 pilgrims leaves for Kashmir

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

The journey towards the

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

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

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

# ₹1.22 cr compensation in road accident death case

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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



succumbed to injuries at a local hospital.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In that case, the tribunal presided over by Additional District Judge R Shanmuga Sundaram had directed the owner of a truck involved in the accident and the company with which it was insured to jointly pay ₹1,20,44,500 along with interest at the rate of 7.5 per cent from the date of claim made in 2013.

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

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

# 5 more patients die, Assam JE toll rises to 76

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

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

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

Giving the cumulative figures for JE/AES (Acute Encephalitis Syndrome), the bulletin said there were 1350 such cases from January onward this year and the number of deaths is 177.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

# Man held for sending lewd messages to woman TV news anchor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# KOLKATA FIR lodged against Metro

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

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

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

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

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

metro authorities of criminal negligence.

"We will take up the matter with the highest metro authorities, no matter what," he said.

"An FIR was lodged against Metro Railway today on the basis of a complaint filed by Sajal Kanjilal's family, alleging criminal negligence," a police official said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Guj expects over 6 crore tourists to visit this fiscal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The minister said the state is focusing on attracting foreign tourists, which currently comprises roughly one per cent of the annual inflow of travellers.

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

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

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

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

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

"I was even physically

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

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

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

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

Assamese as xenophobic in their poems.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# V-P Naidu calls for national movement against NCDs

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

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

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

hospital here.

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

He urged the Indian Medical Association to take the lead in promoting awareness among the people, particularly students.

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

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

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

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

# Regulators lens on Indigo lapses

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

An official said the corporate affairs ministry would be seeking a "para-wise comments" from the company on Gangwal's complaint and

would also be looking at the related party transactions.

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

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

The official said the ministry can even invoke powers under Section 6 of the Companies Act, 2013.

Section 6 provides powers to override any memorandum, articles, agreements or resolutions passed at general meeting or by the board of directors in case they violate norms. Following Gangwal's letter to Sebi, the Ministry and others, the markets regulator has sought response from the company by July 19.

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

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

Among the issues flagged by Gangwal are that various related party transactions with the IGE Group were executed without seeking the audit committee's approval and without seeking competitive bids from third parties, and non-appointment of an independent woman director.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

made by the two sides.

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

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

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

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

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

# RBI to come out with mobile app for currency notes identification

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Intaglio printing based identification marks for helping the visually challenged in identification of banknotes denomination are present in the notes of ₹100 and above.

After demonetisation of old ₹500/1,000 notes in November 2016, new banknotes in design and sizes have been put in circulation.

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

The proposed mobile app would be able to identify the denomination of notes of Mahatma Gandhi Series and Mahatma Gandhi (New) series by capturing the image of the notes placed in front of mobile camera, the RBI said while inviting bids from tech firms to develop the app.

The RBI had come out with a similar 'request for proposal' from vendors but later cancelled it.

The app will also generate "audio notification" intimating the currency note denomination to the user if image is captured correctly, else intimating the user to try again in case of image is not readable.

There are about 80 lakh blind or visually impaired people in the country, who are likely to benefit from the initiative of the central bank.

In June, 2018 the central bank had declared that it would explore the feasibility of developing a suitable device or mechanism for aiding the visually impaired in the identification of Indian banknotes.

# Business Corner



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



Actor Ashish Sharma launching LGBTQ song internationally along with movie Khejdi. The anthem/song is called 'I wanna touch the sky'. The film, which premiered at the Kashish Queer Film Festival in 2018, is all set to release internationally on July 18, 2019



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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Overseas investors pulled out money from the equity markets for five of the six sessions following the Budget, which was presented on July 5.

According to experts, the proposal in the Union Budget to hike surcharge on income tax for wealthy individuals, including foreign funds which are structured as trusts and association of persons (AoPs), dented FPIs' enthusiasm for Indian equities and may lead to re-evaluation of their exposure to the domestic stock market.

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

March and ₹11,182 crore in February into the Indian capital markets (both equity and debt).

