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WORLD 5 TRUMP AND DEMOCRATS CLASH OVER PREZ'S 'RACIST' TWEETS

MONEY 10 LAGARDE QUILTS AS IMF MD

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STOKES SET SIGHT FOR ASHES GLORY 12 SPORT

SC can't dictate terms to Speaker: HDK

Court to take call on Karnataka CM's assertion, MLAs' resignation today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will pronounce its verdict on Wednesday on several important Constitutional issues raised by the 15 rebel Karnataka Congress and Janata Dal (S) MLAs as well State Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy and Assembly Speaker KR Ramesh Kumar.

The issues before the SC are following: a) pleas of the rebel MLAs for direction to Speaker Kumar to accept their resignation from the Assembly; b) Kumaraswamy contention that the SC had no jurisdiction to pass the two interim orders asking the Speaker to decide and, later, to maintain the status quo on the resignations and disqualification of the rebel MLAs; c) Speaker's plea to the court to modify its earlier order directing him to maintain status quo in the ongoing political crisis in the State.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi on Tuesday concluded hearing on the pleas of the rebel MLAs, the Speaker and Kumaraswamy.

Appearing for the 15 MLAs, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi asked the Bench to continue with its interim order directing the Speaker to maintain status quo on the issue of resignation and disqualification of the MLAs.

The counsel for the rebel MLAs also asked the Bench that if the House assembles for business, the 15 rebel MLAs be exempted from appearing on



BJP members display placards as they protest in the Well of the Legislative Council demanding resignation of Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Tuesday. PTI

despite the whip of the ruling coalition which, he said, has been reduced to minority Government.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, appearing for Kumaraswamy, told the Bench that the Speaker cannot be compelled to decide this issue in a time-bound manner. "When resignation process is not in order, the court cannot direct Speaker to decide by 6 pm," he told the Bench, also comprising Justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose.

Kumaraswamy also told the SC that the rebel MLAs were hunting in a pack to destabilise his Government and the court should not have entertained their petitions.

Senior advocate AM Singhvi, appearing for the Speaker, told the Bench that no direction was issued to the Karnataka Speaker by the court in the midnight hearing when floor test was ordered and BS Yedurappa was invited to form the Government last year. He told the Bench that the

Speaker was yet to decide on the resignation and disqualification of rebel MLAs and the court had ample power to punish them.

The Speaker urged the apex court to modify its earlier order directing him to maintain status quo in the ongoing political crisis in the State even as the rebel MLAs accused him of acting in a partisan manner by not deciding on their resignations.

Singhvi said the Speaker would decide on both disquali-

fication and resignation of the rebel MLAs by Wednesday but the court should modify its earlier order asking him to maintain status quo.

Rohatgi argued that the Speaker cannot keep the resignation of these MLAs pending and by doing so he is acting in a partisan manner. Countering his submissions, Singhvi told the Bench that Speakers cannot be asked to decide the matter in a time-bound manner.

"How can the Speaker be directed to decide in a particular manner?" Singhvi asked the court. "Such orders are not passed even to a trial court."

He also said a valid resignation should be submitted to the Speaker personally; the MLAs appeared before him only on July 11, five days after they submitted their resignations to his office.

The rebel MLAs told the court that the Speaker kept their resignation pending just to disqualify them and there was nothing wrong in resigning to escape disqualification.

Rohatgi submitted before the Bench that the Speaker can be directed to decide on the resignation of the MLAs by 2 pm and he can take a call on their disqualification later.

The Bench asked Rohatgi if there was any Constitutional obligation on the Speaker to decide on the MLAs' disqualification which was initiated after the resignation.

Rohatgi said the rules say to "decide now" on resignation.

"How can the Speaker keep it pending?"

The rebel MLAs told the court that the State Government has been reduced to minority and the Speaker by not accepting their resignations has attempted coercing them to vote for the Government in the trust vote.

Disqualification proceeding is a mini-trial under the Constitution's 10th Schedule, said Rohatgi, adding that resignation is different and its acceptance is based on a single criterion alone — whether it is voluntary or not.

There is nothing to show the rebel MLAs conspired with the BJP, the senior advocate said. The disqualification proceeding was nothing but to scuttle resignation of MLAs, he said. He also told the court that the disqualification proceedings were initiated for not being a disciplined soldier of the party and for not attending meetings outside the House.

The Bench further asked if all the disqualification pleas are on same grounds, to which Rohatgi replied "more or less same".

He had also told the court that the Speaker has to only see if the resignations were voluntary or not. "Resignation has to be accepted, there is no other way to deal with it," Rohatgi told the court.

"It is my fundamental right to do whatever I want to do and cannot be bound due to non-acceptance of resignation by speaker," submitted Rohatgi.

Anusuiya Uikey picked as C'garh Governor

Swatantra Dev picked as UP BJP president, Chandrakant Patil to head Maharashtra unit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Modi Government and the BJP on Tuesday made a series of important appointments, rewarding leaders with experience and organisational skills.

BJP leader and sitting Rajya Sabha member Anusuiya Uikey was on Tuesday appointed as Governor of Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh.

The post of Chhattisgarh Governor was under the additional charge of Madhya Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel since August after the demise of Balraj Das Tandon.

Hailing from Chhindwara, 62-year old Uikey, whose Rajya Sabha term was to end in 2022, has taken special interest in the delivery of justice to women, especially tribal women and solution of their problems.

She has also worked for awareness of rights of tribal women leading to their empowerment, her bio-data on the Rajya Sabha website says.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has extended good wishes to Anusuiya Uikey on her appointment as Governor of Chhattisgarh. In a tweet, Baghel said that her appointment would bring new energy and confidence in the State Government.



On the other hand, the BJP appointed Revenue Minister Chandrakant Patil and party MLA Mangal Prabhat Lodha as president of the State and Mumbai city units, respectively. The party also named Uttar Pradesh State Transport Minister Swatantra Dev Singh as party's State president replacing Mahendra Nath Pandey, who was inducted into the Union Cabinet. The announcement comes a day after his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

She has also worked for awareness of rights of tribal women leading to their empowerment, her bio-data on the Rajya Sabha website says.

In his early 80s, Harichandan will be the 23rd Governor of Andhra Pradesh and will succeed ESL Narasimhan, who had held the gubernatorial post in various States for last 13 years which includes 10 years in AP.

He had joined Bharatiya Jana Sangha in 1971 and rose within the ranks till State general secretary. He was detained during Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) during the Emergency.

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CAPSULE

BOMBAY HC QUASHES CRZ CLEARANCES TO PROJECT

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Tuesday quashed the CRZ clearances granted to the city civic body's ambitious ₹14,000-crore coastal road project, saying there was "serious lacuna" in the decision-making process and lack of proper scientific study.

SHUT DOWN POLLUTING FIRMS IN 3 MONTHS: NGT

New Delhi: Contending that economic development cannot take place at the cost of public health, the NGT has directed the Central Pollution Control Board to shut down polluting industries in "critically polluted" and "severely polluted" areas within three months.

FLOOD FURY CONTINUES IN ASSAM, BIHAR, KERALA

New Delhi: The flood fury continued in Bihar and Assam on Tuesday with the death toll in the region mounting to 47, even as a red alert was sounded in Kerala.

222 LIONS DIED IN GIR DURING 2017-19

Gandhinagar: As many as 222 lions died, most of them due to natural causes, in the Gir forest region in Gujarat in the last two years.

PM seeks list of truant Ministers

Take Parliament duties seriously, Modi asks MPs

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday came down hard on the Central Ministers who skipped their Parliament duty and sought a list of the absentee Ministers.

Addressing the BJP Parliamentary Party meeting, the Prime Minister indicated that the Parliament session, slated to conclude on July 26, could be extended if required for legislative purposes.

Modi asked MPs and Ministers to attend Parliament regularly and take their roster duties seriously. The PM is learnt to have told the Parliamentary Minister and the party leadership that he be informed if there is dereliction of duty by Ministers or MPs.

Ministers are required to be present in both the Houses to answer queries of the



Opposition and give clarifications as and when required. Opposition leaders are understood to have conveyed to the Government about the absence of Ministers at regular intervals.

Setting goals till 2025, the Prime Minister said his Government would target humanitarian issues like leprosy, TB or disability and asked all MPs to work on a mission mode and in coordination with officials. Talking about leprosy and TB, the Prime Minister invoked Mahatma Gandhi. While inaugurating a hospital for leprosy, Modi said that he would rather be invited to put a lock on it. Modi said Mahatma rather stressed the need to eradicate the disease.

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Neeraj Shekhar joins BJP, may enter Upper House from UP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after resigning from the Samajwadi Party and the Rajya Sabha, Neeraj Shekhar, son of former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, on Tuesday joined the BJP in the presence of its general secretaries Bhupendra Yadav and Anil Jain.

According to sources, Neeraj may be fielded by the BJP from Uttar Pradesh for a RS seat. Neeraj had been contesting Lok Sabha polls from his father's pocket borough Ballia and won twice in 2007 and 2009, but lost in 2014.

The SP then sent him to the Rajya Sabha. He was not fielded in the recent Lok Sabha polls.

Though Chandra Shekhar was not in the Samajwadi Party, SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav had never fielded any candidate against him from Ballia. After Chandra Shekhar's death in 2007, Mulayam had fielded Neeraj from the seat on a Samajwadi Party ticket.

11 dead, 40 trapped in Mumbai building cave-in

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a second major rain-related mishap in Maharashtra in a little over a fortnight, at least 11 persons were killed and eight others injured when a 100-year-old dilapidated four-storey building collapsed at the congested Dongri locality in south Mumbai.

Indications available late on Tuesday suggested that the toll in the mishap might go up as about 40 persons are feared trapped under the debris of the ill-fated building. Teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Mumbai Fire Brigade continued their search and rescue operations till late in the night.

The 80-year-old Kesarbai building — which in July last year had been classified in structural audit submitted to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) as a structure "to be evacuated for demolition at the earliest" — caved in around 11.30 am, trapping the residents under its debris.

There were in all 15 families in the building when it collapsed like pack of cards. As per the fatality and



Fire brigade personnel rescue a child from the site of the collapsed four-storey building at Dongri in Mumbai on Tuesday. PTI

injury figures released by the BMC at 8 pm, at least 11 persons were killed and eight others injured in the mishap. The deceased included an 18-month-old boy Ibrahim, a 13-year-old girl and three women. Eight persons, including a child, were rescued in an

injured condition and were rushed to Habib Hospital.

Among those killed was one Abdul Sattar Shaikh, said to be the owner of the building.

Expressing his anguish over the mishap, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted: "Collapse of a building in

Mumbai's Dongri is anguishing. My condolences to the families of those who lost their lives. I hope the injured recover soon. Maharashtra Government, NDRF and local authorities are working on rescue operations."

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Pakistan opens airspace, Indian airlines relieved

5-month long ban after Balakot costs Air India ₹491 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a big relief to Indian and international airlines, Pakistan on Tuesday opened its airspace for all civilian air traffic, lifting nearly five-month-long ban that was imposed after the Balakot air strikes.

The move will give relief to international airlines as well as Air India, which suffered a huge financial loss of around



₹491 crore as it had to re-route its various international flights due to the closure of the Pakistan airspace.

Pakistan's Civil Aviation Authority issued a notice to airmen (NOTAM) around 12.41 am Indian Standard Time, stating that "with immediate effect Pakistan airspace is open for all type of civil traffic on published ATS (air traffic service) routes".

After lifting of the ban, Air India flights AI 184 as well as

Finally, RTR flyover sees light, to unclog road to IGIA

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

The much-awaited 2.85 km Rao Tula Ram (RTR) flyover was finally thrown open to the public by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday connecting Munirka to Central Base Post office and has been named as "new RTR" flyover.

"It is a day of happiness for all the people as travel from South Delhi to IGI Airport and Gurgaon will be smooth and easier now. Not only will people save time and effort, but there will also be a decrease in air pollution that was caused due to congestion. I want to congratulate the PWD and the people of Delhi," Kejriwal said, adding that the Sheila Government had constructed 70 flyovers in 15 years and our Government has constructed 23 flyovers in just 4.5 years.

The new RTR flyover is expected to reduce the traffic congestion by 5-7 minutes from IIT to Indira Gandhi

International Airport (IGIA). The people of South Delhi, especially those residing in

Munirka, Vasant Vihar, Vasant Enclave, Basant Gaon, Basant Apartment, Moti Bagh, Signal

Enclave and Subroto Park had faced hardship earlier as traffic was diverted in the lanes



A view of the newly-constructed Rao Tula Ram Flyover after it was inaugurated by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal near Munirka in New Delhi on Tuesday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

creating chaos and congestion.

As per the PWD officials the project was approved in 2013 by the Delhi Government and work was started in 2014. The project was delayed due to various reasons. The Residents' Welfare Associations (RWA) opposed this project and there was issue with the forest and environment department as trees were to be felled on this route. The project was stopped.

Moreover, besides the actual budget at ₹205 crore, the PWD paid a sum of about ₹28 crore as fine in the court for not completing the project during the stipulated time.

The inauguration was also attended by PWD Minister Satyendra Jain. "This corridor will be the first in the city as it was fully constructed on portals to allow movement of traffic below the elevated corridor," said the PWD Minister.

The ceremony was also attended by the senior officials, such as Puneet K Vats,

Engineer in Chief of PWD, Somnath Bhatti, MLA from Malviya Nagar, Suresh Gupta, Secretary of RWA of Vasant Enclave, said, "Though the project missed deadlines, we welcome it as it will provide a relief by reducing travel time as well as the traffic chaos. Till now, the due to heavy traffic the vehicles were diverted to the lanes located inside the residential colonies which lead to traffic congestion as well as air and noise pollution."

Somant Mathur, Secretary, RWA of Vasant Vihar, said, "This flyover has brought a huge sigh of relief for the commuters especially those travelling to IGI Airport and Gurgaon but the Sound and vibration barrier has not installed yet because of which there will be noise pollution and it will be the residents of this area who has to again suffer. We request the government to install it soon."

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Pay toll if you want good roads: Gadkari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stating that private partnership is needed to speed up projects in the country as Government does not have money, Union Surface Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday said people will have to pay toll if they want good roads even as he made it clear that the toll system would stay to generate money so that the public money could be used to implement road network in rural regions.

Gadkari informed the Lok Sabha that his ministry is working on a new green expressway from New Delhi to Mumbai, which can be covered in 12 hours. It will pass through most backward and tribal areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra and also save Rs 16,000 crore in land acquisition.

Responding to demands of several MPs, he said he will consider if school buses or state transport buses can be exempt from tolls. The country has a shortage of over 25 lakh drivers and he told MPs that he will open a driving training centre in each state. After Minister's reply, NK Premchandran (Revolutionary Socialist Party) withdrew all of his cut-motions.

Replying to a discussion on demands for grants for the Road Transport and Highways ministry in the house, the minister said land acquisition was an issue in implementing several projects in West Bengal, Bihar, Kerala and Goa. He asked MPs from West Bengal to complete land acquisitions and encroachments so that he could give green signal to the pending road projects in the state.

The Minister said the Government has built 40,000 kilometres of highway in the last five years.

Amid concerns expressed by some members over collection of toll in different parts of the country, Gadkari said, "Toll zindagi bhar band nahi ho sakta... Kam zyaada ho sakta hai. Toll ka janamdata main hoon... (Toll system can never end though the rates may vary from time to time. Toll is my brainchild.)"

"If you want good services, you have to pay for it. Government does not have money...," he said adding the toll tax concept was first generated in Maharashtra when he was the State Minister.

Noting that more than 400 projects worth 3.85 lakh crore were closed when he assumed charge of the ministry in 2014, Gadkari said the Modi government saved Non-perform-

ing assets worth 3 lakh crore during the past five years by re-starting work on these projects. "There were 403 projects pending when Narendra Modi came to power involving a cost of 3,85,000 crore. It is a great achievement of Indian government that we saved bankers of Rs 3 lakh crore of NPAs and now 90 per cent of projects are moving fast," he said.

Gadkari referred to former US President John F Kennedy's quote that "American roads are not good because America is rich, but America is rich because American roads are good" to emphasise on building good quality of highways and roads across the country to boost its economy.

Expressing anguish over deaths caused by road accidents, he said his ministry had identified 786 black spots and added that poor engineering is one of the main reasons for them.

Gadkari said his ministry is working to make Delhi pollution-free and cited pollution has come down by 32 per cent due to various efforts, including building peripheral roads to prevent trucks bound for other states from entering the national capital. All new vehicles from April 1, 2020 will comply with Euro 6 emission norms, he said.

Set up emergency unit to prevent sewer deaths, Centre directs States

New Delhi: Aimed at preventing sewer deaths in the country, the Centre has asked all States to set up an emergency response sanitation unit (ERSU) on the lines of fire services.

Union Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA) Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra has written to the chief secretaries of states and Union territories, saying that ERSU will be responsible to attend any sanitation emergency request. The ERSU will be responsible to meet sanitation emergency requests from all smaller towns within a cluster of, say, 75 km radius.

"States/UTs/ULBs (Urban Local Bodies) should set up an Emergency Response Sanitation Unit (ERSU), on the lines of the fire service station, in capital cities of each state/UT and also in all major cities having a Municipal Corporation and/or Water and Sewerage Board (in whatever name it is called) with population of more than one lakh," Mishra said in the letter.

Mishra told the states and UTs that the practice of "hazardous cleaning" of sewers and septic tanks is completely banned under the Prevention of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, (PEMSRA), 2013. As per a report, there have been 1,340 deaths related to manual scavenging in the past 10 years across the country. According to numbers col-

lated by the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK), since January 2017, one person has died every five days while cleaning sewers and septic tanks across the country.

Mishra said the government was seized of reports about incidents of deaths in course of hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.

Sanitation workers, who have been traditionally engaged in sewer and septic tank cleaning, should be properly trained, equipped and certified as sewer entry professionals (SEPs), the HUA secretary said.

"States and UTs should promote mechanized cleaning of sewers/septic tanks by establishing such units in each city and keeping their contact number readily available for engaging in cleaning sewers/septic tanks at first instance, on priority," Mishra also said.

He added that entry of any person into a sewer and septic tank other than a properly equipped SEP, duly authorised by ERSU, should be strictly banned.

States and UTs should issue directions to urban local bodies and other appropriate authorities for filing FIR against employers if any person is allowed directly or indirectly to enter sewer and septic tanks without proper protective equipments including such individuals entering into sewer and septic tank, Mishra added. PNS

Postal jobs test deferred after TN parties seek exam in Tamil

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday decided to cancel the examination for appointment of postmen, held on July 14. It will now be held in all local languages including Tamil, a demand made Tamil Nadu-based parties who forced a couple of adjournments in Rajya Sabha on the issue.

Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad informed the Rajya Sabha that the examination will now be held in all local languages, as per the notification of 10-5-2019 of the department concerned (with) examination, including (in) Tamil.

Tamil parties had been protesting that questions in the postal department's examination for appointments of postmen and assistants in rural areas held on Sunday were only in Hindi and English, and not Tamil. The AIADMK were joined in by DMK, CPI and CPI-M members in the protests.

Proceedings of the Upper House were adjourned thrice during the pre-lunch period and again for 30 minutes after the Upper House re-assembled at 2 PM on the issue.

When the proceedings resumed, Prasad, who is the Union Minister for Law and Justice, Communications and Electronics and IT said he has examined the matter and it has been decided to cancel the



examination held on July 14.

"Certain issues were raised in this House by members, including my friends from Tamil Nadu. I have examined the matter today itself and it has been decided to cancel the examination held on 14-7-2019," Prasad said.

The minister said he would like to assure the House and the entire nation that the government led by Narendra Modi has respect for all regional languages, including Tamil. "I have myself seen the depth of language of Tamil when I was (election) in-charge there, and all other languages. Therefore this government's commitment to respecting all languages is full and total," Prasad said.

His assurance satisfied the agitating members. V Maitreyan of the AIADMK expressed gratitude to Prasad and said "due to the development in the last couple of days

unfortunately we were forced to raise the issue in the morning today in our own way. I am really thankful on behalf of my party members."

T K Rangarajan (CPI-M) suggested that all departments should hold examinations in regional languages. Deputy Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Anand Sharma (Congress) said the larger issue is to pre-empt and ensure that there is no recurrence.

"Therefore, will the government give a categorical assurance to this House, and through the House to the people of the country, that for all future recruitments, examinations, interviews, in all Central Government Departments, the PSUs, paramilitary forces, the three-language formula, the assurance for which was given by India's first Prime Minister (Jawaharlal Nehru) shall be adhered to."

Force ready to fight all spectrum of war: IAF chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Air Force Chief BS Dhanoa said here on Tuesday the force is ready to fight all spectrum of war ranging from conventional to terrorism and developments undertaken after the Kargil war in 1999 have enabled the IAF to be prepared for handling all challenges.

Speaking at a seminar on 20 years of Kargil, the IAF chief said the force now has the capabilities to conduct precision bombing, like in the case of Balakot aerial strikes, which was limited during Kargil.

During the Kargil conflict, precision bombing capabilities which existed only on Mirage-2000 are now also available on Su-30, Jaguar, MiG-29 and MiG-27 Upp aircraft. Moreover, beyond visual range (BVR) Missiles are NOW carried by MiG-29, Su-30 and Mirage-2000 aircraft, he added. Dhanoa said "the IAF is

prepared to fight across the entire spectrum of warfare, be it an all-out war, a skirmish like Kargil conflict or retaliation to a terrorist attack."

He was the commanding officer of 17 squadron and was operating from Srinagar during the Kargil conflict in 1999. Speaking about his experiences, the IAF chief recounted the operational limitations that existed in 1999 and the innovative ways adopted by the IAF to overcome the difficulties during the conflict.

The developments which took place post Kargil war have transformed the Indian Air Force in capability so as to counter any kind of air threat in conventional and sub-conventional domains of warfare, Dhanoa said. IAF now has the capability to monitor the airspace deep inside the enemy territory and operates on secure communication with network-centric warfare capabilities.

LS: Cong MPs walk out over Chinese incursion reports

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress MPs staged walked out from the Lok Sabha protesting the failure of Government's China police and reports on the recent Chinese incursion attempts in Ladakh. Raising the issue soon after the Question Hour, leader of the Congress in the House Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury accused the Centre of failing the China policy while Prime Minister Narendra Modi makes "tall claims". He said that Modi Government failed to prevent the continuous interference and intrusion by China into India territories.

"China had intruded into Doklam area in the past and created a lot of trouble for us and now. The recent attempt to enter into our territory in Ladakh's Demchok area and disturbing the people," accused Chowdhury, leading to protests from the Treasury Benches.

Cutting short the Congress leader's speech, Speaker Om Birla invited Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari to speak on his Ministry's Demands for Grants in connection with Union Budget. Protesting this Congress MPs staged walkout for a brief time.

Def Min bars all business for one year with Switzerland-based Pilatus Aircraft

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry has suspended all commercial dealings for one year with Switzerland-based Pilatus Aircraft Limited following alleged corruption charges. The decision came after the CBI in June registered a case against arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari, officials of the Swiss company, unknown officials of the IAF and the defence ministry. Pilatus supplied 72 basic trainer aircraft to the IAF and is alleged Rs 339 crore was paid as kickbacks. The deal was worth over Rs 2,896 crores and inked in May 2012.

