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THE SAKE OF IT: PICHAI

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USUAL SUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

MPs must respect popular mandate to let House run

An election campaign in India is a very long and exacting affair. Although the formal campaign began much later, the past six months of 2019 has been preoccupied with the people's ultimate verdict. Now that the voters have spoken and given Narendra Modi's Government an unambiguous verdict to govern India for the next five years, it may be time to take a step back, stop the slugfest and devote our attention to the more pressing task of governance.

This week, following the oath-taking by the elected members of the Lok Sabha and the President of India's address to the joint session of Parliament, normal business is expected to resume. The previous session of Parliament was exceptionally acrimonious, with the Opposition doing its utmost to stall both Houses. Its success in the Lok Sabha was limited because the Government had a clear majority. However, it succeeded in completely disrupting proceedings in the Rajya Sabha so much so that neither the debate on the President's address nor any discussion on the Interim Budget could be held. As for legislation, apart from a stray Bill on Leprosy, the Opposition did not allow any other Bill to be moved. For all practical purposes, except for Money Bills, Parliament has been dysfunctional since the end of 2018.

The list of Bills passed in the Lok Sabha but failed to be either discussed or voted upon in 2019 in the Rajya Sabha is very long; they total up to 33. They include controversial legislation such as the Triple Talaq and the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill. But they also include relatively non-contentious legislation such as Indian Medical Council Bill, the Extension of Municipalities Bill, the Seeds Bill, the Pesticides Management Bill, the Archaeological Monuments Bill and the Motor Vehicles Bill. At least three of the Bills had even been referred to Select Committees that had submitted their reports. To reintroduce these Bills will call for the entire process to be repeated in the Lok Sabha and then brought to the Rajya Sabha.

At one level, the environment for transacting normal parliamentary business looks encouraging. The BJP is of course quite buoyant after its electoral success. Simultaneously, the Congress, the largest Opposition party – which, however, narrowly missed securing the requisite number of Lok Sabha seats to get its leader formally recognised as Leader of Opposition – is dispirited and demoralised after an election it hoped to do much better in. As of now, the party hasn't chosen its floor leader and there is strategic uncertainty in its ranks. Likewise, the regional parties in north India suffer from the same demoralisation. The three southern parties – DMK, TDP and the SP – are, however, quite enthused by the results, although their intervention in national politics has been modest. This leaves the two regional parties from the east – the BJD and the TMC. The electoral showing of both these groups has been mixed. The BJD regained control over the State Government quite comfortably but lost some ground in the Lok Sabha. The TMC, however, suffered electoral reversals, although it is still the largest party in West Bengal. But the TMC is in an extremely combative mood because of the twists and turns in local politics. It has a large number of candidates to make a mark in the Lok Sabha. However, in the smaller Rajya Sabha, it has the requisite lung power to disrupt proceedings. It may be recalled that on different occasions in the previous session, a small clutch of AIADMK and TDP members had successfully disrupted proceedings for over a week.

Although I would like to be proved wrong, it is my belief that the TMC is unlikely to play the role of a constructive and responsible Opposition in the Upper House. Its leader Mamata Banerjee is in a belligerent mood and this is likely to impact the behaviour of its MPs in the Rajya Sabha. Symbolic protests and fiery speeches are a normal feature of parliamentary performance and it would be legitimate for the Opposition to proceed along that route. The more problematic issue is disruption. How should the Chairman or Deputy Chairman respond to the provocations? In the Westminster tradition, the Speaker's command is sacrosanct and unruly behaviour is viewed as a horrifying and unacceptable aberration. Unfortunately, over the years, willfully disobeying the chair has become the norm and led to the breakdown of the consensus that should, ideally, surround the workings of Parliament. The temporary suspension of disruptive MPs, far from injecting good sense, has been seen as additional provocation and has worsened matters.

This situation cannot continue indefinitely. The paralysis of Parliament will erode popular faith in democracy and encourage governments to try and bypass Parliament as much as possible. Political sparring is fine but to be a dysfunctional democracy is completely unacceptable. It is to be hoped that the presiding officers of both Houses and the Government take the initiative to address the larger questions of dysfunctionality that gripped Parliament in the first half of 2019. The voters did their job and reposed faith in democracy as the most effective instrument of decision-making. Now it is for the MPs to live up to the popular faith. The alternatives are truly horrifying.

India needs more parliamentary time and more work for its MPs. But for that to happen, faith in parliamentary rules and conventions have to be immediately restored. The quality of Indian democracy is at stake, as is effective governance.

Docs reject parley offer at CM office

Mamata says ready to fulfil demands, asks them to resume duty, but says no ESMA yet

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Even as the striking junior doctors defied Mamata Banerjee for the second time on Saturday turning down her offer for talks, the Bengal Chief Minister swore by her "patience" saying like the other State Governments she had all the legal means to invoke the coercive Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) but had thus far desisted from taking the extreme step on humanitarian grounds.

"The Government is showing patience, sympathy for the doctors but now it is time for them to act and resume duty. We have conceded to all the demands that the doctors had made," she said, wondering why the doctors refused to meet her at the State Secretariat.

In Kolkata, a representative of the striking doctors said, "This is an issue relating to thousands of doctors who are being attacked every day. The Government is calling a few of them to hold closed-door meeting. We are not ready to accept that. We want the CM to come here at the NRS hospital and see for herself the condition we work in and give assurances in public to rectify them."

"We are eagerly waiting to start our duty, but from the start our duty there is no such honest initiative to find a solution (of the ongoing problem)," a spokesperson of the joint forum of junior doctors told reporters.

Meanwhile, after giving a 48-hour ultimatum to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, doctors of Delhi's AIIMS said they have resumed work for now but they will go on an indefinite strike if no action is taken against the attack on the doctor in Kolkata.

"We condemn the hostile and unapologetic attitude of the Government of West Bengal. Our protest at AIIMS, New Delhi continues until justice is meted out," they said.

In what the striking doctors of NRS Medical College and Hospital saw a "veiled threat," the Chief Minister said, "Through we have Supreme Court verdict in our favour and though we have previous instances of other State Governments invoking the ESMA, we have desisted from taking such strong actions as we do not want to take any coercive actions on the young boys and girls who are like our



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee interacts with the media over the ongoing doctors' strike, in Howrah on Saturday. PTI

- The Government is showing patience, sympathy for the doctors, now it is time for them to act and resume duty, Mamata said, wondering why the doctors refused to meet her at the Secretariat
- A representative of the striking doctors in Kolkata said, "We are not ready to accept closed-door meeting offer. We want the CM to come here at the NRS Hospital and see for herself the condition we work in and give assurances in public to rectify them"
- AIIMS in Delhi said the doctors have resumed work but they will go on an indefinite strike if no action is taken against the attack on the doctor in Kolkata

own children." Mamata renewed appeal to doctors to resume duty and come close on the heels of a letter from West Bengal Governor KN Tripathi, who directed the Government to take adequate security measures for the doctors and restore normalcy in the health sector.

Referring to the earlier instances of ESMA being invoked, Mamata said, "In 2008/2009 the Narendra Modi Government of Jammu & Kashmir too did the same thing. But here our Government is taking a soft approach towards the young doctors who have bright future ahead of them."

She said, "We believe in humanism and expect the doctors to do the same. They are into a noble profession," and reminded, "despite they heckled and abused me at the SSKM Hospital where I had gone to see whether the Emergency was functioning or not I did



Junior doctors protest against an attack on an intern doctor, at NRI Ratan Sircar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata on Saturday. PTI

not take any action. Any other person in my place would have taken strong action as they did in the other States earlier."

The doctors' campaign earlier spread like wildfire after on-duty junior doctors of NRS Medical College were on Monday night brutally beaten up by hooligans following the death of a patient.

Even as the NRSCH doctors struck work demanding adequate security measures and arrest of all the 200 people who had attacked the hospital, the protest spread and their colleagues from other hospitals and medical colleges struck work.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said according to reports it received, the number of incidents of political violence in West Bengal increased from 509 in 2016 to 1,035 in 2018. While as many as 773 incidents have already occurred in 2019 till date, correspondingly, the death toll has risen from 36 in 2016 to 96 in 2018. In 2019, 26 deaths have been reported, it stated.

The MHA said the continued trend of political violence from 2016 through 2019 is indicative of the "failure" of the part of the law-enforcement machinery of the State in maintaining the rule of law and inspiring a sense of security among the people.

The "unabated violence over the years is evidently a

'Concerned' Centre seeks Bengal's ATR on political violence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday sought a report from the Mamata Banerjee dispensation on the measures it took in light of the "unabated" and "increasing" incidents of political violence and resultant deaths since 2016 in the State.

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The "unabated violence over the years is evidently a

matter of deep concern", the Centre said, pointing out the growing number of election-related and political violence.

"It is requested that a report may be sent to this Ministry on the steps taken by the State Government and its law enforcement machinery to investigate the incidents of violence to bring the culprits to book as also the measures taken to contain and curb violence," the MHA's advisory to the Trinamool Congress Government said.

While violence marred the recently-concluded Lok Sabha elections in the State, in the post-poll scenario too the TMC and the BJP, which has emerged as the principal challenger to the ruling party, have been at serious loggerheads with both sides accusing each other of unleashing violence against each other's workers.

West Bengal Governor Keshri Nath Tripathy recently met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, apparently to brief them about the current situation in the State.

Govt asks States to enact law to prevent assault on doctors

Bengal Govt asked to report on strike

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday sought a report "urgently" from the West Bengal Government on the ongoing strike by the doctors even as it wrote to all State Governments to consider enacting a specific legislation for protecting the medical professionals from any form of violence. The Centre

also asked all the States to take strict action against any person who assaults doctors.

In its advisory to the West Bengal Government, the MHA said it has received a number of representations from doctors, healthcare professionals and medical associations from different parts of the country for their security in view of the ongoing strike by doctors. "It is requested that a detailed report be sent urgently on the representations and ongoing strike by the doctors," it said.

For his part Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan wrote to all the Chief Ministers regarding the law to protect the medicos and the need to take strict action against any person who assaults doctors.

Along with his letter, Harsh Vardhan attached a copy of the Draft Act provided by IMA — the Protection of Medical Service Persons and Medical Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss of Property) Act, 2017.

Help make India \$5tn economy: PM to States

Modi asks States to raise GDP by recognising their core competence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of an ongoing debate over India's growth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asked the States to pitch in with their contribution by recognising their respective core competence and working towards raising the GDP targets and per capita incomes.

In his opening remarks at the fifth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog, the Prime Minister said, "The goal to make India a five-trillion-dollar economy by 2024 is challenging but can surely be achieved. The States should recognise their core competence and work towards raising GDP targets right from the district level."

The Modi Government has favoured criticism over rising joblessness and slow GDP growth rate. According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), unemployment in the country



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs the fifth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

Defiant Didi, busy KCR skip NITI meet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After skipping Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing in ceremony, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her Telangana counterpart K Chandrababbar Rao on Saturday gave up the fifth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog chaired by the PM.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh could not attend the meeting due to health reasons, sources said, adding that the State was represented by its Finance Minister. Mamata, KCR, and Amarinder had skipped Modi's swearing in ceremony on May 23.

In a letter to Modi, the Mamata had expressed her inability to attend the NITI Aayog meeting on June 15, saying it is "fruitless" as the body has no financial powers to support State plans.

Sources said the Telangana CM is busy with preparations for the launch of his ambitious ₹80,000-crore Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project that will end water woes in the State.

CAPSULE

7 DIE WHILE CLEANING HOTEL SEWER IN GUJ
Vadodra: Seven persons, including four sanitation workers, died on Saturday after inhaling toxic fumes while cleaning sewer of a hotel in Vadodra district of Gujarat.

RLY DROPS MESSAGE SERVICES ON TRAINS
New Delhi/Mumbai: Mumbai-headquartered Western Railway on Saturday said it has withdrawn a proposal to provide foot and seat massages to passengers on board 39 trains originating from Indore in Madhya Pradesh.

EC ANNOUNCES BYPOLLs TO 6 RS SEATS ON JULY 5
New Delhi: The Election Commission on Saturday announced bypolls to six Rajya Sabha seats on July 5, including the one vacated by BJP Chief Amit Shah following his election to the Lok Sabha. Notifications will be issued on June 18 and elections and counting of votes will be held on July 5.

WOMAN HIRES KILLERS TO MURDER HER HUSBAND
New Delhi: A woman and her paramour have been arrested for allegedly hiring killers for ₹7,000 to murder her husband at the couple's accommodation in South Avenue here.

Himachal CM woos investors of Netherlands

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur showcased the strengths of Himachal Pradesh, meticulously framed policies, suitable opportunities and State's readiness to encourage investment during his visit to the Netherlands late Friday evening.

Addressing the second international 'Road show' organized by the State Government in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) at The Hague, Thakur said that Netherlands was the second largest exporter of agricultural products in the world and was known for its smart logistics, storage, and packaging technologies that keep food fresh longer that make agriculture as an important area of collaboration.

A statement issued here, quoting the chief minister said that trade cooperation in the agricultural space would benefit both the nations and supplement the efforts of the Government to double its food production and double its farmer's income. He said he knows that the Netherlands has the technologies to make it happen.

My Government is putting up earnest efforts and is putting on the renewal of apple orchards but still it has no match to the Netherlands, as the Dutch apple trees have a yield per hectare of 100 tonnes, the yield of the traditional apple trees variety in Himachal Pradesh, he added.

The Chief Minister said that due to pristine atmosphere, peaceful environment and biodiversity & linguistic plurality, Himachal Pradesh was one of the most visited States of the country. He said that there was immense potential available to

the investors to invest in this key sector. Adventure tourism such as skiing, co-tourism, developing Ski Resorts etc. also offered vast opportunities for the investment, he added.

Showcasing the investment opportunities being provided to the potential entrepreneurs, Chief Minister said that the State Government was providing attractive incentives under the Industrial Policy to boost investment in the State.

He said that the Policy has been further amended to make it more attractive and industry friendly. "Special focus has been given in the new industrial policy to encourage investment in sectors such as Tourism, AYUSH, IT & Electronics and Hydro Energy, food processing and fruit processing etc", he added.

Thakur said that the State Government was keen to do business with Netherlands because Dutch economy was very open and relies strongly on international trade. He said that Netherlands served as the gateway for over 20 percent of all European Union-bound Indian exports and we were sure that the country would play a pivotal role in India's future trade talks with the European Union, he added.

Thakur said the State Government was organizing its first Global Investors Meet in 2019 at Dharamshala for making it globally competitive and a leader among Indian states. The main objective of this Meet was to highlight Himachal Pradesh, before the world as a place for investment and opportunities, he said.

Earlier, the State Government signed a MoU with ASSOCHAM Europe in Netherlands through Vikas



Chaturvedi Chairman ASSOCHAM Netherlands and would provide employment to over 1000 people.

Chaturvedi Chairman ASSOCHAM Netherlands and would provide employment to over 1000 people. Yet another MoU worth ₹300 crore was also signed with Takshinda Foundation for establishing an international Skill University in Kangra district of the State. The project is also expected to start by January, 2020.

Industries Minister Bikram Singh extended a warm welcome and stated about the State's readiness to attract investment and highlighted that Himachal Pradesh has made a commendable step in establishing a manufacturing economy with over 50,000 manufacturing units in the State providing employment to over four lakh persons.

He further added that the State Government houses a dedicated 'Investment Promotion & Facilitation Centre (IPFC)' which acts as a centralized one-stop-shop for the investors / businesses and provides complete handholding support in a structured, focused and comprehensive manner.

Ambassador of India to Netherlands, Venu Rajamony stated that Himachal had enormous advantages and strengths—dynamic political leadership, led by one of the youngest Chief Ministers in the country.

He assured of a stable government and the proactive bureaucracy, keen to promote enabling business environment and attract foreign investments and lead the state towards the path of economic growth.

He also highlighted of the great advantage of the State

Government enjoys with the Central Government as the present Government in State and Central belongs to the same political party.

Additional Chief Secretary cum Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Shrikant Baidi delivered a brief presentation on the investment Opportunities in Tourism & Real Estate.

He first expressed brief opportunities in the field of Tourism in Himachal Pradesh like Adventure Activities, Trekking & Camping, Wildlife, Unexplored Cold Desert, History, Architecture, Spirituality and Harmony.

He further explained about the individual potential investible projects in details like Five Star Resorts, Ski Resorts, Eco Tourism, Convention Centre, Hot Water Wellness Resort, Sky Bridge, Lake Tourism, Destination Development, Ropeways, Civil Aviation, Tea Tourism and Tented Accommodation.

He also shared that the Himachal Pradesh is the best suited for the investment in real estate sector because of robust demand, enabling environment and robust support as well as organic demand from near-by States especially in mid hills such as Shimla, Solan, Dharamshala and Palampur.

Additional Chief Secretary Industries, Manoj Kumar gave a concise presentation highlighting on how far India is considered the economic bright spot in global economy and how Himachal Pradesh is an ideal 'Haven for Investors'.

He gave a succinct brief on the 8 focus sectors in Himachal Pradesh and shared the reasons for investing in these sectors.

No respite from heatwave in Punjab and Haryana

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

There was no respite from heatwave conditions in Punjab and Haryana on Saturday, according to the Met department. Bhiwani in Haryana was the hottest place in the region at a maximum of 44.1 degrees Celsius, followed by Hissar at 44 degrees Celsius, three degrees above the normal.

Ambala recorded a high of 43.6 degrees, up to six notches above the normal, followed by Karnal (43) and Narnaul (42) both of which registered their maximum temperatures of up to five degrees above the normal, the weatherman said.

Chandigarh, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana, recorded a maximum of 42.6 degrees Celsius, four notches above the normal.

The maximum tempera-



ture in Punjab's Amritsar was 42.3 degrees Celsius.

