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Panel soon for '1 nation, 1 poll'

PM lauds parties' views, committee to give feasibility suggestions

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Claiming that "most political parties supported" the "One Nation, One Election" proposal, the Government on Wednesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will constitute a committee to give "time-bound" suggestions on the issue.

"We had invited 40 political parties, out of which presidents of 21 parties participated and 3 other parties sent their opinion on the subjects in writing. Most parties gave their support to One Nation, One Election," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told mediapersons after the meeting.

Interestingly, Rajnath said, "The CPI(M) and the CPI had a difference of opinion but they didn't oppose the idea, just the implementation of it."

However, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury reiterated his party's categorical opposition to the move terming it fundamentally anti-federal and anti-democratic and thus against the Constitution. He dubbed the Government's move as "not practical" and an "artificial move" that would tamper with the constitutional scheme of accountability of the Government to the legislature. Yechury and CPI's D Raja, however, attended the meeting convened to push for Modi's pet proposal.

The Congress, the TMC, the BSP, the SP, the DMK and the TDP were among the par-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs a meeting of the heads of political parties in New Delhi on Wednesday

PTI

ties from the Opposition camp who gave the meeting a miss, but National Conference's Farooq Abdullah, PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti and NCP chief Sharad Pawar attended it. The AAP deputed Raghav Chadha for the meeting even as it demanded a vision document on the matter.

The Shiv Sena skipped the meeting owing to its foundation day celebrations but BJP's other allies JD(U) and the SAD were represented by Nitish Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Badal respectively. Odisha Chief Minister and

BJD leader Naveen Patnaik and NPP leader Conrad Sangma too attended the meeting. The TRS was represented by its working president KT Rama Rao. BJP's new working president JP Nadda represented the party in the meeting.

BSP chief Mayawati tweeted saying she would have attended the meeting if it was on electronic voting machines (EVMs). "One Nation, One Election" is not an issue before the country, she said, adding "elections through ballot papers are actually the national issue and our party will continue its

struggle for it." SP leader Akhilesh Yadav said several parties would not agree to the PM's proposal. "They should focus on the promises they have made to people, we hope they will work more on fulfilling those promises," Akhilesh tweeted. The SP is not opposed to the idea though.

The TMC has demanded a white paper on the issue and cautioned against rushing to the subject without giving adequate thought to it.

The PM later tweeted, "Had a great meeting with

presidents of various political parties. Multiple issues of national importance were discussed. I thank the various leaders for their informed suggestions."

Modi had invited the heads of all political parties which have at least one member either in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha for the meeting to discuss several issues, including the "One Nation, One Election" idea, celebration of 75 years of Independence in 2022 and the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi this year.

Continued on Page 4

Ex-CEA's GDP claims ignored data: EAC-PM

'Subramanian's miscalculation due to blind trust on pvt monitor, exclusion of agri, services growth'

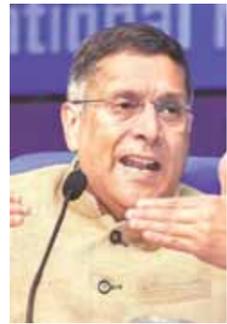
PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) on Wednesday rejected the claims of former Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian regarding over-estimation of GDP growth after 2011, saying his analysis ignores data on services and agriculture and shows blind trust in private firm Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

In a paper released by EAC-PM, India's GDP estimation methodology stands at par with its global standing as a major and responsible economy. Primary contributors of the paper are economists Bibek Debroy, Rathin Roy, Surjit Bhalla, Charan Singh, Arvind Virmani.

Last week, the advisory body had said it would issue a point-to-point rebuttal of the Subramanian's research paper.

In a research paper, Subramanian, who stepped down last year, said India's



Ex-CEA Arvind Subramanian

economic growth rate has been overestimated by around 2.5 percentage points between 2011-12 and 2016-17 due to a change in methodology for calculating GDP.

Subramanian's paper titled "India's GDP Mis-estimation: Likelihood, Magnitudes, Mechanisms, and Implications", published at Harvard University, also comes at a time when concerns have been raised in various quarters about the official economic growth numbers.

Subramanian was the CEA in the Finance Ministry for nearly four years from October 2014.

Observing that Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Subramanian seems to have made a "hurried attempt to draw conclusions" about India's

complex economy and its evolution, the paper said he has used 17 high frequency indicators, but ignores the representation of "services sector (60 per cent in GDP) and agriculture sector" (18 per cent of GDP) in the analysis.

The paper notes that Subramanian used 17 indicators to express his skepticism about the growth rates after 2011-12. Majority of the 17 indicators have been taken directly from the CMIE, a private agency that is not a primary source of information but collects it from different sources, it said.

"For anyone who reads Dr Subramanian's paper, it is evident that he trusts CMIE but distrusts CSO (Central Statistics Office)... This blind trust in a private agency (CMIE) and blind distrust in a Government institution that has served India (CSO) appears unwarranted for a neutral academic," it said.

The paper further said the former CEA has overlooked the tax data.

The EAC-PM paper said Subramanian chooses to overlook tax data arguing that "we do not use tax indicators because of the major changes in direct and indirect taxes in the post-2011 period which render the tax-to-GDP relationship different and unstable, and hence make the indicators unreliable proxies for GDP growth".

Continued on Page 4

CAPSULE

EVIDENCE LINKS MBS TO KHASHOGGI KILLING: UN
Geneva: There is "credible evidence" linking Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a UN expert said on Wednesday, calling for sanctions on the Crown Prince's personal foreign assets. **P12**

DEOL GETS EC NOTICE OVER POLL EXPENSES
Chandigarh: Film actor and Gurdaspur MP Sunny Deol has been asked by EC to explain his poll expenditure during the recent Lok Sabha elections after it was found to have crossed the statutory limit of ₹70 lakh.

NO RAIN IN DELHI TO PUSH MERCURY UP FOR 4 DAYS
New Delhi: Temperatures are likely to increase in the national Capital and adjoining areas over the next three-four days as chances of rain are slim at present. However, downpour is likely next week.

ATHAWALE USES HUMOUR TO TAKE DIG AT RAHUL
New Delhi: Union Minister and Republican Party of India leader Ramdas Athawale on Wednesday left Prime Minister Narendra Modi, UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi along with other Lok Sabha members in peals of laughter by his witty remarks, some aimed at Rahul.

Vehicular pollution shoots up ozone levels in Delhi-NCR

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Ozone pollution has escalated in Delhi's air as per the findings of Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

Ozone, the deadly gas, has emerged as a dominant pollutant along with the Particulate Matter (PM) on at least 28 days during the summer this year as compared to only 17 days in 2018 summer, which is much higher than the standards.

Significantly, levels of ozone gas have been measured on a higher side in National Capital Region (NCR).

The analysis has found that among all NCR towns, Faridabad is on top with 80 per cent of days when ozone was exceeding the standards, followed by Ghaziabad with 67 per cent and Gurugram with 21 per cent days.

Interestingly, Noida shows much less impact with only 1 per cent of the days exceeding the standards.

Revealing the research findings, CSE in its report highlighted the places where ozone was measured high. Marking areas like Siri Fort,



Najafgarh, and some areas of NCR — Faridabad, Ghaziabad, CSE mentioned that levels of ozone in these areas have crossed the permissible limit to very high. "The NCR region experienced the biggest spikes" said CSE.

Ozone is not directly emitted from any source, but is formed from reaction between gases in the air under the influence of sunlight and high temperature. "Controlling emissions from vehicles and industry is the solution," said CSE.

The analysis concluded this summer, when the Capital witnessed searing temperatures; average ozone levels exceeded the prescribed standard on 16 per cent of the days overall.

CSE Executive director (research and advocacy) Anumita Roychowdhury said this is a matter of serious concern as ozone is a highly reactive gas and can have immediate adverse effect on those suffering from asthma and respiratory conditions.

Continued on Page 4

Trump kicks off 2020 re-election bid rally to 'Keep America Great'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump formally launched his 2020 re-election campaign with a jam-packed rally in Florida on Tuesday, urging his supporters to "keep this team in place" for four more years as he vowed to "Keep America Great".

The 73-year-old real estate investor-turned-politician, who became the 45th President of the United States of America in 2017, told a crowd of 20,000 people in Orlando that the economy of the US under him has become "the envy of the world".

Trump said his victory three years ago was a "defining moment in American history" and vowed to maintain his "America First" policy as he touched the hallmarks of his 2016 campaign, hard-line immigration policies and defence spending.

He said that the country has made significant progress during his presidency and all that is at risk if he were to be



defeated in the presidential elections next year.

Unveiling a theme of "Keep America Great", Trump in a speech that lasted 79 minutes exuded confidence of winning the general elections. In his 2016 election campaign, he had popularised the slogan "make america great again".

Addressing his supporters who filled the Orlando's Amway Center, brimming with enthusiasm for the President, Trump said, "We're going to keep on going. We're going to keep on fighting and we're going to keep on winning, winning, winning".

Continued on Page 4

Mild tremor felt in West Odisha

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR/ BHUBANESWAR

A mild earthquake was felt here on Wednesday at about 5.45 pm that panicked many residents, who came out of their houses. But there were other people who only knew about the tremor from neighbours as they couldn't feel it.

Notably, Sambalpur, including the Hirakud Dam, comes under the seismic zone

Notably, Sambalpur, including the Hirakud Dam, comes under the seismic zone.

In fact, the mild earthquake was felt in several other parts of western Odisha, Met sources in Bhubaneswar said.

Besides Sambalpur, the tremor was experienced in Deogarh and Jharsuguda districts and a few other places in the region.

Om Birla picked as LS Speaker unanimously

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

NDA nominee Om Birla was on Wednesday elected Speaker of the Lok Sabha. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Opposition assured him of their wholehearted support in the smooth conduct of proceedings in the House and he himself resolved to be even-handed in his treatment to all the parties irrespective of their numerical strength.

Elected unanimously, Birla received fulsome praise from the Prime Minister who mentioned his social work in Kota, humanitarian initiatives in 2011 Gujarat earthquake and 2013 floods in Uttarakhand. Modi expressed confidence that the new Speaker with his gentle smile would conduct the House in a just manner and be tough even with the Treasury Benches.

Birla was declared elected by pro-tem Speaker Virendra Kumar.

The two-time MP from Rajasthan's Kota-Bundi Lok Sabha constituency, Birla, was led to the presiding officer's chair by Modi.

Continued on Page 4

Litchis vanish from markets in State

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Even as the State Government directed the officials for sample tests of the litchi sold in the State, the fruit vanished from the markets on Wednesday.

Earlier, health experts had suspected that the deaths of children in Bihar's Muzaffarpur were linked to toxins present in this popular fruit.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Naba Kishore Das has directed the Food Safety Commissioners to get the sample test done of litchi being sold in various markets to ascertain whether it has any links to the disease or not.

"We have asked for a sample test of litchi as we don't want the Bihar episode to be repeat-



ed here," Das told reporters.

Notably, litchi is being most commonly blamed for the Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) outbreak in Bihar. The mystery fever has already killed more than 100 children in Muzaffarpur district, renowned for its litchi crop.

Research suggests that litchi

fruit contains a toxin that can cause low blood sugar level, especially when eaten on an empty stomach. Earlier some health officials had said that eating litchi on an empty stomach and dehydration due to extreme heat and humidity were some of the causes of the outbreak of encephalitis in Bihar.

Monsoon likely in State on June 21

Rains to continue for 3 days from Thursday night

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The south west monsoon, the arrival of which has been delayed this year, may advance into some parts of the State on June 21 as a cyclonic circulation over the Bay of Bengal was likely to move towards north-west Bay of Bengal triggering the process, the Centre for Environment and Climate (CEC) of SOA University, said on Wednesday.

The system was presently over east-central and adjoining north-east Bay of Bengal and could move towards north-west Bay of Bengal off north Odisha-West Bengal coast on

June 21 causing rains over the State from June 20 night, CEC director SC Sahu said.

This would cause the south-west monsoon to advance into some parts of the State and the monsoon rain was likely to continue for the next three days, he said.

Sahu said the very severe cyclonic storm 'Vayu', which headed towards Gujarat before veering away, had caused the monsoon current to be weak over Kerala and adjoining west coast after its onset over the southern State as the moisture was dragged away towards the centre of the cyclonic storm.

'Vayu' had since weakened into a low pressure area which was over Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday and was likely to

Continued on Page 4

Naveen favours 'One Nation, One Election'

'Let Centre focus on tele density, banking network and railway reach in Aspirational Districts'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

BJD supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik extended his support to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's idea of 'One Nation, One Election' at the meeting of presidents of political parties held in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Patnaik said that natural disasters may be considered as a criterion for according 'Special Focus State' status to



the States like Odisha.

Giving his suggestion on Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary celebrations, Patnaik reiterated that the ideal of 'nonviolence' or 'Ahimsa' be included in the Preamble to the Constitution.

He emphasised on making 33-per cent reservations in the Lok Sabha and State

Assemblies' seats.

On Aspirational Districts, Patnaik said the Centre should focus on the telecom density, banking network and railway reach. He said micro issues may be left to the States to focus with support from the Centre.

Patnaik wanted that the Land Acquisition Laws of 2013 be relooked especially from the point of view of railway and road infrastructure development.

There is a need to relook into the Forest Conservation Act as far as environment protection is concerned, he also opined.

Patnaik urged the Union Government to treat Central and State PSUs on an equal footing for statutory requirements.

'New Health Policy & Vision-2025 soon'

Free health service for all: Minister

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government is committed to provide quality healthcare free of cost to people by adopting a new Health Policy and Vision 2025 soon.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Naba Kishore Das said this while inaugurating a two-day Chief District Medical Officers' (CDMOs) meeting here on Wednesday. He asked the CDMOs to gather suggestions from general people, particularly from villagers, for framing of the policy.

"To expedite development in health services in the State, 100 days' programmes will be executed and public health will be the priority at all hospitals from Dispensary to the medical college and hospitals," said the Minister.

While some new medical colleges have already been set up, construction works for



some proposed ones are underway. Thus, more numbers of doctors would be produced and the State would have surplus doctors in near future, Das told the CDMOs.

He said as many as 15 new schemes are being implemented in the State to fulfil the Chief Minister's dream of "Sustha Odisha, Sukhi Odisha" (Healthy

Odisha, Happy Odisha). He advised the CDMOs to make strict and coordinated efforts so that people can get results of the schemes.

"No one will be deprived of a free treatment as the Chief Minister has stressed for healthcare for all," Das said, adding that 70 lakh families have already been covered

under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY), which has been appreciated at the national and international levels.

Reiterating thrust on healthcare in villages, he said that establishment and strengthening of "Health and Wellness Centres" in villages and gram panchayats would help people a lot.

He said the Government has already started help desk in all GPs for Fast Referral Centres in all public health institutions for extending the facilities.

National Health Mission Director Manoj Kumar Jhilani hailed the measures taken under the mission to fight out malaria in the State. He talked to all district Collectors through videoconferencing on various NHM programmes. He advised them to adopt district-level awards in the field of prevention of diseases.

In his key-note address, Health and Family Welfare Secretary Dr Pramod Kumar Meherda highlighted healthcare system available in the State and various achievements.

NHM Managing Director Shalini Pandit delivered the welcome address.

Later, reviews and discussions were held on various programmes run by the NHM and the State Government such as "BSKY, Niramaya, Sunetra, Sahaya and Nirmal and immunization and prevention of non-contagious diseases.

BMC begins validating street vendors' list

THE FANI-HIT TRADERS TO GET ₹10,000 EACH

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has started validating the list of street vendors as per the survey conducted during 2015-16 for making a database.

On completion of validation after five to six days, assistance of Rs 10,000 each would be given to the vendors, affected by the severe cyclon Fani, through direct benefit transfer (DBT) mode, as per the announcement made by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik earlier.

The city has 21,483 street vendors as per the previous survey. They include 2,440 mobile vendors, 1,276 peripatetic vendors and 17,767 stationary vendors. However, before the disbursement of



assistance after the severe cyclonic storm, the validation is necessary to check the listed individuals under the above categories.

The validation has started across several wards in presence of Ward Officers, Community Organisers and also the office-bearers of the vending zones in respective wards.

It may be mentioned that under the Chief Minister's Relief Package Rs 2,500 cash component was given to 92,721 beneficiaries and rice compo-

nent of 50 kg was given to 1,00,005 persons.

On the other hand, an additional monthly pension was given to 13,847 people out of 21,512 beneficiaries under the various social security schemes.

In order to help the people in distress after the severe cyclonic storm non-card holders (without ration cards) were also given the cash component of Rs 2,500 and out of total 8,376 such families 6,016 people were given assistance by June 18.

CM mourns Odia jawan's demise

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday expressed deep grief over the demise of Odia jawan Ajit Kumar Sahoo in Jammu and Kashmir and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 25 lakh for his family from the CMRF.

ANNOUNCES EX-GRATIA OF ₹25L TO KIN

"Deeply saddened by the martyrdom of Odia Jawan Ajit Kumar Sahoo in an encounter with militants in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir. Salute to the supreme sacrifice of the brave soldier; my thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved family," the CM tweeted.

Sahoo, hailing from Badasuli village under the Kamakhyanagar area of Dhenkanal district, had died after sustaining injuries in an IED blast by militants in Pulwama district. He had joined the Indian Army in 2015.

Meera of DAV CSPur State topper post revaluation

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a remarkable development, Meera Upasana of the DAV Public School Chandrasekharpur here has emerged as the State topper in the Class-XII CBSE results.

The English marks of Meera increased to 97 in place of the original 93. By virtue of this raise her aggregate is now 494, which is 98.8 per cent.

Further, she has bagged the 6th spot in the overall merit list and 4th rank among the Science students. She has now scored 97 in English, 100 in Mathematics, 98 in Physics, 99 in Chemistry and 100 in



Physical Education. The CBSE has issued a fresh certificate to her in this regard.

Both of her parents are serving at HAL in executive posts. She has been congratulated on her splendid performances by all including the school authorities.

OJEE RESULTS Pradeep topper in MBA; Simarani in MCA

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE) Cell announced the results of OJEE 2019 online and offline examinations here on Wednesday.

Pradeep Kumar Kampa has emerged topper in MBA, while Smitarani Choudhury topped in the MCA course. Similarly, Samir Kumar Padhi is the topper in B Pharma, Saswati Mohanty in Lateral Entry Tech, Pradeep Kumar Barik in MTech and Swikruti Mohapatra topped in the Integrated MBA.



For Under-Graduate courses, 25,672 candidates had appeared and, of them, 25,666 students have got ranks. For Post-Graduate courses, a total of 39,590 students had appeared (computer-based test) for MBA, MCA, LE MCA, M Tech, MArch, MPlan and MPharm and, of them, 39,576

have got ranks. Candidates can download their rank cards by visiting the official website www.ojee.nic.in and also log into www.odisha-jeec.com. They have login with OJEE Roll Number, date of birth and security code.

The admission of the candidates to various courses will be through counseling to be conducted by the OJEE.

Registration for counseling of Medical and Engineering under-graduate and post-graduate courses would begin from June 20, informed OJEE Chairman Sudip Kumar Chand.

Tito's brothers nabbed by STF

WERE ABSCONDING FOR A YEAR

KENDRAPADA: The Special Task Force (STF) of the State Crime Branch on Wednesday raided the house of notorious gangster Syed Usman Ali alias Tito at Dilarpur in the district and arrested his two brothers, who had gone underground after Tito was nabbed more than a year ago.

Acting on a tipoff about the presence of the two brothers in the house, the STF swooped down on Tito house around 4 am. Sources said the two brothers

G Babu and SK Jitu had absconded when the STF had arrested Tito on June 30, 2018. A number of cases relating to illegal sand mining, stone quarrying and other offences are pending against the duo.

Besides, the STF also arrested another relative (brother-in-law) of the gangster during the surprise raid.

Notably, the STF had arrested Tito following an encounter in Chandikhole area of Jaipur district. Presently, he is lodged in Jharpada Special Jail. It is alleged that after Tito's arrest, his brothers operated his illegal empire. PNS

2,925 GPs enlisted for broadband link

CS WANTS PHASE I GPS GIVEN SERVICE CONNECTION SOON

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

To provide data connectivity to more areas, the State Government has taken up 2,925 gram panchayats (GPs) for broadband connectivity through optical fiber under the Bharat Net Phase-II programme.

It was revealed at the State-Level Implementation Committee meeting held under

the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary AP Padhi at the secretariat here on Wednesday. Electronics and Information Technology Principal Secretary CJ Venugopal presented the updates and outlined the issues for discussion.

Padhi directed OPTCL to complete the survey work for Phase-II by June-end. He also asked the BSNL and BBNL authorities to expedite the service connection to the GPs to which optical fiber has already been laid in Phase-I of Bharat Net Programme.

BSNL was also asked to provide the list of the GPs to which optical fiber has been

laid to the Government of Odisha in Panchayati Raj Department for speedy follow up.

Development Commissioner Asit Kumar Tripathy advised the BSNL and BBNL to do effective arrangements at ground level for ensuring uninterrupted connectivity and proper maintenance of the infrastructure.

Venugopal apprised that around 3,810 GPs and 181 blocks have been taken up under Phase-I of the programme. So far, 2,094 GPs have been made service ready and handed over to BSNL for service connection. Out of that 231 connections have been

made functional.

Energy Secretary and OPTCL CMD Hemant Kumar Sharma apprised that 2,925 GPs in 30 districts have been taken up under Phase-II of the programme. The scope of the work includes optical cable connectivity from block to BSNL exchange and then from the exchange to GPs and other service points. Presently survey work is going on. So far, 2,771 GPs and 2,80,000 pole locations have been surveyed and geo tagged.

Chief Secretary Sri directed to cover all Government institutions at block and GP level in Phase-II connectivity.

More CCTVs in Grand Road during Rath Yatra

NSG asked to keep team ready for emergency

BHUBANESWAR: A coordination meeting on the forthcoming Rath Yatra at Puri was held here on Wednesday to discuss various security issues. DGP Dr RP Sharma presided over the meeting.

Senior police officers of the State and officers from Central security agencies like CRPF, BSF, RPF, Coast Guard, Indian Navy and IB attended.

A threasure discussion was held relating to the security arrangement for smooth passage of the festival. The central agencies assured their cooper-

ation to provide sufficient number of manpower and equipment to supplement security.

The Coast Guard agreed for adequate sea patrolling off the coast of Puri along with personnel of the Indian Navy and Marine staffs of the Odisha Police. The RPF agreed to provide adequate security at the Puri and the Bhubaneswar Railway Station and also in the running trains and make proper arrangement for dissemination of information to railway passengers through LED regarding timings of different trains.

Senior officers of CRPF also expressed their full cooperation to prevent any evil design by any extremist groups or mischief-mongers. The Indian Navy and State Police would provide timely support to the Coast Guard in the above mission. PNS

As decided sufficient number of CCTV cameras would also be installed by the RPF in the Puri Railway Station during the festival. RPF would also install display boards in the conspicuous locations of Puri town to provide information about train timings.

Senior officers of CRPF also expressed their full cooperation to prevent any evil design by any extremist groups or mischief-mongers. The Indian Navy and State Police would provide timely support to the Coast Guard in the above mission. PNS

HITTING THE BULL'S EYE

Politics in India has not come of age as yet!

RELIGIOUS SLOGANS IN PARLIAMENT UNCONSTITUTIONAL

ODISHA IN GRIP OF A RAJYA SABHA POLL EPIDEMIC

BISWARAJ PATNAIK

Outwardly mischievous Owasais seems to be a sensible lawmaker who taught many of our MPs a hard lesson in the Parliament by closing his oath-taking act with chants of 'Jai Bhim, Jai Takbeer, Allahu Akbar and 'Jai Hind' amid the loud 'Jai Shri Ram' slogan by the saffron majority. Perhaps with a view to drowning Owasai's voice and demoralising him just for the heck of it, 'Jai Shri Ram' is constitutionally inappropriate as the chant is thoroughly unsecular. Any particular faith slogan is legally inappropriate in the Indian Parliament.

A video has gone viral on social media. Twitter users have fittingly slammed the MPs, calling an act shameful and terming it as 'bullying'.

"This is Parliament of a secular republic where an MP from a minority community is being bullied with slogans. Imagine what these bigots

would do with a common Muslim," a user reacted to the video.

Owasai won by a margin of 2,82,186 votes in his home turf in the recent Lok Sabha polls against BJP's Dr Bhagwanth Rao. He has been re-elected for a fourth consecutive term from Hyderabad. Addressing a public meeting recently, Owasai had pointed out that Muslims have equal rights in the country. "Muslims are his sedita (shareholder) and not kirayedar (tenants) in India. They are equal citizens of this country and they can't be denied the rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution."

Similarly, no matter how devout a leader is about the Hindu Lord Jagannath, he or she cannot chant 'Jai Jagannath' in public as this would mean the leader is typically against the spirit of the Constitution.

Lately, some larger-than-life leaders are opening and closing their public speeches with a chant of 'Jai Jagannath'.

This expression can pass only if the leaders make it a part of chants including Jai Christ, Jai Mahammad, Jai Buddha, Jai Zoroaster and Jai Nanak, etc.

Owasai was smart. He tamed the saffron fanatics by chanting 'Jai Bhim' to hail a great warrior depicted admirably in the Mahabharata. Owasai talks too much often-times, but he is evidently more educated than many of the saffron brigade members. Unfortunately, most elected lawmakers have no idea what the Indian Constitution is all about.

"After the popular elections, Odisha now is in the grip of a Rajya Sabha poll epidemic. Not surprisingly, quite a few aspirants are lobbying for a berth in the Parliament's Upper House. The recently-discarded Prasanna Patasani, a false baton-wielding charlatan, rightly denied of the Bhubaneswar LS ticket, is galloping from door to door of talkative leaders to organise his relocation to the Rajya Sabha. Some fellows close to him have revealed that he has some deep interests in Delhi. Allegedly, he has put his official residence on hefty rent which will stop flowing if he is not transported to

the RS. People may have forgotten about a criminal, who had taken Patasani's official Delhi residence on rent years ago, got nabbed by police and Patasani had to be put under scanner. Somehow or the other, he probably duped the foolish investigators and got away. He is popularly known as a "chicken-devouring" Baba with a PhD certificate from some nondescript organisation. He does not know even today that he cannot use the 'Dr' prefix in public circles. Habitually, Patasani has kept tilting and bending towards forces that are formidable and difficult to ignore. He had abandoned the Congress when the BJP looked invincible. Shockingly, he, as part of an impotent rebel group, had once blasted Naveen Patnaik terming him a rat snake born of a king cobra. Later, no one knows how he managed to return to the fold to win elections under the magical Naveen aura. Recently, he has been exposed as a conspirator who sabotaged to ensure the Bhubaneswar BJD MP candidate lost to the opponent. After all this home damage, he still hopes for a Rajya Sabha berth.

There is no clear indication about which three worthy BJD

leaders would be chosen for the Rajya Sabha. It is likely that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik may pick Arup Patnaik to be one, for Arup, an iconic former topcop, did fight a fierce battle against an enormously prepared BJP lady candidate with a lot of local contact and clout. Arup had nearly won but for the sabotage by a few insiders like the 'Baba' who feel terribly unsafe with straight talking Arup around. Arup, who lived all his productive life in Maharashtra, got only two weeks for campaigning in his constituency. It would be logical and just to send him to the Upper House, where he will counter the opponents effectively. The other most respectable guy in the chosen list, as the media speculations go, is one Harvard-trained socio-political strategist who has served in seventeen countries as an expert between Hawaii of the US and Davos in Switzerland. When traced by some eminent Odia individual, he was serving as a member of the World Economic Council. An extremely low-profile guy, nearly invisible and unheard of, he is Sujit Kumar who can outsmart Prashant Kishore in poll strategy devising electorate management jobs. Incidentally,

this young professional was laterally inducted as a special secretary into the government fold more than three years ago. He is the fittest candidate to adorn the Rajya Sabha as his fundamentals are clear and commonsense is just robust.

There is also some faint murmur about Amar Patnaik, who kicked the IAAS job to join the BJD as a poll survey strategist, analyst and BJD national spokesperson. Not much beyond this is known about him. Believably, he loves academics as reportedly he is now serving as a Dean at the XIMB.

All other names cropping up belong to routinely-established politicians with hardly any impressive credentials. Currently, the Odisha lot at the Rajya Sabha is a bundle of ordinary guys without any intellectual antecedents. They have been politically accommodated.

"The BJP debacle at Kendrapada: Baijayant Panda the former MP from Kendrapada suddenly forgot that he had assumed the proportions of a formidable BJD force because of being under the mystical umbrella of Naveen Patnaik. But he began

thinking too big of himself, pointed fingers at the boss on flimsy issues and even stooped low to make digs at some trusted bureaucrats who kept the 'Naveen mind' functioning freely, as is the case with any heavily-burdened political chief executive. He turned hateful of well-meaning, permanent public officials for performing their constitutional duty and kept blaming the supremo on frivolous nonissues. Eventually, he fell from Naveen's grace, fought the Kendrapada MP elections on a BJP ticket and got vanquished at the hands of a perfectly non-political movie hulk. The seasoned, stinking rich Baijayant lost to the kid by a margin of 1,52,584 votes. There is now a perception across India that whoever falls from Naveen's grace once doesn't find his way back to respectable political stature ever again.

"Lastly to some contentious issue being painfully witnessed in the legal world: In a statement last Tuesday, the Lawyers Collective and its Trustees, including founding members Anand Grover and Indira Jaising, expressed shock and outrage at the CBI move to put the respectable body in



trouble. They alleged that an FIR filed against the solidarity body had no basis in fact and in law. "It has been filed to target the organisation and its office bearers to silence them for the cases and issues that they have taken up in the past and continue to take up since 2016. The CBI is nabbing them on make-believe FCRA violations because its office bearers had taken up sensitive cases against the leading figures of the BJP and the Government of India, including Mr. Amit Shah, the present Home Minister, in the Sohrabuddin case, amongst others," said a top LC functionary.

