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UPHOLD PRESS
FREEDOM

MONEY 8
NBFC CRISIS TO PULL DOWN HOME LOAN
GROWTH FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS: REPORT

WORLD 12
HONG KONG LEADER APOLOGISES
AS MASSIVE RALLY CHOKES CITY

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Modi's fresh push for polls at one go

PM invites Opp leaders on June 19 to discuss one nation, one poll

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday invited heads of all parties to a meeting on June 19 to discuss the "one nation, one election" issue and other important matters. Noting that there are many new faces in this Lok Sabha, Modi who chaired an all-party meeting on the eve of the first session of the new Lok Sabha, said the first session of the Lower House of Parliament should begin with "fresh zeal and new thinking." In the meeting, the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister and BJP president Amit Shah and other leaders leave after an NDA meeting at Parliament library in New Delhi on Sunday

Opposition, meanwhile, demanded discussion on issues such as farmers distress, unemployment and drought should be debated upon in Parliament. Addressing the media after the meeting, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlad Joshi

said the Prime Minister urged leaders of all parties to "introspect whether Members of Parliament are able to fulfil people's aspirations as their representatives and the manner in which last two years of the 16th Lok Sabha were wasted".

Pak's rain gambit fails to tame dominant India

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Chasing a stiff 337-run target, Pakistan were 166 for six in 35 overs against India when rain halted play in their World Cup clash, here Sunday. Imad Wasim (22) and Shadab Khan (1) were at the crease when the skies opened up as Pakistan need 171 more runs from 15 overs. Rain had briefly held play when India batted. In India's innings, opener Rohit Sharma hit a majestic 140-run knock while skipper Virat Kohli scored 77 after Pakistan elected to field in the marquee match. India have a 6-0 record against Pakistan in World Cup matches.

Rohit pulverised a pedestrian Pakistan attack. Despite heavy rains and overcast conditions during past few days, the pitch had very little moisture and turned out to be a batting beauty which Rohit and the other Indian batsmen exploited to the fullest.



Rohit Sharma celebrates his century against Pakistan with captain Virat Kohli during the Cricket World Cup match at Old Trafford in Manchester, England on Sunday



Suman Rao, a CA student from Rajasthan, crowned as Femina Miss India World 2019 beauty pageant in Mumbai on Saturday

Doctors agree to Didi parley with rider

Say talk 'should be open to media coverage'

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The ongoing junior doctors' strike across West Bengal entered its seventh day on Sunday with the agitating medicos responding to Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's talks offer with a tactical move saying they were game for talks but not inside closed doors but at a public platform.

Mamata had on Saturday asked the doctors to send in their representatives to Nabanna to thrash out a solution to the ongoing imbroglio. "I have already met the doctors' demands and am ready to talk to them. I have forgiven them for their misdemeanor towards me and have not invoked the stringent Essential Services Maintenance Act considering their career. But they should accept the talks offer and send their representatives to Nabanna from where the Government of the State is run," Mamata had said. However the doctors, "hav-



ing considered carefully the Chief Minister's statements" decided to respond to her offer for talks, with a mild adjustment saying, "We too want to talk to her but not inside the closed doors but in a public

place and in front of the camera so that people can see it for themselves."

In a statement given after a general body meeting, the doctors said, "We are keen to end this impasse. We are ready to hold talks with the Chief Minister at a venue of her choice, provided it is held in the open, in the presence of media persons, and not behind closed doors," adding "the venue for the talks should be spacious enough to accommodate representatives of all the medical colleges."

Medical services to be hit as IMA to go ahead with nation-wide stir today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Patients and their relatives across the country may have to go through harrowing times for want of medical services on Monday as the Indian Medical

Association (IMA), an apex body of thousands of medical practitioners, has decided to go ahead with its nationwide strike in the wake of the recent assault on doctors in West Bengal.

Bihar heatwave claims 61 lives, 3 districts hit

Nitish announces ex-gratia of ₹4L each, 100 people hospitalised

PTI ■ PATNA

At least 61 people have died in a blistering heatwave that hit three Bihar districts on Saturday, officials said on Sunday.

The officials at the Disaster Management Control Room said 22 people died in Aurangabad, 20 in Gaya and two in Nawada districts due to the heatwave.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has expressed grief over the deaths due to the "loo" winds and the heatstroke in the three districts and has announced a payment of Rs four lakh as ex-gratia to the next of kin of those killed, an official release said.

Stating that the Government stood firmly with the affected families, Kumar



sary steps and measures in dealing with the blistering heat and loo. The Chief Minister also asked the officials to provide all medical help to those affected by the heatstroke.

Major cities such as Patna, Gaya and Bhagalpur witnessed the heatwave on Saturday.

According to the Patna Meteorological Centre, the State Capital registered a maximum temperature of 45.8 degrees Celsius on Saturday, the highest in June in the last 10 years, while Gaya and Bhagalpur recorded a high of 45.2 and 41.5 degrees Celsius respectively.

He also directed the officials concerned to take neces-

ordered payment of ₹4 lakh as ex-gratia from the State disaster relief fund to the next of kin of those killed due to the heatwave in the three districts.

He also directed the officials concerned to take necessary steps and measures in dealing with the blistering heat and loo. The Chief Minister also asked the officials to provide all medical help to those affected by the heatstroke. Major cities such as Patna, Gaya and Bhagalpur witnessed the heatwave on Saturday. According to the Patna Meteorological Centre, the State Capital registered a maximum temperature of 45.8 degrees Celsius on Saturday, the highest in June in the last 10 years, while Gaya and Bhagalpur recorded a high of 45.2 and 41.5 degrees Celsius respectively.

Detailed report on P9

CAPSULE

LOK SABHA'S FIRST SESSION FROM MONDAY

New Delhi: The first session of the 17th Lok Sabha will commence from Monday during which the passage of the Union Budget and key legislations such as triple talaq will be on top of the agenda for the Government.

8 ON WAY TO SEE TAJ KILLED IN ACCIDENT

Mathura: Eight members of a Greater Noida family on their way to the Taj Mahal were killed when their car rammed into a truck on the Yamuna Expressway in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura district on Sunday, police said.

INDIA, MYANMAR TARGET IN-E TERRORISTS IN OP

New Delhi: The armies of India and Myanmar carried out a three-week-long coordinated operation from May 16 in their respective border areas, targeting several terrorist groups operating in Manipur, Nagaland and Assam, defence sources said on Sunday.

Wayu loses steam to usher in sluggish monsoon

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Monsoon is expected to advance further up north as cyclone Wayu loses intensity paving the way for the wind system to move towards the Arabian Sea, the weatherman said on Sunday.

By now, monsoon should have reached the Central India, including parts of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, eastern Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, but it is yet to reach Maharashtra.

It still remains over Mangalore, Mysore, Cuddalore over the southern peninsula and Pasighat, Agartala in the northeast, according to the India Meteorological Department. The western coast — from Maharashtra to Gujarat — has been receiving rainfall due to the cyclone.

Only coastal Karnataka and Kerala have received rains due to monsoon. Wayu is expected to cross

the Gujarat coast on Monday evening as a depression. This will pave the way for monsoon winds to move up towards the Arabian Sea.

Monsoon made an onset over Kerala on June 8, nearly a week after its usual onset date.

"The progress of monsoon was halted due to Cyclone Wayu. As its intensity decreases, we expect monsoon to progress in the next 2-3 days," said Devendra Pradhan, additional director general, IMD.

In its monsoon bulletin, IMD said conditions are becoming favourable for further advance of the southwest monsoon to more parts of central Arabian Sea, Karnataka and remaining parts of Tamil Nadu.

It is expected to cover more parts of central, north and south Bay, northeast India, north Bengal and Sikkim in 1-2 days.



sluggish pace. IMD's central division — which covers Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and



Goa — has recorded 59 per cent of rainfall deficiency while east and northeast India has recorded 47 per cent deficiency.



Rainfall deficiency in meteorological subdivisions west and east Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh was 75, 70 and 72

per cent, respectively. Deficiency in Vidarbha is 87 per cent. According to the Central Water Commission, the water level in reservoirs of south Indian states and Maharashtra is lesser than the average of last ten years.

Several parts of the country are reeling under intense heatwave, especially the east Indian States of Jharkhand, Bihar and Odisha. On Sunday, when the mercury in the eastern part being the hottest at 45.3 degree Celsius, six notches above the normal.

Sultanpur, Varanasi and Basti in the State recorded 45 degrees Celsius, 44.2 degrees Celsius and 44 degrees Celsius respectively.

Two Customs Dept officials suspended for raping Uzbek

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Customs Department has suspended two of its officials for allegedly sexually assaulting a woman from Uzbekistan, who was visiting India for medical treatment of a relative, at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport.

Giving details of the case, the official said one of the accused official stopped the Uzbek upon her arrival from Tashkent on May 3, for checking of her baggage for any suspected smuggled goods.

He then took her to a room, which has no CCTV camera and spent about half an hour there without being accompanied by any women officer, they said.

HP CM presides over Int'l Yoga Day in Netherland

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Sunday said that yoga is a small initiative which has manifold sustained positive effects on the physical, mental, and spiritual health at large.

Thakur was addressing the people after inaugurating the 5th International Yoga Day 2019 organized by the Embassy of India at Dam Square, Amsterdam in Netherlands. The Chief Minister was the chief guest of the mega event held at Dam Square, the main centre of Amsterdam.

This was the biggest International Yoga Day celebrations ever seen in the Netherlands. The celebration was organized by the Embassy of India in association with yoga enthusiasts of the Netherlands. It was a whole day wellness festival with group yoga demonstrations, meditation sessions, music, dance, and vegetarian as well as vegan food.

On the occasion, the Chief



Minister said that International Day of Yoga was celebrated throughout the world for first time on June 21, 2015 on the earnest call given by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the United Nations General Assembly on September 27, 2014 during his address to the UN General Assembly.