Ludhiana recorded a high of 43.3 degrees Celsius while Patiala registered a maximum of 43.9 degrees Celsius, 1.85 degrees above the normal.

The weather department has forecast dust storm accompanied by lightning at isolated places in both the states in the next 24 hours.

Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa becomes Life President of Punjab Olympic Association

PNS ■ MOHALI

The President of Punjab Olympic Association (POA) Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa on Saturday voluntarily resigned from his office after which Vice President Brahm Mohindra was nominated as the Working President till the elections to the association are held.

In the Executive Meeting and Annual General House of the POA here at the Punjab Olympic Bhawan, the services of Dhindsa as President for 41 years were applauded and it was unanimously decided to make him the Life President of POA in order to enable him to keep guiding the association.

The meeting also saw congratulations pouring in for Dhindsa for being bestowed

with the Padma Bhushan and the award was applauded as a mark of honour for the association.

The meeting saw the unanimous passing of the proposal to nominate the Vice President of the association and Local Government Minister, Punjab, Brahm Mohindra as the Working President. The proposal afterwards also got the green light from the Annual General House.

During the meeting, the decision was also arrived at to form a committee under the leadership of Mohindra which would coordinate with the Punjab Government concerning matters related to the association.

On the occasion, Mohindra and Cabinet Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu announced grants to the POA

to the tune of Rs. 10 lakh each from their discretionary quotas which was appreciated by the members.

Earlier, the Secretary General of the POA, Raja KS Sidhu while conducting the proceedings presented the report detailing the various works undertaken during the previous period.

He said that under the stewardship of Dhindsa, a sprawling Punjab Olympic Association bhawan came up at Mohali.

The efforts done by the Senior Vice President of the POA Rajdeep Singh Gill with regard to constructing a Hall of Fame within the bhawan were also appreciated.

The Hall of Fame depicts photographs plus achievements of the international level players from Punjab.

INBRIEF

BMB CHAIRMAN ELECTED AS VP OF ICOLD

Chandigarh: The International Commission On Large Dams (ICOLD) having membership of 101 countries with more than 15,000 members provides a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience in dam engineering. The organisation leads the profession in ensuring that dams are built safely, efficiently, economically, and without detrimental effects on the environment. In its 87th Annual General Body meeting held in Ottawa, Canada on 14th June, Devendra Kumar Sharma, Chairman, Bhakra Beas Management Board was elected as Vice President of the ICOLD Board for the term 2019-2022. Sharma was elected in a triangular contest between candidates for the post of Vice President from India, Japan and Egypt. Sharma got this honour and achievement to be member in the ICOLD Board from India after a gap of 17 years. Position of Vice President for India in ICOLD Board will help the country get international expertise to address the water and energy issues to provide food security to the nation. In addition it will also help to address concerns such as dam safety, monitoring of performance, reanalysis of older dams and spillways, effects of ageing and environmental impact.

RD DHIMAN NEW VC OF NAUNI UNIVERSITY

Shimla: A spokesperson of Himachal Pradesh Government on Saturday said that Additional Chief Secretary (Horticulture) R.D. Dhiman will hold the charge of the post of Vice Chancellor of Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Nauni, Solan. He will hold this charge till the appointment of the new Vice Chancellor of the university.

8000 SAFAI KARAMCHARIS TO BE RECRUITED IN HARYANA

Chandigarh: Haryana Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Krishna Kumar on Saturday said that 8,000 Safai Karamcharis will soon be recruited in the state. Addressing a function organized at Shahabad in district Kurukshetra, he said a 'Safai Karamchari Ayog' has been constituted in Haryana. The Safai Karamcharis in the state are being provided with modern machinery, equipment and kits for cleaning. In the function, the Rashtriya Navamam Sewa Samiti, Saranath, Bihar, India, Pradesh, distributed medical kits to 200 safai karamcharis. This kit included items such as bad sheet, mask, gloves and soap.

ANDHRA BANK Branch Office: SPL Housing Finance Branch, SCO 38, Sector 33-D, Chandigarh - 160026, Ph: 0172-2611288, E-mail: bml1151@andhrabank.co.in

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF ACT 54 OF 2002 FOR ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST

DEMAND NOTICE

A notice is hereby given that the following borrower(s) have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of credit facilities advanced by them from the bank and said facilities have turned Non Performing Assets. This notice under section 13(2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the Act) is being issued to the borrower(s) at their last known addresses by registered post. However the notices have been returned un-served and the Authorized Officer has reasons to believe that the borrower(s) / guarantor(s) are avoiding the service of notice, as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower / Guarantor	Description of the Secured Assets	Date of Demand Notice	Amount as per demand notice (Rs.)	Nature of Loan
1.	Borrower:- Handa Saw Mills, Walsail Road, Jammu Basti, Abohar-152116, Proprietor:-Kharal Lal Handa, Chandigarh-160030. Co-obligant:- Maridhar Handa, H. No. 110771, First Floor, Sector 29-B, Chandigarh-160030.	Against hypothecation of Stock- Pledged and/or (in)agreement(s) against mortgage of the properties detailed under:- Land and Building - Residential	01.06.2019	Rs. 10,00,000/- During: 2017-2019; Rs. 18,16,798.50 subsequent interest as per the H. No. 110771, First Floor, Sector 29-B, Chandigarh-160030.	Liability as on OCGN
2.	Borrower:- Kharal Lal Handa, H. No. 110771, First Floor, Sector 29-B, Chandigarh-160030. Co-applicants:- (1) Maridhar Handa, H. No. 110771, First Floor, Sector 29-B, Chandigarh-160030. (2) Noopur Handa, H. No. 110771, First Floor, Sector 29-B, Chandigarh-160030. (3) Viream Handa, H. No. 110771, First Floor, Sector 29-B, Chandigarh-160030 (4) Meevandi, H. No. 110771, First Floor, Sector 29-B, Chandigarh-160030.	Against hypothecation of H. No. and/or against (in)agreement(s) mortgage of the properties detailed under:- Land and Building - Residential belonging to Floor, Sector 29-B, Chandigarh-160030	01.06.2019	Rs. 34,80,000/- During: 2016-2019; Rs. 33,32,386/- subsequent interest as per the Chandigarh-160030. Co-applicants:- Outstanding as on 01.06.2019: Rs. 10,16,798.50	Liability as on APTL

The above borrower(s) / guarantor(s) are advised to pay the amount mentioned in notice within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken in pursuance of the Act. The borrower(s) / guarantor(s) are hereby restrained from dealing with any of the above secured assets mentioned above in any manner whatsoever, without our prior consent. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to us under the subject Act and/or any other law in force.

Dated: 15.06.2019 Place: Chandigarh

CHIEF MANAGER & AUTHORIZED OFFICER

Education Minister ban 'coercive' sale of uniform, books on school premises

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Taking note of the reports of economic exploitation of parents by the managements of certain private schools, Punjab Education Minister Vijay Inder Singla Education has issued directions that all the private schools affiliated to CBSE/ICSE and Punjab School Education Board across the State shall not direct or compel parents to buy school uniform and books from the school website.

The guidelines issued in this context also state that the uniform once introduced in school should be carried on for at least three years and no change in the colour and design of school uniform be introduced in that period.

The details pertaining to design, colour, texture and material etc. should be uploaded on the school website so that parents may buy ready-made uniform or get them tailor made as per their choice and resources.

Besides, it has been made mandatory for school author-



ities to use approved books based on the board syllabi and upload the list of those books on the school website, leaving the choice of buying books solely to the discretion of students and parents.

The guidelines issued to private schools State that it has been observed that certain schools recommend books of choice not be in accordance with school management change the chronology of chapters of last year's books, irrespective of the fact that Board make no changes in the syllabi.

This is being done in order to befool the parents and children so that they may not use second-hand books and incur fresh expenditure on new

Panchayats in Himachal can utilise Finance Commission's funds to install hand pumps

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Virender Kanwar on Saturday said that Gram Panchayats would now be able to install hand pumps in their areas from the funds being provided by the 14th Finance Commission.

The guidelines in this regard have been issued to all Gram Panchayats of the state, he said. The Minister said that the Gram Panchayats will have to forward their demand for installing hand pumps to the Gram Panchayat, Health and Public Health department for preparation of estimate.

The department would provide the required financial assistance from the funds of 14th Finance Commission.

this purpose as per the estimate prepared by the Panchayats.

Kanwar said that funds are directed being forwarded to the Gram Panchayats under the 14th Finance Commission.

A provision has been made to provide ₹1,800 crore to the Gram Panchayats of the State from this head, out of which ₹488 crore will be provided during this financial year.

As the first installment for this financial year, the State Government has received an amount of ₹244.32 crore from the Central government, which is being provided directly to the Gram Panchayats.

He said that this decision will help in redressing the drinking water problem in the rural areas besides constructing permanent properties under the 14th Finance Commission.

Haryana moving towards Ease of Living Index: CM

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal on Saturday said Haryana Government is focusing on moving towards a high Ease of Living Index for the people of the state after systematically ushering in a new era of corruption free governance and spectacular progress on almost all indicators of human as well as socio economic development.

Speaking during the fifth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi at New Delhi on Saturday, he said Haryana has become Kerosene Free and Open Defecation Free and moved from 14th to the 3rd rank in the Ease of Doing Business and removed the blot of female foeticide.

Congratulating the Prime Minister for the reconstitution of the NITI Aayog, he said that it is a hub of innovation and knowledge for the States to learn from each other and to replicate successes and good practices of others.

Elaborating on the steps taken by the Government in this direction, Manohar Lal said that being both a leading agrarian and Open Defecation Free, the State Government focused on managing and generating water sources in a sustainable manner.

He said that 'Haryana Pond and Waste Water Management Authority' was set up in 2017 for development, protection, rejuvenation, conservation, construction and management of all the ponds in the state.

The Authority has developed a 'Pond Data Management Software' to monitor progress of rejuvenation and development works on over 14,000 water bodies, ancient and new alike. Of these, Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority is working on revival of more than 500 water bodies through rain water harvesting.

A comprehensive drainage plan 'zero drain out system' has also been taken up for Gurugram. The plan includes creation of water harvesting structures, pondage areas, channelization of



Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal in the 5th meeting of Governing Council of NITI Aayog at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Saturday

creaks and construction of recharge wells.

The Chief Minister said that under the scheme 'Other Interventions under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana- Per Drop More Crop' 881 structures have been created and 13,656 hectares of area has benefited in 10 districts of the State.

In one of the most fragile agro-ecological zone of the State, 6,771 water harvesting structures including check dams have been created. There is a plan to construct 1,513 structures in 2019-20.

He welcomed the initiative Jal Jeevan Mission 'Nal se Jal' and said that Haryana will participate in this challenge mode mission to increase the piped water supply in the State.

As of now, all the 80 towns have been provided piped water supply in the State. Additionally, under the 'Maha Gram Yojana' of the State, the piped-water supply is being extended further in the rural areas in phased manner.

Speaking on the steps for managing any drought situation and relief measures, he said that the preparedness of State administration to provide quick relief to farmers in eventuality of drought has constantly been reviewed. Drought and Flood Control

■ Congratulating the Prime Minister for the reconstitution of the NITI Aayog, CM said that it is a hub of innovation and knowledge for the States to learn from each other and to replicate the successes and good practices of others

■ As of now, all the 80 towns have been provided piped water supply in the State. Additionally, under the 'Maha Gram Yojana' of the State, the piped-water supply is being extended further in the rural areas in phased manner

■ Further, adopting a liberal policy, the Government has also given compensation of ₹12,000 per acre, for the crops damaged due to natural calamity

■ He said that a normal 100 days employment is being provided to one family in the State under MGNREGA, which will be increased to 150 days during drought conditions, if required. Further, drinking water supply will be made available through tankers and other measures to the public, in case of drought situation

Rooms have already been activated in the State from May 20, 2019 onwards.

Manohar Lal said that under the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana', against ₹406.27 crore premium collected from farmers, an amount of ₹1140.98 crore has been distributed to the farmers as compensation in the last three years, this is also more than the total premium of ₹818.20 crore paid to the insurance companies.

Further, adopting a liberal policy, the Government has also given compensation of ₹12,000 per acre,

for the crops damaged due to natural calamity.

He said that a normal 100 days employment is being provided to one family in the State under MGNREGA, which will be increased to 150 days during drought conditions, if required. Further, drinking water supply will be made available through tankers and other measures to the public, in case of drought situation.

He said that the State Government has also announced the Mewat Water Supply Channel

to meet the drinking water needs of Mewat area.

A separate budget of ₹30 crore has been provided to Mewat Development Board for various developmental initiatives under the Scheme for Integrated Development of Mewat Area. Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited has undertaken feasibility study for new railway line Sohna-Nuh-Alwar.

He welcomed the creation of Marketing of rural agriculture, horticulture and other allied products, which is an important component of the post-harvest management programme.

He said that the State Government is working in tandem with the Union Government to achieve the target set by Prime Minister to double the income of farmers by 2022 and improve their overall well being.

The seven action points being undertaken in this regard include effective irrigation methods, provision of quality inputs - seeds and fertilizers, prevention of post-harvest losses, promotion of food processing units, creation of e-market, crop insurance and promotion of allied activities - animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries, etc.

Capt demands fresh river water tribunal



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH / NEW DELHI

Expressing concern over the water crisis in Northern India, Punjab Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh on Saturday sought the Prime Minister's support for the upgradation of the state's water distribution infrastructure, while calling for a fresh river water tribunal to address the disputes among neighbouring states in view of their dwindling water availability.

In his speech circulated at the NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting, which he could not attend owing to indisposition, Capt Amarinder suggested a fresh water rivers states tribunal to resolve water related tensions among farmers.

He has also called upon the Prime Minister to provide a one-time debt waiver to mitigate the distress of indebted farmers.

He urged the Government of India to increase the annual assistance under PM-KISAN from ₹6,000 to ₹12,000 per farmer, and to also include farm workers in its sweep.

He also thanked the NITI Aayog for acknowledging the State's initiative, 'Pani Bachao, Paisa Kamao'.

Another issue raised by the Chief Minister related to assistance for proper development of Punjab's border areas, which he said was a national responsibility.

He regretted that the Centre had not taken any action on the State's similar demand, for a special package for border areas, raised in the last two meetings.

He also called for greater inter-State cooperation to effectively tackle cross-border crimes. Captain Amarinder demanded increase in the deployment of paramilitary forces along the Punjab

border as well as a special financial assistance package for upgradation of police in the border areas, where it formed the second line of defence.

Meanwhile, in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Chief Minister said that Punjab, in particular, was witnessing an alarming degree of over-utilization of ground water, mainly due to the extensive cultivation of paddy which supports national food security.

He pointed to the estimates of the Central Ground Water Authority that the over-utilization of underground water in Punjab had risen to an alarming level of 168% of the recharge. Further, the canal irrigation system in Punjab, which forms the bedrock of the State's agriculture, was showing signs of ageing, indicated by reduced water carrying capacity and longer maintenance periods, he added.

To address and mitigate this imminent water crisis, the State Government was taking several urgent measures to reduce consumption of water, conserve water, improve the efficiency of water utilization, and improve water infrastructure in the State, said the Chief Minister. Several schemes had been framed by the State Government and presented to Government of India for assistance under its flagship programmes, amounting to ₹20,758 crores, he pointed out.

The Chief Minister urged the Government of India to provide the maximum possible funding for all these comprehensive projects, beginning with the current financial year 2019-20. He hoped that an appropriate provision would be made in the Government of India Budget to be presented in July 2019.

Woman assaulted in Punjab for failing to repay ₹23,000, six arrested

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A woman was lashed with a leather belt, punched and kicked by a group of men after being dragged out of her house in Punjab's Muktsar district for allegedly failing to repay ₹23,000 she had borrowed from one of them, following which six persons were arrested, police said on Saturday.

A video of the brutal assault has gone viral, triggering outrage. An elderly woman who was trying to stop the accused was also pushed, showed the video.

Police said the woman was assaulted as she could not repay ₹23,000, which she owed to one Suresh Chaudhary. She was admitted to the civil hospital and was taken to the hospital out of danger, they said. "We have arrested six persons in this case," said Manjit Singh Dhesi, Muktsar's Senior Superintendent of Police.

Suresh Chaudhary, Roop Lal, Sunny Chaudhary, Guddi, Sekhu and Jebo have been

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh condemned the incident and said such acts of violence will not be tolerated

arrested, while four others -- Rakesh Chaudhary, Hassan, Renu and Jyoti were on the on the run, police said.

The have been booked them under several charges, including attempt to murder. Police said efforts were being made to arrest the remaining four accused.

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh condemned the incident and said such acts of violence will not be tolerated.

"Accused in the video from Muktsar have been arrested by Punjab police & booked for attempt to murder u/s 307 IPC," he said. "The law and such acts of violence will not be tolerated (sic)," the chief minister tweeted.

Punjab delegation sent to Meghalaya to help Punjabi settlers

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Urging Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma to ensure all necessary steps to provide protection to Punjabi settlers in the North-Eastern state, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder has decided to send a four-member delegation to the state to resolve the issues concerning the settlers.

The delegation, to be headed by Water Resources Minister Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria, will meet the Chief Minister and other people in Meghalaya, an official spokesperson said here on Saturday.

The delegation will include MPs Ravneet Singh Bittu and Jasbir Singh Gill, along with MLA Kuldeep Singh Vaid, DS Mangat, Special Secretary, Planning, has also been directed to accompany the delegation, which the Chief Secretary has been asked to coordinate.

The directions come amid reports that the settlers have received threats from certain local banned terrorist organisations warning them of dire consequences if they resisted the State Government's

attempts to evict them.

"These reports have naturally caused great concern back in Punjab as these families have been settled in Shillong long before the country's independence," said Capt Amarinder in a letter to Sangma requesting him to initiate urgent measures to instill a sense of security among the Punjabi settlers.