Politicians in India are probably the most revengeful in the world. They tolerate no one raising voice against them, no matter how grave an issue.!

INTACH releases documentation on Prachi Valley

Anil Dhir's book lists 200 monuments

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

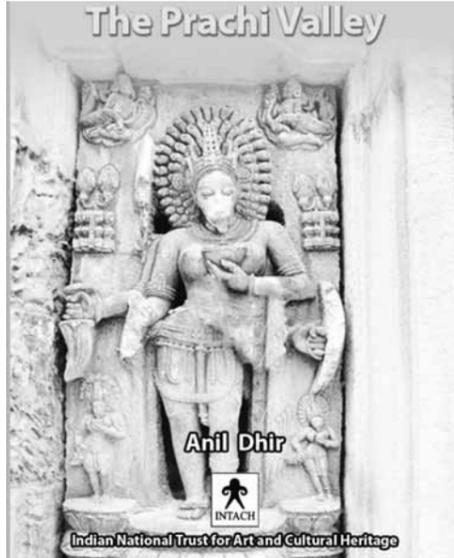
The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) on Tuesday released a volume titled "The Prachi Valley", written by Anil Dhir, which is a detailed documentation of the monuments of this rich heritage site of Odisha. The book was released by Justice Dipak Misra, former Chief Justice of India, and Amiya Bhusan Tripathy, State convener, INTACH.

The book is a comprehensive compendium which lists nearly 200 monuments which include temples, mutts, ghats, ashrams and other edifices. The INTACH Bhubaneswar Chapter had flagged off the project of a complete documentation of the Prachi Valley heritage in November 2017 with an intention of completing it in six months. However the sheer magnitude and extent

of the vestiges discovered stretched the project to eighteen months. The documentation and listing was done simultaneously along with the geographical mapping of the old river.

For the first time, the entire Prachi river, on both the banks, was surveyed from its ancient origin at Dakamba near Barang till its estuary at Keutajanga near Astarang. Even though the present-day Prachi flows from an outlet of the Kuakhai near Bhangarpur, the original river had its path from Dakamba near the present Naraj Barrage. While surveying the old stretch, many features which include sand beds, dunes, lakes and water bodies were found. The present day Kanjia Lake of Nandankanan too is an ox-bow lake of the ancient Prachi. Excavations in the area too have yielded Jain and Buddhist images.

Amiya Bhusan Tripathy said the Prachi Valley is a hidden gem of Odisha art, architecture and culture which should be got to limelight. There are seven protected monuments of the Archaeological Survey of India



besides sixteen temples which are under the State Archaeological Department.

Baikuntha Panigrahi, convener of the Bhubaneswar

INTACH Chapter said that the INTACH was aware of the utter neglect of the existing monuments of the Prachi Valley. No proper documenta-

tion had been done of the edifices and remnants that still remained. A complete listing of the monuments of the entire Prachi Valley would be undertaken.

Justice Dipak Misra lauded the efforts of INTACH in producing the report. He said the Prachi Valley witnessed the blending of different ideologies, rites and practices of Jainism, Buddhism, Tantricism, Saivism, Saktism and Vaishnavism that evolved through the ages. The archaeological remains, as found in the present day, establish that the people who inhabited the place were intelligent, eclectic, synthetic and tolerant and far ahead of their time.

According to Anil Dhir, who spent nearly 18 months in the area, the Prachi Valley can be said to be the richest repository of geographical, historical, architectural, religious and monumental wealth. The valley, with its archaeological remains, can be regarded as a veritable museum of Odisha's glorious past - it has chronological relics, remnants and edifices of Odisha history and culture through the last

two thousand years.

Today, the Prachi is a near-dead river. It has lost most of its original features; but for four months during the monsoons, it still discharges flood waters into the Bay of Bengal. A few spots in its lower reaches have water throughout the year, but on most of its journey it runs dry. The area covered by the present river is about 2000 sqkm and the river touches 940 revenue villages in the three districts of Khordha, Puri and Cuttack. The river can be revived with adequate dredging and removing the obstacles and encroachments. It can be made navigable and can become a very important religious and tourist place.

Dhir said the Prachi Valley holds an immense potential and possibility for students and researchers. It is a rich minefield of archaeological remains, which require proper exploration and excavation. The valley has languished in ignominy for long, the time has come when proper studies in the missing links are done and its rightful claim and place among world civilisations is restored.

IN BRIEF

GIRL DIES; 3 OF FAMILY INJURED IN FIRE MISHAP

Phulbani: A minor girl was killed and three of her family members were injured in a fire mishap at Gerupada village under the Phiringia police limits in Kandhamal district late on Tuesday night. Balmati Behera, her five-year-old son Rudra and daughters Rambha (18) and Krushna (13) were sleeping in their house when the fire broke out due to an electrical short circuit. All of them were admitted to the District Headquarters Hospital here. The two girls were later shifted to the MKCG Medical College Hospital in Brahmapur, where Krushna succumbed to her injuries.

COLLEGE GIRL DIES OF SNAKEBITE IN KANDHAMAL

Phulbani: A college girl died of snakebite at Mandarpada village under the Sarangada police station in Kandhamal district on Wednesday. She was identified as 18-year-old Jarjanika Burbi, who was a Plus Two Final Year student. Jarjanika was sleeping on Tuesday night when the snake entered the house and bit her. She was taken to the District Headquarters Hospital here. However, she died at the hospital on Wednesday morning.

MISSING GIRL STUDENT FOUND DEAD IN FOREST

Baleswar: The body of a missing girl student was found hanging from a tree at a forest under the Nilgiri police station in Baleswar district on Tuesday. The deceased Rashmi Marandi of Taratari village under Keshipur panchayat had gone missing since June 15. Locals felt foul smell from the spot after rain and then spotted the body. Being informed, police reached the spot and recovered the body for postmortem. The reason behind the girl's death was yet to be ascertained.

NEELADRI CELEBRATES RAJA FEST AT BARBIL

Chamrupa: Neeladri, a social and cultural organisation, celebrated Raja festival in pomp and grandeur at Barbil in Keonjhar district on Sunday. Organisation president Balaram Mohanty presided over the programme. Among others, Forest Ranger Padmanav Rout and senior citizens Ramesh Chandra Mishra, Raj Kishore Das, Saroj Kumar Mahapatra, Vijaya Kumar Mahanta attended. Competitions were held to choose the best Odia woman and the most healthy and muscular senior citizen of the region. Many children sang Raja song and participated in a quiz competition. Special Raja cake and betel were distributed.



POLICE OUTPOST INAUGURATED AT CHANDANBHATI

Balangir: Women and Child Development Minister Tukuni Sahu and Balangir MLA Narasingha Mishra inaugurated a police outpost at Chandanbhati, 10 km from here, on Wednesday. Both Sahu and Mishra hoped that with the opening of the police outpost, people would get better police service in the area. Among others, IG Northern Range, Sambalpur, Satyabrata Bhoi also spoke on the occasion. Balangir SP K Siva Subramani proposed a vote of thanks.



19 get lifer in Ganjam murder case

FAMILY HAILS VERDICT

PNS ■ BRAHMAMPUR

A court here on Wednesday awarded life imprisonment to 19 persons in connection with the murder of a resident of Phulta village under Rangelunda tehsil in Ganjam district in 2007.

Additional District Judge Sanjay Sahu convicted the 19 persons in killing of Sasmal over a financial dispute. Out of the 19 one accused has already died.

The life sentence was pronounced based on the statements by 12 witnesses and evidence.

Though experts consider the court's verdict as historical with 19 persons being convicted, the counsel of the convicts said they would move a higher court against the judgement given by the ADJ court.

But family members of Sasmal hailed the verdict and said though they had wait for 12 years, justice has been delivered to them. "We are happy with the court's verdict. Definitely justice has been meted out," said a family member of Sasmal.

IN GANJAMIN GANJA Ex-sarpanch's son killed, 2 aides hurt in attack

PNS ■ BRAHMAMPUR

A person was killed and two others were injured when they were attacked by miscreants at Ichhapur village under the Polasara police limits in Ganjam district on Tuesday night.

The deceased was identified as Sushant Nayak, son of former sarpanch of Pandiripada panchayat.

Sushant along with two associates was returning home from Bhubaneswar when he was intercepted by some unidentified miscreants



who severely beat him up. The y also attacked his associates who tried to come to his rescue, sources said.

While all of them were rescued in a critical condition and rushed to a local hospital, Sushant was declared dead by the doctors.

On being informed, police reached the spot and registered a case. While the exact reason behind the attack is yet to be ascertained, it is suspected that the attack was the fallout of political enmity. Police are carrying out further investigations.

Woman killed over dowry in Ganjam

PNS ■ BRAHMAMPUR

A woman was allegedly killed by her in-laws over dowry demand at Podamari village under the Patapur police station in Ganjam district late on Tuesday night.

The deceased was identified as Prabhassini Sahu. Her father Radhakrushna Sahu has lodged a complaint with police that his daughter was murdered by her in-laws over dowry demand.

However, on reaching the hospital, he was told that his daughter was declared dead by the doctors

In his complaint, Sahu said he was informed by Prabhassini's in-laws that she has been admitted to the MKCG Medical College Hospital in the evening due to illness.

However, on reaching the hospital, he was told that his daughter was declared dead by the doctors.

A probe has begun into the incident. Police said the reason behind the woman's death can be ascertained only after post-mortem.

4 fake scribes held for extortion in B'garh

FAKE ID CARDS, BOOMS, CAMERA SEIZED

PNS ■ BARGARH

Police on Wednesday arrested four persons here on the charge of demanding extortion by posing as journalists of a TV channel.

While one of the arrestees was identified as Tapan Kumar Sahu from Bhaskarasahi in Khordha, the others are Anuj Aggarwal from Noida, Bishal Gambhir from Bulandshahar and Imran Khan from

Ghaziabad. The four accused posing as journalists from Tehelka allegedly black-mailed District Industries Centre (DIC) Manager Manoj Kumar Satpathy. They had taken Rs 20,000 from him and had forcibly taken him to the bank to withdraw another Rs 50,000.

But the four were nabbed after Satpathy lodged a complaint regarding the incident with the Bargarh police.

Police have seized booms, cameras, fake identity cards, mobile phones, tablet and around Rs. 19,680 cash from their possession.

To meet CM in BBSR on various demands

BARIPADA: Prior to the upcoming annual Rath Yatra here, servitors of the Baripada Jagannath temple on Wednesday took out a padayatra to meet Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in Bhubaneswar over their eight-point charter of demands.

The servitors launched the padayatra from Baripada to the State capital to press for development of the temple, known as the second Shreeketra of Odisha.

The padayatra is likely to halt the construction of chari-



ots as the temple's Maharana servitors have also participated in the rally.

Though the servitors had earlier approached the concerned Minister and the Chief

Minister about the issues, nothing has been achieved as yet. PNS

Newborn boy rescued in Dhenkanal

PNS ■ DHENKANAL

In an unusual incident, a newborn boy was found unclaimed at a passenger restroom at Teramañi Chhak in the Joranda area in Dhenkanal district in wee hours of Wednesday.

Some villagers rescued the child and handed over him to an Anganwadi Worker. Later, a team of Child Line officials took the baby from the Anganwadi Worker and admitted him to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Natima. The health condition of the baby was stated to be stable.

Meanwhile, police have begun an inquiry to find out why and who abandoned the baby in the place.

"The baby will be produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) that will pass an order for rehabilitation of the newborn. Most probably, he will be kept at a Specialized Adoption Agency (SAA)," said child line official Mandakini Rout.

Youth Parl held at Khariar College

NUAPADA: A neighbourhood Youth Parliament programme was held at the Khariar Autonomous College by the Nehru Yuva Kendra, Nuapada on Tuesday. Over 50 representatives of different youth clubs of the district attended it.

Khariar Autonomous College Principal, Dr Harendra Panda was the chief guest and Dr PL Barma was the guest of honor on this occasion. District Press Club president Ajit Panda was the chief speaker. Other invited guests were, Dr Tarun Pradhan, Lecturer in Chemistry and Dr Pramod



Sahu, Lecturer in Education. The speakers enlightened the participants on various issues of national importance and encouraged them to play active role in development of these villages. "Our represen-

tatives have the responsibility to reflect the aspirations of people in national policies and programmes. The role of youths is to draw attention of the public representatives towards various local issues, so that they are

reflected in the national programmes," said the speakers.

A mock parliament and yoga training were also part of the programme, which was coordinated by Ashis Thakur, NYK coordinator of Nuapada. PNS

BJP activists protest frequent power cuts

JHARSUGUDA: BJP activists along with local residents on Wednesday gheraoed the Wesco Executive Engineer's office here demanding normalcy in power supply in Jharsuguda and neighbouring areas.

They raised slogans against the Jharsuguda electricity division branch's negligence in taking measures in resolving the problem of erratic power supply.

They said residents are facing enormous trouble as a result of frequent power cuts and threatened that they would escalate their protests if normal

power supply isn't restored soon.

They pointed out that power cuts during summers are a big problem in itself, but the situation becomes more problematic when it has direct fallout on water supply. They submitted an eight-point charter of demands to Wesco Executive Engineer D Gardia.

The protest was led by BJP leaders Dinesh Jain, Prasanta Maharana, Deepak Patel Kishor Patel, Biju Sarangi, Dinesh Upadhyaya, Sabita Pradhan, Sandeep Mishra, Anil Goel and Lalit Magar. PNS

Indian primary aluminium producers optimistic



Vedanta Limited, Jharsuguda CEO Abhijit Pati.

With pro-growth and pro-industry Governments at the Centre and in the State securing comfortable repeat terms in office and better positioned to take decisions that can positively impact primary aluminium production, the expectations of Indian primary aluminium producers are naturally on a high, with expectations of concrete and early resolution of some of the key concerns faced by them, especially on policy front.

With the current annual installed capacity of nearly 4 million tonnes and investment quantum of over Rs 1.2 lakh crore, Indian primary aluminium that provides employ-

ment opportunities for over 8 lakh people directly and indirectly, merits being considered as "Core Sector" in all seriousness, akin to the steel industry. The inclusion of aluminium into core sector status assumes critical consideration ever more now, given the fact that economic superpowers like the USA and China are viciously protecting their domestic turf from imports, encouraging the primary producers and striving for a self-reliant economy. In the absence of any protective measures, Indian players get affected by global trade wars and volatile export markets, and India in turn becomes the global dumping ground for cheap aluminium and scrap.

Traditionally, India has always adopted an inclusive economic growth strategy which allowed other countries to explore mutually beneficial trade relations with our country for various products. However, according to CEO Pati, "The recent wave of trade barriers put up by major economies to boost their domestic industries have triggered a concern amongst Indian producers and manufacturers like us who want to be protected and promoted in a similar manner. A restrictive trade policy could potentially help curb unnecessary import of products which Indian manufacturers are quite capable of producing in any form. Inward looking policies can signifi-

cantly contribute to making India more self-reliant in meeting the demands of its populace, reducing the import-export disparity and improving our forex reserves. Measures like hiking import duties, anti-dumping charges and other protective tax regimes in support of primary aluminium, assurance of long-term availability of coal and bauxite and more focus on developing a favourable climate for research and development associated with aluminium industry are the need of the hour and should be high on the Central Government's industry agenda."

When it comes to the State Government's priorities, it will need to protect its interests,

crucial amongst which will be protection of Odisha based industries. It should continue to focus on leveraging manufacturing sector for economic growth, as it is a natural progression to the State's vast reserves of natural resources. Another key focus area should be improving ease of doing business for aluminium and allied industries. The key expectations from the State Government are creation of pro-aluminium ecosystem that will help leverage the State's vast aluminium prospects and nurture new projects in downstream and allied industries in the years to come. On the energy front, Odisha needs to leverage its potential, prioritising supporting home industries

first. This will not only project Odisha as the best economically viable and fertile ground for global businesses currently operating out of State, but also attract new investments. Aluminium can be the game changer for 'Make in Odisha', which is a State Government's flagship investment-centric effort in making Odisha a booming hub of growth and development.

A quick analysis of the global playing field puts highly industrialized and high per capita income countries like South Korea at highest per capita consumption of aluminium at 46.7 kg, followed by Germany (29.9 kg), US (18 kg) and Japan (16 kg). Middle income countries like China

have per capita aluminium consumption of 24 kg, followed by Brazil (8.6 kg) and Russia at (8.4 kg). In sharp contrast, India has a per-capita consumption of only 2.5 kg compared, against a world average of 11 kg. Over the next 5 years with healthy CAGR projections in sectors like machinery and equipment, transport and consumer durables globally, and transport, building and construction, packaging and foils, and electrical in the Indian market, Indian primary aluminium producers should be supported with a level playing field where it can match global competition and positively impact the national exchequer by catering to both global and national demand.

QUALI IRON MINES PUBLIC HEARING CASE

Complainants don't appear before OPCB

PATH EASED FOR ENVIRON CLEARANCE

PNS ■ CHAMPUA

Two complainants, Sashi Bhusan Patnaik, an RTI activist, and Sanjiv Kumar Palei, didn't appear before the Member Secretary of Odisha Pollution Control Board (OPCB), Bhubaneswar for hearing the case against expansion of the Quali Iron Mines.

Sources said a public hearing for the environmental clearance for the expansion of the Quali Iron Mines was held on March 8 against which a writ petition was filed in the Orissa High Court. The complainants requested that the public hearing be declared illegal and no environment clearance given to the firm.

The complainant had mentioned that the district administration didn't follow the right procedure for making local people know about the meeting and, thus, many of them couldn't put their grievances in the public hearing.

Conducting a hearing, the HC ordered the Member

Secretary, OPCB, Bhubaneswar to again hear grievances of the complainants and dispose the issue within a period of three weeks. Accordingly, two days, June 11 and June 17, were fixed for hearing. But the complainants failed to appear on both days.

Sources close to Puskar Behera, Regional Pollution Control Officer, Keonjhar said that nothing irregularities has been done. If the complainants fail to appear in the next date, the board would suo moto take the decision and refer the matter to Central Pollution Control Authority for clearance.

Aus Odia diaspora donate ₹8.36L for Fani-hit

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The members of the Odia community in Australia under the umbrella organisation Oriz Australia came together to extend their support to the cyclone Fani-hit people in Odisha.

The community joined hands together across several States and territories in Australia to raise \$17,410.00 (Rs 8,36,550.50), which was transferred to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

The Oriz Australia expects that the amount will help towards Odisha Government's on-going efforts

in rebuilding infrastructures/basic amenities in several districts that came under the unprecedented devastation by Fani.

Apart from individual donations, several members also reached out to the broader Australian community through organising lunch/morning tea at workplaces, sports events and a Bhajansandhya.

President of Oriz Sujeet Jena said, "Cyclone Fani has left huge destruction that will take years to rebuild Odisha, the least we could do is contribute and support the rebuilding effort of the Government."

ICAI BBSR starts oral coaching class

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI), Bhubaneswar Chapter, organised its 62nd Oral Coaching Class Inaugural Ceremony here on Wednesday.

Director (Fin), OHPC and OPGC Ltd and former President, ICAI Pravakar Mohanty inaugurated the event as chief guest. Regional Council Member and former Chairman, ICAI-EIRC, Shiba Prasad Padhi attended as guest of honour.

Chairman of the Chapter Sakitidhar Singh delivered the welcome address and highlighted about the students activities and facilities provided by the Chapter. Chairman, Coaching Committee, Santanu



Kumar Rout facilitated the ceremony. Secretary of the Chapter Himoj Mishra extended formal vote of thanks. All the dignitaries and some of the eminent faculties of the Chapter wished for

bright professional career of the newly-enrolled CMA students. More than 200 students and their guardians, faculties, members of the Managing Committee of the Chapter participated.

'Pvt edu institutes must admit 25% poor students'

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said here on Tuesday that action would be taken against private educational institutions if they don't poor students in 25 per cent of seats in their respective institutions as per the Right to Education Act.

"Private educational institutions are bound to follow RTE guidelines. They have to take poor students for 25 per cent of seats. Otherwise, strong action will be taken against them," said the Minister. He said plans are now afoot for establishment of education hubs in the State.

The Minister paid a surprise

Minister paid a surprise visit to the Hill Patna Girls Project Upper Primary School

visit to the Hill Patna Girls Project Upper Primary School. SMC president Saroj Kumar Samantray and member Niranjan Swain were present. DEO Sanatan Panda and BEO Pravati Kumari Patro expressed satisfaction over the functioning of the school.

Later the Minister was felicitated by the Rajya Gharoi Vidyalaya Sikshak 'O' Katrupakshya Mahasanga, Odisha.

Capital Hosp staffer held taking bribe

BHUBANESWAR: A staffer of the Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar, was arrested in a bribery case on Wednesday.

He was identified as Gyana Ranjan Gauda, Statistical Assistant, of the hospital. During a trap on the day, Gauda was caught red-handed by the officers of Vigilance, Bhubaneswar Division for demanding and accepting illegal gratification of Rs 2,000 from complainant Jatadhari Jena of Gobindapur, Erasama, Jagatsinghpur. He was taking the money for issuance of Green Card in favour of the complainant towards educational benefit of the latter's two daughters who were born at the hospital in 2006 and 2009. Gauda was picked up from his office room at the Capital Hospital. His residential house at Bhubaneswar was also searched. A case was registered in this connection.

PNS

60,000 passengers use 'Mo Bus' daily

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) has achieved a consistent ridership of 60,000 passengers in a day by connecting 20 major routes in the Bhubaneswar, Khordha and Cuttack regions.

General Manager (Personnel and Administration) Dipti Mahapatro has requested all users of the service to cooperate with senior citizens, ladies, differently-abled people to help them sit in their allotted seats so that all types of passengers could enjoy their rides.

She has also requested passengers to use rear door for entry and front door for exit in order to make easy boarding, alighting and ticketing.



In order to maintain traffic flow and not causing problems for others passengers were also requested to board and alight at the designated stops only.

The company has also requested the passengers to take care of their own belongings and note that they should

keep their luggage at their own risk and try to tender the exact change towards the ticket fare. As ticketless travel is a punishable offence as per provisions of Section 178 of The Motor Vehicle Act 1988, all passengers were also requested to get their tickets from the 'Mo Bus' guides.

OSHB ex-Project Manager gets RI

PNS n CUTTACK

Special Judge, Special Court, Vigilance, Bhubaneswar convicted former Project Manager, Odisha State Housing Board (OSHB), Bhubaneswar, Arun Charan Parida in a disproportionate assets case and sentenced him to undergo rigorous imprisonment (RI) for a period of 2.5 years and pay a fine of Rs 1 lakh.

In default, he has to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a further period of six months. The case is that basing on a credible information regarding possession of disproportionate assets by Parida to his known sources of income, his residential house was searched on 25.4.1999 on the strength of search warrants. In this con-

nection, an inquiry was taken up by the officers of Vigilance, Cell Division, Cuttack. On completion of inquiry, the case was registered.

During investigation, as prima facie evidence was well made out, charge sheet was submitted against Parida for possession of disproportionate assets amounting to Rs 30,79,450.

Besides, the trial of the DA case, a Confiscation Case No.2/2012 was initiated against Parida in the Court of Authorized Officer, Special Court, Bhubaneswar, for confiscation of disproportionate assets of accused Parida. On 30.10.2015, an order was passed by the court for confiscation of his movable and immovable properties.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No- Online/01/MID JSP/2019-20
No 1235 Dated 12.06.2019

The Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Jashipur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids through e-procurement to be received in online mode only for the works as detailed in the table below.

1. Name of works	Civil Construction works as mentioned in the web site
2. Total No. of works	12 (Twelve) nos.
3. Estimated Cost	13.39 Lakh to 64.29 Lakh approx. (Details Annexed)
4. Class of Contractor	As Mentioned against Work.
5. Period of Completion	As Mentioned against Work.
6. Date & time of Availability of Bid Document in the Portal	28.06.2019 at 10.00 AM to 16.07.2019 up to 5.00 P.M.
7. Last date/ Time for receipt of Bids in the Portal	16.07.2019 up to 5.00 P.M.
8. Date/Time of Opening of Bid	17.07.2019 at 11.00 A.M. onwards in the O/O Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Jashipur.
9. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting the Tender	Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Jashipur At/Po- Khairi Jashipur, Dist- Mayurbhanj, Pin- 757091
10. Mode of Payment of Bid Cost & Bid Security	Online
11. Further details can be seen from the "e" Procurement Portal	"https://tendersorissa.gov.in"

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
 M.I. Division, Jashipur

32282/11/0001/1920

Govt. of Odisha e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.07 of 2019-20

The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bhubaneswar on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid through e-procurement in double cover system according to norm of e-procurement.

1. Nature of Work	Supply & Installation of Godrej Make Modular for Consultants in Ground Floor & 1st Floor (PMU W/S & Sanitation Jala O Parimal Bhawan, O/O EIC Office, OSWSM Bhubaneswar.
2. No. of Tender	01 No.
3. Tender Paper Cost	Rs. 6000.00
4. Value of Work	From 15.97 Lakhs
5. Class of Contractor	Authorized Dealer/ Manufacturer
6. Date & time of availability of Bid document in portal	27.06.2019 4.00 P.M. to 09.07.2019 Up to 3.00 P.M.
7. Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	27.06.2019 4.00 P.M. to 05.07.2019 Up to 3.00 P.M. during office hour
8. Date & Time of opening of tender	10.07.2019 at 11.00 A.M. in the O/O E.E., RWSS Divn., Bhubaneswar
9. Time of Completion	Two Month
10. The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the web site :	https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in corrigendum if any shall only be published above web site
11. The Bid cost and EMD to be deposited through online.	

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
 RWS&S DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR

25011/11/0005/1920

GOVT. OF ODISHA 'e'-procurement Notice No.EEMBD-02/2019-20

1. Name of work	"Canal Critical Works".
2. Total No. of works	05 (Five) No. of work.
3. Tender Cost	Varies from Rs. 20.94 lakhs to 44.67lakhs.
4. Mode of Payment of EMD(Bid Security) & Bid Cost	The bidder shall transfer the required amount of EMD (Bid Security) and cost of Bid by online through electronic payment as per Govt. of Odisha WDOM No.17254/W dtd.05.12.2017 as mentioned in DTCN.
5. Period of completion	06(Six) Calender Month
6. Other details as follows	
(i) Procurement Officer	Executive Engineer, Mahanadi Barrage Division, Cuttack.
(ii) Availability of Tender online for Bidding	Dtd.12.07.2019 from 10.00 A.M to 08.07.2019 up to 5.00 P.M.
(iii) Date, Time & Venue of opening of Bid through Online	Dtd.09.07.2019 - 11.30 A.M. for both Technical Bid & Financial Bid in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mahanadi Barrage Division, Cuttack.
(iv) Date of Transparent Lottery to be Conducted (if required)	Dtd.12.07.2019 - 11.30 A.M. in the office Chamber of the Executive Engineer, Mahanadi Barrage Division, Gandarpur, Cuttack. (Bidders shall furnish their present e-mail id, address and telephone No. for further correspondence).

Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
 Mahanadi Barrage Division,
 Cuttack

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Panel soon for '1 nation...'

From Page 1
 Its backers contend it would save the country from being continuously in "an election mode", save an estimated Rs 4,500 crore as election expenditure and help in developmental works not getting affected. But many opposing are apprehensive national poll issues could subsume Assembly polls and thus could marginalise or prove to be disadvantageous to the regional parties. Many national parties too are wary of the BJP's move.

Last August, the Law Commission had recommended holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies to save public money and avert disruption in governance with the country always being in the poll-mode and Election Commission's code of conduct censuring launching of devel-

opmental projects. The draft, submitted to the Law Ministry, however, cautioned that "holding simultaneous elections is not possible within the existing framework of the Constitution".

"The Prime Minister called for widespread debate and consultations on simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas, keeping in view various aspects such as the resulting financial savings and consequent better utilisation of resources," an official release said last week after Modi addressed a NITI Aayog meeting here.

The Government think-tank, NITI Aayog, too had last year suggested synchronised two-phase Lok Sabha and Assembly polls from 2024 to ensure minimum campaign-mode disruption to governance.

Vehicular pollution...

From Page 1
 Highlighting special reason for tracking ozone during summer, Roychowdhury said this is mainly because ozone is not directly emitted from any source. "Other gases such as nitrogen oxide and volatile organic compounds that are emitted from combustion sources like vehicles, industry or power plants, react in the air under the influence of sunlight and temperature to form ozone," said Roychowdhury. "Summer months, with their high sunshine and high ambient temperatures, increase our vulnerability to ozone impacts. It seems the intense heat wave experienced this summer may have influenced this trend in the region, which is already suffering from severe air pollution," she added further.

Citing ozone gas reading on CPCB index, environmentalist said, "If this trend continues and worsens, the Graded Response Action Plan will also have to initiate action to address the precursor gases that form ozone -- NOx, hydrocarbons etc -- and crack down on vehicles and industry." However, there are some areas in Delhi where days of ozone exceeding recorded less.

In locations like Aya Nagar, Karni Singh Shooting Range, IGI airport, Lodhi Road, Mandir Marg, Pusa Road, Patparganj, North Campus, ITO and Anand Vihar less than 5 per cent of the days have experienced it.

While areas like ITO, IGI airports, Anand Vihar marked under red zone in terms of pollution though these areas recorded less days of exceeding ozone. "This is a complex atmospheric chemistry and needs investigation, point out CSE researchers and sometimes in highly polluted locations that may generate ozone, levels can dip due to further reaction with gases like NOx. Ozone also drifts to other places and builds up in low polluted areas," CSE experts said.

