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Govt puts Rajnath back in top panels

After excluding Def Min from 6 of 8 Cabinet panels, he is included in 4 more including Political Affairs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defense Minister Rajnath Singh is back on several reconstituted key Cabinet committees after his exclusion from them raised eyebrows in the political circles.

In a Thursday morning notification that gave a clear signal of Rajnath Singh's diminishing role in decision making, the Modi Government had restricted him to only two of the eight key Cabinet committees. This was seen as a "humiliation" to Rajnath, whose successor in the Home Ministry, Amit Shah, figured in all the committees and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in all but one of them.

But late at night the same day, the Government added Rajnath to four more Cabinet committees, including all-important Political Affairs Committee as well as investment and growth, employment and skill development, and head of Parliamentary Affairs Committee.

Rajnath has been included in all committees in a designation above Amit Shah. Rajnath

is out two committees — appointments, which has traditionally had only PM and Home Minister as members — and accommodation, a relatively low-profile panel.

Incidentally, the number two minister in the Government — by convention the person who is sworn in right after the Prime Minister — chairs the Cabinet and the Political Affairs Committee in the absence of the Prime Minister. In the absence of Rajnath, Shah would have presided over the meetings of these committees.

Earlier, Rajnath was included in the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs and Cabinet Committee Security but was notably missing from the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, which have Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, Sitharaman, Narendra Tomar, Ravi Shankar Prasad, Harsh Vardhan, Piyush Goyal, Prahlad Joshi and allies Ram Vilas Paswan, Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Arvind Sawant as its members.

All the committees bore the stamp of Shah which clear-



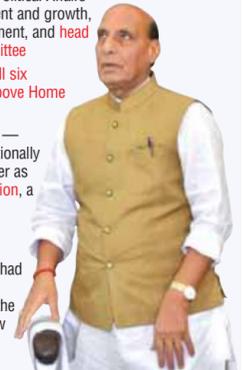
ly indicates his growing influence in governance. Shah continues to hold the post of BJP president as the party scouts for his replacement. He has emerged the de facto number

two after Modi. The induction of Shah, who is also the BJP president, in the Government had led many political observers to believe that he would be the

second most powerful person in the new order and the Thursday morning notification on the restructured Cabinet committees had stoked the speculation, only to be

BRASS NECK!

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- ❖ But late at night, the Government added Rajnath to 4 more Cabinet panel, including all-important Political Affairs Committee as well as investment and growth, employment and skill development, and head of Parliamentary Affairs Committee
- ❖ Rajnath has been included in all six committees in a designation above Home Minister Amit Shah
- ❖ Rajnath is out two committees — appointments, which has traditionally had only PM and Home Minister as members — and accommodation, a low-profile panel
- ❖ The exclusion of Rajnath from important Cabinet panels on Thursday morning notification had led many political observers to believe that Amit Shah will be the second-in-command in the new order, however the evening notification scotched the fear



scotched by the night. Shah had chaired an informal meeting of several Cabinet Ministers, including External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar,

Commerce and Railways Minister Piyush Goyal and Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, besides Sitharaman, on June 4 over

crude oil related issues.

Shah will head the Cabinet Committee on Accommodation. Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, Sitharaman and Railway and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal are its members. Minister of State in PMO Jitendra Singh and Housing and Urban Affairs and Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Puri are special invitees of the Accommodation Committee.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs will be headed by the PM and will have Rajnath, Shah, Gadkari, Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister DV Sadananda Gowda, Sitharaman, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Communication Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister for Food Processing Harsimrat Kaur Badal as its members.

Amid economic slowdown and rising unemployment, the PM on Wednesday constituted two new Cabinet committees under his chairmanship to spur economic growth, investment and employment.

Nath meets Modi, urges to release State's funds



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence in New Delhi on Thursday.

New Delhi: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath here on Thursday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence 7th Lok Kalyan Marg, New Delhi.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister congratulated Prime Minister Modi on becoming the Prime Minister once again. During the nearly half-an-hour meeting, the Chief Minister discussed in detail the issue of schemes pending in state's interest and the release of fund.

Nath urged the Prime Minister to release the pending amount related to the schemes soon. Prime Minister Modi assured Nath that he would direct the concerned Ministries to take prompt action in this regard and also take care of the interests of the state in future.

RBI cuts rate to 9-yr low of 5.75%

Asks banks to pass on benefit to home/auto EMLs; markets hoped more, fall

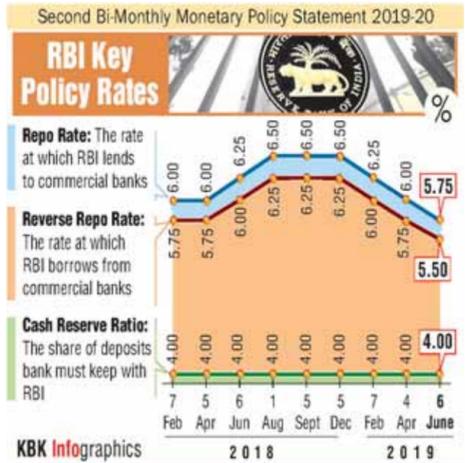
PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday slashed its benchmark lending rate by 25 basis points to a nearly nine-year low of 5.75 per cent providing relief to industry as well as EMI payees in home, auto and other sectors, but the Central bank's failure to assuage investors concerns regarding the NBFC sector triggered a massive sell-off in the stock market which suffered biggest one-day fall in 2019. The reverse repo rate under stands at 5.50 per cent.

The third rate cut this year brought the interest rates to their lowest level in nine years even as the RBI changed its stance to "accommodative" from "neutral", opening up the possibility of another cut in the coming months to infuse some life into the economy growing at the slowest pace since Modi came to power in 2014.

The RBI said it has done away with charges on fund transfers through RTGS and NEFT routes to boost digital transactions and asked banks to pass on the benefits to customers. SBI charges between ₹1 and ₹5 for transactions through NEFT and between ₹5 and ₹50 for RTGS route.

Significantly, all the six members of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted unanimously for a rate



cut and switching of its stance to "accommodative" from neutral. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the shift in the stance meant that an increase in interest rates is "off the table."

He wanted banks to expedite the transmission of the current reduction in rates as well as similar ones that happened in February and April. "Our decision is driven by growth concerns and inflation concerns in that order," Das told reporters here. "The unanimous vote reflects the resolve of the monetary policy com-

mittee to act decisively and act in time (to address the growth concerns)."

In three back-to-back bi-monthly monetary policies this year, the RBI has lowered interest rates by 75 basis points. With India's GDP growth slipping to a five-year low of 5.8 per cent in the January-March quarter — the first instance of growth falling below China's in last few quarters — the RBI lowered its growth forecast for the economy to 7 per cent from the April view of 7.2 per cent for the 2019-20 April-March.



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das during RBI's bi-monthly policy review in Mumbai on Thursday.

"Growth impulses have weakened significantly as reflected in a further widening of the output gap compared to the April 2019 policy," the RBI said in the monetary policy statement.

The reduction in interest rate will help boost credit growth, helping arrest the slowdown in the economy ahead of new Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presenting Modi-2.0 Government's first Budget next month that is widely expected to announce measures to generate jobs and revive the economy.

Some analysts have stated that given the large under-shoots in the actual revenue collections in FY2018-19 ver-

sus even the revised numbers presented in February, the numbers targeted in the interim Budget are looking truly daunting. This is especially in context of the ongoing growth slowdown. Sitharaman has a tall task to present a credible Budget while sticking to the assumed deficit target.

Das seemed to have a reasonably benign view on Government finances, underplaying the recent stress and instead focused on the consolidation underway over the past few years.

He was not unduly concerned about PSU borrowings saying that borrowings done by state-owned firms who have own revenue streams should not be looked upon as government borrowing. Given very large buffer stocks (3.4 times the norm), there seems to be less of a concern from an inflation perspective, in case monsoons turn out to be weaker.

While inflation remained below its medium-term target to give "scope" to the MPC to accommodate growth concerns by supporting efforts to boost aggregate demand, the RBI marginally revised upwards its retail inflation forecast for the first of FY2019-20 to 3-3.1 per cent (2.9-3 per cent earlier), but is a shade lower for the second half at 3.4-3.7 per cent (3.5-3.8 per cent earlier).

Captain clips Sidhu's wings

CM Amarinder rejigs Cabinet, shifts Sidhu to Power Ministry

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH



The wrangling between Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and his Cabinet colleague Navjot Singh Sidhu on Thursday, it seems, escalated beyond repair with the "Captain" divesting the former cricketer of the Local Bodies Department, and also the Tourism and Cultural Affairs Department.

The action came hours after Sidhu's "rebellious" decision to stay away from the Cabinet meeting, first after the 2019 general elections, while holding a simultaneous Press conference to underscore his achievements as the Local Bodies Minister.

The Chief Minister, after the conclusion of Lok Sabha elections, on Thursday reallocated portfolios of all, except four, Ministers, which he said would "help further streamline the Government systems and processes, and bring more transparency and efficacy into the various departments."

Sidhu now gets the Power and New and Renewable Energy Sources Ministry. The seniormost Minister Brahm Mohindra, who was earlier handling Health and Family Welfare, has been given the Local Government Department, while the Tourism and Cultural Affairs went to Charanjit Singh Channi, who also retains the Technical Education, Industrial Training and Employment Generation.

Capt Amarinder, after announcing the reshuffling of the portfolios, said: "With the Congress Government in the State nearing the mid-term mark, the exercise would re-energise the team and bring freshness into the working of the major departments." The action against Sidhu came just about a fortnight after Amarinder squarely blamed "the non-performing" Local Bodies Minister for the Congress' "not-so-good" performance in the urban pockets.

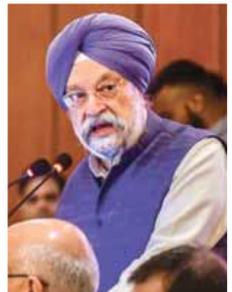
Kejriwal announced free ride plan sans a proposal: Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Metro fares hike controversy, the Narendra Modi Government at the Centre and the Delhi Government are once again at loggerheads, this time over Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's plan to provide free Metro travel to women in the national Capital.

Taking a dig at Kejriwal, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday said that the Delhi Government had not sent any proposal related to this scheme.

"Neither Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs nor Delhi Metro had received any proposal till date in this regard. Kejriwal has a different kind of problem. He announces a scheme first and then prepares a proposal," said Puri adding that Delhi's problems



will be fixed in the six months. He was apparently referring to the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections next year and implying that the BJP will dethrone the Kejriwal Government. Puri was speaking after launching the Ministry's sanitation ranking league for cities, Swachh

Survekshan League 2020. Rejecting Puri's charge, the Delhi Government said there was a "concrete plan" and funds for the proposal to provide free ride to women in public buses and Metro trains.

"The Cabinet note is being prepared to be put up before the Delhi Cabinet as soon as possible. All modes and feasibility are being studied by the DMRC and the daily transport departments and several meetings between the officials are also taking place. There are a number of meetings, which have taken place between the DMRC and Delhi transport department, and even at the moment, a search meeting is taking place to finalise the blueprint. The Government has the budget for such schemes," said Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

Didi dials Prashant to turn around TMC electoral prospects

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Having suffered reverses in the recently concluded general elections at the hands of a fast growing BJP in the State, the Trinamool Congress is planning to rope in political strategist Prashant Kishore to help it win the 2021 Assembly elections.

TMC sources said the Chief Minister on Thursday invited Kishore at her State Secretariat office at Nabanna. The duo held a closed-door meeting for about two hours. Mamata Banerjee's nephew and MP Abhishek Banerjee was also present in the meeting, sources said.

Mamata reportedly asked Kishore to help her party win the State elections in 2021. Kishore's likely entry in Bengal's



electoral scene comes in the wake of a meteoric rise on the part of the BJP which clinched 18 out of 42 seats. The TMC won 22 and the Congress got 2 seats.

Setback for Congress in T as CLP dissolves in TRS

12 of 18 Cong MLAs demand merger of CLP into TRS LP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD/NEW DELHI

The Congress in Telangana was reduced to a non-entity in the Legislative Assembly after 12 of its 18 MLAs met the Speaker on Thursday and sought merger of Congress Legislature Party (CLP) into ruling TRS Legislature Party (TRSLP).

Speaker P Srinivas Reddy acceded to the request of the 12 MLAs considering the fact they constituted two-thirds of the Congress Legislature Party, a requirement for merger under the anti-defection law.



Uttam Kumar Reddy (second from left) along with Congress MLAs stages a protest at the Gandhi Statue inside the Assembly on Thursday, after 12 of 18 party MLAs met Telangana Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivas to seek a merger of the faction with the TRS.

A bulletin from the Assembly on Thursday night said seats had been allotted to the 12 MLAs along with the members of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi Legislature Party in the House.

Unless the merger is reversed, the Congress is set to lose its Opposition Party status in the Assembly as its strength

has come down to six. The development came as a deadly blow to the Congress, which is facing trouble in Rajasthan, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, where the Congress Governments are on the verge of collapse, following the drubbing at the hands of BJP in the Lok Sabha polls.

Youths' role vital for growth: Guv

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Governor Anandiben Patel has said that the youth should visit villages and contribute towards development. She called upon the youth to motivate rural people for change. Patel was addressing youth felicitation function of Nehru Yuva Kendra in Raj Bhavan today. She said that there is a lot of talent and skill in rural people. The need is to inspire and encourage their participation in development works.



Patel said that Nehru Yuva Kendra should work in rural areas with result-based work plan. Every child in the village should go to school and it should be ensured that there is no dropout of girls in the 9th grade. Special attention should be given to the health of girls who are mothers-to-be. She informed that a hameoglobulin test campaign for girls was launched and health examination of 1.5 lakh girls was conducted, the centre must help in expanding it. She said that the smallest help given on time to the youth can be very beneficial for the needy.

The help of woolen clothes to a small child can save him from serious illness and treatment expenses. Similarly, the work of energy, water and environment conservation is also the beginning of big change. She said that the need is to make efforts for change. Government has run many schemes and programmes for rural development and public welfare. The need is to ensure that it reaches the beneficiary. By creating self-help groups, women can get financial self-sufficiency.

The Governor gave away awards on behalf of the Nehru Yuva Kendra to the Water and Land Management Institute, Bhopal for excellent work in the field of conservation and promotion of natural resources, to Commissioner CGST

Pramod Agrawal and his associate Nitu Pandey for support in the cleanliness campaign of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th jayanti in Adarsh Gram in 2018-19, state level best Yuva Mandal award to Hadvasi Yuva Mandal, Morena, first Summer Internship award to Swami Vivekanand Dhamaka Yuva Mandal, Morena, Arvind Kushwaha Gwalior and Mithilesh Tomar, Morena, first prize in state level elocution contest to Tuva Hayat Khan of Chhindwara, Swati Baredia of Bhopal, Kanishka Mishra of Jabalpur and state level Yuva Sansad award to Shubham Chouhan, Raisen.

State Director of Nehru Yuva Kendra TN Mishra gave the welcome address while Convenor Surendra Shukla proposed the vote of thanks.

Increasing wages under MNREGA discussed

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Kamleshwar Patel on Thursday called on Union Minister for Panchayat Raj, Rural Development and Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar in New Delhi.

He held a detailed discussion on significant issues like increasing wages under MNREGA, hike in administrative expenditure from 6 to 8 percent, increase in amount of community cleanliness premises under Swachh Bharat Mission from ₹2 lakh to ₹5 lakh and provision of fund for water conservation work under

MNREGA. Union Minister Tomar gave an assurance to take decision after considering all the points.

Rural Development Minister Patel said that under MNREGA, minimum wages should be increased from ₹174 per manday to ₹205 per manday i.e. equal to minimum farmers' wage. Patel said that according to the local demand under MNREGA, the right to add new activities should be given to the state governments.

He urged the Union Minister to ensure release of MNREGA amount on time and also ensure availability of funds, in view of water crisis

in Bundelkhand, Nimad and Vindhya region.

Patel demanded that under the Pradhan Mantri Gram-Sadak Yojana, the villages and settlements should be included on the basis of population of year 2011 and members of women self-help groups should be given 50 per cent participation in poly-house, drip irrigation and sprinkler schemes of Agriculture Department. Similarly, under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the state should be granted one or 2 percent discretionary quota to add poor beneficiaries who were left out in the survey in state under the Yojana.

Workshop on theatre activities organised

Bhopal: Several children of the city aspiring for theatre activities are being trained at their best skills by noted theatre personalities in a month-long theatre workshop.

Being organised for the aspiring children by Sagar Guncha Theatre Troupe the participants are now rehearsing for new production. During the workshop, children are taught the voice modulation and also the Subject improvisation and management skills as well.

While talking about the workshop, theatre artiste Bishna Chauhan said, "We are providing training to enhance the theatre talent among the aspiring youngsters to make a career in theatre, acting or production plus to provide them opportunity to display their talent before the people."

All kinds of theatre forms are being taught to the students to get acquainted with theatre art. He said that the training programme is divided into three sections which included theory, practical and application. He further said that theatre is a collaborative form of fine art that uses live performances of may be real or imagined events on stage before the audiences. Here the performers have to communicate these events through combination of gestures, speech, song, music and dance.

There are different elements which play a vital role in theatre world on of which is stage craft, he added. Stage craft is very important as half of the act becomes understood through the kind of set is being put up. The students are being trained to improvise the sense of acting, gestures, expressions and emotions. Gupta further, said that the students are also taught basic acting exercises to strengthen their acting foundation.

People's University Alumni Association's AGM held

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The People's University Alumni Association's Annual General Meeting was held at People's Mall. A large number of alumni took part in the programme.

The programme was concluded at the presence of Chief Guest Rajesh Kapoor, Vice Chancellor People's University and Special Guest Prof. Akhilesh Mittal Dean Student Welfare People's University. People's University Alumni Association Executive was also formed on this occasion. Rahul Patel President, Vainesh Vishnu Vice President, Ashutosh Dubey Secretary and Sultan Siddiqui, Shivani Sharma, Priya Dikshit and Shivani Chaurasia were nominated as members.

Rajesh Kapoor while addressing the alumni said that People's University is honored as the best university of India to

promote research. School of Research and Technology and Nursing and Pharmacy has been ranked among the 10 Best Information Technology Institutes of India. People's College of Medical Sciences and Research Center has emerged as the best medical college in Bhopal.

The People's Medical College has secured 7th place in the ranking of India's Best Emerging Medical Colleges, quoting the report of India's Best Colleges 2017 National Survey conducted by the prestigious India Today. People's University has tied up with the logistics giant Safe Express for the MBA (Logistics and Supply Chain Management) course. Under the MBA (Logistics and Supply Chain Management) course, students will get stipend of about Rs.18000 / - per second per second and after the MBA, 100% job offers with High Salary is its expected target.

He also said that People's University has also signed a deal with the National University of Ireland, Galway Ireland, under which one year of MBBS education will be completed in the National University of Ireland, after completion of two-year stay visa and MS in the UK After the estimation of getting a higher salary package in the UK and Europe. This Masters degree is also acceptable in the US and Canada. All alumni were very happy to know these facts.

Rahul Patel proposed a special proposal and explained in detail the vision, mission and various schemes of People's University Alumni Association. Priorities of Alumni Association are to promote strong relationships between alumni, immediate students and the institute. All Alumni students became very excited and the program took part in DJ Night.

BHEL Executive Director shares 18-19 results

Bhopal: Results for the financial year 2018-19 were shared with amongst BHEL Employees by DK Thakur Executive Director BHEL Bhopal Thursday at BHEL's Cultural Hall.

Later in the day, Thakur further shared the results of fiscal year 2018-19 with Union representatives in a simple function held BHEL Narmada Guest House.

BHEL Bhopal achieved a turnover of ₹3182 cr and Profit before tax of ₹356 crore ED Bhopal applauded efforts of all the employees on achieving the turnover during the trying times when Bhopal is facing order crunch. He exhorted all to keep their spirit alive for the ensuing year too.

The turnover target for 2019-20 is 4302 crores. BHEL corporate achieved at Turnover of ₹29349 cr (5.4% higher than last year), Profit before Tax of ₹2058 cr (29.8% higher than last year).

Traditional object displayed under 'Exhibit of the Month'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Under the popular museum series 'Exhibit of the Month' of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, a traditional object is displayed in the appearance for a whole month.

The exhibit for the month of June, 2019 - 'Perakh: Headgear of Ladkhi Women' from Leh-Ladakh, Jammu-Kashmir, is on display in the indoor exhibition building - Veethi Sankul. The 'exhibit of the month' was inaugurated by the Special Director General of Police (Police Reforms), Madhya Pradesh, Maithili Sharan Gupta, IPS. Prof Sarit Kumar Chaudhuri (Director, IGRMS), Dilip Singh, ITS (Joint Director, IGRMS) and renowned people present on this occasion.

On this occasion, the compiler of this object, Rajesh Gautam (Museum Associate)

Perakh is very popular and favourite headgear/ornament among the Ladakhi women. It is not only worn by married women, but also by the girls on special occasions

located that, The Ladakh, Located in the northern most part of India is famous for its distinctive geographical location and cultural diversity. The traditional folklore, folk dance, cos-

tumes and food habits etc. are the identifying marker of this particular culture.

Perakh is very popular and favourite headgear/ornament among the Ladakhi women. It is not only worn by married women, but also by the girls on special occasions. From a distance it seems like a hooded snake on the head. It is wore by women in such a way that its upper extremity should be on the forehead and the lower end should reach up to waist on the back. The initial instance of wearing Perakh, is found on the wall of Alichilha section built in eleventh century, in which a Queen is depicted wearing Perakh with turquoise.

With the passing of time it spread among the elite Ladakhi women as well as among women of ordinary classes and in this process, the priceless gems and turquoise were replaced by matching fake jewels and turquoise stones.



Members of Shri Rajput Kami Sena pay tributes at the statue of Maharana Pratap (left) and members of Royal Rajput Sanghitan take out a rally on Maharana Pratap Jayanti (right) in Bhopal on Thursday



Members of Royal Rajput Sanghitan take out a rally on Maharana Pratap Jayanti (right) in Bhopal on Thursday

6th anniversary celebration of MP Tribal Museum

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The 6th anniversary celebration of Madhya Pradesh State Tribal Museum began here Thursday.

Chief Guest Vijayalakshmi Sadhao and Minister, Culture, Medical Education and AYUSH Department, Madhya Pradesh and Principal Secretary Culture, Pankaj Raga inaugurated '6th Anniversary Celebration' on tribal life, Desh Gyan Parampara and Saundaryabod in Madhya Pradesh Tribal Museum.

After the launch, award-winning paintings of painting competition organized in three age group on International Museum Day were felicitated. In the age group of 6 to 9 years, the first prize was given to Linnashee Singh, Akshat Satyamohit from the second prize, Arya Agarwal from the third prize and Vrinda Kushram and Varun Meshram were awarded with the promotion (consolation) award.

Age group group has been honored with the first prize in less than 12 years, Satyamohit from AIT, Aishu Meshram from second prize, Neha Sharma from third prize and Jitesh Janayani and Shreya Rai from promotion (consolation) award. Age group group, in less than 16 years, from the first prize in less than 16 years to the space sethia, Riya Jain from the second prize, Riddhima Agarwal from the third prize, and the encouragement (consolation) award was awarded to Kartik Sharma and Ishika Singh.

After this the dance drama based on the Mahanayika Shabri, described in the sequel, was staged under the direction of noted dancer and choreographer Mamta Shankar.

In the center of this play is Shabri. At the beginning of the

After this the dance drama based on the Mahanayika Shabri, described in the sequel, was staged under the direction of noted dancer and choreographer Mamta Shankar

drama, artists presented their acting skills that Shabri's marriage is about to take place. But with the sacrifice of innocent animals as a celebration by his family and society, his mind gets annoyed with his society and family. Accordingly, in the dark of night, the Shabri leaves her house and runs away and unknowingly, the Matang reaches near the sage's hut. Therefore, despite being a lower caste, Matang sages make Shabri his disciple. When the Matang sages are the last stages of their life, they tell Shabri that Shriram will come here, do not give up his life until he arrives.

Therefore, Shabri started patiently living daily with the help of Ram's name, and every day I thought that my Lord Shriram would come today and decorate the path according to him and the tuber collects the original fruit. Eventually Shriram and Bhai Lakshman come in the Shabri katiya. Therefore, the patience of the Shabri is victorious and the devotee is concerned with his Lord. Shabri feeds on her Lord, and this is the end of dance and drama 'Shabri'. In this presentation, Shabri's patience and devotion was presented to the audience with great beauty.

'Science Workshop' held at Jawahar Bal Bhavan

Bhopal: The school students are enhancing their creative skills about science in a summer 'Science Workshop' being organised at Jawahar Bal Bhavan, Bhopal. On Thursday, the students learnt about aeromodelling.



Children at science workshop at Jawahar Bal Bhavan in Bhopal on Thursday

Notably, Aeromodelling is one of the finest hobbies, which is very popular worldwide among people of all ages and professions. It is a hobby in which a student learns to build up the model of actual aircrafts. On the first day of the students learnt about origin of aeromodelling and other facts.

Every day new demonstrations will be given to the students and in the second half, they will fabricate a new kits. On the concluding day, students will demonstrate these kits in front of their parents. Through fun

learning activities, the students are exploring the unknown and unique facts about science not only attending lectures, but also practically.

It is noteworthy that during this workshop students would be exposed to various basic electronic components such as Resistors, Capacitors, Diodes, Transformers, Transistors, Integrated Circuits and more.

They will also learn about their functions in the electronic circuits. Further, all the related practical would be done by the students.

Then on the concluding day of the workshop the students individually prepare one electronic circuit using the components and printing circuit board and will give a demonstration before the parents.

Minor boy killed after mobile phone's battery explodes

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 12-year-old boy was killed in an incident, when battery of a smartphone exploded in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh on Thursday.

Unlike some incidents in the past, the victim is only 12 year old. This is not for the time that an incident like this one has been reported.

Police said, the smartphone that the 12-year old owned was put on charge and that is when the battery of the phone suddenly exploded. The boy was a resident of Likhedi village that is around 10 km away Badnawar town in Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh. Lakhani Singh, the victim of the explosion, had put his smartphone on charge and soon after the battery exploded and killed him, said police.

Police said, the smartphone that the 12-year old owned was put on charge and that is when the battery of the phone suddenly exploded

One of Lakhani's relatives said, "We heard some sound. Someone said it was a blast. We came running inside the house and saw the child lying on the floor; there were pieces of the charger, too."

After the battery exploded Lakhani's uncle rushed him to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead. "His uncle rushed inside the house when he heard the explosion, he took him to the hospital where

he died," CB Singh a senior police officer said.

The report further suggested that the intensity of the battery explosion was so much that even the switchboard where the charger was plugged in was blown to pieces.

The Police in-charge clarified that they are investigating the matter further.

Meanwhile, Lakhani's body has been handed over to his family.

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UNDER PRIME MINISTER GRAM SADAK YOJANA Upgrade existing roads: CM to PM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Kamal Nath has urged the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for upgradation of the existing roads in the proposed third phase of Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana and also cover the villages and habitations on the basis of 2011 census, which were earlier left out.

They will all be connected to all-weather roads. Kamal Nath met the Prime Minister Narendra Modi at latter's residence at New Delhi today and discussed several important development issues.