Underlining the sensitivity of the issue, the Punjab Chief Minister stressed the need for it to be carefully and amicably resolved to the satisfaction of all parties.

He said it was important that the issue not be allowed to acquire a religious or parochial colour.

In his letter, Capt Amarinder referred to the visit to Meghalaya last year by a Punjab delegation headed by Cooperation Minister to meet the Chief Minister on the same issue.

The delegation had also met the settlers as well as other officials in the Government and was assured by its quarters that due regard would be taken not to displace them.

Water Resources Minister Sarkaria meets Israeli water experts

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To prepare a Comprehensive Water Management Master Plan for conservation and management of water Resources to tackle declining ground water in State, Punjab Water Resources Minister Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria on Saturday met three-member team of experts from Israel at Amritsar.

The experts team along with senior officers of Water Resources Department had earlier visited various parts of the state to assess the present situation and the challenges being faced by Punjab in dealing with the water sector. During their three-day visit, the team of experts has got an overview of the existing water resources and infrastructure in the state.

The experts team of International Special Projects Coordinator of Mekorot Diego Berger, Project Manager Niv Pintow, Water Engineer of Mekorot for North district



Tomer Malol discussed ways and means with the Minister to deal with the grave problem of deteriorating condition of water resources in the State.

The team apprised Sarkaria that they will submit a report on the current situation of water sector, 'Water based economy regulations',

'Projections of the water Resources, Projection of Water demand, Alternative water supply schemes', Economic analysis and master plan summary and recommendations' for Punjab.

Notably, the National Water company of Israel, Mekorot and Punjab Government had signed an

agreement in April, 2019 after the visit of Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh to Israel in October, 2018.

As per the agreement, the recommendations of Mekorot shall be submitted in 18 months. The final report of the master plan is expected in October 2020.

LOST/FOUND
I Subhash Mittal S/o Raj Kumar R/o...

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to all that Ramesh Kumar...

BRANCH OFFICE- PINJORE (HARYANA)
PH: 01733-231162, M: 09671333456

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Table with columns: Name of the Borrower & Mortgagee, Description of the Secured Assets, Date of Demand, Amount as per Demand Notice (Rs.)

Table with columns: Sl. No., Name of the Borrower Loan Number, Description of Property / Date of Physical Possession, Date of Demand Notice Amount in Rupees (Rs.), Name of Branch

ADDENDUM
Reference to our advt dated 16/12/18 and 2/6/19. Published in Ajit Samachar and The Pioneer...

LOST AND FOUND
It is notified for the information that my original Qualifying Examination certificate...

सामाजिक सूचना
श्री प्रकाश कुमार पुत्र लाल शर्मा 26, निवासी...

COURT NOTICE
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COURT NOTICE
In the Court of Sh. Jasveer Singh Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class, Amritsar

COURT NOTICE
In the Court of Sh. Satvir Kaur Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class, Amritsar

COURT NOTICE
In the Court of Sh. Satvir Kaur Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class, Amritsar

COURT NOTICE
Criminal Courts, Ludhiana
IN THE COURT OF Sh. Balkar Singh Judicial Magistrate-1st Class Ludhiana.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Anchal W/o Gaurav Kumar R/o 44, Laxmi Nagar, Yamanpura...

LOST & FOUND
I, Ravi Kant R/o No. 101/2, Gali No. 21, Karnal Vihar, Karnal...

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COURT NOTICE
In the Court of Sh. Satvir Kaur Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class, Amritsar

CHANGE OF NAME
I hereto known as Vikramjit Singh S/o Hazara Singh...

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Meroo Kumar Aggarwal s/o Ram Kumar Aggarwal...

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Fadnavis Cabinet expansion today

To induct 8-10 new Ministers • Erstwhile Cong leader, LoP Vikhe-Patil, Ex-NCP leader Kshirsagar set to join Cabinet • CM may drop tainted HSG Min Prakash Mehta from Cabinet

TH RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Head of the Monsoon Session of the Maharashtra Legislature beginning on Monday, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will expand his Ministry on Sunday by inducting 'eight to ten' new Ministers, including most probably the erstwhile senior Congress leader and leader of the Opposition Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil and erstwhile NCP leader and now a Shiv Sena leader Jaydutta Kshirsagar, into his Cabinet.

Among other things, Fadnavis may drop from his Cabinet State Housing Minister Prakash Mehta of the BJP, who is facing allegations of irregularities in the permissions given by a slum rehabilitation company (SRA) project at MP Mills compound at Tardeo in south Mumbai. Lokayukta M L

Tahalyani, who looked into the allegations against the minister, has reportedly passed strictures against Mehta.

Sunday's expansion, which has been scheduled at 11 am at Raj Bhavan on Sunday, will be the last Cabinet restructuring that Fadnavis will undertake ahead of the State Assembly polls to be held in October this year.

Following the exit of State Food, Civil Supplies and Legislative affairs minister who resigned last week from the State Cabinet in the wake of his election to the Lok Sabha, the number of vacancies in the State Cabinet has gone up to seven.

The current strength of the Maharashtra Cabinet is 36, seven short of the stipulated 43 Ministers — a number that accounts for 15 per cent of 288 members in the State Assembly. Fadnavis may drop from his Cabinet at least three ministers,



including Mehta, taking the number of vacancies to be filled to 10.

Fadnavis, who is expanding the State Cabinet after a gap of three years, may accommodate in his Cabinet 'two or three' MLAs from the Shiv Sena, which is a constituent of the BJP-led saffron alliance Government.

Informed sources in the BJP said that Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil, whose son Sujay quit the Congress in March this year and won the Lok Sabha polls by a margin of 2.81 lakh votes from Ahmmednagar constituency on a BJP ticket, would join the Devendra Fadnavis Cabinet in Sunday's Cabinet expansion.

Similarly, influential leader of the Maharashtra Congress, Jaydutta Kshirsagar, who quit the NCP and joined the ruling Shiv Sena on May 22, will be

inducted into the State Cabinet.

Three other names that are making rounds as contenders for ministerial berths are BJP's Mumbai unit president Ashish Shelar, Atul Sene and Anil Bonde, both from the Shiv Sena and Avinash Mahatekar of the BPI (Akhwale).

Fadnavis had met BJP's national president and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday to seek clearance for his Cabinet expansion scheduled on Sunday.

Fadnavis had earlier expanded his Cabinet on July 8, 2016, by inducting 10 more ministers and promoting one existing Minister to Cabinet rank.

The current strength of the Maharashtra Cabinet is 39, six short of the stipulated 43 ministers — a number that accounts for 15 per cent of 288 members in the State Assembly.

FIR registered against Srinagar Dy Mayor

PNS ■ JAMMU

Cracking its whip Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday registered a case against deputy Mayor Srinagar Municipal Corporation, senior officers of JS&K Bank and few Government officials for illegal appropriation of subsidy with inflated project cost for establishment of CA storage at Lassipora, Pulwama.

According to the statement issued by the spokesman of Anti Corruption Bureau, a case FIR No. 3/2019 under section 5(1) (d) PC Act Samvat 2006, punishable u/s 5(2) of the Act r/w 420 & 120-B RPC has been registered in Police Station Anti Corruption Bureau, South Kashmir (Anantnag) against Shiekh Imran Director M/S Kehwa Square Pvt. Ltd. BohriKadal Srinagar, officers of JS&K Bank and other govt officials, for illegal appropriation of subsidy with inflated project cost for establishment of CA storage at Lassipora, Pulwama.

Earlier, IT raids were conducted on the premises of Sheikh Imran on June 11 and several files pertaining to investments were seized.

Yogi Govt to hold global investors' summit next year

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After the success of UP Investors' Summit in February 2018 that fetched investment proposals worth Rs 4.68 lakh crore, the Yogi Adityanath Government is now contemplating organising its maiden 'Global Investors' Summit' early next year.

The 2018 summit resulted in big investment as a fair share of MoUs matured into actual investment in the state.

The proposed 'Global Investors' Summit' would be held on a grand scale and position Uttar Pradesh as an ideal investment destination not only in India but globally.

While reviewing the progress of Industrial Development department this week, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath asked officials to start preparing for the 'Global Investors' Summit, proposed to be held in February 2020. He also directed the officials to hold the second groundbreaking ceremony for the pending industrial and infrastructure projects next month. During the two-day UP Investors' Summit in Lucknow on 21-22 February, 2018, the UP government had signed 1,047 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) worth Rs 4.68 lakh crore with private and public sector companies. The summit was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the presence of honchos of corporate world, including Mukesh Ambani, Gautam Adani, Kumar Mangalam Birla, N Chandrababhan, Subhash Chandra, GM Rao, Shiv Nadar and many others.

The State also hosted delegates from Mauritius, Japan and the Netherlands, Finland, Czech Republic, Thailand and Slovakia to explore investment opportunities in UP.

Inclement weather hampers op to retrieve bodies of IAF aircraft crash victims

PTI ■ ITANAGAR

Inclement weather on Saturday hampered rescue efforts to retrieve the mortal remains of 13 air-warriors who were on board the Indian Air Force aircraft that crashed in the mountains of Arunachal Pradesh, an IAF spokesman said.

Shillong-based IAF spokesman Ratnakar Singh said the rescue operation, which commenced early Saturday morning, could not progress further due to inclement weather at the crash site.

Cheetah and ALH helicopters are on standby and are waiting to commence operations once the weather improves. At present there are low clouds accompanied with rain in the area, the spokesman said in a statement.

The IAF is making all efforts to retrieve the mortal remains of the deceased air-warriors. IAF personnel are in constant contact with the families of these air-warriors and they are being updated regularly about the ongoing rescue operations. They are also being explained the challenges being faced by the rescue team, he added.

The rescue team on Friday recovered the cockpit voice recorder (CVR) and flight data recorder (FDR) of the Russian-origin AN-32 aircraft.

The aircraft was going from Jorhat in Assam to Mechuka advanced landing ground in Shi-Yomi district in Arunachal Pradesh, near the border with China, on June 3 when it lost contact around half-an-hour after taking off.

The wreckage of the plane was spotted by an IAF chopper on Tuesday at a height of 12,000 ft near Gatte village on the border of Siang and Shi-Yomi districts, after eight days of a massive search operation involving a fleet of aircraft and choppers as well as ground



In this photo released by IAF, is seen the crash site of IAF AN-32 carrier aircraft

rescuers. A 15-member team of rescuers were sent to look for survivors in the accident site on Wednesday and eight of them

reached the place on Thursday morning.

"We have recovered the flight data recorder and the cockpit voice recorder... We will go into the detail (to ascertain) as to what happened and how we make sure that it does not happen again," he told reporters on the sidelines of the Combined Graduation Parade at the Air Force Academy in Dundigal near here.

"In Arunachal Pradesh, the very way we fly, the terrain is so very treacherous and most of the time, it is cloudy... When you are flying in that terrain, in that cloudy weather, there have been many, many, not only Air Force, even other services, Pawan Hans and all, lot of accidents, because of controlled flight into terrain," he claimed.

Noting that there were procedures to make sure such accidents do not recur, he said, "Need to review what happened and we don't have such an accident again." PTI

No water to fall back on for farmers in Ujani's backwater area

PTI ■ PUNE

Narayan Lawand, a 45-year-old farmer in Pune district, died of electrocution on Friday using a submersible water pump to irrigate his fields last month. His death has brought into focus the plight of people living in the area around Ujani dam in western Maharashtra which was overflowing last monsoon.

Rui, Lawand's village in Pune's Indapur tehsil, falls in the backwater region of Ujani dam across the Bhima river. As the backwater spreads through hundreds of small inlets and streams in the area, it is common for farmers to draw water from them using submersible pumps.

But the water level in the reservoir has depleted to such a precariously low level this year that small rivers and streams which flow off the main water-body have gone dry.

Submersible pumps and pipes which draw water from them, thus, lie exposed.

Will go into AN-32 crash, ensure such incidents don't reoccur: IAF chief

PTI ■ PUNE

Hyderabad: The Indian Air Force would ascertain the cause of the recent crash of an AN-32 aircraft in Arunachal Pradesh and take steps to ensure that such incidents do not recur, IAF chief BS Dhanoa said on Saturday.

His comments came days after the wreckage of the aircraft was found in a remote area in Arunachal Pradesh, more than a week after it went missing with 13 people on board.

"Rivers and streams have dried up. Our crops are withering," said Lawand's brother Tulakar. It forced his brother to lift water from a trench dug near a river. "He suffered electric shock while using a submersible pump and died," he said.

"The water level in the dam has gone down to an unprecedented level. But last monsoon the dam was full," said Sharad Kale, a farmer from nearby Palasdeo village.

'Jungle raj' prevailing in UP, says Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Alleging that 'jungle raj' laws were prevailing in Uttar Pradesh, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav met Governor Ram Naik on Saturday to discuss the poor law and order situation in the state and submitted a memorandum.

Akhilesh Yadav along with senior SP leader Ahmad Hassan submitted a memorandum to the Governor and urged him to intervene and "wake up" the state government as he did during the SP regime.

Yadav said, "During SP regime, it was said that there were only Yadav officers. Now there is hardly any district police chief or district magistrate from the Yadav community. We have requested the Governor to wake up the state government and direct to control the prevailing 'jungle raj'."

The SO chief further said, "Criminals are having a free hand and they are doing what they want in this regime. UP Bar Council president Darvesh Singh Yadav said that dead inside was the chamber of a lawyer in Agra court while commenting on the 'jungle raj'. How can people take firearms inside the lawyer's

chamber or inside the jail?" Holding the present Yogi Adityanath government responsible for the deteriorating law and order in the state, the SP president said that the state government had failed to instil confidence among people of the state.

Akhilesh also tweeted: "Incidents of rape, killings and political attacks have been increasing in the state. The CM is busy in meetings but the law and order is getting worse. The firing at chairperson of Bar Council in Agra has proved that the situation is now out of control."

Akhilesh Yadav also raised the issue of alleged harassment of senior SP leader Mohammad Azam Khan by Rampur district administration and said, "The Government should look into the matter immediately as fake criminal cases are being registered against the SP leader by officials to harass him."

Recently a couple of senior Rampur district officials had sought protection from Azam Khan while cases were lodged against the leader for illegally grabbing government land for Ali Jauhar University owned by Khan.

BALGANGA IRRIGATION PROJECT

TH RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Facing the prospect of paying a sum of Rs 287 crore to a private contractor and getting quashed its crucial resolution of terminating the Balganga construction contract, the Maharashtra Government will belatedly file an appeal before Raigad district court on Monday, challenging the ruling given by a Bombay High court-appointed Arbitration Tribunal in favour of a private firm.

The BJP-led Maharashtra government, which has come under severe flak for failure to appear before the high court-appointed Arbitration Tribunal hearing a payment-related dispute, has delayed inordinately in moving the Tribunal in appeal against the tribunal's order passed in April awarding Rs 287 crore for the State Water Resources departments' 'deliberate' failure to appear at the hearing before the tribunal.

The tribunal had set a 90-day deadline for the state government to file an appeal against its order. "It is shocking that the Maharashtra government has not bothered to move the Arbitration Tribunal even 70 days after the tribunal passed an order against it. It is a deliberate failure to appear," said a source familiar with the tribunal's order.

The tribunal in appeal passed in April awarding Rs 287 crore for the State Water Resources departments' 'deliberate' failure to appear at the hearing before the tribunal. The tribunal had set a 90-day deadline for the state government to file an appeal against its order. "It is shocking that the Maharashtra government has not bothered to move the Arbitration Tribunal even 70 days after the tribunal passed an order against it. It is a deliberate failure to appear," said a source familiar with the tribunal's order.

While awarding Rs 287 crore to private firm M/S F A Construction for the state water department's failure before it during the hearing, the Arbitration Tribunal — headed by retired high court judge V G Palshikar — had on April 6 quashed the State government resolution dated September 23, 2016 terminating the contract awarded to M/S F A Construction for the construction of Balganga dam in Raigad district.

"Despite service of notice, the State government has chosen not to appear in the present proceedings. In the circumstances, we have no hesitation in holding that both, the GR dt. 23.06.2016, and the Notice dt. 28.10.2016 (by KIDC), suffer from the vice of non-applica-

tion of mind, failure to consider relevant facts, consideration of irrelevant facts and failure to comply with the elementary principles of natural justice, which amounts to malafides in law," the tribunal order stated.

"Hence, we hold that both the GR dt. 23.09.2016 and (KIDC) notice dt. 28.10.2016, are not only invalid but are totally null and void in law," the tribunal noted.

Following a payment dispute between the state-run Konkani Irrigation Development Corporation (KIDC) and M/S F A Construction, the contractor had moved the Bombay High court in 2015. In turn, the high court had ordered the setting up of a five-member panel to look into the dispute.

Incidentally, the Balganga project was one of the 13 irrigation projects that the State Government had scrapped on August 30, 2016, after the



A car set ablaze reportedly by Kashi Hindu University students on the premises in Varanasi on Saturday

PTI

4 youths who wanted to cross LoC to join militancy arrested

Srinagar: Four youths, who wanted to cross the Line of Control (LoC) to join militant ranks, were taken into custody in 'DI' sector of Jammu & Kashmir and later handed over to their respective families on Saturday.

He said the Army had received information that they were going to join the path of violence after being "misguided" by local militants and their accomplices.

"We acted swiftly to prevent them from choosing the wrong path and apprehended them along the LoC in Limber area of Bontiyar on Friday," he said.

The Army officer said the youths were handed over to their respective families after proper counselling. He appealed to the youths to not get misguided by the propaganda of militants. PTI

'In dock' water resources dept to contest quashing of GR terminating construction contract

PTI ■ PUNE

large-scale irregularities surfaced in them.

On August 24, 2016, the State Anti Corruption Bureau had registered the first FIR in the irrigation scam, booking 11 people in connection with alleged irregularities in awarding the contract for Balganga dam to FA Enterprises.