Monsoon likely...

From Page 1
 move towards east Uttar Pradesh and Bihar as a cyclonic circulation on Friday, he said. Sahu said that monsoon current showed pulsating characteristic as it did not move continuously and took a pause after advancing some distance. It waited till further surge developed to help it move forward, he said.

Ex-CEA's GDP claims ignored...

From Page 1
 Unlike many indicators, it said tax data is not collected through surveys or by agencies through arcane techniques, these are hard numbers and should be an important indicator of growth.

"Further, there have been no major changes in tax laws until the end period in the author's analysis (March 31, 2017). GST was introduced on July 1, 2017.

"The author's logic of not using tax data appears to be a convenient argument meant to avoid inconvenient conclusions based on hard facts," it said. The EAC-PM paper also noted that India's GDP estimation is by no means a perfect exercise. "Is it better than before? Yes.

"Is the process to further improve it in place? Yes," it added. It further said Subramanian, in the capacity of

Om Birla picked as LS Speaker unanimously

From Page 1
 Several leaders from BJP, Congress, DMK, TMC went up the podium to greet the new Speaker.

"Kota has become kind of a small country and the transformation of Kota has taken place under your leadership," Modi said.

As the Prime Minister gave a new insight into the life of the new Speaker and lauded his work, he looked around on with a benign smile.

A total of 13 motions were moved in support of Birla. Since the motion moved by Modi, also the Leader of the House, was adopted, the other motions became infructuous.

"I on behalf of the Government and the Treasury Benches assure you full support in conducting the House. I also assure you that your order will prevail and you must be tough even if anyone from our side (Treasury Benches) crosses the limit," Modi said, congratulating Birla.

Streetwise urban lizards outperform rural ones

Study published in latest edition of Biology Letters

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI



Shoo them or scare them but there's no escaping from the creepy crawly lizards. If at times you wonder how despite your best efforts lizards manage to enter into your well-fortified house then you must know that these reptiles are smart enough to adapt to new and ever-changing urban surroundings by learning the tricks necessary to survive.

This is what has been discovered by the researchers after they studied the "survival of the fittest" motto mechanism adopted by lizards, which are closely related to snakes. They found that lizards in the city's suburbs were street-smart, and learn faster than their rural brethren, to stay safe. The study has been published in the recent edition of international journal Biology Letters.

The study demonstrates for the first time that suburban

lizards have faster learning and reversal learning skills for a key survival-related behaviour, finding safety in unpredictable environments.

Anuradha Batabyal and Maria Thaker, both from Indian Institute of Science, probed the learning abilities of the Indian rock agama after capturing a few male species from rural and suburban parts of Bengaluru and placed them in an enclosure with a perch in the middle and two identical refuge spots.

The refuge spots, made from PVC pipes, were placed at the two farthest ends of the

enclosure. In a set of two experiments, they evaluated how quickly the lizards learned to recognise the safety of these refuge spots.

"In the first experiment, one of these spots was regarded as 'safe' and marked with a red square. The researchers aimed to teach the lizards that this refuge was safe by gently tapping on the lizard's tail with a brush to imitate a predatory attack if it chose any other resting spot. Over time, the lizards learned to opt for the safe refuge immediately," said the study which has appeared in a website, Research Matters.

Integrated Battle Groups on border near Pak soon

After Pak, same Groups will be deployed along Sino-India borders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Aiming to move swiftly and deliver the knockout punch, the Indian Army plans to set up Integrated Battle Groups by October this year on the border facing Pakistan. These groups would comprise the combined might of the long range guns, tanks and ground troops and would move in tandem to achieve the desired military objective in the shortest possible time.

Once these Integrated Battle Groups are functional, the Army would then move to have similar combined units in the areas facing China. The first four to five such groups will come up in the Western Command which guards the entire Punjab region and some adjoining parts of Jammu and Rajasthan where tanks can move at a fast pace

given the rather flat terrain.

These groups are part of the overall move to make the Army lean and mean. Army Chief General Bipin Rawat is keen to have these groups start functioning as soon as possible, sources said here on Wednesday. In fact, the top commanders met in New Delhi some days back to review the performance of the IBGs which have already conducted exercises to test their efficacy. The results were found to be satisfactory and easily implementable, they added.

The concept of such groups involve artillery, armour involving tanks and infantry or ground troops, moving together in a synchronised manner and bringing effective fire on the enemy to gain victory in the shortest possible time without giving time to the adversary to regroup. It will do away with the artillery, infantry and armour working in silos and make the Indian Army battle-ready to fight modern day warfare where speed is of the essence, they said.

After reviewing the performance of the proposed groups, the Army top brass gave its nod and the service will now seek final approval by the defence ministry before going ahead with the setting up of these highly mobile groups by October, sources said. The groups will also be aided by attack helicopters to deny the enemy tanks and artillery to time and space to react, they added.

These composite units are likely to be headed by a Major General rank officer and will be equipped to perform offensive and defensive roles. While the offensive action means making quick and effective thrust into the enemy territory stealthily, the defence role will see these units guarding its own territory in case of retaliatory action from across the border. Each unit, both in defensive and offensive formations will have six battalions (one battalion has 1,000 men) trained to fight in a synergised manner and the recent exercises proved them to be effective, they said.

Whole Bihar in grip of AES: Experts

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Muzaffarpur in Bihar may have been hogging headlines for the death of the kids due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES), but experts point out that the disease has been endemic to the entire State with all the districts reporting the cases that are fatal to kids.

Following the analysis of total 4,400 cases of AES reported between 2009 and 2014, with an average of 733 cases per year, a team of researchers in their study also noted that the AES cases start appearing in April and reach a peak in June and then decline.

"There is another peak of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) cases in October. The confirmed fatal rate (CFR) of AES and JE ranges from 5 per cent to 35 per cent in Bihar," said the researchers in their study. Status and trend of acute encephalitis syndrome and Japanese encephalitis in Bihar, India published in National Medical Journal of India in 2018. There were a total 1309 deaths during the period. "The disease peaks were during the start and end of the Indian summer and monsoon

months for AES and JE, respectively. Districts such as Patna, Jehanabad, Nawada, Gaya and East Champaran reported the maximum number of AES and JE cases with annual incidence rates of 4.7-25.0 and 0.546-1.78 per 100 000 population, respectively," said the study.

The experts have stressed on strengthening the reporting and surveillance mechanism in all the districts of the state. They also called for encouraging reluctant private practitioners in surveillance activities especially for cases of AES. Intense information, education and communication (IEC) activities must be started at the village level to increase participation from the community and to improve the long-term passive surveillance.

The team included Praveen Kumar and PP Sarthi from Centre for Environmental Sciences, Central University of South Bihar, Patna, PM Piusdud from ESIC Medical College, Sanat Nagar, Hyderabad, MP Sharma, State Programme Officer (Malaria), Chief Malaria Office, Patna and VR Keshri from Bihar Technical Support Programme, Care India, Patna. Acute encephalitis syn-

drome (AES) is a multifactorial clinical condition, the most common cause being Japanese encephalitis (JE). JE is a vector-borne viral disease caused by the JE virus of group B arbovirus (Flavivirus) and is transmitted to humans by the Culicine mosquito.

JE affects the central nervous system (CNS), and can

cause serious complications and death. The CFR is high and those who survive may suffer from neurological sequel such as convulsions, episodic headache, autonomic disturbance, abnormal behaviour, mood disorder, intellectual deficit, paresis, inco-ordination of movements, jerky limb movements, speech disorder, cranial nerve palsy, gaze

palsy, Parkinsonian features, impaired hearing, etc.

An estimated 25 per cent of affected children die from the disease, and among those who survive, 30 per cent-40 per cent suffer from physical and mental impairment. Children suffer the highest attack rate due to lack of cumulative immunity from natural infections, said the study.

SC to hear plea seeking formation of team for treatment of kids in Bihar

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to hear a plea seeking a direction to the Centre to urgently constitute a team of medical experts for the treatment of the children in Bihar's Muzaffarpur, who are suffering from suspected Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES), which has claimed more than 100 lives.

A vacation bench of justices Deepak Gupta and Surya Kant agreed to hear the plea next Monday after the petitioner's counsel sought an

urgent listing of the matter.

The plea also sought a direction to the Centre for providing all necessary medical equipment and other supports for the effective treatment of the children suffering from the epidemic disease.

The petition, filed by advocate Manohar Pratap, claimed that he was deeply pained and saddened by the deaths of more than 126 children, mostly in the age group of one to 10 years, in the past week and the figures were rising day by day.

"The deaths of children are a direct result of negligence and inaction on the part of the respective state governments of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Union of India in handling the epidemic situation which arises every year due to outbreak of AES also called Japanese encephalitis," the plea said.

It claimed that thousands of young children were losing their lives yearly from the disease but the governments (state and Centre) had done nothing to prevent its spread. **PTI**

Simultaneous polls anti-federal, anti-democratic, says CPM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) on Wednesday told the Prime Minister-chaired all party meet that the idea of 'one nation, one poll' is fundamentally anti-federal and anti-democratic and thus, against the Constitution. Terming the Government's move as "not practical" and "artificial move" CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said in his note distributed in the meeting that holding simultaneous polls would tamper the constitutional scheme of accountability of the Government to the legislature.

"Apart from the technical issues involved in holding simultaneous elections to Parliament and State Assemblies, our Opposition to this is based on the fact that it is fundamentally anti-federal, anti-democratic and strikes at the roots of the parliamentary democratic system, as ordained in the Constitution. "Article 75(3) states that the collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers is to the House of the People. Similarly, Article 164(1) concerning the Council of Ministers states that it is collectively responsible to the

legislative Assembly of a state," said Yechury.

He said under the Constitution, if a government loses the confidence of the legislature either by being voted out on a no-confidence motion or by losing a vote on a Money Bill, it is bound to resign and if no alternative government can be formed, the House is dissolved and a mid-term election held.

There is no fixity of tenure enshrined in the Constitution either for the Lok Sabha or the state legislatures, the Left leader said, adding that both Article 83(2) and Article 172(1) specify that the term of the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assembly will be for five years, "unless sooner dissolved".

"Any attempt to prolong the life of the Lok Sabha or legislature will not only be unconstitutional, but also, anti-democratic. It is the will of the people through their elected representatives that must prevail," he said.

"We are, therefore, totally opposed to any artificial attempt to bring about simultaneous elections, which can only be done by trampling upon the existing constitutional scheme of parliamentary democracy,".

SC seeks EC's response on Guj Cong plea against its decision to hold separate bypolls for 2 RS seats

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought a response from the Election Commission by June 24 on a plea of the Gujarat Congress, challenging the poll panel's decision to hold separate bypolls to two Rajya Sabha seats in the State.

A vacation bench of justices Deepak Gupta and Surya Kant listed the matter for hearing on June 25, saying the issue required to be heard.

The bench said, "It is not an issue which can be taken up through an election petition and therefore, requires to be heard."

Senior advocate Vivek Tankha, appearing for the Gujarat Congress, said there were judgments of the Delhi High court which were in their favour.

To this, the bench said, "We are not saying anything for now. We need to decide whether it is a casual vacancy or a statutory vacancy. This matter requires hearing."

The petition was filed by Congress MLA from Amreli and Leader of Opposition in the Gujarat Assembly, Paresbbhai Dhanani.

The Rajya Sabha seats fell vacant following the election of BJP chief Amit Shah and Union

minister Smriti Irani to the Lok Sabha from Gandhinagar and Amethi, respectively.

The Election Commission clarified that the vacancies for bypolls to all Houses, including the Rajya Sabha, are considered "separate vacancies" and separate notifications are issued and separate polls are held, though the schedule can be the same.

In his plea, Dhanani has sought a direction to quash and declare the poll panel's order as "unconstitutional, arbitrary, illegal, void ab initio" and said it violated Article 14 of the Constitution.

He submitted that the poll panel be directed to hold simultaneous by-elections and polling for filling of all vacancies in all states, including Gujarat.

The MLA, through his lawyer, submitted that separate elections for the two Rajya Sabha seats in Gujarat would upset the scheme of proportional representation as mandated under the Representation of People Act.

In the petition, it is stated that the basic principle, both under the Constitution and Representation of People Act 1951, is that if regular vacancies are existing at the time when

the election is held, it should be held together so that the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote can be applied to those elections.

The petition contended that if the Election Commission is given a free hand to issue one or more notification with respect to vacancies in Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and if separate elections are held for the same purpose, it may result in abuse of power in as much as the majority party will always be able to arrange the matters in such a way that it gets maximum seats.

In the 182-member House in Gujarat Assembly, the BJP has 100 members and the Opposition-led by Congress 75 members, while seven seats are vacant.

The Congress MLA also alleged that the poll panel has "arbitrarily, malafidely, maliciously and under the dictates of the incumbent government" invoked its residuary powers under Article 324 of the Constitution and arbitrarily issued the June 15 press note declaring separate elections for the Council of States, where it stated that the vacancies for by-elections to all Houses, including the Rajya Sabha, are con-

sidered as separate vacancies and separate notifications are issued and separate poll is taken for each of the vacancies although the programme schedule for the by-elections may be common.

The Congress alleged that the action of the Election Commission was completely tainted with arbitrariness, malafide, partisanship and has been taken in an extremely hasty manner to pre-empt and impede the minority party in the state Assembly to elect a member for the Council of States.

It also alleged that the BJP, running the government at the Centre, has used the Election Commission's Office for its political propaganda.

The EC on June 15 also cited two Delhi High Court rulings of 1994 and 2009 which had supported the system of holding separate by-polls in the same state under provisions of the Representation of the People Act.

The Congress had demanded that the by-polls to the two vacant seats in Gujarat be held together as in case of separate elections, the BJP being the ruling party would have an advantage and win both the seats. **PTI**

Maratha quota in admission to PG medical courses: SC seeks Maha Govt's reply

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought response from the Maharashtra Government on a plea challenging an order of the Bombay High Court dismissing a petition against 16 per cent quota for Marathas in admission to PG medical and dental courses.

The top court said it will hear on June 24 the plea challenging Maharashtra government's decision to grant Maratha reservation for admissions in PG medical courses.

A bench of justices Deepak Gupta and Surya Kant said it cannot leave the petitioners remedy less as either the high court or the Supreme Court has to adjudicate the issue.

The bench said the petitioners had earlier approached the apex court and were asked to move the high court for the relief.

It noted that in another similar matter related to quota in admissions for economically weaker section, the apex

court said that no other court should entertain this petition.

"Either the high court or the Supreme Court should decide the issue at hand as the petitioners cannot be left remedy less," the bench said.

Senior advocate Shekhar Naphade, appearing for the petitioners, contended that the high court did not consider the matter in view of an apex court's order of June 4, wherein it had restrained any other courts from entertaining any plea related to admission to PG medical courses.

He said that Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) Act which came into force on November 30, 2018, is itself under challenge.

Petitioner Sameer challenged the Bombay High Court order of June 13 by which it had refused to entertain the petition against the Maharashtra government ordinance granting 16 per cent quota to Marathas in admission to PG medical and dental courses. **PTI**

Would've attended if it was about EVMs: Maya on simultaneous polls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

BSP supremo Mayawati skipped the Prime Minister-convened meeting on 'one nation, one poll' saying that conducting simultaneous national and State elections is an "undemocratic and unconstitutional" idea for a vast country like India and that she would have attended meeting had it been called to address the "national concern" over EVMs.

"One nation, one election" is not an issue before the country. Elections through ballot papers are actually the national issue and our party will continue its struggle for it," she said adding elections in any democ-

cracy can never be a problem nor they should be weighed from the point of view of expenditure and extravagance.

She said the 'one nation, one election' is in fact an attempt and a new drama to divert the attention from burning national issues such as poverty, inflation, unemployment and increase in violence, and is simply an illusion.

The BSP chief alleged that the people's faith in the EVMs had dwindled to a worrisome level. "The stubbornness of conducting elections through electronic voting machines instead of ballot paper is the real threat to the democracy and Constitution of the country," she said.

Bihar children deaths a nat'l horror story; Centre, State Govts responsible: Congress

New Delhi: The Congress on Wednesday described the deaths of children in Bihar due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome as a "national horror story" and demanded accountability from the Centre and the state government.

Addressing a press conference here, party spokesperson Gaurav Gogoi accused the two governments of being "insensitive" and unprepared for tackling such an outbreak.

"It is a national tragedy, it is a national horror story and the perpetrators of this horror story are the Centre and the state government," he said.

"We demand accountability from both the State and the Centre," he said, while attack-

ing Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and his predecessor J P Nadda.

Gogoi said Nadda should concede that promises made by him as health minister have not been fulfilled.

The Congress leader also demanded coordination between the Centre and the state governments to deal with the situation. "What is happening today in Muzaffarpur is a national horror, the national tragedy. The Congress Party prays for the families of 146 children and we cannot either express in words or feel the emotions of those parents who have lost their children," he said. He said it is a sorry state of affairs and the state govern-

ment in Bihar has been both unprepared and insensitive.

"We can see the insensitivity in the remarks of the State Health Minister, when he is asking for cricket score in the middle of important meeting; we can see the insensitivity in the Chief Minister's (Nitish Kumar) delayed visit to the Hospital and unfortunately this attitude has been replicated by the Central government because we have seen that over the past so many years when either Harsh Vardhan Ji was the Health Minister or J.P. Nadda Ji was the Health Minister, they merely announced on paper, but, there was no action on the ground," he said. **PTI**

Cong out of power as Nehru, Indira's heirs did not honour yoga: Ramdev

Mumbai: Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi performed yoga in private and their heirs did not honour it which is why power has eluded them as those who do yoga are "directly blessed by god", Ramdev Wednesday said.

He also expressed confidence that "big work" will be done on issues such as Article 370 and triple talaq under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Ramdev, who will be attending an International Yoga Day event in Maharashtra's Nanded on June 21, which will be attended by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, was talking to reporters.

Modi is the first prime minister who performs yoga

among people, he said, adding that all central ministers, chief ministers, MPs and MLAs of the BJP perform yoga.

"This has given 'gaurav' (prestige) to it. Isse pehle luke chhupe yog karte the Indira Gandhi ji aur Nehru ji (earlier, prime ministers Indira Gandhi and Nehru performed yoga secretly)," Ramdev said.

"But their (Nehru-Gandhi family's) subsequent generations perhaps did not honour yoga. Is iye unke raj-yog mein bhi thoda sa gadbad ho gaya (hence political power eluded them)," the yoga guru added.

"Those who perform yoga are 'directly blessed by god', he said. "I have confidence that under the leadership of Modi

and Amit Shah, big work will be done on Article 370, 35A (which give special status of Jammu and Kashmir), one nation-one-law, one-nation-one-election and triple talaq. Because those who are yogi think well of all," Ramdev added.

Yoga is our "big legacy" and "beyond politics, caste, faith and religions", he said, adding that everybody accepts that yoga is "rashta dharma (national religion)".

To a question on food adulteration, Ramdev, whose Patanjali group has a big presence in packaged food segment, said regulatory bodies should be more alert and transparent. **PTI**

DD India to be available in B'desh, South Korea

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a boost to India-Bangladesh and India-South Korea cooperation, the Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar on Wednesday announced that Doordarshan (DD) India will now be telecast in Bangladesh and South Korea.

The development came after a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Prasar Bharati and Bangladesh TV (BTV). In return, BTV World, a channel owned by Bangladesh TV, would now be available on DD Free Dish, the state-owned direct-to-home (DTH) free-to-air platform.

The Minister said India had signed an agreement with Bangladesh to telecast state-run DD India in the neighbouring country. A ministry statement

said BTV World would be of special interest to viewers in eastern India.

"We have decided to show BTV World, a channel owned by Bangladesh TV, on the DD Free Dish which will be available for the viewers of Doordarshan in our country. At the same time, DD India would be made available in Bangladesh," Javadekar said.

The Union Minister further said that KBS World, a 24x7 English channel of the South Korean government, would also be available on DD Free Dish.

"We have entered into an agreement with South Korea also, where South Korea will show DD India and we will also allow South Korean KBS channel, it will be available in India. This mutual cooperation with neighbouring countries is very important," he said.

Army reviews security situation in run-up to Amarnath Yatra

Jammu: Days before the start of Amarnath Yatra, the Army's Northern Command's top brass on Wednesday reviewed security arrangements to ensure a safe and secure annual pilgrimage.

General Officer-Commanding-in-Chief, Lt Gen Ranbir Singh also reviewed the Army's operational readiness at various forward posts in Akhnoor and Reasi sectors of Jammu and Kashmir, said a Defence spokesperson.

He visited the forward posts and hinterlands bases in the two sectors along with White Knight Corps Commander, Lt Gen Paramjit Singh, the spokesperson added.

During his visit to forward posts, Lt Gen Ranbir Singh was also briefed about various measures initiated to monitor the intrusion and infiltration bids from across the Line of Control, he said.

The Army commanders also visited the hinterland bases, during which they were apprised of the formation's preparation for the upcoming pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre high holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas, he added.

They were briefed about the measures being taken to ensure safety and security of pilgrims through "superior and aggressive domination of the area" by the troops, he said. **PTI**

The officers appreciated the measures put in place to thwart all possible nefarious designs of anti-national elements, he added.

The 46-day annual Amarnath Yatra is to begin from July 1 on two routes — the traditional Pahalgam track in Anantnag district and shortest Baltal track in Ganderbal district. The pilgrimage will conclude on August 15 coinciding with Raksha Bandhan festival.

"The Army commanders interacted with soldiers and complimented them for their unwavering dedication to duty, selfless devotion and high standard of professionalism," the spokesman said. **PTI**

TN Minister withdraws defamation case against Stalin, HC dismisses plea

Chennai: The Madras High Court on Wednesday dismissed a suit moved by Tamil Nadu Local Administration Minister S P Velumani, seeking to restrain DMK president M K Stalin from levelling allegations of corruption in corporation tenders against him.

When the plea came up for hearing, Velumani's counsel sought permission to withdraw the case.

Allowing the request, Justice R Subramanian dismissed the plea as withdrawn.

In earlier hearings, the court had refused to pass any gag order against Stalin.

Velumani's main charge was that Stalin had made several speeches during his election cam-

paign in Coimbatore Lok Sabha constituency from April 4, alleging that the minister was involved in corruption relating to local body tenders and that an accused in the Pollachi sexual abuse case was closely associated with him.

In his suit, Velumani wanted the court to direct Stalin to pay Rs 1 crore as damages for defaming him and the state's ruling AIADMK through his speeches.

Velumani had submitted that the DMK president was levelling unsubstantiated and false charges against him.

Besides, Stalin had also claimed during the election campaign that an accused in the Pollachi sexual abuse case, 'Bar' Nagaraj, was a close associate of the minister, which was totally false, the suit had said. **PTI**

An idea at best

The 'one nation one poll' proposal needs careful deliberation and has to be fully compliant with Constitutional norms



The debate on "one nation, one poll" has been an ongoing one and, on the face of it, the favourable aspects do attract some traction, chief among them being the streamlining of costs and apparatus of conducting the election process itself and stemming the prospect of policy paralysis, with some State or the other due for a mandate every other year. The argument is that with States in India's federal structure going to polls at varied points of time within the Central government's mandated period of governance, no visionary or decisive steps can be taken or implemented as they would be subservient to electoral politics, which in this country tends to be overtly populist in nature. Besides, it would rid the country from being in a continuous poll mode and go in for a performance mode. But it is in the subtext of the Westminster system we have adopted that questions arise about whether a unitary system works best for our federal structure. And in the current political context, whether it threatens the very idea of regionalism itself, considering that in a single election, national issues tend to take centre stage and drown out or at least blur pertinent issues of localised interest, something that regional parties are usually in better command of and base their political relevance and bargaining chips on.

Although many argue that the Indian voter is evolved enough to make a distinction between the larger national interest and his neighbourhood, there is always a possibility that the overarching aura of the former could swamp the judgment call of the voter at the state level, if the prevailing party seeking mandate happens to be of a centrist party. And as the results of the recent Lok Sabha have shown, the centrist surge has helped the ruling NDA regain its footprint in States, where it had been hit badly in the Assembly elections just a few months ago. Besides, with many regional satraps now friendly to it, the NDA thinks it is an idea whose time has come. This is precisely the reason why Prime Minister Narendra Modi has renewed the proposal for "one vote." But the idea is fraught with complexities that need very careful deliberation. This will require a substantive number of Constitutional amendments to the Representation of the People Act 1951, the anti-defection law and others relating to rules of procedure with two-thirds majority in both Houses. Besides, such a move does not factor in mid-term situations where a State government may choose to dissolve itself or fall because of a loss of majority. Would the Governor then not call fresh elections or hold on to a moribund Assembly till the dates of the next round of general elections are announced? What if the Central Government falls before the term of the Assemblies end? Such a move, based on current context, would then go against the grain of democracy and lead to surreptitious absolutist control of federal polity. As it is, though we call ourselves a federal entity, in reality we are a more centralised union of states. The "one nation, one election" formula would further strengthen this idea and, therefore, needs very careful deliberation. Already, the Opposition, primarily the Left and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), has rightfully warned about the implicit idea of a monolithic State that such a move might encourage, fuelling such demands as "one nation, one culture, one language." This clamour for a unitary governance structure and discourse may well become a syndrome than reform. The Trinamool Congress has rightly asked for a White Paper on the subject for transparency of views. Besides, as former Election Commissioner TS Krishnamurthy said, several administrative alignments are needed for simultaneous polls, and that readiness had to be first ascertained without pushing through the proposal just for the heck of it. When the idea was placed before the Law Commission, it, too, had recommended that in order to equalise timelines, two conditions had to be met: First, a 'motion for an early general election must be agreed to by at least two-thirds of all members of the House.' Second, 'a no-confidence motion must be passed by the House and with no alternative government being confirmed within 14 days of passing a confidence motion.' Such compliance is still a tough call. The BJP knows it, too, but wants to tell its voter base that it tried to push a key pledge in its manifesto and keep its election momentum going for the next round of Assembly polls.

Water woes

Chennai has gone dry and its citizens are parched. Is this India's dystopian future?



Chennai has suffered from a water shortage for several years. As floods in the southern metropolis showed, rampant development and landgrab by politically-connected developers have meant that hundreds of water bodies that recharged the city's aquifers have been concretised. The little that are left are being over-exploited and vacuumised. However, the latest crisis being suffered in the city, where there is little water going to homes and citizens are rushing to book tankers from neighbouring districts, is far worse.

More importantly, it's a warning for more "zero days" and shines a light on the potential problem that several other Indian cities will face in the future.

Undoubtedly, there is rampant development of urban areas and India finds it difficult to strike a balance as people leave villages for cities and chase comforts of modern civilisation. The problem is not their aspiration but the unplanned and uneven development of urban areas where commercial, industrial and residential zones lie beside each other. Our urban planners have to spend more time in making sustainable layouts for cities and reimagine development dramatically to reduce water wastage, conserve water and recharge aquifers. Most major urban centres — Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune and the list goes on and on — are water-stressed. Borewells are getting deeper and deeper and the water is running out. Besides sewage and water treatment plants are barely able to keep up with the demand. There is no provision for recycling water. Politicians have turned a blind eye to the water tanker mafia, who are unscrupulously draining aquifers everywhere they can find. At the same time, we are growing the wrong crops in the wrong parts of the country thanks to entrenched local politicians, like sugarcane in Latur and the Kaveri catchment area and water-intensive Basmati rice in the plains of Punjab and Haryana. Most of our farming practices are wasteful. So much more careful thought needs to be put into crop management and zoning farms according to the water map. At the same time, while we take so much technology from Israel in the fields of agriculture and water management, we stop short of applying it on a wide scale. There is an argument that the government should not penalise but incentivise but the acute crisis in Chennai is a dark portent of things to come in other cities. There should be penal action taken against those who waste water by using it inefficiently — in cities and in villages, in homes and in factories.

Laws higher than sutras

While Hong Kongers may escape China's educational scheme to test the monks' and nuns' legal knowledge, it will be difficult for Tibetans, Uyghurs or mainlanders to avoid them



CLAUDE ARPI

Chinese President Xi Jinping is travelling a lot these days; he went to Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meet, then he is visiting North Korea and later Japan. At the same time in Hong Kong, two million people (25 per cent of the population) walked down the streets to reject a law widely believed to have been piloted by Xi. Bill Bishop, author of the *Sinocism Newsletter* analysed: "The Hong Kong protestors succeeded in scuttling the proposed extradition law, at least for the foreseeable future. . . Regardless, the rebuke of the mainland and its political system by millions of Hong Kongers could not be clearer and the damage to Xi and the party's reunification project that is core to the Great Rejuvenation, is real."

The Chinese leadership is keen not to repeat the Hong Kong fiasco in Tibet. This is one of the reasons why Beijing is promoting Gyalsen Norbu, its own Panchen Lama, who recently visited Thailand. Back in Beijing, he affirmed "that he was able to deeply appreciate the greatness of the motherland while he was in a foreign country."

The information about his foreign visit came out in the open a month after Norbu's return; he was part of a Buddhist delegation led by Yanjue, the acting president of the Buddhist Association of China. Interestingly, Norbu had attended a Buddhist conference in Hong Kong in 2012 but this was not counted as a foreign visit. In Thailand, he explained that he has the responsibility to adapt Tibetan Buddhism to the socialist society... with Chinese characteristics "to constantly adhere to develop Tibetan Buddhism in the Chinese context, to maximise the positive role of religion and to make due contributions to safeguarding the unification of the motherland and promoting ethnic unity."