The Chief Minister drew attention of the Prime Minister to about 20 major projects related to mineral exploration, which are pending with various departments of the Government of India for approvals and permissions. He



said that if these permissions are granted, state will be able to strengthen its revenue base.

The Chief Minister also urged the Prime Minister to increase the wheat procurement limit to 75 lakh metric tonnes in the state. He said that presently procurement limit has been fixed at 67.25 lakh metric tonnes under the Food and Public Distribution System

while the Government of India had agreed to decide the limit of 75 lakh metric tonnes in February.

This limit was fixed on the basis of the procurement figures of previous 4 years.

Giving details of the status of payment to the workers of MNREGA, Kamal Nath said that till now the approved labor budget under MNREGA

exhausts before January. Due to this, the payment is delayed for 3 to 4 months.

Talking about Bundelkhand and Nimar tribal areas, the Chief Minister apprised the Prime Minister of deficient rainfall the areas due to which farmers and other people are forced to migrate in search of job. To prevent this migration adequate assistance from under MNREGA is needed, he added.

Nath also requested the Prime Minister to open a Center of Regional Center of Indian School of Mines Dhanbad at Singrauli. He informed the Prime Minister said that the Government of India had decided to open this center in 2008. For this, 163.25 acres of land has been allocated by the State Government. This Center should be opened soon, he added.

IGRMS celebrates Sacred Grove

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

With an aim to promote the conservation and importance of Sacred Grove of country in the masses, IGRMS celebrated the Sacred Grove celebration with the worship performed by local peoples of the Malayali community at in Kavu Sacred Grove area in Museum Premises.

On this occasion, N Vishwanathan Nair, Former Director, KIRTADS (Kerala Institute for Research Training and Development) said that It is a patch of forest in Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya.

It is one of the hundreds of verdant spots known as kavus or sacred groves. A place worth visiting during summer as the cool ambience inside this area gives relief from the scorching heat. The visit will also make you aware of the ecological importance of the kavus.

The kavu is virgin forest; a rich habitat for several species of flora and fauna. The kavus as



Devotees of Malayali Community perform rituals as they offer prayers during sacred grove celebration in Kavu sacred grove area at Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

they are ecologically sensitive habitats. They are being protected because they play ecological functions of a rich evergreen forest. There are medicinal plants found in the sacred groves in the Museum.

The kavus are also breeding ground for many rare species of bats and birds. "They are bits of forest areas nurtured by beliefs," says N Vishwanathan Nair, who is actively involved in the conservation of art and culture in the

region. Many members of the Malayalam community resident in Bhopal along with M Sahadevan Kani, Jayarajan, Gopinath Kani and Aiyappan Kani performed the rites and rituals.

37-yr-old married woman ends life at RBI Colony

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 37-year-old married woman committed suicide by hanging with the ceiling at her residence in RBI colony under Teelajamalpur police station area on Wednesday; woman tried to commit suicide by jumping into Upper Lake but was rescued last week.

According to police, the deceased was identified as Sanjana Tulsani of RBI Colony and in the morning on Wednesday she was found hanging and was rushed to nearby hospital where she was declared dead.

The deceased was a housewife and her husband works with a private company in MP Nagar area. In the initial investigation police found that on Wednesday morning at

The deceased was a housewife and her husband works with a private company in MP Nagar area

around 10 pm husband of deceased left for work and after an hour he tried to contact her over mobile, but it was found switched off after which he called his mother to check whereabouts of deceased and when she checked she found deceased hanging from the ceiling. She informed her son and deceased was rushed to nearby hospital where she was declared dead.

Police have not found any suicide note and during the investigation it was found that

No suicide note was left by the deceased was heavily depressed for the past few months and on May 21, she left home for market but went to Upper Lake where she tried to commit suicide by jumping into Upper Lake but she was rescued.

Meanwhile, a 50-year-old man was found dead near railway track near Narayan Nagar under Baghsewania police station area on Wednesday. The deceased Bhandas Dhurve was found lying near railway tracks and later when taken to hospital he was declared dead.

Police said that the deceased was heavily addicted to liquor and which caused his death. The body was sent for the post mortem and police have registered a case under section 174 of the CrPC and started further investigation.

Maintaining law & order to be priority: New DIG



Newly posted Inspector General of Police Yogesh Deshmukh assumed office in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Working plan for better efficiency would be prepared by organising meeting with senior officials of Bhopal zone.

Efforts to make citizen free fair would be made said the new DIG of Bhopal Urban, Yogesh Deshmukh after he assumed office here on Thursday.

The outgoing officer, Jaideep Kumar, handed over charge to Deshmukh.

Deshmukh, holding charge of SP in Khandwa was promoted as IG and posted in Bhopal. Jaideep has been shifted to Railways in the same capacity.

Deshmukh said that maintaining law and order in the State capital would be his priority.

Replying to a query, he said that with the advancement, technologies would be used in controlling crime and streamlining traffic

Every possible effort would be made to check crimes against women.

He further said that he made Young India Brigade of youth under community policing.

Replying to a query, he said that with the advancement in the technologies would be used in controlling crime and streamlining traffic.

This would prove more accurate and safe for the citizens, he added.

The action against goons and anti-social elements would be taken continuously.

The network of informers would be strengthened. Plan would be chalked out for safety and security of lives and property.

Cyber crimes have increased and it requires awareness among the citizens.

More stress would be paid in creating awareness towards digital transactions.

He said that he would make strategy based on functioning of police officials and personnel working in the state capital and would implement it to yield better results.

The police personnel would be encouraged to remain fit which would help them in shouldering their responsibilities in a better manner.

Valuables worth ₹1 lakh burgled at Nirmala Kuni

Bhopal: House of an insurance agent at Nirmala Kuni was targeted by miscreants and valuables worth Rs 1 lakh were burgled on Wednesday.

Police said that the victim Rajendra Kunjur along with his family had gone to meet his relative in Chhattisgarh and when he returned on Wednesday afternoon he found the valuables were burgled. A complaint was lodged by the victim with the Baghsewania police and in his complaint, he stated that he along with his family had gone to meet relatives in Chhattisgarh last week and when he returned in the after-

noon on Wednesday he found that the locks were broken and when he entered the house valuables were found burgled.

In the burglary, gold and silver jewelry and hoods were burgled. The victim has claimed that the total loss in the burglary is around Rs 1 lakh. The police have registered a case under sections 457 and 380 of the IPC and have started further investigation.

Police said that the CCTV footage of the nearby installed cameras would be searched in the further investigation. The neighbours were not aware of the burglary. SR



Motorbike riders being flagged off by the Director of Sports and Youth Welfare Department SL. Thousen at a bikers rally 'Karvan Suraksha Ka' ride for drowning prevention organised by Rotary Club East and Mandar No More Foundation, at TT Nagar stadium in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

Govt aims for better water supply

Bhopal: With the well-planned efforts of the Government, water is being supplied daily in 258 out of total 378 urban bodies of the State at present. Water was being supplied daily in 193 urban bodies in the year 2018, 206 in year 2017, 179 in 2016, 165 in 2015 and 162 in the year 2014.

The number of urban bodies where water is being supplied on alternate days has come down to 96 from 130. The number of bodies where water is being supplied in a gap of two days has reduced to 28

from 62 and bodies where water supply was being made in a gap of three days has reduced to one from 38.

Urban Development and Housing Minister Jaivardhan Singh has informed that the Government aims at ensuring availability of drinking water in every house through taps in all the urban bodies. He said that drinking water schemes have approved for all 378 urban bodies. Of these, 197 schemes have been completed.

The remaining 181 urban bodies schemes are in various

stages of implementation, which are targeted to be completed by March 2020.

Singh informed that water sources have been marked in such a manner that drinking water is available throughout the year.

The impact of improvement in water supply system was apparent from the drinking water being transported through tankers.

Water is being transported through tankers in only 32 urban bodies in the year 2019-20. SR

Superintending Engineer(P&W)
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (GENERATION)
 SGTPS: MPPGCL: BIRSINGHPUR DISTT-UMARIA 484552
 PH. & FAX NO.: 07655-260226 Email: sepnw.sgtpsbrs@gmail.com
 No. 511-0100/SGTPS/P&W-NIT-04/1014 Birsinghpur, dtd. 04.06.2019

E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE

M.P. POWER GENERATING CO. LTD. Invites Electronic tenders from manufacturer/reputed supplier/contractor for the supply/works of following items for SGTPS, MPPGCL Birsinghpur.

Sl. No	MPPGCL TENDER-ID	PARTICULARS	Estimate (In Rs)	TENDER COST (In Rs)	E.M.D. (In Rs)	LAST DATE OF closing of online submission	DUE DATE OF e-TENDER OPENING
1	2019_MPPGCL_26776_1	Work Contract for Preventive/Breakdown maintenance of non pressure parts of Boiler of 1 X500 MW Unit, at SGTPS, MPPGCL, Birsinghpur	62.0/- Lakhs	5,000/-	1,55,100/-	08.07.2019	12.07.2019
2	2019_MPPGCL_26494_1	Work contract for overhauling & seracing of 6.6 kv, 380 KW Glandless Boiler circulating Water moter pump (BCW) - A&C and Servicing, repairing of faulty BCW-B motor at Unit # 5, 1x500 MW, SGTPS, Birsinghpur.	23.89/- Lakhs	1,000/-	59,800/-	25.06.2019	29.06.2019
3	2019_MPPGCL_26687	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of In-Situ oxygen analyzer for measurement of O2 in fue gas for 1x500MW unit of SGTPS, MPPGCL, Birsinghpur.	22.33/- Lakhs	1,000/-	55,900/-	29.06.2019	03.07.2019
4	2019_MPPGCL_26836	Procurement of spares for safe flame scanner and HEA gniters for 1x500MW unit no. 5 of SGTPS, MPPGCL, Birsinghpur.	13.36/- Lakh	1,000/-	33,400/-	23.06.2019	02.07.2019
5	2019_MPPGCL_26838	Procurement of SS-316 Pipe & SS valves fitting for laying separate line system for filling/make upto expansion tank of the unit no. 1 to 4 at SGTPS, MPPGCL, Birsinghpur.	14.74/- Lakh	1,000/-	36,900/-	27.06.2019	01.07.2019
6	2019_MPPGCL_26528	Procurement of complete loading unit assembly and silent block bearing for loading units assembly of 8.5 E-9 ABL coal mills of unit no 1 to 4 4x210MW unit of PH1 & II at SGTPS, MPPGCL, Birsinghpur.	31.28 Lakh	1,000/-	78,300/-	25.06.2019	29.06.2019
7	2019_MPPGCL_26232	Refurbishment of planetary gear box of plough feeder & gearbox C58-280 & C58 250 Installed at 1X500 MW CHP of SGTPS, MPPGCL, Birsinghpur.	16.87/- Lakh	1,000/-	12,200/-	11.07.2019	16.07.2019
8	2019_MPPGCL_26330	Repairing of gurde wheel and support wheel of rotary breaker TRF make installed at 1X500 MW CHP, SGTPS, MPPGCL, Birsinghpur.	19.63/- Lakh	1,000/-	49,100/-	15.07.2019	19.07.2019

These tenders are being invited through e-tendering system. For viewing detailed E-NIT, downloading tender documents and participating in Electronic Tender, for any clarifications and/or due date extensions or corrigendum, please visit the website www.mptenders.gov.in regularly. Any clarifications and/or due date extensions or corrigendum shall be issued on the website www.mptenders.gov.in only.

Superintending Engineer (P&W)
 O/o The Chief Engineer (Gen.)
 SGTPS, Birsinghpur, Umaria

"SAVE ELECTRICITY-SAVE POWER-SAVE MONEY"

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LIMITED
 Registered Office: 27 BKC, C 27, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai -400 051.
 Corporate Identity No. L65110MH1985PLC038137.
 Branch Office: at Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., Ground Floor, Bhagwan Complex, 214, MP Nagar Zone 1, Bhopal (M.P.) 462016

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CUM SALE

Notice is hereby given for conducting sale by public auction, pursuant to the possession taken by the Authorised Officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited, Under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under the rules of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to recover the outstanding amount from Loan Accounts bearing No. RHB6511639197, RHB123515, RHB9411724345 amounting to Rs. 1,56,98,399.45/- (Rupees: One crore fifty six Lakh ninety eight thousand three hundred ninety nine and forty five paise Only), as on 04-06-2019, together with interest thereon at the applicable rates plus the Bank is also entitled to get further interest as applicable w.e.f. 05-06-2019 till the realization of entire outstanding amount, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred till date of payment and /or realisation from the Borrower namely: 1. Geeta Medical Stores C/o Mr Narbada Prasad Sharma S/o Shri Khushilal Ji Sharma, Address: Shop No.6-7, Ganga Ashram, Nehru Park, Indore-Bhopal Road, Dist. Sehore, M.P., Also At: Add: H.No.87, Gulab Bihar Colony, Sehore (M.P.) 466001, 2) Mr. Narbada Prasad Sharma S/o Shri Khushilal Ji Sharma, Address: H.No. 87, Gulab Bihar Colony, Sehore (M.P.) 466001, 3) Mrs. Babita Sharma W/o Narbada Prasad Sharma, H.No.87, Gulab Bihar Colony, Sehore, M.P. 466001. Offers are invited by the undersigned in sealed cover for sale by auction of immovable properties on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" as per the particulars given hereunder:

Description of Secured Asset	Reserve Price	EMD Amount
(Loan Account No.- RHB6511639197, RHB123515, RHB9411724345) All that piece and parcel of the immovable addressing 1250 sq. ft. of Land of Building situated at Survey No. 871, 872, 873/1/Kha. 873/2, Plot No. 93, H.No.874, Ward No. 02, Gulab Bihar Colony, Sehore, Dist. Sehore, (M.P.)- 466001. Bounded by: North: House of Shri Joshi Ji, South: House of Shri Pragat Ji, East: House of Tomar Ji, West: Road	Rs. 56,25,000/- (Rs. Fifty Six Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Only)	Rs. 5,62,500.00/- (Five Lakh Sixty Two Thousand Five Hundred Only)

The undersigned shall arrange to give inspection of the said properties through his representative/agent, to prospective buyers from, 10-06-2019 to 10-07-2019 on working days, between 11:30 am to 3:30 p.m. The undersigned may at his absolute discretion and on request from prospective buyers, arrange to give inspection of the said properties through his representative/agent to prospective buyers at any other working day between the working hours of the Bank. The sealed Bids shall be sent with the words "For purchase of property in the matter of Geeta Medical Stores & Narbada Prasad Sharma, mentioned on the cover. The Bidder shall send sealed envelope with a demand draft/pay order of a scheduled bank for the earnest money deposit (EMD) stated above favoring "Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited payable at Bhopal, addressed to the Authorized officer at Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., Ground Floor, Bhagwan Complex, 214, MP Nagar Zone 1, Bhopal (M.P.) 462016 so as to reach the undersigned latest by 5:00 p.m. on 15-07-2019 and the Auction /inter se bidding will take place at 1:00 p.m. onwards 16-07-2019, at the same place, where the bidders can remain present and revise their offers UPWARDS. On the confirmation of the auction /sale of the secured asset, the successful bidder/purchaser should deposit 25% (including 10% of the said EMD amount) of the bidding amount on the same day and the balance 75% within 15 days, failing which the Bank shall forfeit the amount already paid by the bidder.

Terms and Conditions: (i) Sale will strictly be on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and on the terms as mentioned herein and in the terms and conditions of sale, however the Authorised Officer shall have the absolute discretionary right to change or vary the terms and conditions. (ii) The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated for the best of the informed Officer, failing which the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. (iii) The secured asset will not be sold below the reserve price and sale shall be confirmed to the highest bidder. However, the Authorised Officer is not bound to accept the highest bid or any of all bids and reserves the absolute right and discretion to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason whatsoever. (iv) The bidders at the time of submission of bid shall produce evidence of their identity by cogent documents and they participate in the auction in a representative capacity, the authorization/resolution/Power of attorney etc., executed by the principal be also produced. (v) In no case the bidders will be permitted to withdraw the bids. (vi) In case the bids are rejected, Authorised Officer can negotiate with any of the bidders or other parties for sale of the properties by private treaty. (vii) All statutory dues/ other dues including registration charges, stamp duty, taxes etc. shall have to be borne by the purchaser. (viii) All outgoings i.e. Municipal Taxes, Maintenance/Society charges, Electricity and Water charges and any other dues or taxes in respect of the said property shall be paid by the successful Bidder/Purchaser. (ix) The successful bidder shall pay 1% of sale price towards TDS (out of the sale proceeds) and submit TDS Certificate to the Authorized officer and the deposit the entire amount of sale price (after deduction of 1% towards TDS), adjusting the EMD within 15 working days of the acceptance of the offer by the Authorised Officer, or within such other extended time as deemed fit by the Authorised Officer, or within such other extended time as deemed fit by the Authorised Officer, failing which the earnest deposit will be forfeited. (x) Bids below reserve price shall be out rightly rejected. (xi) Bids submitted without original demand drafts/pay order for the EMD shall be out rightly rejected. (xii) Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited or its employees will not be liable for any claims from any person in respect of the properties put for sale. (xiv) Any other encumbrances are not known to the Bank. The Authorised Officer or the Bank shall not be responsible for any change, lien, encumbrances, or any other dues to the Government or anyone else in respect of the properties. (xv) The Intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc. (xv) If the dues of the bank together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by them or part thereof as may be acceptable to the bank are tendered by/on behalf of the Borrowers/Guarantor/s/Mortgagor/s, at any time on or before the date fixed for sale, the auction / sale of asset may be cancelled. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable and to postpone/cancel /adjourn/discontinue or vary the terms of the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final. (xvi) The sale certificate shall be issued in the same name in which the Bid is submitted. (xvii) For further details, Contact: Mr. Sumit Gawshinde Mobile No. +91 786597014 & Mr. Ravindra Kumar Soni +91 952220284 during office hours on any working day.

This 1st Sale Auction Publication is also made on the official website of the Bank addressed as <https://www.kotak.com/en/bank-auctions.html> in accordance with recent notification issued by the Government under the SARA/EASIA Act.

1st Auction Sale Auction STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER the provisions of THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES The Borrower/Guarantors/Mortgagors are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.

For Authorised Officer
 Sd/-
 Date: 07.06.2019
 M/s Kotak Mahindra Bank

इंडियन बैंक
Indian Bank
 228, FF, M.P. NAGAR, Zone -1, Bhopal-462 011
 Phone : + 91 755-257 2070/71,
 Email : zohbhopal@indianbank.co.in

[Appendix IV Rule-8 (1) Possession Notice for Immovable Property

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer, Indian Bank, Zonal Office Bhopal under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 12.03.2019 calling upon the borrower: Mr. Sharad Baroniya, Guarantor Mr. Balram Baroniya and Guarantor & Mortgagor- Smt. Lakshmi Baroniya with our Hoshangabad Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 1365569/- (Rupees thirteen lakh sixty five thousand five hundred sixty nine only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on this 3rd day of June of the year 2019. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank, Hoshangabad, for an amount of Rs.1315802/- (Rupees thirteen lakh fifteen thousand eight hundred two Only) as on 03.06.2019 plus interest and other charges thereon w.e.f 03.06.2019.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of the property consisting: Property situated at Residential Plot Kharsa No.131/4, Mouza Kishanpur alias Adamgarh, (known as Ishan Parishar) Municipal Ward No.20, New No.18, Hoshangabad No.17, Tehsil & District - Hoshangabad (M.P.), with construction thereon Total Plot area 1000 sq ft Bounded on: East : 15ft Road, West: House of others, North: Grave yard of Christians, South: Rest area of the seller

Dated: 03.06.2019
 Place: Hoshangabad

Authorised Officer
 Indian Bank

Heatwave continues to disrupt locals in State

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Under the extreme hot conditions blistering sun continued to create intense hot conditions after highest day temperature of the State continues to remain at 48 degree Celsius for the second consecutive day on Thursday.

State capital recorded day temperature with little dip at 45.3 degree Celsius after recording season high of 45.4 degree Celsius on Wednesday.

Several regions of the state recorded night temperature around 32 degree Celsius. The regions which recorded night temperatures at higher levels in degree Celsius were Raisen-32.6, Tikamgarh 32.5, Sheopur 32.6, Damoh 31.4, Bhopal 31.4, Seoni 31, Satna 30 Shajapur and Hoshangabad 30.6.

The intense hot and humid

STATE CAPITAL RECORDED DAY TEMPERATURE WITH LITTLE DIP AT 45.3 DEGREE CELSIUS AFTER RECORDING SEASON HIGH OF 45.4 DEGREE CELSIUS ON WEDNESDAY

conditions would prevail and relief is not on the cards soon said weatherman. The prevailing intense hot wave conditions across the state has made weather conditions unbearable.

On Thursday the highest day temperature was recorded at 48 degree Celsius in Nowgong while Hoshangabad recorded day temperature at 47.7 degree Celsius, Gwalior recorded day temperature at

47.5 degree Celsius.

Most of the regions witnessed hot wave conditions in the past 24 hours. Intense hot wave conditions were witnessed in Raisen, Damoh, Sagar and Chhatarpur.

The warning has been issued by Met department claiming that harshness would continue in the weather conditions and intense hot wave conditions would be witnessed in Chhatarpur, Sagar, Damoh, Raisen, Rajgarh, Gwalior, Guna, Sheopur, Bhind, Morena, Datia, Hoshangabad districts.

Warning of hot wave conditions has been issued for Rewa, Satna, Sidhi, Singrauli, Shahdol, Jabalpur, Mandla, Balaghat, Panna, Tikamgarh, Betul, Khargone, Khandwa, Shajapur, Bhopal and Agar districts.



An official stacks mangoes for display at a sale-cum-exhibition during inauguration of three-day Mango Festival organised by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

Four arrested for stealing ₹1 lakh

Bhopal: Jehangirabad police has nabbed four miscreants from platform no 6 at Bhopal railway station on Thursday who were involved in stealing ₹1 lakh cash from a Gwalior based man on May 4; police have recovered ₹61000 from their possession.

Acting on a tip off auto rickshaw bearing registration number MP04RA0683 was traced at Bhopal railway station platform number 6 on Thursday and an auto rickshaw driver was nabbed who was identified as Mohammad Athar of Gandhi Nagar.

In the further investigation the accused confessed names of other accused who were identified as Mohammad Shahid (40), Mohammad Zeeshan (27) and Afroz (32). Based on the details the three accused were nabbed and cash stolen from the victim was recovered from their possession.

From Athar police have recovered ₹17000, from Afroz police have recovered ₹16000, from Shahid police have recovered ₹14000 and from Zeeshan police have recovered ₹12000. Remaining cash was spent by the accused.

The victim works as building contractor and was doing a construction work in Vidisha and came to the city with cash for making payment to the labour in the morning on May 3 and hired an auto rickshaw which was already having three persons and when it reached near police control room and the three men said that they forgo their luggage at Habibganj railway station and dropped him. As soon as he was dropped he checked the cash and driving license were found missing. The modus operandi was to mislead the victims and steal their valuables. SR

ENVIRONMENT DAY Medicinal plant garden opens at NTPC



PNS ■ TALCHER

The World Environment Day was observed at the NTPC Talcher Super Thermal Power Station, Kaniha on Wednesday. Environmental pledge was administered by NTPC CGM Ramesh Babu V, GM (O and M) NS Rao and GM (Fuel Mgmt) KK Das. Babu conveying the message of Director (Operations) said to adopt all possible steps to conserve natural resource for the future generation and urged to take all possible

steps to keep the mother earth clean, beautiful and pollution free.

Later an 'Environmental Awareness Walk' was organised to create and spread awareness about conservation of nature followed by mass tree plantation in which 250 fruit sapling were planted in Stage II township of the power station.

Further a medicinal plant garden was inaugurated in which as many as 80 medicinal plants have been planted as part of day celebration and different competitions were also organised.

PSL campaigns to spread words on environment conservation

Indore: In a bid to spread a word about environment conservation, Pratibha Syntex Limited (PSL), a sustainability oriented textile conglomerate, organised a number of campaigns, in the campus on Wednesday.

Observing World Environment Day, PSL employees planted a large number Neem, Peepal and blackberry saplings within the premises. On the occasion, an inhouse team video recorded interviews of many employees to compile a short film on environment conservation.

The film will be used to generate awareness about the environment protection. During this video interview, the employees resolved to conserve the environment and shared their own methods for the environment protection.

Among the series of activities held in the campus, a painting competition was also organized on environment theme, wherein female associates participated in large numbers. Besides, to encourage employees to conserve water, a session on the water conservation was organized in the premises. PNS

Jumbo dead in Kuldiha; probe begins

PNS ■ BALESWAR

The Forest Department on Thursday began investigation into the death of an elephant, whose carcass was found in the Tenda area under the Kuldiha Forest Range in the district, with tusks missing.

The incident came to the fore after locals who had visited the forest came across the carcass lying near Kuldiha Forest Rest House.

Later, the department officials accompanied with veterinary doctors had rushed to the spot and scondacted a preliminary investigation.

They also carried out autopsy of the body to ascertain whether it was poached or not.

Environment Day observed in Khordha

PNS ■ KHORDHA

The Forests and Environment Department observed district-level World Environment Day here on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Khordha DFO Sudip Nayak.

Khordha Additional District Judge (2) Dillip Kumar Biswal and Utkal University Environmental Science Department Professor Dr Rabindra Kumar Swain attended as guests and spoke on this year's theme "Tackling Air Pollution". On the occasion, different people were felicitated for their exemplary work in planting trees and saving the environment. Among others, Khordha ACFO Dillip Kumar Rout and Khordha Range Officer Uttam Gadanayak were present. Similarly, the Sabuja Sahitya Sansad observed the day here under the chairmanship of its president Jagabandhu



Mahapatra. The members held a plantation drive at the Mangala Temple premises here. Fakir Mohan University Environmental Science Department Associate Professor Dr Sunand Chandra

Pradhan, District Agriculture Officer Narayan Sethi, former Tehsildar Sudhakar Samantray and Paramananda College, Bolagarh Reader Rabindranath Panigrahi attended as guests and spoke on the occasion.

₹3.5L looted before police station in Jajpur

PNS ■ JAJPUR

Miscreants decamped with ₹3.5 lakh kept in the storage box of a motorcycle parked in front of a police station in Jajpur on Thursday.

The cash belonged to a teacher Radhanaryan Rath. The incident occurred when Rath visited the police station to inquire about a matter. Rath had withdrawn the money for his daughter's marriage. After withdrawing the money from the Jajpur SBI branch, he kept the money in the storage box of his motorcycle. Sources said the teacher had asked his school peon, who was accompanying him, to guard the motorcycle, but later found the storage box broken and cash missing.

"When asked, the peon claimed that he had gone to attend nature's call when the incident occurred," Rath said, adding that he has lodged a police complaint.

The peon was detained while further investigation was underway, police said.

Baby girl's death triggers tension in Malkangiri Kin allege medical negligence

PNS ■ MALKANGIRI

Tension prevailed at a Community Health Centre (CHC) at the Khairput block headquarters in the district on Thursday, after a one-and-a-half-month-old baby died late on Wednesday night allegedly due to medical negligence.