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

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

V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said, "The major drag on Indian market now is the faltering GDP growth and tepid earnings growth. If macro indicators reflect an improving economy, FPI flows can be expected to continue. Otherwise FPIs would be less enthusiastic to pour more money into Indian markets."

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

PTI ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

"Defence exports had been growing exponentially. It is like a big rock, which is hard to move, but once it starts rolling, it only gains momentum," he said.

Last fiscal, exports were about ₹10,700 crore and in 2019-20, the Centre set a target of ₹20,000 crore. In the first quarter of the current fiscal, exports worth ₹5,600 crore had already been recorded," he said.

Exports were just worth ₹1,500 crore in 2016-17 and ₹4,500 crore 2017-18, he said.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The Act makes it clear that once a recommendation is referred back to Trai by DoT, the regulator has to within 15 days, forward to the central government its suggestions after considering the reference made by the Government.

After receipt of further recommendation, if any, the Centre shall take a final decision, the Act says.

The official, who did not wish to be named, said pursuant to the October 2016 suggestions of Trai on the penalty



to be imposed on the three operators, the recommendations were referred back by DoT on April 5, 2017 for reconsideration, to which Trai sent its views to the Government on May 24, 2017.

Hence, after receiving "further recommendation" in response to the first back reference, the Centre has to take final decision on the matter, the official said explaining that Trai is unable to change the penalty it had suggested since it is bound by the provisions of the Act. In October 2016, Trai had recommended imposing a total penalty of ₹3,050 crore on Airtel, Vodafone Idea for allegedly denying interconnectivity to newcomer RJio.

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

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

Before imposing the penalty, however, the Commission decided to seek Trai's views on revising ₹3,050 crore suggested penalty, citing the "present financial health of the sector".

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

With this order, BHEL said, it has emerged as the largest EPC player in the floating solar PV segment in India with a portfolio of 130 MW.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

as compared to 2.45 MT.

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

"Global business confidence has dipped sharply in recent months amidst broader economic weakness and the uncertainty around the ongoing US-China trade conflict, which has had an adverse effect on investment decisions, capex spend and trade flows. Consequently, steel prices across many geographies declined in 1QFY20.

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

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

Despite this, Tata Steel's production in India during first

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

We thought it will do us more damages than gains, Ahluwalia role PTI over the weekend here.

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

# Guidelines for PSU banks to pick pooled assets of NBFCs likely this week

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to deal with stress in NBFC sector, guidelines will be issued soon for state-owned banks to take over pooled assets of non-banking financial companies, a finance ministry official said.

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

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

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

antee to PSBs for first loss of up to 10 per cent.

The official further said the banks would be allowed to pick up primarily AAA rated assets where chances of delinquency is the lowest and big state-owned banks will be allowed to participate in this.

It will help raise the balance sheet size of the participating banks and provide better-run NBFCs access to liquidity, the official said, adding most of the assets will be not of maturity over 3 years.

Banks, which themselves are in stress, will be kept out of this, the official said.

Soon after the Budget, the RBI too announced a special liquidity window which could potentially release ₹1.3 lakh crore. The NBFC sector came under stress following series of default by group companies of IL&FS since September last year.

# Q1 earnings, macro data to drive markets this week: Analysts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Quarterly earnings from frontline companies such as RIL, Wipro and HDFC Bank and macroeconomic data would be the major triggers for the domestic equity markets this week, say analysts.

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

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

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



# naabaste ENGLAND



I'M JUST TRYING TO CARRY ON WITH WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING, WORK HARD IN THE NETS, AND HOPEFULLY IN THE NEXT GAME IT ALL COMES TOGETHER  
- MARTIN GUPTILL

## CricketCradle

Cricket World Cup @cricketworldcup  
\* - #KaneWilliamson now has more runs at #CWC19 than any other captain in a single World Cup campaign.

Leading from the front

#CWC19Final | #BackTheBlackCaps



Kevin Pietersen @KP24  
A lot spoken about England's aggressive batting...but, this bowling is tremendous! Short, fast, accurate & effective.