The names of former deputy chief minister and NCP leader Ajit Pawar and former Water Resources Minister Sunil Tatkar — also of the NCP — are being investigated for alleged irregularities in 12 major irrigation projects undertaken during the previous Congress-NCP regime.

The multi-thousand irrigation scam, it may be recalled, had come to light in September 2012. Ajitdada had resigned from the deputy chief minister's post on September 25, 2012, attributing his decision to the media reports on the alleged irregularities in the awarding of 38 irrigation contracts worth Rs 20,000 crore in Vidarbha region during 2009, without seeking the mandatory clearance from the governing council of the Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation (VIDC).

Ajitdada was the State Irrigation Minister between 1999 and 2010, before he was elevated as the deputy chief minister and handed the portfolios of Finance and Energy.

Trump blames Iran for tanker attacks but calls for talks

Washington: President Donald Trump has blamed Iran for attacks on oil tankers near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, but he also held out hope that implicit US threats to use force will yield talks with the Islamic Republic as the Pentagon considers beefing up defenses in the Persian Gulf area.



President Donald Trump speaks in the Rose Garden of the White House on Friday AP

A day after explosions blew holes in two oil tankers just outside Iran's territorial waters, rattling international oil markets, the administration seemed caught between pressure to punish Iran and reassure Washington's Gulf Arab allies without drawing the US closer to war.

"Iran did it," Trump said Friday on Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends."

He didn't offer evidence, but the US military released video it said showed Iran's Revolutionary Guard removing an unexploded mine from one of the oil tankers targeted near the Strait of Hormuz, suggesting Tehran wanted to cover its tracks.

By pointing the finger at Iran, Trump was keeping a public spotlight on an adversary he accuses of terrorism but also has invited to negotiate.

The approach is similar to his diplomacy with North Korea, which has quieted talk

of war but not yet achieved his goal of nuclear disarmament. Iran has shown little sign of backing down, creating uncertainty about how far the Trump administration can go with its campaign of increasing pressure through sanctions.

Iran denied any involvement in the attacks and accused Washington of waging an "Iranophobic campaign" of economic warfare.

A US Navy team on Friday was aboard one of the tankers, the Japanese-owned Kokuka Courageous, collecting forensic evidence, according to a US official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive operation.

Apparently alluding to the US view, Trump said Iran's

culpability had been "exposed." He did not say what he intended to do about it but suggested "very tough" US sanctions, including efforts to strangle Iranian oil revenues, would have the desired effect.

"They've been told in very strong terms we want to get them back to the table," Trump said.

Just a day earlier, the president took the opposite view, tweeting that it was "too soon to even think about making a deal" with Iran's leaders. "They are not ready, and neither are we!" Trump last year withdrew the United States from an international agreement to limit Iran's nuclear program that was signed in 2015 under his predecessor, President Barack

Hong Kong: Hong Kong's embattled leader on Saturday said a divisive bill that would allow extraditions to China would be "suspended" in a major climbdown from her government after a week of unprecedented protests.

The city's pro-Beijing leader Carrie Lam has come under huge pressure to abandon the controversial legislation, including from her own political allies and advisers.

"The Government has decided to suspend the legislative amendment exercise, restart our communication with all sectors of society, do more... Work and listen to different views of society," Lam told

reporters on Saturday. "We have no intention to set a deadline for this work and promise to report to and consult members of the legislative council on the next step forward." The international finance hub was rocked by the worst political violence since its 1997 handover to China on Wednesday as tens of thousands of protesters were dispersed by riot police firing tear gas and rubber bullets.

As criticism mounted, signs also emerged of a growing discomf ort among Communist Party leaders in Beijing, and Lam held her press conference on Saturday at the same Government complex that was

besieged by protesters earlier in the week. The South China Morning Post said Lam held an emergency meeting on Friday night with her advisers while Chinese officials were also meeting in the nearby city of Shenzhen to map a way out of the impasse. "I feel deep sorrow and regret that the deficiencies in our work and various other factors have stirred up substantial controversies and disputes in

society following the relatively calm periods of the past two years," Lam said.

On Friday she found herself facing growing calls from within her own political camp to reverse course and tamp down spiralling public anger — including from headline pro-Beijing lawmakers. "Shouldn't (we) cool the citizens down? I think to postpone it for a little bit is not a bad thing. At this moment, the

Government should self-examine," Ann Chiang, a hardcore pro-Beijing lawmaker, told i-Cable News.

But others have warned against Lam bending to the protesters. "If the Government caves in to violence and external influences, in the long run that would also make Hong Kong unmanageable," pro-Beijing lawmaker Regina Ip told reporters. APF

China supports suspension of Hong Kong's controversial bill

Beijing: China on Saturday said it supports the Hong Kong leader's decision to suspend a controversial bill that would allow extraditions to China, following massive protests.

About an hour after Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam announced the suspension of the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said in statement.

China also expressed Beijing's backing for the beleaguered Lam who faced heavy criticism from local people, specially students, for attempting to push the bill disregarding massive protests.

"The Chinese Central Government expresses its support, respect and understanding for the SAR government's decision and will continue its

staunch support for Chief Executive Carrie Lam and the SAR government in governing Hong Kong in accordance with the basic law upholding the SAR's prosperity and stability with people from all sectors," Geng said.

He said China continued to respect and faithfully implementing the "one country, two systems" policy under which Hong Kong was returned from British rule to China in 1997.

The former British colony is being governed a high degree of autonomy and the rights and freedoms of Hong Kong residents have been fully guaranteed according to law, he said. PTI

Hong Kong braces for huge rally after leader climbdown

Hong Kong: Hong Kong is bracing for another mass rally Sunday as public anger seethes following unprecedented clashes between protesters and police over a controversial extradition law, despite a climbdown by the city's embattled leader.

Organisers are hoping for another mammoth turnout as they vowed to keep pressure on chief executive Carrie Lam, who suspended work on the hugely divisive bill on Saturday after days of mounting pres-

sure, saying she had misjudged the public mood.

Critics fear the Beijing-backed law will tangle people up in China's notoriously opaque and politicised courts as well as hammer the city's reputation as a safe business hub.

The international finance hub was rocked by the worst political violence since its 1997 handover to China on Wednesday as tens of thousands of protesters were dispersed by riot police firing tear gas and rubber bullets. APF

Nepal's ethnic Newaris protest against Guthi bill

Kathmandu: Thousands of people belonging to the Newar community staged anti-government protests on Saturday, demanding withdrawal of a controversial bill, which they say has provisions in favour of land mafias and could jeopardise Sanatan Hindu culture and tradition.

Around 10,000 people from Newar community rallied in the major parts of the city Saturday morning raising slogans against the Oli Government demanding that the Government withdraw the Guthi bill from the Parliament.

The K P Sharma Oli-led Communist Party Government has tabled the bill in Parliament to amend the Guthi Act and nationalise both public and private Guthis and regulate all religious sites under a powerful commission.

Guthis are socio-economic institutions (trusts), both public and private, that fund their obligations from incomes from cultivated or leased land assets. Depending on their obligations, Guthis

fulfil religious, public service or social roles and could either involve members from a common lineage, or several.

"Don't destroy heritage," "scrap Guthi Bill," "Our culture our identity," "down with KPI Oli government," stop invasion of Sanatan Dharma," read the placards the protesters carried during the rally.

"Our Sanatan Dharma and culture could be jeopardised if the Bill, tabled by the Communist Party led government in Parliament, gets endorsed," said Pavitra Bajracharya a Newar activist and central member of Federal Socialist Party Nepal, which is also part of the ruling coalition.

The aim of the bill is to snatch the public and private land allocated for cultural trusts and distribute to others encroaching our age cultural heritages, he said.

Thousands of people also organised torch lit rallies in neighbouring Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts on Friday night to oppose the Government's move to endorse the Bill that would destroy centuries old Sanatan culture. PTI

Syria flare-up kills 35 fighters

Beirut: At least 35 combatants including 26 pro-regime forces were killed on Saturday in clashes and air strikes that erupted at dawn in northwestern Syria, a war monitor said.

The flare-up came as Russian-backed regime forces tried to retake two villages seized by jihadists and allied rebels earlier this month, the Britain-based Syrian Rights Observatory for Human Rights said.

"Since this morning, the Syrian regime and allied fighters have launched five failed attempts to regain control of Jibine and Tal Mahal in northwestern Hama province," said Observatory head Rami Abdul Rahman.

Syrian regime and Russian air strikes killed nine jihadists and rebel fighters, the war monitor said. Ensuing clashes in the

north of Hama province left 26 pro-regime forces dead, including eight who were killed in a mine explosion, the Observatory said.

The Idlib region of some three million people is supposed to be protected from a massive regime offensive by a buffer zone deal that Russia and Turkey signed in September.

But it was never fully implemented, as jihadists refused to withdraw from a planned demilitarised zone.

In January, the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham alliance led by Syria's former Qaeda affiliate extended its administrative control over the region, which includes most of Idlib province as well as adjacent slivers of Latakia, Hama and Aleppo provinces.

The Syrian Government and Russia have upped their

bombardment of the region since late April, killing more than 360 civilians, according to the Observatory.

Turkey said Friday that it did not accept Russia's excuse that it had no ability to stop the Syrian regime's continued bombardments in the last rebel bastion of Idlib.

"In Syria, who are the regime's guarantors? Russia and Iran," Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told state news agency Anadolu in a televised interview.

"Thus we do not accept the excuse that 'We cannot make the regime listen to us,'" he said.

His comments came as Turkey disagreed with Russia earlier this week after Moscow claimed a new ceasefire had been secured in the province following weeks of regime bombardments — a claim that was denied by Ankara. APF

Iraq gets new extension for Iran energy sanctions waiver

Baghdad: Two Iraqi officials say the United States has given Iraq a new 90-day extension for an Iran sanctions waiver allowing it to import electricity and natural gas from Tehran.

An Iraqi official told the Associated Press on Saturday that Baghdad was informed about the waiver during a call the previous day between US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi.

Another official confirmed the waiver, saying it will start June 19. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Iraq's power sector is in dire straits and doesn't generate enough electricity to meet domestic demand, especially during the scorching summer months. AP

10 Kenyan police officers killed in blast near Somalia

Nairobi: Kenyan officials say at least 10 police officers are dead after their vehicle struck an improvised explosive device near the Somali border in a suspected extremist attack.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to share the information, said those killed on Saturday in Wajir County were among 13 officers who were pursuing extremists who had kidnapped police reservists.

Police on Friday said an unknown number of gunmen stormed Konton center in Wajir East and kidnapped three reservists.

There was no claim of responsibility for the latest attack. The Somalia-based al-Shabab extremist group often targets Kenyan security forces, vowing retribution after Kenya deploys troops to Somalia in 2011 to combat the extremists. AP



Women in traditional dress perform in a parade of the Bali Arts Festival in Bali, Indonesia on Saturday AP

Journalists resign after pro-Russia MP buys Ukraine TV channel

Kiev: A Ukrainian MP with ties to Russia has bought a national Ukrainian news channel, prompting a round of resignations from journalists who fear his ownership will mean coverage influenced by Moscow.

Taras Kozak of the pro-Moscow party "Opposition Platform" already owned two national TV stations before he took over the channel ZIK this week. Kozak is a close ally of politician Viktor Medvedchuk, a controversial figure in Ukraine because of his close ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin while Kiev is fighting a Moscow-backed separatist war.

Journalist Roman Nedzelski, one of five journalists to resign from the channel along with its CEO, said Medvedchuk now essentially controls ZIK. "Tomorrow I will be on the air with the last broadcast of the weekly show 'Details' and then I will start looking for a job," he said on Facebook late Friday.

"Medvedchuk is an enemy of my country, a murderer of both the past and the future," his colleague Vakhtang Kipiani wrote as he announced his resignation. Mustafa Nayyem, a Ukrainian MP, wrote on social media that the takeover would be a challenge for new President Volodymyr Zelensky. APF

Husband says British woman held in Iran begins hunger strike

London: A British-Iranian woman jailed in Tehran for more than three years has begun a hunger strike to protest her detention, her husband said Saturday.

Richard Ratcliffe said Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe has told judicial officials she will refuse food but will drink water until she is granted "unconditional release." Ratcliffe said she would hold a vigil outside Iran's London embassy, and would fast in support of his wife.

Ratcliffe said his wife "had vowed that if we passed (daughter) Gabriella's fifth birthday with her still inside, then she would do something — to mark to both Governments that enough is enough. This really

has gone on too long," Zaghari-Ratcliffe said in a letter to the charity arm of news agency Thomson Reuters, was detained at Tehran airport in April 2016 on charges of plotting against the Iranian Govt. Her family denies the allegations. High-level diplomatic attempts to secure her release have so far failed. Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt granted 40-year-old Zaghari-Ratcliffe diplomatic protection in March, but Iranian officials refuse to recognize her dual nationality. The hunger strike comes amid heightened tensions between the West and Iran, which the U.S. and U.K. Blame for attacks on two oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman this week. Iran denies involvement. AP

'We are trapped': Zimbabwe's economic crunch hits passports

Harare: With Zimbabwe's economy in shambles and political tensions rising, leaving the country seems the best option for many who are desperate for jobs. But those dreams often end at the passport office, which doesn't have enough foreign currency to import proper paper and ink.

A passport now takes no less than a year to be issued. An emergency passport can take months amid a backlog of 280,000 applications, never mind recent ones.

Zimbabweans at the main office in the capital, Harare, have taken to sleeping in line for any chance at being served the following day — and then just to submit an application.

Several million Zimbabweans already left for neighboring South Africa and other countries during years of economic turmoil under former leader Robert Mugabe. The

hardships have only deepened under current President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who took over after Mugabe's forced resignation in late 2017.

"The new Government's slogan 'austerity for prosperity' now has a bitter ring. Unemployment is rampant and inflation is at 75%, the highest since 2009, when Zimbabwe's currency collapsed under the weight of hyperinflation.

Rapid devaluation of the local currency against the US dollar — also used as official currency — has seen basic items such as cooking oil changing prices several times a day. The health sector is collapsing, forcing those who can afford it to seek treatment abroad.

At the passport office, the desperation to escape is all too clear. "Guys, if we either jump the queue or we will have to jump the border," one teenager told a group of friends plotting



People wait in a queue to submit an application for a passport at the main office in Harare on Friday AP

to sneak to the front of the line. Another teen, 19-year-old Brian Ndlovu, said coming to the office makes him "feel like there is really no way out of this country. We are trapped." The teens' plot to jump the queue failed, in large part because those at the front had camped there for days and knew each other by name. Emma Chirwa said she only reached the front

of the line because she had been sleeping outside the office since June 5. "I was No. 34 on Friday. They served no one. On Thursday, they served 12 people," she said, huddled in a

blanket on Sunday night. In the biting cold of the Southern Hemisphere's winter, dozens of people, including women with toddlers, slept on cardboard boxes or in the dust, holding their places. Around midnight, one man parked his motorbike and joined his wife in blankets on the line. People laughed.

Some huddled under a lack of fire of scrap wood taken from the grounds of an adjacent school. A small entrance has emerged, with some young men holding places in the line for a fee. Others sell pens, food items and foreign currency while a generator powers a photocopy machine. By daylight, the line snaked for more than a kilometre and included school children in uniform. A preacher holding a Bible told advantage of the crowd to deliver sermons about resilience and hope. But for many, the spirit is slipping.

For those seeking an emergency passport, the task requires multiple lines and a week of sleeping outside the office. One woman with an ordinary passport, then waits for a chance to upgrade the application to an emergency passport. Those who are booked for a date in 2020 have to join another line to plead for an earlier date.

The delays are due to a lack of foreign currency to import special paper, ink and other materials, as well as machine breakdowns, according to the national passport agency's registrar-general, Clemence Masango. The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, a government body, has described the passport crisis as "a major human rights challenge" and launched an investigation. In response, officials are promising change. "We have sourced the foreign currency, and the machine is now working, so the

backlog will be cleared soon. We have to bring dignity to our people," Home Affairs Minister Cain Mathema told The Associated Press on Wednesday, vowing "a return to normalcy" in a month.

"But for those badly in need of a legal way out of Zimbabwe, such official statements count for little without action. In a busy, cramped corridor, people clutching envelopes waited in yet another line outside the passport office, which the "mercy office." It is where they plead with senior officials that their situations are dire enough for their emergency passport applications to be processed in days.

One woman said the date she can upgrade her passport application to an emergency one is May 2020. "My mother needs an urgent medical operation in India," she said. "She will be dead by then." AP

for selection of service providers for establishing Data Management Units(DMUs) for providing data entry, analysis and management services in Government Healthcare facilities and health department offices, in all 38 districts in the state of Bihar.