Sources said the baby girl was admitted to the hospital on Monday night after she fell ill. But the on-duty doctor instead of attending the patient allegedly misbehaved with the family members and scolded them for bringing the baby late in the night.

Later, the doctor got busy with his phone. But after repeated requests by the

No police complaint was lodged in the connection till last reports came in

attendants, the doctor treated the child and sent her blood sample for a test, which is yet to be received. But on Wednesday, the baby's condition deteriorated and she died at night.

The family alleged that she died due to medical negligence on the part of the doctor. No police complaint was lodged in the connection till last reports came in.

Lightning kills man in K'pada Eight cattle also die in tragedy in Puri

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA/ PURI

An elderly man died due to lightning strike at Garajanga village under Marshaghai block in Kendrapada district on Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Sarat Mohanty (64). He was a retired employee of the Postal Department.

Mohanty was plucking flowers from a tree near his house early in the morning at around 5 am when the lightning struck him, killing him on the spot.

In a similar incident, eight cattle were killed in lightning at Gurubai village under Krushnaprasad block of Puri district on Wednesday night when the animals were standing under a tree.

Youth hacks 2 brothers to death in K'jhar

Accused held; motive yet to be ascertained

PNS ■ KEONJHAR

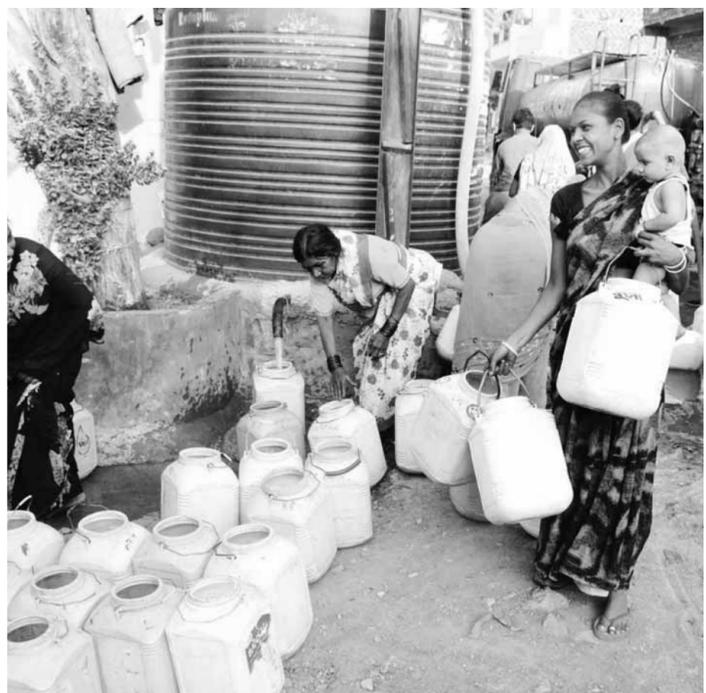
A youth allegedly hacked two brothers to death after an argument between them at Katia village under the Bamebari police station in the district on Thursday.

The deceased were identified as Sambhar Nayak and his brother Karmu. The identity of the accused is yet to be ascertained.

The accused youth, who was in an inebriated condition entered into an argument with Sambhar over some matter. Hearing the commotion, his younger brother Karmu came outside the house to intervene in the matter.

But the situation took an ugly turn as the youth attacked the duo with a sharp weapon, killing them on the spot.

On being informed about the incident, police rushed to the spot and arrested the accused. Police were interrogating the youth to ascertain the motive behind his crime.



Local residents collect water from a tank as water crisis continues in hot summer in Kolar locality in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

Govt pulls up socks for International Yoga day

PNS ■ RANCHI

The State Government has started preparations for holding mega show on International Yoga Day scheduled on June 21. Ranchi will be hosting main event of International Yoga Day, in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be attending the main function at Prabhat Tara Ground on June 21. Prior to Ranchi, National Capital Delhi hosted the main event of first International Yoga Day, while the second Yoga day was held in Chandigarh, followed by Lucknow in 2017 and last year, the main function was held in Dehradun.

As part of preparations for Yoga day, two separate meetings were held on Thursday—first under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary DK Tiwari and second under Ranchi district administration headed by Ranchi Deputy Commissioner, Rai Mahimapat Ray.

The Chief Secretary today held a video conferencing with all the DCs of the State and issued directions to organise International Yoga Day a grand



Chief secretary D K Tiwari interacts with all DCs through videoconferencing during a meeting in Ranchi on Thursday. Pioneer photo

affair on the lines of Independence Day and Republic Day. Apart from main function in Ranchi, the function will be held at four levels—district, sub-division, block and at panchayat level.

Various modes such as Nukkad Natak, distribution of pamphlets, debate and seminars will be used to create awareness on Yoga Day. All DCs have been asked to con-

duct massive awareness drive on June 10, similarly, a training session will be held for participants participating at Yoga Day on June 17, 18 and 19. A day before the Yoga Day, seminars will be held at the same time directions have been issued to ensure participation of students from universities and various organisations. The Yoga day will be held from 6.30 am to 7.45 am.

Meanwhile, the Ranchi district administration too held a meeting for preparations of Yoga Day which was attended by officials from health department and others. The DC said that as Yoga Day is not public meeting or rallies only those who are trained or expert in Yoga asanas should participate in the function and in this connection training session should be held. The Ranchi

District administration has set a target of participation of more than 50,000 people at the main function. For participation of yoga enthusiasts there will be online entry so as there will be complete information of participants. The process of online entry will commence from June 10 and the participants will get Yoga T-shirt two days before the main function.

Entry of participants at Yoga Day will commence from 3 am to 5 am and during the day traffic will be diverted from the main venue.

At DC meeting Ishwar Basavaraddi director of Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, shared his experience on Yoga with the participants in the meeting. All the departments, directorates and educational institutions participating at Yoga Day have been asked to submit the list and number of participants attending the Yoga day. Apart from government departments and educational institutions, security personnel from military and para military forces, CRPF, JAP and other agencies will participate.

ED asks UK to share details of Vadra assets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Widening its probe against Robert Vadra, brother-in-law of Congress president Rahul Gandhi, the ED has requested its UK counterparts to share details of ownership and related financial transactions of over half-a-dozen assets there that the agency claimed were acquired using laundered money and belonged to him.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has also sought assistance from financial intelligence units of some countries to unravel the flow of funds used to purchase these assets, officials said.

The agency is planning to provisionally attach these immovable assets in London and nearby areas under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said.

The 50-year-old businessman, who is the husband of Congress leader Priyanka Vadra, has been grilled 13 times by the ED with regard to a London-based property located at 12, Bryanston Square worth 1.9 million GBP (British pounds), which is allegedly owned by him.

The agency has evidence that some more assets in the United Kingdom are "linked" to Vadra. These include two houses — one worth 5 million GBP and the other valued at 4 million GBP, besides six other residential flats, sources said.

The ED has detected some

ED has also sought assistance from financial intelligence units of some countries to unravel the flow of funds used to purchase these assets, officials said

alleged undisclosed transactions being made from Cyprus and Dubai for the purchase of these assets by people linked to Vadra, the sources said.

Questioning of Vadra on his links to these assets has not got the agency much leads. It now wants to put Vadra through sustained interrogation and has moved court to cancel his anticipatory bail, they said.

In his defence, Vadra had claimed that he was being subjected to "sensation and unnecessary drama" by the repeated exercise of summoning him by the ED.

The ED has asked its UK counterparts to help them get full details of the chain of ownership of these assets apart from documents that legally establish their sale and purchase over a period of time.

A main suspect for the Enforcement Directorate in these dealings is NRI businessman C C Thampi who has been charged by the agency in an alleged illegal hawala dealings and land purchase case in the country in 2017.

It had issued a show-cause notice to Thampi for alleged

violation of foreign exchange laws to the tune of over Rs 1,000 crore in the purchase of vast tracts of land in Kerala.

Thampi has now been summoned by the agency for questioning about his links with Vadra and absconding arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari. But Thampi has sought more time to appear before the ED as he claims he is unwell, the sources said. Some other people linked to Vadra and Bhandari have also been summoned by the agency.

Praful Patel fails to appear before ED

Money laundering case: NCP leader asks agency for another date

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Civil Aviation Minister and NCP leader Praful Patel did not appear before the Enforcement Directorate on Thursday and requested the agency for another date to depose in connection with a money-laundering

probe related to the losses suffered by national carrier Air India as part of an alleged multi-crore-rupee aviation scam.

Patel's request for another date for questioning came hours before his appearance scheduled before the agency. The agency had summoned him earlier this month and asked him to appear before the Investigating Officer of the case on Thursday.

Patel has also been named in a recent chargesheet filed by the ED before a court as a person known to aviation lobbyist Deepak Talwar.

Patel who is a NCP leader, was in charge of the Civil Aviation Ministry between 2004 and 2011 during the United Progressive Alliance regime, has not been mentioned as an accused in the case till now.

"Due to my prior commitments, I have requested ED for another date," Patel said in Mumbai.

The statement of Patel, a Rajya Sabha MP, will be recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

After summoning by the agency, Patel had reacted saying he would be happy to cooperate with the ED for their understanding of the complexities of the aviation industry.

The scam relates to allocation of favourable airline routes to foreign operators to the detriment of the national carrier Air India.

Rajnath briefed about Def acquisition issues

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In his first meeting with the top brass here on Thursday after assuming charge as the Defence Minister last week, Rajnath Singh was briefed about issues, including Defence acquisitions and procurements, Defence diplomacy and planning activities of recently set up three integrated units, including Cyber Agency, Armed Forces Special Forces Division and Space Agency.

The high-level review of these issues was attended by Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra and other officials of the ministry besides representation from the three Services.

Since the focus is on to sustain the momentum of modernisation to have operational preparedness to meet the challenge of a two-front war with Pakistan and China, the Minister was apprised of Defence procurement procedures, budget utilisation, present status of procurements and payments along with implications of major deals with countries.

Singh directed officials to seek indigenous solutions for meeting the forces requirements to the extent possible. He also noted the progress under the Strategic Partnership programme, the Defence Ministry officials said later.

The Strategic Partnership programme initiated by the NDA-one Government aims at manufacturing warships, submarines, fighter jets and tanks in India with foreign collabo-

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He was also briefed regarding Defence co-operation activities with Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs), policy matters pertaining to Defence diplomacy, including bilateral and multi-lateral exercises, capacity building, training and material assistance to FFCs

Two projects, including manufacturing nearly 100 helicopters and six submarines, were given the go-ahead some months back under the strategic partnership programme.

He was also briefed regarding Defence co-operation activities with Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs), policy matters pertaining to Defence diplomacy, including bilateral and multi-lateral exercises, capacity building, training and material assistance to FFCs, they said.

With fast changing nature of warfare with extensive use of

information technology and space, the Government recently three tri-services units including Special Forces, Cyber and Space Agencies.

Headed by Major General rank officer, these agencies have drawn personnel and resources from three Services for fighting any challenge in an integrated manner. It will enable the military to achieve the military and political objective in the shortest possible time. Against this backdrop, Singh reviewed planning activities of these agencies, officials said.

MISSING AN-32 AIRCRAFT

Defence Minister meets family members of missing personnel

ASSURES THEM OF ALL POSSIBLE HELP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the massive search and rescue operation entered the fourth day on Thursday for the missing AN-32 aircraft with 13 IAF personnel on board, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met family members of some of them here and assured of all possible help. He had prayed for the safety of all the crew members on Monday when the plane went missing.

Even as weather is hampering the search operations, the IAF on Thursday widened the area of operation with ground forces of the Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) patrolling the thickly forested area to locate the missing plane feared to have crashed.

Besides two SU-30s and C-130J planes flying throughout the night for the past three days to locate the plane, the Navy has also deployed its P-8 I long range reconnaissance aircraft.

Two M-17 helicopters and two advanced light utility helicopters are also carrying out sorties and the Army on

Thursday also stationed an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), officials said here on Thursday.

The ill-fated AN-32 transport aircraft had taken off from Jorhat in Assam at 12.25 pm for Mechuka advanced landing ground in Arunachal Pradesh.

The plane lost radio contact at one pm and when it did not land at Mechuka at scheduled time of 1.25 pm, the IAF launched the search and rescue operation. The flying time between Jorhat and Mechuka is about 50 minutes and the distance is about 206 kms as the crew flies.

Mechuka advanced landing ground is the lifeline for troops deployed on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) facing China and the planes and helicopters ferry personnel, food and ammunition.

The advanced landing ground at a height of 6,000 feet is about 30 kms as the crew flies from the LAC and therefore is strategically very important. Incidentally, an AN-32 had crashed near Mechuka in June 2009 killing all 13 passengers.

Priyanka decides not to give up

To work 'tirelessly' to revive party in UP, will visit Prayagraj today

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI



Against the backdrop of Congress' miserable show in the Lok Sabha elections across the country, including Uttar Pradesh, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi has decided to continue working 'tirelessly' for the revival of the party in the State that sends 80 Lok Sabha MPs.

AICC sources said a massive overhaul could be expected to streamline the cadre in the State which has always been significant for formation of a government at the Centre.

Priyanka, who was drafted into active politics by her brother and Congress president Rahul Gandhi just before the General Elections, will head to Prayagraj (Allahabad) on Friday to hold a separate review meeting with all the 40 Congress contestants of eastern UP and conduct a marathon meeting with party's office bearers at all levels, from block to State.

The party, which is facing internal rumblings in wake of party chief Rahul Gandhi's resignation post-poll debacle, is all set to make structural changes in organisation across country while Priyanka will figure out a strategy to rebuild the party in the main Hindi heartland where

Congress lost its grip since almost the last four decades.

"Priyanka will now frequently visit the State and continue with her interactions with party workers," a senior AICC leader said.

On her first visit to Uttar Pradesh after the poll debacle wherein even her brother Rahul lost the family turf of Amethi, she will station herself in Swaraj Bhawan in Allahabad and conduct the series of meetings. She is tasked to strengthen the State unit to stage a comeback both in UP and national level.

Congress ruled UP for a very long time since first Chief Minister Govind Vallabh Pant in 1950 with last being ND Tiwari. But there hasn't been a single Congress CM who has ruled UP following rise of regional players like Samajwadi Party, BSP and emergence of BJP as a force to reckon with.

In the last two Lok Sabha polls, it did not touch even the double digit from the State. The highest Lok Sabha MPs in Congress from UP was 21 in the 2009 Lok Sabha elections in recent times when the party returned to power to lead UPA-II at Centre.

No Modi-Imran meet in Bishkek: MEA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday said no bilateral meeting has been planned between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Pakistani counterpart Imran Khan on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek next week.

There was speculation about possibility of a meeting between Modi and Khan in the wake of a private visit here by Pakistan Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood days after telephonic conversation between the Prime Ministers.

"To best of my knowledge, there is no bilateral meeting being planned between the prime minister and PM of Pakistan on the sidelines of the SCO summit," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson said during a media briefing.

Asked specifically whether



he was completely ruling out any possibility of Modi-Khan meeting in Bishkek, Kumar only said he was not aware of any bilateral meeting being organised between the two leaders.

Both Modi and Khan are scheduled to attend the annual SCO summit on June 13-14.

On Pakistan Foreign Secretary's ongoing visit here, Kumar said it is his personal trip and no meeting has been planned with Indian officials.

Mahmood, who was Pakistan's High Commissioner to India before he assumed charge of the top post in mid-April, arrived here on Tuesday night on a three-day private visit.

Tensions between the two countries worsened after the Pulwama terror attack and both the countries were almost on the brink of a war after India's military planes struck a terrorist training camp in Pakistan's Balakot on February

26 and Pakistan carried out a counter-offensive the next day.

Breaking the ice in bilateral ties, Khan on May 26 spoke to Modi on phone and expressed his desire to work together for peace and prosperity in the region. Modi on his part called for creating trust and an environment free of violence and terrorism for fostering peace and prosperity in the region.

Kumar also said there was no meeting last month in Bishkek between the then External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Pakistani counterpart Shah Mehmoed Qureshi. Both had attended a meeting of SCO Foreign Ministers in the Kyrgyz capital last month. He said a photograph showing the two Ministers were taken when they were sitting at a holding room of the SCO Foreign Ministers conference.

Jaishankar on 2-day visit to Bhutan

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will embark on a two-day visit to Bhutan from Friday, his first overseas trip after assuming charge of the Ministry.

MEA Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said during the visit, Jaishankar would call on Bhutanese Prime Minister Lotay Tshering and is expected to receive an audience with King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

He will also hold talks with his Bhutanese counterpart Tandi Dorji. "It will be Jaishankar's first visit abroad as



the External Affairs Minister and reflects the importance that India attaches to its relationship with Bhutan, a close friend and

neighbour," Kumar said.

Bhutan has been a close ally of India and bilateral ties between the two countries are on an upswing in the last few years. "India and Bhutan share a unique and time tested bilateral relationship, characterised by utmost trust, goodwill and mutual understanding," said Kumar.

"During the visit, the two sides will discuss entire gamut of bilateral relations, including the upcoming high-level exchanges, economic development and hydro-power cooperation," he added. PTI

SAD demands return of Sikh treasure seized by Army during Op Blue Star

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Thursday demanded immediate handing over of precious treasure of Sikhs allegedly seized by the Army during the 1984 Operation Blue Star as well as regular pension to those who left the forces after the armed intervention to flush out terrorists from the Golden Temple.

The SAD delegation led by Sukhbir Singh Badal met Home Minister Amit Shah to raise a series of demands in connection with Operation Blue Star related incidents.

"The Sikh community is eagerly waiting for the precious treasure which the attacking army seized and was taken away during the attack," SAD Chief Badal told reporters after the meeting.

"It includes important holy scriptures, artefacts, thousands of historical books and collection part of the Sikh Reference Library and relics belonging to Sri Guru Sahib and other Sikh personalities. These should be located and returned to the community with due honour," he said.

Badal said 309 serving Sikh personnel had left the Army after the security forces attacked their most revered religious place under the Operation Blue Star, and all of them were dismissed from the service.

"Around 100 of them are still alive. We humbly request for their rehabilitation and pension benefits. This will give a positive message to the aggrieved Sikh community," the SAD chief added.

The Akali Dal leader also said the central government is going to celebrate the 550th year birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev after four months. He said one of the programmes scheduled is 'Nagar Kirtan' from India to Nankana Sahib, the birth place of the founder of Sikh religion, in Pakistan.

"We have requested that this event be organised by the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) and Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (DSGMC). We have requested that the Government of India may liaison with the Pakistan Government for successful organisation of this 'Nagar Kirtan'," he added.

Amit Shah to get Vajpayee's Krishna Menon Marg residence

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is likely to be allotted late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Krishna Menon Marg residence in Central Delhi, Government sources said on Thursday.

Vajpayee had moved to the Krishna Menon Marg bungalow in 2004 after his Government was voted out, and stayed there with his family for nearly 14 years. His family vacated the house in last November after his death in August.

"The official bungalow of former Prime Minister on Krishna Menon Marg has been allotted to Union Home Minister Amit Shah," a Government source told PTI.

According to sources, Shah, who is also the BJP president, recently visited the house and suggested some changes following which renovation work has started.

"The renovation work should be completed in a month or two," another source said.

Shah, who took charge as a Union Minister for the first time earlier this week following a landslide victory of the BJP-led NDA, is currently staying at 11 Akbar Road residence.

When Vajpayee had moved to the Krishna Menon Marg house, he had got the municipal number of the bungalow changed from 8 to 6-A.

After the Modi Government came to power in 2014, it was decided that no Government bungalow previously occupied by a leader in Delhi would be converted into any memorial after their death.

The Government has already built memorial for Vajpayee 'Sadaiv Atal' near the Rashtriya Smriti Sthal, a place designated for last rites of Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Prime Ministers.

Air quality 'not as bad' as portrayed in media: Javadekar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after a study claimed that at least one lakh kids are dying due to toxic air across the country every year, the Government said on Thursday that the situation "is not as bad" as being portrayed in the media.

Speaking at an event to mark World Environment Day, which was on June 5, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said in fact, air quality in Delhi-NCR has improved and the number of days with "bad" air quality has come down by 33 per cent. The situation "is not as bad" as being portrayed in the media.

"Media reports are always creating a picture that lakhs of people are dying of air pollution but it is not as bad. Yes pollution is there but efforts are on," Javadekar said. On Wednesday, Center for Science

◆ Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said in fact, air quality in Delhi-NCR has improved and the number of days with "bad" air quality has come down by 33%

◆ He also said that the number of days with 'moderate' to 'good' air quality has increased from 108 in 2016 to 159 in 2018

◆ Minister of State for Environment Babul Supriyo urged people to use car pool at least once in a week to contribute to the cause of environment and "not be afraid of the alarming figures in the war against pollution"

and Environment had released a report stating that bad air was badly affecting the people particularly kids.

"Number of poor air quality days in Delhi in 2016 used to be 246, and in 2014 they used to be around 300, in 2017 it came down to 213 and now it has come down to 206. I am confident that when 2019 fig-

ures will come, the number of poor air quality days will further come down. This is a tremendous success. The days of poor quality air have reduced. It is a significant improvement," he said.

He also said that the number of days with 'moderate' to 'good' air quality has increased from 108 in 2016 to 159 in

2018.

"Moderate to good days have increased. 108 days of moderate air quality in 2016 have increased to 152 in 2017 and now they have gone up to 159 days. This progress in good air days are the result of concerted efforts of last four years for the capital and NCR," he said, adding that air quali-

ty monitoring systems which record the air quality index (AQI) show improvement in air quality.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good'; 51 and 100 'satisfactory'; 101 and 200 'moderate'; 201 and 300 'poor'; 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

Minister of State for Environment Babul Supriyo urged people to use car pool at least once in a week to contribute to the cause of environment and "not be afraid of the alarming figures in the war against pollution".

The Ministry also released several publications, including Orchids of India by Botanical Survey of India which identified over 700 species of orchids in the country while another book — Plant Discoveries — had addition of 438 plant species to the Indian flora in 2018.

Boosting growth

Modi swept for a second term despite a sputtering economy. But fixing it is not as easy as a rate cut or high-powered panels



As the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee decided to cut interest rates by 25 basis points and Prime Minister Narendra Modi constituted two powerful Cabinet Committees led by him and several of his senior-most colleagues to boost investments and jobs, there appears to be a gradual understanding that all is not well on the economic front. But rate cuts and committees cannot make Indians start to spend more. Consumer demand has been muted for the last six

months and is expected to remain so until the start of the festive season. Lowering interest rates might have some benefits, but with banks, including Public Sector Banks (PSBs), still reeling from the bad loan crisis and repairing their books even as they have until now refused to pass on the benefits to retail loan consumers, lower rates will benefit few. Banks have been unwilling. In the case of some PSBs, they are unable to lend money, thus putting several companies under severe working capital pressure and unable to raise funds for expansion.

This is something the Government and the RBI will need to resolve going forward. Without more money entering the system, no matter how growth figures are massaged, on-ground reports will not be positive. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proven that his Government has social sector reforms — healthcare, electricity and gas connections — in mind. But without economic growth, funding these social sector schemes will be impossible. In addition, there is little doubt that there is a severe shortage of jobs in the industry and without economic growth, which will only come through massive infusion of funds into the economy, these sectors cannot thrive. That can happen in multiple ways, but one aspect the Government will have to consider is to mitigate 'tax terrorism' that is afflicting the economy. The term 'mismatch' has been driving fear into the heart of company owners everywhere. At the same time, payments from the Government have been delayed and the economy is suffering as a result. While infrastructure projects, particularly the bullet train project, remain priorities, the services and manufacturing sector have to be revived as well.

The Government has some very smart economists at the helm, but reviving the Indian economy will take much more than coming up with policies. They need to be implemented, too. Putting money in the hands of the consumers and driving consumer demand higher may need a few tax rate cuts as well. Yes, there is the need to fund social sector schemes, but the past few years have seen the middle class being taxed at very high rates. Fuel taxes, for example, have really hurt consumer spending even though the Modi Government has benefited immensely through a period of low global fuel prices. Much more thought needs to be put into tax rates — both direct and indirect — for income-tax payers and companies as well. Yes, there is a dire need to lift millions of Indians out of abject poverty but it is all about the economy. Narendra Modi has the political capital to make some key decisions on labour laws, on the financial sector and elsewhere that can give the boost that the economy needs.

Crumbling cookie

Although ostensibly temporary, the SP-BSP break-up could signal the growing erosion of identity politics in UP



The Samajwadi Party (SP)-Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) electoral alliance in Uttar Pradesh (UP) had an air of unreality about it from the outset. Apart from their conflicting vote banks, the parties shared a bitter history. It was inconceivable after the violence against Mayawati that the two parties could ever close ranks and fight another election together. But the near-hegemony gained by the BJP in the 2017 Assembly election and the rising charisma of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a national

scale compelled the two regional party supremos to bury the hatchet and make a joint bid to upstage Modi at the pan-India level. That was, in any case, a tough call as neither UP-based party possessed a countrywide footprint. Further, the duo steadfastly refused to associate the Congress with the *gathbandhan* and consequently failed to build a *mahagathbandhan* that could have become the core of a nation-wide Opposition alliance. In other words, the so-called Bua (Mayawati)-Babua (Akhilesh) equation got off to a crippled start. However, despite all handicaps, the *gathbandhan* fared worse than expected. Following their success in alliance with Ajit Singh's Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) in three by-elections last year from Gorakhpur, Phulpur and Kairana, it was widely expected that the Opposition combine would wrest at least half of UP's 80 Lok Sabha seats. In the event, the two big partners, BSP and SP won just 10 and 5 seats respectively.

Although an unpleasant fallout was natural after the *gathbandhan*'s unflattering electoral performance, it happened sooner than anticipated. Mayawati rarely agrees to a pre-poll tie-up, waiting to maximise her own seats before bargaining for the best possible terms for her party after the results. But her virtual washout in 2014 Lok Sabha and 2017 Assembly polls persuaded her to go for a pre-poll alliance with her erstwhile bitter enemy. For once, Bua-Babua's successful joint rallies suggested the alliance was working. But now, Mayawati may be regretting her strategy for the Parliamentary polls although it seems that contrary to her claims more Yadav votes were transferred from SP to BSP, giving her double the number of seats wrested by Akhilesh Yadav. But in a fit of rage, she has decided to not continue the alliance for the 11 Assembly by-elections due in the near future. At the same time, she has kept all options open, suggesting that the parting of ways with the Samajwadis could be "temporary".

Successive poll results have reinforced that Mayawati's once-upon-a-time iron grip on Dalit voters is slipping as more and more educated Dalits switch to the BJP to fulfill their aspirations. Identity politics in UP is clearly in decline causing damage to both SP and BSP. If this turns out to be true yet again, the *gathbandhan* parties would need to swim or sink together to remain relevant in the face of the BJP's speeding juggernaut. On the face of it, Mayawati's decision to break the deal with SP appears premature as she took the bigger slice of the cake. As long as the SP retains the larger quantum of Yadav-Muslim votes, its future will remain brighter than the Jatav-dominated BSP whose support base is fraying at the edges.