But what does "adapting Tibetan Buddhism to the socialist society with Chinese characteristics" mean? An article on a Chinese website run by *Xinhua* gave an answer. All monks in Tibet were recently invited to pass "legal knowledge" examinations "in order to promote the basic and leading role of the rule of law and actively guide the adaptation of religion to the socialist society and enhance the legal knowledge level and the rule of law awareness" among monks and nuns in Tibet.

The website reported that the new programme was jointly organised by the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) justice department, the law office, the communist party's united front work department and the religious bureau. According to the statistics quoted by *Xinhua*, 30,000 members of the Sangha went through the examinations. On which topics were the monks tested?



They had to answer questions on the Chinese Constitution, state security laws, anti-terrorism laws, anti-spying laws, environmental protection laws, internet safety laws and regulations on religious affairs matters.

But that is not all. Apart from these topics, the monks and nuns had to demonstrate their great knowledge on the communist party's 19th national congress, Xi's new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the national flag law, the national anthem law, the national security law, the national regional autonomy law and ethnic and religious policies as well as related regulations. This probably included the rules for the reincarnation of "living Buddhas" (how the Dalai Lama will be selected by the party).

Don't ask me where is the Buddha in all this! TAR's "legal" big shots visited the test centres. *Xinhua* cited Lobsang Gyurme, vice chairman of the political consultative conference and Danba, the head of the TAR justice department, who inspected the Ganden Monastery's examination cen-

tre. Gao Yang, deputy secretary and vice chairman of the party committee of the political consultative conference, showed up at the Sera Monastery and Xu Xueguang, deputy director of the People's Congress Standing Committee, went to Drepung. Many other party important cadres participated.

According to *Xinhua*, after the launch of these (compulsory) tests, "the legal literacy and the rule of law awareness of religious faculty members in our region have been further improved." The website affirmed that "national laws are higher than religious canons and obeying these should come before adhering to the [Buddhist] precepts." According to *Xinhua*, the purpose was to create a harmonious and stable social situation for Tibet...

In these circumstances, one understands why students in Hong Kong or in Taipei are a nervous lot. Who wants to join the motherland's legal system? Examinations were organised all over TAR, particularly in Lhasa, Shigatse, in Lhoka (Lhunse County), in Nagchu and Shangda

Monastery in Chamdo area. They were conducted in two ways: A Tibetan-Chinese bilingual "open-book" written test and an oral test.

Xinhua reported that in order to ensure a smooth and orderly examination process, "three-level patrol groups for districts, cities and counties" were formed. The patrols checked each test centre under their jurisdiction; they were said to have been "deep into the relevant temples to conduct an in-depth and detailed understanding of the examination arrangements and the order of the examination room."

Moral of the story: You better know Comrade Xi's speeches! And guess what? The attendance of the examination was 100 per cent. It was to be an important initiative by party secretary Wu Yingjie for "strengthening the education on the rule of law," said the official website. Is it the reason why Norbu deeply "appreciated" the greatness of the motherland when he was abroad?

The "new" education is not restricted to Tibet. Xi wants to "educate" all classes of Chinese. According to the

Taipei-based *Central News Agency*, the Chinese communist party, which celebrates its 70th anniversary, launched an education campaign called "Remain true to our original aspirations and keep our mission firmly in mind."

The Central Publicity Department called some 500 journalists to retrace the route of 'Long March' and write about the epic journey of the Red Army. The journalists were told that they need to "make a long journey" and in their writings, "profoundly echo how Red Power came into being; how the new China was built." The aim was to educate the masses about the revolution.

On May 20, Xi had inspected Jiangxi Yudu, the starting point of the Long March. It was like "exploring the source of the party's original heart," affirmed Xi. The Hong Kongers may escape these education schemes for the time being but it will be more difficult for the Tibetans, the Uyghurs or even the mainlanders to avoid them.

(The writer is an expert on India-China relations)

SOUNDBITE

I called him (Prime Minister Modi) the most fascist ruler of the country. It was on record and I stand by it.



Telangana Chief Minister —K Chandrasekhar Rao

If there is anything that I've learnt in the journey of recovery is that you need to be patient, and that there is hope.



Actor —Deepika Padukone

When the legislative and executive wings get swept away from their duties, it is the duty of the judiciary to rise and stand up to protect the Constitutional ethos.



Chief Justice of India —Ranjan Gogoi

The Congress had asked me to cross over before the elections. But I knew which way the wind was blowing.



Union Minister —Ramdas Athawale

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Play constructive role

Sir — The Prime Minister's plea to the Opposition to forget about *paksh* and *vipaksh* and have only *nishpaksh* spirit and work actively in the larger interest of the nation is welcome. His tone was that of reconciliation and warmth and is an assertion that in unity lies the betterment of the nation and its people. The Opposition should take the Prime Minister's statement in the right spirit. That the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies were able to form a majority Government should not make them arrogant or lead them to ignore crucial issues that need to be raised in Parliament.

At the same time, the Opposition should not obstruct or stall proceedings of the House to put the Government on the mat. Good actions and motions must be supported. The growth, development and progress of the country should be of prime importance. Let us hope that the ruling party and the Opposition maintain decorum of the house by upholding the good values of integrity, propriety and sobriety.

M Pradyu Kamur

Crack the whip on errant officials

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised a corruption-free and accountable administration after he took over for a second term. The Modi Government 2.0 cracked the whip on Income Tax officers last week by retiring as many as 12 Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officers for corruption and misconduct. Now, it has sent several Customs officers packing on a host of charges. All are top-ranking officials. They have been compulsorily sent home under Fundamental Rule 56(j) of Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules. The pension rule largely caters to bribery charges against officers. One particular official was a vocal critic of the Government's Goods and Service Tax (GST), which amounted to insubordination and misconduct. Apparently, one of the officers was abusive of any possible action that could have been taken against him and was totally prepared for the consequences. All rules and regulations governing the compulsory retirement exist in our book but have been seldom acted upon.

The NDA government does not appear to suffer from either the 'influence phenomenon' or the 'kickback syndrome'. Principally, it looks like kicking the back of tainted officials, especially in departments which pro-



vide ample opportunities for incumbent officers to become rich overnight. Evidently, IAS and IPS officers are better insulated than IRS officers in terms of disciplinary action because the role of the State Government is as important as the Centre in governing them. Plenty of officers cosy up to State rulers, thereby using the respective Governments as shields against the Centre. The NDA Government should continue with its zero-tolerance towards corruption and nepotism. NDA 2.0 has taken a step forward from where it should have no reason to backtrack.

Ganapathi Bhat Akola

Workable solution

Sir — The idea of simultaneous polls is not new. In 1951-52, the first general election to the Lok Sabha was held simultaneously

with elections of all State Assemblies. This practice continued till the general election of 1967, after which it got disrupted due to premature dissolution of some State Assemblies in 1968 and that of the Lok Sabha in

1970. Besides saving huge amount of taxpayers' money spent on holding separate Centre and State elections, simultaneous polls will spare considerable time of security and administrative set-up to do their normal job and

the country will get rid of remaining in poll mode almost throughout the year. If a Government falls midway, a mid-term poll should be held for the rest of the term. The next Lok Sabha election will be held in May 2024. Of course, this time is still not enough to synchronise terms of all Assemblies. At least an idea has been floated. It is time to apply our minds to it.

MC Joshi Lucknow

Radical measures

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Children of a lesser God" (June 20). While researchers examine the exact cause behind the encephalitis syndrome, it is a sorry state of affairs in Bihar where over 100 children have died due to this disease. It is reflective of the fact that the State's healthcare system is in shambles. The State must take radical measures to improve the health infrastructure.

Somya Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Bracing up for uncertain times

As a developing economy, India holds a lot of potential but it needs to take structural steps to make itself more resilient to shocks



NITHIN AUGUSTINE

Ever since the great depression hit the world in 1929, a slew of economic crises such as the 1973 oil embargo, the Asian crisis of 1997 and the great recession of 2007-08 followed, challenging the well-established economic theories of respective times. These crises mostly unfolded against the backdrop of a strong belief in free market capitalism, globalisation and increasing deregulation of trade. This, along with the much-hyped 'new economy', was widely, at times mistakenly, believed to be the promoter of growth and prosperity. However, contrary to popular belief, economies across the globe have started showing signs of slowdown due to rising debt burden, high interest rates and trade protectionism.

Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), while cutting the global economic forecast for the year 2019-20, said that the global economy is slowing more than expected and a sharp downturn could require world leaders to coordinate stimulus measures. A recent article in the *Washington Post* titled, 'Economic growth is slowing all around the world' said that builders in the US are erecting fewer single-family homes. German factories are sputtering and in China, retail sales are growing at their slowest pace in 15 years. This, though, aptly captures the current state of the global economy and could in the near term precipitate another economic crisis. Furthermore, the World Bank in its recent report titled, 'Global Economic Prospects — Darkening Skies' indicated that global economic growth is expected to soften from a downwardly revised three per cent in 2018 to 2.9 per cent in 2019.

However, despite the slowdown in global economies, India's growth continued to remain strong and bullish with a rate of 8.2 per cent in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2018-19. Until recently, India retained the tag of the fastest-growing largest economy in the world and briefly overtook France to be the sixth largest economy in the world with a Gross Domestic Product rate of \$2.61 trillion. This does not imply that India is immune from fluctuations in the global economy. Growth issues faced by our country currently can topple growth ambitions. Global economic headwinds, trade war and the growing number of non-performing assets could wreak havoc in the India market. Hence, it is important for any economy, including India, to adopt a sustainable economic model that is resilient and can withstand occasional hiccups in the economy.

India's unique geographic advantage and demographic positioning allow it to compete with the developed economies. Further, it has abundant natural resources, intellectual capital, cheap labour and an enabling policy environment. Joseph Stiglitz, in his 2010 book titled, *Freefall: America, Free Markets, and the Sinking of the World Economy*, says that the great depression coincided with the decline of the US agriculture. Indeed, agricultural prices were falling even before the stock market crash in 1929. Increase in agricultural productivity was so great that a small percentage of the population could produce all the food that the country could consume. The transition from an economy based on agriculture to one where manufacturing predominated was not easy.

The IT revolution earned India a respectable place among the developing economies in the world. But today, 25 years after the IT boom and the liberalisation of the economy, India stands at a historical crossroad wherein it has to choose between building economic resilience or continuing its reliance on the traditional IT services to boost its growth prospects. Paul Krugman, a Nobel Prize-winning economist, during one of his recent India visits remarked that investments in the rural economy and scaling up manufacturing are essential for India to meet the demand for jobs from a dramatic surge in the working age population. The manufacturing sector has been long neglected with much of the activities happening in the small and medium space. With the apparent slowdown in the IT industry and rise in protectionism, the focus must shift to manufacturing and agriculture that can boost growth. Further, reforms in the banking sector, bridging trade deficits and developing the rural economy could script a resounding growth story in the coming years.

The World Bank, in its India biannual publication, 'India Development Update', said that to sustain its growth path, India will need to keep a close eye on several factors to make the country more resilient to shocks: The changing landscape of open trade, reforms in the banking sector, strengthening financial institutions and regulatory supervision of the financial sector. Deepening its structural reforms in areas of health, education and service delivery will be critical for development of human capital required to sustain growth. As a developing economy, India still holds a lot of promise and will continue grow at a steady pace despite many challenges. (The writer is a Communications Professional and an Economics graduate)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

I CAN'T EXPRESS THE PAIN I AM GOING THROUGH. I WANT TO EXPRESS IT WITH YOU, BUT CANNOT, BUT I NEED TO SOLVE PAIN OF PEOPLE OF STATE.

—KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER
 HD KUMARASWAMY



THERE IS NO THREAT TO THE KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT. THEY (THE BJP) ARE TRYING DESPERATELY BUT THEY WILL NOT SUCCEED.

—SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER
 SIDDARAMAIAH

New way of doing politics

The deft use of political communication — verbal and non-verbal — played a key role in positioning the BJP in the minds of the electorate and contributed in elevating its fortunes to a historic high



VV SUNDAR

It is the scale of the Indian elections that baffles the world. Most countries view our democratic electoral exercise with utter disbelief and astonishment. The 2019 Lok Sabha elections were interesting for the fact that political communication in our country seemed to have finally come of age. Among the parties, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) stood out to be the savviest in mastering the image-building and perception management exercise and also gained a decisive edge over its rivals.

Agenda-setting: Take for instance verbal communications. The BJP's colourful and earthy slogans were an instant hit. They were at their simplistic and comprehensible best. The party managed to pull the rug under the feet of the Opposition with short and punchy coinages like *mahamilawat*, which was used to brand the Opposition parties. This conjoined word summed up the unprincipled and rag-tag coalitions formed by various political parties just before the elections and instantly robbed them of political relevance.

Similarly, *majboor sarkar vs majboot sarkar* was a lethal jibe as compared to the Congress' weary slogan of *ab hoga nyay*. Roughly translated, the Congress slogan meant that justice would be delivered if it came back to power. Oddly enough, the party's strategists did not realise it would automatically trigger a counter question in the minds of the voters: If justice was still pending to be delivered, what did the party do all these years when it was in power for the longest time and capable of changing the system? The Congress campaign appeared to be centred around superficial populist sloganeering coined in splendid isolation devoid of any social connect. On the other hand, the Congress' somewhat catchy *chowkidar chor hai* jibe misfired and it faced national embarrassment for being flippant and more personal than issue-oriented. Slogans formed by other Opposition parties were limp. Regional party leaders, followed the old-style book of political communication. So they found themselves out of breath with the BJP's national campaign blitzkrieg.

Yet another slogan coined by the BJP *kaam ruke na, desh jhuke na* advanced the party's developmental agenda that remained to be achieved and contextualised the national pride as a rallying point.

Instead of offering progressive ideas and providing a constructive alternate developmental framework, the Opposition mounted a bitter and shriller negative campaign with personal level attacks, some of which were unbecoming of their stature and the public office they occupied. Many parties even reduced the electoral campaigns to ugly street-level brawls. Negative campaigns can work when left-handed compliments are delivered to opponents, dripping with sarcasm and humour. Perhaps none in the Opposition had the showmanship to pull it off. Resorting to personal attacks made them appear as a fringe mob pelting stones.

Such messaging and slogans itself achieved half the electoral success for the BJP. So much so that even when its own senior leaders hit their opponents below the belt, it was seen as



avenging barbs and a victim's right to defend himself.

Bespoke framing: Besides, verbal communication, the BJP's near total obsession with non-verbal communication was equally fascinating. Public appearances suggest a well thought-out, meticulously crafted, immaculate and bespoke visual styling of its leader. Camera lenses were trained to capture and curate radiating energy and dynamism in the shots. Low angle camera shots and measured distance maintained in the foreground and background around the leader decluttered the frame and provided for just one single focal point.

The penchant was to clear the hoi-polloi from the frame to get singular visuals. Though amusing, such optics manage to build and reinforce a pattern of power and perception. The primacy given to staging, planning and visual framing is both formal, ceremonial, professional and unparalleled. It successfully transmits and conveys non-verbal cues to the masses besides giving a sleek and larger-than-life persona, always in command, at ease and in control. The new-age and savvy political parties are not leaving anything to chance in this hyper-saturated 24x7 media environment which is dictated by the power of visuals and imagery. The Opposition is yet to comprehend this to its fullest. Remarkably, even bitter critics of the BJP were floored with rousing and statesman-like speeches one heard from its leaders. There were eloquent, unscripted words laced with a higher purpose, conveying the big picture to the entire nation in a lucid, uplifting and scintillating manner. Sadly, the Opposition speeches appeared merely transactional and *tutu-mai mai*.

Media snobbery: Another humbling feature of this election was the media. The BJP's disdain for the "Lutyens' Delhi" and the "Khan market gang" is well-known. In spite of the relentless and stinging attacks mounted by

INSTEAD OF OFFERING PROGRESSIVE IDEAS AND PROVIDING A CONSTRUCTIVE ALTERNATE DEVELOPMENTAL FRAMEWORK, THE OPPOSITION MOUNTED A BITTER AND SHRILLER NEGATIVE CAMPAIGN WITH PERSONAL LEVEL ATTACKS. NEGATIVE CAMPAIGNS WORK WHEN LEFT-HANDED COMPLIMENTS ARE DELIVERED TO OPPONENTS, DRIPPING WITH SARCASM AND HUMOUR

a large section of the media, the BJP pulled off the perception battle on its own terms by highlighting its "common man's spokesperson" image.

The election results neutralised and busted egos of self-styled opinion-makers in the national capital, who once bragged to make or break the fortunes of the ruling party by the sheer force of their publishing ink. They have been clearly bypassed and they need to deal with this hard reality. On election results day, the meltdown on the faces of television news anchors and newly-minted YouTube activists was relished by millions of Modi's voters. The loss of credibility, neutrality and fairness of the 'erudite' mainstream media calls for examining if the fourth estate indeed has its ear to the ground. As if the ongoing electoral circus was not enough, the international Press jumped into the ring to lecture the Indian electorate on whom to vote. Notwithstanding the unsolicited advice and unwarranted trespassing into the ongoing sovereign democratic electoral process, 'influential' publications earned another round of egg on their faces after the results for this needless and meddlesome adventurism.

Overall, the BJP's political communication stood out for its highly organised, targeted communication and one-to-one grassroots connect with the voters. Social media lost its novelty but it kept the electorate engaged and entertained till the end. The deft use of political communication — both verbal and non-verbal — played a key role in positioning the BJP in the minds of the electorate and contributed in elevating its fortunes to a historic high. It is never too late for the Opposition to take a leaf or two from this exercise and reset its communications tools to achieve both reach and relevance among the masses.

(The writer is a seasoned communications professional and management consultant based in New Delhi)

Closer to a future without water

The unprecedented scarcity in Chennai is a result of poor urban planning and the lack of political will in finding radical solutions. Unless we devise sustainable solutions, this precarious crisis can well hold all our metropolises to ransom



KOTA SRIRAJ

Chennai is an apt example of all that is wrong with environment in India. The year 2015 saw the city reel under the worst floods experienced by the region. This year, the city is a witness to the worst ever drought in the recent times, prompting the Central Government to take notice and put in emergency measures to tackle the problem. The crisis is quite severe as the city is left with just two per cent of water in local reservoirs. Some rains would have gone a long way towards lifting its collective spirit but they are still elusive.

The rapid fluctuation of water resources for this city is evident as the city has oscillated between plenty to scarcity within a gap of four years.

What is the reason behind these ominous problems? One of the issues is the upstream of Chennai — there is over-exploitation of lake and groundwater resources here as farmers use the unsustainable flood irrigation technique for watering their fields. This in turn adversely impacts ground water tables. This can be avoided with the Tamil Nadu government helping to fund more advanced drip irrigation systems for farmers. This, if implemented on a large scale, can rejuvenate the lakes around the city and the groundwater table as well.

Furthermore, it is high time that the city invests in robust, efficient and sustainable rainwater harvesting systems that not only complement the water table and water bodies but also lend a helping hand in times of scarcity. It is also crucial to find ways to imaginatively re-use wastewater in order to handle and regulate demand pressures. But it is quite clear that the city infrastructure is faced with population overload and this can be mitigated by creating economic opportunities outside of Chennai so that the pressure on the city is reduced. These



measures can prevent Chennai and other Indian cities from continuing their inexorable march towards 'day zero' scenarios for natural resources when the price to be paid will be more than we can afford.

The water shortage has also been compounded due to less rainfall, which has been half its normal quota. The northeast or 'retreating' monsoon, which occurs in November and December, usually accounts for more

than 60 per cent of Chennai's annual rainfall on which the city now pins its earnest hopes. But right now the situation is quite grim as the city has received zero rainfall since March and the recent rise in temperatures has left the city high and dry. Add to this consecutive drought years, which have dried the city lakes and led to drastic drops in water tables.

The four major city reservoirs, with a total capacity of 11.5 thousand

million cubic feet (TMC ft), have only 0.3 TMC ft of water in them. To put things in perspective, even in 2017, when Tamil Nadu experienced the worst drought in 140 years due to the failure of the monsoon, the city reservoirs had 0.7 TMC ft during the beginning of May. Cyclone Fani, which formed over the Bay of Bengal at the end of April, gave some hope to the city. However, the storm changed its course and curved towards Odisha, leaving Chennai high and dry again.

Chennai requires around 850 million litres of water everyday and studies suggest that groundwater extraction here has been highly unsustainable. In the last decade, groundwater levels across the city have dropped by 85 per cent. Moreover, continued uncertainties in monsoon rainfall owing to global warming and other environmental triggers have compounded people's woes. The lakes and reservoirs are drying up more frequently, making the traditional ways of water supply unviable for the future.

In order to arrest the crisis, the Central Government, in tandem with

the State Government, must first focus on alleviating water shortage. Then it must strictly monitor the construction industry to ensure that all new projects are in compliance with water harvesting systems. This must be combined with lake and reservoir conservation mechanisms that help in maintaining critical levels of water throughout the year. The Central Government must also ensure that the citizens have an alternate option to log their protests regarding their woes.

Chennai's state of affairs must not be seen as one-off. This plight can affect any city of India which has not been careful with its resources. The Government plays a pivotal role in ensuring that this chaos does not prevail across the country. The National Green Tribunal must take cognisance of environmental factors that contribute to such circumstances. It must ensure strict action against errant parties who stress and tax the environment and even impose punitive measures. Unless strict measures are taken, results cannot be expected.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



SHOCKING DEATH

Real-life events can bear a remarkable symbolic power. The advent of Egypt's first and only democratically elected president in 2012 was one of them. His collapse, in a courtroom "cage" after years of inadequate medical care is another. Morsi played his part in wrecking Egypt's hopes. Nonetheless, his suffering and death stand for the ordeal of tens of thousands of political prisoners, and for the regime's determination to crush opposition. (The Guardian editorial)

FinMin to prepare fresh proposal for AI sale

The Govt has already asked Air India to finalise its accounts for 2018-19 by June 30

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry is preparing a fresh proposal for sale of Air India, incorporating issues like crude oil prices and exchange rate volatility, flagged by EY last year on possible reasons of the Government failing to attract bidders for the national carrier.

The Ministry's proposal, to be placed before Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM), will also include option of selling either 100 per cent or 76 per cent government stake in Air India.

The AISAM, which is basically a Group of Ministers, have to be reconstituted as Arun Jaitley and Suresh Prabhu are no longer ministers in the new government. They will be replaced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari is likely to continue in the panel when it is reconstituted.

The Government last year invited bids to sell 76 per cent

stake in Air India, along with transfer of management control. However, it did not attract any bidder. Following that transaction advisor EY prepared a report citing probable reasons that led to failure of the sale process.

The reasons cited include 24 per cent government stake and corresponding rights, high debt, volatile crude oil prices, fluctuations in exchange rate, changes in macro environment, profitability track record of bidders and restriction on bidding by individuals.

An official said that the EY report was discussed at the AISAM meeting in June last year following which it was decided that the Air India sale should be deferred.

During the meeting, which was presided over by the then Finance Minister Jaitley, it was also decided to infuse more funds into the carrier and take steps to lower debt of Air India by selling its subsidiaries and non-core assets.

"We will present a fresh proposal for Air India sale to AISAM. It would include updates on the issues raised when Air India disinvestment failed last year. It would be left to the AISAM to decide whether the Government should go in for 100 per cent or 76 per cent stake sale," an official told PTI.

The Government has already asked Air India to finalise its accounts for 2018-

19 by June 30.

Once the updated accounts are available and AISAM gives a go-ahead for Air India sale, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) and Ministry of Civil Aviation will draft the Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM) giving details of about the company and stipulating conditions for eligibility of bidders.

In 2018, AISAM had earlier decided to sale 76 per cent in Air India and the buyer was required to take over ₹24,000 crore debt of the carrier along with over ₹8,000 crore of liabilities. However, the stake sale failed to attract any bidder when the auction process completed on May 31, 2018. At that time, Air India's total debt burden stood at ₹55,000 crore.

As precursor to the strategic disinvestment of Air India, the Cabinet in February approved setting up of a special purpose vehicle (SPV) — Air India Assets Holding Company — to transfer ₹29,464 crore worth loans of the national carrier and its four subsidiaries.

The official said that the process of transfer of ₹29,464 crore to the SPV is not yet complete. "The Department of Economic Affairs, Civil Aviation Ministry and the banks are still working out the modalities of debt transfer. The process is likely to take some time," the official added.

Jet Airways shares dwindle further; tank 18.5%



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Jet Airways further plummeted 18.5 per cent Wednesday after the consortium of bankers took the grounded airline to the NCLT. The scrip tanked 18.17 per cent to close at ₹33.10 on the BSE. During the day, it dropped 28.18 per cent to hit an all-time low of ₹29.05.

On the NSE, shares of the airline plunged 18.51 per cent to close at ₹33.

This is the 13th consecutive trading day fall for Jet Airways, which has tumbled 78 per cent during this period. The consortium of 26 bankers led by the State Bank

of India Tuesday took the airline to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to recover their dues of over ₹8,500 crore.

Jet Airways, started over 25 years ago, stopped flying on April 17 after it ran out of cash and the unpaid lessors took away most of its 100-odd operational airplanes.

The scrip has also been on back foot following announcement that stock exchanges will impose restrictions on trading in Jet Airways' shares from June 28 as part of preventive surveillance measures to curb excessive volatility, according to a circular issued last week.

₹ up 2 paise to 69.68 vs USD ahead of Fed policy decision

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee inched up 2 paise to end at 69.68 against the US dollar Wednesday ahead of the US Fed's interest rate decision.

Hopes of a breakthrough in US-China trade talks and softening crude oil prices supported the local unit, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange (forex) market, the domestic currency opened at 69.57 to a dollar and gained further strength to touch a high of 69.49 during the day.

However, it could not hold on to the gains and finally ended at 69.68, up 2 paise over its previous close.

The rupee had settled at 69.70 against the US dollar Tuesday.

"Global markets would also await the outcome of the ongoing FOMC policy meeting which will conclude on June 19. The central bank is highly expected to come out in dovish note and markets would be highly anticipating any kind of hints on future rate cuts by the central bank," Angel Broking Research Associate Vaqar Khan said. Khan further said the rupee is likely to remain range-bound in the coming days despite marginal increase in global risk appetite.

"The Fed is widely expect-



ed to stand pat on monetary policy this time but open the door for an interest rate cut at the next meeting in July," said V K Sharma, Head PCG and Capital Markets Strategy, HDFC Securities.

Meanwhile, the 10-year government bond yield rose to 6.84 per cent Wednesday. "The benchmark 10-year sovereign bond yield rose 3 bps to 6.84 per cent after slumping 12 bps on Tuesday to its lowest level since October 2017, amid reports that a panel may recommend transferring one-third of the RBI's surplus reserves to the Government," Sharma added.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets, purchasing shares worth ₹31.73 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.09 per cent to 97.55. The BSE Sensex ended modestly higher Wednesday after a highly volatile session. After rallying nearly 400 points during the day, the BSE gauge settled 66.40 points, or 0.17 per cent, higher at 39,112.74. The broader NSE Nifty closed almost flat at 11,691.45.

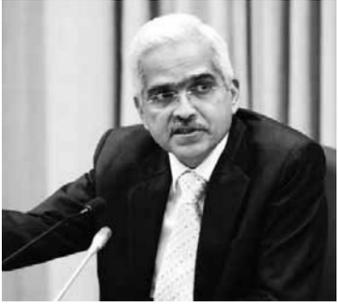
Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, eased 0.77 per cent to trade at \$61.66 per barrel.

The Financial Benchmark India Private Ltd (FBIL) set the reference rate for the rupee/dollar at 69.8010 and for rupee/euro at 78.4233. The reference rate for rupee/British pound was fixed at 87.4602 and for rupee/100 Japanese yen at 64.47.

FM reviews state of economy, FSDC discusses budget

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Wednesday reviewed the state of economy at the meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)



attended by sectoral regulators, including RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, here.

The meeting also discussed proposals relating to the Budget to be presented by Sitharaman on July 5 in the Lok Sabha, Das told reporters after the meeting.

The RBI Governor further said that the Bimal Jalan com-

mittee, which is looking into the size of capital reserves that the RBI should hold, is likely to submit its final report by June-end.

It was the first meeting of the FSDC after the new government assumed office.

The FSDC is the apex body of sectoral regulators, headed by the finance minister.

Anti-dumping duty imposed on jute sacking cloths from B'desh

This will help jute farmers, jute mills of West Bengal

PTI ■ KOLKATA

India has imposed anti-dumping duty on the import of jute sacking cloths from Bangladesh which will have a positive impact on West Bengal's ailing jute sector.

"Anti-dumping duty on sacking cloth from Bangladesh was our long standing demand to save the Indian jute sector. With active efforts of Union Textile Minister Smriti Irani, this has been achieved," jute industry veteran Sanjay Kajaria said in his reaction.

"It will be applicable for 5 years effective from June 18, 2019," he said. This will help jute farmers

and the jute mills of West Bengal which are ailing or running in a very low capacity, Kajaria said.

The IJMA had filed an application for initiation of anti-dumping investigation concerning import of the product exported from Bangladesh. It has requested for extension of the existing anti-dumping duties on the imports, alleging circumvention of the duty.

Countries carry out anti-dumping probe to determine whether their domestic industries have been hurt because of a surge in cheap imports.

Jute sacking accounts for the lion share of the total jute goods. The notification showed anti-dumping duty imposed between \$125.21 and 138.97 per tonne.

Currently, the duty exists on jute yarn, sacking bags and hessian fabric (made from skin of jute plant) and imposed in the range of \$6.3-351.7 per tonne.

Reforms, transparency must for Belt and Road success: WB

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

China's global Belt and Road Initiative could boost economies and reduce poverty rates in dozens of developing countries, but risks environmental damage, debt and corruption if improvements aren't made, the World Bank said Wednesday.