- The State Health Society, Bihar(SHSB) is implementing the National Health Mission (NHM) to carry out various health related program(s) and strengthening the health delivery system, in the state of Bihar.
- The government owned health facilities in the state, provide a wide range of healthcare services and report data every month. Data from these health facilities is drawn into a web-based monitoring system comprising of Health Management Information Systems (HMIS), RCH Portal, Patient Registration & Drug Distribution System etc., Human Resource Information System (HRIS), RBSP Portal etc. for reporting health indicator values through consolidation of data points at the Block level, Hospital level, District HQ level for Chief Medical Officers(CMOs) and Divisional/State level. These indicators values help:
 - Monitor and evaluate program performance and interventions under National Health Mission (NHM)
 - Provide key inputs for health policy formulation and interventions
 At the core of this system of generating pre-determined indicator values, is the aggregated facility-based / population-based data compiled from a set of paper-based registers and other source documents. Data is generated from these government owned health facilities across the state, where it is entered into the portal by Data Entry Operators (DEOs) for further reporting & analysis purposes.
- The State Health Society, Bihar (SHSB), Patna intends to select agency(s) via e-tendering for all 38 districts of the state, for establishing Data Management Units (DMUs) for its various programs across the state, for providing data entry, analysis and management services at Government Healthcare facilities - From District Hospitals (DHs) to Additional Primary Healthcare (APHCs) and health department offices, as per Annexure 7. The contract agreement with the successful agency/bidder will be signed with SHSB, and on behalf of the SHSB, the day to day execution of the contract will be done by the District Health Society (DHS)/Government Healthcare facilities/Health department offices in the concerned district(s) in which the DMUs have been established.
- Each Data Management Unit (DMU) shall comprise of
 - Single highly skilled Data Entry Operator (DEO),
 - Laptop/Computer set (Monitor, CPU, Keyboard and Mouse & Uninterrupted Power Supplies (UPS)) with web camera and biometric device,
 - Laser jet printer, scanner cum copier (preferably a single machine) and,
 - Data card for internet connection (speed of minimum 2 Mbps) etc.
- To participate in the e-tendering process, the bidder/agency are required to get themselves registered with Bihar Government Centralized e-Procurement portal, i.e., <https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON>, may contact the helpdesk at the following address, "e-Procurement HELP DESK, 1st Floor, M/22, Bank of India Building, Road No. 25, Shree Krishna Nagar, Patna- 800001, Phone No. 0612-2523006, Mob. No 754202164 (Timings: Every Day from 08.00 AM to 08.00 PM) or may visit the link "Vendor Info" at <https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON> and also inform this to SHSB.
- Tenderer may also download the tender documents (a complete set of document is available on website) from e-Procurement Portal (<https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON>) and submit its tender by using the downloaded document.

7. Schedule of Events

Sno.	Event Description	Timeline
7.1	Last date & time of downloading the RFP	11/07/2019 (Thursday) up to 05.00 PM, on the e-Procurement Portal (https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON).
7.2	Last date & time for submission (upload) of online bidding document	12/07/2019 (Friday) till 05.00 PM, on the e-Procurement Portal (https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON).
7.3	Last date & time for submission of EMD in Hard/Physical Copies (Offline Mode)	11/07/2019 (Wednesday) by 05.00 PM, to "The Executive Director, State Health Society, Bihar, Pariwar Kalyan Bhawan, Sheikhpura, Patna-800014"
7.4	Date of opening of Technical Bid	18/07/2019 (Thursday) at 11.00 AM on the e-Procurement Portal (https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON)
7.5	Time, Date of opening of Financial Bid	To be announced later on the e-Procurement Portal (https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON)
7.6	Pre-bid meeting (Date & time)	24/06/2019 (Monday) at 03.00 PM
7.7	Pre-bid meeting venue	Conference Hall, State Health Society, Bihar, Pariwar Kalyan Bhawan, Sheikhpura, Patna-800014

- Note:-**
- Interested bidders may obtain further information about this Notice Inviting Tender(NIT) from the office of State Health Society, Bihar.
 - No tender will be accepted after closing date and time in any circumstances.
 - The tenderer will be accompanied by Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of Demand Draft from any Schedule Bank in favour of "State Health Society, Bihar" payable at Patna. No bidder is exempted from submitting of the EMD as mentioned in the tender document. Tenders without EMD shall be summarily rejected.

8. Bid Processing Fee (PF) amount for the sum of Rs. 1,380/- (One thousand one hundred and eighty rupees) to be paid through e-Payment mode (i.e. NEFT-RTGS, Internet Banking, Credit / Debit Card) only, to the agency empanelled by Government of Bihar for centralized e-Procurement.

9. The technical and financial bids must be submitted/uploaded through e-Procurement Portal (<https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON>) before the date and time specified in the NIT. The SHSB doesn't take any responsibility for the delay / Non-Submission of Tender / Non-Reconciliation of online Payment caused due to Non availability of Internet Connection, Network Traffic/ Holidays or any other reason."

10. The bidders shall upload the scanned copies of all the relevant certificates, documents etc., in support of their eligibility criteria / technical bids and other certificate / documents in the e-Procurement Portal (<https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON>).

11. The Bidding documents shall be submitted in the mode as mentioned below:

(1) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Physical (Offline Mode)
(2) Technical Bid	Online (Cover: Technical Stage)
(3) Financial Bids	Online (Cover-Cost Bid Stage)

- All prospective bidders may attend the Pre-bid meeting. The venue, date and time is indicated in Section 7 above.
- The Hard/Physical copy of the Earnest Money Deposits (EMD), should be sent to "The Executive Director, State Health Society, Bihar, Pariwar Kalyan Bhawan, Sheikhpura, Patna-800014" by Registered Post/ Speed Post by hand. It must reach the above said address on or before the date & time indicated in Clause 7 above, failing which the tenders will be treated as late tender and would be summarily rejected.
- In the event of any of the above mentioned dates being declared as a holiday/ closed day for the State Health Society, Bihar the EMD will be received on the next working day, at the scheduled time.
- SHSB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or to change the terms and condition of NIT or cancel the NIT without assigning any reasons at any stage and time.
- For further enquiry and information, please contact to the following officers during office hours 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM on all working days -
 I. Sri Ravish Kishore, BAS, Deputy Secretary(DS), SHSB - 9473197729
 II. Sri Arvind Kumar, System Analyst-cum-Data Officer: SHSB - 9470003015
- All further notifications/Corrigendum/Addendum, if any shall be posted on e-Procurement Portal (<https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON>) and shall be binding on all the bidders.
- Bid/Amount:** Please note, in the "Estimated value box" on the e-Procurement Portal (<https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON>), "Zero" has been mentioned, by State Health Society, Bihar(SHSB). The actual value of the project depends on the L1 rate decided by this tender and therefore due to this, it has been mentioned "Zero". However, the bidders will be required to do financial estimations on their own and quote the bids based on the terms and conditions mentioned in the tender document. For further details please visit website www.prdhbihar.gov.in

Don't regulate us for the sake of it: Pichai

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Google's Indian-American CEO Sundar Pichai has said that it is "perfectly fine" for big companies to be scrutinised but cautioned against doing it just "for the sake of regulating" them amid reports that the US is initiating an anti-trust violations probe against the internet giant.

Pichai made the comments for the first time after reports emerged earlier this month that Google's search business and advertising practices may come under scrutiny through the potential anti-trust violations probe by the US Department of Justice (DOJ).



Sundar Pichai is said to be dividing up responsibility for oversight of Google, Facebook, Apple and Amazon to probe their market dominance.

The DOJ and Federal Trade Commission are said to be dividing up responsibility for oversight of Google, Facebook, Apple and Amazon to probe their market dominance.

Pichai told CNN Business on Friday that it's "perfectly fine" for companies like Google to be scrutinised when they get big enough.

"Scrutiny is right, and we will participate constructively in these discussions," he said.

"I worry that if you regulate for the sake of regulating it, it has a lot of unintended consequences," he

said, focusing on the issue of artificial intelligence in particular.

Pichai said, "it will have implications for our national security and safety. Having leadership end up being really critical."

This is not the first time Google has come under scrutiny. The company was under investigation by the Federal Trade Commission in 2013, but emerged relatively unscathed after the firm pledged to change certain aspects of its business, such as how it handles content from third-party travel or shopping sites.

"We have gone through similar situations in Europe, so it's not a surprise to us," Pichai said, adding "for some of the other companies, maybe the scrutiny is newer."

He said that there are countries that aspire to be the next Silicon Valley, and they are supporting their companies too.

"This doesn't mean you don't scrutinize large companies, but you have to balance it with the fact that you want big, successful companies in your country," Pichai added.

India tops tech visa applications for UK: Report

PTI ■ LONDON

India along with the US are among the countries with the highest number of visa applications for the UK's technology sector, according to the latest data from Britain's leading network for digital tech entrepreneurs.

Tech Nation, a UK Home Office designated body for tech visas, found that applications from India covered a wide range of sectors, as the Tech Nation Tier 1 Exceptional Talent Visa for Digital Technology experienced a 45 per cent increase in applications in 2018-19, up to 650 from 450 the previous year.

India's flat May fuel demand points to sluggish economy

AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

India's fuel demand in May was unchanged from a year earlier, a preliminary Government data showed on Saturday, indicating a continued slowdown in various sectors including industrial output.

Fuel consumption, a proxy for oil demand, was 18.61 million tonnes in May, data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the oil ministry showed on Saturday.

India's economy grew 5.8% in March quarter, its slowest pace in more than four year, falling behind China's pace for the first time in nearly two years.

Several indicators - automobile sales, rail freight and domestic air traffic - indicate a slowdown in industrial consumption. India has not yet released industrial output data for May.

Sales of gasoline, or petrol, rose by a robust 11.32% to 2.73 million tonnes in May as the narrowing price gap with diesel is pushing motorists to opt for petrol-driven vehicles. Diesel sales rose 2.84% to 7.78 million tonnes.

Cooking gas, or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), rose marginally to 2.06 million tonnes.

Naphtha sales increased by 7.73% to 1.09 million tonnes and sales of bitumen, used for making roads, were down by 8.4%.

India revised down its fuel consumption for April to 17.67 million tonnes, a decline of 0.6% from a year earlier, the data showed.

Trade unions seek ₹6K minimum pension, ₹20K minimum wages

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Representatives of trade unions on Saturday pressed the government to raise the minimum wage to ₹20,000, provide 200 days of assured work under the rural employment guarantee scheme and ensure minimum monthly pension of ₹6,000.

Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur.

After the meeting, some of the union leaders also expressed their unhappiness over the absence of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the meeting. Thakur chaired the meeting as Sitharaman had to attend the NITI Aayog's Governing Council meeting held around the same time.

The unions during a pre-budget meeting also demanded hiking slabs for exemption of income tax for salaried persons and pensioners to ₹10 lakh per year. They asked for ₹8 lakh income tax slab for senior citizens and exemption of all perks and fringe benefits like housing, medical and education facilities and running allowances from income tax.

Besides, the representatives of around a dozen central trade unions expressed their reservation against the privatisation and investment in profit-making public sector undertakings stressed on increasing investment for job creation in the pre-budget meeting with Minister of State for Finance &

All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) General Secretary Amarjeet Kaur said, "Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had invited us for pre-budget consultations. But we had a discussion with Minister of State. They tried to limit the discussion on four broad points protection of labour, skill development, jobs and wages."

However, she said, "We, the 10 central trade unions group, put up all of our points. We have demanded for ₹20,000 minimum wage, ₹6,000 minimum monthly pension and guaranteed employment of 200 days under MNREGA (100 days up to present)."

Tanker attack jolts oil-import dependent Asia

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The blasts detonated far from the bustling megacities of Asia, but the attack this week on two tankers in the strategic Strait of Hormuz hits at the heart of the regions oil import-dependent economies.

While the violence only directly jolted two countries in the region - one of the largest shipping was operated by a Tokyo-based company, a nearby South Korean oilers vessel helped reeased operations - it has focused on the economies throughout Asia.

IT industry meet Thakur to discuss data protection, tax issues

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A head of the Budget, representatives of tech sector and industry bodies like Nasscom, IAMA and MAIT met Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur Saturday to discuss various issues, including tax structure, and share their views on strengthening digital economy.

The pre-Budget consultation was focused on issues such as data issues such as use of Big Data technology in improving the forecasting of economic, financial, climatic etc phenomena by analysing large data sets.

CORRIGENDUM

Please read bid submission end date 05-JUL-2019 03:00 PM instead of date 06-JUL-2019 4:00 PM where ever applicable against P/No. N.O.T./EE/PWD/KHW/2020 Dated- 03-06-2019 which was circulated vide this office Memo No. F. 9(11)/P/EE/PWD/KHW/614-74 dated- 03-06-2019.

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.
 Yours Faithfully,
 Sd/-
 (Er. Biswajit Paul)
 Executive Engineer, PWD,
 Khwaha Division.

DEPARTMENT OF TRAINING & TECHNICAL EDUCATION Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Muni Maya Ram Marg, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 Website- www.tte.delhigov.nic.in

Starting date of online registration from 10.06.2019

On-line applications are invited from 8th pass/10th pass interested candidates for admission in various certificate level Engineering & Non- Engineering trades/courses of two/one year duration, running under NCVT/SCVT in the Delhi Government, Industrial Training Institutes/Basic Training Institute for the academic session 2019-20.

- APPLY ONLINE:-Candidates have to apply ONLINE through admission portal www.itidelhiadmissions.nic.in.
- Fee of Rs.200/- is payable at the time of online registration. After submitting the online registration form, the candidates must visit any Govt. ITI for further verification of original documents and along with their photocopies
- The detailed information on Trades/courses, eligibility and other particulars are available at Website: www.itidelhiadmissions.nic.in
- Candidates are advised to read the instructions/ Prospectus carefully before applying.
- IMPORTANT DATES**

- Date of start of registration & Choice filling : 10.06.2019
- Date of start of Verification (at any Govt. ITI) : 11.06.2019
- Last Date of registration & Choice filling : 30.06.2019
- Last Date of Verification (at any Govt. ITI) : 01.07.2019

Candidates may visit the Department Website for other schemes & courses available under the aegis of the Department of Training & Technical Education.

[Director]
 Department Of Training & Technical Education, Delhi

DIP/Shabdarth/0175/19-20

ICAC-354/2019-20

AXIS BANK

Retention Assets, Delhi: Lower Ground Floor and Upper Ground Floor, Haryana House, K.G. Marg, Delhi-110001. Also at: Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower 12, 2nd Floor U-4, Sector-28, Noida Expressway, Sector 28, Noida (U.P.)-201301. Corporate Office: Axis House, Block-B, Birla House Complex, Feroz Shah Kotla Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001. Registered Office: "Tripathi", 3rd floor, opposite Sarabjitwari Temple, Law Garden, Etah, Alwar-301002.

POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation/ Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 17(1) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued directed notices upon the Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagee(s) mentioned below, to reply the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagee(s) having failed to reply the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagee(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein listed as per annex of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the date mentioned below.

The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagee(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the public will be subject to the order of Axis Bank Ltd.

Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower	Description of Property	Date of Demand Notice	2 Days of Possession	Amount in Demand (Rs.)
1. Mrs. Poo Banerjee, W/O - Anand Choudhary 2/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 3/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 4/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 5/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 6/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 7/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 8/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 9/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 10/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 11/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 12/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 13/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 14/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 15/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 16/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 17/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 18/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 19/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 20/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 21/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 22/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 23/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 24/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 25/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 26/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 27/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 28/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 29/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 30/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 31/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 32/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 33/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 34/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 35/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 36/D - Mrs. Anand Choudhary 37/D - 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Combustion Point

Only rain can douse the flying fireworks at India-Pak clash

TODAY LIVE

India vs Pakistan
3:00 pm IST
VENUE: Old Trafford, Manchester

PNS ■ OLD TRAFFORD (MANCHESTER)

Yeah... no pressure at all, only 1.5 billion people waiting for you to win," said Hardik Pandya the other day in his usual loquacious manner. But that quite well summarises the traditional frenzy around any high voltage India-Pakistan clash, more so in the World Cup, even if emerging statesman Virat Kohli refuses to rise to the bait and add some of his own banter to the occasion.

With the match rated as big as Football World Cup Final with a 1.5 billion viewership count, it is quite unusual - and unfortunate - that all the mid-field contest, combination, chirping, strategizing and what not kind of exciting talk has taken a backseat to the more mundane and entirely unrequited chance of rain cutting short the proceedings today when a well sorted India high on self-belief, performance and wins, meet a relatively new, cornered and edgy Pakistan facing near ouster from the tournament.

Kohli says that a 50-over both sides match would be outstanding for combination and strategy, but flexibility would be required if the rain cuts it short, of which chances are high. As per the latest on the weather chart - which has been changing stance since morning - there is now a 20 per cent rain chance at 10 am and 80 per cent in the afternoon around 2, for at least an hour-and-a-half. The rain is slated to begin at 10.30 am local time.

How much of a truncated contest it will become remains to be discussed in emergent morning huddles in both the dressing rooms, but with the kind of conditions in the air, a three-man pace battery with the inclusion of Mohammed Sami is a distinct possibility. "Bumrah and Bhuvni are bowling well. It is important for them to stay in prime condition and the



India players attend a training session ahead of their World Cup match against Pakistan at Old Trafford in Manchester

mental side of things will take care of itself, more so where conditions are like this, they'll get a lot more help than the first two games," skipper Virat Kohli said at his pre-match Press conference.

More than anything in a game of statistics tell you, and the entire world quotes them with joy and concern depending on which side of the border the chirp is coming from, Pakistan is yet to record a victory against India in a World Cup. They broke this traditional ICC event barrier in the Champions Trophy Final which they won, but as their coach Mickey Arthur says, "that was a long time ago."

More than anything in a game of this proportion, where emotions get overly stoked, especially in young dressing rooms on either side, the need is to draw from focus more than precedent, calm more than passion and self-belief over all else.



Groundsman covers the field with plastic sheets as it rains ahead of the India-Pakistan at Old Trafford

HEAD TO HEAD				
	Played	IND	PAK	N/R
Matches	131	54	73	4
Day matches	89	34	51	4
In World Cup	6	6	-	-
Last 5 matches	5	1	4	-

HIGHEST TOTALS		
India	356-9 in 50 overs at Visakhapatnam	05-04-2005
Pakistan	344-8 in 50 overs at Karachi	13-03-2004

PERFORMANCE IN WC						
Team	P	W	L	T	N/R	Success%
India	77	48	27	1	1	63.63
Pakistan	74	41	31	-	2	56.75

FAISAL FEATURES

Kohli knows that Aamir is in top gear having torn through the Australians with his fiercest Wahab comes with his own brand of pace and risk. But he, like Arthur, has also seen that the three disciplines of batting, bowling and fielding are yet to come together for the green brigade. While Arthur is looking at creating havoc upfront to unsettle the famed Indian batting order, Kohli is confident that the shock of a seasoned Shikhar Dhawan being unavailable would be duly dealt with by KL Rahul who is in keen nick.