The order to suspend business dealings issued on July 12 was for violating the pre-contract integrity pact (PCIP) and will remain in force for one year until further orders. It referred to the ongoing investigation by the CBI, Delhi Police, Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax Department into "corrupt practices, unfair means and illegal activities" by the company.

Under the PCIP of November 12, 2010, Pilatus had agreed that while presenting the bid or during pre-con-



tract negotiation or before signing the contract, it shall disclose any payments made, committed or intended to be made to officials of the buyer or their family members, agents, brokers or any intermediaries in connection with the contract and the details of the services agreed upon such payments.

The Defence Ministry received reports of engagement of agents by Pilatus for assistance in the sale of the basic trainer aircraft for the IAF on payment of a commission, according to the vigilance department order.

The ministry had written a letter to the company in December 2016 asking it to offer comments on the report

along with details of any such engagement.

In its response submitted in January 2017, the company admitted engaging Offset India Solutions, a firm belonging to fugitive arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari, for the successful resolution, approval or implementation of Pilatus offset proposals, plans and obligations. The ministry then issued a show cause notice as the reply was not found satisfactory.

The CBI registered a regular case on June 19 this year under sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code. The investigations by the ED and I-T Department are also under-

SC seeks report in 3 months from Centre appointed expert panel on aircraft fumigation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre informed the Supreme Court Tuesday that it has constituted a high-powered 8-member expert panel to ascertain the benefits and hazards of spraying insecticides or fumigation in aircraft with passengers on board.

The top court gave three months till October 31 to the panel to submit final report and suggest interim measures at the earliest.

A bench of Justice DY Chandrachud and Indira Banerjee was informed by the Centre's counsel that a notification on the modalities and working of the high-powered panel will be issued during the week.

As per the note submitted by the Centre, the eight member panel include — Principal Advisor (Public Health), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Chairman); Director of National Centre for Disease Control (Member); Director of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme

(Member); Representative of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (Member) and Head of Epidemiology & Communicable Disease of Indian Council of Medical Research (Member).

The other three members are National Professional Officer, International Health Regulation, WHO (Member); Airport Health Officer, Delhi (Member), and Deputy Assistant Director General (International Health) as Member Secretary.

The Centre's note further said that the panel will take a considered decision and inform the top court. Senior advocate Saurabh Kirpal, appearing for Interglobe Aviation Ltd (Indigo Airlines) and others, said that as it was a Monsoon season, some interim measures needed to be taken.

The bench said it was a policy decision the Centre has to take, but the high-powered panel may suggest some interim measures as early as possible.

IN PARLIAMENT

Of 8K cold storages 92% owned by private entities, says Tomar

THERE IS NO HARMFUL EFFECT OF FERTILIZERS ON SOIL FERTILITY IF APPLIED IN BALANCED MANNER: TOMAR

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There are 8,038 cold storages in the country with a capacity of 36.77 million tonnes and 92 per cent of the capacity is owned and operated by private entities.

In a reply to Lok Sabha, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Tuesday said against total stocks of 741.41 LMT (as on June 1, 2019), the total storage capacity available with FCI, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and state agencies (both owned and hired capacity), is 862.45 LMT (as on May 31, 2019) comprising 739.76 LMT in covered godowns and 122.69 LMT in Cover and Plinth (CAP) storage.

"As per the latest available information received from States, there are 8,038 cold

storages with capacity of 36.77 million tonnes in the country," he said during Question Hour. As per a study on All India Cold-chain Infrastructure Capacity, there was cold storage capacity of 32 million tonnes in the country against an approximate requirement of 35 million tonnes.

The Minister said the base line survey conducted during December, 2013 by M/s Hansa Research Group estimated that 92 per cent of cold storage are owned and operated by private sector, three per cent cooperative and remaining five per cent are under Public Sector.

Tomar said the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution deals with storage of foodgrains post procurement by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and state agencies.

Replying to another question, the minister said as such there is no harmful effect of fertilizers on soil fertility if applied in a balanced and judicious manner.

"The average rate of consumption of chemical fertilizers in the country is only around 134 kg per hectare. The

fertility of soil is being lost in certain situations mainly due to imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers coupled with low use of organic manures," he said.

Tomar said the government has been implementing 'Soil Health Card' (SHC) scheme since 2015 to assist state governments in soil testing and providing soil health cards to all farm holdings in the country regularly in a cycle of 2 years.

Soil health cards provide information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendations on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.

"So far 411 new static Soil Testing Labs (STLs), 100 new mobile STLs, 8,752 mini STLs and 1,562 village level STLs have been sanctioned under the scheme since 2014-15. This includes 6 mobile STLs and 28 village level STLs sanctioned to Bihar.

"Out of these sanctioned labs, 129 new static Soil Testing Labs (STLs), 86 new mobile STLs, 6,498 mini STLs and 17 village level STLs are already established," he said.

PMJAY: Around 3L patients made ₹4,405 crore claims

Gujarat tops list with claims worth ₹915 cr followed by TN and K'taka

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Around ₹4,405 crore worth of claims by over 3 lakh patients have been made for health insurance under the Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) scheme since it was launched in September last year.

According to the latest data tabled in Parliament on Tuesday, Gujarat tops the list with claims worth ₹915 crore followed by Tamil Nadu at ₹618 crore and Karnataka (₹553 crore). The scheme has been most availed in Chhattisgarh where 611,216 patients enrolled for the claim followed by Kerala (574,448) and Gujarat (523,011).

However, states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh, which

have poor health indicators, are not the biggest users of the scheme as just 56,139, 130,721 and 107,718 patients registered under the scheme respectively, contrary to the expectations. In fact, in as many as four States less than hundred patients used the scheme. Similarly, Northeastern States except Assam too are yet to warm up to the scheme.

In West Bengal, which was initially reluctant to implement the scheme had 17,636 patients registered under the scheme with claim of over ₹17 crore. (See table) Only Delhi, Odisha and Telangana have not signed the MoU for implementation of AB-PMJAY.

Replying to a query, Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health said that under the scheme, the States have the flexibility to choose the mode of implementation.

They can either implement it in insurance mode, or through a trust or in a mixed mode i.e both the insurance and trust mode. The States implementing scheme through Insurance mode

select Insurance Company through open tendering process. The private insurance companies are allowed to bid in the open tendering process to allow level playing field, said the Minister.

However, he added, the decision lies with the State Government concerned and the government has no role in the selection of Insurance company.

Choubey further said that under the scheme, 1393 procedures have been laid down for treatment of beneficiaries.

AB-PMJAY provides a cover of up to ₹5 lakhs per family per year, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to over 10.74 crore vulnerable entitled families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries).

PMJAY provides cashless and paperless access to services for the beneficiary at the point of service. Over 15,000 hospitals and health care providers have been empanelled across the country to provide healthcare services as per these packages, as per the Ministry.

DETAILS OF HOSPITALISATION UNDER AB-PMJAY

State	No of hospital admissions	Amount for hospital admissions
Andaman And Nicobar Islands	23	69,900
Andhra Pradesh	147,378	4,149,416,562
Arunachal Pradesh	709	11,894,687
Assam	57,176	837,883,007
Bihar	56,139	565,105,942
Chandigarh	958	8,793,795
Chhattisgarh	611,216	4,467,368,971
Dadra And Nagar Haveli	13,327	84,385,920
Daman And Diu	5,031	42,497,182
Goa	1,415	45,784,121
Gujarat	523,011	9,152,275,799
Haryana	31,985	423,768,613
Himachal Pradesh	21,621	189,594,841
Jammu & Kashmir	23,712	143,539,076
Jharkhand	201,369	1,553,624,781
Karnataka	218,461	5,530,356,358
Kerala	574,448	2,863,340,460
Madhya Pradesh	107,718	1,505,484,559
Maharashtra	148,753	3,866,353,985
Manipur	3,801	61,403,820
Meghalaya	21,581	136,463,418
Mizoram	14,823	81,043,280
Nagaland	1,265	12,524,639
Sikkim	171	1,099,250
Tamil Nadu	256,395	6,186,951,217
Tripura	20,499	64,803,621
Uttar Pradesh	130,721	1,434,346,595
Uttarakhand	55,379	462,166,166
West Bengal	17,636	170,981,470
Grand Total	3,266,721	44,053,322,035

If there is no consensus in school, serve eggs at home: Baghel Govt

Schools asked to call meeting of Shala Vikas Samiti immediately over serving eggs in mid-day meal



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The state government on Tuesday tweaked its earlier order on serving eggs in mid-day meal saying in those schools where there were reservations among some parents over serving this non-vegetarian food, it should be served to the willing students at their home.

The School education department through a clarification made the changes to its earlier order on inclusion of eggs in the mid-day meal menu after a religious sect opposed the government's move saying it was hurting religious sentiment of its followers.

The department also

It was also instructed to serve vegetarian students soya milk, protein crunch, fortified biscuits, fortified soyabadis, and cooked fortified pulses as an alternative to eggs.

asked the district collectors to instruct the schools to immediately call a meeting of Shala Vikas Samitis to sort out the issue.

"If there is no

consensus in the meeting of Shala Vikas Samiti (which consists of parents of the students apart from public representatives) then the eggs must be served to those students who opt for it at their homes", the department instructed.

The department also instructed that separate utensils must be used for cooking of eggs for the mid-day meal and there should be separate sitting arrangements for vegetarian and non-vegetarian students.

It also instructed to serve vegetarian students soya milk, protein crunch, fortified biscuits, fortified soyabadis, and cooked fortified pulses as an alternative to eggs.

DGP Awasthi given additional charges of SIB, Naxal Operations

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

State government through an order on Tuesday assigned Director General of Police D.M. Awasthi additional charges of Director General Special Investigation Bureau (SIB) and Director General, Naxal Operation.

In the same order another police official of 1987 batch IPS, Vinay Kumar Singh, who was holding the charges of Director General, Economic Offence Wing (EOW) and Anti Corruption Bureau had been given the charge of Director General Home Guard and Citizen Security.

The newly assigned post



to Singh had been declared a par to the post of Special Director General.

IHM not functional even after spending ₹24 crore

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The proposed Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Raipur (IHM) could not be made functional even after 13 years of its inception and spending ₹24 crore in salaries and building construction.

This was stated by tourism minister Tamradhwaj Sahu in a written reply on the third day of monsoon session of Chhattisgarh Assembly.

JCC (J) member Ajit Jogi wanted to know from the minister how many students had passed out from the institute in 2018-19, what was the total expenditure incurred in building construction and purchase of equipment, set-up and others activities and how much was spent till December

2018 for salary and allowances. Sahu in reply admitted that though the institute was registered in the year 2006 under Registrar, Firm and Society, Raipur, till date the academic session could not be commenced.

A total of ₹20,71,71,351 was spent in the construction of building and an amount of ₹3,31,69,528 was spent in salaries and allowances. No laboratory equipment had been installed. Raising supplementary question, Jogi said it was shameful that even after spending Rs 23 crore on building and teacher and director for last 13 years, not a single candidate has passed out of the institute. "It is a crime. Who should be held responsible for it and against whom action will be taken," he asked.

Suspected Naxal held in Sukma

SUKMA: A suspected Naxal was arrested near Pedaras weekly market in Sukma district, police said on Tuesday.

According to police the arrested ultra was identified as Kawasi Budhra (22), a resident of Chhotegodam village under Kuknar police station limits.

He was arrested during a search operation carried out by a team of CRPF and district police.

Budhra was wanted in connection with a case registered with Kuknar police station, police said.

As per the official data with the state police department so far in 2019 security forces have arrested 244 Maoists.

Likewise, in different Naxal encounters 34 bodies of the ultra have been found while 160 Naxals disenchanted from Maoists ideology have given up arms.

Chhattisgarh State Assembly: Monsoon Session

Assembly adjourned till Thursday after din over farmers 'plight'

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The third day of the monsoon session of the Chhattisgarh assembly on Tuesday witnessed noisy scenes with opposition demanding suspension of all business to discuss issues of farmers, prompting Speaker Charandas Mahant to adjourn the House till Thursday.

After their demand for discussion on the issue through an adjournment motion was not heeded by the Speaker, the BJP members staged a sit-in demonstration before the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in the assembly premises.

The ruckus started when during the zero hour, BJP members Shivratn Sharma and Narayan Chandel raised the issue of farm loans waiver, drought-like situation in the state, and frequent power cuts and sought discussions on the problems through an

adjournment motion.

JCC (J) MLA from Marwahi Ajit Jogi chipping in said farmers were facing crises while former chief minister Raman Singh said the discussion on the subject was needed as only 65% loan was waived off, the farmers were denied fresh loans and the lack of monsoon causing further woe to the farmers.

BJP member Ajay Chandrakar said even the Rain God was angry and added that a "conspiracy" was on to procure seeds from outside the state.

BSP MLA Keshav Chandra also wanted a discussion on the issue.

Another JCC (J) member Dharamjeet Singh said state farmers would be in real trouble if shortage of rains, lack of seed, fertilizers and power continued for a month.



Parliamentary affairs minister Ravindra Choubey said the issues the Opposition wanted to discuss were pertaining to different departments. On this, Leader of the Opposition Dharmal Kaushik said all these issues were related to farmers and hence discussion could be held by integrating

them. BJP member Brijmohan Agrawal said the monsoon session was for farmers.

After the adjournment motion was turned down, the opposition members and treasury benches started exchanging verbal duals leading to adjournment of the House for 10 minutes.

The BJP members then gathered in front of the Mahatma Gandhi's statue to register their protest.

As soon as the House reassembled, several opposition members trooped to the well raising slogans against the government. For their act, as per the rule of the assembly, 17 members who had rushed to the well automatically got suspended for the day's proceedings. But the Speaker withdrew their suspension.

At that time agriculture minister Ravindra Choubey was replying to a call attention motion moved by Congress member Arun Vora, who raised the issue of substandard seed and fertilizer being provided to the farmers.

As the din continued, Speaker then adjourned the House till Thursday.



Shravan, the sacred month for Hindus, will begin on Wednesday. Markets near famous Lord Shiva Temple in Mahadev Ghat on outskirts of capital city Raipur are decked up with dresses of 'Kanwars', who offer sacred Kharun water to the Shivalinga in the temple. Photo Santosh Sahu

Alternative options to demolition of skywalk being explored: Tamradhwaj

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The state government was exploring alternative options to razing of the under-construction skywalk in Raipur, public works department minister Tamradhwaj Sahu said in a written reply on third day of the monsoon session of the assembly.

JCC (J) member Dr Renu Jogi had sought details from the PWD minister about the length of the skywalk, from where to where it would be constructed, status of the construction, total estimated budget for it and the amount spent on it. She also wanted to



know about the outcome of its utility survey and whether the government

was considering its demolition or exploring other alternatives if it was deemed

unfit for use. Sahu in the reply stated that the total length of the

under construction skywalk is 1470 metres. From Shastri chowk to Multilevel parking it is 616 metres, towards Dr B R Ambedkar Hospital it is 590 metres and from Shastri chowk to Rotary department it is 266 metres, which is to be constructed.

Around 50 percent of the works had been completed. The estimated budget sanctioned for it is Rs 77.10 crore out of which Rs 36.44 crore has been spent, the House was informed.

Minister further stated that in case the under construction skywalk was rendered useless then the government would also examine alternative options to demolition.

Cannabis worth around ₹14 cr seized in Bastar in 4 years

RAIPUR: Police registered about 400 cases of smuggling of cannabis in Bastar region and seized about 38,000 kg of the contraband worth around ₹14 crore between 2015 and June 2019, home minister Tamradhwaj Sahu said in a written reply during the monsoon session of the state legislative assembly on Tuesday.

The minister was replying to a question raised by Congress legislator from Jagdalpur, Rekhchand Jain.

In all, 395 cases were registered between 2015 and June 2019. The market value of the seized cannabis was ₹13.93 crore, the minister said.

He further informed that to stop illegal cannabis farming no joint operation was being carried out, but constant monitoring was being done by the police stations located on the borders of both the states.

No mobile, please: Speaker tells members

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh State Assembly Speaker Charandas Mahant expressed his ire over the ringing of a mobile phone inside the House in the midst of proceedings. He directed members not to bring their cell phone inside the House, or to keep it in silent mode. During the Question Hour, mobile phone of a member rang. The mobile phone continued to buzz for a long period, creating distraction. Speaker then stood from his seat and gave the directive. It's, however, a norm not to bring mobile inside the House.

NTPC-Sipat carries out plantation drive

STAFF REPORTER ■ BILASPUR

Sipat Super Thermal Power Station of the NTPC Limited carried out a massive plantation drive this monsoon to protect environment and to spread green cover in and around the power plant.

The programme was inaugurated with sapling plantation at over burden area by Padmakumar Rajasekharan, chief general manager (NTPC-Sipat) in the presence of other general managers and officials of Chhattisgarh Van Vikas Nigam on Tuesday, the NTPC said in a statement.

Under this programme, 2000 saplings will be planted in association with Chhattisgarh Van Vikas Nigam. Total cost of plantation



drive will be borne by the NTPC. Similarly another plantation programme was carried out by Corporate Social Responsibility Department of the NTPC Sipat at

State Mental Health Hospital, Sendri, Bilaspur. Dr. B R Nanda, hospital's superintendent and entire staff whole heartedly participated in the programme.



It has been decided to plant 1000 saplings at the premises of State Mental Health Hospital, Sendri. On this occasion Dr. B R Hotchandani, MD, Medicine, Dr.

J P Arya, MD, Orthopaedics, A K Bokhad, DGM, CSR, doctors and hospital staffer and NTPC Sipat officials contributed for environment protection.

Kanwar yatra begins today

Haridwar: The annual Kanwar yatra is set to begin on Wednesday and security has been tightened on routes to be used by Shiva devotees to collect sacred waters of the Ganga river from Har Ki Pauri and other ghats here. Around 10,000 police and paramilitary personnel, including bomb disposal and anti-terrorist squads have been deployed along the routes besides installation of CCTV and drone cameras in the fair area to maintain a tight vigil, IG Ashok Kumar said.

Anusuiya Uikey...

From Page 1
Ahead of the bypolls to 12 Assembly seats, the BJP on Tuesday appointed OBC leader and UP Cabinet Minister Swatantra Dev Singh as the new State party chief. Belonging to the influential backward Kurmi caste, 55-year-old Singh replaces Mahendra Nath Pandey, a Brahmin leader, who moved to the Centre on his re-election to the Lok Sabha from Chandauli. Sticking to his one man, one post policy, the BJP changed the UP party chief as Pandey was inducted into the Union Ministry. Since the upcoming Assembly bypolls will be the first major test for the BJP after the Lok Sabha win, Singh has his task cut out for him. Chandrakant Patil's appointment in Maharashtra comes as the BJP is gearing up to retain power in the western State in the Assembly polls due later this year. He is a Maratha, the largest caste in the State. He is credited for playing a key role in assuaging the community following its long protests demanding quota in Government jobs and educational institutions.

KULBUSHAN JADHAV CASE ICJ to deliver verdict today

PTI ■ THE HAGUE

The International Court of Justice will deliver on Wednesday its verdict in a case relating to Indian national Kulbushan Jadhav, whose death sentence by a Pakistani military court based on an "extracted confession" has been questioned by India.

Jadhav, 49, a retired Indian Navy officer, was sentenced to death by the Pakistani military court on charges of "espionage and terrorism" after a closed trial in April 2017. His sentencing evoked a sharp reaction in India.

President of the Court Judge Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf will read out the verdict during a public sitting which will take place at 3 pm (6.30 pm IST) on Wednesday at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands.

The verdict in the high-profile case comes nearly five months after a 15-member bench of ICJ led by Judge Yusuf had reserved its decision on February 21 after hearing oral submissions by India and Pakistan. The proceedings of the case took two years and two months to complete.

Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Muhammad Faisal said that Pakistan has fully contested the case before the ICJ.

"Pakistan was hoping for



the best and would accept the decision of ICJ," he was quoted as saying by state-run Associated Press of Pakistan.

India moved the ICJ in May 8, 2017 for the "egregious violation" of the provisions of the Vienna Convention by Pakistan by repeatedly denying New Delhi consular access to Jadhav. A Bench of the ICJ, which was set up after World War II to resolve international disputes, on May 18, 2017 had restrained Pakistan from executing Jadhav till adjudication of the case.

A four-day public hearing in the high-profile case took place in February amidst heightened tensions between India and Pakistan following one of the worst terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed terror group that killed 40 CRPF soldiers on February 14.

During the hearing in ICJ, both India and Pakistan submitted their detailed pleas and responses.

KVIC bags big order

New Delhi: The flagship store of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Khadi Bhawan at

Connaught Place in New Delhi has bagged order worth over Rs 7.03 crore from the Oil India Limited (OIL), in the form of Khadi gift coupons for its 14,064 employees. The OIL agreed to gift Khadi coupons of ₹5,000 to each of its 14,064 employees in its all units across the nation. The employees, however, would be able to purchase Khadi and Village Industries products worth ₹6,500 from the coupon of ₹5,000. The coupons, which had already been delivered, could be redeemed throughout the year at all Departmental Sales Outlets. In another order, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) had also ordered 800 gift coupons in denomination of ₹1,000 for its 800 staff.

Notorious drug peddler held in Delhi

12.00 GRAM OF HASHISH, CALIFORNIA WEED WEIGHING ONE GRAM, 500 MG CANNABIS OIL SEIZED

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The arrest of Karan Khanna, a 32-year-old member of an inter-State drug peddling racket in national Capital on Tuesday, has led the sleuths of Delhi Police Crime Branch to a vortex of drug peddling. Khanna who is singing like a canary, has disclosed a startling trend: that there was a huge spurt in the consumption of hashish (charas), marijuana and other narcotic drugs among high profile people in the city. Police have also seized around 12,000 gram of hashish, California weed weighing one gram and 500 mg cannabis oil meant for supply in reputed educational institutes, clubs, hotels and lounges here.

The team of crime branch, Delhi Police arrested key member of the racket Karan Khanna, a resident of South Delhi's Radhey Mohan Drive near Chhattarpur.

Police said the accused used super luxury cars and SUVs to supply narcotics drugs

to different places in the city. "On July 15, specific inputs were received that Karan was indulged in supplying of imported marijuana, marijuana oil, cannabis oil and malana cream (charas) to persons organizing parties at farm houses in South Delhi," said Dr G Ram Gopal Naik, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Crime Branch.

"Acting on the inputs, a trap was laid near Tivoli Garden Mehrauli and Karan was apprehended," said the DCP. "During interrogation, the accused disclosed that in 2012 he started procuring charas from Himachal and then supplying the same to his friends who were organising private parties in farmhouses of South Delhi. Later on, his brother also joined his nefarious activities and both of them started supplying of narcotics substance in rave parties which were organized in farmhouses," said the DCP.