Former England skipper Kevin Pietersen was all praise for English bowling attack after they restricted Kiwis for 241 runs in the World Cup final at Lord's Cricket Ground on Sunday

Rajdeep Sardesai @sardesairajdeep  
Fine margins of sport.. @imVkohli given lbw to a 50-50 umpires call; Jason Roy gets away with the same umpires call when he looked pretty plumb.. #CWC19Final

Indian journalist Rajdeep Sardesai questions third umpire's decision after Rod Tucker gives decision in England's opener favour despite ball hitting the stumps

Michael Vaughan @MichaelVaughan  
Come on @josbuttler .. I will buy you wine for life if you win us this from here .. #CWC19

Former England captain Michael Vaughan tweets after Eoin Morgan's dismissal

Mark Pougatch @markpougatch  
The population of New Zealand is half that of London. Half. That. Of. London. #CWC19Final

21:27 · 14 Jul 19 · Twitter for iPhone

Piers Morgan @piersmorgan  
I was texting President Trump to let him know the score..

Cutmaker @cutmaker · 5h  
@piersmorgan Leave your Twitter account alone - you're missing the CWC19 final



Cricket World Cup @cricketworldcup  
England's record without Liam Plunkett at #CWC19  
P 4 W 1 L 3  
England's record with Liam Plunkett at #CWC19  
P 6 W 6 L 0  
Can England's lucky charm work his magic again?  
#CWC19Final | #WeAreEngland

Cricket World Cup @cricketworldcup  
"It's two more runs than we got against India."  
"It's always possible with New Zealand. We've just got to scrap, as we always do."

The @BLACKCAPS fans haven't lost faith ahead of England's chase in the

# Plunkett puts Poms in charge



New Zealand's Matt Henry jumps to celebrate the dismissal of England's Jason Roy during the World Cup final at Lord's

AFP ■ LONDON

Liam Plunkett took three key wickets as England restricted New Zealand to 241-8 in the World Cup final at Lord's on Sunday, with both sides desperate to win the tournament for the first time.

Fast bowler Plunkett dismissed New Zealand captain and star batsman Kane Williamson for just 30 before removing established opener Henry Nicholls for an innings-best 55 in a return of 3-42 from his 10 overs.

Chris Woakes followed up with 3-37.

New Zealand, however, successfully defended a total of 239 in their shock semi-final win over India, when they reduced one of the world's strongest batting line-ups to 24-4.

"Sometimes it doesn't feel real, it's nice to be part of this occasion," said Plunkett. "It's a good pitch, we bowled well to restrict them."

"It's nice to know my role. I smash the pitch and use my variations, make the batsmen make mistakes. We would have snapped your hand off by chasing 240. New Zealand are a good team."

Williamson, as he had done against India, batted first after winning the toss in overcast conditions and on a green pitch.

Nicholls was still on nought when given out lbw to Woakes but successfully reviewed umpire Kumar Dharmasena's decision.

Fellow opener Martin Guptill, the leading run-scorer at the 2015 World Cup, hit fast bowler Jofra Archer for two boundaries in three balls -- an uppercut six over third man followed by a straight drive back over the paceman's head.

Guptill has struggled at this tournament, however, and on 19 he was lbw to Woakes. He reviewed but was walking back to the pavilion even before replays confirmed the ball would have smashed into his middle stump.

- Williamson out -

It left number three Williamson, who started the match with 548 runs in the tournament at an average of 91.33, having to mount yet another rescue mission.

But after putting on 74 for the second wicket with Nicholls, he fell when he edged a rising cross-seamer from Plunkett to wicketkeeper Jos Buttler.

Dharmasena initially said not out but an England review confirmed the end of Williamson's 53-ball innings, which featured just two fours.

New Zealand found themselves 118-3 when Plunkett struck for the second time in 14 balls.

Nicholls, who had completed a 71-ball fifty, fell for 55 when he played on after being cramped for room by a Plunkett delivery that curved back into him.