He said that today over 170 countries including USA, China, Canada, etc are partici-

ipating in the event. Today everybody has conviction about Yoga practices towards the prevention of disease, maintenance and promotion of health. Millions and millions of people across the globe have benefited by the practice of Yoga and it was blossoming and growing more vibrant with each passing day, he added.

Thakur said that the world

Yoga is derived from the Sanskrit word 'Yuj', which means union of the individual consciousness or soul with the universal consciousness or spirit. It is a system of raising our ability to enhance and realize our ultimate nature and exploration of the very mechanics of life, it is gift to the humanity to lead a happy and healthy life, he added.

Representatives of Dutch

armed forces participated in the traditional yoga session. Dutch Ministry of Defence, at various barracks and yoga instructors have been recruited to strengthen the physical and mental fitness of soldiers.

A unique addition to the program this year was also the promotion of Indian handicrafts through a 'Made in India' display featuring live demonstrations by five national award winning master artisans from India throughout the day.

In a parallel event called The Yoga Hut, competitions in sun salutations and yoga pose challenges were held along with special sessions on therapeutic yoga etc. A stall put up by the Maharishi Ayurveda Centre provided advice on yoga practices and therapies while five special food trucks provided vegetarian and vegan food as well as vegan ice cream for the participants and onlookers.

A short film produced by the Ministry of External Affairs Department was also screened on the occasion.

IN BRIEF

FOLLOW TEACHINGS OF SAINT KABIR: BADNORE

Chandigarh: "Saint Kabir, a 15th century revolutionary saint, poet and social reformer propagated oneness of the Supreme Being across all religions. A weaver by profession, Saint Kabir wrote couplets and devotional songs extolling the greatness of the Supreme Being that pervades all things," said Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator VP Singh Badnore. He said, every citizen of the country should work for the welfare of the society and serve the humanity selflessly as taught and preached by Saint Kabir. The Governor appealed one and all to celebrate Kabir Jayanti collectively, and we should utilize this opportunity to propagate the message to every nook and corner of the country.

CM FELICITATES PEOPLE ON SAINT KABIR JAYANTI

Shimla: Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has felicitated the people of the State of the occasion of Saint Kabir Jayanti. In his felicitation message, Chief Minister said that 15th century revolutionary saint, poet and social reformer, Saint Kabir propagated oneness of the Supreme Being across all religions. He said that Saint Kabir wrote couplets and devotional songs extolling the greatness of the Almighty that pervades all things, adding that his teaching were more relevant today.

CABINET MEET ON JUNE 25

Chandigarh: Haryana Cabinet will meet under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Wednesday, June 25, 2019 at 11 a.m. in the presence of Chief Secretary, Chandigarh on June 25 at 11 a.m., said an official spokesman.

DELEGATION LED BY CM MET MET JAGEJA

Shimla: A high level delegation of the State Government led by Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur met Vishavraj Jageja, a known figure in ice skating and director of Ice at Anantnag in Netherlands and discussed the possibility of development of Shimla Ice Skating Rink. The project would be developed on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode through transparent bidding process. The development of all weather ice ring at Shimla would make it capable to host national and international tournaments in ice skating and boost tourism to large extent, Thakur said. Later, the delegation met representatives of TAKARA Bio, a leading biotech and investment opportunities in biotech sector in Himachal Pradesh. TAKARA bio inc showed keen interest in investments in the state.

'FATHERS MUST BE ROLE MODELS FOR THEIR KIDS'

Chandigarh: "All fathers must be role models for their children," said Vivek Aitray, motivational speaker, author and former IAS. He was speaking at a meet on Father's Day at the Senior Citizen Welfare Centre in Sector 43 here organised by Zogers, a renowned name in the home healthcare industry. Elderly besides other invitees came together to be a part of the celebrations. Aitray talked on the role of a father in growth journey of child and said, "Father's Day is a significant landmark in the annual calendar. All families should get together and celebrate such occasions with fervour. As a father of two girls who do not mean I must say that Father's Day is a truly special day. Fathers must be role models for their children."

70 UNITS OF BLOOD COLLECTED

Chandigarh: As many as 70 units of blood were collected during a blood donation camp during World Blood Donor Day at Alchemist Hospital, Panchkula. Dr Gajpal Singh, senior consultant blood bank, said that the main objective of the camp was to raise awareness of the need for regular blood donations to ensure the safety and availability of blood and blood components for patients in need. He said that transfusion of blood and blood components helps save millions of lives every year. It can help patients suffering from life-threatening conditions.

SUMMER EVENT BY BRITISH CONSUL FROM JUNE 25

Chandigarh: British Consulate will host 3rd and 4th batch of exciting summer program starting from June 25 till 29. Kids aged between 11-12 years can enroll themselves for 3rd batch and kids aged between 13-14 can enroll themselves for 4th batch. "The children can learn contemporary life skills such as creativity, critical thinking and problem solving and improve their confidence and communication skills through fun and interactive workshops," an official spokesman said.

AUDIENCE ENTHRALED AT STUNT SHOW

Ludhiana: Locals witnessed KTM stunt show organized at BRS Market in Ludhiana. The stunt show was organized in order to showcase the mind-blowing stunts and tricks from the professional stunt riders. The professional stunt team demonstrated breath-taking stunts on the KTM Duke bikes. Sumant Narain, Vice President, Probiking, Bajaj Auto, said that the stunt was open to all and the spectacular stunts took the city by a storm. Till now, the KTM stunt shows have been organized in Surat, Ahmedabad, Kanchipuram, Coimbatore, Chennai, Vijaypattur, Lucknow, Aurangabad, Jammu, Jalandhar, Jodhpur, Haridwar, Bhopal, Unkh, Phaywara, Solan and many other towns.

'MINICATION' WITH GOAIR FARES STARTING AT RS 1.777

Chandigarh: With GoAIR's Minications, Chandigarh residents can avail fares starting from as low as Rs 1.777 onward. To avail FlySmart fares, the booking period is June 18-23 and the travel period is July 1-September 30. Customers can get an additional 10% by using Promo Code GOAIR10. Chandigarh to Srinagar fare can be availed in Rs 1.777 while Srinagar to Mumbai in Rs 3.009. Chandigarh to Bengaluru fare will cost Rs 4,309 during this period. GoAIR Spokesperson said: "India is changing and the way we look at vacations is also changing fast. GoAIR is happy to present Minication fares that will enable Chandigarh residents to FlySmart and have a nice time."

GIRLS SHINE IN RESULTS OF ARYANS COLLEGE OF LAW

Mumbai: Law students of Aryans College of Law, Rapra brought laurels to the college in the final examinations conducted by (Punjab) State University, Patiala. In BA-LLB (5th Sem), Gurpreet Kaur bagged 1st position with 68.8%, Sarany bagged 2nd position with 68.2%, Gurwinder Singh bagged 3rd position with 66.6% marks. In BA-LLB (3rd Sem), Simranjit Kaur bagged 1st position with 74.2% marks. Neetu bagged 2nd position with 68.2% marks, Simran Sharma bagged 3rd position with 66.8% marks. Anshu Kataria, chairman, Aryans Group congratulated the students and faculty for the hard work. He said that girls are competing well in the sports not only in academics but in boys' innovations, cultural etc. Such academic results will inspire and motivate more parents to send their daughters for the higher studies, he said.

ORIENTAL BANK OF COMMERCE E-AUCTION NOTICE
(A Government of India Undertaking)

RRI Cluster, SOC 13-14, Sector 8, KARNAL 132001, TEL: 011-2234035/36, E-mail: rri_7641@obc.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD (EARNEST MONEY) AND DOCUMENTS 04.07.2019 UPTO 4.00PM.

***APPENDIX-IV-A (See provision to rule 8 (6) Sale notice for sale of immovable properties**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with the Enforcement of Security Interest Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor and constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Oriental Bank of Commerce, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per below mentioned details:-