"Both of them were regular party mongers and used to



Notorious drug peddler Karan Khanna in the custody of Delhi Police

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

organise their own parties also. For this purpose, they have taken two farmhouses on rent in the isolated area of Mehrauli and Fatehpur Beri. To supply

narcotics substance to foreigners in city, Karan's brother also came in contact with the suppliers of imported narcotic substance dealers. The recover-

ered substance was to be delivered on the directions of his brother," said the DCP adding that further investigation is on.

Shivraj, MP Govt spar over proposed Sita temple in Lanka

PTI ■ BHOPAL

BJP leader Shivraj Singh Chouhan alleged on Tuesday that the Congress Government in Madhya Pradesh was "checking the facts" instead of executing his proposal to build a temple to Sita at Divurumpola in Sri Lanka.

The Government retorted that it was an empty promise made by the former Chief Minister as nothing was formalised.

"The entire country and the world know that Sita was kept in Ashok Vatika in Sri Lanka, where she had to go through 'Agni Pariksha' (ordeal by fire). When I visited Sri Lanka, it occurred to me that a grand temple should be built at this site. I am surprised that this Kamal Nath government is talking about checking the facts," Chouhan tweeted in Hindi.

In a video tagged with the tweet, the former chief minister claimed that necessary approvals had been secured for the temple from the Sri Lankan government as well as the Centre.

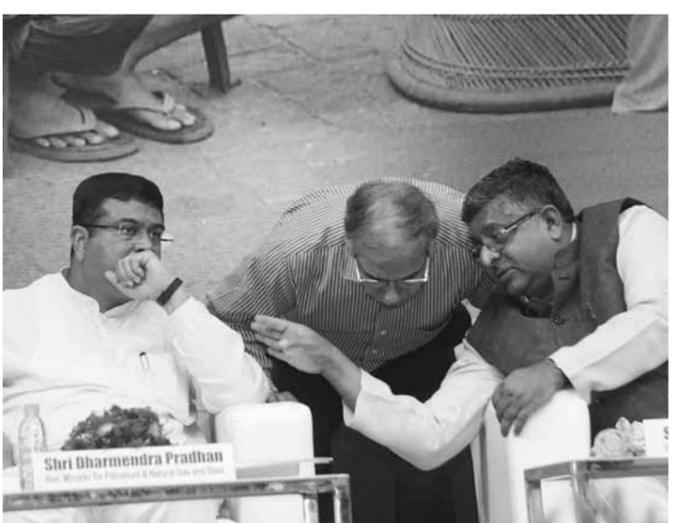
JNU security guard cracks entrance test despite all odds

New Delhi: Where there's a will, there's a way! This proverbial truth aptly applies to Ramjal Meena, 34, a security guard at the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University, who has cracked the varsity's entrance examination and will be studying at the Centre for Russian language.

"I have cleared the entrance test for BA in the Russian language. Now, I will study the Russian language here in the university for the next five years," he said.

He belongs to a small village Bhajera in Karauli district in Rajasthan, Meena had an endless struggle during the course of his journey to what he has been able to achieve today.

Meena said students have encouraged him especially ex-JNUSU presidential candidate and Kaveri Hostel resident Farooque Alam, who has also done his MA in the same subject encouraged him to face entrance test. He was serving at Kaveri Hostel at the time of preparation.



Union Ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad and Dharmendra Pradhan with CEO of Common Service Centre Dinesh Tyagi at CSC Women Village Level Enumerator (VLE) Workshop to Celebrate CSC Diwas in the Capital on Tuesday

Pioneer photo

PM seeks list of truant...

From Page 1

He also suggested MPs to take up work of animal welfare measures and tend them if they fall ill. The Prime Minister asked MPs to focus on their constituencies and make good impression on public as he said "first impression is the last impression". In the first Parliamentary party meet after the returning to power, Modi had taken a very dim view of the conduct of party MLA Akash, son of general secretary Kailash Vijayvargia, who had assaulted a civic official in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. In a briefing after the meeting, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi told reporters that Modi asked BJP MPs to nurse their constituencies by playing a leading role in its development and advised them to take up a cause of human sensitivity like eradication of leprosy or tuberculosis and water conservation. Joshi said the Prime Minister also noted that India has fixed a deadline of 2025 for eradicating TB against the global deadline of 2030 and asked MPs to work for its removal.

Finally, RTR flyover sees light, to unclog road to IGIA

From Page 1

LR Gupta, resident of Satya Niketan, said, "The RTR flyover has finally thrown open to the public after missing many deadlines but there will be not much impact on the traffic as the Moti Bagh traffic will clog this route." However, new RTR flyover will reduce traffic congestion and air pollution by saving 1,32,000 litres of diesel per day that lead to at least 25.8 tonne/day reduction in CO2 emission. 4.32 lakh trees would have been required to absorb this quantum of CO2. Around 7.7 lakh man-days per year will be saved. Total amount of ₹75.74 crore. per year will be saved (1/c carbon credit of ₹64,000 lakh / year). Break-even will be achieved within 32 months, added the PWD official. ar and others.

Pakistan opens airspace, Indian airlines relieved

From Page 1

AI 784 — coming from San Francisco — were among the first flights by an Indian carrier to pass through Pakistan airspace on Tuesday.

"The pilot on AI 184 came to know about the opening of Pakistan airspace while en-route from San Francisco. The flight landed in Delhi around 7 am in the morning," an Air India official said.

Welcoming Pakistan's decision, Air India said its operation costs for one-way US and Europe-bound flights are likely to come down by ₹20 lakh and ₹5 lakh, respectively while IndiGo, India's largest airline by domestic market share, stated that it is "pleased" with the opening of Pakistan airspace and its flights flying via Pakistan "will operate as normal after all regulatory clearances".

Following Pakistan's move, India also issued a "revised NOTAM", announcing that normal air traffic operations have resumed between the two countries.

"Consequent to Pakistan issuing NOTAM to lift all airspace restrictions, relevant authorities have informed that India has also issued revised NOTAM immediately thereafter. With this, normal air traffic operations have resumed through all Flight Information Regions between India and Pakistan," a Government source told PTI.

11 dead, 40 trapped in...

From Page 1

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis ordered a detailed inquiry into the collapse and fix responsibilities. The Dongri building collapse comes 17 days after 15 persons — most of whom labourers and their family members from West Bengal and Bihar — were killed when a compound wall of a posh residential housing collapsed on their hutments near Talab Masjid Pune's Kondhwa locality in the small hours of June 29. Soon after the Kesarbai building collapse, a blame game began between the BMC and the State-run Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) over the jurisdiction and responsibility for the mishap, after it emerged that a portion of the building was completely illegal. Given that the Kesarbai building is located in south Mumbai's most congested area, the operations became extremely difficult as the

rescuers had to navigate through lanes and by-lanes before they could begin the search and rescue operations. Matters got complicated further as political leaders rushed to the site along with their supporters after television channels went to town about the mishap. Such was the chaos at the mishap site that JCB machines or heavy earth moving machines could not be taken in. Even ambulances had to be parked around 50 meters away from the crash site. Maharashtra Minister Girish Mahajan, who was among the Ministers that rushed to the site, said: "The lanes here are very narrow. That's why this has become the most difficult rescue operations ever". On their part, the local residents sought to be circumspect in dealing with the situation, as they formed human chains around the collapsed building, to facilitate the rescuers to carry on with their operations. The local people also helped the NDRF and fire brigade teams in removing the debris.

SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
"A MINI RATNA COMPANY"
E-TENDER NOTICE

1. NIT No: GM/BHAT/SURVEY/e-Tender/2019-20/22, Date 09.07.2019, TenderID: 2019_SECL_143900_1, Location of work: Shiwani U.G.Mine, Estimated Cost: 11,14,426 Description of Work: Transportation of 1000 mm belt material with all accessories from 107 L West Panel to 119 L West development Panel at Shiwani U.G.Mine. Start date&time for submission of bid: 09.07.2019 at 05 PM, Last Date & Time for submission of bid: 01.08.2019 at 05 PM, Date & Time for opening of bid: 03.08.2019 at 05 PM. SO(MM),Bhatgaon Area

2. NIT No: GM/BHAT/CVLE/e-Tender/19-20/25, Date 11.07.2019, TenderID: 2019_SECL_144130_1, Location of work: SECL, Bhatgaon Area, Estimated Cost: 5,44,495 Description of Work: Photocopy work of General Manager's Office of SECL, Bhatgaon Area. Start date&time for submission of bid: 13.07.2019 at 10 AM, Last Date & Time for submission of bid: 23.07.2019 at 05 PM, Date & Time for opening of bid: 25.07.2019 at 11 AM. SO(Civil),Bhatgaon Area

3. NIT No: SECL/GM/RGH/MMW/2019-20/20/10, Date 11.07.2019, TenderID: 2019_SECL_144106_1, Location of work: Raigarh Area, Estimated Cost: 33,32,200 Description of Work: PROCUREMENT OF FOUR STAGE CRUSHING EQUIPMENT FOR COAL SAMPLE PREPARATION. Start date&time for submission of bid: 12.07.2019 at 10AM, Last Date & Time for submission of bid: 13.08.2019 at 05 PM, Date & Time for opening of bid: 16.08.2019 at 11 AM. SO(MM),Raigarh Area

4. NIT No: SECL/GM/RGH/MMW/2019-20/20/05, Date 12.07.2019, TenderID: 2019_SECL_144264_1, Location of work: Raigarh Area, Estimated Cost: 6,46,279 Description of Work: PROCUREMENT OF NON PRINTING STATIONARY ITEMS. Start date&time for submission of bid: 13.07.2019 at 10 AM, Last Date & Time for submission of bid: 13.08.2019 at 05 PM, Date & Time for opening of bid: 16.08.2019 at 11 AM. SO(MM),Raigarh Area

5. NIT No: AGM/HSD/S.O.(M)/e-Tend/19-20/127, Date 12.07.2019, TenderID: 2019_SECL_144067_1, Location of work: Hasdeo Area, Estimated Cost: 8,35,321 Description of Work: Construction of 4 nos of new air crossings at 78L/82R and 83R and 79L/82R and 83R to ventilate proposed development panel 78LW in seam V top at Baherabandh UG Mine of Hasdeo Area. Start date&time for submission of bid: 12.07.2019 at 10 AM, Last Date & Time for submission of bid: 01.08.2019 at 05 PM, Date & Time for opening of bid: 03.08.2019 at 10 AM. SO(M),Hasdeo Area

6. NIT No: AGM/HSD/S.O.(M)/e-Tend/19-20/128, Date 12.07.2019, TenderID: 2019_SECL_144070_1, Location of work: Hasdeo Area, Estimated Cost: 9,34,916 Description of Work: (i) Periodical shifting of gate end box, drill panel machine and their cables and support of cable, main ACB with 100m armoured cable, auxiliary fan with air duct of 100m length starter equipments. (ii) Assistance required for maintenance of LHD/JDM for 14 Rise day. Panel in seam Cat Kurja UG Mine. Start date&time for submission of bid: 12.07.2019 at 10 AM, Last Date & Time for submission of bid: 01.08.2019 at 05 PM, Date & Time for opening of bid: 03.08.2019 at 10 AM. SO(M),Hasdeo Area

7. NIT No: AGM/HSD/S.O.(M)/e-Tend/19-20/129, Date 12.07.2019, TenderID: 2019_SECL_144073_1, Location of work: Hasdeo Area, Estimated Cost: 17,84,756 Description of Work: Cleaning and removal of loose coal/debris of 80D 1st and 80D 2nd belt conveyor at Baherabandh UG Mine of Hasdeo Area. Start date&time for submission of bid: 12.07.2019 at 10 AM, Last Date & Time for submission of bid: 01.08.2019 at 05 PM, Date & Time for opening of bid: 03.08.2019 at 10 AM. SO(M),Hasdeo Area

8. NIT No: AGM/HSD/S.O.(M)/e-Tend/19-20/130, Date 12.07.2019, TenderID: 2019_SECL_144080_1, Location of work: Hasdeo Area, Estimated Cost: 35,06,760 Description of Work: Assistance required for day to day maintenance of man rider at Jhiria UG Mine of Hasdeo Area. Start date&time for submission of bid: 12.07.2019 at 10 AM, Last Date & Time for submission of bid: 01.08.2019 at 05 PM, Date & Time for opening of bid: 03.08.2019 at 10 AM. SO(M),Hasdeo Area

9. NIT No: AGM/HSD/S.O.(M)/e-Tend/19-20/131, Date 12.07.2019, TenderID: 2019_SECL_144083_1, Location of work: Hasdeo Area, Estimated Cost: 30,39,342 Description of Work: Cleaning and removal of spillage coal along conveyor no-5,6,7,8,9,10 and 11 with discharge point and one tailing point and loading the same on belt in CHP at Bijuri Colliery. Start date&time for submission of bid: 12.07.2019 at 10 AM, Last Date & Time for submission of bid: 01.08.2019 at 05 PM, Date & Time for opening of bid: 03.08.2019 at 10 AM. SO(M),Hasdeo Area

10. NIT No: AGM/HSD/S.O.(M)/e-Tend/19-20/132, Date 12.07.2019, TenderID: 2019_SECL_144085_1, Location of work: Hasdeo Area, Estimated Cost: 10,61,442 Description of Work: Cleaning of fallen coal below surface tippler, along "B" belt and loading the same in to belt at west JKD colliery. Start date&time for submission of bid: 12.07.2019 at 10 AM, Last Date & Time for submission of bid: 01.08.2019 at 05 PM, Date & Time for opening of bid: 03.08.2019 at 10 AM. SO(M),Hasdeo Area

11. NIT No: SECL/AGM/HSD/APC/19-20/025, Date 06.07.2019, TenderID: 2019_SECL_143726_1, Location of work: Hasdeo Area, Estimated Cost: 25,48,800 Description of Work: P.P. TUBE. Start date&time for submission of bid: 08.07.2019, Last Date & Time for submission of bid: 30.07.2019, Date & Time for opening of bid: 01.08.2019. SO(MM),Hasdeo Area

Note: For details and submission of bid please visit website www. eprocure.gov.in, and e-procurement portal of CIL https://coalindia.tenders.nic.in & www.secl-cil.in. In Case of any Misprinting/Error, details as per website document will be considered as final.

COAL : PRIME SOURCE OF ENERGY

नाम परिवर्तन

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि PRASAD D. RAUT निवासी P-8, DUBEY COLONY, MOWA, SADDU, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH - 492007. यह शपथ करता है कि मैं अपना यह पुराना नाम और पता को त्याग कर नया नाम PRASAD RAUT S/O DAULAT BAPURAO RAUT और पता P-8, DUBEY COLONY, MOWA, SADDU, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH. रख लिया है. अतः आज से समस्त शासकीय, अर्धशासकीय व अन्य दस्तावेजों में नये नाम PRASAD RAUT S/O DAULAT BAPURAO RAUT से ही जाना पहचाना जाय।

PRASAD RAUT
P-8, Dubey Colony, Mowa, Saddu, Raipur (C.G.) 492007

छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता
महानदी गोदावरी कछार, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(प्रथम आयंत्रण)

सिस्टम निविदा क्र. 53050/निविदा सूचना क्र. 02/वर्ग/19/2019-20, वेबेस पर दिनांक 16.07.2019

निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए दिनांक 06.08.2019 17:30 तक ऑन साईट निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं:-

कार्य का नाम - बेमेतरा जिले के विकासखण्ड नवागढ़ की चक्रवाय-तुमा तट सुरक्षा कार्य।

अनुमानित लागत - ₹. 271.98 लाख

अन्य विवरण एवं विस्तृत निविदा छत्तीसगढ़ शासन को ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेब साइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर दिनांक 23.07.2019 समय 17:31 बजे से देखे तथा डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं।

नोट : निविदा में भाग लेने हेतु टेकेंदारों को ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर नामांकित/पंजीन तथा लोक निर्माण विभाग को एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अंतर्गत टेकेंदार को उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीयन कराना अनिवार्य है।

कार्यालय अभियंता
जल संसाधन संभाग, बेमेतरा
कृते मुख्य अभियंता महानदी गोदावरी कछार,
जल संसाधन विभाग, रायपुर, छ.ग.
G-71850/8 Ryp/Dtd 16.7.19

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(Formerly known as IDFC Bank Limited) CIN: L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai - 600031. Tel: +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022.

(Notice Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of the Security Interest Act, 2002)

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from IDFC First Bank Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Bank Limited). The Loans of the below mentioned borrowers and co-borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loans were classified as NPA as per the RBI Guidelines. Amounts due by them to IDFC First Bank Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Bank Limited) are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers	Outstanding as per 13(2) notice	Notice date	Details of secured asset
1.	11728461 12083926	Home Finance LAP	1. Ravi Shankar Dwivedi 2. Ajay Kumar Dwivedi 3. Chandra Shekhar Dwivedi 4. Archana Dwivedi 5. Annapurna Ravishankar Dwivedi	Rs. 24,81,587.83	29/06/2019	Part of KH No. 209 / (1) (OLD) & 209/33 (NEW), Mathpurna, PC No.105 RIC Raipur, Teh & Dist Raipur (C.G.)-492001.

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts due to IDFC First Bank Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Bank Limited) as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc., within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings U/s 13(4) and Sec. 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to IDFC First Bank Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Bank Limited) Further you are prohibited U/s 13(13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured asset either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.

Date : 17.07.2019
Place : Raipur

Authorised Officer
IDFC First Bank Ltd
Formerly Known as IDFC Bank Ltd

Trump and Democrats clash over Prez's 'racist' tweets

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A livid Democratic Party has introduced a resolution in the US House of Representatives, condemning the "racist" tweets of President Donald Trump against four non-white women lawmakers from the Opposition party.

Trump sparked a furore on Sunday when he said the women lawmakers "originally came from countries whose governments are a complete and total catastrophe" and they should go home.

Though Trump did not explicitly name Democrat Congresswomen Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib and Ayanna Pressley in his initial Twitter tirade on Sunday, the context made a clear link to the four Democrat women, who are known as The Squad.

Three of the women were born in the US and one, Omar, was born in Somalia but came to the US as a child.

The Democratic Party introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives condemning the alleged racist tweets. The resolution by Congressman Tom Malinowski could be voted on as early as Tuesday.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Monday said that Republican lawmakers "must join" Democrats in "condemning the President's xenophobic tweets" and urged Democrats to support a resolution put forward by House Democratic lawmakers.

"The House cannot allow the President's characterisation of immigrants to our country to stand. Our Republican colleagues must join us in condemning the President's xenophobic tweets," Pelosi wrote in a Dear Colleague letter to House Democrats.

But Trump, a Republican, was in no mood to relent.

"The Dems were trying to distance themselves from the four 'progressives,' but now they are forced to embrace them. That means they are endorsing Socialism, hate of

Israel and the USA! Not good for the Democrats" Trump said as he unleashed a series of tweets against four Democratic Congresswomen.

The four women lawmakers held a news conference at the Capitol on Monday to denounce a tweet by the president in which he apparently suggested that they leave the country.

"This is a president who has overseen the most corrupt administration in our history," Omar said.

"To distract from that, he's launching a blatantly racist attack on four duly elected members of the United States House of Representatives, all of whom are women of colour," she said.

"This is the agenda of white nationalists, whether it is happening in chat rooms or it's happening on national TV. And now it's reached the White House garden," she said.

"This is simply a disruption and a distraction from the callous chaos and corrupt culture of this administration, all the way down," Pressley said.



Both Omar and Tlaib repeated their calls for Trump to be impeached.

Trump had in a tweet, which was widely considered as against the four Democratic progressive lawmakers, said they should "go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came" before speaking out about how the United States government should be run.



Arden joined a flurry of criticism within the US and by some international leaders directed at Donald Trump, who had tweeted on Sunday that the four Congresswomen -- Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib, Ayanna Pressley -- should "go back" to the countries they came from and falsely implying that they were not natural-born American citizens.

Arden joined a flurry of criticism within the US and by some international leaders directed at Donald Trump, who had tweeted on Sunday that the four Congresswomen -- Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib, Ayanna Pressley -- should "go back" to the countries they came from and falsely implying that they were not natural-born American citizens.

UK PM hopefuls slam tweets, but refuse to call them racist

London: The two candidates vying to become Britain's next Prime Minister both condemned on Monday US President Donald Trump's xenophobic tweets about progressive Democrat congresswomen as "totally offensive" and "totally unacceptable".

But front-runner Boris Johnson and Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt refused to call the tweets racist when pressed to do so during their last debate before next week's announcement of who will succeed Prime Minister Theresa May.

May's spokesman had earlier said that the outgoing leader's view was that Trump's comments were "completely unacceptable".

On Monday, Trump doubled down on a series of his tweets from the day before urging the four congresswomen of colour to "go back" to the countries they came from.

"If you're not happy here, you can leave," Trump told reporters at the White House. Johnson said the original tweets expressed sentiments "that went out decades and decades ago".

"I think the relations between the UK and US are incredibly important," said Johnson.

Trump has developed good relations with Johnson and backs both his leadership bid and determination to take Britain out of EU.

Pressed by the moderator to call Trump's tweets racist, Johnson said: "I've said what I said."

Hunt recalled that he had three half-ethnically Chinese children who are British citizens.

"If anyone said to them, go back to China, I would be utterly appalled," Hunt said.

US fears Iran seized UAE-based tanker in Strait of Hormuz

Dubai: A small oil tanker from the UAE travelling through the Strait of Hormuz entered Iranian waters and turned off its tracker two days ago, leading the US to suspect Iran seized the vessel amid heightened tensions in the region, an American defense official said Tuesday.

NZ PM 'completely disagrees' with Trump's racist tweets

Wellington: New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on Tuesday said she "completely and utterly" disagreed with US President Donald Trump's racist tweets against four non-white Democratic Congresswomen.

In an interview with state broadcaster Radio New Zealand, Ardern said she was proud that in her country, Parliament was meant to represent "a range of different cul-

tures and ethnicities", adding that "never should a judgment be made about the origin of anyone, and their right therefore to be in parliament as a representative".

"We should celebrate our diversity, we do in New Zealand, I'm proud of that and so I obviously take a very different view to President Trump," the Prime Minister added.

China calls Iran N-deal 'irreplaceable'

Dubai: China has called the Iran nuclear deal "irreplaceable" and the sole way to resolve the concerns over Tehran's nuclear programme.

China promoting marriages among Han and Tibetans in Tibet

PTI ■ SHIGATSE (TIBET)

He is a Han and she a Tibetan and, in the best tradition of true love overcoming the biggest odds and the deepest hostilities, they rewrote the rules to become role models for ethnic unity in a restive land and also be officially recognised as "achievers".

Long Shi Zhong and Ba Sang Que Ba fell in love like many do but theirs was a romance with the hurdles built in. Fearing hostilities between the Han and Tibetan ethnic communities they belonged to, the couple had to wait for several years to get married, officials said.

In 2015, they finally did. And now Long and Ba, both in their early 50s, are symbols of ethnic unity in this prefecture-level city of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) of China.

They were apprehensive of the backlash between the two communities. However, there has been a surge in marriages between people from the communities after Long and Ba set an example, he said on the condition of anonymity.