New Zealand were now looking to senior batsman Taylor to bail them out of trouble but he could only manage 15 before falling lbw to Wood.

When Jimmy Neesham (19) chipped



Henry Nicholls celebrates reaching 50 runs

## SCOREBOARD

New Zealand Innings	
Martin Guptill lbw b Chris Woakes	19
Henry Nicholls b Plunkett	55
Kane Williamson c Buttler b Plunkett	30
Ross Taylor lbw b Mark Wood	15
Tom Latham c (sub) Vince b Woakes	47
James Neesham c Root b Plunkett	19
Grandhomme c (sub) Vince b Woakes	16
Mitchell Santner not out	5
Matt Henry b Jofra Archer	4
Trent Boult not out	1
Extras (b 0, lb 12, w 17, nb 1, p 0)	30
Total (8 wickets, 50 Ov)	241
Fall of wickets: 29-1 (Martin Guptill, 6.2), 103-2 (Kane Williamson, 22.4), 118-3 (Henry Nicholls, 26.5), 141-4 (Ross Taylor, 33.1), 173-5 (James Neesham, 38.6), 219-6 (Colin de Grandhomme, 46.5), 232-7 (Tom Latham, 48.3), 240-8 (Matt Henry, 49.3)	
Bowling	
Chris Woakes	9-0-37-3
Jofra Archer	10-0-42-1
Liam Plunkett	10-0-42-3
Mark Wood	10-1-49-1
Adil Rashid	8-0-39-0
Ben Stokes	3-0-20-0

Plunkett to Joe Root at mid-on, the Black Caps were 173-5 with 11 overs left.

Tom Latham defiantly hit Wood for six but Colin de Grandhomme, who top-edged a hook off Archer into his helmet, took 28 balls for a 16 that finished when he chipped a Woakes slower ball mid-off.

Latham's 47 off 56 balls ended when he chipped a low Woakes full toss to mid-off.

England have been in the final three times while New Zealand were beaten finalists in 2015.

Top run scorers in WC 2019								
Pos	Player	Contry	M	R	Avg	SR	4s	6s
1	Rohit Sharma	IND	9	648	81.00	98.33	67	14
2	David Warner	AUS	10	647	71.89	89.36	66	8
3	Shakib Al Hasan	B'DESH	8	606	86.57	96.04	60	2
4	Kane Williamson	NZ	9	578	82.57	74.97	50	3
5	Joe Root	ENG	11	556	61.78	89.53	48	2

PNS ■ LONDON

A lot of the Bollywood brigade was in the stands of Lord's to watch the England-New Zealand World Cup Final. From Siddharth Roy Kapur to Aditya Roy Kapur to Boman Irani they were all there — to support India — but just 45 minutes of bad cricket by Kohli and the boys, compelled them to, well, as Irani said, "I am supporting no one. I am supporting the game." In a non-India show at Lord's many of the stars who had tickets for both the big Sunday games, it was being said, had opted to go to Wimbledon instead where Roger Federer was bidding for his next title against Novak Djokovic in a classic Final.

**ENGLISH CELEB LINE**  
But that did not make the celebrity line-up for the England side any less. Cricketing hero Andrew Flintoff was there to support his team in making history. Popular radio show host Chris Evans who just the other day suggested abseiling The Shard, the fifth largest building in Europe with the top four all in Russia, was in attendance along with Matt Smith of the highly popular film *Fantastic Beasts*, top rated comedian Frank Skinner and Piers Morgan, the controversial English broadcaster, journalist, writer and television personality who co-anchors the ITV Breakfast programme *Good Morning Britain* and was also the judge on *America's Got Talent* and *Britain's Got Talent*. These, beside the long line of England's former cricketers,

# Stars in the stands



some of them there with their prestigious MCC badges on red and yellow striped blue blazers. "I am texting President Trump to let him know the score..." he tweeted from the ground.