The regimen is the same as always: See through the first 10 overs, build up a score that the bowlers can defend and then wait for the excellence of the arm department to play through the opponents. On a brown top, there are brownie points for the likes of Rohit Sharma and Kohli himself who scored a scintillating ton the last time the two met in the World Cup at Adelaide. Neither has picked up niggles or rust in the contravening four years. Add to that the fast and furious Hardik Pandya, who fired away in the nets on match eve, and master finisher in M S Dhoni,

and all one needs is a plan that works, a belief that propels it and conditions that give India the wings to fly to another two points.

Hope or not, in the end, it is just about two points, like from any other game, isn't it? The tournament will go on and tomorrow will be yet another day for Kohli. For Pakistan skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed though, a defeat would mean, well, Gone With The Wind, without the Scarlet O Hara kind of optimism in defeat and misery.

SQUADS

India: Virat Kohli (captain), KL Rahul, Rohit Sharma, Vijay Shankar, MS Dhoni (wk), Hardik Pandya, Kedar Jadhav, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Dinesh Kartik, Ravindra Jadeja, Shikhar Dhawan.
Pakistan: Sarfaraz Ahmed (captain), Fakhar Zaman, Imam ul Haq, Babar Azam, Haris Sohail, Hasan Ali, Shahad Khan, Mohammed Hafeez, Mohammed Haseeb, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Wahab Riaz, Mohammed Amir, Shoaib Malik, Imad Wasim, Asif Ali.

For us, no one is a threat: Kohli

Despite more than a dozen questions thrown at him about the high tension around an India-Pakistan clash, skipper Virat Kohli refused to rise to the bait and said he would not say anything at all to push the TRPs. He insisted that the team would be treating it as any other game in World Cup cricket, giving their 100 per cent because that's the only thing that wins matches. Excerpts from the Press conference:

PNS ■ OLD TRAFFORD (MANCHESTER)

How tough is it for India to prepare and plan for an unpredictable side like Pakistan?

We know they have talent, but we play well as a team. In the first two games we gave clinical performances and focused on what we need to do. We're not focusing too much on what the opposition has to do or what it will bring to the table. We need to believe in our strengths. If we play well as a team we can beat any side in the world. That's the type of confidence we have carried in the first two games and we want to continue in the same manner in the next whatever coming games we have.

Considering Pakistan's proficiency against spinners and the wicket, any strategic changes needed?

The conditions and the length of the game will make us think about a few combinations. The kind of spinners and the kind of bowlers we have, it's difficult for any team to just come out and attack these guys. There's a certain level of risk involved when you have world class bowlers bowling at you.

We need to focus on the combination we're comfortable with because we bat all the players in our team and expect them to put in performances and execute what they are best known for. The length of the game and looking at the conditions, we will definitely think of a few combinations.

Do you have to plan something different for Pakistan?

We have to be flexible. We can't be rigid in our approach because if the conditions are different from what we played in the last game then we'll have to think of different combinations, areas to strengthen in the bowling attack. If pace becomes a more important option, we'll look to explore that. If not, if the length of the game is going to be full and we expect the game to be 50 overs both sides, then we'll probably think of another combination. We'll have to see how today pans out, how tomorrow the conditions are. All players are in a zone to be ready to play, so that helps in selecting the combination you need, depending on the conditions.

Who's the real threat in the Pakistan team for you considering the weather?

We're not focusing on the opposition, so for us no one's a threat. No one player matters more than the other. It's about going into the park as the Indian cricket team and taking on whichever team is in front of you. If we play well, we can beat any side in the world. If you don't, teams are going to beat you. That's how simple the game of cricket is, and should be.

In our minds, nothing changes according to the opposition. We're only focused on playing the type of cricket we're known for, not singling out any player from the opposition.

Any message for the fans?
For us, a professional approach is most important. We can't get too emotional or excited. But for the fans, looking at the atmosphere and



Virat Kohli bats in the nets during a training session at Old Trafford on Saturday

frenzy around the game, I wouldn't say it's easy to think like a player. The fans should enjoy the atmosphere, the occasion the way they want to and the way it's been enjoyed for years, but the players obviously have to maintain the mindset which we have for years approaching any game, whether it's against Pakistan, Australia, England or South Africa. We need to go out, be professional and execute what

we're expected to.

We have not played this team very often. How much of a challenge that is?

I don't see it as a massive challenge because even the teams that you know well, you have to play good cricket against. If you play good cricket, if you do the basics better than the opponent, then invariably you win, unless someone

MY MOST TENSE MOMENT AGAINST PAKISTAN WAS CHAMPIONS TROPHY 2009. YUVI FRACTURED A FINGER AND I WAS LITERALLY FLOWN IN.

IN TWO DAYS' TIME I WAS PLAYING AGAINST PAKISTAN AT CENTURION. I PLAYED A VERY BAD SHOT AND COULDN'T SLEEP UNTIL 6 AM.

I WAS LOOKING AT THE CEILING AND THINKING, THAT'S IT, I'VE FLOWN IN AND NOW I'M FINISHED. THERE HAS BEEN FUNNY INCIDENT HAPPENED DURING THE WORLD CUP IN MOHALL. I CAN'T ELABORATE BUT IT WAS QUITE FUNNY. IT WAS INVOLVING SHAHID AFRIDI AND WAHAB. I WAS STANDING WITH THE STRIKERS, AND I HEARD A CONVERSATION WHICH, IN A HIGH-PRESSURE GAME, MADE ME LAUGH

creates a match-winning magical performance all by himself. Familiar oppositions, unfamiliar oppositions don't matter because you understand that if you don't play well, you don't win, and if you play well, you win against anyone. If we do our strengths well it will be good enough for anyone in the world. We need to have that belief.

When it is a game against Pakistan what do you tell your young camp?
We have discussed nothing different from the time we came to England. The mood in the dressing room hasn't changed. We understand that any game you play for your country can be emotional, adrenaline filled, so no one game is more important or more special for us than the other. We are a top side in the world because of the cricket we play and we always need to remember that.

You have had outstanding success under pressure. But how difficult is it as a captain to keep the youngsters away from the hustle-bustle of an Indo-Pak meet?
The best way to approach something like this is to understand that the game starts tomorrow at a certain time and it finishes at a certain time, it's not going to last a lifetime, whether you do well or don't. The tournament goes on. As a unit, 11 guys share responsibility. That's been our message from day one.

If it rains, then what?
It's in no one's hands. We've been in these situations many times. We'll just have to wait and see how the weather pans out. Whatever amount of game we get

- a full game would be outstanding - we have to be mentally ready to go in there and do what we need to do.

Fast bowlers haven't had an ideal preparation for this big game....
They are in a good head space and have bowled well in the first two games. If physically they can stay fresh and their bodies are feeling good, mentally they're just fine. They should take care of their bodies, recovery and energy levels. Bumrah and Bhuvni are bowling well. It is important for them to stay in prime condition and the mental side of things will take care of itself, more so where conditions are like this, they'll get a lot more help than the first two games.

Can you take us through some tense and funny moments against Pakistan on field?

Tense was Champions Trophy 2009 where Yuvi fractured a finger and I was literally flown in and in two days' time I was playing against Pakistan at Centurion. I hadn't experienced anything like that before and I played a very bad shot. I couldn't sleep until 6 am. I was looking at the ceiling and thinking, that's it, I've flown in and now I'm finished.

There have been many funny moments over the years. The incident happened during the World Cup in Mohalla. I can't really elaborate here. That was quite funny. It was involving Shahid Afridi and Wahab. I was standing with the strikers, and I heard a conversation, which was funny. I can't elaborate here, but in a high-pressure game, that made me laugh.

People are always searching for that high, and they don't realise that they can get that same high with that same person again
Christina Applegate



FROM THE INSIDE

An all-too-possible future
In Yudhanjanaya Wijeratne's new book, *Numbercaste*, people's importance is distilled into an all-powerful number



The paradox called life
We are all aware of the concept of death, but it is still difficult to bear with the loss of a loved one



With an impressive squad comprising maverick ex-captain Dhoni, the phenomenon called Captain Kohli, all-rounders like Pandya and Jadhav, and destroyer-in-chief bowler Bumrah, Team India's chances in the 12th edition of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 look bright. Could this be the third time the Men in Blue will lift the Cup? Only time will tell

This is it. We've come full circle. We're back to where our journey as a cricket crazy nation began: England. Lords. Here we go again. From complete underdogs then to absolute world dominators and financial powerhouses now. We've come a long way since that fine day in 1983 when Kapil Dev — an all-rounder from Punjab with an erstwhile ordinary individual record — lifted that trophy and ushered in an era of frantic following to the point of raising the status of the sport to that of a religion and its most revered son, Sachin Tendulkar, to that of a God.



SIDHARTH DANG

A lot has happened between that iconic moment in the balcony of Lords to the iconic six hit by Mahendra Singh Dhoni to win India's second World Cup in 2011. But all of that later. First, let's celebrate the fact that our Sharma ji ka ladka, Rohit Sharma, is living up to expectations, and that *Koffee With Karan* came way before the World Cup and IPL and is a thing of the past. If only it will serve to ignite the fuel to perform better for Hardik Pandya and KL Rahul. And we still have our maverick ex-captain, Dhoni, albeit for most likely the last tournament of his stellar trophy-laden career.

So let's get down to business and examine with utmost scrutiny our beloved Team India's chances in the 12th edition of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019. Starting with our very own captain furious, Virat Kohli. He has come a long way since leading India to the U19 Cricket World Cup in 2008, and being a part, but not a key man, of the 2011 World Cup winning squad. He was handed over the ODI captaincy in 2017 and has only taken India to newer heights since. His personal accolades are a statistician's dream. In ODIs, he holds the world record for the fastest batsman to 10,000 runs in 205 innings. He has the highest number of centuries in run chases in the world and is only nine centuries away from breaking Tendulkar's record (49) in style, which I'm sure all us thought would never be broken.

Kookaburra), changed power play rules, and pitches generally favouring batsmen etc. So it's only natural that India would feature heavily amongst those records being a batting heavy team predominantly. But recently, trends have changed and for the better. India has become a force to reckon with when it comes to the ball. The destroyer-in-chief being Jasprit Bumrah, who is atop the ICC world rankings for bowlers. He is supported by Kuldeep Yadav (7), Yuzvendra Chahal (8), Bhuvnesh Kumar (17) — who are all amongst the top 20. While amongst the top 20 batsmen, only three Indians feature, namely Kohli (1), Rohit Sharma (2), and Shikhar Dhawan (14). The next best batsman is Dhoni at number 24. Talking of the all-rounders, they are what many believe to be the X factor in India's chances for progressing to the last four. Pandya is fresh off a *Koffee* controversy and fresher off an IPL showing he should be proud of — he ended the tournament with 402 runs at a strike rate of over 190, smashing 38 boundaries and 29 sixes in 15 matches. He also claimed 14 wickets in 16 games. He has so far played 45 ODIs and has taken 44 wickets with an economy of 5.53 and batting lower down the order, he has scored 731 runs in 29 innings. He can field well too and can bowl six to seven crucial overs, picking up wickets. His role is akin to that of Yuvraj Singh in the 2011 World Cup. And if he can channelise that embarrassing, unnecessary media scrutiny and a wonderful IPL showing, he can very much be the most important player of the team and a potential Man of the Tournament just like Yuvraj Singh. The other player who could be as effective is Kedar Jadhav. He might not be as exuberant and controversial but he has proved himself many a time not just with the bat but also with the ball. A solid middle order batsman and good finisher, he is also the man with the "golden arm". His side arm action and the angle at which he delivers makes it difficult for batsmen to pick the ball. KL Rahul has also shown his mettle and not let controversies affect him. It's good to see that both Pandya and Rahul took the negative media attention in a positive way and came out of it stronger and more determined. Rahul looks confident and reliable to call upon in any situation. He has made the crucial number 4 position his own. And being an opener originally, it's an advantage when the ball is moving around and causing problems. Talking of how the controversy affected him, he said: "In life, in cricket, you make mistakes. You have bad days, you learn from them and try to be a better person. I never doubt myself, my personality, never doubted who I am. I was strong in my head. I got through it and am happy to be back and enjoying my cricket." I think we all have something to learn from him in the sense that it's not the blow

that gets you down, it's the mettle to get back up and fight for what you believe in. This is the fifth time that cricket's most prestigious tournament is being held in England and Wales. The previous winners of those editions have been West Indies (1975, 1979), India (1983), and Australia (1999). The format for the tournament is quite different from the previous editions we are used to seeing. It's played in a round-robin manner in a single group of 10 teams, with each team playing the other nine once, and the top four at the end of the group phase progressing to the semi-finals. The 1992 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand was also played in a round-robin format, with nine teams participating. The 10-team tournament this time has gained criticism due to the lack of Associate teams in the tournament. Given the increase of the 'Test' playing nations from 10 to 12, with the admission of Ireland and Afghanistan in June 2017, it is the first World Cup to be contested without all of the Test playing nations being present. After the elimination of all Associate teams at the qualifying tournament, this is also the first World Cup to feature no Associate members. There's no tournament without a bit of controversy. A few days ago, Dhoni was asked by the ICC to remove the dagger insignia from his wicket-keeping gloves despite the Indian cricket board's assertion that it was not a military symbol. The BCCI had sought permission for the star wicketkeeper batsman from the world governing body (ICC), but it was denied citing regulations that no individual message or logo can be displayed on any item of clothing or equipment. In addition, the logo also breaches the rule that allows only one sponsor's logo on the wicket-keeping gloves. In Dhoni's case, he already sports an SG logo on his gloves. Another talking point is the big match for all Indians — cricket fans or not — at Old Trafford, Manchester, on June 16. It's the one game that brings every Indian together (if cricket didn't do a good enough job of it already). It's India v Pakistan. With the same old rivalry and passion, but with renewed fervor and political context. Following the 2019 Pulwama attack, several former Indian players and the BCCI called for the boycott of this group match fixture, wanting to ban the Pakistan team from playing in the tournament. However, after conducting a board meeting in Dubai, the ICC rejected the BCCI's proposal and confirmed that the scheduled match would go ahead as planned, despite the ongoing stand-off between the two nations. The match being held today will most likely be viewed the world over by a record audience as is usually expected for an India-Pakistan encounter, but made extra tense by the recent political relationship of the two nations.



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VIRAT KOHLI HAS COME A LONG WAY SINCE LEADING INDIA TO THE U19 CRICKET WORLD CUP IN 2008, AND BEING A PART, BUT NOT A KEY MAN, OF THE 2011 WORLD CUP WINNING SQUAD. HE WAS HANDED OVER THE ODI CAPTAINCY IN 2017 AND HAS ONLY TAKEN INDIA TO NEWER HEIGHTS SINCE

Talking of India, Pakistan and the many reasons this cannot be viewed as just a sport. It's an extension of everything we stand for and believe in — personally, politically, morally. Ever wondered why Team India's jersey colour is blue and not the usual suspected patriotic colours, saffron or green? It had to be taken from the Indian Flag as a symbolic gesture for patriotism. While saffron stands for courage and selflessness, green signifies faith, fertility, and prosperity. The blue in the Ashoka Chakra stands for the colour of the sky and ocean. The selection of saffron or green colours for the jerseys would have created controversies of religious or political favoritism as saffron is heavily associated with Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism as well as the political parties we all know by now, while green is affiliated with Islam. Thus, it wouldn't have been a wise decision to choose those to represent a nation which prides itself to be secular. The blue colour then automatically became the first choice to represent the nation and its warriors on the field with its symbolic meaning of the "most truth of the universe". And "Bleed Blue" has recently become an anthem of the youth, again symbolically signifying the passion and dedication of battling till you bleed and staying true to your talents and virtues. And nobody embodies that never-say-die attitude and fighter mentality than our current and former captains, Kohli and Dhoni. In the 2011 World Cup hosted by India, we were one of the favourites and definitely one of the most pressure to perform on our home ground with the final being in Mumbai. This time, that mantle is taken by England with the final being at the Mecca of cricket — Lords. And unlike India, they're not that adept at handling the undue pressure of expectations, with the 2013 Champions Trophy final being a case in point. India sure has good memories of playing finals at the Mecca of cricket (cue Sourav Ganguly's shirt waving at Lord's balcony), the Nat West Series Final in 2002, and, of course, the 1983 World Cup win. But for that to happen again, India will have to beat the best of the best to first come in the top four and then it's all down to the semi-finals and the finale at Lord's. England, meanwhile, will be looking to win their first ever World Cup, which is ironic since they're the inventors of the game. They have been losing finalists in 1979, 1987, and 1992. In the 2015 World Cup, Bangladesh knocked out England from the group stage, which raised questions on the latter's relevance as an ODI team. Since then, they have completely turned over a new leaf and have become the number 1 ranked team in the world in ODIs. They have defeated several top teams, including India and Australia, this year and their batsmen also broke the record for the highest total in an ODI innings. With a plethora of match winners in their squad, they are certainly not the team they were in the previous World Cups and are viewed by most as 'the team to watch out for. But whether or not they have shed their chokey status and weak mentality remains to be seen. Lord's was the Queen!

The writer is a doctor by profession and an amateur cricketer



A MANIFESTO FOR CHANGE

In *India Positive*, CHETAN BHAGAT reflects on what we can do right to move forward and become a truly modern and progressive country. He believes that if we want to see reform, we — as citizens — need to be the solution. An excerpt:

For India to truly change, there needs to be a change in our society and culture. The internet is playing a big part in it. The rise of internet penetration also means that things are now more equal, since people who didn't have a voice before now do. 'The Great Opinion Wars' talks about how social media has allowed aspirational Indians to voice their opinions on topics that have always been the domain of the privileged class.