Ci Dan said around 500 families were registered with the community centre in Shigatse, which comprised 40 "mixed marriage" couples.

Relations between the Tibetan people and Chinese authorities came under severe strain after the Chinese army entered various parts of the plateau in 1950.

N Korea warns US-S Korea drills will affect nuclear talks

Seoul: North Korea on Tuesday said looming US-South Korea military drills could impact the proposed resumption of nuclear talks between Pyongyang and Washington, and hinted that it could reconsider its moratorium on nuclear testing.

It was the first statement from Pyongyang on the talks since US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un agreed to an impromptu meeting in the Demilitarized Zone in June, following months of deadlock between the two sides.

The joint drills have been held for years but were scaled down to facilitate dialogue with the North after Trump's historic first summit with Kim in Singapore last year.

If the military exercise really goes ahead, it would affect the DPRK-US working-level talks, an unnamed foreign ministry spokesperson said in comments carried by state news agency KCNA, using the official acronym for North Korea.

The official described next month's drills as "clearly a breach" of a joint statement signed by the leaders in Singapore and hinted that Pyongyang may resume weapons tests in response.

Pak journalists hold protest to denounce censorship

Karachi: Pakistani journalists are holding nationwide protests to denounce rampant censorship by the country's powerful security services, massive layoffs due to budget cuts and months-long delays in payments of their wages.

Thailand's new Cabinet sworn in, ending rule by Army junta

Bangkok: Thailand's new Cabinet was sworn in on Tuesday, creating a nominally elected Government after five years of military rule but keeping power in the hands of the same allies of the Army.

King Maha Vajiralongkorn presided over the swearing-in of the 36-member Cabinet, during which they pledged their loyalty to the constitutional monarch.

"Every task has obstacles. Every mission faces problems," he told them in brief remarks.

"It is normal to take on work and solve problems so that the country can be run smoothly according to circumstances."

The Cabinet afterward regrouped at Government House for its first meeting.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

Sr. No.	NIT No.	Name of Work	Head of Account	Estimate Cost (in Rs.)	Earliest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed	Tender ID No.	Last date & time for submission of Price Bid
1.	EE/CD-VIII/2019-2019	Construction of road and side drains from KSN drain to Village Mubarakpur on Mubarakpur road from RD 1000 M to RD 3950 M in Karjhawala Block.	4217 Plan	1,69,91,093	3,39,822	04 Months	2019_JFC_176170_1	25.07.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs.
2.	EE/CD-VIII/2019-2011	Construction of road and side drains from KSN drain to Village Mubarakpur on Mubarakpur road from RD 365 M to RD 700 M in Karjhawala Block.	4217 Plan	1,69,91,093	3,39,822	04 Months	2019_JFC_176173_1	25.07.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs.
3.	EE/CD-VIII/2019-2012	Construction of road and side drains from KSN drain to Village Mubarakpur on Mubarakpur road from RD 720 M to RD 1045 M in Karjhawala Block.	4217 Plan	1,54,48,561	3,08,971	04 Months	2019_JFC_176175_1	25.07.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs.
4.	EE/CD-VIII/2019-2013	Improvement of 4 Nos. Gali and side drain in Ramesh nagar at Baswana in Baswana A.C.	4217 Plan	11,26,647	22,533	03 Months	2019_JFC_176177_1	25.07.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs.
5.	EE/CD-VIII/2019-2014	Providing and fixing outdoor exercise fitness equipments (Open Gym) at village Savanda in Mundka Assembly Constituency.	4217 Plan	15,25,910	30,518	03 Months	2019_JFC_176182_1	25.07.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs.
6.	EE/CD-VIII/2019-2015	Providing and fixing outdoor exercise fitness equipments (Open Gym) at village Tatesar in Mundka Assembly Constituency.	4217 Plan	28,69,245	57,385	04 Months	2019_JFC_176184_1	25.07.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs.
7.	EE/CD-VIII/2019-2016	Providing and fixing wire fencing over the bridge on both side at RD 2500 M to 15850 M of Mangalpur Drain and at RD 0 M to 2950 M of Ladpur Drain.	2711 Non Plan	26,60,324	53,206	02 Months	2019_JFC_176185_1	25.07.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs.
8.	EE/CD-VIII/2019-2017	Providing and fixing wire fencing over the bridge on both side at RD 9000 M, to 8800 M, 7500 M, 3110 M, and 3900 M of Bagpur Drain.	2711 Non Plan	22,21,252	44,425	02 Months	2019_JFC_176192_1	25.07.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs.
9.	EE/CD-VIII/2019-2018	Providing and fixing wire fencing over the bridge on both side at RD 7000 M to 7000 M, 2800 M, of Sultapur Drain.	2711 Non Plan	14,26,108	28,522	02 Months	2019_JFC_176193_1	25.07.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs.
10.	EE/CD-VIII/2019-2019	Providing and fixing wire fencing over the bridge on both side at RD 9000 M, to 7500 M, 7000 M, 3110 M, and 3900 M of Bagpur Drain.	2711 Non Plan	25,51,998	51,040	02 Months	2019_JFC_176198_1	25.07.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs.
11.	EE/CD-VIII/2019-2020	Construction of RCC covered drain from plot No. 268/1 to Plot No. 197 in Extended laha doza at village Pooth khund in Distt. N.W.	4515 Plan	45,29,577	90,592	06 Months	2019_JFC_176200_1	25.07.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs.
12.	EE/CD-VIII/2019-2021	Construction of approach road and side drain from Pithri road Boodhwar Majra to Culvert of Irrigation channel in village Boodhwar part in Baswana A.C.	4515 Plan	32,30,858	64,617	04 Months	2019_JFC_176201_1	25.07.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs.
13.	EE/CD-VIII/2019-2022	Construction of road bearing Kh. No. 105 to 113 and adjoining road at village Karjhawala in Distt. N.W.	4217 Plan	46,78,583	93,572	04 Months	2019_JFC_176204_1	25.07.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs.

1. The entitlement of the contractor shall be valid on the last date of opening of tenders. In case, the last date of opening of tender is extended, the entitlement of contractor should be valid on the original date of opening of tenders.
2. Earnest money in physical form and self attested copy of Registration of allotment and other documents (eg. ESI & EPF registration, copy of PAN card, Copy of VAT documents) should be submitted in the Office of Executive Engineer, Civil Division-VIII, I&FC Deptt., Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-110065 before the last date and time of submission of technical bids.
3. The details of above mentioned works can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>
4. The agencies who do not fulfil eligibility criteria/ do not submit required documents upto the stipulated time, their tenders shall be rejected summarily at technical bid stage.
5. Tenders submitted through e-procurement portal shall only be considered and no manual tender shall be accepted. 6. Interested tenders participating in tendering process in E.E. CD-VIII, I&FC shall furnish ESI & EPF registration along with other required documents and the same shall be uploaded while bidding. Moreover the ESI & EPF registration documents of all contractors shall be kept on records and ESI & EPF registration documents of intending tenders to whom the work awarded shall form the part of the agreement. (I&FC department office order No.1417-48 dated 29.01.2016).

AIDS deaths down a third since '10: UN

Paris: HIV-related deaths last year fell to around 770,000 — some 33 per cent lower than in 2010 — the United Nations said Tuesday, but warned that global efforts to eradicate the disease were stalling as funding dries up.

An estimated 37.9 million people now live with HIV — and a record 23.3 million of them have access to some antiretroviral therapy (ART), UNAIDS said in its annual report.

Highlighting the enormous progress made since the height of the AIDS epidemic in the mid-1990s, the report showed that the number people dying from the disease fell from 800,000 in 2017 to 770,000 last year.

The joint drills have been held for years but were scaled down to facilitate dialogue with the North after Trump's historic first summit with Kim in Singapore last year.

Pak journalists hold protest to denounce censorship

Karachi: Pakistani journalists are holding nationwide protests to denounce rampant censorship by the country's powerful security services, massive layoffs due to budget cuts and months-long delays in payments of their wages.

Tuesday's rallies, dubbed Day of Protests, are spearheaded by the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists. It says journalists, who face the roughest phase in the country's history, have decided to "fight the unprecedented censorship."

Afzal Butt, president of the union, says the rallies are only the "beginning of a protest movement."

Journalists and press freedom advocates say the country's military is pressuring media outlets to quash critical coverage while the newly elected government is slashing its advertising budget, squeezing a key source of revenue for private newspapers and TV stations.

GLOBE TROTTER

QUAKE SHAKES BALI IN INDONESIA

Denpasar: Indonesian authorities say a subsea earthquake shook Bali, Lombok and East Java on Tuesday, causing damage to homes and temples.

23 MILLION OUT-OF-SCHOOL KIDS IN PAK

Islamabad: Despite generous funding from foreign donors to transform the educational sector in Pakistan and the claims by various governments regarding improvements, there are almost 23 million out-of-school children in the country, the second highest number in the world, a report said.

1 MILLION AFFECTED IN B'DESH FLOODS

Dhaka: More than 1 million people have been affected across Bangladesh due to floods caused by torrential rain in the country that has also led to major rivers flowing above the danger levels, the media reported on Tuesday.

AIR RAIDS KILL 11 IN NORTHWEST SYRIA

Syria: Regime air strikes on Tuesday killed 11 civilians in opposition-held northwest Syria, the target of months of bombardment by the Government and its ally Russia, a war monitor said.

9 PAK WORKERS KILLED IN COALMINE COLLAPSE

Karachi: Nine miners were killed and two others rescued nearly two days after an underground fire trapped them in a coalmine in Pakistan's resource-rich Balochistan province, officials said on Tuesday.

BRAZILIAN PRIEST SHAVED OFF STAGE BY WOMAN

New York: A Brazilian Catholic priest, known across the country for his popular sermons, was seen violently knocked off stage by a woman at a religious event in Sao Paulo in a video that has gone viral over social media.

EU, SL HOLD INFORMAL COUNCIL-TERRORISM TALK

Colombo: The European Union (EU) and Sri Lanka held an informal counter-terrorism dialogue where the former presented a support package for the latter focusing on law enforcement, rehabilitation and disengagement, counter-narratives and online radicalisation, the media reported.

The Kangra Co-Operative Bank Ltd.
C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janakpuri, New Delhi-58
Ph: 011-25611041, 25611042, 25611043, 25611044, 25611045
Email: legal@kangrabank.com, legal@kangrabank.com
Website: www.kangrabank.com

APPENDIX IV (See rule 8(1)) POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized officer of 'The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.', Head office at C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi - 110058, having its registered office at 1916, Chuna Mandi, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-110055, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Bank had issued a demand notice on dated: 26-07-2017, calling upon the borrower Sh. Vinod Kumar S/o. Sh. Kishan Lal, R/o. H.No.70, South Anarkali, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.7,82,755/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Eighty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Five only), together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of the notice till the date of payment, with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the notice. The above mentioned borrower/mortgagor/surety having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the Bank has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 9 of the said rules, on this 12th day of July, 2019. The borrower/mortgagor/surety in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the mortgaged property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of 'The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.', for an amount of Rs.7,82,755/- together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of notice till the date of realization together with all the costs incurred by the Bank in realizing the said amount.

DISCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY
The property under consideration is built up residential property area measuring 25 sq. yds. All the part and parcel of the built up property no. 70, measuring area 25 sq. yds. Consisting of whatsoever therein, along with the rights of upper storey construction upto the last storey, fitted with electricity and water tap, situated at abadi of South Anarkali, in the area of Village Khureji Khas, Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi-51. All the part and parcel of the built up property no. 70, measuring area 25 sq. yds. Consisting of whatsoever therein, along with the rights of upper storey construction upto the last storey, fitted with electricity and water tap, situated at abadi of South Anarkali, in the area of Village Khureji Khas, Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi-51. Falling under the Registration of Sub-Registrar Distt. East, New Delhi. Bounded as East : Property of Others, West: Property No.71, North: Road 15th. Wide. South : Portion of the said property.

HARISH SHARMA, DELHI AUTHORISED OFFICER DATED: 12-07-2019

THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD. HEAD OFFICE AT, C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE, PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-58

POLICE HEADQUARTERS J&K, SRINAGAR
Phone/Fax No.: 0194-2443031/2443032(Sgr), 0191-2459029/2459255(Jmu)
Website : www.jkpolice.gov.in, E-mail : phqjk@jkpolice.gov.in

NIT No: 44 of 2019
Dated: 11.07.2019

For and on behalf of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir State, e-tenders are hereby invited from Original Manufacturers or their authorized dealers having proper authorization of the manufacturer to quote against the tender for the supply of **Telescopic Manipulator** as indicated in the detailed SBD & BOQ. The download of NIT shall start on **10.07.2019 at 1100 hours**. Tenders shall be submitted online on J&K State e-Procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in before **06.08.2019 upto 1800 hours**.

The tenders (technical bids only) will be opened online on **08.08.2019 at 1100 hours at Police Headquarters, Pirbagh Srinagar, J&K**. Pre bid Meeting will be held at PHQ Pirbagh Srinagar J&K on **19.07.2019 at 1500 hrs**. In case of unforeseen circumstances, the date of opening will be next working day or else as notified separately.

Detailed tender documents with terms and conditions are available on J&K State e-Procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in. Sd/- (Mubassir Latif) JKPS, AIG (Provision/ Transport)

No: DIPK-NB-1719/19
Dated: 15.07.2019 For Director General of Police, J&K Srinagar

POLICE HEADQUARTERS J&K, SRINAGAR
Phone/Fax No.: 0194-2443031/2443032(Sgr), 0191-2459029/2459255(Jmu)
Website : www.jkpolice.gov.in, E-mail : phqjk@jkpolice.gov.in

NIT No: 43 of 2019
Dated: 11.07.2019

For and on behalf of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir State, e-tenders are hereby invited from Original Manufacturers or their authorized dealers having proper authorization of the manufacturer to quote against the tender for the supply of **Hook & Line Set** as indicated in the detailed SBD & BOQ. The download of NIT shall start on **10.07.2019 at 1100 hours**. Tenders shall be submitted online on J&K State e-Procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in before **06.08.2019 upto 1800 hours**.

The tenders (technical bids only) will be opened online on **08.08.2019 at 1100 hours at Police Headquarters, Pirbagh Srinagar, J&K**. Pre bid Meeting will be held at PHQ Pirbagh Srinagar J&K on **19.07.2019 at 1500 hrs**. In case of unforeseen circumstances, the date of opening will be next working day or else as notified separately.

Detailed tender documents with terms and conditions are available on J&K State e-Procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in. Sd/- (Mubassir Latif) JKPS, AIG (Provision/ Transport)

No: DIPK-NB-1706/19
Dated: 15.07.2019 For Director General of Police, J&K Srinagar

PAPER WITH PASSION

Fair probe

No matter what the amendments, the NIA must first free itself as an extension counter of political vendetta



The problem with investigative agencies in our country is that the perception of their toothlessness or subservience to the powers that be clouds their efficacy and compromises trust. This explains why, despite the appreciable urge of the Modi 2.0 government to evolve a zero tolerance module against terror, the passage of the National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019, saw massive protests from the Opposition. And in the end will do nothing to restore lost credibility. True, the ambit of investigation now includes cyber crimes, human trafficking, fake currency and probes against Indian interests on foreign soil and the amendments are intended to establish a coordinated inquiry process but the Opposition fears probes could be misused to turn India into a police State. Besides, the creation of special courts for adjudicating such crimes and ensuring their speedy disposal has also raised some eyebrows as has the fear that centrist powers may overrun States. No matter what the assurances by Home Minister Amit Shah or the concerns expressed by Congress MP Manish Tewari, the fact remains that both are or have been part of ruling parties which have used investigations as a coercive tool for votebank management and in cases of terror, given them a frighteningly communal or religious tilt than developing a clinical approach. Political vendetta unleashed by the State has often been used to buy support, please respective votebanks and constituencies and build suitable narratives. This theory has gained further credence simply because there has been no closure of some of our most blighted terror cases. And leaving us wondering still if somebody had committed a conspiracy indeed or nobody knows what happened. Particularly, in the current context of simplified binaries between nationalists and anti-nationalists and a deep distrust of minorities, that is being reinforced by a hegemonic endorsement of Modi 2.0, there are bound to be questions about intent. Simply because past records show nothing to elevate the status of NIA as an independent entity but an extension counter of the ruling regime's priorities. It will surely take more than a reassuring speech in the House to change this presumptive perspective and one the new Modi government has to mean in actionable terms. For each failure of investigating agencies only ends up ridiculing our justice system.

The NIA itself doesn't have an enviable track record, set up as it was in 2009 by the then United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government after the Mumbai terror attacks, which claimed 166 lives. Then when it came to the Mecca Masjid, Malegaon and Samjhauta blasts, suspects have been either acquitted or booked depending on which side of the political divide they were on. For example, in the Mecca Masjid blast case, questions remain as to who killed the nine people and injured scores of others, considering that all the suspects were acquitted. Despite NIA's investigations, several key witnesses turned hostile weakening the case, either because of the agency's loopholes, its incompetence or counter-pressures from the political party or vested interests concerned. Three agencies — Hyderabad police, CBI and NIA — had probed the case and yet each seemed to work at cross purposes with each other, compounding complexities instead of ensuring a logical conclusion. The Hyderabad police arrested 20 Muslim youths but the CBI didn't consider that report worthy enough and focussed on a common strand between the Malegaon, Samjhauta, Ajmer Dargah and Mecca Masjid blasts. While a Jaipur NIA court convicted RSS worker Devendra Gupta for the Ajmer blast, he was cleared in the Mecca Masjid blast. Both Jaipur and Hyderabad NIA courts rejected Swami Aseemanand's confession, the critical mass on which the cases rested. Aseemanand himself changed his statement, claiming it was made under CBI pressure. So no matter what the amendments entail or not, there needs to be a foolproof process of inquiry, beginning with confessions and cross verifications with both the offenders and investigating officers and recordings. Also, the political to and fro — the Opposition assigning motives to the inquiry process and wanting to know why legislation needed to be hurried in the Budget session itself, and the BJP insisting that it was time to remove inconsistencies in anti-terror operations — only exposes how politics overshadows the need to curb terror forcefully. National security must be shielded from each other's agenda-driven campaigns. One wonders why there can never be a political consensus on tackling terror, assuming all parties are nationalists? Don't the Government and the Opposition equally owe an answer to the victims of terrorist violence?

Time to split

Is dividing India's cricket captaincy as part of a post-World Cup rebuild a good idea?



The unique thing about the England team that won the World Cup, questionably according to many, was that there were two captains on the field. While Eoin Morgan, one-time Irish cricket star, lifted the trophy on behalf of his adopted nation, among those who celebrated with the team was its batting talisman Joe Root, the captain of the English test cricket team. Morgan has completely focussed on white ball cricket and given up his ambition to play test cricket while Root continues playing white ball cricket but

without the stress of captaincy. And this has led to the English coming to dominate both the long and short versions of the game. Many other nations, India included, have tried such split captaincy. When MS Dhoni quit test cricket, Virat Kohli became test captain while Dhoni remained captain of the shorter versions. Yet, this split captaincy didn't win fans among cricket administrators and followers in India and Kohli was soon elevated to being captain of all three formats of the game. Australia had a bit more success with the split captaincy format, having a separate captain for its T20 side very early on, even though right now Aaron Finch is the team's undisputed captain in all formats.

So what has changed now that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is reconsidering splitting the captaincy and is it a good idea? Should Rohit Sharma, India's explosive opening batsman, become the captain of the Indian team in white-ball cricket? Sharma's success as a captain can be judged by the success of his leadership of the Mumbai Indians T20 franchise in the Indian Premier League. Some also claim that Virat Kohli is being overburdened with captaincy, and as undoubtedly one of the best batsmen in the world, he is wiling under the pressure. This is possibly one reason that he quit the captaincy of his IPL franchise team, the Royal Challengers Bengaluru. On the other side, many would argue that a common leader allows all team members to walk the same talk rather than be confused by divergent voices. Will this then be antithetical to unity? Only if you look at it egoistically.

Defenceless defence

The Budgetary allocation to the armed forces has been stagnant as Governments have failed to address the concern that modern warfare needs upgradation



GEN ASHOK K MEHTA

When former Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman — one of four in the Modi 1.0 government — presented her maiden finance budget, hope and expectation about the defence allocation had rocketed, especially after she flagged national security and economic goals as her government's priorities. The reality was different. The grandstanding of national security — rich on symbolism and rhetoric, hollow in providing resources for the jawans to fight another Kargil whose 20th anniversary is being commemorated with high drama — is delusion. Nothing has changed, no lessons learnt especially after Army Chief Gen Ved Malik said, "We will fight with what we have" when surprised by Pakistani incursions. Unfortunately Air Chief Marshal B S Dhanoa expressed precisely similar resolve after Balakot when confronted with a question about a two-front war by a journalist. In the catastrophic 1962 war, Lt Col M S Rikh, Commanding Officer 2 Rajput at Namka Chu, said the same: "We will fight with what we have". The infection has spread among the higher military leadership, which has made a fetish of fighting under-resourced even as governments have milked the armed forces for electoral gains. The Modi government thinks that its three quarters-baked One Rank One Pay (OROP) is a substitute for modernisation. Sitharaman's defence allocation got the thumbs down when it made a token increase of six per cent over the last budget with hardly any change from the interim budget in February. "Soldiers got a raw deal from Sitharaman," said veterans.

In her several media interviews, the solitary question on defence allocation was standard: "You were defence minister; why no increase in defence budget". Her reply was also standard: "There is an increase customs duty on imports... MoD is ok with the allocation". At the India Today TV's budget conclave with India Inc, she was asked how difficult it was for her in the MoD. Smilingly she answered: "The Generals are easy to deal with" — a backhanded compliment with a message: "You will continue to fight with what you have". Militaries fight with essentials.

When the suave and articulate Arun Jaitley was Defence Minister, his views on the Defence Budget were revealing. In his second budget presentation, when asked on *Doordarshan* why there was only a nominal hike in defence, he replied: "I can give them more. But they can't spend the money". In the next budget, to the same question by the same person on the same channel, he said: "I don't have the money". Incidentally, Jaitley, not Sitharaman was the first Finance Minister to skip mentioning defence allocation in the budget speech. Just before the last election he told an *Aaj Tak* national security conclave that defence budget would increase once the tax net expanded and GDP grew. This esoteric method-



ology of defence allocation was confirmed by Defence Secretary Ajay Prasad on *Doordarshan*. When asked about inadequacy of funds for modernisation, he replied: "Towards December, I usually expect a call from the Finance Secretary asking MoD to return ₹ eight-10,000 crore." The plea to increase the defence budget this year was made in Parliament by Congress members — soldier-politician Amarinder Singh, Manish Tewari, Shashi Tharoor and Preeti Kaur. Tewari quoted from a parliamentary panel report that defence expenditure had fallen in 2017-18 to 1.6 per cent of GDP and in 2019-20, the interim budget had declined further to 1.52 per cent GDP, the lowest since 1962. Defence Capital account has also reduced from 45.3 per cent in 2009-10 to 31 per cent in 2019-20. Returning to Sitharaman's budget, she said as defence had immediate requirement of modernisation and upgradation which is a national priority, "I am exempting defence imports from customs duty (started in 2016)". Besides, the revenue head of salary accounts and defence pension is not included in the defence budget, the crux of funding as the minister cited, is in modernisation of the armed forces. When the interim budget allotted a meagre increase in capital account,

“ PRIME MINISTER MODI HAS WAXED ELOQUENT ON THE SOLDIER, BUT NEVER SAID A WORD ON HIS DEFENCE BUDGETS. NEXT WEEK, KARGIL WILL BE SHOWCASED. SITHARAMAN'S PITHY REMARK, THAT GENERALS ARE EASY TO DEAL WITH, WILL HAUNT SERVICE CHIEFS WHO WILL FIGHT WITH WHAT THEY HAVE ”

defence Minister Sitharaman promised to take up the issue with the Finance Ministry.