**THE LORDLY SLANT**  
Viewing the famous Lord's Pavilion building directly

opposite the equally famous spaceship Media Centre you wonder why the quaint structure in red and yellow brick sits on such a distinct slant. The Pavilion, built in 1890 by Thomas Verity, is a Grade II listed building and houses the players' dressing rooms on the first floor from where they pass through the Long Room, with

walls adorned with historic paintings, before emerging out onto the field. The playing area slopes around 2.5m from right to left as you look from the Media Centre, creating a unique challenge for batsmen and bowlers. But it is the Long Room that comes steeped in tradition, the place where MCC club members can sit

and have a drink with some cricket on the field. Famously for India, Diana Edulji was denied permission in there when she was India captain. It was only in 1998 that women were allowed into this zone through law, prompting her to say MCC is actually MCP! Before that, only Queen Elizabeth had access into this all-man area!

**ALL ROADS TO LORD'S**  
India did not make it so you would have thought the atmosphere in the stands would take a beating. Not so at all. From English fan begging for tickets, to all the light blue flooding the tube station from



anywhere to St John's Wood, to stewards warning against being run out on the escalators, it was cricket all the way. The noise, you would have thought would be lower. Not at all, singing *The Piranhas* song, the fans kept the fire going inside even as a band of drummers and acrobats revved up the atmospherics near the North Gate, compelling the huge crowd to take a break and some videos. Even the Lord's Merchandise Shop, which is all but over with World Cup merchandise had a long waiting queue for customers to get in, early morning onwards. All of 28,500 seats were full to capacity at the Lord's Cricket Ground where hosts England reached to fight for their place in the Hall of Fame.

# Djoker beats Fedex in final

AFP ■ LONDON

Novak Djokovic saved two match points to clinch a fifth Wimbledon title and 16th major on Sunday, shattering Roger Federer's bid to become the oldest Grand Slam champion in the longest final ever played at the tournament.

Despite being outplayed by the 37-year-old Swiss for large parts of the knife-edge encounter, the world number one triumphed 7-6 (7/5), 1-6, 7-6 (7/4), 4-6, 13-12 (7/3).

At 4 hours and 57 minutes, it was the longest Wimbledon final ever played and settled by a final set tiebreak for the first time.

Djokovic is the first man in 71 years to win the title from match points down.

He is now level with Bjorn Borg as a five-time Wimbledon winner.

"I think that if this is not the most exciting final then definitely it's in the top two or three of my career against one of the greatest players of all time, Roger, who I respect," said Djokovic.

"Unfortunately in this type of match someone has to lose. It is quite unreal to be two match points down to come back and strange to play a tie-break at 12-12."

Djokovic is just four Grand Slam titles shy of the all-time record held by Federer who is more than five years older.

It was incredibly tough on Federer, chasing a ninth Wimbledon crown, who didn't face a break point until the eighth game of the fourth set.

He even had two match points in the 16th game of the deciding set which lasted over two hours.

"It was long and it had everything. I had answers, so did he and we played some great tennis," said Federer.

"I hope I give some other people at 37 the feeling it is not over yet."

Djokovic's win meant that the 'Big Three' of men's tennis -- himself, Federer and Rafael Nadal -- have won the last 11 Slams.



He has now won nine of his last 11 clashes against Federer and three of their four Wimbledon meetings.

With William and Catherine, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge looking on from the Royal Box, Federer carved out the only break point of the opening set.

But Djokovic saved it and with serve dominating, the set was decided by the tiebreak.

Two match points saved -

The top seed was 3-1 up, then Federer inched to 5-3 before Djokovic swept the

next four points.

At 58 minutes, it was two minutes longer than the women's final on Saturday.

Djokovic, however, then went completely off the boil, losing his footing as he was broken in the first game of the second set.

Federer broke twice again and after just 25 more minutes the final was all-square with Djokovic managing just two winners in the set.

Federer was comfortably on top in the third set, flashing winners from all parts

of the court but was unable to convert a set point in the 10th game.

Djokovic made him pay. Despite not managing a single break point in the match, he pounced again in the tiebreak to reclaim the lead.