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY					
Name of the Branch & Borrower	Description & owner of property	Possession With Bank	Outstanding Amount as on date with interest upto 01.06.2019 (Secured debt)	EMD REMITTANCE ACCOUNT DETAILS	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase
(1) SEC-12 (MCB) KARNAL M/S Deep Timbers Pvt. Ltd.	Plot measuring 7.930 Marlas (approx. 0.6251550 in respect of Kharsa No.228/11/27-0.228/21/8 share i.e. 0.4 kanal 7.930 Marlas, situated at Golden City, Patran Road, Diba, Tehsil-Sunam, Distt. Sangrur, vide Sale Deed No. 1868, dated 03-01-2011, bounded as under: North Side 83' Sanju Bala, South Side 83' street 20' wide, East: Side 23'-9" Darshana Rani, West: Side 23'-9" Ram Pal in the name of Smt Sanju Bala W/o Sh Jagpal Mittal	Physical	Rs. 7,87,91,939.33 (Seven crore eighty seven lakh ninety one thousand nine hundred thirty nine and paise thirty three only)	A/c 1176181000192 E-Auction A/C Deep Timbers Pvt. Ltd B/O Sec-12 Karnal IFSC CODE: ORBCO101176	Rs. 24,19,000/- between 11:00AM to 1:00 P M with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes
(2) Plot measuring 4.1930 Marlas (at site 139 Sq. Yards) bearing Khata no.207/528 in respect of Kharsa no.228/10/10-0. total land measuring 8.207/528 in respect of 4.1930/1660 share i.e. 0.9 Marla, situated at Golden City, Patran Road, Diba, Tehsil-Sunam, Distt. Sangrur, vide sale deed no. 1858 dated 03-01-2011, bounded as under: North Side 50'-6" Darshana Devi, South side 50'-6" street 20' wide, East: side 24'-9" street 20' wide, West: side 24'-9" Sanju Rani, in the name of Smt Darshana Rani W/o Sh Surinder Pal	Physical	Rs. 7,87,91,939.33 (Seven crore eighty seven lakh ninety one thousand nine hundred thirty nine and paise thirty three only)	A/c 1176181000192 E-Auction A/C Deep Timbers Pvt. Ltd B/O Sec-12 Karnal IFSC CODE: ORBCO101176	Rs. 15,46,000/- between 11:00AM to 1:00 P M with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes	
(3) Plot measuring 7 marlas bearing Khata No.096/1665, Kharsa No.228/10/12 situated within the revenue estate of Diba, Tehsil-Sunam, Distt. Sangrur, vide sale deed no. 1775 dated 28-12-2010, bounded as under: North-Sanju Bala etc., South: Street, East: Jagpal Mittal, West: Sham Kumar in the name of Sh Jagpal Mittal, Srinagar Pal sons of Sh Lachman Dass	Physical	Rs. 7,87,91,939.33 (Seven crore eighty seven lakh ninety one thousand nine hundred thirty nine and paise thirty three only)	1176181000192 E-Auction A/C Deep Timbers Pvt. Ltd B/O Sec-12 Karnal IFSC CODE: ORBCO101176	Rs. 34,20,000/- between 11:00AM to 1:00 P M with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes	
(4) Shop cum house measuring 272 Sq. Yards bearing Khata no.698/667, Kharsa No.211/24/11-13, 230/4/1/12 min. 0-3, total land measuring 1 kanal 16 Marlas in the extent of 1/4 share i.e. 2 Marlas within the revenue estate of Diba, Tehsil-Sunam, Distt. Sangrur, vide Sale deed no. 10 dated 05-04-2010, bounded as under: North-Sanjur Patran road, South: Sangur Singh, East: Surinder Pal, West: Sanju Bala, and the name of Smt Darshana Rani W/o Sh Jagpal Mittal	Physical	Rs. 7,87,91,939.33 (Seven crore eighty seven lakh ninety one thousand nine hundred thirty nine and paise thirty three only)	1176181000192 E-Auction A/C Deep Timbers Pvt. Ltd B/O Sec-12 Karnal IFSC CODE: ORBCO101176	Rs. 59,00,000/- between 11:00AM to 1:00 P M with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes	

Last date of submission of EMD/RTGS 04.07.2019 upto 4.00 PM. Date & Time of E-Auction: 08.07.2019, 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM.

The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions:

- E-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis
- The E-Auction will take place through web portal support@bankauctions.com Website: www.bankauctions.com On the Time specified in the E-Auction notice published in the newspaper.
- The intending purchaser/bidder of any of the above property are required to submit amount of EMD by way of NEFT/RTGS in the account as mentioned above against the account's On or before the last date mentioned in the E-Auction advertisement notice, register their Name at support@bankauctions.com Website: www.bankauctions.com and get user ID and password free of cost and get training on E-Auction from our service provider- Company Name: m/s C I Pvt Ltd Address: udhyog Vihar phase 2 building no 301 Gurgaon haryana pin code 122015 Contact number: 729198124, 25.26 Mr Vinod Chauhan Mobile 9813887931 Email address :delhi@ciindia.com and support@bankauctions.com Website :www.bankauctions.com Cheque/draft shall not be accepted for EMD
- After their Registration in the web-site as mentioned in para (ii) above, the intending Purchaser/bidder is required to get the copies of following documents uploaded in the Website before last date of submission of the Documents - a) Copy of the NEFT/RTGS Challan; b) Copy of PAN card and c) Copy of proof of address, along with the offer amount. (Kindly take note that offer amount cannot be less than the reserve price mentioned in the Advertisement released in this regard.)
- If the dues of the Bank together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by or in part thereof as may be acceptable to the Bank are tendered by or on behalf of the borrower or Property holders or guarantors at any time on or before the date fixed for sale, the sale of Assets may be cancelled.
- The particulars specified in the Schedule herein below have been stated to be of the Information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, Misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
- The property shall not be sold below the reserve price.
- The EMD of unsuccessful bidders will be refunded to their respective A/C No. shared in e-Auction Portal support@bankauctions.com Website: www.bankauctions.com online. The bidders will not be entitled to Claim any interest, costs, expenses and any other charges (if any).
- The minimum amount to be increased shall be as mentioned against Each account as above. The offer so submitted shall be opened online and inter-se bidding shall be permitted online during the period of auction.
- In case of any dispute arising as to the validity of the E-Auction, amount of bid, EMD or as to the eligibility of the bidder, authorization of the person representing the bidder, the interpretation and decision of the Bank shall be final. In such an eventuality, the Bank shall in its sole discretion be entitled to call off the sale and put the property to sale again as and when it deems fit and such time as may be decided by the Bank.
- Inspection of property will be permitted at any time and any offerers on 27-06-2019.
- The successful purchaser shall deposit 25% of the amount of sale price, adjusting the EMD, Paid already, immediately/within 24 hours of the acceptance of offer by the Authorised officer in respect of the sale falling which the earnest deposit shall be forfeited. The balance 75% of the sale price is payable on or before 15th day of confirmation of the sale by the Authorised Officer or such extended period as agreed upon in writing by and solely at the discretion of the Authorised officer. In case of failure to deposit this balance as mentioned within the prescribed period, the amount deposited shall be forfeited and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all Claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may be subsequently sold.
- Authorised officer is not bound to accept the highest offer or any or all offers and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers without assigning any reasons therefor.
- Offer with conditional may be treated as invalid. Likewise correspondence about any change in the offers will not be entertained. If any offer wishes to give a fresh offer on or before the last date prescribed for submission of the offer in the concerned advertisement, he may file a fresh offer with appropriate EMD.
- The purchaser will be required to bear all the necessary expenses like Stamp Duty, Registration expenses, etc. for transfer of the property in his/her name and also all the statutory non-statutory dues, taxes, rates, assessments, charges, fees, etc. owing to anybody.
- The sale certificate shall be issued on the receipt of entire sale consideration and it shall be issued by Authorised Officer in the same name in which the offer is submitted.
- To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised officer, no other encumbrance exists on the property. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of properties & to inspect & satisfy themselves.
- Bank also reserves the right to sell the property through Private Treaty.
- In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the e-Auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes for unlimited times till the e-Auction is closed/ concluded
- Special Instructions: Bidding in the last moment should be avoided. Neither the Bank nor Service provider will be responsible for any technical gap/ power or internet connectivity issues in order to avoid such contingencies. Bidders are requested to ensure that they are technically well equipped and have all alternatives such as power supply back-up etc., so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the online Inter-se Bidding, successfully

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE U/RULE 8 (6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT

The borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors stated above are hereby advised to pay the Bank dues as mentioned above along with up to date interest together with incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. before the date of E-auction failing which the properties will be auctioned/ sold and balance dues, if any shall be recovered as per provisions.

FOR DETAILED TERMS AND CONDITIONS PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE www.obcindia.co.in

OR support@bankauctions.com Website :www.bankauctions.com, and on the government portal www.eprocure.gov.in

Place: Karnal **Date:** 15.06.2019 **Authorised Officer, ORIENTAL BANK OF COMMERCE**

PSPCL establishes 24-hour nodal complaint centre at all div offices

PNS ■ PATIALA

To provide relief or extend facility to its consumers for registration of their complaints on alternate number other than 1912, Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) has established 24-hour Nodal Centre at all its 1912 Divisional Offices throughout the State.

For the same, the PSPCL has issued instructions to the field officers to make all out efforts to educate or inform the consumers about the number of the Nodal Complaint Centres.

The spokesperson said that the sub-division officers will ensure that the numbers of Nodal Complaint Centres must be affixed on the electricity bills of the consumers. All senior executive engineers (XENs) and SDOs (sub-divisional officers) have been instructed to display Nodal

Complaint Centres' numbers in an attractive way (colourful) on notice boards at appropriate places like cash counter, complaint centres, added the spokesperson.

As of now, the PSPCL serves more than 92 lakh consumers of different categories in the state after it started 1912 Divisional Offices throughout the State.

With onset of paddy season, to accommodate increase in number of complaints, PSPCL has almost doubled the capacity to register complaints, said the spokesperson.

"Nevertheless, it has been observed that in an inevitable situation, that is during dust and windstorm, the number of calls to register complaints shoot up to register complaints, said the spokesperson.

Hry CM visits residence of Lt. Pilot Ashish Tanwar

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Sunday visited residence of Lt. Pilot Ashish Tanwar in Palwal and expressed condolences to the bereaved family members.

Ashish Tanwar is survived by his wife Ananya, father Radhe Lal, mother Anur and sister Anjula Tanwar.

The Chief Minister said that the State Government is

with the family members of Ashish Tanwar in this hour of grief. He expressed his condolences and assured that the State Government will do its utmost to compensate, he added.

Notably, the VJ 32 aircraft of Indian Air Force, which flew from Jorhat of Assam on June 3 for the purpose of Annual Pradesh, had communication after half an hour. 13 soldiers, including Ashish Tanwar, were in the plane.

HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED
Head Office: "Radhika", 2nd Floor, Law Garden Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad-380009

Branch Office: SOC 9, First Floor, Sector-7, Above Central Bank of India, Behind Galaxy Mall, Ambala City-154003

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

You The Above Mentioned Borrower, Co-Borrowers And Guarantors Have Availd Loan(s) / Financial Facility(ies) From Hdb Financial Services Limited By Mortgaging Your Immovable Properties (Securities) And Defaulted In Repayment of the Same, Consequently You Defaulters Your Loan Was Classified As Non Performing Asset. Subsequently, The Company has Issued Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) of The Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (The Act), The Contents of Which Are Being Brought Herein As Per Section 13(2) Of The Act Read With Rule 3(1) Of The Security Interest (enforcement) Rules, 2002 As And By Way Of Alternate Service Upon You, Details Of The Borrowers, Co-Borrowers, Loan Account No., Loan Amount, Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) Of The Act, Amount Claimed In The Loan, NPA Date And Interest Are Given As Under:-

NAME OF THE BORROWER & CO-BORROWERS: Maxover Lounge Soc-7 Model Town N Main Shri Kuldheep Singh & Alpa D/o Jaiinder Singh H/o D-1, Old MC No L1-703493, Model Town, Karnal-132001 And Also At Soc-7 Model Town N Main Market Karnal-132001, 1 LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 887710, LOAN AMOUNT: RS 332,00,000 (Rupees Three Crores Thirty Two Lakhs Ten Thousand Only), DEMAND NOTICE DATE: 23.05.2019, AMOUNT CLAIMED: RS 2735,188 (Rupees Three Crores Twenty Seven Lakhs Ninety Five Thousand One Hundred Eighty Eight Only) as of 10th May, 2019 and future contractual interest till actual realization together with incidental expenses, cost and charges etc. NPA DATE: 05.04.2019; **DETAILS OF SECURITY:** Property No 1 (old No MC No L-703493), Situated In Model Town Karnal, Tehsil And District Karnal, Model Town Karnal, Tehsil And District Karnal, Addressing 318.5 Sq. Meters, Uprg Code W/o Sh Jaiinder Singh Dugg Registration document at serial nos. 3824/1, on dated 30.03.2009 respectively, with the office of Sub Registrar-Karnal Property Area 318.5 Sq. No. Part: 003 House No. ID, South- Part: House No D-1, East: Road, West: Mattel Road, Property No 2 Part Property No 1 (old No MC No L-703493), Situated In Model Town Karnal, Tehsil And District Karnal, Addressing 118.5 Sq. Meters Uprg Code W/o Sh Jaiinder Singh Dugg, Shri Shri Kuldheep Singh Registration document at serial nos. 7013/1 on dated 15.12.2008 respectively, with the office of Sub Registrar-Karnal, Property Area 118.5 Sq. No. North- House No 2-D M, Bhatia, South- Part: Plot No 1-D, East: Road, West: Road

You The Borrower/ Co-Borrowers And Guarantors Are Therefore Called Upon To Make Payment Of The Above Mentioned Demanded Amount With Further Interest As Mentioned Hereinafter In Full Within 60 Days Of This Notice Failing Which The Undersigned Shall Be Constrained To Take Action Under The Act To Enforce The Above-mentioned Securities. (Borrower's Attention Is Invited To Provisions of Sub-section (8) Of Section 13 Of The Act In Respect of This Notice, To Redress The Secured Assets). Please Note That As Per Section 13(1) Of The Said Act, You Are Restrained From Transferring The Above-mentioned Securities By Way of Sale, Lease Or Otherwise Without Our Consent And Any Non Compliance Of Section 13(1) Of The Act Is Punishable Under Section 29 Of The Said Act.

For Any Query Please Contact Mr. ASHISH Mehta, Phone: 9729438899

Place: Ambala **Date:** 17.06.2019 **Authorised Officer**

Punjab Congress all set to witness crucial Monday

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Congress is all set to witness a crucial Monday. With two of its major players — Cabinet Ministers Navjot Singh Sidhu and OP Soni — out of the pavilion, the “captain” Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh may eventually take a decision on Monday. The day is also significant as party’s senior leader Ahmed Patel is scheduled to visit the state capital on Monday to resolve the prevailing power struggle between the state’s top leadership.

After the recent Cabinet reshuffle exercise on June 6, Sidhu and Soni — unhappy with the allocation of new portfolios — are yet to assume the charge of their new departments even after 10 days of the decision.

While Sidhu was divested

of Local Government and Tourism departments and handed over Power and New and Renewable Energy, Soni was given Medical Education and Research, Freedom Fighter and Food Processing Departments after taking away Education from him.

Capt Amarinder had set Monday as the deadline for his Ministers to take charge of their new Ministries. Now with Sidhu and Soni virtually revolting to take over the new departments, Chief Minister may take a decision on them. It has been learnt that the Chief Minister is considering to take the working of these departments under him “till the time these Ministers do not take charge”.

Reports are that the Chief Minister, if not Monday, would take a tough stand on the two Ministers in case they continue to maintain the rebellious attitude.

Sidhu, making the re-allocation of portfolios as an issue of prestige, has taken the issue right up to the party high command, which has reportedly asked the former cricketer

CAPT AMARINDER HAD SET MONDAY AS THE DEADLINE FOR HIS MINISTERS TO TAKE CHARGE OF THEIR NEW MINISTRIES. NOW WITH SIDHU AND SONI VIRTUALLY REVOLTING TO TAKE OVER THE NEW DEPARTMENTS, CHIEF MINISTER MAY TAKE A DECISION ON THEM. IT HAS BEEN LEARNT THAT THE CHIEF MINISTER IS CONSIDERING TO TAKE THE WORKING OF THESE DEPARTMENTS UNDER HIM “TILL THE TIME THESE MINISTERS DO NOT TAKE CHARGE”

to continue working for the party. Despite that, Sidhu has not taken over his Department. In fact, no effort was being made to appease Sidhu by the state leadership with no leader or even the Chief Minister contacting him.

Having difference of opinion on various issues, the wrangling between the Chief Minister and Sidhu escalated in the run up to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections when the former cricketer’s wife had accused Capt Amarinder of playing a role in denying her the party ticket from Chandigarh Lok Sabha seat. While Capt Amarinder rubbished the charges, Sidhu maintained that his wife would “never lie”.

The sluffest reached another high with Sidhu talking about “friendly match” between the Congress and Akali leaders a day before elections, besides attacking his own government for not punishing the Badals for sacrilege incidents — a development which has strained vertically with Sidhu on one side and remaining on the

other. On the day of election results, the Chief Minister had minced no words to blame Sidhu for the party’s defeat in Bathinda and other urban pockets, for more than one reason.

Dubbing Sidhu as the “non-performing” Minister, Capt Amarinder had pointed that the former cricketer’s “friendly match” remarks in Bathinda had cost the party dear, besides his “yaari and jhappi” (friendship and hugs) with the Pakistani Army Chief who failed to go down well with the people of the border state, while at the same time maintaining that he intended to change his portfolio.

On the other hand, Sidhu had all along defended his position. He has said that the Bodies Minister claiming that his Department had done

exceedingly well during his two-year tenure.

In fact, Sidhu skipped the crucial Cabinet meeting — first after the 2019 general elections — following which the decision on reshuffle was taken. Sidhu had addressed a simultaneous press conference claiming that the Congress has fared well in the urban areas winning 63 percent of the total urban and semi-urban areas, winning 34 out of 54 seats.

With both sides refusing to bow down, the party chief Punjab Chief Minister has assigned the task to resolve the internal strife between the two top leaders to party veteran Ahmed Patel who is scheduled to visit Chandigarh on Monday.

Meanwhile, Capt Amarinder was expected to meet Patel in the national capital this week-

end. But being unwell, the Chief Minister could not visit New Delhi to attend Niti Aayog meeting and also to meet the high command.

Available information suggests that Sidhu is eyeing a bigger role in the party, especially when he enjoys proximity with Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi. Besides Sidhu, Soni was also not keen to take over his new departments, and is silently protesting the Chief Minister’s decision. He had argued that during his tenure as Education Minister, the Department witnessed significant improvement with government schools recording pass percentage of 88.21 per cent outshining the private schools which registered 86 per cent pass percentage which has happened for the first time in 30 years.

Haryana CM to open 11 hostels for deprived children

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Sunday announced to establish 11 new Government hostels for the state to provide more opportunities for education to the people of the oppressed and deprived sections of society.

The Chief Minister also announced to grant in principle approval for implementing the Scheduled Caste A and B categorization in educational institutions from the upcoming academic session. Apart from this, he announced that about 25,000 government jobs would be advertised and every year the backlog of Scheduled Castes will be filled and no posts will be allowed to remain vacant.

Manohar Lal was speaking as a chief guest in the state level function organised on the occasion of 63rd birth anniversary of Sant Kabir Das at Jind.

The Chief Minister said that he has been carrying out equitable development in the state by following the couplet of Sant Kabir Das Na Kaahu Se Dost, the backlog of Scheduled Castes will be filled and no posts will be allowed to remain vacant.



online under one roof through Antyodaya Sewa Kendra, Saral Kendra or Atal Sewa Kendra,” he said.

He said that about 32 lakh people have availed benefits of these schemes in last two years.

Manohar Lal also announced that from July 1, the State Government would organise tours for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes to visit the birth place of Sant Kabir Das and Sant Ravidas at Varanasi and pilgrimage of Maharshi Valmiki at Amritsar. For this, interested persons

can get their registration done in the Deputy Commissioner’s office and they would be provided with second class reserved tickets for Railway free of cost.

For this, initially, 100-100 devotees each from every assembly constituency will be given opportunity every year. This way, 9,000 pilgrims will visit these places in a year. It will be on first come, first serve basis and a family will be given this benefit only once, he said.

Describing the 2.5 crore

population of the state as his family, the Chief Minister said that those, who are lagging behind in society, should be brought forward.

He said that the government is preparing such data that the needs of people right from birth to death are known to the government and government official will visit the person and provide the service required at his doorstep.

He said that on March 31 every year, the budget of Central and State Government schemes is lapsed due to igno-

rance of officials and people having no knowledge about it, which has stopped now.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has the vision to provide high level of growth to the Haryana Government has been heading in the same direction, he said.

The Chief Minister further said that in the first week of July, the cards of 1.25 lakh BPL card holders will be given to them at their doorsteps. The phrase like “Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas” has been derived from the couplets of Sant Kabir Das. Sant Kabirs, at that time, gave a message of staying away from superstition and brotherhood, when the society was mired in chains of conservatism, he added.

He said that the present State Government has started celebrating the birth anniversaries of all the great men at the government level. The Late Sant Kabir Das Jayanti, Sant Ravidas Jayanti or Maharshi Valmiki Jayanti or Baba Sahab Bhim Rao Ambedkar Jayanti.