The capital outlay this fiscal is ₹1,08,248 crore, which is 30 per cent of the total government capital expenditure. The IAF has received 38 per cent of the capital account amounting to ₹39,303 crore. It has a committed liability of ₹47,400 crore for Rafale fighter and S 400 AD system. It has paid up ₹40,000 crore of the ₹59,000 crore to Dassault. While the Navy's share is ₹23,156 crore, its committed liabilities amount to ₹25,461 crore. The Army which used to get the dominant share, around 51 per cent, has slumped to 35 per cent to ₹29,461 crore. It has reported a shortfall of ₹12,000 crore - ₹6,300 crore in capital and ₹5,700 crore in revenue (non salary account). The cumulative capital account shortfall is ₹25,000 crore without factoring any new projects.

The MoD has a way about explaining deficiencies in funding. It says it is bound by budgetary ceilings laid down by Finance Ministry, adding that the reduced allocations were passed on uniformly to all the three services. Here's the rub. Who is prioritising capital allocations in the absence of the CDS? Is it the Defence Secretary? Or the new czar of the Defence Planning Committee, NSA A K Doval?

This brings us back to the basics: the lacunae in the defence planning process.

"Unless the Defence Minister has issued her operational directive to the armed forces this month (one has not been given to them for more than a decade; in any case, the services/Integrated Defence Staff scripts it), the single services work independently along their own strategic perspective to evolve roles and missions without any prior strategic and technological environment assessment," said the *Strategic Defence and Security Review*. Is India going to fight a two or two and a half front war? Only former Army Chief, Gen Deepak Kapoor knows as he evolved this scenario in 2009. The force levels to match the threats and challenges will emerge from the SDSR, not Kapoor's strategic thinking.

Prime Minister Modi has waxed eloquent on Uri, Balakot and the soldier, but never said a word on his defence budgets. Next week, Kargil will be showcased with great symbolism. Sitharaman's pithy remark that Generals are easy to deal with, will haunt Service Chiefs who will fight with what they have. (The writer is a retired Major General of the Indian Army and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the revamped Integrated Defence Staff)

SOUNDBITE

The BJP came to power by winning the elections, then why is it scared of students elections and their voices? Isn't it dictatorship?
Congress General Secretary
 —Priyanka Gandhi



If you want good services, you have to pay for it. Government does not have money
Road Transport and Highways Minister
 —Nitin Gadkari



We should celebrate our diversity, we do in New Zealand, I'm proud of that and so I obviously take a very different view to President Trump
New Zealand PM
 —Jacinda Ardern



You attempt to do justice to somebody else's life and somebody else's story and somebody else's character, and that becomes you...
Bollywood actress
 —Sara Ali Khan



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't abuse NIA

Sir — Apropos to your report "Lok Sabha passes bill to give NIA more teeth" (TP 16 July). Though on the face of it, giving more teeth seems to be good but it should not be allowed to target people from a particular community in the name of fighting terror. While participating to push the amendments, the Home Minister should have shown some maturity while handling those people who have some reservations. As a person holding high office once occupied by stalwarts like Sardar Patel, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Gulzari Lal Nanda, L K Advani, his gesture and body language should not mirror election rallies. He could have worked towards passing the Bill untedly instead of forcing division and making claims of anti and pro terrorism which make such an important amendment a political one. Also, by enlarging its power to more areas, it should not be allowed to become another version of CBI whose reputation has declined rapidly. However, merely empowering NIA or any other agencies cannot prevent terror acts which need measures to prevent acts similar to the one that happened

in Pulwama, a plank later used in the election battle.
N Nagarajan
 Via email

No more gentlemanly

Sir — It refers to "Fair game?" Not only New Zealand fans but cricket fans and former cricketers all over the world are

Winner takes it all

England are World Champions. That too after winning a cliff-hanger by a single run in a super-over. The thrilling six-ball shootout happened when the match was tied at 241 runs — making fans delirious at Lord's. It might have taken them 44 years, but England has finally done it. Neither a tied game nor a spirited New Zealand could stop them from bringing the trophy home. It finally took a super over for England to be crowned winners of the 2019 World Cup.

However, the match result does not tell the entire story. Much to its dismay, New Zealand discovered that fine margins matter — and how! The Black Caps put up a score of 241/8 in their allotted 50 overs. England, too, reached that score but not before losing all its wickets.

Then came the Super Over. England, having posted a total of 15 runs in the critical over, must have thought it had an advantage over New Zealand. But, much to the chagrin of the English, New Zealand also reached that score. The hosts were, however, crowned the world champions on the basis of the number of boundaries they had



hit: 26, compared to New Zealand's 17. Surely, the decision was taken in accordance with a bizarre ICC rule.
KS Padmanabhan
 Chennai

scored six instead of five runs as per ICC law no. 19.8. gave the team a huge edge. Luck deserted the Kiwis. Hopefully ICC will look seriously into this besides the umpiring standards which were not great throughout the tournament. ICC needs to create a bigger and better pool of umpires for any of its future events.

Bal Govind
 Noida

Overcoming pollution

Sir — There has been an alarming rise in air pollution levels. In the past, it was rare to spot a person wearing a mask on the streets but now it has become a common sight due to the health risks involved. If it escalates at this pace, the future of our nation will be bleak. As responsible citizens, we must ideally adopt alternative measures such as shifting to Electric Vehicles. Small steps like this will help us ensure a better tomorrow.

Adrian David
 Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Plan early for a happy retirement

An independent US institute has recommended saving 10 per cent of our salaries from our early 20s to live comfortably



HIMA BINDU KOTA

People are living longer in these times and this can be considered both good and bad news. According to the latest WHO report in 2018, the life expectancy of men has increased from 64.2 years in 2015 to 67.4 years in 2018, and an average woman in India lives to the age of 70.3 years. However, the catch is that people are living longer with disability and illness. All of us, whether we are in our early 20s, 30s, or 40s, will age and reach a stage of life where we would retire and stop working for a living and may continue to have a long life albeit with some diseases. And here comes the worrisome thought, "Am I saving enough for my retirement?" and "How much of my salary should I set aside for a comfortable life after retirement?" So, what is the magic number representing the percentage savings from our salary that would make our retirement easier and happier for us?

While we try to save as much as possible for our retirement, during our working years, we feel pinched from all directions. Life can be expensive even in our earning years, with kids' education, housing and medical costs going through the roof. Any kind of loans, like student loans and credit-card debt, also intrude. Often it is not easy for us to look way ahead in future and imagine what would our future income be and how long would we continue to work; what would be our preferred lifestyle after retirement; how much would healthcare cost after many decades; our longevity; and how would our investments fare many years down the line? The result is obvious confusion and sometimes, this forces us to relegate it for consideration later. Although there is no magic number that can be same for all due to several reasons like low salary for some people, longevity or higher requirement of medical care in some others, independent research by some institutions, which do not have conflict of interest, like Employee Benefits Research Institute in Washington D.C, have given a useful thumb rule of saving 10 per cent. This organisation came to the conclusion after gathering anonymous information of millions of people and their saving habits.

So, based on the thumb rule, between you and your employer, set aside at least 10 per cent of your salary for retirement. Research shows that saving 10 per cent of salary, starting in your mid-20s, cuts the risk of running out of money in retirement to about 30 per cent. If your employer contributes three per cent, then your share is at least seven per cent. If the company kicks in five per cent, then you save at least five per cent. If your employer does nothing, set aside at least 10 per cent of each salary on your own. But is the 10 per cent rule same for all? Generally, if a person decides to save for retirement early, it is safe to say that 10 per cent savings would suffice. The moment the age of starting retirement savings increases, the rate of savings should also go up. Therefore, the 10 per cent is probably not enough for all. For the late savers, the rule of 20 per cent can come handy. This rule requires that for every rupee in income needed in retirement, a retiree should save ₹20. Let's say you earn about ₹5,00,000 in a year. You would need ₹1 crore by the time you stop working to maintain the same income level afterward. If you had somehow managed to save ₹4,000 per month (10 per cent of that wage) for 40 years at 6.5 per cent interest, that would get you to slightly more than ₹91,34,250, which is close. However, young people generally earn less than older ones. And how many people save ₹48,000 a year for 40 years?

Realistically, most people need to save well over 10 per cent of their income to come close to what they need. Once you have saved enough for your retirement, the four per cent rule suggests how much you should withdraw once you get to retirement. To sustain savings in the long term, it recommends that retirees withdraw about four per cent of their money from their retirement account in the first year, then use that as a baseline to withdraw an inflation-adjusted amount in each subsequent year. More conservative people should think of three per cent withdrawal rate. Although several rules are given by different financial planners and independent research agencies, retirement fund planning is very individualistic in nature.

We need to keep in mind the following steps while planning our retirement. First, develop a retirement budget and age. You have to know how much you need per month to live on. The categories of expenses, like groceries, car expenses and eating out may change significantly in retirement, but having an idea of what normal feels like before retirement is a good place to start. In addition, decide what age you plan to retire at and determine how much you will need to save in order to live a comfortable lifestyle. Achieving financial security is not possible without proper planning and commitment to save on a regular basis.

(The writer is Assistant Professor at Amity University)

I HAVE SENT MY RESIGNATION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER PUNJAB, HAS BEEN DELIVERED AT HIS OFFICIAL RESIDENCE.
 —NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU
 PUNJAB CABINET MINISTER

POINT COUNTERPOINT



I'LL DECIDE ON HIS RESIGNATION ONLY TOMORROW, I'LL LOOK INTO THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER BEFORE TAKING A DECISION
 —AMARINDER SINGH
 PUNJAB CM

The great Kashmir betrayal

Kashmiris have been betrayed by their very own and such perpetrators need to be exposed so that the false image they have built among locals is shattered



BRIG ANIL GUPTA

A recent Home Ministry report has publicised a fact that was known to many but did not get due visibility in the media and hence remained confined to a few. It revealed how hardline separatist leaders received funds from abroad and utilised them for personal gains — from amassing properties to paying for foreign education of their kin. This has not only dominated the media but also raised a public outcry that the misdeeds of these leaders should reach every household in Kashmir, the people they claim to represent.

Ever since Amit Shah has occupied the all-important chair of the Union Home Minister, the Ministry has got a new fillip because of his perceived image as a doer. During his recent maiden visit to Kashmir, he minced no words in reiterating the zero tolerance policy of his government towards terror and terrorists, enunciating the need to crack down on terror funding first and ensure that the law of the land prevails.

Tightening its noose around those who were involved in terror funding, terror financing, money laundering and hawala operations, the National Investigation Agency (NIA), for the first time, under the directions of the previous Modi government, had arrested many separatist leaders, businessmen, hawala operators and close relatives of the Hurriyat leadership and put them through sustained interrogation to track the sources and origin of terror funding in Kashmir. NIA was successful in not only tracking the trail of terror funding but also revealed the beneficiaries and how terror was being sustained in the Valley apart from allowing the so-called leaders in Kashmir lead a luxurious life. The regional parties, who were heading the governments in Kashmir, turned a blind eye to this notorious malpractice because of their vested interest in continuation of terrorism in the state. How else can they explain cases of money laundering and hawala operations which were lingering on for decades together despite the registration of the cases?

This, in fact, has been the misfortune of Kashmir because the regional mainstream parties owe their political survival to separatist and extremist forces operating in the Valley. During their interrogation, the separatist leaders confessed that Pakistan was the main source of terror funding with the specific purpose of fuelling separatist sentiments among the people of Kashmir. Cross-LoC trade was one of the major sources of hawala operations and terror financing. During interrogation, Asiya Andrabi of the Dukhtar-e-Milat admitted that she had been receiving funds and donations from Pakistan and other foreign sources for organising protests by Muslim girls and women in the valley. She has used part of this money to finance the education of her son in Malaysia while a major portion of expenses is borne by Zahoor Watali, a businessman arrested for terror funding. Watali is one of the main hawala conduits who received funds from Pakistan, ISI, UAE and had floated various shell companies to disguise foreign remittances for further transfer to separatist leaders and stone-pelters in the valley. Masrat Alam, the master-mind of stone-pelters, has confessed that funds were being distributed among various Hurriyat leaders including Syed Ali Shah Geelani.



“ WHILE 'BACK TO VILLAGE 1.0' WAS A MASSIVE OUTREACH PROGRAMME AIMED AT TAKING THE ADMINISTRATION TO THE DOORSTEP OF THE VILLAGERS, ITS 2.0 VERSION SHOULD AIM AT LAUNCHING AN EFFECTIVE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN AND LINK IT TO A MASSIVE ANTI-DRUG AND ANTI-RADICALISATION DRIVE. ONE SHOULD ALSO REVIVE LOCAL FOLK GROUPS FOR SOCIAL MESSAGING ”

Shabbir Shah, another separatist leader, confessed that his hotel in Pahalgam and other businesses are financed through funds received from Pakistan. Yasin Malik, who brought together the various factions of Hurriyat under the banner of Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL), which became notorious for issuing "bandh rosters" in Kashmir, affecting the lives of common Kashmiris, confessed before the agencies that funds were received from big business houses in Kashmir and other "sources." These sustained the bandh calls, disrupting economic activities in Kashmir, which also indirectly affected the trading community of Jammu.

These funds were used to fuel unrest in the Kashmir valley and organise violent agitations and anti-India activities, which resulted in large scale violence, leading to numerous injuries and deaths of innocent civilians and security forces personnel. The funds were also used to pay stone pelters, Friday protesters, those tasked to torch schools and government buildings, particularly *panchayat ghars* and the over ground workers. Pakistan has also entrusted Hurriyat the responsibility of financing "home-grown" terror groups from the funds received by them. Thus, apart from promoting and sustaining terror in Kashmir, these leaders were also involved in the killings of Kashmiris, closure of educational institutions and encouraging local youth to join the terror ranks. Among all this they also indulged in a luxurious life of their own and financing foreign education of their wards. According to the list released by the MHA, 210 relatives of Kashmiri separatist leaders currently live abroad. The documents also mention that 112 children of the separatists study in foreign countries,

of which 21 belong to 14 well-known separatists.

The MHA document also reveals as to how they spread hate and violence in Kashmir to further the Pakistani agenda of keeping the pot boiling and in perpetual turmoil. While they deny Kashmiris the right to live peacefully and decide their future as per their own wishes, they themselves lead a lavish lifestyle. While the separatists encourage the youth of the Valley to pick up stones and arms against security forces and join militancy, they seem to have no qualms in shielding their own family from the strife in the region by settling them not only in the metros but abroad as well. The hands of the Hurriyat leadership are soaked with the blood of innocent Kashmiris, who have the right to know about their misdeeds. This is the story of the great betrayal in Kashmir by their own and they need to be exposed so that the false image they have built in the hearts of the poor Kashmiri folk is shattered.

Sensing defeat in its design of annexing Kashmir through "religious militancy", radicalisation and *jihadi* terror, it has now resorted to destroying the future generations of Kashmir by making them drug addicts. The frequency of seizure of drug consignments in the near past must have rung the alarm bells among the concerned authorities by now. Incidentally, drug menace is not confined to the Valley but has also engulfed the border districts of Jammu and is slowly penetrating other areas. It is more alarming in the Valley because the youth there is a vulnerable target due to the prevailing circumstances. The environment is such that the youth can be easily lured and the example of post-militancy Punjab is worth noting. Radicalisation and drug-

addiction are the two major challenges staring in the face of the administration.

There is a desperate need to launch "Back to Village 2.0" in the State. While "Back to Village 1.0" was a massive outreach programme aimed at taking the administration to the doorstep of the villagers, its 2.0 version should aim at launching an effective information campaign and link it to a massive anti-drug and anti-radicalisation drive.

Apart from extensive coverage in the vernacular press, the campaign should also aim at educating the people and making them aware through audio-visual means. One is reminded of the good old days when the teams of field publicity division of the Government of India used to visit the villages with 16 mm projectors and screen documentary films. Now the technology has improved manifold. Rather than depending on in-house resources, the government should consider taking the services of professionals in the field. The films/songs should be in the local dialects to widen their reach. One should also revive local culture and use "bhands" to promote local folk art and messaging. *Nukkad natak* (street plays) can also be staged by professional groups to give voice to the youth angst. If terror has to end and lasting peace ensue in Kashmir, the terror support network, both local and Pak-sponsored, will have to be completely eliminated. Social awareness will ensure that such elements are exposed and are unable to mislead the simple Kashmiris with anti-India propaganda and exploit the Kashmiri youth.

(The author is a Jammu based political commentator, columnist, security and strategic analyst. He can be contacted at anil5457@gmail.com)

Where is the alternative voice?

Constructive criticism and not blind agitation is the role of an effective Opposition in a parliamentary democracy. Sadly, a counter view is missing in the 17th Lok Sabha making PM Modi look even more larger than life



KALYANI SHANKAR

The first session of the 17th Lok Sabha has begun well without much disturbance with even first-timers getting an opportunity to make their maiden speeches. While the 16th Lok Sabha saw a divided and fractured Opposition, the current one has so far seen only feeble voices with no effort to speak unitedly. This could be because the Opposition is yet to recover from the blow it has received in the elections.

While any democracy needs a stable government, it also needs a credible and strong Opposition. Its main role is to question the government of the day and hold it accountable to the public. It is the Opposition that puts rein on the power of the gov-

ernment of the day and checks it. It is indeed a well-established fact that political parties with massive majorities and weak opposition have adversely impacted crucial issues.

However, when Rajiv Gandhi came to power after the assassination of Indira Gandhi in 1984 with a brute majority of 415 seats, the Opposition was weak in numbers but not silent. A half a dozen leaders from various Opposition parties, including Madhu Dandavate, Somnath Chatterjee, Inderjit Gupta, Unnikrishnan and Jaipal Reddy, had effectively exposed the Bofors gun deal scam, which really cost Rajiv Gandhi his government. Prior to that, when Indira Gandhi lost the elections in 1977, she had fielded vocal leaders like C. M. Stephan. Unfortunately, the current Opposition does not have many such leaders who could hold forth in Parliament and outside. This is indeed the real concern. In a blog post titled, *The frightening and scary scenario of India's Opposition*, BJP leader Arun Jaitley, calling the Opposition camp "fractured," pointed out that they have no agreement on either a leader or pro-



gramme and the common point between them is just to "get rid of one person (Modi)." By failing to unite, the Opposition had gifted a whopping 352 seats to the BJP in 2019.

The muted voice of the Opposition is also linked to the phenomenal growth of the BJP emerging as a pan-national party in the past decade or so. That is primarily because of the Congress' inability to function as an effective opposition. The grand old party is still living in its past glory without realising that the voter profile has changed and the

party has lost its connect with the new voters. Rahul Gandhi, though younger than Prime Minister Modi, is unable to attract his youthful peers. The Congress is yet to introspect what went wrong in the 2019 polls or make efforts to reinvent itself. On the contrary, Rahul Gandhi's resignation has plunged the party into a leadership crisis from which it is yet to come out. The Congress is yet to build up the party at the grassroots level to match the BJP. Only boycotting Parliament and hitting the streets are not enough. Congressmen need to connect with

the masses and educate them on issues that could set the agenda for the next round of Lok Sabha elections. Above all, even after the defeat in the polls, the Opposition remains divided as is evident from the way the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader Mayawati broke her alliance with the Samajwadi Party (SP) recently. The Congress -JD (S) coalition is crumbling in Karnataka. Also many Opposition leaders are vulnerable, facing several court cases and are so caught up in their survival that they can hardly prepare an alternative blueprint of governance to go the people with.

The second reason for the current state of affairs is the gradual demise of the Left parties. From ruling in three States earlier, the Left parties have been practically decimated in its strongholds of Kerala, West Bengal and Tripura. The comrades have long been split between a highly intellectual circle and a rural movement with the result they are gradually losing their hold on both. They also have failed to re-orient themselves to the current day requirements of the vot-

ers without realising that chanting secularism and class struggle no more attract them.

As for the rest of the parties like the SP, BSP, RJD, Trinamool Congress, NCP, DMK, JD (S), Shiv Sena, TRS, TDP and most Northeastern regional parties, they are led by regional satraps, who believe in family rule and have no worldview. The lack of opposition is indeed a great tragedy in India today and a worrisome factor in a democracy. The Congress had it going for six decades dealing with a weak Opposition. A complete decimation of Opposition parties is not good for the country. Constructive criticism and not blind agitation is the role of an effective Opposition in a parliamentary democracy.

It is quite clear that political power equations have shifted heavily towards the BJP. Right now Prime Minister Modi is enjoying a larger than life image like Nehru once did or Indira Gandhi. Time has come now for the Opposition to rise.

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



FOREIGN EYE

PAK BEATS FINALISTS IN LEAGUE BUT NEEDS 20 FRESH FACES

This World Cup witnessed many thrilling games and upsets, and threw up many young stars, while bringing the curtain down on the careers of others. For Pakistan, the experience was mixed: they lost some easy games initially, but bounced back to win four on the trot. They fell agonisingly short of the semi-finals, but could still take consolation from the fact that they had beaten both the finalists in league matches. However, they need to plan ahead by grooming the best 20 players for the next World Cup edition in 2023. (Dawn editorial)

FLOOD FURY

One-horned rhinoceros seen moving to an elevated area following floods due to incessant monsoon rainfall in Kaziranga National Park, on Tuesday PTI



Flood situation remained grim in parts of North-East and Bihar as the toll mounted to 44, with nearly 70 lakh people affected, even as north India witnessed widespread rainfall

Unusual heavy rain in Nepal led to flash floods in Bihar: Nitish

PTI ■ PATNA

Unusual torrential rainfall in catchment areas in Nepal and subsequent massive discharge of water in rivers led to flash floods in Bihar where 25 people have lost their lives in the last few days while more than one lakh people have been evacuated, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar told the Assembly on Tuesday.

A total of 25.72 lakh people have been affected by the natural calamity so far, he said. In a statement, Kumar said floods normally struck north Bihar in August or, sometimes, in September, but this time they came a month earlier primarily because of unusually heavy rainfall in the Terai region of the neighbouring country.

For the last three-four days, the Terai region of Nepal has been lashed by rainfalls ranging between 280-300 mm which was many times higher than the 50 mm which is considered normal for the area during this time of the year. As a result, several rivers in Bihar like Kosi, Bagmati and Mahananda have been in spate, the Chief Minister said in the House.