Federer wasn't finished. Back came the veteran with a double break for 5-2.

Djokovic then carved out his first break points of the match in the eighth game.

The first was saved after a breathtaking 35-shot rally before the Serb finally



broke for the first time.

It was too little, too late, however, as Federer deservedly levelled the final.

Into a tense finale, Federer saved three break points in the fourth game but a drilled, backhand passing shot gave Djokovic the break in the sixth game for a 4-2 lead.

The world number one couldn't back it up and Federer had Centre Court on their feet when he restored parity in the next game.

Despite twice being just two points from defeat, Federer broke for 8-7 but was unable to serve out for the match.

As the clock ticked past the previous longest final of 4 hours and 48 minutes it took Nadal to beat Federer in the 2008 final, the match was decided by the first 12-12 tiebreak in a singles match at the tournament.

Djokovic prevailed, moving to three championship points and claiming victory when Federer shanked a return wide.

Federer finished with 25 aces and 94 winners to Djokovic 10 aces and 54 winners.



## Sixer of wins

AFP ■ LONDON

Lewis Hamilton made the most of a favourable safety car intervention on Sunday to claim a record sixth British Grand Prix victory at a packed Silverstone.

The defending five-time world champion clocking fastest lap on his final lap to finish 25 seconds clear of Mercedes team-mate and nearest title rival Valtteri Bottas after an action-packed contest.

The Briton moved 39 points clear of the Finn behind in the title race, but Bottas was unlucky with the timing of the safety car which effectively gave Hamilton a free pit stop.

Charles Leclerc of Ferrari was third.

Pierre Gasly finished fourth ahead of his Red Bull team-mate Max Verstappen, whose race was compromised by a late collision when Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari drove into him, and Carlos Sainz of McLaren.

It was Hamilton's seventh win in 10 races this year and the 80th win of his career. He had shared the British Grand Prix record of wins, on five, with fellow-Briton Jim Clark and Frenchman Alain Prost.

Daniel Ricciardo was seventh for Renault ahead of Kimi Raikkonen of Alfa Romeo, Daniil Kvyat and his Toro Rosso team-mate Alex Albon.

"What a day," said Hamilton. "To all the crowd, thank-you so much for coming out."

Hamilton, who stopped on his slow-down lap to collect a British 'Union Jack' flag, added: "I love you Silverstone. I appreciate everything and the opportunity to be a part of this."

"I couldn't have done this without these guys or without my team."

A glum Bottas said: "Congrats to Lewis... It wasn't my day."

A much happier Leclerc said "It's probably the race I've enjoyed the most in my career."

The safety car was deployed when Antonio Giovinazzi spun into a gravel trap in his Alfa Romeo - gifting Hamilton a 'free' first, and only, pit stop. The luckless Bottas, on a two stop strategy, had already pitted before the incident.

# Anas smashes NR; Hima wins 3rd Gold

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mohammad Anas bettered his own national record in men's 400m to clinch Gold and qualify for the World Championships while Hima Das won the women's 200m event for her third international triumph in less than two weeks at the Kladno Athletics Meet in Czech Republic.

The 24-year-old Anas clocked 45.21 seconds as he won an easy race, finishing nearly one second ahead of the Silver winner Omelko Rafal (46.19) of Poland in the race run on Saturday night.

Apart from re-writing his earlier national record of 45.24 seconds which he recorded last year, he also qualified for the World Athletics Championships to be held in Doha

from September 27 to October 6.

The World Championships qualification time is 45.30 seconds in men's 400m race.

In the women's 200m race, Hima clocked a much improved time of 23.43 seconds to win the Gold. She has a personal best of 23.10 sec in 200m. This was her third international Gold in 11 days.

In her first competitive 200m race of the year, the 19-year-old Assam runner had clocked 23.65 seconds on her way to Gold at the Poznan Athletics Grand Prix in Poland on July 2. After that, she won her second 200m Gold at the Kutno Athletics Meet, also in Poland, on July 7 with a time of 23.97 seconds.