However, social media has also birthed a strange new phenomenon in India — the *bhaktis*, and there is advice for both. *Bhaktis* are those at the receiving end of their abuse in 'Anatomy of an Internet Troll'. Another phenomenon that social media has caused is 'virtue signalling' — those people who have to show that they are so virtuous, so noble and so good that they sense communal intolerance in a statement even when others don't. 'Look, I'm so Secular!': The Rise of Virtue Signalling on Social Media' talks about this and how it distorts national public debate on a range of important issues.

But do these phenomena indicate that India is getting more intolerant? There are endless debates about this, but I think that we are a mixed society, tolerant and intolerant at the same time, as explained in 'Fifty Shades of Intolerance'. I don't believe that intolerance has anything to do with the request from Hindus that a temple be built in Ayodhya, and 'Why We Need a Ram Temple in Ayodhya' talks about why restoring the temple on its original site and building an even grander mosque nearby will be a great act of religious cooperation.

A crucial aspect of what makes India the country it is, is the fact that we are a democracy, and any attempt to undermine that is dangerous. The essay on blind *bhaktis* talks about how unquestioning support of a leader, rather than the country, can actually harm the leader. The essay on the Supreme Court's order regarding the playing

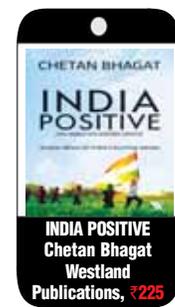


of the National Anthem before a movie screening ('Anthem Order: The Intention's Good but Imposition Isn't') argues that authoritarianism can never create patriotism. The Government's ban on pornography is a similar curtailment of basic freedoms, as explained in 'Hypocritical and Impractical: With the Porn Ban, the Government Has Flouted Its Control Freak Instincts'. I think the key to becoming an awesome nation is to defend individual lib-

THE REASON FOR MODI'S APPEAL IS OBVIOUS. AFTER ALL, HE IS A LEADER WHO HAS CREATED SOME HOPE. HE SPEAKS A LANGUAGE THAT CONNECTS US

erties. Related to this is the need to stop mixing religion and law, and 'Too Many Holy Cows' talks about how it is time to discuss what it means to be a secular republic, and revise the Constitution to reflect it. Social change means that we need to look at the infrastructures in our cities, and the essay on Mumbai rains talks about this and what needs to be done so that the country's financial capital does not come to a grinding halt every monsoon. This overriding indiffer-

ence that seems to inflict Indians is also reflected in our views on corruption, and our don't-care attitude to corruption is addressed in the essay on the 2G 'non-scam'. It's important for one to be proud of the country we live in, and 'Will You Spend ₹80 to See India Win a Dozen Olympic Golds?' suggests ways that we can improve our gold medal tally at the Olympics at the micro and macro level. Finally, 'Creaming the People' suggests a move from caste-based reserva-



tions to economic-based ones in order to create a truly fair society.

HOW BLIND BHAKTS CAN ACTUALLY HARM INDIA'S DEMOCRACY

If you are a true nationalist, put the nation before individuals, even if that individual happens to be your favourite leader.

I recently conducted a Twitter poll to test the hypothesis that Narendra Modi enjoys an insane amount of support among his fans. The poll asked this question: If Modi wanted to declare a national emergency to eliminate corruption, would you support it? Out of nearly 10,000 participants, 57 per cent said they would support such a decision.

The usual Twitter poll disclaimers apply: It's a highly skewed sample, polls aren't scientific, etc. Also, the poll does not indicate my own views in any way, nor does it claim that such a proposal is on the Government's anvil. However, the results do give us a sense of what some of Modi's hardcore fans (the *bhaktis*) feel. It is worth noting that the participants were almost all young, educated, digitally savvy

people who understand English. Yes, a significant number of progressive young Indians are apparently happy to give up democracy, and vote themselves votesless.

Stunned? Well, I admit that the question was a tad unfair. After all, there is nothing in the air that suggests an emergency is in the offing. Nor does one need to make such harsh choices in order to proclaim their support, or lack of it, for a leader. Still, the numbers do show (a) the enormous popularity of Modi in his core fan base and/or (b) a possible ignorance of what a national emergency and giving up democracy could mean. They also indicate a huge lack of confidence in the current political system and the kind of leaders it generates.

The reason for Modi's appeal is obvious. After all, he is a leader who has created some hope. He speaks a language that connects us. Modi takes steps — big, bold ones — to fix India. Whether or not they solve problems is a separate story. Making the effort and having good intentions counts for a lot. Demonstration is a case in point. Many experts have questioned the benefits of the move. They diligently quote members of fact to show that the actual advantages of demonstration could be marginal. Of course, these are wasted efforts. All this economic mumbo-jumbo is irrelevant to the Modi fan. If fans are ready to support an emergency in their leader's name, do you really think they give a damn about falling GDP or actual data about black money being back by in circulation?

No, we are talking about love here. Love doesn't, and is not meant to, see reason. And speaking of demonisation, the experts, though not wrong, miss a key point. A huge intangible benefit of the note ban has been its unifying effect on an otherwise divided country. Imagine a bickering joint family.

Excerpted with permission from Chetan Bhagat's *India Positive: New Essays and Selected Columns* published by Westland Publications, ₹225

NEW ARRIVALS

SIEGE: TRUMP UNDER FIRE
Michael Wolff
Hachette, ₹699



Michael Wolff, author of *Fire and Fury*, once again takes us inside Trump presidency to reveal a White House under siege. In *Siege*, he has written an equally essential and explosive book about the White House that is under fire from almost every side. A stunningly fresh narrative that begins just as Trump's second year as President is getting underway and ends with the delivery of the Mueller report. *Siege* reveals an administration that is beleaguered by investigations and a President who is increasingly volatile, erratic, and exposed.

THE DEATH OF HITLER
Jean-Christophe Brisard
and Lana Parshina
Hodder, ₹399

On April 30, 1945, Hitler committed suicide in his bunker as the Red Army closed in on Berlin. Within four days, the Soviets had recovered his body. But the truth about what the Russian secret services found was hidden from history, when, three months later, Stalin officially declared to Truman and Churchill that Hitler was still alive and had escaped abroad. Reckless rumours about what really happened to Hitler began to spread like wildfire and, even today, they have not been put to rest. Until now.

RAIN DROPS AND CATERPILARS
Anuradha Prasad
Leadstar, ₹199



This book is dedicated to all those who have created a paradigm shift for others. To those too, who are standing at the helm ready to jump to make bigger changes possible. A pet is lost! Was it stolen or has it just wandered? Her owner is searching. Is it in the wilderness or dead? What life throws at a 13-year-old girl during her search, he is tall, dark, handsome a proverbial 'bachelor'. But he has a dark secret. What is it, his life was charted and planned. Till he found something about his love that turned it upside down. The stories run on sublimity, acceptance, courage, compassion, devotion, and deceit.

The James Bond movies of the 1960s genre were our first exposure to science fiction. At a time when television or satellite television channels were unheard of and even telephones and cars were rare items (at least in Kanjirakkadu in Ernakulam district where I grew up), the scenes which portrayed Sean Connery — who immortalised Bond — speaking to his sources at far away places through the contraption attached to his wrist watch and driving around in that Aston Martin still linger in the mind. Sridhar, a theatre at Ernakulam, was the window to this world of sci-fi for my generation. Sridhar theatre has given way to a shopping mall and the interest in James Bond movies, too, came to an end with Connery leaving the field and making way for the new generation actors.

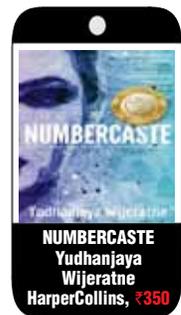
But interest in science fiction continued because of television series like *Cosmos: A Personal Voyage* anchored by Carl Sagan and the works penned by Arthur C. Clarke whose *2001: Space Odyssey* remains fresh in the mind. Through his science writings, Clarke told us that the world would use space science and satellites from the geostationary orbit for communication services. He had written in one of his science papers in 1945 about the 'extra-terrestrial relays' that would revolutionise the world of communication. Conventional science teachers had scoffed at such ideas and told us not to be carried away by such prophecies! See what has happened to the telecommunication sector, which has transformed the world into a global village.

In *Ramayana*, the great Indian epic which is portrayed by progressive elements as a work of fiction, the war between Lord Rama and the demon king Ravana is described by author Sage Valmiki as a spot report from the theatre of war. Valmiki gave an account of the myriad arrows deployed by the Lord and his enemy, Aageyam, Varuna, Kaubera, Indrastram, Nairaythastram, Yaamyastram, Gandharvastram, Gaubhakastram, Aasurastram, Vaishnavastram are some of the arrows used by the Lord and his rival in the war, which lasted many days. It was Brahmastra, provided by Lord Indra through Matali, the charioteer, which came to the rescue of Lord Rama in finishing off Ravana once and forever.

Rationalists may laugh at the names of arrows deployed in the great Ramayana war. But the truth is that modern missiles developed by Indian scientists and which could be categorised based on their properties (surface to air or SAM, Agni, Prithvi, Akash etc) were all inspired by the arrows mentioned in the great epic. This underlines the role played by science-fiction in

Looking into the future

Numbercaste talks of a world where how much a man means depends on not just his money, but his worth as a member of the species, writes KUMAR CHELLAPPAN



developing the technological know-how. Science fiction is what strengthens the foundation for strong and robust science and technology sector. Scientific temper should not be used to demean and ridicule the facts mentioned in India specific epis and great literary works. The dreams espoused by the great science-fiction authors are slowly but steadily becoming a reality. Recent news coming out of China is that scientists in that country have succeeded in developing the Invisible Coat, a subject that has inspired many books and films.

Numbercaste, authored by Sri Lanka-born Yudhanjaya Wijeratne, is an exciting piece of work. We are mere witnesses to the role played by Artificial Intelligence and Information Technology in moulding the new world. These technological marvels are like double-edged swords, similar to the

internet as well as mobile phones. How the internet and cellphones cause disasters and development in human lives is a part of modern folklore. We live in an era where human beings have lost their relevance and identity and have been compressed into 10 or 12 digit numbers. The Aadhaar number controversy is raging all over India, with people debating heatedly about personal privacy being violated with the help of Aadhaar numbers, making the humans 'niradahaar'.

What Wijeratne portrays in this work of fiction is how a technology developed by Numbercaste, a digital startup launched in Silicon Valley by Julius Common, an entrepreneur with strange habits, takes on IT giants like Facebook, Google, and other social media outlets and emerges as the global monopoly. The events unfold in our immediate future, say in 2030 or so. The Twitter is dead and gone. Numbercaste starts from where Twitter ends. 'People used hashtags, 140 characters, and you send a message out and the people who follow you could read it. We are building something like that. The plan is you are in the area and people are talking about it, then you know it. It could be anything from a revolution to armed robbery to a party happening two lanes away. It doesn't matter. If it's something you can benefit from, we'll point you that way. Numbercaste's got you covered.' Common, owner of Numbercaste, tells Patrick Udo, the main protagonist who has been hired by Common for the job. Common explains to Patrick his idea of the perfect world. 'A world where you can name a man and I can tell you exactly how much he means to us... Not

just the money in his bank, but his actual worth as a member of his species. You can drive your expensive cars and roll out your stupid make-up, but in 10 years' time, none of that will matter. I am going to take this world and I am going to goddamn grind it into something more real', declares Common. He lives up to his word. It is a thrilling mission. If the reviewer reveals more, the suspense associated with the book would vanish. Since this book is a must-read for all who are interested in the future of the world, it is not advisable to disclose more than this.

The *Numbercaste* brought back memories of 1984, the dystopian novel authored by George Orwell in 1949. Though 1984 has come and gone, possibilities of the chances of the scenario portrayed by Orwell continue to haunt us. If there are some similarities between 1984 and *Numbercaste*, it could be coincidental. Time to go for a re-read of 1984 too. Sir Arjuna, who lives up to his part of his life in Sri Lanka and crafted some of the best sci-fi works while staying in the island. Who knows, Wijeratne may have a lot to offer the readers in the coming days. The climate and ambience of the island nation could be ideal for such literary pursuits.

DU a guinea pig for UG curriculum reforms

Higher education in general and Delhi University in particular have undergone a lot of changes in undergraduate study pattern during the last eight years. Starting with a shift from annual mode to semester mode in 2010, semester mode to four-year undergraduate programme (better known as FYUP) in 2013, FYUP to again semester mode in 2014, and semester mode to "choice based credit system" (CBCS) in 2015. Latest in the loop is ongoing revision of all undergraduate courses in Delhi University based on UGC's learning outcome-based curriculum framework (LOCF) for the 2019-20 academic session. All the departments concerned have been given three months to complete this process. Interestingly, all these "reforms" have been announced all at a sudden and implemented in the very next year of the announcement.

However, the purpose of this article is to draw the attention of Delhi University's undergraduate curriculum committee towards some issues related to ongoing CBCS pattern that requires immediate attention.

As per the University Grants Commission (UGC), CBCS provides "a deft and type approach in which the students can take courses of their choice, learn at their own

pace, undertake additional courses and acquire more than the required credits and adopt an interdisciplinary approach to learning."

As CBCS enters its fourth year, a critical evaluation of the programme is in order, especially when the first batch of the CBCS passed out last year. Delhi University can be the best institution for the purpose of evaluation since it has been treated as guinea pig for all experiments related to "reforms" in higher education.

CBCS and implications of interdisciplinary approach

Unlike all previous pattern of the undergraduate programme, CBCS is different due to its infusion of compulsory interdisciplinary approach in papers apart from compulsory language courses. The generic elective (GE, hereafter) is a course that needs to be compulsorily chosen from an unrelated discipline/subject. Every discipline is entitled to offer some papers as generic elective for honours students for the first four semesters and for non-honours students in the last two semesters.

CBCS necessitates all honours students to choose one generic paper from discipline other than their own in each of first four (1 to 4) semesters. Similarly students of non-honours courses are supposed to

choose one generic paper from discipline other than their own in each of last two semesters i.e. 5th semester and 6th semester. For instance every student of B.Com (Hons) is required to opt a generic paper each for first four semesters out of a pool of disciplines other than commerce i.e. maths, economics, business economics, history, political science, psychology, Hindi, English, etc.

In order to understand the problem, let us take an example of generic paper offered by department of commerce at undergraduate level in Delhi University. According to CBCS syllabus, department of commerce offered following papers for generic elective: microeconomics in the first semester, macroeconomics in the second semester, business statistics in the third semester and Indian economy in the fourth semester. These papers can be taken by students enrolled in any honours course other than B.Com (honours).

The experience of last three years of CBCS indicates that commerce generic was mostly opted by the students of Bachelor in Business Economics (BBE). There is an astonishing co-incidence that all those BBE students who opted for commerce discipline as generic paper were studying same papers as their core papers in

same semester for first three semesters, and one in the fifth semester. Similarly, the students of BA(Hons) Economics, BBA(FIA) and BMS were studying almost similar compulsory core paper(s) as they were studying (or studied) in their commerce generic.

In this way opting commerce as generic paper by the students of BBE and many other courses will not add anything to their knowledge but the repetition of same papers in the same semesters. Interestingly, students of BBE opt commerce generic mainly to lessen their burden. While preparing for one paper, other automatically gets prepared. However the question still remains: Will lessening burden at the cost of the other paper be helpful in long run?

Teaching a group of heterogeneous students

Other significant problem lies in the fact that when students of different disciplines opt generic elective of a particular discipline, it brings together students of highly heterogeneous nature in terms of attitude, knowledge, aptitude and exposure. This makes teaching and learning even more challenging. For instance teaching generic of commerce discipline to the students of economics and BBE requires different skills than teaching

the same to the students of Hindi journalism, English, History, Sanskrit, etc. Unfortunately, these students of different disciplines are taught commerce generic together in the same class, where it is easier for some to grasp and very difficult for others.

It is not the case that concerns raised here are being faced only by commerce discipline, while offering its generic paper to the students of different disciplines or when students of commerce discipline are opting generic elective offered by other disciplines. But more or less similar problems are being faced by many disciplines since inception of CBCS pattern in 2015-16.

CBCS and synchronisation of papers

The provision of introduction of a generic paper may have been with a noble cause but the lack of synchronisation during syllabus formulation is going to have a far-reaching impact on teaching learning process. For instance, prior to the introduction of CBCS, four compulsory papers of economics were being taught to the students pursuing B.Com(Hons), but post CBCS, there is no compulsory paper of economics to be studied by them. However, students can opt economics as their generic

paper if they wish so, and they can also drop it anytime in the upcoming semester if they wish so.

Problem might arise when a student doesn't opt for economics as his generic elective, as in that particular case he will be exposed to mathematical applications without gaining any knowledge in the field of economics. In the absence of basic knowledge of economics, how fruitful that degree in commerce would be for the student is all together another matter of concern.

However, problems do not get over by avoiding economics by commerce students as they are required to study a compulsory core paper, Business Mathematics in their fourth semester. Interestingly this paper covers various mathematical tools related to maximisation and minimisation i.e. differentiation, integration, linear programming, simplex, input-output, etc. The application of differential calculus is used to find out maxima of revenue, output and profit functions, utility maximisation, minimisation of costs, marginal propensity to consume (MPC), marginal propensity to save (MPS), etc. Similarly integral calculus is used to obtain consumer's surplus, producer's surplus, etc. All these concepts are related to either microeconomics or macroeconomics, which were earlier compulso-

riety being taught to students of commerce before they were introduced the paper of Business Mathematics and Statistics. Since studying economics has been left on the choice of student in CBCS, they are being exposed to mathematical applications without gaining any concepts related to economics without being acquainted with related basic concepts of economics. This has resulted in mechanical way studying business mathematics without knowing the reason for using a particular application.