Twelve districts Madhubani, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, East and West Champaran, Supaul, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Katihar, Purnea, Kishanganj and Araria have been affected by the floods, the CM added.

He cited the example of the catchment area for Kamala river in Nepal which received 203.60-



People cross a flooded street in Madhubani district PTI

319.80 mm of rainfall on July 12-13. This led to a massive discharge of water in the river which passes through Jayanagar in Madhubani district.

Water has inundated a road bridge in Jayanagar while in Jhanjharpur water level at a rail bridge has reached 54.50 metres, which is higher than the all-time record of 54.34 registered in 1987.

The Kamala Balan embankment has been breached at six places, affecting several blocks of Madhubani and Darbhanga districts. Water level in the Bagmati has broken previous records at several places affecting people in Sheohar, Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur districts. All embankments

along the Bagmati have, however, so far remained unharmed, he added.

Besides, a dam over Khiroi river burst in Darbhanga district affecting many villages. Excessive water discharge in Mahananda has inundated large parts of Kishanganj district. All embankments in the Mahananda basin are, however, secure till now, Kumar added. Till 10 am Tuesday, 25 people have died in the floods and instructions have been issued for prompt payment of ex-gratia to the next of their kin, he said.

The flood-hit area covers 555 Panchayats of 78 blocks spread across these districts. Rescue work is being carried out by 796 personnel equipped with 125 motor boats.

Besides 26 teams of NDRF and SDRF are engaged in the rescue operations and so far 1.25 lakh people have been evacuated from the marooned areas, the Chief Minister said. For those displaced by floods, 199 relief camps have been set up which are at present inhabited by 1.16 lakh people. Their food is being prepared at 676 community kitchens. Instructions are in place for setting up more relief camps and community kitchens if such a need arises, he added.

Good quality of food and drinking water is being ensured and so is availability of bleaching powder and chlorine tablets, ORS and anti-diarrhea drugs, he said.



An aerial view of flooded Majuli, an island in River Brahmaputra, Assam on Tuesday AP

Have to eat rats to survive, claim locals in affected village

Katihar: Locals in Dangi Tola village of Katihar district in Bihar claimed they have no option but to eat rats as floods have wreaked havoc and destroyed houses in the region.

Around 300 families have been affected by floods in the area.

Speaking to ANI, Talla Murnur, a local, said, "We have to eat rats as our house has been destroyed by the flood. There are no arrangements for us. The Government has given no facility to us. We are dependent on rats only to fill our stomachs. All my family members eat rats as they are easy to find in the floods."

"I have come here to catch a mouse with my grandfather as we don't have anything else to eat," said Murnur's grandson Vijendra. However, Block

Development Officer of Kadwa constituency, Rakesh Kumar Gupta said officials are unaware of the conditions claimed by the locals.

"We have no information regarding the condition of the villagers in the flood-affected areas. Even if they are eating rats, maybe it is likely that the tribal people might be eating it," he said.

Meanwhile, Congress MLA Shakeel Ahmad Khan said he has written a letter to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, requesting him to provide assistance.

Bihar is witnessing floods as the water levels of several rivers have been rising following heavy rainfall in the past few days.

Many villages of Bihar's Araria, Darbhanga and Madhubani districts are flooded due to the heavy downpour. Agencies

Extremely heavy rain forecast in Kerala, red alerts in 6 dists

Thiruvananthapuram: With the weather office predicting extremely heavy rains in the coming days for Kerala, a red alert has been issued in the state's six districts, including Idukki and Malappuram, from July 18.

The red alert, denoting likelihood of very heavy to extremely heavy rain, has been issued in Idukki, Malappuram, Wayanad, Kannur, Ernakulam and Thrissur districts on different days from July 18-20.

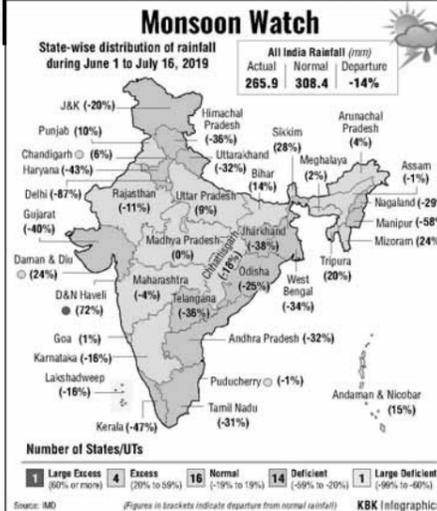
Extremely heavy rain — over 204 mm rains in 24 hours, have been forecast, a IMD bulletin said. The second spell of the South West Monsoon is starting Wednesday and there is a possibility of formation of low pressure in the Bay of Bengal, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority sources said. Officials have asked to open control rooms at taluk level. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea. PTI



90% of Kaziranga National Park submerged

Kaziranga/Guwahati: With over 150 anti-poaching camps in the Kaziranga National Park affected by the Assam floods, the authorities are working round-the-clock to check poaching at the UNESCO World Heritage site, officials said.

The staff and security personnel are performing their duties using mechanised and country boats to deal with any kind of eventualities, they said. Ninety per cent of the Kaziranga National Park in Golaghat and



ACROSS INDIA

In ASSAM, the deluge spread to 30 of the State's 33 districts, affecting nearly 43 lakh people and claiming 15 lives, besides submerging rhino habitats the Kaziranga National Park, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary and the Manas National Park

The water level of the Brahmaputra rose above the danger level across the State

The death toll in BIHAR floods mounted to 24, with 25.66 lakh people reeling from the deluge in 12 districts of the State following incessant rains in neighbouring country Nepal

Five more children drowned in two separate incidents in East Champaran district, but a senior official of the State disaster management department said they were not counted among the flood casualties

At least 1,000 families had to be evacuated in Lunglei district of MIZORAM as raging waters of the Khawthlangtuipui river flooded 32 villages, while rain-related incidents led to the death of five people in the State, officials said

At least 32 villages in the Tlabung area of south Mizoram's Lunglei district were flooded by the river Khawthlangtuipui. Around 700 homes were submerged in the district and 800 families had to be shifted to safer places, the officials said

Nearly 200 families were evacuated from central Mizoram's Serchhip district, they said

Incessant rains across MEGHALAYA for the last seven days and rising waters of two rivers flooded the plains of West Garo Hills district, affecting at least 1.14 lakh people

A total of 57,700 people, residents of 50 villages in Demderma block and over 66,400, residents of 104 villages in Selsella block have been affected due to the floods, they said

The flood situation in TRIPURA showed signs of improvement as Khowai and Haora rivers started receding, officials said

Personnel of the NDRF and security forces rescued a number of people in the flood-affected Khowai and West Tripura districts, they said

In MAHARASHTRA, 75 villages along river banks in Palghar and Thane districts have been put on alert as the water level of two major dams in the region are close to the overflow mark, a senior civic official said

As many as 119 TEAMS OF THE NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE (NDRF) have been deployed in flood-hit areas of the country, including Assam and Bihar, and a 24x7 control room has been set up in Delhi to closely monitor the regions, an official statement said

The teams, each comprising around 45 personnel, are equipped with boats, divers and other flood rescue-related equipment, it said



SP, VHP leaders killed in two shootouts in UP

IAN S ■ AYODHYA/PRATAPGARH

In two separate shootouts in Uttar Pradesh, a Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader and a Samajwadi Party (SP) leader were killed, exposing the deteriorating law and order situation in the State.

On Monday evening, VHP district president and advocate Pranav Misra was killed by unidentified bike-borne assailants in Pratapgarh while SP leader Akhilesh Yadav was killed in Kanakpur village in Ayodhya when unidentified assailants on bike fired several rounds at him and fled.

According to reports, Misra, who worked at the district court, was on his way to work when some armed men shot him dead.

Pratapgarh Superintendent of Police, N Anand, was removed from the post after the incident and replaced by Abhishek Singh.

Both the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the SP have condemned the murders and demanded immediate arrest of the assailants.



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Arif Khan, an advocate and a friend of Misra said: "Advocates are being killed since 2014 and as many as seven advocates have been killed so far. The police are silent on it and there have been no strict investigations on the murderers."

SP spokesman Rajendra Chaudhary said the incident was proof of growing lawlessness in the State.

Tuskers continue to roam in UP, kill another person

Bareilly: The two wild elephants, wandering from one spot to another since the past 20 days, have reached Uttar Pradesh's district, where it attacked and killed another person.

The incident took place in Mirzapur village, 15 km from Rampur city, on Monday night. The jumbos attacked Raju Yadav, who was returning home from work on his bicycle. According to villagers, Raju was not aware of the presence of the wild elephants in the village.

He unwittingly came close to them on the road near his house and was trampled and killed. Two weeks ago, the wild tuskers killed a person identified as Baijnath in Bilaspur tehsil and injured two others. Forest officials said that they were now trying to divert the elephants towards Bahedi in Bareilly district. Forest officials have also sought two more cow elephants from the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve for push-and-pull process to lure the tuskers away from human habitation to the forests.

The two adult bull elephants moved out of Bareilly's Mandanpur village to reach Rathodha village in Rampur on Saturday. In the night, they covered another 10 km to arrive at Mirzapur village on Sunday.

AS TMC WORKERS FACE IMAGE CRISIS Prashant to enroll 5-L youth to push Didi drive

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Mid reports that Mamata Banerjee has roped in India's new age election guru Prashant Kishor to revive her party Trinamool Congress' electoral fortunes in Bengal, the poll strategist has kick-started a grand plan to enroll at least 5 lakh youth in his "youth in politics" campaign.

These youth, thus drafted in politics will augment a befuddled TMC's worker force. The Bengal ruling outfit suffered stunning reverses at the hands of a surging BJP in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections whence the saffron party romped home with 18 out of 42 seats leaving 22 for the

Trinamool and two for the Congress. In its worst defeat since 2006 the TMC conceded 12 seats to the Opposition. Assembly segment-wise the Lok Sabha election results projected a whopping gain of 127 seats for the BJP in a 294-member House whereas the TMC's strength hovered around 155 and 160, down 55-60 seats from its 2016 tally.

Considering a general perception that Bengal ruling party had degenerated into a criminalised outfit, Kishor is working on an image-building exercise. Recruitment and training of clean, well-cultivated and untested faces is a part of his programme, sources said. Kishor's organisation I-PAC

is targeting all classes of youth; but mostly the unemployed ones, sources said adding his recruitment programme is called "Youth in Politics" or YIP. Even those who have voted for the BJP or admire Narendra Modi are welcome in the YIP, sources said adding the group has already started enrolling about 4 thousand youth per day. This rate of enrolment is expected to rise further until it reaches 10,000 per day sources said adding by the end of September the number of people thus recruited would go up to five lakh.

These people will then be trained for a period of 15 months or so before they are pushed into the market for

election works, sources said. The team will also analyse if any particular caste, tribal, Hindi-speaking or industrial belts in the state had any role in the vote-share swing.

While similar strategy of enrolling foot-soldiers worked well in the case of Andhra Pradesh where Kishor worked for Jagannathan Reddy's YSR Congress to trounce Chandrababu Naidu, this may not work in Bengal as here he has to withstand the anti-incumbency wave against the Mamata Banerjee Government that was witnessed in the general elections.

"We could have won at least 2-3 more seats like Arambagh and Ghatal had the

Election Commission managed to control violence unleashed by the TMC goons," said State BJP president Dilip Ghosh adding, "BJP has a connect with the masses and Mamata Banerjee has lost that connect which is why she has to purchase an election expert. But she will have to remember that Bengal has a politically conscious and matured electorate unlike in many parts of India. Here professional electioneering will not work."

Even if the YIP "or whatever they are called moves door-to-door will they be able to erase the impression of a frightful decade a corrupt decade, a criminalised decade from their mind?" another

State BJP leader wondered. Banerjee several times and has been working in close coordination with her nephew and MP Abhishek Banerjee.

Kishor's endeavour in Bengal is part of a multi-crore contract with the TMC, inside sources said, adding the election guru — responsible for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's landslide victory in 2014 — will also have to watch out for the source of the payment that comes to him as contract fee from the TMC, a galaxy of whose leaders are facing a slew of charges for their alleged involvement in chit fund and other corrupt activities.

'Scientists might have felt they do not want to take chance'

PTI ■ CHENNAI

With ISRO yet to officially announce the nature of the technical snag that prompted it to call off launch of Chandrayaan 2, a former space scientist on Tuesday commended the team for halting the high-stake Moon mission.

The launch of India's second Moon mission aimed at landing a rover on the unexplored Lunar South Pole was aborted early Monday due to a "technical snag" minutes before the scheduled lift-off of the country's most powerful rocket GSLV-MKIII from the spaceport of Sriharikota.

Former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) scientist Nambi Narayanan, credited for his contributions in the development of cryogenic technology in the country's space programme, said calling off the launch was disappointing not just for the general public but even for the brains behind the Rs 978 crore project.

"It is a pity that countdown was stopped. They (scientists) might have noticed something wrong. I feel the problem might (have been even) small but they must not have wanted to take a chance", he told PTI.



Narayanan's comments came even as the ISRO was yet to make any formal announcement on what went wrong during the final hour of countdown that prompted the space agency to call it off 56 minutes before the lift-off.

Though none of the ISRO officials whom PTI contacted responded, experts have said a glitch might have been noticed when the rocket's liquid propellant was being loaded into the cryogenic upper stage engine.

Incidentally, an update by ISRO around 1.34 am on Monday had said, "Filling of Liquid Hydrogen in Cryogenic stage of GSLV MkIII-M1 completed. Chandrayaan2 #ISRO Stay tuned for more updates." Narayanan said it was good ISRO halted the launch after

noticing the glitch. "It may be a small thing, but that is always good (halting a launch instead of going ahead). They are now trying to understand what went wrong. What actually happened. So, we need to wait," he said.

ISRO had earlier scheduled the launch of the mission, headed by women scientists Ritu Karidhal and Muthayya Vanitha, in the first week of January but shifted it to July 15 after choosing a launch window between July 9 and 16.

Chandrayaan-2, comprising an orbiter, a lander and a rover, was to have been injected into an Earth orbit about 16 minutes after lift-off with the lander to touch down on the Moon surface 54 days later through a series of critical orbit rising manoeuvres.

MUMBAI BUILDING COLLAPSE Kesarbai building should have been demolished 2 yrs ago: RTI

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Kesarbai building collapsed at the congested Dongri locality in south Mumbai, which caved in like a proverbial pack of cards on Tuesday morning, had in a structural audit report submitted to the Brihan Municipal Corporation (BMC) been declared as a "dangerous" structure which was "to be evacuated for demolition at the earliest".

Even two years after the BMC classified it as a dilapidated structure that should be demolished immediately, at least 15 families were continuing to live in the Kesarbai building, which is believed to be 80 years' old.

Incidentally, the name of Kesarbai building is conspicuous by its absence in a list of 499 "dangerous" buildings in the metropolis prepared by the BMC.

In a statement released in the evening, the State-run Maharashtra Housing & Area Development Authority (MHADA) that Kesarbai Building — 25/C — had been evacuated last year. The structure, however, collapsed earlier on Tuesday, leaving at least 10 persons dead and eight others injured.

The MHADA stated that the structure that collapsed on Tuesday was the illegal rear portion of the same building which does not fall within the purview of either MHADA or Mumbai Building Repairs & Reconstruction Board (MBRRB).

Meanwhile, an RTI reply given by the BMC revealed that

In July, 2017, BMC classified this building as 'CL' which needs to be evacuated & pulled down

from January 2013 till now, Mumbai has witnessed a shocking 2,704 different types of crashes including buildings, walls, balconies, slabs, portions of homes, etc.

"The crashes have resulted in 234 deaths, including 82 women and 152 men, besides injuring another 840, comprising 302 females and 538 males. Despite these tragedies, no steps have been taken by the BMC to demolish the buildings declared 'dangerous' in the past six years," RTI activist Shaheel Ahmed Shaikh Sheikh said.

It may be recalled that in 2014, a Bombay High Court Division Bench comprising Justice AV Mohta and Justice AA Sayed had directed the BMC to identify all dilapidated and dangerous buildings in Mumbai and put up their list on its website.

Based on the condition of the structures, the classifications are: C2 - buildings which can be repaired, and C1 - buildings which cannot be repaired and must be demolished at the earliest, he added.

The court had also ordered the BMC to draw up the list irrespective of its ownership - whether private, Government, BMC, or any other agency -- and send notices to the occupants to vacate such buildings.

Slamming the BMC and MHADA for passing the buck

like on the previous occasions, activist Shaikh — who had procured several documents under RTI Act — said, "Since the high court's order in 2014, the BMC has done nothing to evacuate all these 499 dangerous (C1) buildings and demolish them. We cannot rule out the possibility of another mishap during the current monsoon."

The BMC's "B ward" had received a report from the trust that owned the Kesarbai building had received a structural audit report on July 31, 2017 stating that this building had been classified as "C1" building. The "C1" categorisation means that the building is in a dangerous state that "it is to be evacuated for demolition at the earliest". However, the residents of Kesarbai building had not vacated the building for the past two years.

Following a complaint by a resident, the BMC had issued a notice to the Kesarbai Building owners, Bai Hirabai Rahimbhai Aloo Paroo and Bai Kesarbai Dharamas Khakoo Charitable and Religious Trust, ordering them to carry out a structural audit of the structure.

A month later, the BMC learnt that the building was actually a cessed building of Maharashtra Housing & Area Development Authority (MHADA), over which it had no jurisdiction.

Seizure of exam papers from office, residences of SFI leaders put Kerala University in a spot

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The credibility of graduates and post graduates passing out of Kerala University has come under a shadow following the seizure of bundles of unused answer papers and the official seal of the head of the department from the office of the CPI-M led Students Federation of India at Thiruvananthapuram and the residences of some of the SFI leaders.

The Confederation of University Teachers Organisation in Kerala has demanded that an independent agency should probe the circumstances that led to University answer sheets and office seals of the authorities reaching the houses of student leaders and party offices.

The Kerala Police probing the last week's stabbing incident at the University College in the heart of Thiruvananthapuram was shocked when they saw bundles of examination papers and the office seal stored in a room in the college which was being used by the SFI as its office.

Empty bottle of imported scotch was one of the items seized from the office room of the SFI. A probe is on to find out whether the bottle was dumped into the room by forces which are opposed to the SFI, said a police officer in the investigating team.

The University College is a fortress under the full control of the SFI irrespective of the party in power at the neighbouring Kerala Secretariat.

Once known for academic excellence, the University College has become a den of anti-social activities. "This college is used by the CPI-M to recruit youngsters to be deployed in the institution to annihilate students belonging to other unions and political parties; said a teacher in the college who did not want his name to be quoted. It was a group rivalry

between the SFI activists which led to the stabbing incident resulting in Akhil, himself a SFI leader hot stab wounds. The College was in the news recently when a second year degree student tried to commit suicide in the college itself because of harassment by the SFI leaders. She was saved in the nick of time and the college authorities acceded to her request for a transfer to another college. "During the last one year 150 students have left the college complaining of harassment and abuse by SFI leaders," said this girl from her residence at a Thiruvananthapuram suburb.

The investigators probing the case seized bundles of unused university answer sheets from the residence of Shivaranjit, the prime accused in the stabbing case. Shivaranjit has been selected to the Kerala Police as civil police officer by the Kerala Public Service Commission which is fully under the CPI-M control. How he got into the rank list of the KPSC is also being investigated by the police. Shivaranjit and Nazeem the second accused have been arrested and remanded to judicial custody. Following widespread resentment among the student community, the State leadership of the SFI has disbanded the wing's college unit.

Both Trinamool, BJP claim control over Bongaon municipality

IAN S ■ KOLKATA

Amid high drama and clashes over a board meeting of West Bengal's Bongaon municipality called on Tuesday to debate a no-confidence resolution, both the ruling Trinamool Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) claimed to have proved their majority.

Of the 22 members of the municipality in the North 24 Parganas district, 20 belonged to the Trinamool and one each to the CPI-M and the Congress. But shortly after the BJP's victory in the Bongaon Lok Sabha seat, 11 Trinamool councillors shifted their allegiance to the BJP and claimed that the Trinamool-run board had been reduced to a minority.

They also approached the high court claiming that the no-confidence resolution moved by them was rejected by the Chairman, and the state government was planning to appoint an administrator to run the civic body.

A special board meeting of the municipality was scheduled on Tuesday to take up and vote on the resolution.

But the situation became tense in the afternoon when the police allegedly stopped two rebel councillors from entering the municipality on the pretext of non-bailable charges against them.

The BJP supporters and activists clashed with the police, broke the barricade and pelted stones at houses and shops in the area, accusing the cops of working at the behest of the ruling party.

Police carried out a baton charge to disperse the crowd.

Meanwhile, the Trinamool councillors claimed they had retained control of the municipal board as the rebel councillors failed to attend the board meeting within the scheduled time of 3 p.m.

CRPF troopers praised for saving girl from drowning in J&K

Srinagar: The brave efforts of two CRPF troopers who saved a girl from drowning in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district was praised by locals and the twitterati on Tuesday.

On Monday, the troopers, MG Naidu and Nalla Upendra, immediately jumped into the stream when they saw 14-year-old Nigeena being washed away by powerful currents. The girl would have drowned, had not been for the timely rescue by the troopers who risked their lives to save her. Residents of the area, especially the parents of the girl, have said they can never fully express the gratitude they owe to the two troopers.

"It was an extreme act of bravery for which the entire area remains indebted to these two brave jawans," said a local from the area. Many Twitter users have also praised the bravery and presence of mind of the two troopers. IANS

SPECIAL TRAIN-2019

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during summer season, Railways have decided to run the following Special Train as per the schedule given below :-

09731/09732 Jaipur - Delhi Cantt - Jaipur		40 Trips	
Special Train (Tri-weekly)			
TRAIN NO. 09731		TRAIN NO. 09732	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
---	07:45	Jaipur	▲ 21:20
13:20	---	Delhi Cantt	--- 15:20

Days of Run : 09731 from Jaipur and 09732 from Delhi Cantt on every Tuesday, Thursday & Friday from 18.07.19 to 30.08.19
Accommodation : AC 3 Tier, AC Chari Car, 2nd Seating, Sleeper & General.
Stoppages : Gandhi Nagar (Jaipur), Getor Jagatpura, Dausa, Bandikui, Alwar, Rewari and Gurgaon stations.
For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Security Helpline No. 182 and Passengers Complaint Helpline No. 138
Beware of Touts Always buy your tickets from Railway Counter or authorised rail travel agents only.

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 2298/2019
 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

RAJASTHAN STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION

Head Office, Parivahan Marg, Chomu House, Jaipur

NIT For Web based Crew Scheduling & Leave Apps

Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation (RSRTC), Jaipur invite bids from eligible bidders who have necessary qualifications and experience to carry out the work for Web based Crew Scheduling & Leave Apps in a time bound manner. Details of this tender notifications and eligibility criteria can be seen in the NIT exhibited on website <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://transport.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrtc> and <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> from 11th July 2019 onward.