Manohar Lal announced the grant of Rs 35 lakh out of his personal fund for Sant Kabir Das Hostel, Jind.

He also announced a grant of Rs 5 lakh each to Bhurchi Samaj Sewa Samiti and other three institutions out of his discretionary funds. He said that the government has no shortage of funds. The government is serious about the development of every section of the society. For this last nearly five

years, we have carried out development work in all 90 assembly constituencies, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Finance Minister, Capt Amarinder Singh said that the Haryana Government has done the task of reaching to the last person of the society. But, earlier this section was deprived of development and the former governments had been discriminating with this section.

Since the government was formed under the leadership of Chief Minister Manohar Lal, the government assured to support the poor and oppressed. Now the poor have come to believe that there is someone in the country and in the state to listen to them, he added.

He also congratulated the people present on the occasion of 63rd birth anniversary of Sant Kabir Das.

The Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Krishan Kumar Bedi said that the Chief Minister has enhanced the pride of people belonging to poor society by celebrating the birth anniversaries of the great men at the gurug at government level.

Transport Minister Krishan Lal Panwar, SPS Member of Parliament (MSP) Sunita Duggal and Sonapat MP Ramesh Kaushik, State Minister of Scheduled Caste Morcha Ram Avtar Balmiki, OSD to Chief Minister, Amarjeet Singh also spoke on this occasion.

Raids across Punjab to monitor ban on plastic carry bags

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

4000 kg carry bags confiscated

A total of 4000 kilograms of plastic carry bags were confiscated by the joint teams of Punjab Pollution Control Board and the local bodies department in the state-wide raids to monitor the efficacy of ban on plastic carry bags.

Sharing the information, Tansru Punjab Mission Director Kahan Singh Panu on Sunday said that the surprise checks were made at nearly 500 shops or units revealing over 200 violations, and on the spot collection of fine was to the tune of Rs one lakh and 179 challans were issued during the raids.

Nearly 1,100 kilograms of plastic carry bags were seized from Fatehgarh Sahib district alone.

He said that as per subsection 2 of Section 7 of the Punjab Plastic Carry Bags (Manufacture, Usage and Disposal) Control Act, 2005, the State Government has already completely prohibited manufacturing, stocking, distribution, recycling, sale and use of plastic carry bags in the state.

The plastic carry bags are the bags having self carrying handle or “D” punched han-

dle made either from plain plastic or non-woven plastic.

Commissioners of Municipal Corporations, Executive Officers of the Municipal Councils or Nagar Panchayats and Panchayat Secretaries, as the case may be, are authorised to take action in pursuance to the provisions of the Act, in the areas under their respective jurisdictions.

Punjab Pollution Control Board is authorised to take action against the units manufacturing or storing such plastic carry bags, he added.

Pannu said that it has been observed that despite ban, use of plastic carry bags is still rampant in Punjab. The Chief Minister, large scale raids or checks would be undertaken to ensure implementation of the law in the days to come.

Haryana starts transparent, corruption free culture: CM

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Sunday said that the State Government has started a transparent and corruption free new culture.

“Now, jobs are not given by any particular person, but jobs are taken by the youth on the strength of their hard work and ability. It is the government’s endeavour that every youth of Haryana would get employment opportunities in some area. The youth, who will not be able to get jobs, will be made skilled so that they can start their own ventures. With this, every hand in the state will get work,” the Chief Minister said while speaking at BJP’s “Karyakarta Abhinandan Samaroh” organised at Anaj Mandi in Palwal.

Swachhata Abhiyan, the state was made open-defecation free. Through the Antyodaya Bhawan and the Saral Kendras, 450 types of services and schemes related to different departments of the state are being provided to the people,” Chief Minister Manohar Lal.

The Chief Minister further said that CSC centers have been opened in about 4,000 villages. Now people are getting the benefits of government facilities by sitting at their homes.

So far, about 32 lakh people have availed the benefits of online services without any person’s recommendation. Millions of people have availed the benefit of the Chief Minister window and also saved the crores of rupees to the government, he said.

Earlier, there were flaws in the implementation of the pensions schemes, under which mischievous persons used to grab money of eligible persons. But since the government has started providing benefits of these schemes through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme, there has been considerable transparency in it. So far 90 lakh people have been given the benefit of the DBT scheme, he added.

About industrial sector, Chief Minister Manohar Lal said that 58,000 small industries have been set up in the state and about 3.57 lakh youth have got jobs in the private sector, most of them belonging to Haryana.

sent State Government has considered the entire state as its own home and hence work is being done for the well being of everyone.

The government has planned to give unemployed youth an allowance for 100 hours of work and so far, 60,000 unemployed youth have benefited from this scheme, he said.

He also said that yellow cars of poor people will be made in the month of July.

He said that Palwal has benefited a lot with the construction of KMP and KGP Expressway. Apart from this, work has been started to build two Railway Over Bridge at Bamni Kheda and at Rasulpur gate where Shri Vishwakarma Skill University is being established. The construction of elevated bridges in Palwal city is underway, Manohar Lal said.

The Chief Minister added that more funds and facilities will be provided to the Zila Parishads in future so that maximum people get benefited through the decentralization of power.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Krishan Pal Gurjar said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has worked to enhance the pride of India while the Chief Minister Manohar Lal has worked to raise the status of Haryana in the entire country. Today, people do not have to visit ministers and leaders for jobs and for other things, but all the facilities are being provided online, he added.

Meghalaya CM ensures safety of Sikhs to SGPC, DSJGMC delegation

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Meghalaya Chief Minister Sangma on Sunday assured a delegation of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) and the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSJGMC) that the State Government would take all necessary steps to ensure safety and security of Sikhs living in Punjabi lane locality in Shillong.

The delegation, which was headed by the Union Food Processing Industries Minister and AD MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal and met the Meghalaya Chief Minister, was also

assured that the Government would come out with an amicable solution to the crisis arising from the Sikh community in Shillong after locals and recently even the radical HNLG group threatened them with their lives in case they do not vacate the area in which they have been living for the last 20 years.

During a detailed discussion with the Union Minister, the Meghalaya Chief Minister said that he had established a committee headed by the Deputy Chief Minister which would look into claims and counter claims of both the Sikhs as well as local Khasis and come out with an amicable solution which would be acceptable to both parties.

Chief Minister Sangma said that, in the meantime, he has issued strict directions to ensure the safety and security of Sikhs living in Punjabi Lane. Harsimrat said that an attempt was being made to relocate the inhabitants of Punjabi Lane to Sibsport despite a cord objection by the proposed relocation.

Stating that the Sikhs of Punjabi Lane had been brought to Shillong around 200 years ago by the British, he said that they were given land in the area by the Shillong municipal board in 1954 after the Sylem

of Myliem, the traditional Khasi unit called Hima, agreed to the same.

He said that following this, four additional land plots were given to construct a gurdwara and two temples.

Briefing the Meghalaya Chief Minister, SGPC president Gobind Singh Longowal and DSJGMC president Manjit Singh Sira said that the Sikhs were living in a state of fear in Meghalaya after the hardline organization HNLG issued threats to residents of Punjabi Lane to vacate the area or face violence.

Chief Minister Sangma said that he would meet the delegation and assured that there would not be any discrimination against the community members in Meghalaya.

the occasion, said that the Sikhs were bonafide residents of the area and had necessary documents to prove this.

He said that despite this, some Sikh families had been issued eviction notices. Gurjeet Singh also disclosed that the local authorities were biased towards the claim of the Sikh community and had even filed a new petition under a lower court upheld their claim.

The Meghalaya Chief Minister assured the Sikh delegation that he would get the issue examined thoroughly and assured that there would not be any discrimination against the community members in Meghalaya.

14L children administered polio drops in Haryana

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

About 14 lakh children aged 14 five years of age were administered polio drops in Haryana on Sunday.

The sub national immunization round of Pulse Polio 2019-20 was held in 13 districts of Haryana namely Ambala, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Jhajjar, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Mewat, Palwal, Panipat, Sonapat, Rohtak, Sonapat and Yamunanagar, in which booth activity was undertaken on the first day to maintain the polio free status of the state,” said an official spokesman.

He said that on the first day during the booth activity, approximately 14 lakh, which is about 52 per cent children under 5 years of age, have been administered polio drops. Approximately 26 lakh

children are to be covered during this campaign in the state, he added.

The spokesman said that this campaign will continue for another two days by way of house-to-house activity to trace and administer polio drops to the left out children on booth day.

In order to smoothly carry out this campaign, around 13,000 booths were set up in the state and these were manned by 50,000 health officials, volunteers, Anganwari and ASHA Workers. About 2,100 officers and officials supervised the activity apart from Independent Monitors of NSDP-WHO, he said.

The next sub national immunization day for polio is scheduled to be held on September 15 in 13 districts of the state, he added.

and 18 through house-to-house teams.

During this first round, special attention has been paid to high risk areas like slums, isolated hutments, brick kilns, floating and migrating population in the state and to that no child is left uncovered in these areas. Around 1,240 mobile teams are also working during the activity to cover all children in under-served and poorly approachable areas, he said.

The spokesman said that it is important to know that wherever, pockets of children remain un-immunized, the Poliovirus sustains survival and circulation.

The next sub national immunization day for polio is scheduled to be held on September 15 in 13 districts of the state, he added.

Rain lashes parts of Haryana, Punjab

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Rain lashed parts of Haryana and Punjab on Sunday, providing relief to people from scorching heat.

According to the Met Department, the maximum temperatures at most places in Haryana and Punjab and their capital Chandigarh had hovered in the range of 42-45 degrees Celsius for several days. Chandigarh, which received trace amount of rains, recorded a maximum temperature of 37.2 degrees Celsius, one degree below the normal limits.