President Xi Jinping's signature foreign policy aims to reinvent the ancient Silk Road to connect Asia to Europe and Africa through massive investments in maritime, road and rail projects -- with hundreds of billions of dollars in financing from Chinese banks.

Critics, however, say the six-year-old BRI is a plan to boost Beijing's global influence, riddled with opaque deals favouring Chinese com-

panies, and will saddle nations with debt and environmental damage.

The World Bank's "Belt and Road Economics" report said the project has "the potential to substantially improve trade, foreign investment, and living conditions", but only if China and corridor countries make policy reforms to improve transparency, expand trade and mitigate against environmental and corruption risks.

While trade will "increase sharply, if unevenly" for economies along the routes, the "potential gains come with considerable risks", according to Ceyla Pazarbasioglu, a World Bank vice president.

The report estimated that the BRI would boost trade by 2.8 to 9.7 per cent for participating countries and between

1.7 and 6.2 per cent for the world.

However, the study found that around a quarter of those economies already have high debt levels and for some them, "medium-term vulnerabilities could increase".

The report said large infrastructure projects are "inherently risky," as they can create corruption and failures in public procurement.

This has caused the US, India and some European nations to look at the project with suspicion.

The World Bank study found Chinese firms account for the majority of BRI contracts, although "limited data" was available. According to one estimate, it said more than 60 per cent of Chinese-funded BRI projects are allocated to Chinese companies.

"Little is known about the processes for selecting firms," the World Bank report said. "Moving toward international good practices such as open and transparent public procurement would increase the likelihood that BRI projects are allocated to the firms best placed to implement them."

"Belt and Road Economics" recommended the BRI made information regarding planning, fiscal costs, budgeting and procurement more available to the public to improve the effectiveness of individual infrastructure investments and national development strategies.

"Greater transparency is essential to encourage community involvement and build public trust in investment decisions," the report said.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male Age : Approx. 25-30 years, Height : About 5'6", Identification : a tattoo of "Rahul" written on right hand, wearing blue colour jeans, was found dead on 17.06.2019 in Haiderpur Water Treatment Plant, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 16-A dated 17.06.2019 has been lodged at P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone numbers.

SHO - P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi
Tel. No. 011-27571162, 27571171

DP/2988/RD/19

NORTHERN RAILWAY QUOTATION NOTICE

File No. 23AC/393/Cycle-Scooter/MUT/2016
The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager / Chg., Northern Railway, New Delhi invites sealed Quotations for the allotment of Cycle-Scooter-Car-Bus-Truck-Tempo parking at Meerut Cantt Railway Station (MUT) as per New Parking Policy issued by HQ office letter no. 120-MC-Parking-Policy-2015 dated 18.11.2016 for the period of 3 (three) months, details is as under:-

S/N	Railway Station	Station Ctg	Type of pkg.	Pkg. area (in Sq mtrs)	*Reserve Price for three months (In Rs.)	EMD@2% of Total Contract Value (In Rs.)
1	Meerut Cantt (MUT)	"A"	Cycle-Scooter-Car -Bus-Truck-Tempo	1187.39	3,92,837	7,900

*Applicable Taxes will be extra. In addition to above Reserve price, GST as applicable on date (presently @ 18% and TCS @ 2% or as applicable over the license fees has to be paid by parking contractor. Date and Time for submission of Quotation: - Up to 15:00 Hrs. on 26.06.2019 to be open immediately.

For more information and obtaining Quotation forms, interested bidders may contact to the office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager (Coaching, DRM Office), State Entry Road New Delhi From 19.06.2019 to 25.06.2019 in any working days between 10:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs and on 26.06.2019 Up to 13:00 hrs. The draft submitted for Earnest Money deposit should be in favour of "Senior Divisional Finance Manager New Delhi" and have been prepared from the bidders own bank account and in case found otherwise/ false, Railway Administration shall be at liberty to initiate any action, including termination as deemed fit at later date also. Relevant information is also available on the official Web site of Railways i.e. www.nrdindianrailways.gov.in 1945/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a male named Washiuddin, S/o: Late Zakiuddin, R/o: H.No. 2086, Katra Chotte Lal, Ganjmeer Khan, Delhi has been missing since 03.06.2019 at about 2:00 PM from the area of P.S Chandni Mahal, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 80-A, dated 07.06.2019 has been registered at P.S. Chandni Mahal. The description of missing male is as under:

Name: Washiuddin, Age: 24 Years, Height: 6'0", Face: Oval, Complexion: Fair, Built: Medium, Wearing: Black T-Shirt - Pant and Chappal in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing male please inform P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi.

Web: http://cbl.nic.in, Email: cbc@cbl.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
SHO
Police Station, Chandni Mahal, Delhi
DP/6360/CD/19 Ph: 011-23279338, 23271751, 23263967

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Ravita, D/o Ramchander R/o Village- Manipur, Post Office-Thekambazar, P.S Barda, District-Azamgarh, U.P has been missing since 26.05.2018. In this regard a case FIR No. 236/19 U/S 363 IPC, dated 03.05.19, has been registered at P.S. Jahangir Puri, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing girl is as under:



Name: Ravita, Gender: Female, Age: 17 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Medium, Face: Round, Wearing: Blue colour kurta with green salwar and pink slippers in feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing girl, kindly inform the SHO/ Jahangir Puri, Delhi.

E-mail: cbc@cbl.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
SHO
P.S. Jahangir Puri, Delhi
DP/9007/NW/19 Ph. No.: 011-27636000, 27631600

Appeal For Identification



General public is hereby informed that this person Name : Unknown S/o : Unknown, R/o : Unknown, Age : 60 Years, Sex : Male, Height : 5 Ft. 7 Inch, Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Oval, Built : Thin, Wearing : Nude, has been found in unconscious condition on 09.06.2019 Near MCD Office, Karol Bagh, Delhi, he was admitted in Lady Hardinge Medical College, during treatment Dr. declared him dead on 12.06.2019 and his dead body preserved in Lady Hardinge Medical College's Mortuary House. In this regard a DD No. 65-A Dated 09.06.2019 has been lodged at PS. Prasad Nagar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.
SHO
DP/6374/CD/19. PS. Prasad Nagar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25725652, 8750870432

Govt proposes no registration charges for electric vehicles

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government Wednesday proposed to waive registration charges for electric vehicles to boost adoption of environment-friendly vehicles.

The proposal comes at a time when the country plans high penetration of such vehicles by 2030.

Issuing the draft notification to amend the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), 1989, the road transport and highways ministry said battery-operated vehicles "shall be exempted from the payment of fees for the purpose of issue or renewal of registration certificate and assignment mark".

The exemption will apply

to all category of vehicles, including two-wheelers.

The ministry has issued the draft notification for amendments in CMVR where the amendments in Rule 81 are proposed for such waiver.

The amendments will be done in exercise of the powers conferred on the central government under various sections of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. Comments from stakeholders have been sought in a month.

"The said draft rules shall be taken into consideration after the expiry of a period of 30 days from the date on which the copies of this notification as published in the Gazette of India, are made available to the public," the draft notification said.

The objections or suggestions that may be received from any person with respect to the said draft rules before the expiry of the aforesaid period will be considered by the central government, it said.

Last year, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said a blueprint has been drawn to boost production of electric vehicles in the country and take their share to 15 per cent of total automobiles in the next five years.

It is time India should think to promote green vehicles and curb pollution, Gadkari said.

Earlier to promote electric vehicles in India, the government had approved green licence plates bearing numbers in white fonts for private vehicles and yellow for taxis.

AXIS BANK
Axis Bank Limited, Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Vishnupur, Noida (U.P.)-201301
Controlling Office: Axis House, Bombay Dyeing Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(e) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 24-07-2019 at 12.00 p.m. at Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens, Vishnupur, Noida (U.P.)-201301 for recovery of Rs.17,02,165/- due as on 22-08-2016 along with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred up to the date of actual payment and/or realization due to the secured creditor from Mr. Devendra Pal Singh. The reserve price will be Rs.28,25,708/- and the earnest money deposit will be Rs.2,82,571/-. Last Date, Time And Venue For Submission Of Bids With Sealed Offer/ Tender With EMD on 23-07-2019 at the above mentioned address.

Account Number	Location / Details of the Immovable Property/Secured Assets possessed and put for sale
Home Loan, Loan No. PHRC12803335239	A Residential Flat Having Super Area 1244.59 Sq Ft (i.e. 115.96 Sq Mtr) and built up area 995.50 Sq. Ft. (i.e. 92.45 Sq. Mtrs) bearing Flat No. CO20203 on 2nd Floor (Without roof Rights) in Building C-02 situated in Group Housing Project namely 'Ebony Greens' being part of Residential Township Crescent Park C situated at Village Sharnpur Barheta, Ghazabad Uttar Pradesh along with usage right of one open parking space.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the secured creditor's website i.e. <https://www.axisbank.com/auCTION-notices/>
Date : 20-06-2019, Place: Noida, UP Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.

Overground workers of Hizbul Mujahideen arrested in Shopian



Representational image

Srinagar: Security forces have arrested five overground workers of proscribed terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen in Jammu & Kashmir's Shopian district, police said Wednesday.

"Based on specific input, police arrested five associates of terrorists from Shopian district," an official spokesman said.

He said on IED, which the militants were planning to use against security forces, was recovered at the instance of arrested persons.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Aqib Nazir Rathar, Amir Majeed Wani, Sameer Ahmed Bhat, Faisal Farooq Ahanger and Rayees Ahmed Ganai, the official said.

"During questioning of the arrested persons, it was revealed that terrorists of proscribed outfit HM, along with above stated associates, were planning to target police and security forces by planting an IED in the area," he said. **PTI**

Being punished for speaking truth: Suspended K'taka Congress MLA

Bengaluru: Senior Karnataka legislator R Roshan Baig, who was suspended by the Congress on Tuesday for attacking its State leadership, Wednesday said he was a "disciplined soldier of the party" and was being punished for speaking the truth.

Asserting that his comments against state Congress leaders were the opinion of the party workers, he said he was in the Indian National Congress headed by Rahul Gandhi and "not in the Siddhu (Siddaramaiah) Congress".

"Last night, I got the information that I have been suspended from the party...Is it a crime to speak the truth? What I have said is the truth," Baig said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said he had not criticised Gandhi and that he continued to be a "disciplined soldier of the party".

"My criticism of state leaders is true. Is speaking the truth a crime?" said Baig, who was suspended on Tuesday night with immediate effect, citing

"anti-party" activities.

Hitting out at Karnataka Congress leaders for the party's dismal show in the Lok Sabha polls, Baig had recently held Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Siddaramaiah's "arrogance" and KPCC president Dinesh Gundu Rao's "immaturity" responsible for the "flop show".

He had also called Congress general secretary K C Venugopal a "buffoon".

Baig had dropped hints of quitting the party and appealed to Muslims to "compromise" with the situation on the BJP-led NDA returning to power at the Centre.

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) had issued a show-cause notice to the MLA for his conduct, to which he had not responded.

Noting that Gandhi had offered to resign as the All India Congress Committee (AICC) president, taking responsibility for the poll defeat, Baig said, "When we criticise

winning only one seat in the Lok Sabha polls, action is being taken."

"What I have said about a few of our state leaders is the opinion of thousands of our karyakartas," he said.

Baig, a seven-time MLA and a former Karnataka minister, has been unhappy with the state Congress leadership over not being included in the coalition cabinet headed by Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy.

The senior leader said he felt "sorry" for Gandhi and alleged that the Lok Sabha poll campaign in Karnataka was run in such a way that "we were not involved and there was no political management".

"...I have not criticised Rahul Gandhi. He is the Indian National Congress president. I am in the Indian National Congress, not in the Siddhu Congress."

"I am a disciplined soldier of the Indian National Congress and was upset about the state of the party in Karnataka," he said. **PTI**

Centre should bring legislation to protect faith of Sabarimala devotees: Kerala Govt

Thiruvananthapuram: The CPI(M)-led LDF Government in Kerala on Wednesday demanded that the Centre bring a legislation to protect the faith of Lord Ayyappa devotees visiting the hill shrine in Sabarimala, which was ordered by the Supreme Court last year to open its doors to women of all age groups.

The state government's demand comes in the backdrop of Kollam MP N K Premachandran moving a private members bill in the Lok Sabha against women's entry into the Lord Ayyappa temple. The bill is likely to come up this week in the Lok Sabha.

"The Sabarimala issue will be coming up before the central government as a private bill. Everybody knows the fate of the private bills..." Devaswom Minister Kadakkampally Surendran told reporters here.

To ensure that such a situation does not arise, the BJP state leadership should prevail on



the Centre to bring in a legislation and ensure legal protection, he said.

The BJP government has a "brute majority" in the House and hence should bring in a legislation on the matter, he added.

Kerala had witnessed massive protests by right-wing outfits and the BJP after the LDF government decided to implement the apex court's September 28 verdict last year, lifting the restriction on entry of women of menstruating age into the hill shrine to offer prayers.

Earlier, the temple's customs did not allow girls and women in the menstrual age of 10-50 years to enter the shrine as the presiding deity, Lord Ayyappa, is a 'Naishitika Brahmachari' (perennial celibate). **PTI**

After decades, citizenship for 19 Pak migrants in Rajasthan

Barmer: Nineteen Pakistani migrants living in Rajasthan's Barmer for the past several decades were granted Indian citizenship on Wednesday, an official said.

Certificates of Indian citizenship were handed out to them at an event held at the district collectorate.

The state government has granted Indian citizenship to 19 Pak migrants who have been living in Barmer District for more than a decade, District Collector Himanshu Gupta said.

He, along with Additional District Collector Rakesh Kumar Sharma, handed out the certificates to the migrants.

Expressing their happiness, the migrants said getting Indian citizenship after years of wait is a dream come true.

The decision to grant citizenship to these 19 migrants living in Barmer, along with 10 living in Pali and five in Jalore was announced by the Rajasthan government on Tuesday. **PTI**



People stand in queues to fill vessels with drinking water from a tanker in Chennai on Wednesday **AP**

Highest number of malnutrition deaths in last 5 years: Khadse

Mumbai: In a rebuke for the Government led by his own party, senior BJP leader Eknath Khadse claimed on Wednesday that Maharashtra has witnessed the highest number of malnutrition deaths in the last five years.

He was speaking during a discussion in the Legislative Assembly on ashram-shalas (residential schools for tribal children) run or aided by the Tribal Development Department.

A code prescribing mandatory facilities at these schools was prepared eight months ago but its copies were yet to be made available and therefore it could not be implemented, the BJP leader alleged.

The code also prescribes how much salary the security guard employed at ashram schools should get. Guards get ₹5,000 per month for round-the-clock duty at present, and their duty hours should be curtailed, he said.

Tribal Development Minister Ashok Uike said the decision on pay scale of security guards would be taken soon.

Khadse said decisions taken by the Government are not implemented immediately. **PTI**

15 dead, 36 injured in 2 road accidents in UP

Sambhal/Fatehpur: At least 15 people lost their lives and 36 others sustained injuries in two separate accidents in the State, police said on Wednesday.

Seven people were killed and 25 injured when a bus collided with a truck in Fatehpur on Wednesday morning, they said.

Additional Superintendent of Police Pooja Yadav said the accident took place at the Bilari-Kaunh Modh under the Chaandpur police station area.

"In the collision of a private bus with a truck, at least seven persons lost their lives, while 25 other sustained injuries. The injured have been hospitalised for treatment," Yadav said, adding that the identity of the victims is being ascertained.

Police officials suspect that the toll might go up.

The bus was going from Fatehpur to Jahanabad when the accident occurred.

In another accident that took



place late Tuesday night, at least eight people were killed and 11 others injured when their vehicle collided with a mini-goods carrier on the Moradabad-Agra National Highway in Sambhal, the officials said.

Superintendent of Police (Sambhal) Yamuna Prasad said on Wednesday that the victims were returning home after attending a wedding when the accident took place near Lehawan village in the district.

The injured were hospitalised and the bodies sent for postmortem, the SP added.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the loss of lives and conveyed his condolence to the family members of the bereaved, a statement issued by the UP Government in Lucknow said.

The Chief Minister has directed officials to ensure that the injured persons get adequate treatment, it added. **PTI**

Can't dub person terrorist on mere use of word jihad: Maha court

Mumbai: A person cannot be branded as a terrorist merely for using the word "jihad", a Maharashtra court observed while acquitting three accused of terror charges.

The Akola-based court of special judge A S Jadhav made the observation while hearing a case against the three persons accused under the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), the Arms Act and the Bombay Police Act.

Abdul Razzaque (24), Shueb Khan (24) and Salim Malik (26) were booked under various Indian Penal Code sections, including 307 (attempt to murder) and 332 (voluntarily causing hurt to

deter public servant from his duty), following an attack on policemen outside a mosque in Pusad area of Akola on September 25, 2015, on the occasion of Eid uz Zoha, over beef ban in the state.

According to the prosecution, Razzaque arrived at the mosque, took out a knife and stabbed two policemen on duty and said before the attack that because of the beef ban, he would kill the cops.

The Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) claimed they accused were part of a conspiracy to influence Muslim youths to join terrorist organisations.

Jadhav observed, "It appears that accused Razzaque

exhibited his anger by violence against the government and some Hindu organisations for ban on cow slaughter."

"No doubt he used the word 'jihad'. But, it was adventurous to jump to the conclusion that only for using the word 'jihad' he should be branded as a terrorist," he said.

According to dictionary, the word 'jihad' literally means "struggle", he pointed out.

"Jihad is an Arabic word which literally means striving or struggling... Therefore merely the use of word 'jihad' by the accused would not be proper to brand him as a terrorist," the judge said. **PTI**

Union Minister's son sent to police custody in attempt to murder case

Narsinghpur (MP): A local court on Wednesday sent Union Minister Prahlad Patel's 26-year-old son Prabal Patel, who was arrested in an attempt to murder case, to police custody for a day.

Prabal Patel was among seven persons arrested in connection with an attack on a group of persons at Gotegaon town on Monday night that left five people injured.

Efforts have been intensified to nab the minister's nephew, Monu, and four others also wanted in connection with the case, police said.

Judicial Magistrate Ajay Singh sent Prabal to a one-day police custody on Wednesday. Six other accused were remanded in judicial custody till July 1.

Prabal Patel, a resident of Kisani Mohalla in Gotegaon, has been named as the main accused in the case, police officials added.

Prahlad Patel, the BJP MP from Damoh, was recently inducted in the Union cabinet as the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism.

Monu Patel (27), who is at large, is the son of Prahlad Patel's younger brother Jalam Singh Patel, a former Madhya Pradesh minister and sitting BJP MLA from Narsinghpur.

As per the complaint, Himanshu Rathore and Rahul Rajput were returning home after attending a marriage ceremony when they were allegedly intercepted and abused by Prabal Patel and his associates.

They were taken to Monu Patel's office and beaten up, the complainants alleged.

Later, the accused took the duo to the residence of one Shivam Rai, where they beat up Shivam, his father Ishwar Rai and his friend Mayank. Gunshots were also fired and one of the bullets hit Rathore, injuring him in the hand, the complaint said.

Police are yet to find out what led to the attacks, the officials said.

The accused were booked under IPC sections 307 (attempt to murder) and 365 (kidnapping with intent to wrongfully confine a person), they added. **PTI**

Local who spotted Sheena's skeleton deposes in court

Mumbai: A local who first spotted the remains of Sheena Bora in a Raigad jungle in 2012 deposed before the trial court here on Wednesday.

Sheena (24) was allegedly killed by her mother and media executive Indrani Mukerjea with the help of others in April 2012 and the body was burnt in a jungle in neighbouring Raigad district.

As per the prosecution, Ganesh Dhene had spotted a skeleton at Gagode village in Pen teshil of Raigad days after the murder.

Dhene is a police patil who are appointed in villages where there is no police station. Their job is to keep police informed about happenings in the area.

Sheena's murder came to light in 2015 following the arrest of Indrani Mukerjea's driver Shyamvar Rai.

Then it was established that the skeleton found in the Raigad jungle in 2012 was of Sheena, the biological daughter of Indrani, born from a previous relationship.

During his testimony before CBI judge J C Jagdale, Dhene said he was collecting mangoes when he spotted a burnt skeleton. **PTI**

Maharashtra refinery project to be 'revived' in Raigad

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Five months after the BJP-led Maharashtra Government agreed to shift the Nanar oil refinery project out of eco-sensitive Ratnagiri district in coastal Konkan region, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday announced that the controversial refinery project would now be located in the neighbouring Raigad district.

In a written reply to a query raised in the Assembly during the ongoing monsoon session of the State Legislature, Fadnavis said that his government would locate the Nanar Refinery project in Raigad district instead of Ratnagiri district, following opposition to the project from the local villagers and various political parties.

"There is no opposition to the refinery project from the people in Raigad district. The people from 40 villages have not shown any resistance to the acquisition of the land for the project," the Chief Minister said.

It may be recalled that as part of the seat-sharing agreement for the Lok Sabha polls arrived at between the ruling BJP and its alliance partner Shiv Sena on February 18 this year, the Devendra Fadnavis government had accepted the Sena's demand to shift the Nanar project out of Ratnagiri project.

The shifting of Nanar project was one of the Sena's demands for entering into seat-sharing

pact with the ruling BJP for the LS polls.

The Shiv Sena has been opposing the location of Nanar oil refinery project in Ratnagiri district right from day one. So much so that Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray had on June 27, 2018 refused to Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan who wanted to call on the former to allay the former's fears about the contentious Nanar oil refinery project.

On his part, Pradhan had said: "This is a very ambitious project for India, especially Maharashtra. We are with an open mind discussing all the issues with stakeholders and will continue to do so. I will personally go and explain the project to Uddhav Thackeray. There are some genuine concerns. Our companies will try and address those concerns. Fundamentally there is no opposition. There are concerns of farmers which will be listened to and addressed"

The Sena had registered its first protest against the Nanar project on April 12, a day after an Indian consortium comprising Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Saudi Arabian Oil Co (Saudi Aramco) for setting an oil refinery and petroleum products complex at Nanar in Rajapur taluka of Ratnagiri district.

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited

Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodra - 390 007.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051.
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan, New Delhi - 110055

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER GUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Notice for sale of immovable properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrowers / Guarantors / Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured assets with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding (In ₹)	Reserve Price (In ₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (In ₹)	Date of Property Inspection and Time	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)
1.	Mr. Sanjeev Sabharwal (Borrower) Shashi Sabharwal (Co-Borrower) - LBNOD0001584400	Fiat No. A-0312, 3rd Floor Cabana, Tower No.-A, Sector -5, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, Area- 670 Sq. Ft	Rs. 41, 04, 476/- as on June13, 2019.	Rs. 25,00, 000/-	Rs. 2,50, 000/-	July 04, 2019, From 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM	July 12, 2019, At 12:00 Noon

The online auction will take place on the website of auction agency Shriram Automall India Ltd. (URL Link - https://e.auctions.samil.in). The Mortgagors/ Notice are given last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till July 11, 2019, before 5:00 P.M failing which, these secured assets will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with aforesaid earnest money deposit (as referred in column No. (F) in a sealed envelope superscribed "offer for purchase of property" so as to reach at ICICI Bank Limited, 2nd Floor Videocon Tower, Block E-1, Jhandewalan Extension, Rani Jhansi Road, Delhi-110055 or our marketing agents Shriram Automall India Ltd having their office at 2nd Floor, Best Sky Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi - 110034 on or before July 11, 2019 before 5:00 P.M. The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. EMD DD / PO should be from a Nationalised / Scheduled Bank favouring "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact on Mobile no. 8657549734/ 9650193259 of ICICI Bank Limited or 9910453434 of Shriram Automall India Ltd. The tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank/auction vendor official and registered before the cut off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any reasons thereof.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit ICICI Bank Ltd website at <https://www.icicibank.com/notice-board/properties-for-sale/properties.page?>

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Date : June 20, 2019
Place : Delhi/INCR

Payal Tadvi case: Bail hearing of accused to proceed without video recording

Mumbai: The special court hearing the bail pleas of the three accused in the Dr Payal Tadvi suicide case on Wednesday said proceedings will not be video recorded in the absence of necessary facilities.

The court had ordered video recording of the bail proceedings earlier under the provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

But the prosecution submitted that police were unable to make necessary arrangements, and sought some time.

Defence lawyer Abad Ponda pointed out that as per the law, recording was required

only during the main trial.

Advocate Gunratan Sadavarte, appearing for the victim's family, claimed that the state government and the police were "not serious" when it came to atrocities against scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

Judge P B Jadhav noted in his order that though the SC/ST Act was amended and video recording of all the proceedings was made mandatory two years ago, infrastructure was yet to be made available.

It was the state government's responsibility, he said.

The court had directed the police to make the arrangements but "police machinery

has its own difficulties", Jadhav said.

"Bail proceedings are required to be decided expeditiously. Therefore this court has no option but to proceed without video recording," he said.

The bail pleas will be heard on Friday.

Tadvi, 26, a second-year postgraduate medical student attached to BYL Nair Hospital, allegedly committed suicide in her hostel room on May 22.

Her family alleged that three of her seniors - Hema Ahuja, Bhakti Meher and Ankita Khandelwal - ragged her and hurled casteist abuses at her, forcing Tadvi to take her life. **PTI**

राजस्थान राज्य पथ परिवहन निगम, मुख्यालय
परिवहन मार्ग, जयपुर

बिड सूचना संख्या 03/2019-20

निगम के निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु उपर्युक्त श्रेणी में स.नि.वि. राकस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदको एवं गत्य सकार/केन्द्रीय सरकार के अधिकृत संवेदको/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवं रूर संसार/रेलवे इन्फ्रास्ट्रि में पंजीकृत संवेदको से, जो राजस्थान सरकार के नियन्त्रित/सहायक संवेदको एवं उससे उच्च श्रेणी का हो, से निर्माण प्रयत्न में ई-टेंडरिंग प्रक्रिया द्वारा अनिवार्य निम्नलिखित विवरण प्रस्तुत करी जाते है।

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत	बुद्धिमान नम्बर
1	केन्द्रीय कार्यालय जयपुर में सड़क निर्माण कार्य	47.60 लाख	RTC1920WSOB00063
2	केन्द्रीय कार्यालय जयपुर में शिप्टीकरण कार्य	14.50 लाख	RTC1920WSOB00064
3	आगरा कार्यालय जयपुर में भवन निर्माण कार्य	97.00 लाख	RTC1920WSOB00065
4	आगरा कार्यालय जयपुर में सड़क निर्माण कार्य	44.00 लाख	RTC1920WSOB00066
5	आगरा कार्यालय जयपुर में विद्युतीकरण कार्य	09.00 लाख	RTC1920WSOB00067

बिड से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाई <http://transport.rajasthan.gov.in/srtc/>, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in या <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर देख जा सकता है।
Ad. No. : 20/2019-20
राज. स.वा.द.सी/767/2019-2020

कार्यकारी प्रबन्धक (निर्माण)



The blue mantra

Experts explain why denim-making processes need a sustainable approach and a revamp.

By TEAM VIVA

While the denim industry is growing with a billion jeans being sold around the world every year, it is also costing us environmentally as its manufacturing methods and processes are stressing our water availability in resource-scarce times. Your seemingly harmless pair of new jeans might have contributed towards an irreparable damage to a river somewhere in the world.

Did you know that the main concern for denim is that it uses a repetitive dip-and-dry method to transfer indigo on to yarn, and around 20,000 litres of water can be consumed to produce a single pair of jeans, which involves growing cotton, washing it and dyeing it? Also, looking at its manufacturing processes, they majorly impact the health of workers, who are at a constant risk of tuberculosis and silicosis while giving the jeans a perfect "worn out" look during sandblasting.

As per global data, the total investment in the denim sector has surpassed \$900 million worldwide since 2015, wherein a huge volume of 1.3 trillion gallons of water is used only for dyeing the fabric. The dyes are washed out and the untreated waste water is uninhabitable for aquatic life and undrinkable for humans. However, even though the multi-million dollar brands could afford to treat the water which enters the rivers, not all brand can.

So is there a way out? Can denim be sustainable? Well, organic and eco-friendly is increasingly becoming the new rage among designers as well as customers, who prefer them over chemically-treated ones.

Mumbai-based designer Artivijay Gupta tells us how the carbon footprint can be reduced significantly. She says, "This entire process in manufacturing the denim products should be done using less than a cup of water and eliminating toxic chemicals in the washing process. This method also increases the lifespan of the denim as there is less damage to the cotton fibres, hence preserving the natural state of the fabric."

While brands are experimenting with ethical ways of producing jeans which create less waste and reduce water usage and pollution, researchers and designers have come up with other alternatives. These include Laserblast and Iceblast techniques, which use laser-based and dry-ice technology respectively, to create various washed out effects in denims. Manu Sharma, business head, REPLAY (which uses the same techniques), says, "As a brand, we try to reduce the usage of water and chemicals in washes to avoid wastage. During fabric creation, we make sure we use as much recycled polyester and upcycled material. Wherever possible, we use organic cotton."

Talking about what has triggered this change of methods and processes, Manjula Gandhi, chief product officer at Numero Uno, says that a lot of factors, besides the ethical reasons, are forcing denim manufacturers to go green. "Denim brands have recently realised the value of investing in sustainable and more responsible products. This realisation came as a result of different factors coming into play, one of them being changing values of society. It is necessary for fashion companies to talk about their green ambitions. They have to prove that they are taking actual steps in making their practices sustainable and ethical," says Gandhi.

Charu Vij, a fashion designer who runs a store in New Delhi named Aekatri, is still researching an alternative to denim. "In terms of the yarns, we are yet to create something that is sustainable. A lot of designers are working towards sustainability because we need to maintain that ecological balance. Denim has its own uses as it is immune to rapid wear and tear. If we are able to crack through a sustainable denim fibre which is 100 per cent natural, that will be it."