Betting only on charisma

History has it that there is a fundamental reason for charismatic leadership to keep the Congress together. And political acumen is not an essential component



PRAFULL GORADIA

National president of Swaraj India, Yogendra Yadav, would like the Congress to die for the sake of the country's political welfare so that space is created for a new Opposition organisation to come up to help remove the Modi regime. Evidently, Yadav is afflicted with anger, or else he would not have made such an irrational statement. The Congress enjoys enormous brand equity, which is essential for a party to get national acceptability. India is not only huge but a diverse country in terms of languages and ethos. Within a language group, too, there are differences — perhaps inherited from the caste system. Then there are variations in development — some are still at the cultural level of the 19th Century while others are on the apron of the 21st Century.

To get identified with such a wide variety of people is very difficult. For a new party to grow into a national formation, opposing the BJP and removing its leadership, would not only be a Herculean task but also might take decades to be successful. One may note that for all its successes, the BJP has not yet been able to effectively reach out to the people of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. Its prototype, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, was founded in 1951, ie, 68 years ago. I doubt if a third alternative has come up, although some friends have told this writer that a Delhi-based party is hopeful of going national. One wonders if Yadav, when he was a member of a party, had provided the inspiration?

The Congress has a unique record. It began with informing the British rulers how the Indian intelligentsia felt about their policies and actions. Gradually, it started agitating for freedom or discretion to Indians. In such a cause, virtually anyone was welcome to join — whether Indian or foreigner — the party's founder was an Englishman, Allan Octavian Hume. Until the advent of Mahatma Gandhi, the Congress was a gentlemen's set-up, rather like a club. It was in 1921, with the non-cooperation movement, that it began to take the character of a mass party. Soon, the Mahatma became its leader, who led the party until Jawaharlal Nehru took over. After Nehru's death, his daughter, Indira Gandhi, took over.

In October 1984, after being shot by her bodyguards, Indira Gandhi had been declared dead by doctors at AIIMS hospital and the tragic news was broadcast by the BBC radio by 11 am. But *Akashvani* and *Doordarshan* kept this development under wraps until 6 pm by when President Zail Singh had returned to India and was ready to swear in Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister. This subterfuge showed how important leadership was to the Congress. By then, the party had hardly any assets, except its brand equity. Until 1969, the Congress had virtually everything that a political party might want. But with its split in 1969, the assets, including the organisational network, remained with the Congress (organi-



sation). Indira Gandhi's Congress (ruling) had nothing except the members, who were personally loyal to her. As it happened, she chose to not have assets. Several Pradesh Congress Committees operated from their president's residence. For instance, Ajit Kumar Panja of West Bengal used the drawing room of his residence at 250, Chitranjan Avenue, Kolkata. Many a member, wedded to the tradition, would swear "I will go to any masjid or any mandir but refuse to visit an imam or mahant at his house". Indira Gandhi must have received such complaints but she did not care. Presumably, her view might have been "what I do not have, no one can take away". Evidently, she did not trust many. By 1980, half the district Congress committees did not exist. She depended on her charisma and her mass following; party members were powerless helpers in promoting her cause.

Many Congressmen by then had also come to believe that the Nehru-Gandhi family had a unique charisma among the masses. Their evidence was that the Mahatma transformed the Congress into a mass party and it flourished on his charisma until Nehru took the baton from him. After Nehru, Indira Gandhi effectively played this role and enabled the Congress to dominate the Indian political scene. Thereafter, Rajiv Gandhi played a yeoman's role in keeping the party flying high. For the first and the only time, he led over 400

“ CONGRESSMEN HAD COME TO BELIEVE THAT THE NEHRU-GANDHI FAMILY HAD A UNIQUE CHARISMA AMONG THE INDIAN MASSES. THEIR EVIDENCE WAS THAT GANDHI TRANSFORMED THE CONGRESS INTO A MASS PARTY AND IT FLOURISHED ON HIS CHARISMA UNTIL NEHRU TOOK THE BATON FROM HIM. AFTER NEHRU, INDIRA GANDHI EFFECTIVELY PLAYED THIS ROLE ”

Congressmen in the Lok Sabha. If he lost the 1989 elections, it was because of Bofors more than anything else. In the 1990s, many of the partymen missed a Gandhi at the helm. They found it difficult to swallow the leadership of PV Narasimha Rao. This writer has personally heard four Hindu Congressmen saying that Rao wore *khaki* knickers as his underwear. Three Muslim members were heard whispering under their breath that it was he who destroyed the Babri Masjid. This is to illustrate the frustration among party members.

When Sitaram Kesari became party president, several rumour-mongers were selling the belief that at this rate, their historic party would break up. Little wonder that the only Gandhi available, namely, Sonia Gandhi, was elevated to the ivory throne of the Congress. The partymen had no inhibition as it had been founded by an Englishman. It was later presided over by an Irish woman Annie Besant and subsequently, by Nellie Sengupta. For Congressmen, the priority was a charismatic Gandhi, no matter whether brown or white.

There is a fundamental reason for charismatic leadership to keep the Congress together. That reason is that the party is primarily a platform of politicians to meet for the pursuit of power. Especially after Independence, it had no particular cause, nor an ideology to hold it together. Little wonder

that the Mahatma recommended its dissolution post-Independence. In the great man's own time, the Congress had opposed Partition and without much hesitation, had accepted the division after Jinnah's Direct Action, inaugurated by the Great Calcutta Killing of August 1946.

To quote a more recent example, the Congress had won the 1991 general election on a socialistic manifesto. Within a week, however, it gave a go-by to all socialism and liberalised the economy on the basis of an IMF prescription. This freedom from ideology has enabled the Congress to induct members from all walks of political life, whether an Akali like Zail Singh or a communist like Rangarajan Kumararamangalam or a Shiv Sainik like Chhagan Bhujbal, et al. The flip side of this convenience is the indispensability of charismatic leaders as binders or unifiers.

The political acumen that Yadav years for is not an essential component of charisma. Rajiv Gandhi did not have it. Be that as it may, what is necessary for the party is to find such a leader rather than wanting the Congress to die. In any case, the Congress is not a roadblock to the rise of a third national party. The pathways for the rise of such a party are innumerable in our large country.

(The writer is a well-known columnist and an author. Views expressed are personal)

SOUNDBITE

I feel this time around, Ram temple's construction will start. Because if we don't, the country will stop trusting us and beat us with shoes in anger.

Shiv Sena leader —Sanjay Raut



You have to channelise all kinds of negative emotions and turn them into positive, otherwise they can take you down, heartbreak being one of them.

Actor —Shahid Kapoor



SAARC has certain problems and we all know what they are. Even if you were to put terrorism aside...there are connectivity and trade issues.

External Affairs Minister —S Jaishankar



Akbar had begged for his life and told a Rajput woman that the Badshah of Hindustan was at her feet. From that day, after Akbar's pledge, Meena Bazaar was closed.

BJP leader —Madan Lal Saini



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Arithmetic gone wrong

Sir — Just as most of us, political leaders included, had predicted during the course of the poll campaign not too long ago, the Opposition's meltdown has begun. The *mahagathbandhan* and the bonhomie that existed between various parties, who were determined to stop the Narendra Modi juggernaut, now seem to be collapsing.

Analysts had also observed that alliances were bound to fail, particularly keeping in mind caste humiliations the Dalits had to suffer at the hands of caste groups like the Yadavs. For the Dalits, voting for a Samajwadi Party (SP) candidate was no easy task. Therefore, we witnessed the lack of transfers of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) votes to SP candidates in several locations, where Dalits, in fact, preferred to vote for the BJP.

Another strong theory about the *gathbandhan* has been that the entire coalition came about with hopes of pitching Mayawati as a prime ministerial candidate and the SP would back her in this move. But both parties' hopes were dashed as Mayawati

Nipah outbreak should be controlled soon

The resurfacing of Nipah virus in Kerala has become a cause of concern for obvious reasons. While a 23-year old student was found to have been infected with the virus, 314 people are still under observation. It is great relief that tests for six suspected patients turned negative. Stopping the spread of the disease and not losing any life to the virus should be the priority. The State Government has taken swift, co-ordinated action in containing the virus outbreak. It is not exactly true that the virus caught the State napping. In the case of Kerala, the fruit bat (*Pteropus medius*) is believed or suspected to have transmitted the virus.

Contact with body fluids of the people infected with the virus involves the risk of infection. Efforts are on to find the source of the virus lurking in Kerala. Early detection of cases is crucial not only to quarantine the patients to eliminate the risk of further transmission, but also to extend all possible 'care' to them and to save their lives. The dread attached to this disease cannot be detached from high mortality rate (it could be as high as 89 per cent as was the case in Kerala last year) among the infected people and the absence of a vaccine or a drug to combat it effectively. Ribavirin, an antiviral medication, has not proved quite efficacious in curing the disease. That



Nipah, described as a "priority disease" by WHO, is yet to reach the affluent countries should not cause further delay in developing a vaccine or a drug to control it. Funding is worth it. Prevention of exposure to the virus has become all-important. Fruits bitten by fruit bats and date palm sap or juice contaminated with their secretions or excretions must be discarded. Even so, it is not necessary to get angry with 'flying foxes' or hate them.

G David Milton Maruthancode

could not make her mark. It is clear that both parties, despite their decades of political experience, failed to correctly estimate the Modi.

J Akshay Bengaluru

Precautionary steps

Sir — Just a year ago, Kerala had contained Nipah virus outbreak that claimed 17 lives. The Government has once again sounded alarm bells as a fresh

case of virus was confirmed. More than 300 people, who were in touch with the suspect, too, have been placed under home quarantine to check the spread of the virus. Given Kerala's past experience, looks

like the State will get a grip on the situation and the outbreak will be controlled soon.

Lack of precautionary measure by the Government has led to the spread of the virus this year too. The Government should issue advisory to the people to check the spread of the disease. The actual source of the virus is yet to be known. This only surmounts the trouble associated with this disease. Kerala must now remain on alert to the possibility of frequent outbreaks.

Sravana Ramachandran Chennai

Trying times

Sir — It is unfortunate that the Congress is going through rough times. In fact, cracks as seen in Congress-ruled States like Rajasthan, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh must not be allowed to widen. Party leaders must be frank with each other. The party needs to be in tune with people's aspirations.

Shubham Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Bags on the move

Baggage technology is advancing fast, thus cutting the incidence of mishandled luggage and making life easier for passengers



PETER DRUMMOND

Of all the stages in an airport journey, bag collection remains the Achilles' heel — one that mostly leaves passengers feeling negative about the trip. This is why the ability to track bags has become a critical component to enhance industry operations and achieve seamless passenger journey. IATA forecasts that demand for air travel will rise from around four billion to a staggering 7.8 billion between now and 2036. In 2018, 4.36 billion travelers checked in more than 4.27 billion bags. Looking at the pace of growth, airports will need to deal with something in the region of over nine billion in the coming years. More bags increase the strain on existing air transport infrastructure and make operations challenging.

A race to resolution: With the industry clearly in need of technology to deliver smart end-to-end bag tracking, the race is now on to achieve it, according to a global report. Over the past years, a growing number of airlines introduced baggage tracking at key points — check-in, loading onto the aircraft, transfers and arrival — in response to IATA's Resolution 753 that bags should be tracked from start to finish. Today, airlines are communicating more about missing baggage information via mobile devices. In context of the IATA Resolution 753, 68 per cent of the airlines plan to implement real-time bag tracking information for passengers by 2021. It also observed that 60 per cent of the airlines plan to implement information services via mobile apps to passengers for missing baggage and location status updates. Real-time bag tracking information is on the self-service investment agenda for a majority of airlines. This investment in tracking is already having an impact. An analysis of baggage records revealed that where bags are tracking at check-in and loading onto the aircraft, the rate of improvement ranged between 38 per cent and 66 per cent, depending on the level of tracking introduced. Total mishandled bags each year plummeted 47 per cent from 46.9 million in 2007 to 24.8 million in 2018. As a result, the annual bill footed by the industry has shrunk 43 per cent to \$2.4 billion (\$4.22 billion in 2007).

Passengers are welcoming technology to ease and expedite their journey. Eight out of 10 passengers check-in their luggage. Waiting at the baggage carousel becomes stressful. Passengers are more keen to receive real-time baggage collection notifications. It is also observed that satisfaction level is higher among passengers who receive mobile notifications than those who rely on airport screens or public announcements.

Community collaboration is critical: Delayed bags accounted for over three quarter of all mishandled bags in 2018. Tackling potential operational disruptions is a major technology focus for airlines. Predictive analytics capabilities, which will help them identify and address disruptions before they occur, is the second main use case for Artificial Intelligence (AI) implementation. Various luggage and communications specialists have been working on consumer-facing tracking services, including tracking beacons, smart tags and smart bag concepts. But few of these innovations can send data to the airline and even those developed in partnership with an individual airline still lack the ability to share data with other airlines. While airlines bear the ultimate responsibility for delivering the correct bag to the correct passenger, the airports and ground handlers also need to have the appropriate IT systems and infrastructures to support compliance.

Scanning and subsequently documented receipt of arriving baggage will help airports drive down the cost of making baggage reports and running lost bag procedures. Successful technology transformation of baggage management demands community-wide collaboration to positively impact passenger experience. We need to find new ways of working and sharing data to upgrade experience for air travelers.

The march of smart tech: Looking ahead, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) is on the horizon. It will help air transport community move to a per bag plan for successful delivery. IATA has committed to developing a standard for using RFID tagging this year to help increase the accuracy of baggage handling and ease processes as passenger numbers continue to grow. Though roll out is likely to be slow, the end result will make it easier for baggage to be tracked and allow passengers to get updates on their bags via an app. While the immediate focus is on implementing Resolution 753, the bag tracking data generated and collected under the Resolution will give the air transport industry a rich stream of data. Figures can be enhanced with AI tools to create even greater efficiencies in baggage operations and, ultimately, to improve passenger journey. AI promises to make mishandled bags an increasingly rare event for passengers globally. We continue to work with the air transport community to deliver intelligent tracking capabilities, as part of an industry-wide approach to help airlines, airports, ground handlers and suppliers to work together.

(The writer works with an information technology company)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE UNION GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO IMPOSE HINDI IN THE NAME OF TRIPLE LANGUAGE POLICY. TAMIL MUST BE MADE COMPULSORY IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES
 —DMK LEADER
 MK STALIN



HINDI IS AN OPTION AND NOT AN IMPOSITION AS PER THREE-LANGUAGE POLICY. OPPOSITION LEADERS ARE TWISTING THE POLICY.
 —BJP'S TAMIL NADU PRESIDENT
 TAMILISAI SOUNDARARAJAN

Way forward for microfinance

The role of microfinance in financial inclusion, poverty alleviation and woman empowerment is proven. The industry needs to find a balance between commercial goals and social good



MOIN QAZI

Microfinance now seems to be in a buoyant mood. Having fully emerged from the shadows of demonetisation, it showed rapid, regionally-balanced and resilient growth during 2018-19 with the industry's Gross Loan Portfolio (GLP) standing at ₹1,87,386 crore at the end of March — up 38 per cent year-on-year. This was reported by Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN), a Reserve Bank of India (RBI)-recognised self-regulatory organisation and industry association of the microfinance industry.

Compared with the financial year 2017-18, there has been a year-on-year increase of 28 per cent in the number of loans disbursed and 44 per cent in loan amount disbursed. The total number of microfinance accounts was 9.33 crore at the end of March 2019, showing a growth of 21.9 per cent. The growth of the staff of non-banking financial companies (NBFC)-microfinance institutions was also heartening at 34 per cent, now totalling to 1,04,973 people.

Microfinance is basically the distribution of small loans to the impoverished, who otherwise do not have access to loans, to enable them to raise their income levels, cope with financial shocks and attain a meaningful livelihood. These small-denomination loans are often used for a variety of purposes. It could be for small business or for coping with unpredictable incomes by making funds available to meet basic needs and manage shocks, such as death or illness. Utilised fruitfully, these loans have often enabled borrowers to build sustainable livelihoods. Despite huge growth, microfinance reaches only a tiny fraction of the people, whose lives would be better with access to these basic services. To use a common phrase: "It just scratches the surface."

However, there are several concerns related to microfinance. Recent studies show that the notion that microfinance has the potential to spark sustained economic growth is misplaced. In several cases, microfinance activities can damage the prospects of poor people. Microloans do create opportunities for people to utilise "lumps" of money to augment incomes and mitigate vulnerability. But that doesn't necessarily mean investing in businesses can lead to sustained income growth. Not all microloans produce beneficial results, especially for those engaged in low-return activities in saturated markets that are poorly developed and which are prone to regular environmental and economic shocks.

A growing body of research suggests that microfinance doesn't work for all communities. It may have worked well in Bangladesh in the 1970s, but failed to keep pace with changing needs and behaviours of the client at the lower socio-economic pyramid. The poor take loans with crippling interest rates or sell their tools and possessions and, hence, lose their basic means of sustenance. Borrowers have been saddled with multiple loans at exorbitant interest rates, often having to borrow from loan sharks to make their microcredit payments. It cannot allow them to vault themselves out of poverty; at least not on a scale large enough to be visible.

The biggest problem is that people, who get these small loans, usually start or expand a sim-

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 IN THE WORLD OF MICROFINANCE, WOMEN BORROWERS ARE VIEWED AS AUTONOMOUS INDIVIDUALS, WHO MAKE INDEPENDENT CHOICES IN THE MARKETPLACE. BUT THIS IS NOT THE REALITY. RURAL WOMEN LIVE IN EXTENDED FAMILY STRUCTURES. THESE WOMEN'S IDENTITIES ARE RELATIONAL, SHAPED BY FACTORS SUCH AS MARITAL KINSHIP, ETHNIC AND TRIBAL ALLEGIANCES
 ”



ple business. The most common business for microfinance is retail-selling groceries, where there exists fierce competition and people don't really earn enough money to get out of poverty. Not only are borrowers often innumerate, illiterate and unfamiliar with interest rate calculations, but usually, they have little or no awareness of local demand for goods and services. Consequently, they fail to establish successful income-generating ventures.

High rate of repayment success trumpeted by the microfinance industry don't necessarily mean customers are doing better, nor does it reflect the struggles faced by clients repaying debts through rigid installments. Inflexible contracts and unrealistic and stiff repayment terms fail to meet the investment needs of poor borrowers, whose income is irregular and highly volatile. It fluctuates over the year, susceptible as it is to economic and environmental factors — the microfinance institution does not provide grace period and demands fixed weekly repayments starting immediately after the loan disbursement. This means one cannot use all the money and will have to retain some portion to make sure he/she can meet the repayments before generating income. This adds to the borrowing costs. All these discourage risky investment.

In the world of microfinance, women borrowers are viewed as autonomous individuals, who make independent choices in the marketplace. But this is not the reality. Rural women live in extended family structures. These women's identities are relational, shaped by factors such as mar-

ital kinship, ethnic and tribal allegiances. They negotiate complex kinship and social obligations. Husbands, sons and fathers-in-laws often take control of women's loans. Depending on the family's dynamic, it would be hard to know how much a husband may be influencing or forcing a wife to sign off on something she doesn't agree with.

One concern is that as microfinance becomes more commercialised and increasingly concerned with the large-scale impact, profits take precedence over the social mission. Anything not strictly financial is cut in the name of "efficiency." Profit-minded shareholders see training of entrepreneurs, financial literacy and counselling, skill training, or even the extra five minutes a caring loan officer might spend with a client as a cost rather than as an investment. Since most microfinance clients have little or no security or collateral to pledge, providers instead turn to what is called "social collateral," which is built through groups of borrowers, who guarantee each other's loans.

Debt may not be the appropriate tool to alleviate financial woes of low-income communities. It is one thing that has both the greatest promise and, perhaps, the gravest peril. Debt or credit, the cash that we borrow from lending institutions, exists for a reason. Before you apply for it, you should ask yourself if you have a valid reason for it, or are you taking it just because people are lining up the way pollsters queue up for freebies?

The second question one should ask is whether it is part of his/her financial plan. If it is, are you sure you are

going to get a return higher than what you will pay? This financial return should also cover your own effort that will go into generating that return. With their dominant presence in rural and semi-urban areas, micro-finance institutions are well placed to bridge this gap. At the same time, the social connect established through financial literacy campaigns helps in developing and enlarging client base. Financial literacy also inculcates the habit of savings and healthy credit culture, thereby ensuring timely repayment of loan.

The role of microfinance in financial inclusion, poverty alleviation and woman empowerment has been proved all over the world. But the industry needs to moderate its appetite for high profits and aim to find the balance between commercial goals and social good. The industry and the Government will have to walk the extra mile. Right policy measures from the Government and regulators and strategic tie-ups with banks will hold the key for micro-finance institutions to serve the people.

The microfinance sector must convince impact investors that micro-finance institutions are professionally governed, efficiently managed and staffed with high talents. They have reliable access to capital markets, diversified product range and unique penetration in the BOP sector. That they have a unique understanding of the complex and sophisticated financial lives of the poor people.

(The writer is Member, NITI Aayog's National Committee on Financial Literacy and Inclusion for Women)

Rise of the middle-class demagogue

The rise of Narendra Modi in India and Imran Khan in Pakistan may be a new variation on Western understanding of populism. In both nations, urban middle-classes have agreed to a secret handshake with state institutions, high society and the economic elite to construct their own form of populism



NADEEM PARACHA

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, populism is "a political approach that strives to appeal to ordinary people who feel that their concerns are disregarded by established elite groups." Recently, this idea has come under intense academic scrutiny because of the sudden rise of populist political parties and leaders in various countries.

Historically, populism has been more dominant in countries with a large urban working class and poor rural populations. But in the last decade or so, populist politics has also dramatically risen in developed European countries and in the US and/or in robust democracies and

economies. Prior to this, many Western political scientists, and most famously, Samuel Phillips Huntington, in his 1996 book, *The Clash of Civilisations and the Remaking of World Order*, maintained that populist political episodes only emerged in rigid and inflexible political systems.

Huntington stated that the more flexible democratic and economic systems of Europe and the US are able to pragmatically accommodate and then neutralise those segments of the society, the most prone are they to be attracted by populist ideas during a political or an economic crisis.

A decade later, however, the same political scientists have been left feeling boggled by the rise, in developed countries, of the kind of volatile populist politics which they once believed only occurred in developing countries with weak and authoritarian political and economic systems.

The US and Europe have experienced bouts of populism before. But as political scientists such as Huntington point out, these were addressed and neutralised by the

democratic and economic systems of the West. However, the current strain of populism in these regions raises concern and bewilderment.

A researcher, Sam Wilkins, tried to mould a unified explanation by fusing together the findings of various recent studies on the emergence of populist politics in Europe and the US. In his book, *History Repeating*, Wilkins presents the historical currents of populism in countries such as Thailand, Russia, Iran and Argentina.

Using these as case studies, Wilkins theorises that the emergence of prominent populist parties and leaders is almost always triggered by growing economic and political tensions between the ruling/economic elites, the middle-classes and the 'underclasses.' According to Wilkins, as the elite and a growing urban middle-class jostle for economic and political dominance, friction is created which negatively affects the economy.

Those affected the most by this crisis — especially the working classes and the rural poor — become nat-

ural constituencies of upwardly mobile populist leaders who, ironically, often come from well-to-do backgrounds.

The Dutch political scientist Cas Mudde wrote in his book, *Populism in the 21st Century*, that populists squarely concentrate on anti-elite and anti-system rhetoric to stir the emotions and the anger of the have-nots. When in power, they try to retain this constituency with equally populist economic policies that initially benefit the poor but eventually end up creating galloping inflation and economic deficits.

According to Wilkins, the urban middle-classes react to this and are often at the forefront of movements against populist Governments. But even when these movements succeed in removing the Government, the removal is often replaced by the return of the ruling elite which was sidelined by the hated populists. Ironically, the middle-classes, too, are against the elite but eventually agree to accept it as a "lesser evil".

Wilkins suggests that all mainstream political parties, whether on

the left or on the right, eventually converge at the Centre. This Centrist disposition makes them complacent and stagnant. In such situations, populists may emerge from outside or from within these parties with rhetoric against the system.

They are roundly denounced as being pro-rich and anti-poor. Wilkins concludes that this frequently happens in developing countries but has now returned to haunt Europe and the US as well.

It would have been interesting had Wilkins also studied the history of populism in India and Pakistan because I believe a whole new model of populism is developing here which is different to the model constructed by Wilkins. Indeed, in the 1970s, populism in India and Pakistan was also derived by appealing to the sentiments of the have-nots and by demonising the economic and political elite. The ZA Bhutto regime did in Pakistan what the Indira Gandhi Government did in India.

Also, both were, by and large, opposed by the urban middle-classes through movements which out-

ed them. The Indian middle-class then had to sit through a rather disappointing experiment with the anti-Indira Janata Party, while the Pakistani middle class had to compromise by accepting the return of the elite in the shape of an anti-populist and conservative dictatorship (Zia).

However, the two massive electoral victories of India's Hindu nationalist party, the BJP, in the country's last two elections, and the coming to power of Imran Khan's populist Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf in Pakistan, did not happen on the behest of the have-nots as such. Yes, both Modi and Khan's rhetoric demonised the established political parties — the Congress, the PML-N and the PPP. Yet, both hardly ever used the other portion of the populist rhetoric which directly appeals to the poor. Instead, the demonisation of opponents and their 'corruption' was coupled by imagery of a country which mostly attracts the desires and imagination of India and Pakistan's urban middle-classes.

In most European countries and in the US, renegade members of the

old elite are cleverly exploiting an exhausted political system to stir the emotions of the have-nots. But these populists are not quite as appealing to the middle classes. So the Wilkins model is reliable there.

But not so in today's Pakistan and India, where the urban middle-classes have agreed to a secret handshake with state institutions, high society and the economic elite to construct its own form of populism — but one which does not include images of the 'masses' thronging around empathetic messiahs.

Indeed, both Modi and Imran, too, have been branded as messiahs, but by and for a class which, till the late 1990s, abhorred populism because it soiled its idea of decent politics, offended its morality and even threatened its economic position.

The establishment and segments of the economic elite, weary of populists stirring working-class sentiments, eventually came together with the frustrated urban middle-classes to mould a new kind of populism — the middle-class demagogue.

(The Dawn)

Sensex dips 554 pts as RBI rate cut fails to calm NBFC jitters

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex plunged 554 points on Thursday, pressured by losses in banking, energy and capital goods stocks, after the RBI delivered a rate cut on expected lines but failed to assuage investor concerns regarding the NBFC sector.

The 30-share Sensex cracked 553.82 points, or 1.38 per cent, to settle at 39,529.72, while the broader NSE Nifty plunged 177.90 points, or 1.48 per cent, to end at 11,843.75.

Slashing benchmark lending rate for the third time this year, the central bank cut the repo rate by 0.25 per cent to 5.75 per cent — the lowest in nine years — and changed its monetary policy stance from 'neutral' to 'accommodative'.

However, the RBI lowered the economic growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7 per cent due to slowdown in domestic activities and escalation in global trade war.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das also said the central bank is closely monitoring the developments in the NBFC sector and will ensure that financial stability is maintained.

However, traders said the market was awaiting specific steps to shore up liquidity and address the crisis of confidence in the country's troubled shadow banking sector.

Top losers in the Sensex pack included IndusInd Bank, Yes Bank, SBI, L&T, Tata Steel,

M&M, Bajaj Finance, Vedanta, Tata Motors and RIL, tumbling up to 6.97 per cent.