Narnaul in Haryana, which had recorded the season’s hottest day at 48.3 degrees Celsius last week, registered a high of 31.2 deg Celsius, eleven notches below the normal, after receiving 12 mm of rain.

Hisar was lashed by heavy rains (37.6 mm) and the max-

imum temperature settled at 33.2 degrees Celsius, eight notches below normal.

Ambala, which received 1.3 mm of rain, recorded a high of 37.2 degrees Celsius, one degree below the normal. Bhiwani and Karnal, too, registered below the normal maximums of 36.1 degrees Celsius and 33.2 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Among the other places in Haryana which received rains were Sira, Fatehabad and Mahendergarh.

In neighboring Punjab, Amritsar received 8.9 mm of rain and the maximum temperature settled at 37.5 degrees Celsius, one degree below the normal. Patiala and Ludhiana received light shower and recorded below normal maximums of 37.6 degrees Celsius and 37.1 degrees Celsius, respectively.

When the 'Queen of Hills' was Resort of Celebrities

JASKIRAN CHOPRA ■ MUSSOORIE

This hill station is witnessing its peak summer tourist season these days. There have been a large number of tourists both in the Doon valley as well as Mussoorie over the past one month. One of the many reasons for Mussoorie's popularity is that this 'Queen of Hills' has been a resort, down the years, for the royalty and very important people. In its history of around 200 years, it has had the privilege of hosting many celebrities.

Dev Anand, his wife Mona, Bina Rai, Premnath, Prem Chopra and a number of other famous people from the film industry visited the resort often they had homes here. Other film personalities too came here to spend a few days in summer. Tourists used to wait for hours on the Mall Road to catch a glimpse of their favourite actors.

begin every year, one can be sure to hear the tales of the hill station from old residents of the hill station who look back nostalgically to the days when esteemed persons like Motilal Nehru walked down The Mall and Camel's Back Road.

The relationship between the Nehru family and Mussoorie began with Motilal Nehru's visits to the hill station, mainly for recuperating from illness. His wife, Svaroop Rani and their daughter Vijay Lakshmi Pandit, all had a great attachment to this hill station and visited it all through their lives. Vijay Lakshmi Pandit stayed in Landour for some time and was a frequent visitor to the famous 'A Prakash & Co.' in Sisters Bazaar. Several generations of the Nehru family have patronised this store which stands unassumingly in a tranquil corner of the popular hill station.

India's first prime minister Jawahar Lal Nehru visited



Mussoorie often and the hill town had a special place in his heart. In 1959, Nehru arrived in Mussoorie to meet the Dalai Lama after he came here from Tibet. Mussoorie became Dalai Lama's first home in India. Memories of his days here are still narrated by the older citizens of the hill town.

But this was not Nehru's first visit to Mussoorie. Nehru recalls in his autobiography, his visit to Mussoorie in October, 1930 where his father was recuperating. On October 13, Kamala and I went off to Mussoorie to spend three days with father. I remember those quiet and delightful three days well; it was good to be back in the family. Indira, my daughter was there and my three little nieces, my sister's daughters. And these three days were the last I was to have with my father before his fatal illness came to snatch him away from me, he writes in his autobiography.

Nehru brought his ailing mother and wife to the famous Hotel Savoy of Mussoorie, along with little Indira. He had not entered active politics till then but an incident in Mussoorie catalysed his entry into the sphere. Staying at the Savoy was an Afghan delegation which was in India for political talks with the British government. Nehru did not know about the Afghans till after he arrived there.

The government, afraid that he might contact them and influence them asked him to sign an undertaking that he would not get in touch with the delegation. Nehru refused to do that. Though he was not interested in meeting the Afghans, he believed that nobody had the right to prevent him from meeting them. He was ordered by the authorities to leave Mussoorie within 24 hours.

Nehru and his wife spent many a summer in Mussoorie. Personal and political matters brought Indira again and

to these hills and she had many good friends here like Sita, the princess of Kapurthala.

Indira was extremely fond of staying at 'Ekant', the guest house of the Haryana government. It was here she lived for some days in 1981. Radha Bhawan and Savoy Hotel were also Indira's favourite places to stay at while in Mussoorie.

Residents of Mussoorie and Doon valley can never thank her enough as it was due to her love for the hill station that she took it up personally to ensure that its barrenness was removed and the limestone quarrying was stopped. Her initiative led the SC to give a judgement against the mining and the region was rejuvenated thereafter.

The Nehru family's love for the hills brought them here often. They found it quite similar to Kashmir.

'Kamla Castle' and 'Craig Top' were two of the other resorts which they stayed at often.

The Pioneer Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Veena Rani W/o Late Gurcharan Lal H.No. 303/10 Chakravarti Mohalla Tahsil Thanesar Distt. Kurukshetra have disown my name Rajwanti and his wife pooja rani and their daughter Ropam all our properties, as they are out of their control. Anybody dealing with rakum, pooja rani and Ropam at their own risk.

I Savitri W/o Gagan Chand Piar No 5 Deshmeh Nagar Jaipur. Marg Sutanpur Ambala City inform that my son Arman is out of my control. So I disown him from my movable, immovable property if anybody deals with him will do so his/her at their own risk.

I E For General Information That I Balinder Singh Gill S/O Chand Singh Residing at P.O. Chuhar Chak Patti Gill Tehsil & Distt. Moga Punjab India Declare That My Minor Son's Name is Writngy Identified As Name-Aminnder Gill In Some Of His Documents. Whereas My Minor Son Name is Aminnder Gill Whch May Be Amended Accordingly. It is Certified That I Have Complied Other Legal Requirements in This Connection.

I Antima Rani D/o Shiv Naresh 188/6 Street 6, New Desant Vihar, Noida, Ludhiana, declare that in some documents my father name is mentioned as Shiv Naresh and in some where mentioned as Shiv Naresh Sharma. Both are one and the same person.

I Surinder Pal Kaur W/o Sh. Jasbir Singh R/O H.No.1049, Bara Street Near Chawls Sweet W/No.15, Sesa, Haryana declare that in my son's Vikram Singh passport my name is wrongly mentioned Surinder Kaur. But my correct name is Surinder Pal Kaur.

I Gurpreet Singh S/O Late Kuldev Singh R/O Near Taralnar Gurdwara Sahib, Street No.1, Sri Muktas Sahib Have Changed My Name From Karanjali To Karanjali Kaur.

I Gurdip Singh S/O Bahal Singh R/O H.No.07 W/No.15 Near Civil Hospital Troma Ward Ferozpur City Have Changed My Name To Gurdip Singh.

I Karamjit Kaur W/O Gurnam Singh R/O Tibbi Kalan Distt Ferozpur Have Changed My Name From Karanjali To Karanjali Kaur.

I Bhinder Singh Alias Bhupinder Singh S/O Niranjan Singh R/O Muktar Road Gunanahar Tehsil Gunanahar Distt Ferozpur declare that my known by both names As Above.

I Paramejit Kaur W/O Sukhshain Singh W/Li. Koli Sangar P/O Bhutti Wala Distt. Sri Muktas Sahib Have Changed My Name To Parmiti Kaur.

I Arundeep Singh S/O Kirpal Singh R/O Village Braich, Distt. Ludhiana, Punjab Have Changed My Name To Arundeep Singh Sirsa.

I Kevaj Singh R/O Dev Singh R/O Sati Gid, Kalan Distt. Ferozpur Have Changed My Minor Son's Name Butta Singh To Butta Singh Bar.

I Kuldinder Kaur W/O Kevaj Singh R/O V.Po. V.Po. Panj Grain Kalan Distt. Ferozpur Have Changed My Name To Kuldinder Kaur Bar.

I Ravneet Kaur Kaler C/O Jassraj Singh R/O Vill. Sheerup Kalan Tehsil Jaigar Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Ravneet Kaur Gill.

I Nabej Singh S/O Nagina Singh Village Sami Majra (Mohali) changed my name Nabej Singh.

I Jagjit Singh S/O Balwinder Singh R/O Vill. Pawala, Bassi Pattana (Fatehgarh Sahib) changed my name Jagjeet Singh.

I Manjot Kaur Nagra W/O Pardeep Singh R/O Vill. Parmanu, Bassi Pattana (Fatehgarh Sahib) changed my name Manjot Kaur.

I Sarbjit Singh R/O S/O Swarn Singh R/O B-26/26 St. Now, Kirti Nagar Hoshward. Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name Anshika To Anshika Koridant.

I 14574209F Hav. Gajendra Singh Unit Hq. 48 Ede CO 56 Apo Decatur That My Son Vivek Kumar Correct Date Of Birth 20/09/2014, Incorrect 20/09/2012.

I Harwinder Singh S/O Naha Singh R/O H.No.7502 Thadewala Road Gali No.1 Sri Muktas Sahib Have Changed My Minor Son's Name Ekambeer Singh To Ekambeer Singh Khurmi.

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Classified Advertisement Contact: 94172-9351

Smriti Van scheme launched in Garhwal

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Tourism department launched its Smriti Van scheme on the sixth anniversary of the 2013 Kedarnath disaster. The scheme was started

on Sunday in seven districts of the Garhwal region. In the Rudrapur district, the Garhwal commissioner BVRC Parushottam and district magistrate Mangesh Ghildiyal planted a sapling.

For this scheme land has been identified in seven districts for plantation of trees. In the first phase of the scheme, all officers of the district and members of the local community contributed fund for the tree plan-



HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES Regd. Office: "Radhika", 2nd Floor, Law Garden Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad-380009. Branch Office: Post No.384, 1st Floor, DVS Tower, West Road - 76-52-3-05

tation. In the next phase, the school groups will also have to deposit Rs.2,000 in the Smriti Van counter to plant a sapling in memory of their ancestors.

The amount charged from pilgrims for the saplings will be given to self help groups. These self help groups will handle tasks ranging from developing

to maintaining the Smriti Vans. The school groups will also have to click weekly photographs of the planted saplings and upload these on the Smriti Van mobile phone application.