Executive Director (Traffic)
Raj.Samwad/C/1429/2019-20

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED

(A Government of India Enterprise)
 Regd. Office: B-9, Outer Institutional Area, Kawana Sarai, New Delhi-110016
 Corp. Office: "Saudamini", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurgaon, Haryana-122 001
 Website: www.powergridindia.com, CIN: L40101DL1999G0008121

NOTICE

1. **Petition-1 :** Approval under Regulation 6 (1) & 15 of CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulation 2009 & Regulation-6 of CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations 2014 for revision of transmission tariff for 2009-14 period & determination of transmission tariff for 2014-19 period for 01 no. 160 MVA, 220/160 KV, 3-ph Transformer at Barpada (shifted to Purnea) under Provision of Spare ICTs and Reactors for Eastern, Northern, Southern and Western Regions.

2. **Petition-2 :** Approval under sub-section(4) of Section 28 & 79(1)(d) of Electricity Act 2003 and regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations 1999 for revision of transmission tariff for 2009-14 period & determination of transmission tariff for 2014-19 period for Asset-I: 17 Nos of OPGW links, Asset II: 09 nos of OPGW links, Asset III: 10 nos of OPGW links and Asset IV: 01 nos of WBSETCL sector portion OPGW link under 'Fibre Optic communication system in lieu of existing Unified Load Despatch and Communication (ULDC) Microwave links' in Eastern Region

3. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are: (a) NTPC Delhi, (b) NTPC-Farakka, (c) NTPC-Kahalgagan I & II, (d) NTPC-Talchar, (e) NHP, New Delhi, (f) NHP, Singtam, East Sikkim, (g) NHP-South Sikkim, (h) DVC Meja Thermal Power Station, (i) West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Co.Ltd., (j) Bihar State Electricity Board, (k) Grid Corporation of Orissa Ltd., (l) Power Department, Sikkim, (m) Jharkhand State Electricity Board, (n) Damodar Valley Corporation, Calcutta, and (o) Powerlinks Transmission Ltd.

4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergridindia.com.

5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application to be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3rd & 4th Floor, Chandralok Building, Janpath, New Delhi-110001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office "Saudamini", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurgaon-122001, Haryana within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place : GURGAON Sd/-
 Date : 16.07.2019 Senior General Manager (Commercial)

"Give a Missed Call on Toll Free No. 18002003004 to Get MoP Apps"

DELHI JAL BOARD OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (NE) II R-POCKET DILSHAD GARDEN DELHI-95						
PRESS NIT NO. 14 (2019-20)						
Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender	EMD Amount	Tender Fees	Date of release of tender in procurement Solution	Last Date/time of receipt of tender through procurement Solution
1.	Replacement /Shifting of old /deep/ damaged 200 mm dia GI water line under buried central merge from Sherpur Chowk to Chand Bagh Puliya in Mustafabad AC- 69 under EE(NE)-II Tender ID No. 2019_DJB_176229_1	3593823.00	720000.00	500.00	12.07.2019	29.07.2019 upto 02:30 P.M.
2.	Replacement of old /deep/damaged 400 mm dia water main at nala road from Sardar Patel School to Panchal Vihar Shiv Vihar in Mustafabad AC-69 Tender ID No. 2019_DJB_176229_2	3934672.00	800000.00	500.00	12.07.2019	29.07.2019 upto 02:30 P.M.

All the terms and conditions including technical specification and special conditions is available on Delhi Govt. Website <https://delhi.govtprocurement.com>
 ISSUED BY P.R.O (WATER)
 Advt. No. J.S.V 175/2019-20

Sd/-
EX. ENGINEER (NE)II

Lagarde quits as IMF MD



PTI ■ WASHINGTON

French politician Christine Lagarde on Tuesday said she will resign as the Managing Director of International Monetary Fund with effect from September 12.

She has been nominated by the European Council as President of the European Central Bank. Her resignation has been accepted by the IMF Executive Board with effect from September 12.

"I have met with the Executive Board and submitted my resignation from the Fund with effect from September 12, 2019. The relinquishment of my responsibilities as Managing Director announced

previously will remain in effect until then," Lagarde said in a statement.

David Lipton remains the IMF Acting Managing Director in the interim period.

In a separate statement, IMF Executive Board said that it has accepted the resignation of Lagarde and expressed its "greatest appreciation" for what she did for the institution.

"Her legacy of achievements has made a lasting imprint on the Fund. Under her guidance, the Fund successfully helped its members navigate a complex and unprecedented set of challenges, including the impact of the global financial crisis and its aftershocks," the Board said.

RBI rejects proposed appointment of ex-interim CEO, other on Religare's board

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Religare Enterprises said Tuesday that the Reserve Bank of India has rejected proposed appointment of two persons to the company's board of directors.

"The Reserve Bank of India vide its letter dated July 15, 2019 has communicated that the company's request for appointment of Ashok Mehta and Ashwani Mehta as non-executive non-independent directors has not been acceded to," Religare Enterprises said in a regulatory filing.

Ashok Mehta has served as the interim chief executive officer of the company in the past.

Religare had approved to appoint Ashwani Mehta as the non-executive non-independent director of the company on November 20, 2018. Ashwani is an MS in general surgery and is one of the pioneers to start laparoscopic surgery in northern India.

In June, the company's group chief executive officer (CEO) Milind Narendra Patel had resigned from his post which he had assumed in August 2018, after stepping down of Ashok Mehta as the interim CEO.

Patel continues as the group CEO, serving the notice period as per the company policies.

Rupee falls 17 paise against USD on rising crude, capital outflow

The rupee had settled at 68.54 against the US dollar on Monday

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee on Tuesday depreciated by 17 paise to close at 68.71 against the US dollar due to rising crude oil prices and foreign fund outflows.

A strengthening US dollar against major currencies overseas also weighed on the rupee sentiment, forex traders said.

However, sustained buying in the domestic equity market restricted the rupee's fall, they added. At the interbank foreign exchange (forex) market, the domestic currency opened lower at 68.59 per dollar, and further lost ground to touch the day's low of 69.76. The rupee finally settled at 68.71, down 17 paise over its previous close.

The rupee had settled at 68.54 against the US dollar on Monday.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six major currencies, moved up by 0.31 per cent to 97.23.

Boeing jet trouble leads to cuts at Europe's busiest airline

AP ■ LONDON

Europe's biggest airline, budget carrier Ryanair, will cut flights and close some of its bases beginning this winter because of the delay to deliveries of the Boeing 737 Max plane, which has been grounded globally after two fatal crashes.

The airline also warned Tuesday that its growth in European summer traffic for 2020 will be lower than expected because of the slowed deliveries.

Ryanair chief Michael O'Leary said the airline "remains committed" to the Boeing 737 Max and expects it to be back in service before the end of the year but that the date is uncertain.

Ryanair, which is Europe's top airline by passengers, says some delays are expected and doubts about when the plane can return to the skies means it will take delivery of only 30 Max jets a year from now, rather than the previously scheduled 58.

He says the airline will close some of its bases as a result with a hope to return to "normal" growth levels in 2021. No details about the planned base cuts were provided.

Business Corner



JP Alex has taken over as Executive Director (Air Traffic Management) at Corporate Headquarters of Airports Authority of India. Prior to this appointment, he was working as Executive Director (Operations) since 2015



The subcommittee on Agrichemicals, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), on Tuesday organised a conference on 'Role of Agrochemical in Sustainable Farming'. P Raghendra Rao, Secretary (Chemicals & Petrochemicals), Dept of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Govt of India, inaugurated the event, which was attended by senior officials and heads of agrochemical companies, scientists, academicians, technocrats, corporates, policymakers and farmers. Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member NITI Aayog also attended the conference

Brazil seeks WTO to set up dispute panel in case against India on sugar subsidy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Brazil has sought establishment of a dispute panel under the aegis of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in a case against India's sugar subsidies to farmers.

In February, Brazil and several other countries including Australia and Guatemala have dragged India into the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism alleging that New Delhi's sugar subsidies to farmers are inconsistent with global trade rules.

Brazil is the largest producer and exporter of sugar in the world.

"Brazil respectfully requests that the dispute settlement body establish a panel," according to a communication submitted by the South American country to the Geneva-based WTO.

Brazil has alleged that in recent years, India has massively increased the level of domestic support under its support regime for sugarcane and sugar.

For example, India has almost doubled the fair and remunerative price for sugarcane from Rs 1,391.2 per tonne

in 2010-11 to Rs 2,750 per tonne in 2018-19, it has stated.

That fair and remunerative price is the minimum price that, under Indian law, domestic sugar mills must pay sugarcane producers. It constitutes one of India's most important support measures for sugarcane producers.

In addition, Brazil said some of India's states provide for higher minimum prices for sugarcane that local sugar mills must pay local sugarcane producers.

Seeking consultation is the first step of dispute settlement process. If the two nations are not able to reach a mutually agreed solution through consultation, complainant requests for a WTO dispute settlement panel to review the matter.

They had filed dispute under certain articles of WTO's Agreement on Agriculture, Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994.

If the panel rules against India's sugar subsidies, India can approach the appellate body of the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism.

Local sourcing norms for FDI in single brand retail to be eased in few weeks: Goyal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India will be easing mandatory local sourcing norms for FDI in single brand retail trading in the next few weeks, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said.

"India has opened up opportunities for single brand retail and is easing some detrimental clauses of the policy in next few weeks which will help single brand retail come in a bigger way to the country," an official statement said quoting the minister.

He was addressing CEOs of multi-national companies in the UK-India Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) meeting held on Monday in London.

The government in Budget proposed that local sourcing norms will be eased for FDI (foreign direct investment) in single brand retail

sector.

Currently 100 per cent FDI is permitted in the sector with certain conditions, including 30 per cent mandatory local sourcing preferably from MSMEs.

The minister also requested companies around the world to respect Indian sensitivities on restrictions of foreign investment in multi-brand retail.

"Particularly, e-commerce companies coming to India will have to ensure that they stay within the letter and spirit of the law when it comes to multi-brand retail and India's policies around that," he said.

He also said that manufacturing in India, in a cost-competitive environment, could be the key for British companies to expand their footprints to other parts of the world.

"Designed in the UK - Made in India can be the new

focus area for this partnership. Similarly, in the services sector, India can provide huge technical expertise to British companies," the minister said.

Further he said if the spirit of research and innovation in British industry and academia is bound together with the strength of the skilled Indian work force, the two countries may become the preferred supplier for the rest of the world.

Both countries have agreed to set up three new bilateral working groups to tackle barriers in specific sectors including food and drink, healthcare and data services.

India-UK trade and economic relations are reviewed annually by JETCO at the level of Commerce and Industry Minister.

Till date, 12 meetings have taken place and the last was held in January 2018 in London.

Lenders plan to call bids for Jet Airways' asset sale by Sat

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The lenders to the bankrupt Jet Airways, who met here Tuesday for the first time since the carrier was sent to the NCLT, are understood to have decided to call for expressions of interest to sell the meager assets of the airline by Saturday.

The airline's meager assets include 14 aircraft including 10 Boeing planes—down from 124 before the grounding—and 49 percent stake in Jet Privilege and a few buildings, while its liabilities are over Rs 36,000 crore, including more than Rs 10,000 crore of vendor dues, Rs 8,500 crore along with interest to the lenders, over Rs 3,000 crore in salary dues and more than Rs 13,500 crore in accumulated losses of the past three years.

The company is no more a going concern and had for many years run into negative networth.

The lenders also list spares, slots and routes as the "assets" of the airliner that was promoted by Naresh Goyal and operated its last flight on April 17. The airline was sent to the NCLT on June 17.

But it can be noted that government had temporarily given away all its domestic slots in April itself and its international routes in June.

The insolvency resolution professional for the airline Ashish Chhawchharia and the lenders led by State Bank will be laying down the bidding criteria, a source told PTI.

Voting on the timeline for issuing the expressions of interest and the eligibility criteria will be completed by the targeted date of July 19 and the EoIs are likely to be issued the next day on July 20, the source added.

Financial creditors have made a claim of Rs 8,500 crore, while the claims from operational creditors and employees-

-which are much higher than the former—are yet to be verified, the source said.

The National Company Law Tribunal had on June 20 admitted the insolvency petition filed by the lenders against Jet Airways, and directed resolution professional to try to finish the process within three months. The tribunal had cited "national importance" of the airline while directing a faster resolution process, than 180 days allowed under the bankruptcy code.

Before it was sent to the NCLT, the banks, which own half of the shares in the airline had sought expressions of interest from both strategic and financial investors to sell between 31.2 and 75 percent stake. The bankers had received four non-binding EoIs in April, while Ethihad Airways, which owns 24 percent in the carrier, had submitted a conditional bid.

हरीयाणा सरकार					
CORRI GENDUM NOTI CE					
Sr. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	OLD REFERENCE/ NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRI GENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./ AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAIL/ E-MAIL
1	HVPN	MEMO NO. CH-33/TSB-5A DATED 02.07.2019. NIT NO. 23/TS/BHW/2018-19 DATED 05.03.2019	DUE TO NON-RECEIPT OF SUFFICIENT BIDS I.E. MINIMUM 3 NO. BIDS. HENCE THE CORRI GENDUM IS REQUIRED. NOW THE OPENING DATE OF NIT IS HEREBY EXTENDED UP TO 22.07.2019 AT 13.00 HRS.	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
2	HVPN	MEMO NO. CH-34/TSB-5A DATED 02.07.2019. NIT NO. 24/TS/BHW/2018-19 DATED 05.03.2019	DUE TO NON-RECEIPT OF SUFFICIENT BIDS I.E. MINIMUM 3 NO. BIDS. HENCE THE CORRI GENDUM IS REQUIRED. NOW THE OPENING DATE OF NIT IS HEREBY EXTENDED UP TO 22.07.2019 AT 13.00 HRS.	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
3	HVPN	MEMO NO. CH-36/TSB-5A DATED 02.07.2019. NIT NO. 26/TS/BHW/2018-19 DATED 05.03.2019	DUE TO NON-RECEIPT OF SUFFICIENT BIDS I.E. MINIMUM 3 NO. BIDS. HENCE THE CORRI GENDUM IS REQUIRED. NOW THE OPENING DATE OF NIT IS HEREBY EXTENDED UP TO 22.07.2019 AT 13.00 HRS.	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
4	HVPN	NIT No. 22/TS/FBD/2018-19	THE DATE OF TENDER SUBMISSION EXTENDED UP TO 13.00 HRS ON DATED 29.07.2019 AND OPENING DATE UP TO 15.00 HRS ON DATED 29.07.2019	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
5	HPGOL	105649/NIT No. 27/RGTPP/CAT-I/M&P-570/2018-2019. Dt. 19.11.2018	CORRI GENDUM - V DUE DATE OF OPENING IS 28.07.2019 UP TO 15:00 HRS FOR CARRYING OUT CLEAN AIR TEST AND DIRTY AIR TEST OF COAL MILLS PF FIRING SYSTEM INSTALLED AT UNIT-I. RGTPP DURING FORTHCOMING CAPITAL OVERHAULING OF UNIT-I AT RGTPP, KHEDAR.	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	8222022077 vrdi@hpgol.org.in
6	DHBN	NIT-13/SE/OP/HRI/19-20	EMD 10 LACS	www.dhbn.org.in	01662-232639 seoph@bhnsar@gmail.com
7	DHBN	16/SE/OP/GGN/11/2018-19	LAST DATE OF UPLOADING BID EXTENDED UP 22.07.2019(13.00 HRS)	www.dhbn.org.in	0124-2582106 gurgamee2@gmail.com
8	DHBN	52/XEN/CIVIL/WORKS/GGN/2018-19	DATE EXTENDED UP TO 22.07.2019(13.00 HRS)	www.dhbn.org.in	0124-2970011 xencivilgn1@gmail.com
9	DHBN	57/XEN/CIVIL/WORKS/GGN/2018-19	DATE EXTENDED UP TO 22.07.2019(13.00 HRS)	www.dhbn.org.in	0124-2970011 xencivilgn1@gmail.com
10	HSAMB ROHTAK	NIL	POSTPONEMENT OF TENDERS DUE TO ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS. REVISE SCHEDULE OF TENDERS IS AS UNDER: 1) ORDINARY REPAIR OF LINK ROADS OF CONSTITUENCY MEHAM & GARHI, SAMPLA KILOI. DATE & TIME OF CLOSING - 24.07.2019 AT 5:00 PM. DATE & TIME OF OPENING - 25.07.2019 AT 11:30 AM	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662-270274 xerohatak.hsamb@gmail.com

Public Notice
Be it known to all concerned that my client Surinder Kumar Vaid s/o Late Sh.Chander Paul Vaid r/o 2165-2166 Rani Bagh, Delhi-34 has disowned his son Aditya Aged 34 Yrs appx. & has debarred him from all his movable & immovable Properties for all time to come. If any person deals with him pertaining to the properties of my client, he/she will be responsible of his / her own, for all consequences. Chander Kanti Advocates, CA, V-8, Opp. SBI, Tis Hazari

Public Notice
To be known to all that I, Krishna Saini daughter of Late Sh.Ram Chander Saini, R/o B-3/191, Paschim Vihar is the owner/purchaser of DDA Janta Flat No. 109-A on Ground floor, Pkt-A-5 situated at Paschim Puri, ND-63 applied for conversion of the aforesaid property from leasehold to freehold in DDA. The original Demand Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession Slip & NOC for water & electricity of the above said property have been lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in Police Station dt 8/7/2019. Any person claiming any right, interest having any objection may write/contact with above named person at above phone no 011-25254465 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice & can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (LAB) or Director (LAB) H, D Block, 3rd floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

Need to tap foreign capital to accelerate growth to 8%: CEA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Economic Advisor K V Subramanian Tuesday said there is a need to tap foreign capital to accelerate growth from the current level of 7 per cent to 8 per cent.

"Apart from sovereign bond issue, we also need to be tapping into foreign capital to trigger the virtuous cycle. Once this virtuous cycle is triggered then other parts start moving," he said at the book launch of HDPC Bank 2.0 - From Dawn to Digital.

Achieving USD 5-trillion economy by 2024-25 is possible although the goal is slightly stretched, he said.

"When we get investment that enhances productivity, exports, jobs which leads to demand and thereby again creates investment triggering that is actually important. Of course, we are growing to close to 7 per cent. In order to grow at 8 per cent, we do need to trigger this and, therefore, foreign capital is something that has to be encouraged," he said.

Indian economy reached to the level of USD 1 trillion in 55 years and added USD 1 million in the past 5 years to USD 2.75 trillion by March 2019, he said.

On the merger in the public sector banks, Subramanian said they are being done based on synergies, and policy is to exploit economies of scale.

"Rather than any top-down strategy or mandate which says we need to have four banks, this should be based on looking at banks that might combine well because of synergies," he said.

SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo), Namely: Suman Khan, S/o: Mitthu, R/o: Asha Kiran Complex, Sec-01, Rohini, Delhi, Aged: 17 years, has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi since 10.06.2019 at vide FIR No. 145/19 u/s 363 IPC, Dated 10.06.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:

Suman Khan

Complexion: Fair, Height: 5', Face: Long, Clothing: Pink Colour Shirt and Payjama.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing/kidnapped boy, may inform SHO, Vijay Vihar, Delhi at E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in or website : http://cbi.nic.in Tele No. : 11-24368638 or 24368641

S.H.O
P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi
Ph. No. 011-27282350, 27280435

DP/3023/RD/19.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SECTION 82 Cr.Pc.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused, Ajay S/o Kartar Singh, R/o B-506, JJ Camp Tigri, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 417/14 u/s 11/12 POCSO, P.S. Neb Sarai, Delhi, and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused person Ajay, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Ajay, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Ajay, Under the FIR No. 417/14 u/s 11/12 POCSO, P.S. Neb Sarai, Delhi, is required to appear before the court on or before 17.08.2019.

By order
Dr. Saurabh Kulshreshtha,
Additional Sessions Judge-01(South),
Court No. 302, Saket, New Delhi

DP/5580/SD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), Namely: Prerna Thakur D/o Rahul Thakur R/o H.No. 3425, Gali Bajrang Bali, Sita Ram Bazar, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 09.07.2019 from her house. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 92/19 dated 09.07.2019 has been registered at PS Hauz Qazi, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

PRERNA THAKUR

Age : 17 Years 4 month, Height: 5'2", Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Round, Built: Medium, Wearing : Pink colour suit-salwar.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Hauz Qazi, Delhi

E-mail : cbc@cbi.gov.in, website: http://cbi.nic.in

SHO
P.S Hauz Qazi, Delhi
Central District, Delhi
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/6432/CD/19
Ph. No. 011-23210414, 23212482

BASEUS, CHINESE DIGITAL ACCESSORY BRAND ENTERS INDIAN MARKET

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Baseus on Tuesday announced its entry into the India market with its entire range of accessories. The company has entered into an exclusive strategic partnership with Telecare Network India Pvt. Ltd. (An Optimus Group Company) as its distribution and marketing partner in India.

The wide range of innovative accessories launched include TWS Earpods, Smart 2-in-1 Dual Wireless Charger, Digital Display Power station - 3000mAh and Alexa enabled S17 Pro Wireless Sports Earphones.

Trade representatives of ENDS echo High Court concerns

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The voluntary association of Trade Representatives of ENDS in India (TRENDS) on Tuesday submitted a representation to the Chief Secretary, Delhi Government with copies to Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal and Health Minister, Satyendra Kumar Jain echoing the observations of the Court regarding the sale and distribution of E-Cigarettes in Delhi.

In the representation made to the Chief Minister, TRENDS pointed out that it concurs with the concerns of the High Court of Delhi.



Lampard takes over Chelsea

AFP ■ LONDON

Chelsea legend Frank Lampard said Tuesday he won't be looking backwards as he takes on possibly the biggest challenge of his career: managing his former team.

Speaking in Japan where the Blues are playing two friendlies, Lampard said he was "very happy" with his squad but expects to work the team hard during the pre-season.

"For me the story is not to look backwards," said Lampard, whose return to his former club as head coach was confirmed earlier this month.

"I know the club very well, I know the players very well. I have my own way that I want to work with the players," he told reporters in Yokohama, where Chelsea will face Japan's Kawasaki Frontale on July 19.

Lampard acknowledged taking on leadership of the Blues will be a major undertaking, with Chelsea having lost their best player of recent times, Eden Hazard, to Real Madrid last month, and serving a two-window transfer ban that prevents him from making new signings. But he said there was no reason to dwell on the ban.

"I think I inherited very good players. We cannot bring in any

players we know that... But I'm very happy with the squad.

"My job now is to work hard in pre-season with them. I like my teams to play with a lot of energy and speed, with and without the ball, so I want to win it back as quickly as we can," he said.

Chelsea's new \$72 million signing, Christian Pulisic, is listed as one of the team members visiting Japan, but it was not clear when he will arrive.

Lampard declined to reveal the line-up for the two friendlies on Chelsea's calendar, which include a much-anticipated face-off against Barcelona on July 23.