Bucking the negative market trend, Coal India, PowerGrid, NTPC, HUL, Hero MotoCorp, Asian Paints and Infosys gained up to 1.92 per cent.

All sectoral indices ended in the red, with BSE oil and gas, bankex, capital goods, finance, industrials, utilities and energy indices cracking up to 3.04 per cent.

In the broader markets, the BSE midcap and smallcap indices ended up to 1.77 per cent lower.

"The rate cut could not infuse positivity, and the decline steepened as focus shifted from policy rates to new emerging short-term tight liquidity situation due to issues like IL&FS, DHFL and its impending impact on other financial institutions," said Narendra Solanki, Head Fundamental Research (Investment Services) — AVP Equity Research, Anand Rathis Shares & Stock Brokers.

Lowered GDP forecast for current year and failure to get any cue from RBI on the liquidity front except general assurance of addressing the situation added to the selling pressure later in the day, he added.

The NBFC pack witnessed heavy selling pressure following the bond defaults by mortgage lender DHFL on June 4, which led to a slew of rating downgrades for the company. The stock lost more than 15 per cent Thursday.

Bank, realty, auto scrips drop up to 7% despite RBI rate cut

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Interest rate sensitive bank, auto and realty shares came under selling pressure Thursday falling up to 7 per cent even as the RBI slashed the policy rate.

Among bank scrips, IndusInd Bank dropped 6.97 per cent, Bank of Baroda plunged 6.33 per cent, Yes Bank 6.15 per cent, SBI 4.34 per cent, Federal Bank 2.69 per cent, ICICI Bank 1.75 per cent, Axis Bank 1.38 per cent, HDFC Bank 1.18 per cent and Kotak Mahindra Bank 1.05 per cent on the BSE.

Led by plunge in these scrips, the BSE bank index declined 2.34 per cent to close at 34,653.44.

In a move that may lead to lower home, auto and other loan EMIs, the RBI Thursday cut interest rates for the third time this year by 25 basis points to their lowest level in nine years.

"As the rate cut was in line with expectations which had already been factored in, the indices did not cheer the rate cut and continued to trickle down," said Umesh Mehta, head of Research, Samco Securities.

Realty shares also faced

selling pressure with Godrej Properties plunging 4.13 per cent, Oberoi Realty 3.60 per cent, DLF 2.53 per cent. The Phoenix Mills 2.22 per cent, Omase 1.64 per cent, Sobha 1.56 per cent and Sunteck Realty 1.54 per cent.

The realty index fell 1.84 per cent to 2,174.03 at close of trade.

The RBI cut the repo rate to 5.75 per cent and reverse repo rate to 5.50 per cent and expected banks to transmit these to home, auto and other loan borrowers faster.

"The Nifty had rallied in the recent days, leading up to the RBI policy. With a 25 basis points repo cut widely anticipated, indices corrected post the announcement. A possible reason of the fall could also be that there was no mention in the policy about addressing the liquidity stress in the NBFC space.

"With recent news around DHFL and the possible contagion effect, several financials corrected heavily today. However, I believe that market will soon take cognizance of the change in policy stance to accommodative," Amar Ambani, president and research head, YES Securities said.

Rupee pares most early losses post RBI rate cut



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee pared most of its early morning losses and was trading marginally down by 5 paise at 69.31 against the American currency, after the Reserve Bank of India cut its repo rate by 0.25 per cent Thursday.

The rupee had opened on a weak note at 69.41 at the interbank forex market and then fell further to 69.45 vs the USD. Following the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decision, the local currency recovered most of the lost ground.

The domestic currency was trading at 69.31 at 1248 hrs, down 5 paise over its last close.

The rupee had settled at 69.26 against the US dollar Tuesday.

Indian bonds and Forex markets were closed Wednesday on account of Id-Ul-Fitr.

Forex traders said, foreign fund outflows and rising crude oil prices also kept pressure on the Indian rupee. Moreover, heavy selling in domestic equities also weighed on the local unit.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.28 per cent to \$60.80 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the capital markets, pulling out Rs 416.08 crore Tuesday, as per provisional data.

Meanwhile, the 30-share index was trading 333.32 points, or 0.83 per cent, lower at 39,750.22, and the broader Nifty fell 114.35 points, or 0.95 per cent, to 11,907.30.

Business Corner



Celebrating the variety of refreshments Delhi has fostered over the years, Delhi Tourism's Mehfil-E-Sharbat seeks to bring some respite from the rising temperatures in the city with the help of traditional sharbats, shikanjis and pannas, alongside modern herbal refreshments



SS Chahar, VSM, Inspector General, Border Security Force has been promoted to the rank of Addl. Director General in the Force and has been posted to prestigious BSF Academy at Tekanpur, Gwalior



NBCC (India) Ltd., a Navratna CPSE under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Govt. of India, has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the FY 2019-20 with its administrative Ministry on 3rd June 2019. The signed MoU outlines performance targets for the company based on various financial parameters, dynamic parameters, sector specific and enterprise specific parameters



ABIR Charitable Trust announced the commencement of the fourth edition of its annual 'FIRST TAKE' art event today at Hutheesing Visual Art Centre. Supported by Claris this year, FIRST TAKE 2019 invites entries from artists across India, including from smaller towns and rural settings



Platinum Guild International posts annual 'Platinum Jewellery Business Review' in which it surveyed over 1,000 manufacturers and retailers, in addition to over 1,000 consumers to provide the world's most comprehensive and in-depth analysis of platinum jewellery's performance in 2018, together with a forecast for 2019, highlighting the trends that will shape the industry in each of the four key platinum jewellery markets

OFB plans a massive surge of renewable energy deployment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As a part of the ongoing efforts to promote ecologically sustainable growth to generate carbon-free clean energy and to reduce the expenditure on electricity, the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) has been participating in the National Solar Mission with an intention to meet 45% of its total energy requirements through the solar power route. This will be a significant contribution in the mission of generation of green energy.

The installation of grid connected solar power projects in various OFB units have resulted in generation of approximate 14712072.14 units of electrical power till November 2018, which was approximately 8.24% of the total power consumed during 2018-19. The cost of power consumption has also gone down significantly from 463.22 lakh during 2015-16 to ₹163.78 lakh during 2018-19.

Bankers, financial players hail RBI repo rate cut, hope consumer demand to get a boost

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Banking and finance experts hailed the RBI's decision to cut the short-term lending rate, terming it as a step in right direction that could help stimulate consumer demand.

The Reserve Bank in its second bi-monthly policy statement for 2019-20 announced to cut the key repo rate, at which it lends to banks, for a third straight time by 25 basis points to 5.75 per cent.

"The policy was very positive and was reinforced by unanimous voting and the change in stance to accommodative. The statement's focus on supporting growth and bolstering private investment as long as inflation remains within the mandate, is also encouraging and leads us to believe that more accommodative on the cards," said B Prasanna, Group Head - Global Markets - Sales,

Trading and Research, ICICI Bank.

Vasu Ramaswami, COO, Muthoot Fincorp said the latest rate drop should help in improving consumption demand, particularly for the common man, especially once banks decide to pass this rate change to their customers.

On the NBFC crisis, Governor Shaktikanta Das said that the RBI is closely monitoring the situation and there is ample liquidity in the market currently.

"The unanimous decision by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to cut the repo rate by another 25 bps is a step in the right direction," said Khushru Jijina, MD, Piramal Capital and Housing Finance.

The downward revision of growth projection to 7 per cent calls for implementation of additional rapid policy interventions by RBI as well as the Government.

IIFL's unique AAA tab to create 10 lac financial advisors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leading brokerage IIFL Securities Ltd plans to create 10 lac financial advisors through its new tab based product Advisor Anytime Anywhere (AAA). IIFL offers aspiring financial advisors a unique business opportunity to be an Independent Financial Advisor (IFA) with all hardware and software to on-board, transact and service their clients for all financial products and operate from anywhere in India. Sounds too good to be true? But that is the promise of IIFL's new product Advisor Anytime Anywhere (AAA). It does not even require you to be a financial guru to start with.

The tablet will be a full-fledged office and a library for information and research. It will allow business partners to sell Mutual Funds, Health Insurance, Fixed Deposits, IPOs, NPS and market products like AIF, PMS, Life Insurance.

IndianOil pledges for environment safety

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In his message for World Environment Day, B V Rama Gopal, Director (Refineries) urged IOCIans to pledge individual & collective commitment to minimise the impact of our actions on the environment. He has also shared the commitment of the Refineries Division, which is consistently working towards bringing down its numbers on all important parameters of its business operations like air emissions, carbon & water footprints, while increasing recycling of water and wastes.

Kaushik Bora, Executive Director (Health, Safety & Environment), RHQ led senior IOCIans at Refineries Headquarters in pledging their commitment towards preserving the ecosystem and creating a greener planet. He also shared that all IOCIans at SCOPE Complex, New Delhi.

Repo rate cut to boost housing demand if banks pass on benefit to customers: Realtors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Real estate industry Thursday said the RBI's decision to cut repo rate would help in revival of housing segment, provided banks pass on the benefit to home buyers.

The RBI lowered the benchmark lending rate by 25 basis points to a nearly nine-year low of 5.75 per cent.

Commenting on the policy, CREDITAI President Satish Magar said the rate cut augurs well for the Indian real estate industry and would have a significantly positive impact on industry's revival as well.

He expected that the benefits of lower repo rate would be duly passed on to the borrowers. CREDITAI Chairman Jaxay Shah said: "Repo rate cut is just what the industry is looking forward to accelerate investments...The next step is to ensure that the banks and financial institutions pass on the benefits of lower rates of interest to borrowers."

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one boy **Name:** Mahesh Kumar, **S/o:** Sh. Raghubeer Singh, **R/o:** T-2864/B, Gali No. 21A, Baljeet Nagar, Delhi, **Age:** 19 Years, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Red Colour Shirt and Black Colour Pant has been missing, since 18.05.2019. In this regard **DD No. 87A dated 22.05.2019** has been lodged at **PS. Patel Nagar, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing boy but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing boy please inform the undersigned.

SHO
PS, Patel Nagar, Delhi,
Ph.: 011-24368639

DP/6315/CD/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unknown dead body was found at **Infront of Subway Priyadarshini Colony, Yamuna Bazar, Kashmere Gate, Delhi**, dated 28.05.2019. In this regard a **DD No. 23-A dated 28.05.2019**, has been lodged at **PS. Kashmere Gate, Delhi**.

The Description of the dead body is given as under: **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Sex:** Male, **Age:** 35 years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** White Colour Jeans Only.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local Police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone having any information about this dead person, please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi
Ph: 011-23968730, 08750870123

DP/79/N/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male **Age :** 32 years, **Height :** 5'2", **Complexion :** Wheatish, wearing black colour shirt and blue colour payjama, was found dead on 29.05.2019 inside Nepali Park, Near Ring Road, Kashmere Gate, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 35-A dated 29.05.2019** has been lodged at **P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi**.

Any person having any information or clue about this found person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO : P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi
Tel. No. 011-23967889, 23968730

DP/81/N/19

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name:** Unknown, **S/o** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 60 years, **Height:** 5'1", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face :** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Gender :** Male, **Hair :** Black & White **Wearing:** Check Shirt & Green Colour lower, has been found Unconscious at **LNJP Hospital Gate No. 4 Near i and Admitted in LNJP Hospital LNH Staff where Dr. declared Brought Dead**. In this regard, **DD No. 88 Dated 01.06.2019** has been lodged at **PS I.P. Estate, Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this male but no clue has come to light so far. Any, person having any information or clue about this male may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S., I.P. Estate, Delhi
Ph. : 011-23370928, 23378474
23232294, 8750870426

DP/6326/CD/19

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SECTION 82 Cr.Pc.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused, **Sanjay S/o Upender Yadav, R/o H.No.- D-24, Shahbad Dairy, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No.353/14 u/s 448/506 IPC, PS Shahbad Dairy, Delhi**, and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused person **Sanjay**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sanjay**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sanjay**, Under the **FIR No.353/14 u/s 448/506 IPC, PS Shahbad Dairy, Delhi**, is required to appear before the court on or before **19.07.2019**.

By order
Ms. Manu Goel Kharb,
Ld Metropolitan Magistrate
North Room No. 114,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/323/ON/19

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Upender Yadav S/o Dhanoki Yadav R/o D-24, Shahbad Dairy, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 353/14 u/s 448/506 IPC, PS Shahbad Dairy, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Upender Yadav** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Upender Yadav** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person, **Upender Yadav of FIR No. 353/14 u/s 448/506 IPC, PS Shahbad Dairy, Delhi** is required to appear in the court to answer the said complaint on or before **19.07.2019**.

By order
Ms. Manu Goel Kharb
Ld Metropolitan Magistrate
North Room No. 114,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/324/ON/19

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Babu Khan @ Shahil @ Aman S/o Abdul Karim R/o Village Mohan Badiyan, P.O. & PS Sabri, Distt. Madhubani, Bihar** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 406/04 u/s 302/412/396/307/120B/174 A/34 IPC, PS Kirti Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Babu Khan @ Shahil @ Aman** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Babu Khan @ Shahil @ Aman** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person, **Babu Khan @ Shahil @ Aman of FIR No. 406/04 u/s 302/412/396/307/120B/ 174 A/34 IPC, PS Kirti Nagar, Delhi** is required to appear in the court to answer the said complaint on or before **08.07.2019**.

By order
Smt. Nirja Bhatia
Additional Sessions Judge-03
West Distt., Room No.13, Ground Floor,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/8270/W/D/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Kavita D/o Bej Nath R/o Gali No. 7/2, 25 Foota Road, Mukundpur, Delhi** Age-16 years, **Height-4'7"**, **Complexion-Fair**, **Face-Round**, **Built-Normal**, **Wearing-Black Colour Top & Brown Colour Jeans** and Chappal in her feet has been missing/kidnapped since dated 12.05.2019 from the area of **P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi**. In this regard a **FIR No.267/19 dated 14.05.2019 u/s 363 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this girl but please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27811933, 27811934
7065036328

DP/330/ON/19

Terrorists storm Eid mass in mosque to egg on youth to join LeT

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A video of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) terrorists, equipped with illegal weapons, shouting Pro-Pakistan slogans and motivating youth to support them and join their ranks, inside a mosque in South Kashmir's Kulgam district is creating ripples here in the corridors of power after it went viral on various social media platforms.

Some of the religious places in the area have been abused by the local cadre of different terror outfits to mobilise crowds to disrupt anti-terrorist operations in the past but presence of terrorists inside a religious place, on the occasion of festival of Eid, has caused major embarrassment to the local

Soon after receiving the information about the movement of three LeT terrorists in the area the local police authorities swung in to action to track down their foot prints

Sensing trouble, these terrorists too did not wasted much time and fled the scene after seeking support from the local masses

Facing shortage of manpower, the top commanders, resorted to this desperate move to motivate local youth to join their ranks



9.45 am information was received that during Eid prayers, three terrorists equipped with illegal weapons entered Jamia Masjid Qaimoh in Kulgam." SSP Kulgam said, "The terrorists stayed there for about five minutes and tried to motivate the youth who were present there to support them and join terrorist ranks". Before leaving, they fired some aerial shots, he added. SSP Kulgam said, "A criminal case in this regard under relevant sections has been registered in Police

station Qaimoh." It may be mentioned, relentless operations conducted by the joint teams of security forces has led to elimination of over 100 terrorists in the first five months of this year. Of these over two dozen were foreign terrorists and 75 were local recruits. Majority of these operations were conducted in the South Kashmir area. Facing shortage of manpower, the top commanders, resorted to this desperate move to motivate local youth to join their ranks.

Territorial Army jawan on Eid leave shot by terrorists

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A territorial Army jawan, visiting home to celebrate festival of Eid with his family, was killed by 'unidentified' terrorists in Sidoura village of South Kashmir's Anantnag district late Thursday night.

Defence PRO, Srinagar said, "Hav Manzoor Ahmad Beigh serving with Territorial Army Unit was shot at by terrorists and grievously injured at his residence. The soldier was evacuated to the nearest hospital where he succumbed to his injuries." The soldier was unarmed and was on 12 days leave. He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

After the formation of Union Government in New Delhi, this is the first killing of an army jawan at the hands of terrorists in Kashmir valley.

Last year, Rifleman Auragzeb, was killed by terrorists while he was returning home to celebrate Eid in Poonch.

Meanwhile, in a separate operation a terrorist was killed in Lassipora area of Pulwama till the time of filing the report. The operation in the area was still going on, official sources said.

On the other hand, two SPOs were also found missing from district police lines, Pulwama along with their weapons.

Miffed with 1 Ministry, Sena stakes claim for Dy Speaker in LS

Uddhav Thackeray denies Sena has issues with BJP, says it had a right to demand post



Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray with his family members and 18 victorious MPs of the party during a visit to Mahalaxmi Temple in Kolhapur on Thursday. PTI

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Not apparently happy with one just one portfolio and that too relatively an insignificant one, the Shiv Sena — one of the old constituents of the BJP-led NDA — has upped the ante by demanding the Deputy Speaker's post in Lok Sabha.

Though he has not commented publicly about his party not getting its due in the Union Cabinet — despite having the largest number of 18 MPs after the BJP's 303 in new Lok Sabha, Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray is said to be "unhappy" with the "raw deal" meted out to his party in the allocation of ministerial berths.

When the Narendra Modi-led Government was sworn into the office for its second term, Shiv Sena's MP Arvind Sawant was administered oath as a Cabinet Minister and he was allotted the heavy industries and public enterprises portfolio which is not at all a significant portfolio.

While seeking play down the speculation about his party not getting its due in the Union Cabinet, Uddhav on Thursday confirmed that his party had staked a claim for the Deputy Speaker's post in Lok Sabha.

Talking to mediapersons after offering prayers at the Mahalaxmi temple at Kolhapur in western Maharashtra, Uddhav said, "We have aligned with the BJP on the Hindutva plank and not for power. We would like to have the post of Deputy Speaker in Lok Sabha. We are demanding the post as our right".

Queried if he was unhappy that his party had got only one ministerial berth in Union

Cabinet in view of the speculation that the Sena wanted at least three ministerial berths, Uddhav said, "We are not upset with the BJP. Everything is going on smoothly between us and the BJP. When we were upset with the BJP, we had made it known to the people".

Sena leadership is more than confident that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will agree to its demand — in light of the fact that the BJP — in its previous regime — had earlier deviated the tradition of giving the Deputy Speaker's post to the Opposition. The BJP had given the post to the leader of its constituent AIADMK Munisamy Thambidurai. "We have a strong reason to believe that we will get the Deputy Speaker's post," a senior Sena leader said.

Reiterating the stand taken by his stand taken by the Shiv Sena president over the party's claim for deputy speaker's post, Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut told a regional television channel: "This (deputy speaker post) is not our demand, it is our natural claim and it is a right claim... the word natural is important... this post must be given to us... Why should we demand it since it is our right?".

The Shiv Sena's claim for deputy speaker's post comes amid speculation that Naveen Patnaik-led Biju Janata Dal (BJD) could be given the position of the Deputy Speaker.

The Sena's claim for deputy speaker's post should be seen in the context of the fact senior Shiv Sena leader Manohar Joshi was Speaker of Lok Sabha 2002-2004, when the AB Vajpayee Government was in power at the Centre.

Centre reviews public health measures in Kerala 6 persons admitted to quarantine facility in Ernakulam tests negative

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/KOCHI

The Centre on Thursday reviewed the public health measures put in place in Kerala to meet the Nipah crisis with a senior Health Ministry official saying that six persons admitted to a quarantine facility at the Government Medical College in Kerala's Ernakulam have tested negative for the potentially deadly virus.

The condition of the college student, diagnosed with Nipah infection, is stable and a total of 314 persons who were in touch with the infected person have been kept under observation, the official said.

"The blood and serum samples of all six suspected patients have tested negative for Nipah virus infection," the official said.

The Union Health Ministry has deployed a six-member team comprising an epidemiologist to conduct contact tracing for early detection of suspects and review of isolation facilities.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, reviewed the public health measures put in place in Kerala.

During the review meeting, the Centre also discussed SOPs for quarantine of symptomatic contacts, sample collection or testing and dedicated isolation facility with trained health staff and epidemiological investigation by multi-disciplinary central team to ascertain the possible source of infection



Health officials remove waste from an isolation ward of Ernakulam Medical College in Kochi on Thursday. PTI

and history of exposure.

A designated control room has been established at the district collector's office and an isolation ward established at the Government Medical College Ernakulam, the Health Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

Isolation facilities have also been ensured at medical colleges at Calicut, Thrissur and Kottayam, it said.

All healthcare facilities have been asked to ensure high index of suspicion in cases with similar symptoms and also ensure availability of isolation and emergency management facilities before referral, the Ministry said.

On the basis of the epidemiological investigation, team from NIV Pune and Animal Husbandry are investigating bats and other animals in the vicinity of his (confirmed case) residence during the possible time of transmission of infection.

According to the WHO, Nipah virus is a newly emerging disease that can be transmitted from its reservoir (natural wildlife host), the flying foxes (fruit bats), to both animals and humans. Symptoms range from asymptomatic infection, acute respiratory infection and encephalitis. Infected people initially develop influenza-like symptoms of fever, headache, vomiting and sore throat.

TN students fare better in NEET, but politicians are not impressed

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Students of Tamil Nadu have exposed the hollowness behind the demand of Dravidian politicians to exempt the State from the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Examination, the qualifying test for admission to under

graduate and post graduate courses in medical schools in the country.

A total of 1,23,078 students from Tamil Nadu wrote the NEET 2019. Out of this, 59,785 students qualified for counselling. This is almost 10 per cent more than the students who qualified in last year's examination. While only 39.56 per cent of the Tamil Nadu students who appeared in last year's NEET qualified for counselling, this year it rose to 48.57 per cent, a commendable performance according to educationists.

The reason for this year's commendable performance by Tamil Nadu students is being attributed to the free NEET coaching centres opened by the Government of Tamil Nadu across the State. The syllabus of the Plus Two course in the State is not up to the national level and this was being seen as the cause for the poor show by the students from Tamil Nadu earlier.

The demand for exempting the State from NEET reached a feverish pitch last year when a girl by name Anita allegedly committed suicide for failing to qualify in the NEET. Anita had scored 1176 out of 1200 marks in the State Board Examination while she managed 86 out of 720 in the NEET. Students appearing for Plus Two examinations in the State Board Examination in Tamil Nadu manage to score 99 per cent marks but fail miserably when they try to crack entrance examination to National Defence Academy, Indian Institute of Technology or the Indian Institute of science Education and Research because of the poor standard of the syllabus taught in Government owned schools.

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
N.I.T. No. EE/(M-1)/WZ/2019-20/TC/02 Dated : 03.06.2019
 The Executive Engineer (Maint.-WC)-I, S.D.M.C., Opp. Madhav Park, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-27 invites on behalf of the Commissioner, South Delhi Municipal Corporation, sealed percentage rates tender from the approved and eligible contractors registered with the MCD (General Wing) online on portal <http://www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER> as per following schedule.

Start Date of Sale of Tender Documents	06.06.2019 from 6:00PM
Last Date of Bid Submission	24.06.2019 up to 1:00 PM
Opening of Financial Bid	24.06.2019 at 3:30 PM

S.No. : 1. Name of Work : Imp./Dev. of road from P.S. Khyalla to H. No. P/258 near B-III School Raghuribir Nagar in by pdg. RMC, Brick aggregate, gully grating, paver blocks, precast slab in Raghuribir Nagar at 04-S/WZ. FTC No. :-19/66/XL-VIII/S/MC-854. **Estimated Amt. :** 4140500/-
Tender Amt. : 3929717/-, **Earnest Money :** 82800/-, **Time of Comp. :** 4M, **Validity :** 5M, **Tender Cost :** 500/-, **H/A :** XL-VIII-S. **S.No. : 2. Name of Work :** Restoration of cut made by BSES for the work of laying four Nos. 66KV cables on SDMC road i/c Kulwant Singh Marg from Hari Nagar ST Ward No. 011-S/WZ, Partap Nagar. FTC No. :-19/66/G-110/1076/DR-038. **Estimated Amt. :** 3195000/-, **Tender Amt. :** 2892285/-, **Earnest Money :** 63900/-, **Time of Comp. :** 4M, **Validity :** 5M, **Tender Cost :** 500/-, **H/A :** G-110/1076. Draft NIT can also be seen from the office. These Tenders are available on the MCD web site <http://www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER> for the purpose of Online tendering and bidding by approved and eligible contractors of M.C.C.D.
R.O. No. 11/DP/S/2019-20 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M)-I/WZ

NORTHERN RAILWAY
1st Corrigendum
Sub :- 1st Corrigendum of tender notice of even no. dated 28.05.2019 Tender schedule to be opened on 21.06.2019.
 The tender No. 128-W/269/O.E.T/19-20/WENIT 06(A,B) published on 29.05.2019 and to be opened on 21.06.2019 is hereby cancelled due to administrative reason.
No. 128-W/269/O.E.T/19-20/WENIT 06(A,B) Dated : 06.06.2019 1801/2019
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

HARYANA CRICKET ASSOCIATION
Company formed U/S 8 of the Companies Act 2013.
1, Ashok Road, Vijay Nagar, Bhiwani-127021, Haryana
TENDER NOTICE
 HCA, invites sealed tenders for the following work:-
Tender no. and Date HCA/NCSL/2019-20/103; 07/06/2019
Description of work Cricket ground with boundary wall. The site is spread over approx. 89,000 sqm., at village Lahali, Distt. Rohtak, Haryana.
Estimated Cost 8,00,00,000.00
Earnest Money 8,00,000.00
Cost of Tender document 5000.00
Mode of Payment Draft favouring "Haryana Cricket Association" payable at Bhiwani 90 days
Contract period 90 days
Date of sale of Tender document 07.06.2019 to 14.06.2019 from 9AM to 2PM at Ch. Bansilal cricket Stadium, Lahali, Distt. Rohtak, Haryana.
Date of Tender submission 19.06.2019 before 10 am.
Date of Opening of financial Bids 19.06.2019 at 3.30pm in presence of tenderer.
For Eligibility criteria and other details please refer the tender Document. Director HCA

E-Tender Notice
 On behalf of the 'Governor of Tripura' the Executive Engineer (Agri), North Tripura, Dharmanagar invites e-tender vide PNIT e-Tender No. 01/EE(Agri)/N/2019-20 for the work namely.