The land selected for Smriti Van includes one hectare land at Batula near Rishikesh-Badrinath national highway in Chamoli district, two hectare

land at Lalpur along Rishikesh-Hardwar bypass in Dehradun district, two hectare land at Daksh Deep Ganga Vatika in Haridwar district, 1.5 hectare at Dwari horticulture farm near Bhatwari Chowk in Uttarakshi district and at Batula along the route from Rudrapur to Badrinath in Rudrapur district.

Range of developments 6 years after Kedarnath disaster

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

As the sixth anniversary of the 2013 Kedarnath disaster was marked on Sunday, observers point out that though considerable developments and some improvements have taken place in Kedarnath, the authorities appear to be missing some key lessons from the disaster which caused the deaths of thousands.

With active involvement and support of the Central Government, the State Government has undertaken various works under the Kedarnath reconstruction project.

Apart from improving the bridge path to Kedarnath, a ghat has been constructed along Mandakini river while the courtyard of the shrines has been expanded and a wider and better approach path to the shrine has been constructed. Buildings have been constructed for the Teerth Purohats and cottages were also constructed for visitors. Medical services have also been facilitated at Kedarnath. Further, helicopter services are also being provided to the shrine.

The State authorities have further plans for Kedarnath including the construction of a virtual reality theme park and museum to encourage dark tourism based on the 2013 disaster. Apart from this all-weather road project to all the Char Dham shrines is also expected to improve road connectivity for the pilgrims to Kedarnath. Meanwhile, this shrine has seen a major rise in the number of pilgrims visiting it this year. While about 7.3 lakh people had visited Kedarnath last year, this year in little over a month since the reopening of the shrine, more than six lakh people have already visited the shrine.

The photometric registration started at Rishikesh is not a reliable way to ascertain the total number of pilgrims since many are reaching by helicopter and private vehicles without photometric registration.

An average of 20,000 people are visiting Kedarnath every day. This has been welcomed by those earning from pilgrimaging and tourism. However, observers point out that the State government appears to have forgotten the various threats posed by unregulated pilgrimaging and tourism.

The photometric registration started at Rishikesh is not a reliable way to ascertain the total number of pilgrims since many are reaching by helicopter and private vehicles without photometric registration. Many including the Shankaracharya of Dwarka and Jyotir Peeths, Swaroopnand Saraswati have cautioned against pilgrimaging centres being converted to tourist destinations. This was evidenced in the public outrage expressed on the social media after a clip of some people doing the bhanga in the courtyard of the shrine to drum beats was widely shared recently.

As the government continues to work on what is also stated to be the prime minister's dream project, there is rising opinion on the need to regulate the pilgrimaging in a better manner while also preserving the native culture of the state.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE, YAMUNA NAGAR EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

No. 3349 Dated 12/06/2019 Applications on plain paper are invited to fill up Ten (10) posts of Peon on regular basis from eligible candidates, in the pay band of Rs. 444-7440-1300 G. Pay (Pay matrix P.F.F. - D1) by way of direct recruitment, so as to reach in the office of undersigned on or before 05.07.2019 upto 5.00 pm in the following manners:

Table with columns: Name of the post, Total number of Vacancies, Gen, SC/ST of Haryana, BC of Haryana, PHC of Haryana, ESM, Gen, SC, BC-A, BC-B, BC-C.

No application shall be entertained after stipulated time by any means. The number of posts may increase or decrease on account of creation or withdrawal of Courts.

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATION: Appointment to the post of Peon shall be made from the candidates who have passed middle standard and possess knowledge of Hindi or Punjabi.

AGE LIMIT: The minimum age limit of candidate for appointment to the posts of Peon shall be 18 years and the upper age limit shall be 42 years as on 01.01.2019 in accordance with the latest instructions of Haryana Government in this regard and age relaxation to reserved category candidates shall be in accordance with the instructions issued by the Government of Haryana.

DATE AND TIME OF INTERVIEW: Interview for the posts of Peon shall be conducted in the following alphabetical order:-

Table with columns: Sr. No., Alphabetical Order, Date of Interview.

Candidates are directed to report on the concerned dates at 10:00 a.m. in Judicial Court Complex, Yamuna Nagar and the interview shall begin at 1:30 p.m.

A.W.H. Co-Op & Maint. Society Ltd. (Pradip Vihar), Sector 47-C, CHD

Subject: House No. 2527/CF, Sector 47-C, Pradip Vihar, Chandigarh.

General Public is hereby informed that the above said Flat of this Society stands in the name of Devendra Kataria S/O S.B. Kataria.

Now Sh. Jagjit Singh Oberoi S/O Gurdip Singh R/O H.No. 2527/CF, Sector 47-C, Chandigarh has applied for the transfer of his name from GPA to sole leasee deed. Accordingly having any objection you may contact the undersigned within 30 days of publication of this notice otherwise Society will issue 100% lease of the flat in the name of Sh. Jagjit Singh Oberoi.

General Secretary

काशीप्रसाद स्वामीय कलेक्टर

Public Notice CERTIFIED TRUE COPY OF THE RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE 3rd MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF M/S SINGLA BUILDERS & PROMOTERS LIMITED HELD ON 14th JUNE 2019 AT THE CORPORATE OFFICE OF THE COMPANY SITUATED AT SCO 1465, 147-148, SECTOR-43-B, CHANDIGARH AT 10:30 AM.

RESOLVED THAT Singla Builders and Promoters Private Limited which are originally incorporated on 21st day of September 1956, as a thousand eight under the companies act 1956, as Singla Builders and Promoters Private Limited having duly passed the necessary resolution on 05-08-2019 in terms of section 31/21 read with section 14 of the companies act, the name of the said company is this day changed to Singla Builders & Promoters Limited and the Singla Builders & Promoters Limited will continue to have all the property rights and privileges that it had before the continuation.

FOR M/S SINGLA BUILDERS & PROMOTERS LTD

Congress yet to decide on leader in Lok Sabha

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress is yet to take a decision on who it will appoint as its leader in the Lok Sabha with the issue still pending with the top leadership. With the Budget Session scheduled to start from Monday, the Opposition also seems to be in a disarray as far as floor coordination is concerned with no meeting held to discuss the strategy to corner the Government on key issues.

A Congress leader said most Opposition parties are yet to decide upon their leader in the Lok Sabha and once those processes are completed a meeting can be held. The Congress itself has not taken a decision on who it will appoint as its leader in the Lok Sabha.

While the party is yet to resolve the crisis arisen due to resignation by Rahul Gandhi as Congress President, he has reportedly gone abroad and is



not planning to return till June 19 when the swearing in of the new MPs takes and also the meeting convened by Centre for the all heads of the political parties.

In between Rahul has also left behind sordid state of affairs in the State units of the party where factionalism is growing day by day. While talks of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as interim President is gaining grounds after AK Antony declined, party spokesperson Randeep Surjewala last week insisted that

Rahul will continue as president. A section of leaders led by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath also deliberated over dinner hosted by Nath in National Capital which, according to sources has not gone well with the Congress first family and their advisor Ahmed Patel who were not taken into confidence.

In the 16th Lok Sabha, senior party leader Mallikarjun Kharge led the Congress in the House, but he lost the Lok Sabha polls from Karnataka this time.

BJP will be at forefront of pro-people governance: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Sunday held its Parliamentary party meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi assuring Indians that his Government will be at the forefront of facilitating legislation that manifests the spirit of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas'. A day before the first session of the newly-constituted 17th Lok Sabha, a meeting of the NDA was also held in the national Capital.

'BJP is grateful for people's blessings. We assure our fellow Indians that we will be at the forefront of pro-people governance and facilitating legislation that manifests the spirit of 'sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas', Modi tweeted after the meeting.

After securing a massive mandate in the general elections, the prime minister had said in a speech, 'Our mantra should be sabka saath, sabka vikas and sabka vishwas' (with all, for everybody's development and having everyone's trust). After the meeting on Sunday, Modi said, 'NDA family' looks forward to fulfilling the dreams of 130 crore Indians, who have reposed 'unparalleled faith' in the alliance. 'We shall fulfil regional aspirations and work untiringly for national progress', Modi said and posted pictures of both the meetings.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister and BJP president Amit Shah and other leaders leave after an NDA meeting at Parliament library in New Delhi on Sunday

PTI

EYE TO 2022 ASSEMBLY POLLS

Priyanka will increase UP tours, meet Cong workers twice a week

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With eyes on 2022 Assembly elections, Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi is all set to take tours of Uttar Pradesh at very short intervals and has decided to interact party workers twice a week to boost their morale.

Priyanka, who was appointed as the party general secretary just ahead of the Lok Sabha polls to reap benefits for the grand old party, had campaigned vigorously for Congress candidates in Uttar Pradesh particularly in eastern UP.

AICC sources said that Priyanka is ready to hit the ground in the state following the Congress's debacle in the recent Lok Sabha election in order to strengthen the party organisation in time for the

2022 Assembly polls. 'In a bid to ensure a direct communication with the party workers, she will meet them twice a week without prior appointments', sources said.

'It emerged from the review meetings held after the Lok Sabha polls that there should be a greater coordination and communication between the leaders and the workers. For this, it has been decided that Priyanka Gandhi will meet the party workers at least twice a week,' said a Congress leader.

The plan to step up her Uttar Pradesh tours and establish a direct communication with the party workers comes days after Priyanka Gandhi, during a visit to Rae Bareilly, told the workers that they had let down the grand old party in the Lok Sabha polls. Accompanied by her mother

and United Progressive Alliance (UPA) chairperson Sonia Gandhi, who visited her parliamentary constituency last Wednesday, Priyanka Gandhi pulled up the party workers for failing to work for the Congress during the polls.

'I will find out the names of the workers who did not work for the party in the election,' she had said, adding that those who had toiled honestly and sincerely for the party knew that from the core of their hearts. 'But those who did not, I will find out their names,' she had said.