'The entire process in manufacturing denims should be done using less than a cup of water and eliminating toxic chemicals in the washing process. This increases denim's lifespan as there is less damage to the cotton fibres'

PUBLIC NOTICE

Draw of plots in Akshara Plotted Housing Scheme, Sector 14, Sohna, Haryana (License No. 33 of 2017, Dated 16.06.2017 RERA Registration No. 6 of 2017, Dated 23.06.2017)

This is to inform the general public, wait-listed applicants and all concerned that the 2nd draw of plots in Akshara Plotted Housing Scheme, Sector 14, Sohna, Haryana, being developed under the provisions of the Deen Dayal Jan Awas Yojna - Affordable Plotted Housing Policy, 2016, will be held on 26th June 2019, Wednesday at 11 a.m.

Venue: 406, Rectangle One, D-4, Behind Hotel Sheraton, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi - 110017

ALL APPLICANTS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

RAHEJA DEVELOPERS LIMITED

406, Rectangle One, D-4, Behind Hotel Sheraton, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi - 17

Helpline No.: 011-40611111, Email: ddjay@raheja.com

It is with some trepidation that I wait for actor Shahid Kapoor. Isn't he the one who embodied the teetering on-the-edge, insane Haider, a stuttering sibling and another who lisped in *Kaminey* or the drug addict rockstar in *Uda Punjab*, a portrait of human aberration or realism, depending on which way you look at it? But over the course of 15 minutes, Shahid articulates his points to perfection, elaborates on anything that we want to discuss further, even engaging in self-deprecating humour. He can afford to, for the actor has stretched out his arc wide while playing characters that are grey, edgy and sear the mind. Next up, he plays Kabir Singh in an eponymous film, the trailer of which has been grabbing eyeballs for his portrayal of a character who seems to be whirling out of control.

When we meet the actor, who started out as a background dancer in *Dil to Paagal Hai* (1997) and *Taal* (1999), he elaborates on what makes this shade of grey different. "I've done my fair share of characters who are complex, multi-layered and unpredictable. The original character, Arjun Reddy, in the Telugu film had a combination of aggression with vulnerability, a sense of angst with pathos. These are conflicting emotions and feelings which attracted me as they made the character very different," he says. In the film, he plays an alcoholic surgeon and an aggressive lover. "There were so many shades that I hadn't done before which made it appealing," he adds, measuring each of his words.

However, as cine goers are well aware, it is not the first time that a film delves into the psyche of a character, who finds an escape in alcohol to make up for the loss of a beloved. The different versions of *Devdas*, including regional, silent and a modern take (*Dev D*) come to mind, as well as a contemporary film which was powered by music that became a rage. Even as everyone, including Shahid, his manager and I start laughing as it is impossible to put the last one in the same league, the actor says, "The first time I saw *Arjun Reddy* I was reminded of *Devdas*. I can't deny it. But the way this character behaves is very new age, surprising and unpredictable. He is in your face but all his reactivity is coming from a place of vulnerability."

However, this is not the only classic that he has taken on. There was of course *Haider*, a take on William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. "It is a privilege for an actor to do a classic which is entrenched in our tradition. These are amazing opportunities but I don't want to feel pressured by drawing such parallels. Classics are classics," he says and gives out a nervous laugh.

But is the idea of a protagonist who is so consumed by love that he embarks on a self-destructive path relevant or rather in sync with the times where young people are swiping left and right for what they believe is love? While Shahid does agree, he points out that love is not an emotion that can be trivialised. "Of course things are faster and easier today. Often, we might say it is love but it isn't. I felt that this film takes you through the entire arc and shows all shades of the

THE GREY ANATOMY

Having started his career with chocolate boy roles, actor SHAHID KAPOOR now prefers to take on the ones that give him an opportunity to explore the arc of his talent, says SAIMI SATTAR

emotion. It addresses self-destruction through the path of love but falling apart or not being in control or being in a state of mind which is erratic and reactive is something that all of us are going through for various reasons. Love could be just one of them. With Kabir, you will be able to connect with that journey and view it minus any candy floss," says the actor, who before getting married to Mira Rajput, was in a relationship with actor Kareena Kapoor.

He is in a mood to scrutinise the industry as he sips on his "protein, vegan shake." Dressed in an all-black ensemble, he says, "Sometimes films are too candy flossy but people are not connecting with those any more. They want to see the purity or the angst of love in all of its rawness and reality. *Kabir Singh* depicts that in a very unapologetic manner. The emotional state of Kabir Singh is a phase in all our lives. But what makes him different is that he wears his emotions on his sleeves. Most people don't express it so strongly and prefer to suppress it in keeping with the norms of the society. I connected strongly with him because everything is exploding with this character," he says.

However, if one talks of content that is edgy and realistic, one cannot but discuss the web space. Shahid believes that every medium has its advantages and disadvantages. As is obvious, watching movies is a social and public experience which you share with 300, 400 or sometimes 800 people that is different from experiencing it on your phone. "The word hard-hitting or real is sometimes used to create an impact and I've never been a fan of that. It should come from a place which is organic and real and is a good balance of white and black, which you can call grey. But sometimes things are pushed more towards black or bright just for the heck of it. There should be a natural representation," he says. A combination in a film, he believes, is essential as everyday in life, too, we go through both abrasive and beautiful moments. He believes this film has it as "it doesn't shy away from where it needs to go as a story. Or as a character. Everything is fully developed," he says.

When we delineate how films are often named after male protagonists or told from their point of view, he says, "People have said that the male character is strong here but I have done a film, *Jab We Met*,

where the female character was such and in *Padmavat*, I was the subtle one. There was a time when every story was being told from a male point of view. We have come a long way." He did not see the protagonist as male or female but rather "as a senior, a brilliant student who has anger management issues. He falls in love with a simple pure girl and they connect because opposites attract. I have seen that the oddest of relationships work out while some of which are perfect on paper just don't," he says.

Placing the emotion within the framework of life, Shahid points out that we need to understand the depth of love. "I think people say that they are in love too easily. It is a deep emotion and you need to spend some time to understand how legit it is," he says as we find ourselves nodding sagely in agreement. Shahid pauses and lets it sink in before adding, "Love is a very selfless emotion. Kabir is self destructive because he is so in love with her that he doesn't mind destroying himself. And that is high level of love even though it is abrasive and destructive but mostly to himself."

Shahid, who initially cut his teeth in the industry playing a lover boy in films like *Ishk Vishk* (2003), *Chup Chup Ke* (2006), *Vivaah* (2006) and *Jab We Met* (2007), changed his trajectory with *Kaminey* (2009). The current story is unique for another reason. It is the first time that a remake is being made by the same director who helmed the original. And for a reason. "When I was considering doing it, I said that Sandeep Vanga is the only person who can make it provided he is comfortable with Hindi and wants to do it," he says.

Given that the story as well as the director were common, how did Shahid impart his own special stamp on the character? "A careful balance had to be found. Just because you want to be different, you cannot reject things that are beautiful and intrinsic. At the same time, just because you don't want to lose that, you cannot copy paste. Kabir Singh is an individual in his own right who has to come alive in this film just the way Arjun Reddy did in the original. I know how the original made me feel. I don't want the audience to lose out on that emotional journey but Kabir will do it in his own way," says the actor and the words come tumbling out quickly making it clear that he has thought over the role carefully.

There was a reason for him to take up the project. "I have never done a remake before. Most of the time when remakes come to you, they tell you the box office numbers and the money that the film has made. Though money is an important part of the film-making business, somewhere you need to feel moved or affected to give one year of your life to a film. And I fell in love with this one as it overcame that hurdle of language and culture. I felt privileged to take it to a wider audience," he says.

Getting into the character is a process that different actors approach in a variety of ways. For some it is more spontaneous, while others have rehearsals stretching over months. "Film making to some extent can be a....," he pauses for a long time searching for the right word and goes on to define it by saying, "Cerebral process and an emotional one as well. You have to find the emotionality of the characters that we represent for people to feel that. You must research, as it is good to do your homework and have some understanding of the background and the mindset. I always look for the whys to understand why he is doing what he is doing. It helps me to get into his head and then everything makes an impact."

The process has worked for sure as even though his career graph might have seen highs and lows commercially, his characters have more often than not come in for praise from the audience and the critics. "I am lucky that some very interesting and exciting opportunities have come my way. I have been lucky that films turned out well and those characters made an impact. And because of that I've got more opportunities," he laughs humbly.



His journey, Shahid believes, has been that of self discovery. "When I started in 2003, I just wanted to be a Hindi film hero and slowly I discovered that there is a desire and the need to perform, act and delve into different characters. The chocolate boy stopped exciting me when I started playing characters that had meat. The satisfaction when I enjoy a scene is incomparable," he says talking about his evolution.

Shahid does not mind extending his repertoire to OTT platforms as well. "In any case, I do very few films. I am very instinctive if something

excites me, I will do it," he says. Despite having come so far, there is still an everyday ordinariness which makes most people connect with the actor and one can understand why when he talks about juggling parenthood with doing justice to his profession, a struggle most of us face. "I am a father who is very particular about giving as much time as possible to my two young children. You always feel you are falling short time-wise, either on the home front or at work place. I am on duty 18 hours a day," he says as he signs off, still at work.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. EE-IED/AGT/03/2019-20 Dated: 17-06-2019

The Executive Engineer, Internal Electrification Division, Agartala, Tripura invites on behalf of the 'Governor of Tripura' sealed percentage rate tender(s) from Central & State Public Sector undertaking / Enterprise and eligible Contractors / Firms / Agencies of appropriate class registered with PWD/ TTAADC / MES / CPWD / Railway / Other State PWD up to 3.00 P.M. on 29/06/2019 for the following work:-

Sl No	Name of work	ESTIMATED COST	EARNEST MONEY	TIME OF COMPLETION	LAST DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF TENDER FORM	TIME AND DATE OF OPENING OF TENDER	PLACE OF SALE OF TENDER DOCUMENTS	CLASS OF BIDDER
1	Providing temporary illumination in the Main temple, Chantai room, Pilgrims shed, Devata bari, Pond, Banisangha, Park, Museum area, Swimming pool, Pallimangal School, Old Agartala School, Bridge, Island, Police camps, Fire service station etc in connection with Kharchi Puja Festival at Old Agartala w.e.f. 10/07/2019 to 16/07/2019.	₹ 2,44,443.00	₹ 2,44,44.00	07 (seven) days	Up to 15.00 Hrs on 28/06/2019	At 15.30 Hrs on 29/06/2019	Office of the Executive Engineer, Internal Electrification	Appropriate Class

DNiet No: EE-IED/AGT/ 05 /2019-20

Details of the PNIT can be seen at Internal Electrification Division, Agartala during office hour. www.tripuraindia.com/www.indigenoussherald.com/www.tripuratoday.com www.tripurachronicle.in/www.neindia.com

Sd/- (DHRUBAPADA DEBNATH) Executive Engineer, Internal Electrification Division, ICA/C-416/2019-20 PWD (Buildings), Agartala, West Tripura

AMIT SPINNING INDUSTRIES LIMITED

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STATEMENT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2019 (Rs. In Lacs)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended 31.03.2019 Audited	Year Ended 31.03.2019 Audited	Quarter ended 31.03.2018 Audited
1.	Revenue from operations	-	-	-
2.	Net Profit/(loss) for the period before tax (before and after extraordinary items)	(419.21)	(707.54)	(295.19)
3.	Net Profit/(loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional and extraordinary items)	(419.21)	(707.54)	(295.19)
4.	Total comprehensive income for the period (Net of Tax)	(419.21)	(707.54)	(295.19)
5.	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value Rs. 5/- each)	2,058.48	2,058.48	2,058.48
6.	Basic and diluted EPS before & after Extraordinary items	(1.02)	(1.72)	(0.72)

Note : The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly and annual financial results filed with stock exchanges under regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirement) Regulations 2013. The full format of said results are available on website of stock exchanges (www.bseindia.com, www.nseindia.com) as well as on the companies website- www.amitspinningindustries.com

For Amit Spinning Industries Limited Sd/-
Jitendra Kumar Chopra Managing Director
Place : Kolhapur Date : June 18, 2019

Govt. of Bihar

NALANDA COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
CHANDI (NALANDA)-803108 | E-mail- nccetqip3@gmail.com
(Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of Bihar)

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR THE SUPPLY OF Computer System (Desktop)

Bid Reference: TEQIP-III/2019/BH/nccc/115 Date: 14.06.2019

Bid Reference: TEQIP-III/2019/BH/nccc/115
Date of Commencement of Sale of Bidding Date: 22-Jun-2019 Time: 10:00 hrs.
Document:
Last date for Sale of Bidding Date: 23-Jul-2019 Time: 10:00 hrs.
Document:
Bid Security Amount (In INR): Rs:200000 (In favor of Principal, NCE, Chand, Nalanda)

Price of Bidding Document & Postal charge (non-refundable):* Rs. 5000 (Price of bid) + Rs100 (Postal charge) = Rs 5100 (In favor of Principal, NCE, Chand, Nalanda)

Pre-Bid Meeting Date and Time: Date: 10-Jul-2019 Time: 11:00
Last date and time for Receipt of Bids: Date: 23-Jul-2019 Time: 10:30 hrs.
Time and Date of Opening of Bids: Date: 23-Jul-2019 Time: 11:00 hrs.
Place of Opening of Bids: Nalanda College of Engineering, Chand, Bihar-803108
Principal cum Project Director, Nalanda College of Engineering, Chand, Nalanda, Bihar -803108

Address for Communication: Principal cum Project Director, Nalanda College of Engineering, Chand, Nalanda, Bihar -803108

* The bidder either purchase the bid document paying DD of Rs 5100 form the college on working day in working time or they can download bid documents and submit DD of Rs 5100 in original with the submission of final bid otherwise their bid will not be considered.

Any Corrigendum/Addendum or date extension notice will be given on the College website (<https://www.ncccchandi.ac.in/teqip.php>) only.

For more details and download bid document please visit <https://www.ncccchandi.ac.in/teqip.php>

For further details please visit website www.prdbihar.gov.in

PR. No. 02759 (Sci. & Tech.) 2019-20
अथैव शराव एवं मादक द्रव्य के समन्वय में शिकायत टॉल फ्री नं. 18003456268 या 15545 पर करें।

India preps to combat desertification

PRAKASH JAVADEKAR has launched a flagship project on enhancing capacity on forest landscape restoration and the Bonn Challenge in the country

Union environment minister, Prakash Javadekar speaking at an event in the capital on the occasion of world day to combat desertification and drought, said that as a country make targets not under any global pressure but for our own country's real sustainable development. India will lead by example in combating desertification.

He further announced that India will be hosting the fourteenth session of Conference of Parties (COP-14) from August 29 to September 14 at the India Expo Mart Limited, Greater Noida.

The union minister further highlighted that with about 30 per cent of country's total geographical area being affected by land degradation; India has high stakes strongly committed to the convention. He said that various schemes have been launched by the government of India such as Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), soil health card scheme, soil health management scheme, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Inichayee Yojna (PKSY), etc, which are helping to reduce land degradation. The union minister also unveiled the logo of COP-14 on the occasion.



Amitabh Kant, NITI Aayog, CEO said that the world day to combat desertification is a unique occasion to remind global community that desertification can be effectively tackled, that solutions are possible, and that key tools to this aim lay in strengthened community participation and cooperation at all levels. Secretary, ministry of environment, forest and climate change, CK Mishra said that the world day to combat desertification in 2019 will retrospect and celebrate the past years of progress made by India on sustainable land management.

The union minister also launched a flagship project on enhancing capacity on forest landscape restoration (FLR) and Bonn Challenge in India, through a pilot phase of 3.5 years implemented in Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Karnataka. The project will aim to develop and adopt best practices and monitoring protocols for the states and build capacity within the five pilot states on FLR and the Bonn Challenge. This will be eventually scaled up across the country through subsequent phases of the project. The challenge is

a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030. At the UNFCCC conference of the parties (COP) 2015 in Paris, India also joined the voluntary Bonn Challenge pledge to bring into restoration 13 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by the year 2020 and additional eight million hectares by 2030.

United Nations has three rio conventions namely — United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Established in 1994, UNCCD is the only legally binding international agreement linking environment and development issues to the land agenda. In 1994, the united nations general assembly declared 17 June the "world day to combat desertification and drought" to promote public awareness and the implementation of the UNCCD in the desertification affected countries.

One of the primary functions of the COP is to review reports submitted by the country parties detailing how they are carrying out their commitments. India will take-over the COP presidency from China for two years until the next COP is hosted in 2021.

Over 5,000 representatives from over 197 countries drawn from national, regional and local governments, science and research communities, the private sector, international and non-governmental organisations and all forms media will address the issue of combating desertification, land degradation and drought during the two-week event.

Preserve the heritage

There are several heritage sites in districts of Bijoor, which are unprotected and as a result their condition has deteriorated. The land mafia has taken advantage of this lacuna and destroyed them for the sake of money.

District collector Sujit Kumar has taken an initiative towards protection of these deserted and isolated heritages. Taking help from social workers and historians, these heritage structures will be identified and protected so that future generations can be sensitised and benefit from them. Monuments that

need to be preserved are Nagina Bai Bagh where the freedom fighters of 1857 sacrificed their lives. There is also Purani Munsafi of Nagina, Beguma Maqbara, Patthargarh fort of Sultana dacoit of Najibabad, Shiv mandir of Kotkadar built during the period of Aalha Udal, palace of Munshi Hashmat Ali in Mandawar, fort Parshath in Badapur.

Archaeological Survey of Indian (AIS) will also be informed about these heritage monuments and severe action would be taken against the land mafia.



The Facebook page of Raasta, an NGO started by 16-year-old Parth Sarthi, a class 11 student at Sanskriti School aims to reunite children with parents with the help of Aadhaar. Not only this, but it also taught them mathematics and music. The group is organising a two-day camp in Noida where anyone interested who is interested can participate by sending in their photos and details to Raasta Foundation. They also held an interactive two-day session with the children of construction workers with the aim to motivate children about their careers. They were also made aware of the different career options. The session was conducted by Parth Sarthi and Kartik Gupta, a 21-year-old graduate in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Delhi was a part of social club called Enactus which worked for vulnerable children.

BHEL ACHIEVES ANOTHER MILESTONE

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has achieved yet another milestone in Bhutan with the successful commissioning of unit 1 of the 4x84 MW Chhukha hydro electric project (HEP), following complete renovation and modernisation (R&M) of the generator. Unit 3 of the same project was earlier commissioned by BHEL and has been running efficiently. With the commissioning of unit 1, the organisation has executed the R&M contract for two units (1 and 3), thereby consolidating its position further and rising up to the expectations of the customer, Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC).

DGPC in their commendation letter wrote, "We appreciate the efforts made by the experts from the organisation towards the R&M work, which has led to result-oriented performance."

DGPC had placed the R&M order for replacement of generator stator and rotor coils of unit 1 and 3. These machines were

originally supplied and commissioned by BHEL in the 1980s. The organisation's units at Bhopal and Bengaluru have provided the equipment and technical supports for the R&M job.

BHEL has executed major projects like Chhukha, Kurichu and Tala in Bhutan and is presently executing export orders for 6x200 MW Punatsangchhu-I, 6x170 MW Punatsangchhu-II and 4x180 MW Mangdechhu Projects, which once commissioned, would take BHEL's share to 93 per cent of the total power generating capacity of Bhutan.

The organisation is executing hydro-electric projects of around 3,000 MW across the country, in addition to 3,904 MW abroad which includes 2,940 MW in Bhutan and 900 MW in Nepal. Significantly, more than 500 hydro-electric generating sets of various ratings have been ordered on BHEL with a cumulative capacity of more than 30,000 MW, including 6,680 MW for overseas projects.

Kashmiris have faith in BJP: Dr Hina Shafi Bhat

A delegation from French embassy, led by Sophie Gauthier, counselor (political) strategic affairs and Romain Otal, second counselor called upon Jammu and Kashmir KVVIB vice chairperson, Dr Hina Shafi Bhat to have first hand review of the security and political situation in the valley.

Dr Hina told the visiting delegation that the unfortunate socio-political scenario of Jammu and Kashmir is on account of the fact that previous governments did not pay attention to infrastructural development of the state. Nobody talks about half widows and their problems. She said that Article 370 is misunderstood by people of the state. The previous governments have withered away the sanctity of the Article and now they are instigating people over what remains.

On assembly elections in the state, Dr Hina said that election commission of India has to take the final call but it would be based on the sit-



uation in Kashmir.

"All these years, elections exploited the aspirations of the common people. Mainstream political parties in connivance with separatists habitually fooled people but we want clean elections to keep democracy alive," she said and added that under BJP all the three regions of the state have received equitable treatment.

While deliberating on presence of BJP in Kashmir, she said the way things are changing at ground level

shows that the party is preferred by the right minded and progressive people.

"BJP is now a recognised party in Kashmir valley, with more than two lakh members. People are showing faith in the policies of incumbent Prime Minister and they have huge expectations," said Dr Hina and added that opposition parties have now resorted to creating apprehensions about abrogation of Article 370 and 35 A, as they do not find any substantial grounds to criticise the BJP.

GOD IS THE PREACHER OF YOGA

Saints and other people from Sour country have been trying to spread the knowledge about yog education in India as well as abroad for the last several years. In fact, India has been a land of *rishi-munis*, *yogis* and *Rajrishis*, who respected the eternal Vedic knowledge and thereby the *Ashtang* yog philosophy. They practised the same in their daily lives. But it is sad that today the eternal tradition has been changed by human beings mostly because the so-called saints don't study or teach first the Vedic knowledge anymore.

The question that arises here is why did ancient *Rishis* gave so much respect to yog education? In this connection, the study of eternal *Vedas*, our ancient religious texts like the *Mahabharata*, *Ramayana*, *Shastras*, and more reveal that they followed the yog philosophy traditionally, and attended *gurukuls*. But today, only *asana*, *pranayama* and meditation, which are just three parts of the *Ashtang* yog philosophy, are being taught.

Rigveda, right from first mantra, starts giving the knowledge of worshipping God by performing *Yajien* with *veda mantras* and not the *yog* philosophy. Our ancestors obeyed and so must we. The said tradition enables us to know the knowledge, unlimited power, divine deeds, form of God, worship and thereafter *Ashtang* yog philosophy, which is also a part of worship of god and not just a way to improve health. Before we start learning yog philosophy, the knowledge of four *Vedas* has to be gained traditionally.

Yagyavalkya states: *Hirannyagarbhaha Yogasya Vakta*, that is Almighty is himself the preacher of *Ashtang* yog. Keeping in view that *Vedas* and *Ashtang* yog philosophy has been preached by god himself, we must learn and follow the same respectfully. It is also clear that practice of *Ashtang* yog is a part of worship, which helps to attain *Samadhi* to realise salvation.

Moreover, there is not even a single ancient or present saint who followed or follows yog education alone, keeping aside the *Vedas*. So, we must learn that when they followed all them, there was no scope of corruption, vices or making the yog education as a source of income. It was being preached free because it was followed complete Vedic education which enabled or enables the aspirant to control his senses whereas due to lack of knowledge of *Vedas*, the practice of only yog has mostly become a source of several shortcomings. Many people do not even know what *Atharvaveda* states. "If you steal away only a small portion of *Vedas* education like yog education and leave the rest of the *Vedic* education then you are punished by god. Had yog education been learnt along

with *Vedas* philosophy, as was done in previous *yugas*, then no vices or malpractices would have crept in but now learning yog alone has given way to number of vices and people are using it as means of earning money, making it professional." While it is a matter of great joy that June 21 is celebrated as *Ashtang* Yoga day, there, it is also a matter of great concern that due to lack of knowledge of *Vedas*, mostly a distorted and false image of yoga, *asana* and *pranayama* has been portrayed to the world because our eternal and ancient *Vedic* culture has been very well preached.

Although it is true that on Yoga Day, the entire world has been familiarised to the word yoga, yet the presentation of a distorted and untrue shape of the eternal, everlasting and unchangeable *Ashtang* yog philosophy mentioned in the *Vedas* amounts to causing its insult.

Therefore, nobody can even think about adopting any alternative to *Vedas* or *Ashtang* yog philosophy. We must also remember that according to *Vedas* the main aim of practising the *Vedic Ashtang* yog philosophy is to realise god. However, its practice incidentally provides the devotee with healthy body and mind. The ostentatious and glamorous way of performing *asana* and *pranayama* does not come under the tradition because *Vedas* preach that *Vedic* path is the subject matter of deep, serious thoughts.

In view of the above, if we have failed to produce the eternal, unchallengeable and unchangeable form of yog philosophy which was adopted by our ancient and present saints, who practised the same in secluded places, caves and more in calm and peaceful atmosphere on the banks of river and got the best result thereof then at least some of the fundamentals should have been maintained in the present scenario to avoid a distorted form. The said dignitaries have mentioned the yog philosophy with full respect and utmost faith.

Yogi Aurobindo Ghosh and Rishi Dayanand Saraswati *Ji* have given the eternal, immortal explanation of *Vedic Ashtang* yog, worship and popularised its concept amongst the public and while carrying forward the tradition of ancient, great dignitaries like Guru Vasisht, Patanjali Rishi, Kapil Muni, Yagyavalkya Rishi, Shring Rishi, Vishwamitraj, Narad and so on dedicated their entire lives in yog.

So while celebrating the International Yoga Day, where the divine *Vedic* word 'yog' echoes, is a praise-worthy step but the true form of yog philosophy is usually not being produced before the public and hence, the ingratitude.

(The author is the chief editor of *Ved Ishvareeya Vani*, a bi-annual magazine.)

A profitable year for Bharti AXA

Bharti AXA General Insurance, a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises and AXA, has registered its maiden full-year profitability in the financial year 2018-19.

The company recorded an increase of 29 per cent in its gross written premium that is ₹2,285 crore in the financial year 2018-19 up from ₹1,772 crore in 2017-18. The growth is driven across all product segments and all channels of distribution. It achieved this performance against an overall industry growth of 12.9 per cent and private sector growth of 25 per cent in the financial year ending on March 31, 2019. During the same period the company had a net profit of ₹3 crore as compared to a loss of ₹92.6 crore during 2017-18.

The company is happy to notch up its first ever full year profitability and growth. This has been achieved by expanding the distribution network, adding number of strategic distribution partnerships, business alliances and diversification of product lines. "We will continue to focus on channel and segment diversification, productivity and prudent expense management to drive growth in years to come," said Sanjeev Srinivasan, managing director and chief executive officer, Bharti AXA General Insurance.

Srinivasan said, "Our focus on increasing distribution network and business alliances has been a key driver for the company's overall growth in both retail and corporate business. We continue to build on a steady path ahead of industry growth with superior risk selection and cost management to boost growth in the years ahead."



Win a heart, not an argument



Joshua Pollock, author of *The Heartfulness Way* delivered a lecture in the Samvaad series organised by PRSI Delhi chapter as a part of knowledge sharing initiatives for communication, media, advertising professionals and PR fraternity. Pollock said if there's no heart, no sincerity, you cannot produce pure music. Music produced without honesty is imitation. Similarly, you cannot remove the heart from communication because with their unification, you produce better results.

Pollock explained that feeling is the language of heart. PR professionals ought to understand that an element of compassion is useful in storytelling. PR is all about swaying opinions and winning hearts. It is often that in order to win an argument, people tend to lose someone's heart. Anger management is important. It is crucial to understand 'how does the other person feel about us?'

Earlier chairman Naresh Kumar and vice chairman Dr HS Paul felicitated the speaker and SS Rao, secretary, PRSI, delivered the welcome address, joint secretary Sarvesh Tiwari presented a memento to the speaker. PRSI's member Vinod Agrahari, delivered the welcome note while GS Bawa gave the vote of thanks.

NALCO continues to soar

The results of National Aluminium Company's (NALCO) performance over the last four years have come in for praise from all quarters, with CMD Dr Tapan Kumar Chand being awarded the 'global Indian business leader' for his professional achievements and inspiring social contributions. On behalf of Dr Chand, the award was received by Asutosh Rath, DGM corporate communication, NALCO.

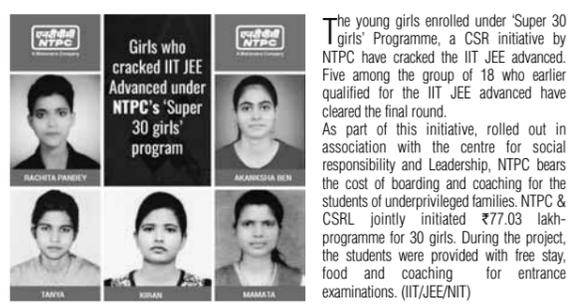
Organised by Indian Achievers' Forum, this award



comes on the back of Dalal Street Journal, rating NALCO as the fastest growing high growth PSU and Dr Chand receiving the roll of

honour for leading the company towards growth. Under his leadership, NALCO has been consistently delivering across all parameters

of production, productivity and profitability with the net profit of ₹1,732 crore in 2018-19. Along with significant achievements on the production front, NALCO achieved the distinction of becoming the lowest cost producer of alumina in the world for three consecutive years, as per the Wood Mackenzie report. The company has also been ranked as the lowest cost producer of bauxite in the world for the year 2018-19. NALCO is way ahead of its private sector peers by registering EBID-TA Margin of 28 per cent.



The admissions to the programmes of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIU) are through common entrance tests (CET) conducted by the university on merit of the qualifying degrees. The programmes of studies are grouped together, for the purpose of conduction of CET. The programme(s) groups, wherever CET is to be conducted, are assigned a CET code. National level tests based admissions GGSIU University in the academic session 2019-20 is going to admit students on the merit /score of the national level test for admissions as approved by the government of NCT of Delhi.