However, irrespective of the people responsible for poor formulation of syllabus while ignoring harmonisation of the syllabus offered by various departments, the ultimate loser are the students who lost the opportunity to study one additional paper by studying two same papers for four semesters or study some papers mechanically or the teachers who are required to teach a paper which is simultaneously being taught in other classroom to the same students.

This is the high time any new change in the CBCS format carried out homework with due consultation with all stakeholders rather than doing another exercise in haste.

(The writer is Assistant Professor of economics in Delhi University)

The provision of introduction of a generic paper may have been with a noble cause but the lack of synchronisation between various disciplines during syllabus formulation is going to have a far-reaching impact on teaching learning process



ANISH GUPTA

PERSPECTIVE

Erasing Tiananmen memories

China justifies its brutal Tiananmen actions in the name of maintaining stability. The Communist Party has used both algorithm and human editors to erase every sign of the massacre from China's history. Even posting a photo of the 1989 to commemorate the anniversary can land a person behind bars in China



MARKHAN SAIKIA

Just before the 30th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square protests on June 4 this year, the Chinese State — considered by many as world's biggest censorship authority — removed all references of the historic event from the web pages in the country.

The most point is whether the Communist leadership is wary of the revival of such democratic uprisings in the mainland. Many political experts opine that deep inside Communist China, the fear of the explosion of the wrath of the Socialist State remains high.

What led to the bloody Tiananmen Square crackdown? How the Communist bosses in Beijing responded? And how the international community wanted them to deal with this democratic awakening? The immediate cause of this uprising was no other than the demise of isolated Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang in April 1989. The main reason for his isolation was his strong views about economic and political liberalisation in China.

In fact, Yaobang was the one who helped navigate China away from orthodox Marxism and led the world's largest Communist Party for six years. His death triggered a spontaneous outpouring of public grief, with millions of youth coming out in protests seeking to restore his reputation and legacy for wide ranging reforms in areas such as free press, freedom of assembly and an end to official corruption across China.

However in a remarkable twist, this simple demand of the youngsters and ordinary people gradually transformed into a massive protest movement not only in the heart of capital city Beijing but across China. As many as one million people occupied the Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989, making it one of the

largest protests in the history of modern China. The demonstrators refused to leave the Square for nearly seven weeks, until their demands for democratic reform were met by the authority. Throughout the day i.e. on June 3, the Government warned the protesters that it would do whatever is required to quell, what it described, the "social chaos".

The Communist bosses reacted by rolling Army tanks over these unarmed young protesters in the Tiananmen Square. According to a secret diplomatic cable, as many as 10,000 were killed on that fateful day. Many of the leading young leaders of the movement are now living in the US, according to information compiled by human rights in China, an NGO, based in Hong Kong and New York that promotes fundamental rights and freedoms in China.

No event like the Tiananmen Square protests has stirred such emotional outpouring from all walks of life around China and no event like it has brought so vehement condemnation upon China from the international community then and even now.

The Tiananmen Square protests remain a permanent taint on China. Then US President George Bush had said he deplored the use of force. And then UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said she was shocked and appalled by the shootings.

While the entire world commemorated the 30th anniversary of this horrible clamdrom on non-violent human rights activists in Beijing, China keeps online mention of the historic incident within the country virtually non-existent.



In this June 1, 2019, file photo, a Taiwanese man takes a selfie with an inflatable tank man at the Liberty Square of Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall in Taipei, Taiwan. An artist erected the inflatable display in Taiwan's capital to mark an iconic moment in the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests in China

"horrible force". Kevin McCarthy, the current House Minority leader in the US House of Representatives, expressed his deep concern which truly symbolises what took place in China on June 4, 1989. "Thirty years later, the horrors of the Tiananmen Square Massacre continue to symbolise the Chinese Communist Party's inhuman grip on power. Today, the citizens of China have less freedom and their leadership remains opposed to the most basic of human rights. China suppresses the truth by attempting to sanitise its dark history. It runs concentration camps for religious minorities

and political dissidents. And it boasts of its imperial designs for global trade and disputed territory. That is what the generations of Chinese leadership is continuously doing to make the party precisely the only affair in every citizen's life.

However, unfortunately, it is not happening and many are not responding to its machinations today.

The secrecy and grand censorship machine of the Communist State makes it difficult to know even how many actually died in the Tiananmen Square movement. The party has used both algorithm and human editors to erase every sign of the massacre from

China's history.

Commemorating the anniversary, even by reposting a photo can land a person in detention across China. One of those memorable photos is that of "Tank Man" who played a game of chicken with an Army tank on June 5, just one day after the dreaded massacre in Tiananmen Square. But his fate is unknown as of today.

The most recent imprisonment related to the Tiananmen movement occurred on April 4 this year. A court in the South Western city of Chengdu sentenced activist Chen Bing to three and half years in prison for picking quarrels and provoking trouble. His main

offence was that he labeled bottles of "baijiu" alcohol with the iconic image of the lone protester who stared down tanks near the Tiananmen Square.

Much more than this, what the Chinese State does to the relatives and families of activists of this movement is really surprising and terrible. Each year, when the Tiananmen anniversary approaches, these families and their dear ones are placed under strict surveillance or taken on enforced tours outside the town.

Besides killing thousands in the Tiananmen Square protests, many thousands were put behind bars across China.

However, the authorities never acknowledged that the arrests were part of the "counter-revolutionary" drive.

Ironically, this month also, China defended the crackdown on the 1989 Tiananmen protesters in a rare public acknowledgement of events. Defence Minister Wei Fenghe told in a regional forum in Singapore that the "incident was a political turbulence and the Central Government took measures to stop the turbulence, which is a correct policy". He further said, "The past thirty years have proved that China has undergone major changes because of the Government's action at that

time. China has enjoyed stability and development."

The statement from the Government functionary epitomises the brutal face of China that can do any anything in the name of maintaining "stability" and "development". How far this madness of urbanisation and inhuman development would take China to is nobody guess. Development bereft of basic freedoms may not boost the Communist regime. Even iron curtains fall when its time comes.

The historic Tiananmen Square protests tarnished the image of the Communist Party like never before. Equally it undermined the legitimacy of its rule both within and outside China. Beijing needs to undertake democratic reform at the earliest. And it should embrace a new system based purely on "rule of law".

After decades of economic reform, Chinese people could realise their dream of national rejuvenation only when basic political freedoms are guaranteed to them.

The problem with China today is that they do not want to change as the liberal West wanted it to be. The successive Chinese leaders want the West to believe that they rule China with willful acceptance by the majority of people.

The nationalist Chinese autocracy, currently consolidated under Xi Jinping, would be a real terror both for its populace and for the rest of the world. When their revered leaders boast about China preaching and practicing "peaceful rise", why they are not allowing its own people to speak up against the party in non-violent manner? Crushing innocent and unarmed civilians does not qualify China to a dignified seat in the comity of global leadership.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

EVERYONE HAS INSIDE OF HIM A PIECE OF GOOD NEWS. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT YOU DON'T KNOW HOW GREAT YOU CAN BE, HOW MUCH YOU CAN LOVE!
— ANNE FRANK



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19
You will have an inflexible approach towards health. View your method of dealing with health issues because chances are you are resistant to changing your ways for the better. All is well on the work front. Opportunities will be coming your way. Throughout the week, you will be full of inspiration, but you need to work as well to get the result. Forget the failures in the past, look ahead for a promising and bright future. Those looking for employment are likely to get the desired position. On the relationship front, those who are committed will find a deeper spiritual meaning with their partner. Those single should first consider where you are going before starting a new relationship. You should be careful as you have the tendency to become careless; this will put you in an adverse situation.
Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Friday



LEO July 23-Aug 22
You will enjoy good health this week. If you are facing any health issues, be caring and loving towards your body. Women with strong feminine energy — could be your wife, mother, or a friend — will help you heal in this situation. Maintain a positive attitude and trust the universe's healing energy. Even if you are healthy, continue to take care of yourself. This is a crucial period on the career front. You will be excited about taking up a new project. This is a promising opportunity and will maximise your potential in the long term. Those looking for a new position, be assured it will be yours. Your romantic life is likely to go well. It is time to embrace change and take a long-term view of your future. It is recommended that you have a conversation with your partner. Singles should take some time out for their personal life.
Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21
Being in control of your emotions will be beneficial. It is crucial to treat your body with care and compassion. If you face any health issues, consult a doctor and trust him completely. An older male — your doctor, father, or a relative — will help you deal with health matters or motivate you to follow a fitness plan. You should have the determination to achieve your goals. Others may try to limit your capabilities, but you have to be confident to overcome any opposition. A few of you will undertake a new project. Those looking for jobs may face competition. Those in a relationship, do not hesitate to speak your mind to your partner as this will help strengthen your relationship. Those who are having issues must stand firm on their ground as there can be no compromise at this time. Singles might meet someone special.
Lucky number 10
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday



TAURUS April 20-May 20
This week, you need to pay close attention to your emotions. Better not to avoid any decision related to your health like getting a test done or surgery. Get key information that you need in moving ahead with decision-making. Make sure you have positive thinking and balanced behaviour. Work wise, things will go well. Chances of promotion are indicated. Don't hesitate to negotiate for what you are worthy, you might be surprised at the positive response. Use your abilities to harness your thoughts and conquer your fears for everyone's good. Those looking for a new job may find one. In your love life, you are aware of the existing issues. And the best part is you are not letting it disturb your relation, but in case it does, make changes to sort out the differences. It is a good time to start a new relationship.
Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Thursday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22
You will have all the positive energy to take good care of yourself and elevate your health. You should be open to new ideas for growth and development. Try to get a fresh perspective on life and be open to any kind of healing. At work, a situation may arise where you are about to complete a project/task, but at the end moment, you face a setback. Use your inner resources to overcome difficulties. Your hidden enemies will oppose you, so be strong. If you are thinking about whether you will be removed from a project or your job, expect the worst. It is an apt time to renew your love life. Express yourself to your partner and see how it strengthens your relationship. You are likely to explore other aspects of your relationship, which you haven't done earlier. Singles, before you enter a new relationship, be sure of what you want and then proceed.
Lucky number 28
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19
This week, you are likely to neglect your physical as well as emotional health. Change this pattern and think about healthy lifestyle options. It is important to take rest and regain your physical, mental, and spiritual energies. You tend to become negative, which you need to get over to deal with health challenges. This week, your work-related goals or a certain project will be accomplished. With this, you will be weighed down by the responsibilities that come with it. You can delegate work and apply some time management ideas and take time out for some relaxation. This week is an excellent time for love. You are about to enter a loving phase in your life, filled with calm energy and deeper understanding. Those who are committed will find their relationship going to higher levels. Singles, this is the time to go out and mingle.
Lucky number 25
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20
Healthwise, your biggest payoff lies in the routine. Make slow and steady progress. You have to take up responsibility and take charge of a situation. You have it in you to be thorough and deal with issues successfully. You may face a dilemma at your workplace, which demands action or decision. Before you go ahead with your decision, analyse all the available information as it is of great importance. Your own value system may be challenged, if that is the case, then stay true to yourself. You may need to choose right looking upon long-term benefits. With regard to your love life, this is a very good time. Those who are committed will move to the next level. You are likely to have a peaceful and happy love life. Overall, you will be content and so will be others around you.
Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Saturday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22
This week, you will experience an upswing in terms of your health. With positive health comes happiness. You will realise that you have come a full circle, whether it is in career or relationships. Your health will be good, so be grateful for what you have. To continue this feeling, contribute to the world with what you have now. Things are not that perfect in your workplace. Practise active listening to ensure that you and your co-workers know each other perfectly. Some of you may feel disconnected as you are unsure of your destination. You need to let go of your mental blocks or negativity. Be calm and let your inner voice guide you. You are at that point in your relationship where you need to decide whether or not to stay with your beloved or move on. The decision will surely affect your future.
Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Saturday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18
You will have strong vitality this week. Advancing the level of your fitness regime will fetch you great results. You will be able to address any health issue that arises at this time and mental energies are in control. Your determination will help you lead a healthy life. Career-wise, you will be able to achieve a lot in a short time. Even in the time of difficulties, you will be active and sustain your creative vision. It is indicated that you will be focussed on your goals while being friendly to those around you. Ensure that you don't burn yourself out with your over-ambitious attitude. A woman will be helpful in your current situation at work. Pay attention to your ideas and your partner's as well. This approach will put you in harmony with your partner. Singles may find someone really special.
Lucky number 6
Lucky colour Off-white
Lucky day Wednesday



CANCER June 21-July 22
This week, your health will be overshadowed by worry. Even a minor health challenge will make you feel low. Your psychological state will be better if you, therefore, need to stop worrying about the future and think what needs to be done now. Draw upon your inner strength to maintain your flexibility. On the career front, things will be going good for you. This is the time when issues related to your interaction with others will come to an end. A certain compromise will create a harmonious environment. Those who are experiencing stress need to take some time off and spend quality time with close ones. With regard to your love life, this week you will be inspired and motivated about your relationship with your partner. Those who are single, the start of a new love relationship is indicated. Make yourself available for love, whichever way possible.
Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Thursday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21
You will be disciplined when it comes to health. Those who are suffering from an ailment, plan a health regime which suits your body. You are going to have full control over your emotional energies, so enjoy this time. On the career front, you will trust yourself and your abilities. Those who are unhappy with their current position can expect a bright future as new opportunities are likely to come your way. Your strong desire to make changes will open up a path to success. These seeking jobs may find one. In romance, you are likely to face some challenges. You should convey your feelings to your partner and spend some time apart. When difficult times are over, you can make the important decision of whether or not to continue your relationship. This decision will affect your future as well. Singles should not rush into a relationship.
Lucky number 23
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Tuesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20
You will receive good news related to your health and will feel extremely well at this time. You should be thankful for good health and stay positive. You will be feeling optimistic about your future. Don't be laidback and continue working towards your good health. On the career front, things are not that great. At this time, you need to stay calm and reassess your situation and what you are expecting from your job. Chances are that you might achieve your goal. Still, you should consult a trusted friend or a career counsellor as it will help you have a new perspective on your current situation. Love life seems to be confusing as you are questioning whether or not to stay in a relationship. The decision will affect your present and your future. Singles, this may not be a good time to get into a relationship.
Lucky number 24
Lucky colour Parrot green
Lucky day Saturday

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Life is nothing but paradoxical

Life in its usual run is subject to twists and turns — sometimes pleasant and at other times full of pain. It is ever on its run, continuously undergoing change, as the conditions within and beyond keep varying. There is no scope for having a perfect situation in life. There comes a time when the gross body loses its dynamism and turns into a dead matter. It is true about every finite existence. The duration of stay may, though, vary from person to person. There is no standard of measure worth the name to account for one's life span in finite terms. We all are aware of this existential truth. Yet, it is difficult to bear with when a near and dear one departs from the world. It is still more shocking if it comes about at a young age. Life, therefore, is paradoxical. The other day, a grieving father sent a heart touching message: "Big brother, my dear son left us today. Feeling totally lifeless. Prayer and everything failed to keep him alive." The message left me shivering for a few moments. If this news could knock me down so badly, one can only imagine the plight of the grieving father who lost his only son at the young age of 23. I knew that no pep talk

could assuage the feelings of someone faced with such a devastating happening. So, I thought of trying to refresh him with the existential truth. Even that may not so easily calm down his emotional volatility. It may, however, offer him grounds that may help him come out of this sooner than later. Remember my friend, going by ancient India's philosophic perception, the run of life doesn't end with gross body becoming a dead matter. In fact, death is an opportunity to shed the incapacitated body and reincarnate with a fresh encasement in all strength. Your son had to bear with excruciating pain during the last one year of his chronic ailment. You need to appreciate that with his death, having discharged his Karmic debt of being faced with such a harrowing ordeal, he has moved beyond, and so stands relieved. Bear in mind: A *jeevatma* (a live being) with form and name is structured in three layers — gross, subtle, and causal bodies, the three driven by soul (the element of consciousness). On death, it is just the gross body, which is nothing but agglomeration of matter, disintegrates. Its five con-



stituents — space, air, fire, water, and earthly matter — merge with their primal source. The subtle and causal bodies that are pure energy platforms do not withdraw away, as would the laws of conservation of energy mean. The soul carries along the causal and subtle bodies, having in store all the memory imprints picked up during live existence, to reincarnate with a fresh gross body encasement. So, life needs to be seen in succession. Should you grieve, the *jeevatma's* attention is drawn, which may disturb its onward journey. Better pray for his smooth transition. "I appreciate your point and shall try to follow your advisory. But don't you think that this unforeseen happening puts a question mark on the very relevance of Astrology? For, with whatever knowledge of Astrology I have, Jupiter being the 6th lord was just indicative of health issues but not death as it doesn't happen to be seen in succession. Should you grieve, not questioning you, couldn't you see in his chart the possibility of departure from the world so early?" the man asked. Well, going by the traditional norms of Astrology, his death didn't seem likely. But the death-inflicting 8th curpy sub-lord Saturn (as per Krishnamurthy

system) did indicate the possibility of death during Jupiter's period. For, Jupiter occupying the *nakshatra* owned by Saturn, would act as latter's agent, potent enough to make it happen. Even the progressed Sun having become square (adverse 90 degrees placement) to natal Moon, carries the probability of losing life. Even transit Saturn conjunct unpredictable Neptune, and also square to its dire enemy Mars did not augur well for his survival either. Here again, Jupiter simultaneously signified recovery from ailment in strong terms. For, Jupiter's *nakshatra* lord Saturn happens to be the 5th lord, which being 12th from the 6th, will serve as latter's antidote. With such contrasting indicators in place, what would one be tempted to lay importance to — raise the hope of survival so that one tries to combat the situation in all strength, or indicate death and make the person lose the battle much before it even happens? The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Write to him at G-102, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi 110 025
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