Sl.No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time for completion	Cost of Tender documents	Deadline for online bidding	Website for online bidding	Place, time and date of opening of online bid	Class of bidder
1.	Construction of Rice go-down (having 1000MT capacity) under Salem Agri Sub-Division (3rd Call). DNIT No e-23/SE/AGRI/EE(NORTH)/2018-19	1,06,87,621/-	1,06,880/-	12 (Twelve) months	2,500/-	21-06-2019 up to 3.00 PM	https://tripuratenders.gov.in	At 15.30 Hrs on 21/06/2019 (if possible). O/o the Executive Engineer, Agri, Gangaganagar, Dharmanagar.	Appropriate class/ category as per NIT
2.	Construction of Rice go-down (having 1000MT capacity) under Ambassa Agri Sub-Division (3rd Call). DNIT No e-19/S/ E/AGRI/EE(NORTH)/2018-19	1,06,87,621/-	1,06,880/-	12 (Twelve) months	2,500/-	21-06-2019 up to 3.00 PM	https://tripuratenders.gov.in	At 15.30 Hrs on 21/06/2019 (if possible). O/o the Executive Engineer, Agri, Gangaganagar, Dharmanagar.	Appropriate class/ category as per NIT
3.	Site development work by earth cutting at Betcherra for construction of 1000 MT Rice go-down under Kumarghat Agri. Sub-Division. DNIT No e-01/EE/AGRI/N/2019-20	9,69,097/-	9,700/-	20 (Twenty) Days	1,000/-	21-06-2019 up to 3.00 PM	https://tripuratenders.gov.in	At 15.30 Hrs on 21/06/2019 (if possible). O/o the Executive Engineer, Agri, Gangaganagar, Dharmanagar.	Appropriate class/ category as per NIT
4.	Supply of G.I. unequal Tee, G.I. full way valve, Flexible pipe (conforming to relevant IS specification with latest amendment if any) for installation of SBDTW under MGNREGA at different blocks (Kadamaita, Kalacherra, Panisagar, Jubarajagar, Gournagar, Kumarghat, Chandipur) of Unakoti & North Tripura District. DNIT No :-01/SE/AGRI/EE(NORTH)/2019-20	36,140/-	1,000/-	12 (twelve) months	1,000/-	21-06-2019 up to 3.00 PM	https://tripuratenders.gov.in	At 15.30 Hrs on 21/06/2019 (if possible). O/o the Executive Engineer, Agri, Gangaganagar, Dharmanagar.	Appropriate class/ category as per NIT

NB:- This detailed press notice & bid documents for the work can be seen on website <https://tripuratenders.gov.in> at free of cost. But the bid can only be submitted after uploading the mandatory scanned documents as specified in this tender. For details please visit <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNOR OF TRIPURA
 Sd/-
 (Er. Sukumar Ch. Das)
 Executive Engineer
 Department of Agriculture
 North Tripura, Dharmanagar

ICACV-167/2019-20

PM to offer prayers at shrines of Gurusvayur Sri Krishna, Lord Venkateswara in Tirumala

Kochi/Tirupati: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will offer prayers at the famous shrines of Sri Krishna at Guruvayur in Kerala and at Lord Venkateswara in Tirumala in Andhra Pradesh this week end, officials said on Thursday.

On his first visit to the two southern states in his second term as Prime Minister, Modi will offer prayers at the Sri Krishna temple in Guruvayur on Saturday and pray at the Lord Venkateswara shrine on Sunday.

An official release in Kochi said the Prime Minister will arrive at 11.35 pm on Friday and stay at the Government Guest House there overnight. He will offer prayers at the Guruvayur temple on Saturday morning after reaching there by a special helicopter from the Naval Airport in Kochi. PTI

DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
E-TENDER PRESS NOTICE NO. 03 /FO [Hort.] N/W/2019-20
 On line Item Rate Tenders are invited through e-tendering mode for the following works by the Dy. Director (Hort.)-III, B2B, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058 & Dy. Director (Hort.)-Dwk. Central Nursery Sec-5 Dwarka New Delhi-110075. On behalf of Delhi Development Authority from the approved and eligible contractors registered under Horticulture Category only of DDA & CPWD and those of appropriate list of MES, BSNL and Railway. The last date and time of submission of tender is **15.06.2019 upto 3.00 PM.**

- NIT No. 1/DD(Hort.)-III/DDA/2019-20; Name of work: M/o** completed scheme of N/A-II under SWZ. **M/o** NHP Society area South of Rohtak Road Paschim Vihar (LIC Colony). **SH:** Complete M/o lawn, clearing sweeping of path for 12 months and S/S of Good earth, Cow dung manure, Jamuna sand, Digging of holes, S/o Plants, Neem oil cake etc. at site. **Estimated Cost:** 8,04,398/-; **Earnest Money:** 16,088/-; **Period of completion:** 12 Months
- NIT No. 2/DD(Hort.)-III/DDA/2019-20; Name of work: M/o** completed scheme of N/A-II under SWZ. **M/o** NHP Society area South of Rohtak Road Paschim Vihar (Ambica Vihar). **SH:** Complete M/o lawn, woodland, clearing sweeping of path for 12 months and S/S of Good earth, Cow dung manure, Jamuna sand, Digging of holes, S/o Plants, Neem oil cake etc. at site. **Estimated Cost:** 6,79,004/-; **Earnest Money:** 13,580/-; **Period of completion:** 12 Months
- NIT No. 3/DD(Hort.)-III/DDA/2019-20; Name of work: M/o** completed scheme of N/A-II under SWZ. **M/o** Distt. Park at Vishnu Garden. **SH:** Complete M/o lawn, clearing sweeping of path for 12 months and S/S of Good earth, Cow dung manure, Jamuna sand, Red bajri, Digging of holes, S/o Plants, Neem oil cake etc. at site. **Estimated Cost:** 11,48,233/-; **Earnest Money:** 22,964/-; **Period of completion:** 12 Months
- NIT No. 4/DD(Hort.)-III/DDA/2019-20; Name of work: M/o** completed scheme of N/A-II under SWZ. **M/o** Distt. Park RBI Colony and office Complex at G-17 Paschim Vihar. **SH:** Complete M/o lawn, clearing sweeping of path for 12 months and S/S of Good earth, Cow dung manure, Jamuna sand, Digging of holes, S/o Plants, Neem oil cake etc. at site. **Estimated Cost:** 13,30,372/-; **Earnest Money:** 26,607/-; **Period of completion:** 12 Months
- NIT No. 5/DD(Hort.)-III/DDA/2019-20; Name of work: M/o** completed scheme of N/A-II under SWZ. **M/o** N.H.P. Society Area South of Rohtak Road Paschim Vihar Miawali Nagar. **SH:** Complete M/o lawn, clearing sweeping of path for 12 months and S/S of Good earth, Cow dung manure, Jamuna sand, Digging of holes, S/o Plants etc. at site. **Estimated Cost:** 11,74,969/-; **Earnest Money:** 23,499/-; **Period of completion:** 12 Months
- NIT No. 16/19-20/Hort. Dwk/DDA; Name of work: M/o** Various colony under Dwk. Zone N/A-II. **M/o** Park at Sector -11, Dwarka (Near 620 MIG/LIG flats at Pkt-4). **SH:** Digging of holes, S/s of cattle manure, Jamuna sand, anti termite treatment, Urea, s/o plants, Hiring of JCB etc. at site. **Estimated Cost:** 7,18,651/-; **Earnest Money:** 14,373/-; **Period of completion:** 60 Days
- NIT No. 17/19-20/Hort. Dwk/DDA; Name of work: M/o** Various colony under Dwk. Zone N/A-II. **M/o** Distt. Park at sector-11, Dwk. Ph-I. **SH:** Digging of holes, S/s of cattle manure, Jamuna sand, anti termite treatment, Tuffex garden fencing, Urea, S/o plants etc. at site. **Estimated Cost:** 14,28,309/-; **Earnest Money:** 28,566/-; **Period of completion:** 60 Days
- NIT No. 24/19-20/Hort. Dwk/DDA; Name of work: M/o** Various colony under Dwk. Zone N/A-II. **M/o** Park at sector-06, Dwk, (Park No.-03, Opposite store wala park). **SH:** S/S of good earth, cattle manure, Jamuna sand, S/o plants etc. at site. **Estimated Cost:** 10,76,251/-; **Earnest Money:** 21,525/-; **Period of completion:** 20 Days
- NIT No. 26/19-20/Hort. Dwk/DDA; Name of work: M/o** Various colony under Dwk. Zone N/A-II. **M/o** Park at sector-06, Dwk, (Park No.-02, Plaza park). **SH:** Digging of holes and S/o tree plants, shrubs etc. at site. **Estimated Cost:** 6,72,230/-; **Earnest Money:** 13,445/-; **Period of completion:** 20 Days
- NIT No. 29/19-20/Hort. Dwk/DDA; Name of work: M/o** Various colony under Dwk. Zone N/A-II. **M/o** 30 mtr. & below 30 mtr RSP with C.V. at sector-04 Dwk. **M/o** Park at sector-04, Dwk (Near Rajasthani apartment). **SH:** Digging of holes, S/s of good earth, cattle manure, Tree & shrubs plants chemical Urea, NOC, Tuffex, etc. at site. **Estimated Cost:** 9,78,257/-; **Earnest Money:** 19,565/-; **Period of completion:** 20 Days.

Please also visit the website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> or send mail cpn-ndc@nic.in or Dial Help Line No. 1800-233-7315. Mobile No. +91-7878007972 & +91-7878007973.

Please give your feedback on DDA Apps at
 Please Visit DDA's Website at www.dda.org.in or Dial Toll Free No. 1800110332

World leaders mark 75 years of WW II D-Day landings

AFP ■ CAEN (FRANCE)

US President Donald Trump landed in France Thursday to join other world leaders on the beaches of Normandy in a tribute to the veterans and dead heroes of the D-Day landings that shaped the outcome of World War II.

Despite being largely blamed for growing international discord, Trump headed to join in the attempted show of transatlantic harmony on the 75th anniversary of the assault.

“Heading over to Normandy to celebrate some of the bravest that ever lived,” the US leader tweeted on arrival in France. “We are eternally grateful!” French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Theresa May earlier paid tribute to D-Day veterans at the start of Thursday’s commemorations for the soldiers who surged onto the Normandy beaches on June 6, 1944.



US President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump listen to a speech during a ceremony to mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day at the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, Normandy, France on Thursday

On an occasion mixing high politics with poignant historical remembrance, Macron met first with May at Ver-sur-Mer, where they laid the first stone for a new British memorial to fallen soldiers.

“Standing here as the waves

wash quietly onto the shore below us, it’s almost impossible to grasp the raw courage it must have taken that day to leap from landing craft and into the surf, despite the fury of battle,” May said.

Under a bright blue sky, she

finished her speech by addressing the assembled veterans, whose numbers dwindle with each major anniversary.

“I want to say the only words we can: thank you,” she said in her final international appearance before she steps down as leader of the Conservative party on Friday.

Britain’s delayed departure from the European Union, which has cost May her job as prime minister, is just one of many rifts that has opened recently among Western allies, whose alliance forged in World War II is under unprecedented strain.

The man blamed for most of the discord, Trump, was set to arrive in northern France for a ceremony at the US military cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer overlooking Omaha Beach where 9,400 US servicemen are buried.

Both leaders will give speeches, while the French president will also bestow the

Legion d’Honneur, France’s highest honour, on five American veterans.

Macron and Trump — whose once warm relations have chilled due to mounting public disagreements on Iran, climate change and trade — will then meet for private talks followed by a working lunch.

Macron will end the day with an homage at Colleville Montgomery for the Kieffer Commando, the only French soldiers to storm a Normandy beach on D-Day which opened a new front against the Nazis and led to the liberation of France and much of western Europe.

The 177 men, who were given the honour of being the first to touch French soil, had long been little more than a footnote in France’s official histories of the war — an oversight officials in Macron’s office said the president is eager to correct.

Putin: No invite not a problem

AFP ■ SAINT PETERSBURG

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday said it was “not a problem” that he was not invited to the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings in northern France, attended by other world leaders.

“We also don’t invite everyone to every event. Why should I be invited everywhere?” he said of the memorial at which US President Donald Trump spoke along with French leader Emmanuel Macron.

“I have enough business of my own here,” he said during an economic forum in Saint Petersburg. Putin was at the 70th anniversary of the landings but this week Moscow insisted the



significance of D-Day in the outcome of World War II should not be overplayed.

Russia regularly accuses the West of failing to properly understand or acknowledge the enormous human losses — estimated at 27 million deaths — the Soviet Union suffered in the conflict.

GLOBE TROTTER

2 PAK SOLDIERS KILLED WHILE ON EID PATROL DUTY

Karachi: Two Pakistani soldiers were killed on Thursday when suspected militants opened fire on a vehicle of the paramilitary troops deployed on Eid security duty in the restive Balochistan province. The two Frontier Corps (FC) soldiers were on Eid patrol duty in the Hernal area when the terrorists targeted them, the Army said in a statement, without elaborating further on the incident.

8 DIED WHILE COLLECTING ‘HIMALAYAN VIAGRA’

Kathmandu: At least eight people died while collecting rare medicinal fungus Yarsagumba, popularly known as the Himalayan viagra, in Nepal’s Dolpa district, police said here Thursday. Known for its aphrodisiac properties, Yarsagumba is only found in the Himalayan mountains above 10,000 feet.

Erdogan speaks to Saudi king after no-show at Mecca OIC summit

AFP ■ ISTANBUL

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan spoke Thursday by phone with Saudi King Salman after missing a key summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in the Saudi holy city of Mecca, his office said.

The two exchanged greetings for the Muslim Eid al-Fitr festival, Erdogan’s office said, adding that they also discussed “bilateral and regional issues” without elaborating further.

The phone call comes after Erdogan was notably absent from the Mecca summit of the OIC where the country was represented instead by Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu.

Turkey’s ties with Saudi Arabia have come under strain after the brutal murder last October of journalist Jamal



Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, which tarnished the international reputation of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Saudi prosecutors have absolved the prince and said around two dozen people implicated in the murder are in custody, with death penalties sought against five men.

But attention has remained focused on whether the crown prince ordered the murder, despite the kingdom’s denials.

May gets set for resignation as British PM

AP ■ KHARTOUM

London: Theresa May conducted her final public tour as British Prime Minister on Thursday with a visit to Normandy in France to mark the 75th anniversary of the World War II D-Day landings.

May, 62, gave a moving speech to pay tribute to the brave soldiers who fought for freedom on the beaches of Normandy 75 years ago as part of the Allied Forces.

She said it was “truly humbling” to be at the celebrations with the men who fought in the “greatest battle for freedom the world has ever known”.

“It is an honour for all of us to share this moment with you. If one day can be said to have determined the fate of generations to come — in France, in Britain, in Europe and the world — that day was June 6, 1944. These young men belonged to a very special generation, the greatest generation,” she said. **PTI**

Sudan protesters to keep up campaign until military’s ouster

AP ■ KHARTOUM

Sudan’s pro-democracy leaders vowed Thursday to press their campaign of civil disobedience until the ruling military council is ousted and killers of protesters are brought to justice, following a crackdown this week that killed scores of people.

The pledge comes after new clashes brought the death toll in three days of the military crackdown to 108. On Wednesday, troops were seen pulling 40 bodies of victims, slain by Sudanese security forces, from the Nile River in Khartoum and taking them away.

The Sudan Doctors Committee, one of the protest groups, said it was not known where they were taken. The committee also said more than 500 have been wounded in the crackdown.

The Sudanese Professionals Association, an umbrella of



Smoke rises behind barricades laid by protesters to block a street in the Sudanese capital Khartoum to stop military vehicles from driving through the area on Wednesday

union groups that has been behind months of rallies that forced the military to oust longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir in April, urged people to block main roads and bridges to “paralyze public life” across the country in retaliation for the military’s crackdown.

The crackdown began with a violent dispersal of the protest

movement’s main sit-in camp, outside the military headquarters in the capital, Khartoum, on Monday.

“Our success depends on our full adherence to peaceful protests, no matter how hard the criminal militias seek to drag us into violence,” the association said in a Facebook statement on Thursday.

Sudan denies more than 100 killed in protest crackdown

AFP ■ KHARTOUM

Sudanese authorities admitted dozens of people were killed in a crackdown on protesters but denied doctors’ claims the death toll has topped 100, as heavily armed paramilitaries guarded the tense capital.

Members of the Rapid Support Forces, who rights groups say have their origins in the Janjaweed militias of Darfur, were on the streets of Khartoum on Thursday in pick-up trucks mounted with machine guns and rocket launchers, witnesses said.

It follows a raid by security forces Monday on a long-running sit-in outside the army headquarters that marked the start of a brutal crackdown on demonstrators demanding civilian rule.

The Central Committee

for Sudanese Doctors said Wednesday that 40 bodies had been pulled from the Nile, sending the death toll soaring to at least 108.

The committee, which is close to protesters and relies on doctors on the ground for its information, warned the figure could rise.

Some life had returned to the streets of the capital on Thursday, with limited public transport operating and only a few cars on the roads.

A small number of shops and restaurants were open on the second day of the Eid al-Fitr holiday.

But there was still widespread disruption around the capital. At Khartoum’s airport relatives of travellers stayed late into the night waiting to see if their flights would arrive, following a slew of cancellations over the past few days.

Taiwan’s request for US tanks, missiles sparks China anger

AFP ■ TAIPEI

Taiwan on Thursday confirmed it is hoping to buy state-of-the-art tanks and portable missiles from the United States in a proposed deal that drew an angry rebuke from China.

Taipei’s defence ministry has formally asked for 108 M1A2 Abrams main battle tanks, more than 1,500 javelin and TOW anti-tank missiles, and 250 shoulder-fired Stinger anti-aircraft missiles, it said in a statement.

The request was proceeding “as normal”, the ministry added.

The US government has given Congress informal notification of its plan to sell the equipment in a deal worth USD 2 billion, Bloomberg News reported.

Beijing said it had “serious

concerns” about the sale.

“We have repeatedly emphasised to the US to fully understand the extremely sensitive and damaging nature of their decision to sell arms to Taiwan, and abide by the One China principle,” foreign ministry spokesman Feng Shuang said at a regular press briefing on Thursday.

Taiwan has been ruled separately since the end of a civil war in 1949 but China still views it as its territory and has vowed to take the island, by force if necessary.

Beijing has significantly stepped up diplomatic and military pressure on Taipei since Beijing-sept president Tsai Ing-wen was elected in 2016.

It has staged military exercises near the island, and steadily reduced the already

small number of nations that recognise Taiwan.

The United States switched diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to China in 1979, but it has remained its main unofficial ally and is congressionally bound to supply it with arms — a constant niggle in US-China ties.

In recent years Washington has been wary of completing big ticket arms deals with Taiwan, fearful of stoking China’s anger.

But President Donald Trump has sought to strengthen ties with Taipei and appeared more willing to sell major weapon systems.

The US Government announced plans last year to sell spare parts worth \$330 million to Taiwan for its US-made F-16 fighter jets and C-130 military transport planes, sparking anger from Beijing.

German killer nurse gets life for 85 hospital murders

AFP ■ OLDENBURG (GERMANY)

A German nurse believed to be the most prolific serial killer in the country’s post-war history was handed a life sentence Thursday for murdering 85 patients in his care.

Judge Sebastian Buehrmann called Niels Hoegel’s killing spree “incomprehensible” and acknowledged the trial left many families with painful unanswered questions.

The 42-year-old murdered patients selected at random with lethal injections between 2000 and 2005, when he was caught in the act.

Hoegel has already spent a decade in prison following a previous life sentence he received for six other murders.

The exhumation and autopsy of more than 130 bod-

ies were necessary to build the case for the prosecution.

Police suspect that Hoegel’s final death toll may be more than 200.

But the court was unable to say for sure because of gaps in Hoegel’s memory and because many likely victims were cremated before autopsies could be performed.

Buehrmann of the regional court in the northern city of Oldenburg said the number of deaths at Hoegel’s hands “surpasses human imagination”.

He expressed regret that the court had not been “fully able to lift the fog” for loved ones about other likely victims.

On the final day of hearings on Wednesday, Hoegel asked his victims’ families for forgiveness for his “horrible acts”.

Judgment reserved in Pell appeal against child sex conviction

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

The fate of jailed Australian Cardinal George Pell was in the balance Thursday as judges adjourned to deliberate over an appeal against his conviction on historical child sex abuse charges.

The three judges in Victoria state’s Supreme Court heard two days of arguments by Pell’s lawyers demanding his December conviction be quashed, while prosecutors insisted the jury verdict against the one-time top Vatican official was “unimpeachable”.

The judges can decide to reject the appeal, order a retrial or acquit Pell, the Catholic Church’s most senior convicted child molester.

There was no indication of when their ruling would be handed down.

Lawyers for Pell, who turns 78 on Saturday, raised 13 objections to his conviction on five counts of sexual abuse for the assault of two 13-year-old choirboys following Sunday Mass in the 1990s.

Their appeal maintains that the case against Pell was unreasonably dependent on the testimony of a single victim — the second choirboy died in 2014 — and fell short of proving his guilt “beyond a reasonable doubt”.

The former Vatican number three, who controlled the Holy See’s vast finances and was involved in the election of two popes, was sentenced in March to six years in prison.

He was accused of sexually abusing the two choirboys in 1996 and 1997 in the sacristy and hallways of St Patrick’s

Cathedral when he was Archbishop of Melbourne.

Pell’s defence team argued during the first day of the appeal Wednesday that it was “physically impossible” for the cleric to have committed the crimes in a crowded cathedral following Sunday services.

“The verdicts represent a disturbing failure of our jury system,” Pell’s team said in the appeal. “The verdicts should be quashed.” “I’ve said before in judgements that I think juries almost always get it right,” responded Justice Weinberg, before adding, “The word is almost.”

Pell’s team cast doubt on everything from the timing of the incident to the improbability of his being able to move his cumbersome archbishop’s robes aside to commit the assaults.

Japan PM to visit Iran in effort to mediate tension with US

AP ■ TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will visit Iran in an effort to reduce tensions between Tehran and Washington, Japan’s government spokesman said Thursday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said Abe’s trip will be the first by a Japanese leader to Iran in 41 years. He declined to specify the dates of the trip or other details, but said it would be “soon.” Officials are finalizing the details so the visit will be meaningful, Suga said.

Kyodo News and other local media said Abe will visit Tehran on June 12-14 and meet with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani.

Thai court sentences ex-PM to prison over lottery programme

AP ■ BANGKOK

A Thai court on Thursday sentenced former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in absentia to two years in prison over his handling of a state lottery programme he initiated while in office more than a decade ago.

His conviction by the Supreme Court’s Criminal Division for Holders of Political Positions was for malfeasance, for carrying out a policy judged to be in violation of the law or official regulations.

Thaksin was ousted by a military coup in 2006 and has been absent from Thailand since 2008, when he fled to avoid serving a two-year prison term on a conflict of interest conviction.

He was sentenced in April to three years’ imprisonment for ordering Thailand’s Export-Import Bank to make a loan to

Myanmar which was used to pay a satellite communications company then controlled by him and his family.

It is not clear why this year’s cases were completed such a long time after the alleged offenses.

The lottery case involved the establishment in 2003 of an effort to mimic the illegal underground lottery, a flexible game in which people could pick two- and three-digit numbers and bet small amounts, compared with the official system of lottery tickets with fixed numbers and fewer potential winning opportunities.

The illegal lottery is hugely popular, and Thaksin’s scheme was an attempt to steer some of the money that went to it to government coffers instead. The court found that Thaksin ignored standard administrative practice in starting the new lottery, which was

discontinued when he was forced from office.

Thaksin, who maintains a home in Dubai and travels frequently, could not be reached for comment but has consistently denied any wrongdoing while in office and described the cases against him as politically motivated.

Thaksin used his wealth as a telecommunications billionaire to create a political party that won a 2001 general election, making him prime minister. By instituting populist policies, he won the allegiance of many of the country’s rural majority and urban poor.

His political popularity, however, threatened the influence of the country’s traditional ruling circle, including royalists, industrialists and the military, and after protests accusing him of abuse of power, the army ousted him in a 2006 coup.

Mexican leader to visit US border Saturday amid trade row

AFP ■ MEXICO CITY

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said Thursday he will soon travel to the border city of Tijuana to “defend the dignity” of his nation in the face of US tariff threats, as talks were set to resume in Washington.

Lopez Obrador will make the trip Saturday, two days before US President Donald Trump has threatened to impose five per cent tariffs on all Mexican imports, unless Mexico acts to stem the surge of Central American migrants to the US border.

Negotiators have been meeting in Washington to avert a crisis, but Trump warned late Wednesday “not nearly enough” progress was being made.



Turkey’s Defense Minister Hulusi Akar speaks with an officer as Turkish army’s top commanders stand behind at Turkey-Iraq border near Haklari on Wednesday

CRICKETCRADLE

TODAY LIVE

STAR SPORTS

Pakistan vs Sri Lanka
3:00 pm IST
VENUE: County Ground, Bristol



Special tribute

Mahendra Singh Dhoni sporting an Army insignia on his glove during the India-South Africa clash was well appreciated by his fans but the International Cricket Council on Thursday requested the BCCI to have the badge removed, saying it is against its regulations. Claire Furlong, ICC General Manager - Strategic Communications, said that the apex body has requested the Indian cricket board to have the sign removed. India's next game is against Australia on Sunday. "It is against the regulations and we have requested it is removed," Furlong said. When asked if Dhoni, who is a Honorary Lieutenant Colonel in the Parachute Regiment of Territorial Army, could be penalised for the breach of an ICC regulation, she added: "For first breach no, just a request to remove". Dhoni's love for the Indian Army is well known. During the opening World Cup fixture against South Africa in Southampton on Wednesday, Dhoni's gloves attracted special attention when the TV cameras zoomed in. The regimental dagger insignia of the para forces was embossed on his green wicket-keeping gloves.

Sweet tooth



On tours, Dhoni is most relaxed when daughter Ziva is around. A regular fixture during Chennai Super Kings' home matches, the little one was in the mood for some cookies as she was accompanied by a member of the team support staff into the refreshment room for the media. But it was hilarious when a member of ICC's broadcast team thought it to be an opportune moment for a selfie with Ziva. However her request was politely declined by the member of the support staff and rightly so for security reasons.

Right watch

Kevin Pietersen @KPK24

Quick memo to all right handed batters - get onto off stump against Bumrah & look to hit him from, straight back at the stumps to square leg. Eliminate the off side completely!

3:39 PM 05 Jun 19 · Twitter for iPhone

Former England batsman Kevin Pietersen has figured out a way to tackle India's menacing pacer Jasprit Bumrah, albeit only for the right-handed batsmen. Bumrah, who ranks at the top of the ICC ranking, produced a fiery spell of fast bowling to put South Africa on the back foot with a two-wicket haul on Wednesday. "Quick memo to all right handed batters - get onto off stump against Bumrah and look to hit him from, straight back at the stumps to square leg. Eliminate the off side completely!" Pietersen wrote on his twitter handle.

GROUP STAGE

Pos	Team	P	W	L	N/R	Net RR	Pts
1	NZ	2	2	0	0	+2.279	4
2	WI	1	1	0	0	+5.802	2
3	AUS	1	1	0	0	+1.860	2
4	ENG	2	1	1	0	+0.900	2
5	IND	1	1	0	0	+0.302	2
6	B'DESH	2	1	1	0	+0.008	2
7	SL	2	1	1	0	-1.517	2
8	PAK	2	1	1	0	-2.412	2
9	RSA	3	0	3	0	-0.952	0
10	AFG	2	0	2	0	-1.264	0

HITman's high

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Virat Kohli has watched Rohit Sharma score quite a few 'Daddy Hundreds' but the Indian captain rated his deputy's unbeaten 122 against South Africa in their World Cup opener as his best innings in one day cricket.

Rohit, who has an unprecedented three double hundreds in 50-over format, hit his 23rd ton on a bouncy Ageas Bowl track under overcast conditions.