KHASHOGGI MURDER CASE Suspected link of Saudi Crown Prince: UN expert

AFP ■ GENEVA

There is "credible evidence" linking Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a UN expert said Wednesday, calling for sanctions on the prince's personal foreign assets.

The allegation regarding Prince Mohammed's possible direct role in Khashoggi's execution last October was detailed in a new report by the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Agnes Callamard.

Callamard, an independent human rights expert who does not speak for the United Nations, also called on UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to initiate a formal criminal investigation into the case.

Khashoggi, a Washington

Post contributor and critic of Prince Mohammed, was murdered at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2. Riyadh initially said it had no knowledge of his fate. It later blamed the murder inside the consulate on rogue agents.

Saudi prosecutors have absolved the crown prince of responsibility.

But Callamard said her inquiry had "determined that there is credible evidence, warranting further investigation of high-level Saudi Officials' individual liability, including the Crown Prince's".

The UN expert noted that international sanctions issued so far in response to Khashoggi's killing "simply fail to address the central questions of chain of command and of senior leadership's responsibilities for and associated with the execution".

Given "the credible evi-

dence into the responsibilities of the Crown Prince for his murder, such sanctions ought also to include the Crown Prince and his personal assets abroad, until and unless evidence is provided and corroborated that he carries no responsibilities for this execution", she added.

Callamard carried out her human rights inquiry on her own initiative as part of her mandate as a special rapporteur. She stressed that "no conclusion is made as to guilt," within her findings that were based on a large body of evidence, including CCTV footage from inside the consulate of the killing itself.

"The only conclusion made is that there is credible evidence meriting further investigation, by a proper authority, as to whether the threshold of criminal responsibility has been met," she said.

Iran 'categorically rejects' US tanker attack allegations

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's defence minister "categorically rejected" on Wednesday accusations that Tehran was behind two tanker attacks in the Gulf of Oman, describing evidence presented by Washington as "unsubstantiated", official news agency IRNA reported.

Washington has blamed Iran for last week's attacks, releasing images and a grainy video it alleges shows Iranians on a patrol boat removing an unexploded limpet mine attached to one of the tankers.

"Accusations levelled against Iran's armed forces and the published film with regards to the incident (that) happened to the vessels ... Are unsubstantiated and we categorically reject these accusations," IRNA quoted Defence Minister Brigadier-General

Amir Hatami as saying. "The armed forces and the port organisation were among the first to approach the tankers after the incident for relief operations and they rescued 23 people in the first tanker," he added.

Hatami did not explicitly specify which of the two ships he was referring to, but Iran's English-language Press TV at the time broadcast footage of 23 sailors rescued from the Front Altair, a tanker owned by a Norwegian listed company.

Hatami added that the Iranian forces then headed to the second tanker, but the crew said another vessel had already rescued them. "This means Americans had arrived sooner to the scene where they claim the video was recorded", Hatami said, with apparent reference to the Japanese-owned Kokuka Courageous.

Hong Kong lawmakers grill security chief

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Members of Hong Kong's legislature met on Wednesday for the first time since the largest anti-government protest in the city's history, with many opposition lawmakers slamming the pro-Beijing administration's handling of the crisis.

Hong Kong has been shaken by a series of massive demonstrations against a proposed law that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China, and the city's police force has been criticised for using excessive force to disperse protesters.

Videos of police beating unarmed protesters went viral and sparked public anger, and the tactics were widely condemned. Police said force was necessary to fend off protesters throwing bricks and metal bars.

In a tense session, opposition lawmakers grilled Hong Kong's head of security, John Lee, over the clashes.

PROTEST VIOLENCE

Many pro-democracy members of the Legislative Council wore black and carried white chrysanthemums in tribute to a man who fell to his death while protesting the law.

Some placed placards on their desks reading "No China Extradition" and "Withdraw, Withdraw" — referring to the controversial bill.

"We are sad that some people were hurt while expressing their views," Lee said, as he repeated the government's apology for the turmoil caused by the bill. He said police were responding to threats from protesters, but opposition lawmakers ridiculed his comments.

"The police were well-trained, and you have all the gear and you say the police were under threat," pro-democracy lawmaker Claudia Mo said. "This is utterly unconvincing."

An opposition lawmaker was due to introduce a non-

binding motion of no-confidence in pro-Beijing chief executive Carrie Lam, but it was not tabled before the session was adjourned. The motion was not expected to pass in the body, which is dominated by Lam's camp.

Council president Andrew Leung said there would not be a session on Thursday. It was not immediately clear when the council would meet again.

Lam suspended the extradition bill after the first mass rally on June 9, and June 12 clashes between police and protesters.

But that failed to quell public anger and protesters staged an even larger rally on Sunday which drew over two million people, according to organisers, who demanded the bill be withdrawn and Lam resign.

Lam apologised Tuesday and indicated the law is unlikely to be revived, but did not announce a formal withdrawal and vowed to continue as the city's leader.

GLOBE TROTTERING

EUTHANASIA NOW LEGAL IN AUSTRALIAN STATE

Melbourne: Terminally ill Australians can for the first time apply to end their own life, after new laws went into effect in the state of Victoria on Wednesday.

TWO EARTH-LIKE PLANETS DISCOVERED

Berlin: Scientists have discovered two new Earth-like planets around one of the closest stars within our galactic neighbourhood.

38 KILLED IN ATTACKS ON MALI VILLAGES

Bamako: Thirty-eight people were killed and many others wounded in attacks on two ethnic Dogon villages in central Mali, the government said Tuesday, in the latest in a cycle of violence in the volatile Sahel country.

Russia, China block UN from saying N Korea violated sanctions

AP ■ UNITED NATION

Russia and China have blocked the UN Security Council committee monitoring sanctions against North Korea from declaring that Pyongyang breached the annual limit for importing refined petroleum products which are key for its economy, two U.N. diplomats said Tuesday.

The diplomats said the Russians and Chinese notified the committee before Tuesday's deadline for objections.

The United States and 25 other countries accused North Korea of violating U.N. sanctions by importing far more than the annual limit of 500,000 barrels of refined petroleum products.

A US-led complaint had

asked the sanctions committee to rule that Pyongyang breached the cap and demand an immediate halt to deliveries. It said most of the excess petroleum products were obtained from dozens of illegal ship-to-ship transfers.

A Security Council diplomat said North Korea is believed to have obtained 3.5 million barrels of refined petroleum in 2018, seven times the limit. This year, North Korea has already imported more than the limit and is "on pace" to obtain about the same amount as last year through illegal ship-to-ship transfers, the diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly.

The complaint said the

500,000-barrel annual limit on refined petroleum products "is critical to maintaining pressure" on North Korea to achieve the denuclearization of the country.

Last July, Russia and China blocked a similar request from the U.S. to get the U.N. sanctions committee to publicly accuse North Korea of violating the annual quota. The Russians and Chinese are key suppliers of petroleum products to North Korea.

The Security Council imposed sanctions on North Korea after its first nuclear test explosion in 2006 and has made them tougher and tougher in response to further such tests and its increasingly sophisticated ballistic missile programme.

New Acting US Defence Secy fought in Gulf war

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Mark T Esper, President Donald Trump's pick for new Acting US Defence Secretary, is an Army veteran who fought in the Gulf war and worked as a lobbyist for one of America's biggest military contractors.

The 55-year-old ex-classmate of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was chosen after Acting Defence Secretary Patrick Shanahan withdrew his nomination, which took

many by surprise.

Esper is taking over against the backdrop of soaring tensions between the US and Iran which has said it would surpass the uranium-stockpile limit set by its nuclear deal in the next 10 days.

Making the announcement of the new appointment, President Trump said that his current Army secretary Esper would lead the Defence Department.

"I doubt Mark, and we have no doubt he will do a fantas-

tic job!" he said in a tweet.

Trump told reporters that he is likely to nominate Esper for the permanent job.

Esper, elevated from his job as Army secretary to be Acting Defence Secretary, became the third person to lead the Pentagon under President Trump. James Norman Mattis was the first one to lead Pentagon after Trump assumed office.

Esper, after graduating from West Point, served in the Army, the Army Reserve and National Guard in some capacity for more than two decades, The New York Times reported.

The NYT report said that Shanahan's 30-year career at Boeing complicated his nomination and Esper's tenure as Raytheon's top lobbyist could leave him facing a similar issue.

Dutch to put four on trial over MH17 crash

AFP ■ NIEUWEGEIN

Dutch prosecutors are to put four people on trial for murder next year over the shooting down of flight MH17 over Ukraine, in which 298 people were killed, relatives said on Wednesday.

The court case over the crash of the Malaysia Airlines plane will start in the Netherlands in March 2020, according to family members who were briefed ahead of an announcement by international investigators due about 1100 GMT.

The identities of the four people to be charged were not immediately available but a Ukrainian minister and reports said on Tuesday they included at least one senior Russian officer.

The airliner travelling between Amsterdam and Kuala Lumpur was torn apart in mid-air after being hit by a missile over territory in eastern Ukraine held by pro-Russian separatists on July 17, 2014, investigators say.

"There is a court case on March 9 2020 against four people for murder," Silene Fredriks, whose son and daughter-in-law were killed in the disaster, told reporters.

"I am happy that the trial is finally going to start and that the names have been announced. It's a start. I'm satisfied." The charges come nearly a year after the international probe into the crash said the BUK missile which hit the Boeing 777 had originated from a Russian military brigade based in the southwestern city of Kursk.

Asked if she personally blamed anyone for the crash, Fredriks said: "Mr (Russian President Vladimir) Putin.

"Because he made this possible. He created this situation. He is the main responsible person." Russia has vehemently denied all involvement in the shooting down of MH17. On Wednesday it complained of being excluded from the probe despite "proactively" trying to be involved.

"You know our attitude towards this investigation.

Russia had no opportunity to take part in it even though it showed initiative from... The very first days of this tragedy," Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

Ukraine's deputy foreign minister Olena Zerkal said on Tuesday that four people would be named over MH17 and senior Russian army officers were involved. Zerkal said the transfer of weapons like the BUK anti-aircraft missile system "is impossible without the (Russian) top brass's permission".

Dutch media have named several suspects including the head of the 53rd anti-aircraft brigade, the Russian unit identified by the probe last year.

The Joint Investigation Team (JIT) probing the attack includes Australia, Belgium, Malaysia, the Netherlands and Ukraine.

The Netherlands and Australia said in May last year that they formally "hold Russia responsible" for the disaster, after the findings on the origin of the missile were announced.

Record 70.8 m people displaced at end of 2018: UN

AFP ■ GENEVA

More than 70 million people were counted last year as displaced from their homes, a record that underestimates the real number of refugees and asylum seekers, the UN said Wednesday.

In its annual global trends report, the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) described the figure of 70.8 million at the end of 2018 as "conservative", particularly because the number of people who fled Venezuela's devastating crisis is undercounted.

At the end of 2017, by comparison, 68.5 million people were counted as being forcibly displaced by violence or persecution.

The UNHCR attributed the increase partly to surging displacement in Ethiopia caused by inter-ethnic conflict, and in Venezuela, where thousands are fleeing every day amid an economic collapse that has triggered shortages of basic food and medicine.

Sudan's Army calls for unconditional talks with protesters

AP ■ KHARTOUM

Sudan's military council on Wednesday urged opposition leaders to resume negotiations on the transition of power, without preconditions, but the comments could further complicate the already stalled transition process as protest organisers continue their night-time demonstrations demanding civilian rule.

Negotiations collapsed in the wake of a violent crackdown of a protest camp in the capital Khartoum earlier this month. At least 128 people have been killed across the country since security forces moved in to clear the sit-in area outside the military's headquarters on June 3.

Authorities offer a lower death toll of 61, including three

from security forces. Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, head of the council, told a gathering of health workers in Khartoum that the council did not have preconditions for returning to the negotiating table with the Forces for Declaration of Freedom and Change, which has represented protesters, so neither should the protesters.

"I repeat our invitation to all political forces and the FDFC to come (for talks), and there is no need for preconditions. ... We do not deny their role in the uprising and the popular revolution ... but the solution should be satisfactory to all Sudanese factions," he said.

Protesters leaders could not be reached immediately for comment.

Protest leaders have

announced a package of conditions to be met before resuming talks, which included the formation of an international commission to investigate the killings of protesters, restored internet services, adherence to previous deals struck before the breakdown in talks and the return of paramilitary troops to their barracks.

The military council rejected the idea of an international probe and said it had started its own investigation along with another one by prosecutors.

Meanwhile, an Ethiopian initiative to resume talks apparently failed to make progress in the deadlock.

A top general in the military council pushed back last week against a key demand from the protest leaders to have the majority in a transi-

tional legislative body. The protest leaders also called for daily night-time demonstrations and marches on Thursday, saying they feared the military council intended to stay as a dominant power in the transition.

Burhan warned of the possibility of another coup as the country "cannot afford being without a government" more than three months after the military ousted autocratic president Omar al-Bashir in April.

"We do not want that things went out of control. A new coup could be carried out because of the country's impasse," he said. The country's ruler criticised the sit-in, which was central in Sudan's uprising since it encouraged the military to step in and remove al-Bashir.

AXIS BANK Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. Includes details of secured assets and demand amounts.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System). Includes details of tender items, dates, and contact information.

Rajasthan Olive Cultivation Limited (Joint Venture of Govt. of Rajasthan) State Institute of Agriculture Management Campus, Agriculture Research Station, Durgapura, Jaipur-302018 Rajasthan (India) Ph. 91-9141-2554106. Website: www.rajolive.com

The Executive Engineer-C-3 (DUSIB) Govt. of N.C.T. Delhi invites on behalf of DUSIB online Percentage rate bid on two bid system for following work. Includes details of three tender items.



naabaste BENGILAND

INJURIES ARE PART AND PARCEL NOBODY HAS CONTROL ON IT. THIS IS A GOOD INDIAN TEAM AND THEY WILL MAKE IT TO THE SEMIS AND WE WILL SEE WHAT HAPPENS
— SOURAV GANGULY

CRICKETCRADLE

TODAY LIVE

Australia vs Bangladesh
3:00 pm IST
VENUE: Trent Bridge, Nottingham

Virushka outing



Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli was spotted spending some quality time together in London
ViratKohliFanClub/Instagram

Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma has joined her husband and Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli ahead of India's clash against Afghanistan on Saturday in the ongoing World Cup in England and Wales. The couple was spotted in London earlier this week with a Kohli fan page posting about the outing on social media. "Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma on the Old Bond Street in London today. I love Anushka's new haircut," the image was posted on Tuesday on Instagram. Anushka has been accompanying Virat in earlier tours and was seen cheering and supporting her husband and the team. She was also there with the team when India toured Australia and England last year. Earlier, the BCCI had not allowed the wives and family members to travel with the cricketers for the first 20 days of ongoing World Cup, which included India's much-anticipated clash against Pakistan. However, it seems the board has now changed its stance and is allowing the family members of the players to travel with the team.

Role of Inzy now?

Following Pakistan's dismal performance in the ongoing World Cup so far, the country's former skipper Intikhab Alam has questioned the presence of chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq in England and said it was the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) mistake to allow him to stay in England at its expense. "Once the selection committee has selected the team, the captain and coach take over to select the playing 11 and decide on the tour matters," Intikhab told the Dawn. "So what is the role of Inzamam-ul-Haq there and why has the PCB allowed him to go on official visit and interfere," he questioned. Meanwhile, the Pakistan Cricket Board will carry out a "robust review and analysis" of the performances of the national team and its support staff, including head coach Mickey Arthur, in the past three years after the World Cup. The PCB Board of Governors which met in Lahore on Wednesday also agreed the team's performance in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 to date has been below expectation. Pakistan has won just one match in its five games in the World Cup so far. The PCB said in a statement that the Board of Governors had a discussion on the Pakistan team's recent performance across all formats.

Faith in team: PCB

Even as fans, critics and former players continue to lash out at the national team's performances in the ongoing World Cup, the Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Ehsan Mani has assured captain Sarfaraz Ahmed of the board's full support. A PCB spokesman confirmed that Mani had called up Sarfaraz on Tuesday and spoken to him about the team and remaining matches of the World Cup. "The Chairman assured Sarfaraz that the board and nation is behind the team and they should try to focus on the matches ahead and give their best," said the spokesperson. Mani apparently told Sarfaraz that the nation has faith in the team despite the defeats and wanted the players to bounce back strongly in remaining matches. A reliable source from the Government said that PM Imran Khan is unhappy that despite his advice the team chose to field first against India.

AGENCIES

PRELIMINARY STAGE

Pos	Team	P	W	L	N/R	Net RR	Pts
1	ENG	5	4	1	0	+1.862	8
2	AUS	5	4	1	0	+0.812	8
3	NZ	4	3	1	0	+2.163	7
4	IND	4	3	1	0	+1.029	7
5	B'DESH	5	1	2	2	-0.270	5
6	SL	5	1	2	2	-1.778	4
7	WI	5	1	3	1	+0.272	3
8	RSA	5	1	3	1	-0.208	3
9	PAK	5	1	3	1	-1.933	3
10	AFG	5	0	5	0	-2.089	0

Dhawan out of World Cup

Bhuvi hopes alive even as Shami trains consistently

PNS ■ HAMPSHIRE BOWL (SOUTHAMPTON)

The big bad news is that opener Shikhar Dhawan has been ruled out of the entire tournament due to a metacarpal fracture in the left hand. "Several specialist opinions revealed that Shikhar Dhawan has sustained a fracture at the base of his first metacarpal of the left hand. His hand will remain in a cast till mid-July which rules him out of the rest of the ICC World Cup 2019," team manager Sunil Subramaniam announced at a Press conference at Hampshire Bowl on Wednesday.

He said the Team India management has "written to the ICC's technical committee seeking a replacement and Rishabh Pant will be the person covering Dhawan."

After being left out of the 15, Pant had been flown in last week and had joined the team to train in Manchester where India played against Pakistan and won by 89 runs.

Dhawan, however, was seen playing football with the team at nets just before the announcement was made and seemed to be relaxed and reconciled to his fate. He had just made a return to form after a wishy-washy inaugural against South Africa in the opening game. He scored a scintillating 127 runs in the second game against Australia at The Oval where a Pat Cummins rising delivery hit his hand and did him in. The player, known to have a high pain tolerance level, continued to play 20 more overs after his fracture and mid-field first aid.

After the match, assistant coach Sanjay Bangar had said the team would not like to lose a fiery opener like Dhawan and had decided to wait for two weeks before taking a final decision with follow-up scans. Dhawan attended all practice sessions, taking jogs of the stadium and playing football with the boys on most occasions. India's mega opening worries were, however, settled down by KL Rahul who has since been promoted up the



Shikhar Dhawan holds a football during India's training session at Hampshire Bowl in Southampton on Wednesday

order from No 4. He made a solid 57 against Pakistan in his newly accorded position. He contributed to a record 136-run opening partnership with Rohit Sharma. Rahul's form and determination at the top of the order would have Pant waiting in the wings for now

I feel emotional to announce that I will no longer be a part of CWC19. Unfortunately, the thumb won't recover on time. But the show must go on. I'm grateful for all the love & support from my team mates, cricket lovers & our entire nation. Jai Hind!
— Dhawan's video tweet to fans



Hamstring stress has Bhuvneshwar Kumar on a walk around the Hampshire Bowl as his team mates practice on Wednesday

Pioneer Photo

and give Kohli a little less angst about Shikhar's absence. Though Team India's strength and conditioning coach Shanker Basu said later in the day that fitness was the newest and most potent tool of the current Indian squad, and that the Indian team has the becoming record of the lowest injury rate despite playing double the amount of cricket that other teams, Kohli and the management have their concern caps on for Bhuvneshwar Kumar who sustained a "hamstring stiffness" during the match against Pakistan. He had to leave the field without completing his over and the ball was given to Vijay Shankar who took Imam Ul Haq's wicket in his very first delivery of the World Cup.

Bhuvneshwar has been ruled out for at least two matches, maybe three, which means against Afghanistan, West Indies and England. At nets on Wednesday, the pace bowler took three rounds of the field along with the support staff, not jogging but walking.

Mohammed Shami, meanwhile, bowled consistently during training to Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul and Virat Kohli. "Bhuvi is a huge concern but Shami is fit and raring to go," Kohli had said at Manchester after packing off Pakistan.

Fitness, new tool for Team India

PNS ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Fitness, training and nutrition are the three tools with which Team India has turned into an athletic unit with minimal injuries despite playing constant cricket through the year. The bowlers are bowling quicker, they are all fit and the fielding has been optimal, not to mention the players carrying their blades for long innings without much fatigue.

"Fitness has become a lifestyle with this new Indian team. Training, sleep-wake cycle and nutrition are the three hallmarks of a professional athlete and everybody is down and running in that direction. It is not an Army drill type of thing. They do their own personal stuff, they know their bodies very well. We all function very differently from the inside. So one man's food can be another man's poison," said the team's strength and conditioning coach Shanker Basu.

He, however, said that it was a major challenge to get the boys back into working condition after the IPL.

"Jokingly we would talk about IPL as the Mount Everest. Then we come to base camp and then we hit Kilimanjaro. During IPL, the boys start sleeping very late, 2 am, sometimes 3. To get them back to sleeping early, back to a training regime was a challenge. We had only eight days for that. But, in the past four years, the boys have started quickly understanding the value of sleep-wake cycle, good nutrition programme, supplement, training, strength work and conditioning. We try to educate them about the human body has a particular sleep-wake cycle. During IPL, whether you like it or not, the boys take a beating. This World Cup preparation was very critical," he said.

So the team took to technology and introduced several gadgets to monitor the players' fitness quotient. First came the dexta scan which generally measures bone density but the team doctor used it to ascertain each player's fat percentage. "The moment you have a number in your hand, it brings a healthy coemption in the team. Healthy eating habits is



Virat Kohli, right, and Rohit Sharma bat in the nets during a training session ahead of their match against Afghanistan at the Hampshire Bowl

the only way to bring down the fat percentage. So, everybody started doing that like fish takes to water. Everybody started eating better. Once they did that they lost the extra fat and they all started moving well," Basu explained.

The biggest achievement, however, was that the Indian team having the lowest number of injuries even though it plays double the amount of cricket than other any other team in the world. The boys are keen on eating the right stuff. "To cut a long story short, we have cut on junk big time and this has made this team as good as an athletic team. We don't need to tell them to do that. All we did was a dexta scan and subsequently a DNA test that gives you what sort of a person are you whether you are gluten intolerant or you are lactose intolerant etc. So they are all aware and making informed decisions based on their report cards," Basu added.

"During season, especially the journey started in 2015 what we are

Fitness has become a lifestyle with this new Indian team. Training, sleep-wake cycle and nutrition are the three hallmarks of a professional athlete and everybody is down and running in that direction

seeing today is the culmination of efforts in the last few years. The brand of training and the culture is fantastic

which was good and could go on and on. In the last year, the proof of the pudding has been seen in the results. Bumrah, Bhuvni, Umesh Yadav — all of them have started bowling much quicker. The reason for that is consistent work with a few lifestyle modifications with regards to nutrition and the way we train. We got the GPS last year. It gives you data of immense value. Based on that we started understanding our training methodology a lot more and based on that we started preparing a schedule. All this has helped us in our fast bowlers bowling 145 clicks consistently, even in Test matches. This did not happen overnight," Basu pointed out.

The team made it a point in 2015 that they would train consistently. Just like batting, bowling and fielding, they planned to work on fitness seriously. "The captain and the coach wanted to use fitness as a vehicle and I was there to augment that," Basu said.

Here comes Shami 2.0

PNS ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Boost is the secret of pacer Mohammed Shami's energy. Not the drink, but the boost that came from his personal problems and a series of failed fitness tests. So much so that his strength and conditioning coach Shanker Basu calls it a blessing in disguise.

"Shami failing the fitness test was a blessing in disguise. After that, we was a changed man, so determined. He is blessed with some amazing gene. We all know about intermittent fasting. He doesn't even know what it is, but he does it on his own. His fat percentage in three years has remained exactly the same. He is a piece of work," he said.

Shami has long been struggling with marital discord and divorce issues but his main failing had been his aversion to fitness training. "He used to be the last one to get into the bus," Basu said. Which makes the bowler's present makeover a big achievement.

"The best part is he has changed his entire training regime. Now training is part of his lifestyle which never used to be so. But after his personal setback and failing the fitness test he is a changed man. This is the 2.0 version of Mohammed Shami," a proud Basu said.

Indeed, one look at the way he was bowling at nets on Wednesday, and you would know this right-arm-fast-medium quick has changed since 2015 when he took 77 or the 80 wickets at hand. The intervening years brought in fat, a failed marriage, a public spat, hovering ban and a lazy fitness drive. But bowling to Rohit Sharma and then Virat Kohli, in the absence of hamstrung Bhuvneshwar Kumar, he did not look one bit rusted.



Mohammed Shami bowls during nets

naqabaste ENGLAND

SHAMI IS CAPABLE ENOUGH TO WIN GAMES ON HIS OWN. HE IS ONE OF THOSE GUYS WHO HAS BEEN A MATCHWINNER ON HIS OWN — HARBHAJAN SINGH

Eoinic sixathon



England's captain Eoin Morgan bats during the World Cup match between England and Afghanistan at Old Trafford in Manchester AP

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Even Eoin Morgan was shocked by his record-breaking innings against Afghanistan but claims his England teammates still won't be impressed.

Morgan blasted an incredible 17 sixes — the most in ODI history — as part of a game-changing knock of 148 at Old Trafford, breaking the previous record of 16 jointly-held by master-blasters AB de Villiers, Chris Gayle and Rohit Sharma.

It paced England to a score of 397/6 — their highest at an ICC Men's World Cup — and they eventually recorded a 150-run triumph to return to the top of the table.

Morgan brought up his century off 57 balls, although that was 11 slower than Jos Buttler's England record of 46 deliveries against Pakistan in 2015 — meaning the skipper doesn't have complete ownership of bragging rights.

"I think I'm probably just becoming a target for the guys in the changing room to take down," joked Morgan. "The hundred I scored is considered a slow one in our changing room — guys talk about it all the time. So it's a tough school!"

"Never have I ever thought I could play a knock like that but I'm delighted that I have.

"It's weird. It's very strange to have that sixes record. It's something, along with the innings, I never thought I'd do. It's a nice place to be.

"The last four years, I've probably played the best in my career but that hasn't involved a 50 or 60-ball hundred.

"I thought I would have it in the locker somewhere but it's never happened, so I sort of gave up on it a little bit.

"When I came to the crease, it was a 50/50 shout whether myself or Jos [Buttler] went in and that probably helped because after I faced a few balls, I had no choice.

"I had to start taking risks because of him coming in next and then after I got dropped [on 28], it was a matter of just keeping going. It was one of those days."

“NEVER HAVE I EVER THOUGHT I COULD PLAY A KNOCK LIKE THAT BUT I'M DELIGHTED THAT I HAVE. IT'S WEIRD. IT'S VERY STRANGE TO HAVE THAT SIXES RECORD. IT'S SOMETHING, ALONG WITH THE INNINGS, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D DO. IT'S A NICE PLACE TO BE”

Morgan's innings was even more remarkable given the fact he struggled with back spasms during the last game against West Indies and had to face a late fitness test in order to play against Afghanistan.

That certainly didn't hinder him at the crease and once England had set an intimidating total, the bowlers clinically finished the job to secure an emphatic victory.

And among the excitement surrounding batting records, Morgan was quick to praise his pace attack — headlined by Jofra Archer taking 3/52 and Mark Wood an impressive 2/40 from ten overs.

"They were very good on a wicket that didn't offer a great deal," added Morgan. "It had good bounce and turned a bit for the spinners but seam movement or swing — it had none.

"So when guys execute hitting a good length and using their bounce well, it is satisfying because it's very hard to do.

"When the ball doesn't move around, it obviously means your pace is important and all three guys [Wood, Archer and Chris Woakes] pace looked good."



Jos Buttler checks Hashmatullah Shahidi after he was hit on head by Mark Wood's bouncer ICC/Twitter

'No regrets'

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

England fast bowler Mark Wood said he had no regrets about persisting with short-pitched deliveries after hitting Afghanistan batsman Hashmatullah Shahidi with a bouncer.

Shahidi had made 24 when he took his eye off a 90 mile-per-hour (145 kilometres-per-hour) delivery from the Durham quick that thudded into the side of his helmet at Old Trafford on Tuesday and saw him hit the turf immediately after the impact.

But instead of retiring hurt, the 24-year-old donned a new helmet and carried on to top-score for Afghanistan, with 76 in a lopsided 150-run loss.

Wood, while concerned enough to check on Shahidi's condition, had no regrets about testing him and the other Afghanistan batsmen with more short-pitched deliveries.

"Well, I was concerned when I first hit him, obviously," said Wood.

"It was a bit of a bad blow and then it's out of my hands really. You have to let the medical staff do their thing. I checked he was all right himself, said 'are you OK?'. Then I was back in the game mode."

"Morgy (England skipper Eoin Morgan) wanted me to fire another few down. If that's what the captain wants, you listen to orders," the 29-year-old Durham quick added.

"Once you know he (the batsman) is all right, it's game time again."

Told he had split Hashmatullah's helmet, Wood grinned: "I'm bowling them quite fast... For a change!"

Wood and fellow England fast

bowler Jofra Archer shared five wickets against Afghanistan as they continued an effective partnership that has helped take the hosts to the top of the 10-team World Cup table.

"I thought, collectively, we bowled really well," said Wood.

"It was difficult at times because I didn't feel the Afghanistan batsmen were coming at us and we had to try to mix it up, get them to play a few shots.