At this Czech Republic city of Kladno, the Indian trio of Vipin Kasana, Abhishek Singh and



**In the women's 200m race, Hima clocked a much improved time of 23.43 seconds to win the Gold. She has a personal best of 23.10 sec in 200m. This was her third international Gold in 11 days**

Davinder Singh Kang took the top three spots in men's javelin final with efforts of 82.51m, 77.32m and 76.58m respectively.

In men's shot put event, national record holder Tejinder Pal Singh Toor managed a creditable best throw of 20.36m to win the Bronze. He holds the national record of 20.75m.

In the women's 400m, V K Vismaya clocked her personal best of 52.54 seconds to win the race. Saritaben Gayakwad was third with 53.37.

Meanwhile, in the XXII International Memorial Competition in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Indians also bagged 6 Gold, 3 Silver and 1 Bronze, with national record holder M Sreeshankar winning the long jump event with a creditable 7.97m.

PTI ■ NEWARK

## No stopping Vijender

Indian boxing star Vijender Singh remained an unstoppable force, clinching a Technical Knockout over the more experienced Mike Snider on his debut in the US professional circuit here.

In what was to be an eight-round super middleweight contest on Saturday night (early Sunday morning in India), the 33-year-old from Haryana prevailed in four rounds for his 11th consecutive victory in the circuit.

"It was excellent getting back in the ring after a long time off. It's great to be here in the USA and to get the win. It was really exciting. I am really happy for my winning



debut in USA," Vijender said after the bout.

The triumph came in the second minute of the fourth round when Vijender cornered Snider with a flurry of straight punches, prompting the referee to stop the bout in the Indian's favour.

"It took me about four rounds to get back in the swing of things. I expected it to take two or three rounds, but it took me four. I felt good," said Vijender.

This was Vijender's eighth knockout win in all.

## Neymar renews war of words with PSG

AFP ■ PARIS

Neymar fired another shot in his battle with Paris Saint-Germain after saying his favourite football memory is Barcelona's incredible 2017 comeback win over PSG, which Neymar helped inflict on his current club.

Asked by online sports channel Oh My Goal about his best changing room memory, the world's most expensive player chose the aftermath of that win.

"We all went crazy afterwards. I think it was the best possible feeling for all of us," the Brazilian star said in the interview, which was posted on Saturday.

Neymar was speaking in Sao Paulo ahead of his belated return to the club on Monday,



after insisting last week that he had prior agreement from PSG to stay in Brazil to help his foundation, the Neymar Institute.

His comments are set to further strain his relationship with the club. He wants out of the Parc des Princes and would prefer a return to Barca, but is struggling to find suitors due to the 222 million euros (\$252 million) the capital splashed out to take him away from Barcelona two years ago.

The chances of him rejoining the Catalan giants are further complicated by Antoine Griezmann's arrival from Atletico Madrid for 120 million euros.

When Neymar missed last Monday's first training session PSG issued a statement declaring they would take "appropriate action"

against the star.

Sporting director Leonardo has nevertheless said that "Neymar can leave PSG if there is an offer that suits everybody".

Later Saturday, Neymar added fuel to the fire over a possible return to the Camp Nou, with an Instagram post.

It was a 10-second video of himself in a Barcelona shirt, his father, and a quote from the Bible: "No weapon turned against you will prosper." (Isaiah Chapter 54, Verse 17).

Barcelona's famous rout of Paris Saint-Germain took place in the final 16 stage of the 2017 Champions League.

PSG had won the first leg of that Champions League last 16 tie 4-0 and were seconds away from the quarter-finals.

Neymar scored in the 88th and 91st minutes of the famous match before setting up Sergi Roberto for a winner five minutes into stoppage time.

That sealed their 6-1 win over PSG, who then shelled out the world-record fee to bag the Brazilian the following summer. "What we felt when we scored the sixth goal I've never felt anything like that, it was incredible," Neymar told Oh My Goal on Saturday.

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