"I think in my opinion this is by far his best ODI innings because of the kind of pressure the first game brings from a World Cup point of view," Kohli said at the post-match press conference.

"And then I know, as a batsman, when you go in and a few balls bounce like that, it's not easy to gather yourself again and play in a calm manner."

According to Kohli, the best part about Rohit's innings was his composure as he was ready to curb his natural attacking instinct and put his head down and be patient.

"A lot of times batsmen tend to hit their way out of the situation. But he was very composed. He's played so many games, we expect a lot of maturity and a lot of responsibility from someone like him," he said.

"In my opinion, of all the brilliant innings I have seen him play, I think this, for me, was the top of the pile because of the way he compiled his innings and at no stage did we feel like, or he felt like he is going to throw it away," the skipper said.

Rohit hit 13 boundaries and two sixes in his 144-ball innings to help India overhaul the victory target of 228 in 47.3 overs for a six-wicket win.

Kohli said the best part about Rohit's innings was the manner in which he set the pace, dropping anchor while others had the freedom to attack.

"I think controlling the game so beautifully from one end and allowing the others to display themselves and string in small little partnerships, looking at the fact that they were only chasing 228..." he said.

"Rohit played the perfect innings for that kind of a situation on that kind of a wicket against a bowling attack that was threatening to pick up wickets at any stage. So, yeah, in my opinion, by far his best knock," the skipper had no doubt.

The skipper termed the performance of his team as a "professional" one as they had to also battle the conditions.

"I think it was a professional effort from us. It was a low-scoring game, not the highest of totals you will see in one-day cricket nowadays."

"That was because of the way the pitch was throughout the course of the game and I think, from that point of view, we were very professional with the new ball as well as in the middle overs," he said.

A good start is always essential for any team and Kohli said this win over South Africa will help in creating positive vibes in the team.

"Starting off well is always an important thing and we got together nicely as a team in the first half on the field. It is very important to create that energy and we were able to do that in the first ten and from there, we really built the game nicely and finished it off in a professional manner," he said.



Rohit Sharma raises his bat to celebrate scoring a century

ROHIT HIT 13 BOUNDARIES AND TWO SIXES IN HIS 144-BALL INNINGS TO HELP INDIA OVERHAUL THE VICTORY TARGET OF 228 IN 47.3 OVERS FOR A SIX-WICKET WIN

Goodwill Sharma

Rohit's good form will ease pressure on Kohli: Srikanth

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Rohit Sharma's ability to accelerate in an instant is a major asset for the team and his good form will ease the pressure on Virat Kohli during the ongoing World Cup.

Rohit scored an unbeaten 144-ball 122 to anchor a successful chase against South Africa in India's World Cup opener here on Wednesday.

He (Rohit) did not need to ramp it up against South Africa, who had not scored enough runs in Southampton, but that knock will do him a lot of good.

He can go from first gear to fourth gear in an instant and just kick on from there and keep clicking through the gears.

For India, having someone who can go and get not just hundreds but even double hundreds is a major asset and also relieves the pressure on Virat Kohli a little.

The trio of Shikhar Dhawan, Sharma and Kohli will be crucial to India's chances so it is a great sign that Sharma got a hundred and saw them over the line.

The other standout performer was Jasprit Bumrah with the new ball. He really rattled the South Africans with his opening spell and that set the tone for the game.

Of course South Africa look a little demoralised after a tough start to the tournament, but his bowling was fantastic.

When you have Bumrah taking wickets early and forcing the opposition onto the defensive, that makes it easier for the spinners afterwards.

I probably would have picked Mohammad Shami, and I still expect him to play a part in this tournament, but Bhuvneshwar Kumar took his chance well.

It will be an interesting selection dilemma throughout and I expect them to adapt depending on the wicket and the opposition. India will next face five-time champions Australia on June 9 and Srikanth believes the two-time winners will be put to test.

India will probably have to improve at the Oval but overall it was a promising start. It is obviously still very early with most teams having only played one or two games but I think Australia and India are both contenders to make the semi-finals.

For me, it will be those two and England, despite their loss to Pakistan and then probably one of West Indies or New Zealand.

That could change of course but if that is how it turns out, then the match between India and Australia takes on even greater importance and should be a great game on Sunday.



Skipper's lethal weapon: Don't need to live up to reputation, says Bumrah

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Jasprit Bumrah has been a nightmare for all international batsmen but India's pace spearhead doesn't feel that he has built some kind of reputation that he needs to live up to.

With a simple six step run-up and with an unusually slinging action, Bumrah is skipper Virat Kohli's 'Man Friday' in all formats but for the genial Punjabi from Gujarat, it is all about being a good student of the game.

"Most of the times, I don't think about expectations. I just try to check what exactly does the team wants me to do. I don't think that I have a reputation to live up to as I just need to keep things simple," Bumrah, the world No 1 in ODIs, said after playing a pivotal role in India's six-wicket victory.

"I always keep an eye on what is happening all over, so that maybe I can learn and add things to my armoury. There's no harm in learning. For example, if you tell me there's a perfect action in the world, I'll try to copy that," he said.

Bumrah bowled "hard, Test match lengths" to South African batsmen that worked for him, something that his skipper attributes to his success in the longest format.

"He believes the length ball is something that he can nick people off with, whether it is assisting bowlers or not. The way he's bowling right now, it's so, so



Jasprit Bumrah prepares to bowl in the nets during a training session

good to see because you can see batsmen literally clueless against him and he's rushing people," skipper Kohli was effusive in his praise.

"To be honest, I haven't seen Hashim (Amla) get out like that in one-day cricket. He's been so dominant," he added. For Bumrah, preparation is some-

thing which is non-negotiable and he executes a plan in a match situation only when he has successfully implemented it at the nets.

Most of the times, I don't think about expectations. I just try to check what exactly does the team wants me to do. I don't think that I have a reputation to live up to as I just need to keep things simple

"There is a lot of hard work that goes behind the cameras. I do all my sessions, be it bowl with a new ball or new variations before coming into the match. If I have prepared everything, then it's about the execution, keeping a clear head space," said the 25-year-old.

Bumrah's style of doing homework is something that fascinates even his skipper. Kohli knows that with Bumrah, the philosophy is simple, "You get what you see".

The skipper then gave an example of how difficult it is to face him at the nets as he bowls with the same intensity which is on display in a match situation.

"Well, one thing you know while facing Jasprit is that you have to play good cricketing shots and back your technique

against him. Because if you are hesitant a little bit and he is able to sense that, then he is all over you.

"If he senses someone is not enjoying the short ball in the nets, he will make sure that guy gets it in that session," Kohli gave an insight to the mind of his premier bowler.

"So, what you see him bowling in the match, he bowls exactly like that to us in the nets. He doesn't care who is standing in front of him. He will bounce people, try to get them bowled or may be yank people with the new ball.

"That's the reason for his consistency. He doesn't change his game because he's in the nets compared to the game," the world's best batsman had some delightful words for his junior colleague.

In fact, the skipper feels that playing Bumrah in the nets, gives batsmen more confidence to face other bowlers in actual match situation.

"For a batsman, it's beautiful to face a guy who bowls with match intensity and he's looking to get you out, so when you play well against him you walk out with more confidence," he said.

At the highest level, what matters is the mindset of a youngster and the skipper knows why his lethal weapon is so special.

"He has the right attitude towards the game and he's going to be a massive factor for us here," Kohli said.

All's well that ends well

Coulter Nile's 92, Smith's 73 lead Aussie to 288 after nightmare start



David Warner returns to the pavilion after being dismissed during the group stage match between Australia and West Indies at Trent Bridge

FIGURATIVELY

Australia	
David Warner	c Hetmyer b Cottrell 3
Aaron Finch	c SHope b Oshane Thomas 6
Usman Khawaja	c Shai Hope b A Russell 13
Steve Smith	c Cottrell b Oshane Thomas 73
Glenn Maxwell	c Shai Hope b Cottrell 0
Marcus Stoinis	c Pooran b Holder 19
Alex Carey	c Shai Hope b A Russell 45
Coulter Nile	c Holder b C Brathwaite 92
Pat Cummins	c Cottrell b C Brathwaite 2
Mitchell Starc	c Holder b C Brathwaite 8
Adam Zampa	not out 0
Extras (b 1, lb 1, w 24, nb 1)	27
Total (10 wks, 49 Ov)	288
Fall of wickets: 15-1 (Aaron Finch, 2.2), 26-2 (David Warner, 3.6), 36-3 (Usman Khawaja, 6.6), 38-4 (Glenn Maxwell, 7.4), 79-5 (Marcus Stoinis, 16.1), 147-6 (Alex Carey, 30.4), 249-7 (Steven Smith, 44.2), 268-8 (Pat Cummins, 46.1), 284-9 (Nathan Coulter-Nile, 48.2), 288-10 (Mitchell Starc, 48.6)	
Bowling	
Oshane Thomas	10-0-63-2
Sheldon Cottrell	9-0-56-2
Andre Russell	8-0-41-2
Carlos Brathwaite	10-0-67-3
Jason Holder	7-2-28-1
Ashley Nurse	5-0-31-0



Steve Smith, left, congratulates teammate Nathan Coulter-Nile on scoring fifty runs against West Indies

PTI ■ NOTTINGHAM

West Indies fast bowlers ripped through the Australian top-order in a brilliant spell before Steve Smith and the record-breaking Nathan Coulter-Nile led a stunning fightback to power the defending champions to 288 all out in their World Cup match here Thursday.

The Australians, who had easily beaten Afghanistan in their first match, lost four quick wickets for just 38 runs in the eighth over with Aaron Finch (6), David Warner (3), Usman Khawaja (13) and Glenn Maxwell (0) falling cheaply. But, Smith led a remarkable fightback with a 73 off 103 deliveries while Coulter-Nile unleashed a late onslaught with an unbelievable 92 off 60 balls. Coulter-Nile, who hit eight fours and four sixes, in fact, became the highest run scorer by a number eight batsman in a World Cup. This was his maiden fifty in his 29th ODI. His previous highest was a 34 last year.

SMITH LED A REMARKABLE FIGHTBACK WITH A 73 OFF 103 DELIVERIES WHILE COULTER-NILE UNLEASHED A LATE ONSLAUGHT WITH AN UNBELIEVABLE 92 OFF 60 BALLS

From 79 for five in the 17th over, the Australians clawed their way back to 119 for five at the halfway mark. With Smith and Coulter-Nile on the ascendency, they were 206 for six at the end of 40 overs before adding 81 runs in the final nine overs for five wickets. The spade-work for the fightback was done by Smith, who, in March, came out of a 12-month ban for his involvement in the Cape Town ball-tampering scandal. Coming out at the team total of 26 for two in the fourth over, Smith played a defiant yet solid innings to hold the Australian innings together. He

hit seven boundaries for his 20th ODI fifty and first after his international comeback. Wicketkeeper batsman Alex Carey chipped in with a 55-ball 45, which was studded with five boundaries, for an invaluable 68-run stand for the sixth wicket with Smith to resurrect the Australian innings before Coulter-Nile played the innings of his life. For West Indies, who had a four-pronged pace attack, Carlos Brathwaite was the most successful bowler with 3/67 while his fast bowling colleagues Oshane Thomas, Sheldon Cottrell and Andre Russell took two wickets apiece.

AB again? Not this time

South African Board refuses De Villiers offer of making return for WC 2019

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

AB de Villiers wanted to come out of retirement for the World Cup but Cricket South Africa (CSA) refused to accept the offer as the batting great had ignored pleas to not retire last year. According to 'ESPNcricinfo', de Villiers made the offer to come back in May, barely 24 hours before the final squad for the ongoing showpiece in the UK was to be announced by CSA. The revelation came amid a disastrous start to South Africa's campaign, which has seen them lose three matches including one to Bangladesh. While Wednesday's six-wicket defeat to India turned the situation from bad to worse, the loss of pace great Dale Steyn to a shoulder injury has also considerably weakened the team. CSA selection panel convenor Linda Zondi confirmed that de Villiers did make the offer and that skipper Faf du Plessis and coach Ottis Gibson were quite keen to have him back as well. However, de Villiers' omission was based on principles, Zondi said. "I pleaded with AB de Villiers not to retire in 2018. Although there was a perception that he was picking and choosing when to play — which was not true — I did give him the option to plan and monitor his season to get him to the World Cup fresh and in a good space," Zondi said in the CSA release. "He turned down the offer and said he was at peace with his decision to retire," he recalled. "For Faf du Plessis and Ottis Gibson to share AB's desire to be included in the squad on the day we announced our World Cup squad on April 18th was a shock to all of us. AB left a big vacuum when he retired, we had a year to find players at franchise level to fill the gap,"



All that's important is that we should all focus on supporting the team at the World Cup. There is a long way to go and I believe the boys can still go all the way #ProteaFire



Former South African captain AB de Villiers in a file picture

he added. Amid the revelations, de Villiers expressed his support for the beleaguered team. "All that's important is that we should all focus on supporting the team at the World Cup. There is a long way to go and I believe the boys can still go all the way," de Villiers wrote on his Twitter handle. Zondi further said that de Villiers dropped no hints of wanting to come back in the year gone by. "We had players who put in the hard work, who put up their hands and deserved to be given the opportunity to go to the World Cup. "At no point in the year that he had retired did he make himself available for selection. It was no option when I received the news on the day of the squad announcement, our squad was finalised and confirmed," he said. The 35-year-old swash-buckler is considered a modern-day great for his innovative shots and more importantly, his ability to decimate rival attacks, making him a game-changer. "AB is undoubtedly one of the best players in the world, but above all else, we have to stay true to our morals and principles, there is no regret in the decision," Zondi said. Retirement in 2018, exactly a year before the World Cup, meant de Villiers could not fulfil the selection criteria, which included playing domestic or international cricket in the intervening months. The report stated that it was recalling the dashing batsman at the last moment would have been unfair on the players who have been performing in his absence, such as Rassie van der Dussen. Dussen made three fifties in his first four ODI innings after making his debut against Pakistan in January.

Now or never for SA

Legendry all-rounder Jacques Kallis has called India "real contenders" for the World Cup title after they outclassed South Africa but urged his struggling country to not throw in the towel yet.

In overcast conditions, a Jasprit Bumrah-inspired India broke the back of South Africa's top order before Yuzvendra Chahal ran through the innings with four wickets at the Rose Bowl on Wednesday. Without much difficulty, Rohit Sharma powered India to victory with six wickets in hand. This was the Proteas' third straight loss in the showpiece. "Away from South Africa I thought India looked world-class and real contenders. They've obviously been waiting for their first game and I didn't know how that would work for them, whether they'd be fresh or they'd be some nerves. I think we got the answer, they were very impressive," Kallis said in his column for the ICC. Before the disappointing result against India, South Africa crashed to a stunning defeat at the hands of Bangladesh, days after a loss to hosts England in the tournament opener. Kallis, one of the game's greatest all-rounders, admitted that the South Africans have put themselves in a precarious situation. "South Africa have made this spectacularly hard on themselves — they've six league matches left and every one of them is effectively a knockout game now. "They can have absolutely no complaints with the result against India, they were totally outclassed in every department, with the bat, ball and in the field. They really didn't win much after the toss I'm afraid. "That dressing room will be a tough place to be, but they have to all take responsibility and work hard to correct the errors they are making. Unlike in the previous editions since their re-entry into international cricket, South Africa did not enter the tournament as one of the favourites. "... I'd tell them it can also go the other way, beat the West Indies and Afghanistan in their next two games and suddenly the

KallisTone



BY JACQUES KALLIS
Former SA All-Rounder



Andile Phehlukwayo, left, appeals unsuccessfully against India during Southampton game

THIS IS A BIG MOMENT FOR FAF DU PLESSIS BUT NOT EVERYTHING CAN BE PUT ON THE CAPTAIN'S SHOULDERS. EACH INDIVIDUAL NEEDS TO LOOK IN THE MIRROR, THERE CANNOT BE ANY FINGER POINTING, THEY HAVE TO HAVE AN HONEST CONVERSATION WITH EACH OTHER ABOUT WHAT THEY CAN DO BETTER

table won't look so bad and they'll have some momentum back for what could be a huge game against New Zealand. "This is a big moment for Faf du Plessis but not everything can be put on the captain's shoulders. Each individual needs to look in the mirror, there cannot be any finger pointing, they have to have an honest conversation with each other about what they can do better," Kallis said. The former great called the defeat to Bangladesh cause for real concern. "Before they talk about the team, they need to think hard about themselves. It's a collective effort, from senior players to the new guys. And they have to be positive, they need to feed off each other's energy more than ever. "I don't think it's any surprise we lost to England and India, they are the two best teams in the world right now. The really worrying thing is that defeat by Bangladesh. "They've got the West Indies next and they proved against Pakistan how talented they are. It's a tough game but we know how to beat them. You have to get on top of them early and strangle the game, you can't be letting them play with that freedom." — Courtesy PTI

vivacity

MET DOCTORS
FOR ROLE
PREP: SHAHID
-P14



'THANK YOU' ON RUDENESS REFLECTS MATURITY

It doesn't really matter, whether anyone is rude on your face or not. A simple 'thank you' can play a big role in reflecting your maturity, says **Team Viva**

You chose not to ignore the person or get angry, but met both of those tactics somewhere in the middle. A "thank you" usually implies that you acknowledge someone's thoughtfulness and are responding to that. However, in this case, your "thank you" will mean that you acknowledge the person's rudeness and you choose not to let it affect you. That will shut the other person down quickly when he or she realizes that the comments didn't faze you.

While most people have a hard time saying these two words, it will benefit you to make the other person believe they were in the right in what they said, and will likely cause the conversation to be cut short. What more can they say after this comeback? You admit their rightness, and then disengage from the conversation. While you might not get as much satisfaction by using this tactic, it will put a damper on the other person's enjoyment since they won't get a rise out of you, which is what they were after in the first place.

All of us encounter our fair share of difficult people in our lives. Some creep up on us while we're ordering our daily coffee and others sit next to us every day at work, and yet others might even be those we're in intimate relationships with. No matter who it is, it's so important that we take time and consider ways to properly handle our reactions to them. It's really easy to give these people an attitude in return, particularly when it's someone we don't think we'll ever see again. However, by stopping, thinking, and responding correctly, you can walk away from the inter-

MAYBE NOT TODAY, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES WHEN YOU WERE RUDE. AND YOU'RE NOT A BAD PERSON. SO NEXT TIME SOMEBODY'S RUDE TO YOU, REMEMBER THAT THEY'RE HUMAN JUST LIKE YOU, AND RUDENESS ALONE DOES NOT MEAN THEY'RE A BAD PERSON EITHER

action feeling much more pleasant. Maybe not today, but there have been times when you were rude. And you're not a bad person. So next time somebody's rude to you, remember that they're human just like you, and rudeness alone does not mean they're a bad person either.

When someone's rude especially if they're making personal comments about you it's easy to get upset. But you have a choice about how you react. Take the power out of their rudeness by choosing to treat it as their problem, not your problem.

People can tend to have a love or hate relationship with their families, bosses, friends, and even spouses. They can be the sweetest people with loving intentions one second, and the next, say something so offensive that makes you want to call them every name under the sun and react negatively.



People have their own reasons for being rude. Perhaps they've had a bad day, or they're in a hurry and think there isn't time for manners. Perhaps they don't even realize how rude they've been. You won't know until you ask. Stay calm and simply say, "I think that's pretty rude. Why are you treating me like this?" The answer may surprise you.

So somebody was rude to you. What did they do or say? Was there any sense in it? If you view the situation objectively, you'll realize that most rudeness is senseless, so you can cheerfully ignore it. On the rare occasions when there's logic behind the rude behavior, staying objective lets you address the root of the problem instead of the rudeness concealing it.

Do you feel like yelling at the rude people around you? Don't. Joining in the drama will only escalate the situation. Whether you're dealing with a drama queen who's doing it on purpose, or an inconsiderate oaf whose rudeness is unintentional, keep your dignity intact by not letting rude behavior provoke you into a tantrum of your own.

Rudeness is hurtful, but removing yourself from the situation is the fastest and surest way to avoid more rude behavior from the same person. Walk away, even if they're still talking to you! If they're a stranger, you'll never have to deal with them again. If they're a friend or colleague, they'll soon learn that being rude to you gets them exactly nowhere.

Some people are rude simply because they're always rude. Once rudeness becomes a habit, it can be difficult to shake off even if they truly want to behave better. Habitual rudeness should never be taken personally; it's just a pattern that's hard to break.

Keep in mind that it could be the person's behavior that day and not the person themselves, that's causing them to be cranky to you. If you know the person, and are aware that they are not a bad person, consider it situational. Based on the scenario, quickly consider their side of the argument. Is it possible their point is valid as well? Oppositely, if you know this rude person well and this is just how they seem to act every single day, it might be a larger issue for the two of you to work on.

When dealing with a difficult person, it's a good rule of thumb to talk things over only if it's someone you're close to. Otherwise — if it's someone you rarely see, or especially someone you might not ever see again, there's simply no need to pick the situation apart together. Rather, be as kind as possible to them, and move on. If this is someone close to you, though, let's talk about what the conversation could look like

Don't take rudeness personally. Maybe the rude person is just having a bad day and taking it out on the world? Oftentimes, you can break the cycle of rudeness by empathizing with the root of someone's cantankerous behavior as a sign that he or she is unhappy, and be kind.

This reaction will definitely catch the offender off-guard and make a rude person feel embarrassed for even making the comment in the first place. For instance, if your aunt brings up your recent job loss at dinner again, just laugh. It will make the present moment seem a little less serious, and will send a message that you don't let other people rude comments affect your mood or outlook on life.

Trend Blazer

Met doctors for role prep: Shahid

Actor **SHAHID KAPOOR** met and interacted with doctors for preparation for his role in the forthcoming film *Kabir Singh*.

The actor said interacting with experts gave him a deeper understanding of the craft.

In the film, he will be seen playing the role of a surgeon. As part of his preparation, he spent hours at hospitals so that he could observe their procedures in order to get the nuances right.

The film narrates the love story of Kabir and Preeti and how they overcome all the hurdles and find their happily ever after.

Kabir Singh is slated to release on June 21.



'There is nothing more fulfilling than being a mother. But it does come with challenges

— one of them being the extra weight that one carries well past the baby's arrival. Yes, that has been my struggle too and something that most mothers will relate to. My motherhood inspired me to do this. And to all the mothers, you can do this as well.'

FARAH KHAN, KETAN MEHTA, NIKKHIL ADVANI, DIA MIRZA and producer Shobu Yarlagadda of *Baahubali* fame will serve as judges of the forthcoming 10th edition of the Jagran Film Festival.

The Best Feature Films Award category will be reviewed by Mehta, Khan and Yarlagadda. Advani, Dia and writer-director Sameer Saxena, on the other hand, will review short films to choose the winner of the Best Short Films Award.

It will start on July 18 and travel to various cities like Kanpur, Lucknow, Allahabad, Varanasi, Ludhiana, Dehradun, Indore and Bhopal.



Tessa begged Nanjiani for MIB

Actress **TESSA THOMPSON** says she literally begged *The Big Sick* star Kumail Nanjiani to take up *Men in Black: International*.

Nanjiani has voiced the character of diminutive alien named Pawny in the Sony Pictures' project.

"Pawny is deliciously funny and sweet," Thompson said.

"And I personally begged Kumail to take the part, even though I didn't know him that well. I knew he would be perfect. The character is CG (Computer Generated) but Kumail flew out to join us on set to read the scenes with us, which added so much to the characters' dynamics," she added.



When dog owners go through a stressful period, they're not alone in feeling the pressure — their dogs feel it too, a study suggests. Dog owners experiencing long bouts of stress can transfer it to their dogs, scientists report.

The Swedish researchers focused on 58 people who own border collies or Shetland sheepdogs. They examined hair from the dog owners and their dogs, looking at the concentrations of a hormone called cortisol, a chemical released into the bloodstream and absorbed by hair follicles in response to stress.

"Depression, excessive physical exercise and unemployment are just a few examples of stress that can influence the amount of cortisol found in your hair," said Lina Roth of Linköping University in Sweden. Roth and her team found that the patterns

'Be aware' of dogs

A study suggests that we are not alone in feeling stressed, our canine friends might feel the pressure too

of cortisol levels in the hair of dog owners closely matched that found in their dogs in both winter and summer months, indicating their stress levels were in sync.

She thinks the owners are influencing the dogs rather than the other way around because several human personality traits appear to affect canine cortisol levels.

The researchers don't know what causes the synchronisation in cortisol levels between humans and their pups. But a hint might lie in the fact that the link is stronger with competitive dogs



than in pet pooches.

The bond formed between owner and competitive dogs during training may increase the canines' emotional reliance on their owners, she said. That in turn could increase the degree of synchronisation.

But why do people influence their dogs rather than vice versa? Perhaps people are "a more central part of the dog's life, whereas we humans also have other social networks," Roth said.

"The study results are no surprise," said Alicia Buttner, director of animal behaviour. "New evidence is continually emerging, showing that people and their dogs have incredibly close bonds that resemble the ones that parents share with their children," she added. But she said there isn't enough evidence to assume that the influ-

ence goes only one way; it may go both ways.

"It's not just as simple as owner gets stressed, dog gets stressed," she said. Many other factors could affect a person or dog's stress levels and possibly even dampen them, she said.

Buttner apprised us that cortisol levels don't necessarily indicate "bad" stress. They instead can indicate a good experience like getting ready to go for a walk, she said.

Roth and her team plan to investigate whether other dog breeds will react to their owners the same way. In the meantime, she offered advice to minimise how much stress dog owners may be causing their pets. "Dogs that play more show fewer signs of being stressed," she said. So "just be with your dog and have fun," Roth added.

—AP



KUSHAN MITRA



ROCK CLIMBER

The new Jeep Compass Trailhawk is 'Trail Rated' by Jeep. What does that mean? Well, we climbed up and down some hills in the Sahyadris to find out



THE REGULAR COMPASS FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE IS MORE THAN CAPABLE FOR SOME SOFT OFF-ROADING, EVEN THOUGH IT LACKS A LOW-RATIO GEARBOX AND AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION

down, just noticing the black matte glare protector on the bonnet. This is not something you would do in most SUVs and the fact that I was doing this with Hill Descent Control switched off, where the car handles the braking itself on a steep incline was a bit crazy but rising the brake pedal and the wheels almost locked, it went down without much of a complaint, thankfully the track was slightly rutted but there was no point of time that I felt that I would lose control. When you know a car like Trailhawk, which is so capable, you begin to trust it immensely.

But the Trailhawk, frankly, is only something for the greatest of enthusiasts. The regular Compass four-wheel drive is more than capable enough for some soft off-roading, even though it lacks a low-ratio gearbox and automatic transmission. That said, if you believe that you want to go serious off-roading, the Trailhawk can literally go almost anywhere and keep you in relative comfort. There are several enthusiast groups across the country such as Terrain Tigers in the NCR, where you can learn the ins and outs of it.

This is a fun car and the experience on rocky roads was one that I will not forget. But the question that you have to ask when looking at a car like the Trailhawk is whether you need so much ability?