"It was nice to try something different and get a few wickets." England's victory over basement side Afghanistan was set up by an extraordinary innings from Morgan who, defying a back problem, hit a one-day international record 17 sixes in his blistering 148.

"It was amazing, amazing," said Wood.

"I was delighted for him. Coming off his back injury scare and stuff, and not knowing how he would play or feel, I was just astounded by how well he played out there.

"A lot of the bowlers tend to sit in the back of the dressing room and try and relax but even I came out and watched that because it was great to see on such a big occasion."

Under Morgan's captaincy, England have risen to the top of the ODI rankings since their woeful first-round exit at the 2015 World Cup.

"I know we've played like this for four years now, and there's been some remarkable things," said Wood.

"But to do it in a World Cup game speaks volumes about how Eoin wants the team to play and the values we've kept going throughout those four years."

Blame game

Phil Simmons @Coachsim13

I am in the middle of a World Cup and trying to get our team to perform to the level we expect but at the end of the World Cup I will tell the Afghanistan people about the part that Mr Dawlat Ahmadzai had to play in our preparation and his part in the dismissal of #AsgharAfghan

M. Ibrahim Momand @IbrahimReporter · 19h Dawlat Ahmadzai former fast bowler & chief selector of @ACBofficials believes that, it is all the fault of the coaching staff led by @Coachsim13 that they couldn't prepare Afghanistan team for @cricketworldcup.#CWC19 #AfghanAtalan #AFGv...

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

A dejected Afghanistan coach Phil Simmons on Wednesday hinted that chief selector Dawlat Ahmadzai had a role in shock removal of Asghar Afghan from captaincy days before the World Cup.

Lying at the bottom of the table after losing all of their five matches so far, a blame game has started with Ahmadzai holding the Simmons-led coaching set-up responsible for Afghanistan's below-par show in the ongoing World Cup.

"I am in the middle of a World Cup and trying to get our team to perform to the level we expect but at the end of the World Cup I will tell the Afghanistan people about the part that Mr Dawlat Ahmadzai had to play in our preparation and his part in the dismissal of #AsgharAfghan," Simmons

tweeted. Simmons was reacting to a tweet by an Afghanistan journalist where he wrote that Ahmadzai believes the poor show of the national team was because of lack of preparation on the part of the coaching staff.

In a surprising move, Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) named Gulbadin Naib as the limited-overs captain, replacing experienced Asghar Afghan.

But the decision didn't go down well with the team members with senior players like Mohammad Nabi and Rashid Khan openly questioning the move.

Afghanistan has so far suffered defeats against Australia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, New Zealand and Sri Lanka.

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Afghanistan captain Gulbadin Naib admitted Eoin Morgan's destructive innings was the best he has ever seen after his side slipped to defeat against England at Old Trafford.

England skipper Morgan blasted a mesmerising 148 off 71 balls, including 17 sixes — a world record number of maximums for an ODI.

Afghanistan's star spinner Rashid Khan struggled with final figures of 0/110 but Gulbadin was keen to absolve Rashid of any blame and conceded that a drop of Morgan in the deep on 28 was the pivotal moment in the match.

"From the start of the game, the boys did well for 30 overs but after that, England smashed every ball," said Gulbadin.

"We dropped Morgan on 28, so if we didn't then maybe they don't get that score. Maybe we lost from there.

"I'm not disappointed by Rashid — he's one of the best spinners, a star player in the world. This happens to any player, not just Rashid.

"It wasn't his day but that's cricket — sometimes you do well, sometimes it's like this. I'm happy with him,

Dropped catch & match



Gulbadin Naib, left, and teammate Najibullah Zadran, center, attempt to run-out Eoin Morgan AP

“FROM THE START OF THE GAME, BOYS DID WELL FOR 30 OVERS BUT AFTER THAT, ENG SMASHED EVERY BALL. WE DROPPED MORGAN ON 28, SO IF WE DIDN'T THEN MAYBE THEY DON'T GET THAT SCORE. MAYBE WE LOST FROM THERE”

it's not a big deal. Inshallah he will become stronger from this.

"But you have to give credit to England and Morgan especially for his batting. He showed his class and I have never seen this kind of batting before."

While England climbed back to the top of the table, Afghanistan are still bottom of the pile with five defeats from five games.

However, for the first time in this tournament they completed 50 overs with the bat — making 247/8 as Hashmatullah Shahidi led the way with an impressive 76 from 100 balls.

It was a battling performance and Gulbadin claims his side showed enough fight in defeat to leave him feeling good about the upcoming matches.

"We take a lot of positives from this — I thought we did well in every department," he added. "We missed one catch off Morgan and we lost from there."

"After 30 overs, the score wasn't too bad, so we take a lot of things from here — we are improving day by day in each department."

"It was definitely a good thing for the team that we batted 50 overs as well — that is a positive sign."

For mom

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Afghanistan's Hashmatullah Shahidi said his desire not to worry his mother was the main reason he got back up after being felled by a Mark Wood bouncer in a World Cup match against England.

Shahidi had made 24 when he took his eye off a 90 mph delivery from the fast bowler that thudded into the side of his helmet and saw him hit the turf immediately after the sickening impact.

It seemed the 24-year-old was about to retire but, donning a new helmet, Shahidi carried on to top-score

for Afghanistan with 76 in an otherwise lopsided 150-run loss.

"I got up early because of my mum," Shahidi told reporters after Afghanistan's fifth defeat in as many matches this tournament.

"I lost my father last year so I didn't want her to hurt. My whole family was watching, even my big brother was here in the ground watching. I didn't want them to be worried for me," added Shahidi, with the President of Afghanistan, Ashraf Ghani, also in attendance at Old Trafford.

But the fact he was allowed to ignore medical

advice is bound to raise questions about how the International Cricket Council are dealing with head injuries at this World Cup.

"The ICC doctors came to me, and our physios, and my helmet was broken in the middle," Shahidi recalled.

"They just told me just, 'let's go'. I told them I can't leave my team-mate at that moment. My team needed me. I carried on."

"After the match I went to the ICC doctor and talked to them. They took care of me and said it will be fine, Inshallah (god willing)."

Afghanistan team official, Naveed Sayeh, confirmed Shahidi had acted against advice in batting on.

"The doctors told him, 'please come off' and to leave the ground. He told them, 'no, I'm now OK so I'll continue my batting,'" Sayeh said.

EXPENSIVE RASHID Tuesday's match was tough on Afghanistan bowling star Rashid Khan, who conceded the second-most expensive figures in one-day international history with a return of 0-110 in nine overs.

Yet things might have been different for the star leg-spinner had not England captain Eoin Morgan — who hit a record 17 sixes in a match-winning 148 — been dropped off

Rashid on 28 when Dawlat Zadran made a mess of a catch at deep midwicket.

"It happens, for any player, so not only Rashid," said Afghanistan captain Gulbadin Naib.

"Everyone knows how good Rashid is. I think today was not his day, but it's cricket, so sometimes you do well, sometimes this kind of stuff."

Meanwhile, Morgan insisted England did not have a plan to target Rashid. "It certainly wasn't deliberate," he said. "We don't go into any game with any pre-conceived ideas. But like all good players, you probably learn the most about yourself when your backs are against the wall."

Oz step in Tiger terrain

Confident Tigers take on defending champions Aus who are not on top of their game

UPNEXT

VS

LIVE ON

3:00 pm IST

STAR SPORTS

IT has been a smooth if not dominant ride for Australia thus far but the defending champions run into a tricky Bangladesh when they strive to get closer to World Cup semifinals, here today.

The Aaron Finch-led side is at number two behind table-toppers England, though it also has eight points from five matches. Australia (0.812) are marginally behind the hosts (1.862) when Net Run Rate is taken into account.

Australia will start favourites in today's clash but a passionate Bangladesh are expected to make life tough for the holders. The Tigers have shown what they are capable of when they comprehensively beat the West Indies, riding on a magnificent 124 not out from all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan.

In the form of his life, Shakib has already hit back-to-back centuries and Australia would still remember that it was he, who had plotted their downfall in Bangladesh's historic Test victory against them two years ago with a 10-wicket match haul.

The format is different but coach Justin Langer admitted that his side will have to deal with Shakib. "He (Shakib) probably is the world's best all-rounder and a left-arm spinner," said Langer.

The good news for Australia is that all-rounder Marcus Stoinis is fit after missing two matches due to a side strain though he is not a definite starter against Bangladesh. Langer also hinted that a specialist spinner may come in in his eleven in view of the 'dry' strip at the Trent Bridge.

"That (playing four fast bowlers) might change. That was more brought upon us because Stoinis got injured. It's been wet, it's been overcast, the wickets get a bit drier. This one (Trent Bridge) looks dry," he said.

Australia played leg-spinner Adam Zampa in their first three matches, winning two of those, but in the last two matches they have not fielded any specialist spinner. They have used part-timer Glenn Maxwell as their main spinner in the



Australian batsman Steve Smith smiles during team's training session. cricket.com.au/Twitter

last two matches, with captain Finch also chipping in against Pakistan. Off-spinner Nathan Lyon has not played so far in the tournament.

Bangladesh, on the other hand, are known to raise their level against top sides. Before getting the better of West Indies, they had shocked South Africa by 21 runs in their campaign opener. With five points from as many matches, Bangladesh have become a contender for the semifinal spot.

After his unbeaten 124, Shakib declared that he held no fear for the Australian pace brigade, led by Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins.

"We've been facing some of the best

fast bowlers in the last four matches. We've been coping well and we're not worried about that because we played England, we played WI. Both the teams got 140, 150-plus bowlers. "We just need to do our basics right. I think we're a skilled team and we are capable enough to counter those challenges."

The likes of opening batsman Tamim Iqbal and wicketkeeper batsman Mushfiqur Rahim have been in good touch while Liton Das hit a blistering 69-ball 94 not out against WI. But the bowling department of Bangladesh will have to rise up to the occasion if they have to notch up their first win against Australia in the WC.



Bangladesh players play football during warm up session. BangladeshCricket/Twitter

HEAD TO HEAD

	Played	Aus	Bdesh	N/R
Matches	20	18	1	1
Day matches	18	17	1	1
In World Cup	2	2	-	-
Last 5 matches	5	4	-	1

HIGHEST TOTALS

Australia	361-8 in 50 overs at Dhaka	13-04-2011
Bangladesh	295-6 in 50 overs at Dhaka	13-04-2011

PERFORMANCE IN WC

Team	P	W	L	T	N/R	Success%
Australia	89	66	21	1	1	75.28
Bangladesh	36	13	22	-	1	37.50

FAISEL FEATURES

playerspeak

ALEX CAREY, AUS

After the WI-Bangladesh match (indiscernible) against Bangladesh?

Bangladesh are playing some really good cricket at the moment and it's led by Shakib. We've obviously put our time into Shakib and all the players at the top of the order as well as their bowling.

Is Australia scared of Bangladesh's spin attack?

No, we're not scared of the spin attack. We've done our preparation. We know Shakib's a big threat and has done a lot of the work for Bangladesh at the moment as well as Mehedi and a couple of the other spinners. We've prepared accordingly for the spin attack as well as the same attack as well. Mushfiq is bowling really well at the moment as well. So we've prepared for the conditions and for the attack.

What did you have to do to change the game plan to move into the middle?

Just assessing the situation. If it's in the first innings, obviously last time we were here we were in a bit of trouble. So there was, I guess, a chance to just bat for a little while and I guess try to change the momentum.

Do you think Australia is playing their best cricket in this tournament?

We're playing really good cricket. We've got areas where we can still improve and be more consistent at. I think the top of the order, batting-wise, have done a lot of the work and making a lot of the runs which is great. It's their job. We're bowling through the middle really well and at the back end, obviously Starc, Cummins, the guys that have come in have done their job. But there's little areas we can do better at.

Do you have a plan mapped out for how you'll advance that format over the next few years?

No, at the moment my experience at the international level has been with the white ball and I guess limited opportunity back in Australia in shield cricket. I wouldn't change anything. If I'm playing white ball cricket for Australia, then I'm really happy to do that.

Do you feel like a strong World Cup can put you ahead of (indiscernible) for the back-up role come the Ashes?

I haven't really thought about it to be honest. I'm not sure what the selectors will go with there. He's obviously over playing in the Australia A set-up. But I want to play group cricket here for sure and I guess the rest of it will take care of itself.

Is it going to be a battle between B'deshi batsmen versus Aus pace bowlers?

Bangladesh are playing really well. It's exciting to come up against a team that's in good form. We're in really good form as well. It's going to be a great game.

Finch has lost seven straight coin tosses in a row, any advice for him?

No, I don't. It's interesting, though. We've lost a lot of tosses, but the last seven games we've played some pretty good cricket. In a tournament like this, although you want to win the toss, I don't think it matters too much in terms of the outcome. If we get sent in, we know it's going to be a good wicket; or if we're chasing, we know what we've got to chase.

Any planning regarding Shakib?

We've had a look at the vision. He's in probably career best form with the white ball. We sort of know the areas and line and length we want to bowl to him and I guess out there we'll assess the conditions as well. We normally have our plans going into every game and we assess each player accordingly. We've gone through all the batting list and hopefully plans go accordingly.

Courtesy — © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2018

MEN WHO MATTER

MITCHELL STARC (AUS)

Among bowlers to have taken 20 or more wickets in WCs, Starc's average of 13.51 and strike-rate of 18.8 are the best ever. Starc takes just over two-and-a-half wickets a game and concedes runs at 4.30 an over. To put things in perspective, if teams faced only Starc when they batted, they would manage about 135 runs per innings before being bowled out.



SHAKIB AL HASAN (B'DESH)

Shakib is really showing why he is the world's top-ranked all-rounder in ODIs. With five wickets in four matches, and two centuries and two fifties in four innings, Shakib has made it simply impossible to look past him anymore. In his current form, Shakib against Starc and Cummins could be a one-on-one battle made in cricketing heaven.



UNDER THE WEATHER

There could be some scattered showers in Nottingham, but they will be accompanied by a gentle breeze, which could help in keeping interruptions to a minimum. Chances of rain gradually go down as the day progresses.

Tigers ready to roar

CONFIDENCE in abundance and a dressing room full of believers means Bangladesh are a side to watch out for according to captain Mashrafe Mortaza.

The Tigers are back roaring in the ICC Men's World Cup after a seven-wicket win over West Indies last time out kept their semi-final chances well and truly alive.

But when it comes to holding their own, Bangladesh are far from done there with defending champions Australia in their sights in an exciting Trent Bridge tussle on Thursday.

Not since 2005 have Mashrafe's side beaten Australia in an ODI — with the skipper himself one of the stars of the show when dismissing Adam Gilchrist for a duck in Cardiff.

Fourteen years on and progression has been all to see for the 35-year-old and his side, with a new-found mentality a key factor in their confidence ahead of the Nottingham clash.

"I know a few players are in our dressing room who believe we can beat anybody," said Mashrafe. "But against Australia, it won't be easy, for sure, especially the conditions and the form they are in."



Mashrafe Mortaza during a practice session. BangladeshCricketBoard

"It won't be easy. But, as I said, these boys can believe, especially if you had a good start, you never know. So let's see. We'll fight and you never know."

"It won't be easy like other match, but the confidence is the main thing, which bowlers have right at the moment."

"I think if we took that confidence into the ground and deliver to our best and we can assess the wicket very well. You never know."

"West Indies was a must-win game for us. Losing points against New Zealand and England, and the wash-out against Sri Lanka, this was much needed and the boys are pretty much confident."

Lots of Bangladesh's recent success has been down to Shakib Al Hasan, with the man atop the ODI Rankings for all-rounders leading the way with the bat this tournament.

No man has scored more than his 384 runs this World Cup with his unbeaten 124 the key factor in the seven-wicket win over West Indies which kept alive their semi-final hopes.

But captain Mashrafe, whose side also beat South Africa for their first win of the tournament, insists his charges are not over-reliant on one man.

He added: "I wouldn't say it's a one-man army. Shakib is scoring runs; that's a great thing for the team. But if you look at it, the other boys have stepped up."

"Mustafizur Rahman got some wickets, Mohammad Saifuddin comes in and took the wicket of Chris Gayle early, we all know what he can do."

"So it's not been a one-man army, but Shakib has been doing outstandingly. Some other bowlers have to step up a little bit with what Shakib is doing."

"We really appreciate what Shakib is doing, and some of the other bowlers with what they've done, and we hope it will be carried on from here. It will be great to see."

Stoinis recovers from injury

PTI ■ NOTTINGHAM

All-rounder Marcus Stoinis is now fit to make a comeback for the remainder of Australia's World Cup campaign having recovered from a side strain but coach Justin Langer is not sure of his immediate return.

Langer said there is no guarantee of Stoinis, who missed the last two World Cup games due to injury, being a part of playing XI in today's clash against Bangladesh. Stoinis suffered the injury while bowling in the match against India on June 9 which Australia lost by 36 runs.

"We've been monitoring him. He's an elite athlete, he's an elite professional. He's done everything possible to get himself fit. He wouldn't give up the opportunity for anything, would he?" Langer was quoted as saying by Cricket Australia official website cricket.com.au.

"He (Stoinis) is determined, so it doesn't surprise me with where he's at now. It's a credit to him, it's a credit to the medical staff that are getting him up. So hopefully he can have a real impact on the tournament," added Langer.

While Langer said Stoinis will remain in Australia's 15-man squad, he gave a guarded response when asked if the all-rounder could come straight back into the XI (against Bangladesh), saying: "He's a chance."

Australia A vice-captain Mitchell Marsh, who had been on standby to replace Stoinis, left the Australian squad after training on Tuesday and re-joined the A group in Northampton ahead of their game this week.

Stoinis, meanwhile, bowled almost for



Marcus Stoinis, right, chats with teammate during training session. cricket.com.au

an hour on Tuesday, first on an empty training wicket in close consultation with team medical staff and bowling coach Adam Griffith, and then joined the main nets session. He also showed no signs of pain while batting and fielding.

Australia skipper Aaron Finch had earlier admitted that the loss of Stoinis had thrown out the balance of his side, as he had to scramble to eke out 10 overs between his own part-time spin and Glenn Maxwell's off-breaks against Pakistan.

Maxwell though played a key role in pegging back Sri Lanka with the ball on Saturday after their openers got off to a good start, and Langer insisted his side's versatility is their trump card.

"We've played really well with another (team) balance. We played in India and Dubai with two spinners. I'm really confident with whatever balance we go in. It's actually really exciting," said Langer.

"We said at the start of the tour that we've got lots of options. (we are) very adaptable and that's our strength not our weakness."

"I get the sense some people think that's our weakness. I actually think it's our strength that we can play according to our opposition, we can play accordingly to grounds, we can play accordingly to managing players," the coach insisted.

Langer also confirmed Nathan Coulter-Nile, who was not a part of the team against Sri Lanka due to soreness, is available for selection against Bangladesh.

"He is getting a bit tight in his back. He played three games (in seven days) and I don't think he has done that for a long time. He's fit and he's certainly fit to play the next game," said Langer.

FIT TO HIT



South Africa's batsman Aiden Markram, left watches teammate Hashim Amla raises his bat after reaching fifty AP

Kiwis on roll

Ferguson leads attack as Black Caps restrict Proteas for 241-6 in rain-hit game

FIANS ■ BIRMINGHAM

Rassie van der Dussen gave South Africa something to bowl at as the Proteas struggled to 241 for six against tight bowling from New Zealand while battling for a win they need to keep their fading World Cup hopes alive.

After a soggy outfield delayed Wednesday's start at Edgbaston and reduced the match to 49 overs per side, Black Caps captain Kane Williamson won the toss and chose to field, hoping to take advantage of bowler-friendly conditions.

Hashim Amla made a sluggish 55 off 83 balls but Van der Dussen's 67 not out came at better than a run-a-ball.

"It's a bit of a sticky wicket, there has been a lot of rain around here in the last two weeks," said Van der Dussen during the innings break.

"We need to make 241 enough. We know it's not a 300 wicket. If you get 250-260 then you can defend that and that's what we set out to do.

"Our backs are against the wall so we have to come through," he added after New Zealand's bowlers kept the scoring rate to below five an over.

New Zealand, the 2015 losing finalists, were on top early when Trent Boult demolished Quinton de Kock's stumps, sending him back to the pavilion for just five.

Amla and skipper Faf du Plessis helped the Proteas recover to 59-1 in the 14th over.

But Lockie Ferguson then produced an impressive yorker to bowl Du Plessis for 23 immediately after a testing bouncer.



Proteas skipper Faf du Plessis, left, looks on as New Zealand's bowler Lockie Ferguson reacts after bowling him out for 23 runs AP

Amla and Aiden Markram became the fourth South African player to reach 8,000 runs in one-day internationals. He is the second-fastest player (176 innings) from any side to reach the milestone after Virat Kohli (175 innings). Markram was caught by Colin Munro off Colin de Grandhomme for 38 and David Miller went for 36 before a late flourish from Van der Dussen

FASTEST 8000 RUNS IN ODIS

Batsman	M	I	Time
Virat Kohli (India)	183	175	8 years & 301 days
Hashim Amla (South Africa)	179	176	11 years & 102 days
Abraham de Villiers (South Africa)	190	182	10 years & 205 days
Sourav Ganguly (India)	208	200	10 years & 302 days
Rohit Sharma (India)	206	200	11 years & 263 days

Faisal Features

SCOREBOARD

South Africa	
Quinton de Kock	b Boult 5
Hashim Amla	b Santner 55
Faf du Plessis	b Lockie Ferguson 23
Aiden Markram	c Munro b de Grandhomme 38
Rassie van der Dussen	not out 67
David Miller	c Boult b Lockie Ferguson 36
Phehlukwayo	b Williamson b Ferguson 0
Chris Morris	not out 6
Extras (b 0, lb 7, w 4, nb 0, p 0)	11
Total (6 wks, 49 Ov)	241
Fall of wickets:	9-1 (Quinton de Kock, 1.5), 59-2 (Faf du Plessis, 13.6), 111-3 (Hashim Amla, 27.4), 136-4 (Aiden Markram, 32.3), 208-5 (David Miller, 44.5), 218-6 (Ardlie Phehlukwayo, 46.3)
Bowling	
Matt Henry	10-2-34-0
Trent Boult	10-0-63-1
Lockie Ferguson	10-0-59-3
Colin de Grandhomme	10-0-33-1
Mitchell Santner	9-0-45-1

gave the scoreboard a look of respectability.

South Africa, who brought in fast bowler Lungi Ngidi for Beuran Hendricks, must win this match if they are to stand a realistic chance of reaching the semi-finals after finally recording their first victory of the tournament, against minnows Afghanistan on Saturday.

Despite that nine-wicket win, Du Plessis's side are still languishing in eighth spot in the 10-team table after five games, with the top four qualifying for next month's semis.

After Wednesday's game they will face Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia.

New Zealand are flying high and a fourth win would lift them to the top of the table ahead of matches against West Indies, Pakistan, Australia and hosts England.

OTHER SPORTS



Yelferson Soteldo, 18, embraces Dani Alves after a Copa America Group A match at the Arena Fonte Nova in Salvador AP

VAR denies Samba party

AFP ■ SALVADOR

Brazil were held to a 0-0 draw against Venezuela in the Copa America as a late strike from Philippe Coutinho was disallowed after a controversial VAR decision.

Coutinho thought he had fired Brazil into the quarter-finals in the 87th minute when he bundled home a finish from Everton Soares' driving run down the left wing at Salvador's Arena Fonte Nova on Tuesday.

But for the second time in the match, Chilean referee Julio Bascunan ruled out the Brazilian goal after being alerted to an infringement by the video assistant referee.

The goal appeared to have been disallowed due to a touch by Liverpool striker Roberto Firmino, although it was not clear that Firmino had been offside as the ball grazed him on the way into the net.

Brazil left the field to boos but remain top of Group A with four points from two games, and one game to play.

Venezuela have two points from two games and will fancy their chances of advancing with their final game coming against Bolivia, who suffered their second straight defeat earlier on Tuesday in a 3-1 loss to Peru.

Brazil, who had made hard work of beating Bolivia in their opener, once again struggled to find a creative spark against well-organized opponents.

Firmino was kept quiet by Venezuela's defense with Yordan Osorio and Mikel Villanueva neutralizing the Liverpool striker.

The tale of the first half lay in the statistics from the opening 45 minutes, with Brazil recording only one shot on target despite enjoying 75 percent possession.

In fact, the best chance of the half fell to Venezuela, when Salomon Rondon headed Yangel Herrera's cross just inches wide with Alisson beaten.

FIRMINO DENIED

Firmino did get the ball in the Venezuela net in the 38th minute but the goal was disallowed after Bascunan ruled Villanueva had been fouled in the build-up.

Brazil left the field to loud boos and whistling, and manager Tite wasted no time in making a change at half-time, bringing on Manchester City's Gabriel Jesus for Richarlison.

Jesus made an instant impact looking lively down the left flank and curling a shot just wide of the post on 57 minutes.

Moments later Jesus looked to have fired Brazil into the lead.

Once again the striker advanced menacingly on the Venezuela penalty area and unleashed a fierce low shot.

The ball deflected off Villanueva into the path of Firmino, who then squared for Jesus who continued his run.

The striker took a touch and buried his finish as the home fans erupted. But the festive atmosphere fell flat as the goal was referred to VAR, who promptly chalked the score off after ruling Firmino had been offside when he collected the ricochet.

A deflated Brazil took several minutes to regroup but grew increasingly desperate as valuable minutes ticked away and Venezuela held firm.

Jesus went close again in the 76th minute when Dani Alves whipped a cross into the six-yard box.

But again Venezuela's defense was rock-solid, with Jesus bundled off the ball and unable to get a shot away.

Coutinho looked to have broken the deadlock three minutes from time, but VAR's intervention rescued a precious point for Venezuela.

Fernandinho almost snatched victory with a header in the 10th minute of time added on, but his effort rolled just wide of the post.

Record breaker Marta

AFP ■ VALENCIENNES

Marta secured her place among the legends of football after the Brazilian became the World Cup's all-time leading scorer in the 1-0 win against Italy in Valenciennes.

"This record doesn't belong to me, it belongs to all of us," said the 33-year-old after crashing home a penalty with 16 minutes left to score her 17th World Cup goal on Tuesday.

"I share it with anyone fighting for more equality."

Brazil set up a knockout stage clash with either hosts France or Germany after the 74th-minute strike moved Marta one goal ahead of the German Miroslav Klose in the record books.

"Do you think he'll change his mind about retiring and play at the next World Cup?" Marta joked.

Brazil finished third on goal difference in Group C behind Italy and Australia — who beat Jamaica 4-1 — after all three ended level on six points.

Marta wasn't fazed by the possibility of facing France, who topped Group A with a perfect nine points after scraping past Nigeria on Monday.

"To play against the host nation would be a privilege. The stadium would be full of fans singing," she said.

"I love playing in front of a big



Marta, right, celebrates with Thaisa after scoring her side's first goal AP

crowd whether it's supporting me or is against me. I just want there to be fans who are watching us."

Marta is widely considered the greatest player in the history of the women's game and was hailed by her teammates as an inspiration for others wanting to take up the male-dominated sport.

"She is like an icon for us and I think every year she is breaking records and that's not just important for us but for all of women's football. I'm so happy she is Brazilian," said centre-back Monica.

Fellow defender Tamires added: "We have a lot of young players coming up and I hope they look to her and how she plays, what makes her so special and so incredible and follow her."

The Matildas will play Norway in Nice in the last 16 on Saturday.

England need a point against Japan on Wednesday to ensure they top Group D and avoid a potential last-16 clash with European champions the Netherlands.

Topping the group would, however, also put them on the same side of the draw as both France and potentially the World Cup holders USA.

Moreno replaces Enrique as Spain boss

AFP ■ MADRID

Luis Enrique has stepped down from his post as coach of the Spanish national team.

The confirmation came at a press conference on Wednesday evening, attended by Spanish FA president Luis Rubiales and sporting director José Francisco Molina.

It was announced that Enrique will make way and will be replaced in the role by Roberto Moreno.

Moreno has presided over the last three games in the absence of Enrique, who did not take his place in the dugout to attend an unspecified personal matter.

That has now resulted in the former Barcelona boss stepping away from his position, after Rubiales sought assurances on his future.

Moreno was the choice of the players to continue as coach, having impressed during his three games in charge, which all ended in victories.

Enrique stands down after less than a year in charge of La Roja, having taken over in the wake of their ill-fated World Cup campaign.

In total, the 49-year-old presided



Luis Enrique in a file picture 433/Twitter

Hummels completes BVB return

AFP ■ MUNICH

Veteran defender Mats Hummels will hope to reboot his career at former club Borussia Dortmund next season after finding himself surplus to requirements with both Bayern Munich and Germany.

Hummels, 30, was dropped from the national team set-up earlier this year and has now become the latest senior player to fall victim to Bayern's major rejuvenation programme ahead of next season.

A World Cup winner in 2014, Hummels won his sixth Bundesliga title in May, but will now make what will widely be seen as a step down with his 38 million euro (\$43.6m) move from back to former side Dortmund.

Despite impressive performances for both club and country, Hummels' career has been blunted off course in the last six months by the winds of change sweeping through German football.

And despite playing a crucial role in Bayern's double win last month, Hummels has now fallen prey to the same rejuvenation drive in Munich.

Having bid an emotional farewell to club icons Arjen Robben and Franck Ribery last month, Bayern are now looking to complete the transition to a younger generation as they launch what president Uli Hoeness has called "the biggest investment programme in our history".

Hoeness has already advised Boateng to "find a new club", while Hummels now appears to have jumped before he was pushed.

The 30-year-old returns to Dortmund, where he spent eight successful years from 2008 to 2016 before joining Bayern for 35 million euros.



Mats Hummels speaks during his official presentation BVB/Twitter