American international Pulisic signed a five-and-a-half year contract with Chelsea in January but was immediately loaned back to Germany to finish the season at Borussia Dortmund.

Lampard won 13 trophies in 13 years and became Chelsea's all-time leading marksman with 211 goals from midfield during a decorated playing career at Stamford Bridge.

But he has a lot to prove in his new role. The former England midfielder has just one season of managerial experience having led Derby County to the Championship play-off final in May, when they were beaten by Aston Villa.

Ole confident De Gea will sign new deal



David de Gea during practice session

AFP ■ PERTH

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said on Tuesday he is optimistic that goalkeeper David de Gea would sign a new deal to remain at Old Trafford as Manchester United prepared to face old rivals Leeds in Perth.

United's pre-season tour of Australia has been overshadowed speculation over the futures of

several stars, including De Gea who is in the last year of his contract and has been linked with French champions Paris Saint-Germain.

The Spaniard is reportedly close to signing a new five-year deal with United worth in excess of £350,000 a week that would make him the highest paid goalkeeper in the world.

De Gea was rested from United's pre-season opener against Perth Glory on Saturday but will line up against Leeds on Wednesday to wrap up the Red Devils' 10-day visit to the Western Australia city.

"He'll play and hopefully we can agree (on a new deal) with David, as I've said a few times," Solskjaer told reporters.

"That'll be up to David to announce when that happens, if and when."

The United boss refused to be drawn on whether Leicester City and England centreback Harry Maguire was on his way to Old Trafford.

"There's been loads of speculation but I can't really say anything," Solskjaer said.

"There's a limit of players and whoever performs will be part of the team and whoever doesn't they will have to fight to get back in."

After an unconvincing 2-0 victory over a depleted Perth, United will be hoping for a better performance against one-time bitter enemy Leeds.

The rivalry has simmered since Leeds' relegation from the English Premier League in 2004 but hostilities between the passionate fan bases are still evident with extra security measures being put in place by organisers at Perth Stadium.

Solskjaer said United were excited to renew the rivalry. "Of course you want to have games against the biggest clubs," he said. "It's a great occasion for both sets of supporters and the players because there were great games (in the past)."

Romelu Lukaku, who is reportedly looking to secure a move to Inter Milan, is set to play his first pre-season match against Leeds after recovering from a "niggle". However, Luke Shaw is likely to miss out after suffering a hamstring injury in the match against Perth.

United will have further pre-season games against Inter Milan in Singapore on July 20 and Tottenham in Shanghai on July 25, while Leeds will head to Sydney to face Western Sydney Wanderers.

De Ligt agreed to join Juventus

AFP ■ TURIN

Defender Matthijs de Ligt has agreed to join Juventus, Dutch and Italian media reported on Monday, but it was not clear whether the Turin club had yet agreed a fee with Ajax.

Reports said that the 19-year-old Dutch international, who cap-

tained Ajax to the semifinals of the Champions League, had agreed personal terms with Juventus and would arrive in Turin on Tuesday and undergo a medical on Wednesday.

Media in Italy said Juventus would pay Ajax of Amsterdam 75 million euros (\$85 million).

De Ligt has been linked with



many of Europe's leading clubs after his impressive play for resurgent Ajax and Netherland teams last season.

He has played 117 games for Ajax in all competitions, scoring 13 goals, including three as the club reached the last four of the Champions League last season, only to lose in the final seconds to Tottenham. De Ligt

scored the winner in Turin as Ajax eliminated Juventus in the quarter-finals.

He has played 17 times for the Netherlands.

Earlier on Monday, Juventus unveiled Aaron Ramsey, the Welsh midfielder who had agreed in February to join as a free agent once his contract with Arsenal expired.

Sharath & Co Start favourites Commonwealth Table Tennis C'ships



PTI ■ CUTTACK

Indian men's team, led by skipper A Sharath Kamal, will start as favourites when the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships begins at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium here on Wednesday.

India are clubbed with Singapore and Scotland in

group B, while England, the top-ranked team here and placed in group A, have Sri Lanka and Cyprus for company.

With the format allowing two teams from each group to qualify for the second stage, Sharath and Co are confident of sweeping the Gold medals.

Sharath's calculations are



based on the weakest England, Nigeria and Singapore teams that have come here.

"Indeed, we are in the toughest group but since England, Nigeria and Singapore have not fielded their best players, Indian men should win the team and open events," said the winner of 10 medals, including the 2004 singles and team championship Gold medals.

Sharath said the way G Sathiyam, ranked No 24 in the world, has been playing, of

late, India would always fancy their chance against even the toughest. "He is in the form of his life. Besides, two seasoned campaigners in Liam Pitchford and Paul Drinkhall (England) and Aruna Quadri and Segun Toriola (Nigeria) are not here. Singapore, too, have fielded a young side while other teams are not that strong. It makes our job easier," he said.

In comparison, the women team draw looks far easier than one would have expected.

Mirabai in constant battle with fear of injury



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Top Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu on Tuesday said she lives in fear of injuring herself ahead of next year's Tokyo Olympics despite recovering from an unspecified back problem, which marred her progress in 2018.

After the Gold-winning performance in the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games last year, Mirabai had complained of lower back pain.

The injury puzzled doctors across the country, who were unable to diagnose the cause, forcing the 24-year-old to miss the Asian Games and the World Championships in the same year.

"A lot has changed after the injury. There is a always a fear as to what will happen if I get injured again. I have to think twice before every lift, every training session," Mirabai said.

About nine months later, the back pain has subsided allowing Mirabai to make a successful comeback to the arena. She notched up a Gold medal at the EGAT Cup in Thailand in her first

outing after the setback.

The injury has led Mirabai and coach Vijay Sharma to tweak their training regimen.

"My approach has changed because we don't know why the pain occurred in the first place. Was it because of some exercise or was it because of my technique, we still don't know that," she said.

"She is taking things a bit slowly," added Sharma, only slightly elaborating on what has changed for the star.

Mirabai has enjoyed a good run since her comeback. In the Asian Championships in April, she missed out on a medal by a whisker.

The 24-year-old had lifted 199kg (86kg+113kg), her personal best, but lost out to China's Zhang Rong, owing to a lower clean and jerk result.

She then got back to winning ways by notching up the gold at the recently concluded Commonwealth Championships.

"My progress since the injury has been good. I have won Gold EGAT and then again in Commonwealth Championships. I am satisfied with the performance."

The diminutive Manipuri has now set her sights on the World Championship, scheduled to be held in September. She has fond memories of the tournament, where she was crowned champion in 2017.

With those memories, come the expectations and with that a lot of pressure as the World Championship will also double up as an Olympic qualifying event.

"Compared to 2017 the expectations are much more because I am returning for the first time and this is the main event for the Olympics. But I try not to think about it. I just keep in mind what the coach tells me," she said.

In order to win at the World Championship, Mirabai will have to up the ante. She heaved 194kg on way to Gold at the 2017 Worlds in Las Vegas.

However, the 2018 world champion in the 49kg category lifted a world record weight of 209kgs. While the Silver and Bronze went to 208kg and 206kg, respectively.

"I am targeting 202kg-plus in this event. Thailand, China Japan, Korea we are all together."

"Because Asia is the powerhouse the same players will be in the Worlds as well, and I almost won a medal in the Asian Championship so I'm confident I'll do well. I have lifted 203kg in training. My aim is 210 but it has to be done slowly hopefully till Tokyo I will be able to achieve it," she explained.

After the rejig of weight categories, Mirabai had to move from 48kg to 49kg alongside a lot of lifters participating in the 53kg.

Asked if that's added pressure considering the 53kg lifters have an advantage over her, Mirabai said: "I am not thinking about others. I have to focus on my performance."

"Yes, I am at a disadvantage because those who have moved from 53kg can lift one or two kilogram more than us but I have to focus on my own performance," she said.

MEN			
Group A:	England, India, Nigeria, Australia,	Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, South Africa,	Cyprus, Scotland, Bangladesh, Wales
WOMEN			
Group A:	Singapore, India, Australia, Nigeria,	Wales, South Africa, Malaysia, England,	Scotland, Sri Lanka, Cyprus, Bangladesh.

Again, on the basis of team ranking, Singapore is the top-seeded squad but India, at No 2, form a part of group B with South Africa and Sri Lanka, while group A has Singapore, Wales and Scotland.

The other groups have lesser teams in terms of ranking.

The Indian women, on its strength, should be able to cross the first-stage hurdle without dropping a sweat.

However, they could face some stiff competition from Singapore as the hosts approach the final. Manika Batra, on

whose shoulder the burden is placed, may not be in the kind of form she had in 2018 CWG and Asian Games, but she is capable of pulling it off in a team event like this, particularly when the home crowd would be rooting for her and Team India.

In their first group match, Indian women take on Scotland, followed by Singapore.

The championships open with group matches in women section for the team championships.



Another super over should decide winner

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sachin Tendulkar on Tuesday endorsed a second super over to decide the winner instead of considering the boundary count if such an extraordinary situation arises like it did in the World Cup final.

In a gut-wrenching final at Lords on Sunday, England were adjudged the World Cup winners on the basis of their superior boundary count — 22 fours and two sixes to New Zealand's 16 — after both the regulation match and the ensuing Super Over ended in a tie.

"I feel there should be another super over to decide the winner, instead of considering the number of boundaries scored by both teams. Not just in a World Cup final. Every game is important. Like in football, when teams go into extra time, nothing else matters," Tendulkar told *100mb*.

Current and former cricketers including Rohit Sharma, Gautam Gambhir and Yuvraj Singh, have questioned ICC's "ridiculous" rule on boundary count that decided the World Cup title.

After table toppers India were knocked out of the World Cup after losing the semi-final to New Zealand, skipper Virat Kohli had suggested IPL-like playoffs instead of knockouts in the World Cup going forward.

Asked if the World Cup format needs to be changed in the knock out stages, Tendulkar said: "I think the two teams that finish at the top should definitely have something going for them for having played consistently through the tournament."

During India's semifinal, former skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni was sent at number seven with Hardik Pandya and Dinesh Karthik being promoted in the batting order.

Asked what batting order he would have gone with for the chase, Tendulkar said: "Without a doubt, I would've sent MS Dhoni at his usual position, No 5. "With the kind of situation that India was in and the experience that he has, and the need of the hour was for him to build the innings. Hardik could've batted at 6 and Karthik would've followed at 7."

Mandhana wants to add more power to her game

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India opener and number one ODI batswoman Smriti Mandhana is in no mood to take it easy after a memorable season and is busy tweaking her all-round game in the lead up to the Women's T20 World Cup early next year.

The season that went by saw the 22-year-old reach the top of the ODI rankings. Mandhana is not just known for her stylish strokeplay anymore, she has added much needed power to her game to meet the demands of the modern game.

After a fruitful fitness camp at the NCA in Bengaluru, Mandhana said she remains a work in progress.

"It was a good fitness camp. Finally after an year or



Smriti Mandhana in a file picture

two, we got a month off. It was good for us to come back and do a fitness camp. It was much needed because we are going to have a hectic eight months, so we have to get our body prepared for the grind," Mandhana said after

receiving the Arjuna Award here on Tuesday.

On her own batting, she said: "I and coach Raman sir have been discussing quite a bit about my game. How I can become more consistent in T20 cricket, how I can add



more power to my game. I still feel I need to improve on that front.

"You have to improve because other teams are also keeping an eye on you. Adding new shots is not something which I am looking for, I am looking to consistently hit the same length of balls in different places," said Mandhana, who is confident of another stellar season in the *Kia Super League* to

be held in the UK next month.

While Mandhana was India's stand-out performer in ODIs and T20s, the team's performance in the shortest format has left a lot to be desired as it lost six games in a row. The team did not have enough fire-power and though the issues facing the side were discussed at length in the camp, Mandhana feels there is still a long way to go.

"Fitness was a major point of discussion after the season ended. Raman sir and we collectively discussed that fitness needs to be better to be a potent T20 side. That thing is being worked out and girls are looking in better shape."

With the likes of Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues and Harmanpreet Kaur playing their part, the

team needs more aggressive batters, especially in the middle order.

"Our batting depth has to improve and Raman sir has been speaking to all the batters on the aspect of power hitting. Improved fitness will not only help our power-hitting but will also help our fielding."

"It is more mental than anything else. That is what Raman sir has been stressing on. He has given the freedom to the batters to express themselves in the middle rather than holding back," she added.

India, who have not played international cricket since March, host South Africa in September. The T20 World Cup will be held in Australia from February 21 to March 8.

Stokes sets sights on Ashes glory

Sir Ben Stokes?

Stokes likely to be knighted for final heroics



England's Ben Stokes, left, celebrates with supporters at the Oval in London on Monday after Poms beat New Zealand to win their first World Cup in 44 years

AFP ■ LONDON

Ben Stokes has already started turning his attention to the Ashes just a day after starring for England in their dramatic ICC World Cup final win against New Zealand.

The all-rounder made an unbeaten 84 as the host nation tied the scores in regulation play at Lord's on Sunday and batted again in a Super Over shootout that also ended all-square.

The hosts won what Stokes described as the "best-ever" final on superior boundary count.

Monday saw a bleary-eyed Stokes on the other side of London's River Thames, where he was attending a team celebration event at the

Oval, with Eoin Morgan's side parading the trophy in front of hundreds of young fans.

"I've woken up in better conditions, but it's an incredible feeling," Stokes, who was man of the match said.

"We would have been devastated if we hadn't managed to lift that trophy but looking back over that game I think it will go down in the history books as the best ever, with all the drama of a World Cup final. "It's an amazing thing to be part of."

The World Cup could be the first half of remarkable double with England, for the first time since the inaugural 1975 edition, staging a World Cup and Ashes in the same season.



— THERESA MAY to England Cricket team

"You are a team that represents modern Britain, and that plays like no other side in the world. When the odds were against you in the biggest game of your lives, you simply and stubbornly refused to lose. It is that determination, that character, that has made you world champions. You have helped the nation fall in love with cricket once again. We have a team that will be spoken of in awe for generations to come."

First comes a one-off Test against Ireland at Lord's next week before England begin their quest to regain the urn against an Australia side seeking a first away Ashes series win since 2001 at Edgbaston on August 1.

"We may be world champions but also want to be Ashes winners as well," said the 28-year-old Stokes.

"Everyone here deserves to feel like a champion because we've just won it but when it comes to the Ashes it's going to be heads on again because it has to be.

"Whether you're winning or losing games, you've just got to wipe the slate clean."

Stokes also revealed how he had coped with the highs and lows of nearly winning the World Cup final

in regulation play before going out to bat again for the Super Over.

"Needing two runs off one ball, all I was thinking was 'just don't hit it in the air and get caught'. It was just 'don't try to be a hero and do it with a six,'" he explained.

"I wish it had gone for two because I wasn't best pleased with myself walking off and back to the changing rooms for that 10-minute turnaround.

"I actually had to go and have five minutes to myself in the shower area of the changing room. I was pretty annoyed, angry. I had to get my head switched back on because I knew there was a job out there to do.

"I was full of adrenaline so I needed to make sure my head was in the right place."

ROOT HOPES DOUBLE

Basking in the glory of their maiden World Cup triumph, England Test captain Joe Root feels the team are on the cusp of reaching the cricket "pinnacle" if they also manage to win the Ashes.

"It's what we set out to do two or three years ago and we're halfway there," Root was quoted as saying by the BBC on Monday.

"We couldn't be in a better place really, having achieved what we've achieved here," said Root. "This will give the guys confidence and we've talked about taking that forward into a series like that."

"The way we played against Australia in that semi-final at Edgbaston... the guys who were involved relished it and will want a bit more: the feeling of euphoria we felt at that ground..."

"To potentially be able to experience all that again is very exciting. Ashes cricket always has a different edge to it so that in itself will get everyone going."

"It's always so special," added the 28-year-old.

"The atmosphere, the way it builds up and the way the guys get excited about it, it's like no other series in Test cricket."

"It's something I'm really looking forward to and it'll be massive, especially on the back of this. It'll make it even bigger."



Ben Stokes reacts during World Cup final match against New Zealand

PTI ■ LONDON

England's World Cup hero Ben Stokes is likely to be bestowed with knighthood for his sensational performance in the summit clash against New Zealand which helped the hosts claim their maiden title in the ICC's 50-over showpiece event.

Stokes smashed an unbeaten 84 off 98 balls to help England tie the final match at the Lord's on Sunday. He then scored eight in the Super Over which also ended in a tie.

Stokes' World Cup heroics impressed Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt, the two contenders to be the next prime minister of the UK.

"I will give dukedoms, whatever — I will go to the maximum, to, what, the Garter King of Arms," said Johnson, the frontrunner to replace Theresa May as Britain's PM, during a series of rapid-fire 'yes or no' questions at the end of leadership debate hosted by *The Sun* and *talkRADIO*.

Asked if Stokes deserves knighthood, Johnson said, "Yes is the answer, absolutely."

11 English cricketers have been knighted for services to cricket till now with Alastair Cook being the last to be conferred with the honour

When Hunt was asked the same question, he replied succinctly: "Of course."

Eleven English cricketers have been knighted for services to cricket till now with former Test and ODI skipper Alastair Cook being the last to be conferred with the honour.

The 28-year-old Stokes had missed the 2017-18 Ashes due to a pending investigation into his role in a fight in Bristol that had left a man in hospital with facial injuries.

Stokes went on to redeem himself with a superlative performance at the World Cup, amassing 465 runs and claiming seven wickets for England.

His performance was lauded by England captain Eoin Morgan, who described him as "extraordinary" and "superhuman".



Shakib Al Hasan celebrates with Liton Das after completing fifty against Afghans

Shakib rested for SL ODIs

AFP ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh are resting all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan but have retained skipper Mashrafe Mortaza for the three-match one-day international series against Sri Lanka later this month, officials said on Tuesday.

Left-arm spinner Tajjul Islam and top-order batsman Anamul Haque were also recalled to replace Shakib and batsman Liton Das, who has been rested for personal reasons.

Medium pace Abu Jayed, who was part of World Cup squad but did not play any games, was the other player to miss out.

"Now that the World Cup chapter is over and we are starting a new season. This series is very important for us," said Minhajul Abedin Nannu.

"We didn't make big changes from the World Cup squad here. As we don't have Shakib and Liton, we included two players in their places and dropped one player," he said.

Bangladesh finished eighth in the World Cup after

just three wins — against struggling South Africa, West Indies and Afghanistan.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) sacked coach Steve Rhodes after the team returned home last week and announced it will not renew the contract of bowling coach Courtney Walsh.

Mashrafe, who claimed just one wicket in eight matches, shouldered the responsibility for the team's lacklustre performance, but the BCB has kept faith on him.

Bangladesh will become the first team to tour Sri Lanka since the deadly Easter attacks in which 258 people were killed.

The teams will play three one-day internationals on July 26, 28 and 31 at the Premadasa International Stadium in Colombo. **Squad:** Mashrafe Mortaza (Capt), Tamim Iqbal, Soumya Sarker, Anamul Haque, Mohammad Mithun, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mosaddek Hossain, Sabbir Rahman, Mehidy Hasan, Tajjul Islam, Rubel Hossain, Mohammad Saifuddin, Mustafizur Rahman.

Next India coach should be below 60

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian cricket board on Tuesday invited applications for the men's team support staff including head coach who will need to be less than 60 years of age with a minimum international experience of two years.

The BCCI has streamlined the process of hiring the support staff including head coach, batting coach, bowling coach, fielding coach, physiotherapist, strength and conditioning coach and administrative manager. The application deadline for all the roles is 5 pm, July 30.

Before Ravi Shastri was appointed as the head coach in July 2017, the



Indian team coaching staff, from left, batting coach Sanjay Bangar, head coach Ravi Shastri & bowling coach Bharat Arun stand outside dressing room before the semi-final match against New Zealand

BCCI had issued a nine-point eligibility criteria which lacked focus and clarity. This time, it is only a three-point criteria for all the coaching roles including head coach besides the positions in the batting, bowling and fielding department.

"The current coaching staff of Team India will get an automatic entry in the recruitment process," said the BCCI in a statement.

The head coach should have coached a Test playing nation for a minimum of two years or three years with an associate member/A team/IPL side. The applicant also should have played 30 Tests or 50 ODIs.

The criteria remains the same for

batting, bowling and fielding coach except the number of games played. The three personnel should have played at least 10 Tests or 25 ODIs and be less than 60 years of age.

The current support staff comprising Shastri, bowling coach Bharat Arun, batting coach Sanjay Bangar and fielding coach R Sridhar were given a 45-day extension following the World Cup, covering the West Indies tour from August 3 to September 3.

All of them can re-apply but the team is set to have a new trainer and physio after the departure of Shanker Basu and Patrick Farhart following India's semifinal exit in the World Cup.

'No one lost the final'

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

"No one lost the final," New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson said on Tuesday as his team tried coming to terms with the gut-wrenching defeat against England in the World Cup's greatest summit clash.

Cricketers, current and former, shared New Zealand's pain on losing the title on boundary count with many of them asking for a "serious look" into the rule, slammed as "absurd".

"At the end of the day nothing separated us, no one lost the final, but there was a crowned winner and there it is," Williamson told *Newstalk ZB*.

Widely praised for the grace with which he and his side accepted the defeat, Williamson said they had signed up to the rules that governed the tournament.

"I suppose you never thought you would have to ask that question and I never thought I would have to answer it (smiling)," was Williamson's first reaction when asked about the rule. "While the emotions are raw, it is pretty hard to swallow when two teams have worked really, really hard to get to this moment in time. "When sort of two attempts to separate them with a winner and a loser it still doesn't perhaps sort of shine with one side coming through, you know," Williamson, one of the finest gentlemen playing the sport, said.



New Zealand's captain Kane Williamson walks away after getting his losers medal after the WC final match at Lord's

Stead wants rules review after 'hollow' WC final

AFP ■ WELLINGTON

New Zealand coach Gary Stead has called for the Cricket World Cup's rules to be overhauled, labelling the showpiece final "hollow" after England defeated the Black Caps on a technicality.

The teams could not be separated at the end of both regular play and a Super Over shootout, so England were handed victory because they had a superior boundary count.

"It's a very, very hollow feeling that you can play 100 overs and score the same amount of runs and still lose the game, but that's the technicalities of sport," Stead told reporters in remarks released by *New Zealand Cricket* on Tuesday.

He said such a thrilling match, which has been hailed by many experts as the greatest one-day game in history, deserved a better way to determine the result.

"There's going to be many things they look at over the whole tournament — I'm sure when they were writing the rules they never expected a World Cup final to happen like that," he said.

"I'm sure it'll be reviewed (and) there's many different ways that they'll probably explore."

Stead shrugged off suggestions England had been mistakenly handed an extra run after a throw from a fielder hit the bat of a diving Ben Stokes and deflected to the boundary in the



Gary Stead during Kiwi nets session

final over of regular play.

England were awarded six runs but former umpire Simon Taufel said they should only have got five as the batsmen had not crossed for their second run when the throw was made.

"I didn't actually know that," Stead said. "But at the end of the day the umpires are there to rule. "They're human as well, like players, and sometimes there's a mistake but that's just the human aspect of sport."