Game, set, song

Singer **DALER MEHNDI** tells **SIDDHIKA PRAJAPATI** that his new single *Panga Na Lena* is a tribute to the Cricket World Cup

Singer Daler Mehndi made his *Bhangra* cool worldwide. The other thing that he is identified with his super cool dressing attire of long flowing robes and a turban. The singer, songwriter and author's new song, *Panga Na Lena* is releasing today. It promises to acknowledge not only the Indian Cricket team but also those who support India.

Daler, who is credited with having been a part of the alternate music scene in days when only Bollywood ruled the charts, is also a composer of the song. He can also be seen dancing with cricket fans across several locations in the video. Talking about his tribute to the World Cup, Daler says, "I am delighted to collaborate with SpotlampE to launch a peppy new track for all the cricket fans. Cricket is one of the largest religions in India and composing *Panga Na Lena* to cel-

brate the biggest sports festival was an honourable experience."

The voice behind the unforgettable song, *Bolo Tara Ra Ra*, can't wait to see the viewer's response to the track. He is confident that it can become the next cricket anthem and will top the music charts as well. "The music video portrays the emotions that a cricket fan holds for his favourite cricketer. It captures the essence and craze for the game while targeting all age groups. It is perfect to set the mood for the World Cup," he adds.

The Punjabi singer believes that both film songs and independent music albums have a place in expanding a singer's repertoire. He thinks that recording for a music album gives exposure whereas recording for a film's song, the singer has to work according to its lyrics. "The artist



has a huge responsibility to do justice to portray the director's vision while recording for a film's song. And sometimes this becomes very challenging, which I love," he says.

Daler is a proud Indian and motivated to deliver songs that have a patriotic flavour. He sang songs such as *Rang De Basanti* and *Gurbani (Bhaag Milkha Bhaag)*. And with his latest release, he tries to touch a chord of every Indian cricket fan. He says, "This is a tribute to my motherland. The song will be heard whenever the world cup is being played. The music is catchy and it will be on the minds of the audience when they watch the match."

Daler is happy that remakes are getting trendy these days and the youth appreciates the lyrics of the old songs with new catchy tunes. And taking off from that, he is also keen on working on the re-makes of his own hits such as *Tunak Tunak Tun*, *Na Na Na Re* and *Kudiyaa Shehar Diyan*. "I want to give a twist and make some interesting variations. It has been more than a decade since *Tunak Tunak Tun* was released and I am overwhelmed by the fact that it is still played at parties and other occasions. I feel if a song is created with an essence of good lyrics and music, it can

never die."

For him, music has changed a lot in comparison to what it was earlier. The tastes and preferences of the audience have evolved, which has made artists create music accordingly. For this reason they add a touch of rap, some words and bizarre lyrics as well.

"I introduced Punjabi indie pop music in the nineties, a genre that is still admired and praised by many. But these days, digital plays a significant role in multiplying the plethora of contents being delivered. There is much more fusion now and not many genres such as Sufi, Pop, Rock, *Qawwali* are made in their natural forms. Perhaps my songs are still the most played ones on the digital medium even today," he adds.

Daler admits that the singers of his time were more explorative in terms of genres. He believes that the younger lot nowadays doesn't pay attention to learning different variations in music. They just know the basics and do not have much expertise in their profession. "My speciality of being natural is my versatility. Even my music and tracks transcend genres. I appreciate and feel blessed by the divine for making me what I am today."



naabaste ENGLAND

DHONI IS FASTER THAN A COMPUTER. WHATEVER A COMPUTER CAN SAY ABOUT PLAYING ON A CERTAIN WICKET, I BELIEVE THAT MS DHONI CAN DO IT FASTER
— SHOAB AKHTAR

Battleground subcontinent

Bullish Pakistan take on Lanka as old foes aim to build on previous wins

UPNEXT

★ VS ★
Sri Lanka Cricket

LIVE ON
3:00 pm IST
STAR SPORTS

HEAD TO HEAD					
	Played	Pak	SL	Tied	NR
Matches	153	90	58	1	4
Day matches	84	52	30	-	2
In World Cup	7	7	7	-	-

HIGHEST TOTALS		
Team	Score	Date
Pakistan	371-9 in 50 overs at Nairobi	04-10-1996
Sri Lanka	368-4 in 50 overs at Hambantota	26-07-2015

PERFORMANCE IN WC					
Team	P	W	L	T/NR	Success%
Pak	73	41	30	-/2	57.53
SL	75	36	36	1/2	50.00

FAISEL FEATURES



Sri Lankan players celebrate after beating Afghanistan by 34 runs in the 2nd group stage match. SLC/Twitter

AFP ■ BRISTOL

Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur has urged his team to 'stay ruthless' at the World Cup as they train their sights on Sri Lanka after shocking England.

The notoriously unpredictable Pakistan side held their nerve to beat the hosts by 14 runs at Trent Bridge on Monday, just three days after crashing to a seven-wicket defeat against the West Indies at the same venue.

That ended a sequence of 11 consecutive defeats in completed one-day internationals.

Arthur praised his team's resolve after a 'shocking' defeat in their tournament opener.

"It was just so good to see us go out and play with the belief and intensity that we had spoken about," Arthur said.

"When we put all three disciplines together we know we can beat anybody. We now need to stay consistent and ruthless."

Pakistan posted an impressive 348-8 against a potent England bowling attack, with fifties from veteran Mohammad Hafeez, Babar Azam and Sarfaraz Ahmed.

Pacemen Wahab Riaz and Mohammad Amir, and leg-spinner Shadab Khan, took the wickets to restrict England to 334-9 in their 50 overs.

"You could see the hunger, the determination and the resolve to do well in batting after a horror show and then the bowlers fought hard, so we need to repeat that in the coming matches as well," said Arthur.

Pakistan have won all seven of their World Cup matches against Sri Lanka dating back to the first tournament in 1975.

Pakistan will be tempted to bring in fast bowler Mohammad Hasnain for his raw pace, something that New Zealand

exploited against Sri Lanka during their 10-wicket rout of their opponents in Cardiff on Saturday.

On Tuesday, Sri Lanka beat Afghanistan in a rain-shortened match, also in Cardiff, to breathe life into their campaign.

But the 1996 champions will be wary of another middle-order batting collapse after they lost five wickets for 14 runs against New Zealand and seven wickets for 36 runs against Afghanistan.

Sri Lankan coach Chandika Hathurusingha said he had told his batsmen to up their game.

"I don't give pep talks. I give honest talk, that's all. I tell them what has to be done. They have to come and perform," said Hathurusingha, who praised opener Kusal Perera for his 78-run knock, which helped Sri Lanka reach 201 against Afghanistan.

"He's an amazing player," said Hathurusingha. "We have given him the full licence to bat the way he wants to bat. We know that when he's come up, most of the time it's match-winning."

But one factor outside anybody's control is the weather, with persistent rain forecast for Bristol on Friday.

SQUAD

Pakistan: Sarfaraz Ahmed (c, wk), Asif Ali, Hasan Ali, Shaheen Afridi, Mohammad Amir, Babar Azam, Mohammad Hafeez, Mohammad Hasnain, Imam-ul-Haq, Shadab Khan, Shoaib Malik, Wahab Riaz, Haris Sohail, Imad Wasim, Fakhar Zaman

Sri Lanka: Dimuth Karunaratne (c), Avishka Fernando, Suranga Lakmal, Lasith Malinga, Angelo Mathews, Jeevan Mendis, Kusal Mendis (wk), Kusal Perera (wk), Thisara Perera, Nuwan Pradeep, Dhananjaya de Silva, Milinda Siriwardana, Lahiru Thirimanne, Isuru Udana, Jeffrey Vandersay



Mohammad Hafeez gestures to the crowd after completing his half century against England. ICC/Twitter

QUOTE UNQUOTE

WE ALWAYS GOT TO BE RESPECTFUL OF THE OTHER TEAM AND THEY HAVE GOT GOOD BOWLERS. THEY HAVE SPINNERS WITH SOME REALLY GOOD SKILLS, SO THE GUYS ARE FULLY FOCUSED ON THE CHALLENGE AHEAD AND THEY KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT AGAINST SRI LANKA

— GRANT FLOWER, PAKISTAN BATTING COACH

PAKISTAN IS AN UNPREDICTABLE TEAM BUT WE ARE ALSO COMING INTO THIS GAME HAVING WON ONE AND LOST ONE. WE WERE LOW IN CONFIDENCE BUT WE WILL GIVE OUR BEST SHOT OUT TO BEAT THEM

— DIMUTH KARUNARATNE, SRI LANKA CAPTAIN

XFACTOR

- Pakistan pace attack
- Opening pair for both sides
- Lasith Malinga's performance
- Angelo Mathews vs Mohd Hafeez
- Babar Azam's consistency
- Middle order resistance by Sri Lanka
- Will Pakistan be able to break the inconsistent tag & get over Sri Lanka?

captainspeak

DIMUTH KARUNARATNE, SL



■ Pakistan is known for its unpredictable nature and you always guess which Pakistan team will turn up. Does that add pressure or relax you that you can beat them?

Yes, Pakistan is an unpredictable team, but I think we also come into this game, I think we have a bit of confidence so we will be trying to give our best shot, you know. We are not over-confident as well. And we are trying to do our best.

The win that came against Afghanistan was your team wanted. What has it done to your team?

We just need a win for — it always gives us the confidence if you get a win, any team, with any team, that is what we want. Finally, we got that. After that, we did really good things in that particular match, but I think — and also we have some parts to learn more, many things about the batting.

If the pitch still going to be a green top, is there a chance that you may want to strengthen your struggling middle order by leaving out a fast bowler?

It's a pretty good wicket if you take a bit of grass. It's a fact that we got that rather than the Cardiff wicket so we were trying to go the same team, we are trying to go the same team, but I think we thought we need another batsman, so we might make one change, but not many, you know. We will be trying to play the same batting line-up for this game.

How were the strong comments given by Malinga in the last game received in the dressing room?

Everybody has a job they have to do. If you are a batsman, you have to score. If you are a bowler, you have to take wickets. When we are losing, everyone else, everyone call everyone lots of things, and we get outsiders, they come in with lots of things so those are the bad things when we are not doing well.

Challenges of playing Pakistan.

If you can do that particular day well, you can be the winning side. Pakistan did well against England. They put score on the board, big scores, so after that, they keep taking wickets, so those are the key areas. If you are playing any big team, you have to do the same thing, you have to put some runs on the board and give a chance for the bowlers to take wickets. If you are not doing that, you can't do that. I think Pakistan, or whatever the team, you have to do the basic things if you want to win it.

battingcoach

GRANT FLOWER, PAKISTAN



How do you describe Pakistan's batting? 105 to 348, was it bad day to good day, or inconsistency?

It's my fifth year. I would say it's a bit of a both. We didn't adapt well to the conditions against West Indies. Technically, we were a bit poor on the day. There were a lot of nerves being the first World Cup match definitely. Then the guys got over that against England and they showed their proper skills and it was a true test of character. And I think they came through with flying colours in the second game.

A question about this young batting line-up that has scored 350 plus all through England. How do you keep them interested in what they are doing because they are not getting the results that they want?

If their job is to score runs, and to get those scores of 350, they are doing their job. So, you just got to ask them to keep repeating it and keep doing the hard training and putting in the hours in the nets and executing the skills under pressure. And then, hopefully, the bowlers and the fielders will get it right to back that up. But unfortunately, that didn't happen in quite a few of the games against England, in the bilateral series.

You have played a few World Cups yourself. Are you a fan of this format?

It's a bit unlucky on the associate teams, but obviously, you know, each game is so important, so there are no free games, or easy games, so it is exciting to watch. And just speaking to the public, I think they do enjoy this, but I think it is quite tough on the associate teams, but unfortunately I suppose that is one of those things.

What sort of challenge are you expecting from Sri Lanka?

You have always got to be respectful and they have got good bowlers. I have just come out of a batting meeting to see their skills. And it should be a good game. And hopefully the weather stays away, it is a bit poor, the forecast. But I don't think we'd be targeting any one individual, though they have got some good seamers and some spinners with very good skills. The guys are focussed and they know what to expect.

What is the mood after the big win?

I sense quite a bit of confidence. Since we have won, it took off a lot of the pressure, having gone through those string of defeats. Psychologically, that lifts a huge weight from their shoulders.

Are you happy with the balance of the side having left out Imad last time and gone with Hafeez and Shoaib to bowl those overs?

For the time being, I don't have a say in selection. We wanted to take some pace off the ball against England and Hafeez and Malik did that really well. We have played a few games here already so the guys know what to expect and can adapt to different conditions.

— Courtesy © ICC Business Corporation

MEN WHO MATTER

BABAR AZAM (PAKISTAN)

The resolute No.3 batsman boasts a healthy ODI record against Sri Lanka, averaging 58.33, with two centuries in eight games. A fifty against England meant that Azam's last four ODI scores read 115, 80, 22 and 63



KUSAL PERERA (SRI LANKA)

With the middle-order still experiencing patchy form, the onus will be on Perera to provide another strong start. Against Afghanistan, Perera looked at ease, cutting and pulling in his trademark style, as he shared a 92-run opening stand with Dimuth Karunaratne



The forecast for Bristol is mostly cloudy, with intermittent showers expected throughout today. Including West Indies' 421 in the warm-up game, the ground has witnessed three 350-plus scores inside the last one month.

— Courtesy: © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 18

ReverseSwing



BY WAQAR YUNIS
Former Pakistan captain

It's a cliché but we're back to that word with Pakistan — inconsistency. Sometimes frustrating and often brilliant, their two matches so far have been opposites of each other.

It is a very difficult thing to answer because Pakistan have always been like that. It is not something new, if you go back to the 1980s and even 1970s, it has always been the same.

I think it goes back to the system and the way we are brought up in Pakistan. We pick very young players and they don't always come through a controlled system. Everyone is different.

Some disappear quickly because they struggle to handle the pressure and are replaced by another young guy but those who do handle it just carry on and become greats of the game.

There are a lot of examples of guys like that, such as Wasim Akram, myself and Inzamam-ul-Haq. We hardly ever played

first-class cricket before making our international debuts. Once you get through your first couple of years of international cricket, you never look back.

We have also changed things far too often in the domestic game back home so players can struggle to build a rhythm.

The result is that you never know what are going to get with Pakistan, you never know which side of the bed they are going to get out of.

Against England, they rebounded superbly from that opening loss to the West Indies.

The capability is there, and they have the capacity to do special things. They need to be positive in every game. There is no doubt they were hurt by what happened against the West Indies and they came out to



Mohammad Amir celebrates after taking wicket. AP

prove a point. The pressure was mounting on the players, the management and the captain. They were in it up to their nose and as you burn your chances, you take

more risks. Now, it's time for another big game against Sri Lanka. I saw them take on Afghanistan and don't think they are a team that need to be feared. However,

Pakistan cannot take them lightly.

Look at Bangladesh — beating the mighty South Africa, you cannot take anyone lightly. Sri Lanka are not playing their best currently, but that does not matter.

That win would have cleared their minds and, like Pakistan, they will be brimming with confidence. When you have a bad start and then win a game, you start to feel good about yourself.

Look at the way Lasith Malinga bowled. He was superb and showed he still has something about him. On their day, they can beat anyone.

Pakistan's fixtures get interesting from here with Australia and India, who are both playing well, on the horizon.

They are both formidable sides and so a win against Sri Lanka is important for us.

— Courtesy: © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2019

Inconsistency goes back to the system and the way we are brought up in Pakistan. We pick very young players and they don't always come through a controlled system

Never Say Die!

The way Bangladesh got themselves back into the game, they should be very proud of their performance against New Zealand.

It is a shame they couldn't win it but for them to get so close was very impressive.

The game looked over when Ross Taylor and Kane Williamson were batting but this Bangladesh team never gives up, they never allow themselves to give up.

They are never out of the game and they did all the fans proud, they should take a lot of confidence from that going forward.

Bangladesh had a one per cent chance of winning the game at one stage, teams don't come back from that but they came so close and should be very proud. All the bowlers stepped up towards the end.

Nobody will be more disappointed than Mushfiqur Rahim himself for missing that run-out opportunity on Williamson.

Mistakes can happen, it was a bad one and it could have been a different story if Williamson's wicket was got early.

I can't complain about him — he's our best batsman and doing really well, keeping is really tough.

I know Mushy and he's a very emotional guy — he'll shout his mouth off today and then he'll be okay tomorrow. Our batsmen just couldn't keep it

BOTH HAVE HAD DIFFICULTIES AND ENGLAND HAVE MORE PRESSURE, IT'S IN THEIR CONDITIONS AND WE'VE BEATEN THEM IN OUR LAST TWO WORLD CUP MATCHES, IN 2011 AND 2015, SO THAT IS A MAJOR PLUS FOR US

Mosaddek Hossain celebrates taking the wicket of Ross Taylor AP



going, everyone got set and then got out which was disappointing, we needed to build the partnerships and we couldn't and that was the problem. They didn't need much more than 244.

Unfortunately the middle order, when Bangladesh were batting, didn't do the job they were looking for and you can't do that against New Zealand.

They are probably the most organised team in this World Cup, their record in ICC events is really good and they're always looking towards those semi-finals because of their ability.

If you want to win against them you have to do well with the bat and the ball, you can't afford to miss out on one.

A New Zealand team always plays strong cricket, against any side they face. They always seem to play well, and in a big tournament like this, Bangladesh can take a strong lesson from them.

Next Bangladesh will face England and while it's a difficult game in these conditions, they'll be really looking forward to the challenge.

Both have had difficulties and England have more pressure, it's in their conditions and we've beaten them in our last two World Cup matches, in 2011 and 2015, so that is a major plus for us.

These are different teams and a different atmosphere but there is a lot of confidence from those wins.

In 2011, beating England that was a big moment for us, they were a really tough opponent particularly for where we were as a country then.

Then in 2015, those conditions made it a really tough game in Australia — they favoured England but we still won, the team played really well and showed they can do it.

Bangladesh have made a lot of improvements batting and bowling too, we may not necessarily win but they will certainly give them a good game.

We've seen how excited the fans are getting too, there's a huge Bangladesh community in England.

Playing and winning these games means everything to them and there's a real good chance of doing it again.

— Courtesy: © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2019



Kane Williamson directs Mitchell Santner about field adjustments during B'desh clash AP

TIGERTALK



By **ABDUR RAZZAK**
Former Bangladesh spinner

Class of 2015

■ KENNINGTON OVAL, LONDON

New Zealand spinner Mitchell Santner wants to take inspiration from the Black Caps' charge to the final of the World Cup final four years ago.

Santner hit the winning runs as New Zealand sneaked past Bangladesh at The Oval by two wickets to make it two wins out of two, finishing on 17 not out from 12 balls.

He also put in a vital performance with the ball, taking one for 41 from his ten overs.

The left-arm spinner, who missed most of 2018 with a serious knee injury, was playing domestic cricket four years ago when the Black Caps lost their first World Cup final to co-hosts Australia.

Santner, 27, said: "You want to perform on the biggest stage and there's none bigger than the World Cup."

"I watched a lot of World Cups when I was growing up and watching the whole of New Zealand get around the lads in 2015 was awesome. If we can replicate that and maybe go one further this time, that would be nice."

Santner made his ODI debut at Edgbaston in 2015 in the now famous game when England passed 400 for the first time and kick-started their white-ball revolution.

Santner was modest about his performance with the bat against Bangladesh, joking that hitting the winning runs "could have been worse."

He added: "It was nice to get the boys over the line. It got a bit tighter than we would have liked but we'll take the win and move on to the next game."

With the ball, he had been hit for a solitary boundary until his final delivery — which he described as a 'moon ball' — disappeared over the ropes for six.

He helped build up pressure on the Bangladesh batsmen which led to the run out of Mushfiqur Rahim after a dangerous half-century partnership with captain Shakib Al Hasan.

Santner said: "The wicket was probably a bit slower than we thought it would be so my role throughout the middle there was to change my pace and bowl good areas."

"As a spinner, if you're tying down a subcontinental teams you must be doing a pretty good job. Shakib and Mushy were going pretty well for a while."

Santner is expecting spin to play a significant part in the tournament as it progressed.

He added: "We've already seen that if it doesn't swing early and there are some used wickets, spinners have done a pretty good job."

"It's going to key to bowl teams out high-scoring games in on the flat surfaces that you expect here."

"You have to weigh up whether that's the bowler at the other end is doing a good job and your role is to dot it up or to try and take wickets."

Credits — © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2019

■ KENNINGTON OVAL, LONDON

Bangladesh spinner Mosaddek Hossain paid tribute to the fanatical support his side received all the way through their nail-biting two-wicket defeat by New Zealand at the Oval.

The Black Caps' match-winner Ross Taylor — who was one of Mosaddek's two wickets in the match — had earlier said that it felt like the game was being played in Bangladesh such was the cacophony of noise that greeted every run or wicket for Bangladesh.

Mosaddek, 23, agreed, saying with a smile: "It was amazing. When we came out after the toss it didn't feel like we were playing at the Oval — it felt like we were in Mirpur which was a good thing for us."

"It wasn't a surprise because we

Home away from home



Bangladesh fans cheer for their team during World Cup clash against New Zealand at Oval AP

had played here in the Champions Trophy in 2017 so we knew what to expect but it was still amazing."

Bangladesh, who won their opening match against South Africa last weekend, came agonisingly close to another major scalp but Mosaddek said his side were remaining upbeat.

He said: "Most of the guys in the changing room are a bit disappointed, of course, but that's ok for me."

"But we're getting better and better. We're bowling really well so hopefully in the next match we will do better."

That next match at Cardiff Wales Stadium on Saturday is

against England, who they knocked out of the last edition in Adelaide in 2015.

Mosaddek, who also took the catch to dismiss New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson, admitted that his side's batting performance has cost them the game.

Bangladesh struggled to 244 all out and Mosaddek said: "If we had got ten or 20 more runs then it could have been a different result."

"We played really well against South Africa but that was a really good wicket and this one was not the same."

Credits — © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2019

OTHER SPORTS

RONALDO SHINES, Again!

AFP ■ PORTO

Portugal manager Fernando Santos hailed Cristiano Ronaldo a "football genius" after his 53rd career hat-trick sent Portugal into the final of the Nations League on home soil in Porto with a 3-1 win over Switzerland.

The hosts had to withstand a huge moment of VAR controversy as after Ronaldo's free-kick opened the scoring, Portugal thought they had the chance to double their lead from the penalty spot.

Instead German referee Felix Brych reversed his initial decision and awarded a spot-kick at the other end for an earlier incident, which Ricardo Rodriguez converted to seemingly send the game to extra-time.

However, Ronaldo predictably took centre stage as he struck twice in the final two minutes to set up a clash with England or the Netherlands, who meet in the second semi-final on Thursday, in Sunday's final.

Portugal made it to the last four without their all-time record goalscorer as Ronaldo took a hiatus from international football to concentrate on his first season at Juventus.

However, the five-time Ballon d'Or winner returned to the national team in March and was always likely to be the centre of attention.

In front of an adoring home crowd, Ronaldo put the spotlight back on his performance on the pitch as he opened the scoring with a brilliant free-kick.

Switzerland had posed a threat themselves in the first half with Xherdan Shaqiri. However, it took the help of VAR to get them back in the game just before the hour mark.

Brych had waved away appeals for a foul by Nelson Semedo on Steven Zuber before awarding Portugal a penalty as play broke down at the other end, but overturned his initial decision.

Rodriguez drilled home the resultant



Cristiano Ronaldo reacts after scoring his second goal AP

spot-kick much to the fury of the home supporters at the Estadio do Dragao.

The Swiss could then have gone in front when Benfica forward Haris Seferovic headed just wide.

By contrast, Portugal had one of the deadliest finishers in football history on the end of their chances.

Silva was the creator for Ronaldo to drill home his second of the night two minutes from time.

Moments later the hosts sealed their place in the final on the counter-attack as Ronaldo curled into the far corner for his 88th international goal.

Neymar out of Copa America

AFP ■ BRASILIA

Superstar Neymar was ruled out of the Copa America on Thursday after tearing his right ankle ligament during Brazil's 2-0 friendly win over Qatar.

"Due to the seriousness of the injury, Neymar will neither be fit nor have time to recuperate sufficiently to participate" in the tournament, the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said in a statement.

The injury to the world's most expensive footballer is a big blow to the hosts' preparations for South American continental championship, which begins in just over a week's time.

A distraught-looking Neymar was seen covering his face with his hands as he sat on the bench after hobbling from the field in the 20th minute at Brasilia's Mane Garrincha Stadium on Wednesday night.

A large ice pack had been strapped to the Paris Saint-Germain striker's lower right leg while two members of Brazil's support staff carried him from the pitch.

The injury comes just nine days before Brazil's opening Copa America game against Bolivia.

Minutes after Richarlison had opened the scoring in the 17th minute, Neymar was substituted with the CBF saying he had suffered "a ligament rupture at the level of the right ankle".

With Neymar ruled out, the host nation face an uphill battle to win South America's continental championship for the first time since 2007.



Neymar walks out of the locker room using crutches after sustaining an injury AP

Dreams do come true

AFP ■ PARIS

American teenager Amanda Anisimova stunned defending champion Simona Halep on Thursday to reach a French Open semi-final against Australian eighth seed Ashleigh Barty.

The 17-year-old downed Romanian star Halep 6-2, 6-4 on Court Philippe Chatrier, while Barty saw off 14th seed Madison Keys 6-3, 7-5 to also become a first-time Grand Slam semi-finalist.

The last-four ties will be played on Friday, after Wednesday's downpour in Paris caused a backlog of matches.

"This is more than I could have asked for," said Anisimova, who is the youngest player to reach a major semi-final since Czech Nicole Pietrangeli at the 2007 Australian Open.

She is also the youngest American woman to make the last four at a major since Venus Williams at the 1997 US Open, and the youngest to reach the semis at Roland Garros since Jennifer Capriati in 1990.

"I knew if I wanted to win today I would have to do something different because it wasn't going to be easy," Anisimova added.

"I'm really happy with the performance because it's one of the best matches I've ever played."

The defeat for third seed Halep means it has now been 12 years since the last successful title defence in



Amanda Anisimova celebrates after winning her quarterfinal match against Romania's Simona Halep AP

Paris — Belgian Justine Henin's third straight triumph in 2007.

The winner of Anisimova's clash against Barty will face either Britain's Johanna Konta or Czech 19-year-old Marketa Vondrousova in the final.

It is the first time two teenagers have reached the semi-finals at a Grand Slam for 10 years, while it had not happened at Roland Garros since Henin and Kim Clijsters in 2001.

Anisimova crushed 25 winners past a bewildered Halep, who made 17 unforced errors and served two double faults.

BARTY SEES OFF KEYS

Barty also won in relative comfort on Court Suzanne Lenglen to go one better than her run to the Australian Open last eight earlier this

year. The 23-year-old was too consistent for American Keys, hitting 16 winners and four aces.

Keys, a semi-finalist at Roland Garros last year where she lost to Sloane Stephens, was undone by 26 unforced errors.

After a tight start to the match, Barty claimed the opening set courtesy of a single break in game eight, before clinching a one-set lead on her fourth set point.

The second set followed a similar pattern to the first, until Barty stumbled at the finish line and was broken when serving for the match.

But Keys gifted her the advantage straight back with an error-strewn game, and former professional cricketer Barty made no mistake second time around.