But of the 80 Lok Sabha seats in the state, the Congress could manage to win only Rae Bareilly. Even party president Rahul Gandhi lost to Union minister Smriti Irani from his family stronghold of Amethi.

Separatist leaders received funds from abroad: NIA

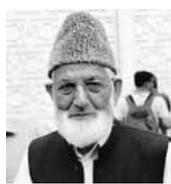
Utilised them for personal gains

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA has alleged that its probe into terror financing from Pakistan in Jammu & Kashmir has revealed that hard-line separatist leaders, including Hurriyat chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani, received funds from abroad and utilised them for personal gains. From amassing properties to paying for foreign education of their kin.

The revelations came to the fore after the agency interrogated several top leaders of Hurriyat Conference and other separatist outfits and claimed that they had confessed to receiving funds from Pakistan to fuel separatist sentiments among the people of Kashmir Valley.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) said the firebrand leader of Dukhtar-e-Milat, Asiya Andrabi, was grilled



by it about the educational expenses of her son in Malaysia incurred by Zahoor Watali, who was arrested in a terror funding case, said in a statement issued here on Sunday.

'During interrogation, Andrabi admitted that she had been collecting funds and donations from foreign sources and Dukhtar-e-Milat had been organising protests by Muslim women in the valley,' the agency said.

The NIA has already approached the relevant authorities for providing evidence relating to certain persons pushed by Andrabi's son

Mohammad bin Qasim while he was studying in the Malaysian university, it said. Another hardline separatist leader, Shabbir Shah, had to face some tough time when he was confronted about his businesses, including a hotel in Pahalgam which is allegedly funded through foreign funds received by him from Pakistan, the statement said.

'During the custodial interrogation, Shabbir Shah was confronted with evidence relating to transfer of money by Pakistan-based agents and representatives of APHC (All Parties Hurriyat Conference) factions to parties affiliated to Hurriyat in J&K. He was also confronted about his investments in various hotels and businesses in Pahalgam, promotion of Jamnangri and Anantnag,' the NIA said.

The NIA had registered a case in May, 2017 against terrorists belonging to Jamat ud Dawah, Dukhtar-e-Milat, Lashkar-e-Tayyaba, Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and other separatist leaders in the state for rais-

ing, receiving and collecting funds to fuel separatist and terrorist activities, and entering into a larger conspiracy for causing disruption in Kashmir Valley and for waging war against India.

The NIA has so far charge-sheeted 13 accused, including leader of Jamat-ud Dawah Hafiz Mohammad Sayeed, head of proscribed terror outfit Hizb-ul-Mujahideen Syed Salahuddin, seven separatist leaders, two hawala conduits and some stone-pelters.

Watali is one of the main hawala conduits who used to generate and receive funds from Pakistan, ISI, UAE and had floated various shell companies to disguise foreign remittances for further transfer to separatist outfits and stone-pelters in the valley, it said.

The agency said these funds were used to fuel unrest in the Kashmir valley and organise violent agitations and anti-India activities which resulted in large scale violence leading to numerous injuries and deaths of civil-

ians and security forces.

Evidence relating to funding of these separatist elements through Pakistan and UAE-based businessmen, ISI, High Commission of Pakistan in Delhi has been collected and presented to the NIA Special Court in the charge sheets, it said.

The agency has arrested Yasin Malik, leader of proscribed terror outfit JKLF; Asiya Andrabi leader of proscribed organisation Dukhtar-e-Milat, separatist leader Shabbir Shah of JKDFP and Masarat Alam of Muslim League.

Malik told the agency that he was instrumental in bringing together the factions of Hurriyat Conference and formed the Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL) which spear headed the violent agitations in 2016 in Kashmir Valley by issuing 'Protest Calendars' leading to economic shut down for over four months and also caused death and injuries to civilians and security forces during the violent protests.

India, Myanmar conduct joint op to target militant camps in N-E

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The armies of India and Myanmar carried out a three-week-long coordinated 'Operation Sunrise 2' from May 16 in their respective border areas, targeting a number of insurgent groups operating in Manipur, Nagaland and Assam.

'During 'Operation Sunrise 2', the two armies coordinated with each other to destroy the camps of militant outfits, including the Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO), the NSCN (Khaplang), the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) and the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), sources said.

At least six dozen militants belonging to these groups were nabbed and several of their camps destroyed during the operation, the sources said, adding that the two sides might launch the third phase of the operation, depending on intelligence inputs and the ground situation.



Besides the Indian Army, troops from the Assam Rifles were also part of the operation.

In June 2015, the Indian Army had carried out an operation against NSCN(K) militants in areas near the Indo-Myanmar border, days after militants killed 18 armymen in Manipur. The first phase of

'Operation Sunrise' was conducted in 2017 along the Indo-Myanmar border, during which a number of camps of North-East-based militant groups were busted.

In the first phase of 'Operation Sunrise', the Indian Army targeted members of the Arakan Army, an insurgent group in Myanmar, who were

opposed to the Kalam multi-modal transit transport project. The Kalam multi-modal transit transport project is viewed as India's gateway to Southeast Asia.

In other words, at least 10 per cent of the total 150,000 W&H centres (also called as the Primary Health Centres) in the country will exclusively focus on providing integrated holistic medicare. The Ministry plans to roll out 4,000 centres this year.

In this regard, Union AYUSH Minister Shripad Naik last week said, 'All Primary Health Centres or W&H Centres in the country will

project will help connect the north-eastern state of Mizoram with the Sittoung Port in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

On the Indian side, work is on under the Aizawl-Saizang National Highway by 90 km to the international border at Zorinpu.

According to security agencies, there were over 50 camps of insurgent groups in Myanmar in the north-east of Myanmar till last year. Many of the insurgents of Northeast often flee to Myanmar after attacking the security forces and a coordinated actions by the two forces will help in containing their menace, sources said.

Myanmar is one of the strategic neighbours of India and shares a 1,640-km border with a number of north-eastern states, including the militancy-hit Nagaland and Manipur.

India entered into a framework agreement with Myanmar in April, 2008 to facilitate the implementation of the project. On completion, the

Vardhan writes to V-P for early consideration of Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has written to Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu to expedite the reconstitution of a parliamentary panel for early consideration of a bill aimed at regulating and standardising the education and services provided by allied and healthcare professionals. The Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill, 2018, was introduced in the Upper House on December 31, 2018, by former health minister P. Venkatesh. It was then referred to the parliamentary standing committee on health and family welfare for its recommendation.

It is estimated that the proposed legislation will directly benefit around 8.9 lakh existing allied and healthcare professionals in the country and several other graduating professionals joining the workforce annually.

'Health Minister Harsh Vardhan has written to Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu to expedite the reconstitution of the parliamentary standing committee on health and family welfare for early consideration of the Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill,' official sources said.

The bill provides for setting up of Allied and Healthcare Council of India and corresponding state allied and healthcare councils, which will play the role of a standard-setter and facilitator for such professions.

As per the bill, there will be 15 major professional categories, including 53 professions in allied and healthcare streams. The offences and penalties clauses have been included in the bill to check malpractices.

The bill also provides for structure, constitution, composition and functions of the central council and state coun-

cils like framing policies and standards, regulation of professional conduct, creation and maintenance of live registers, provisions for common entry and exit examinations among others.

The central council will comprise 47 members, of whom 14 members shall be ex-officio representing diverse and existing roles and functions, and remaining 33 shall be non-ex-officio members who mainly represent the 15 professional categories, an advisory statement had said.

Professional official bodies under the central and state councils will examine issues independently and provide recommendations relating to specific recognised categories. Besides, the bill will also have an overriding effect on any other existing law for any of the covered professions. The bill also empowers the central and state governments to make rules in this regard.

400 new flats to be built for MPs in Lutyens' Delhi using construction waste

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has decided to demolish 400 old flats and construct new ones in their place in Lutyens' Delhi for Members of Parliament using construction waste. The flats which will be coming up in North Avenue and South Avenue, located on either sides of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, will replace the old ones built nearly 60 years ago, officials of the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) said.

'All old MP flats, which were built in North and South Avenues after Independence, will be demolished,' CPWD's Director General Prabhakar Singh told PTI. 'We will use construction & demolition (C&D) waste in building the new flats for MPs in North and South Avenues, an area which has many old flats,' he added.

The wastes from the demolition site of the old flats are likely to be used for the construction of the new ones

after being processed at a facility.

CPWD, the prime construction agency of the central government, recently constructed 36 duplex flats, at a cost of ₹80 crore, which are ready to be allotted for the newly-elected parliamentarians. 'The new MP flats will be constructed in a phased manner in North Avenue and South Avenue so that there is no chaos after demolition of the old ones,' he said.

The swanky low-rise buildings will have solar power panels and designated car parking spots, among a host of other facilities, the official said. The new Lok Sabha has around 300 first-time members and Government has made temporary arrangements to accommodate 350 MPs till the time they are allotted full-time official residences.

In the past, newly-elected MPs used to stay in five-star hotels, but the practice has been dropped following the Lok Sabha Secretariat's cost-cutting measures.

Govt mulls providing Integrated medicare at W&H Centres

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Encouraged by the positive results, delivered by its recently concluded three-year-long study where-in around 2,50,000 patients ailing with lifestyle diseases such as diabetes were treated with integrated medicare, the Government is mulling to provide similar services at around 12,000-15,000 Wellness and Health (W&H) Centres which will be exclusive AYUSH centres.

In other words, at least 10 per cent of the total 150,000 W&H centres (also called as the Primary Health Centres) in the country will exclusively focus on providing integrated holistic medicare. The Ministry plans to roll out 4,000 centres this year.

In this regard, Union AYUSH Minister Shripad Naik last week said, 'All Primary Health Centres or W&H Centres in the country will

now have AYUSH doctors besides allopathy practitioners. The people would be introduced to alternative medicine through such measures.'

At the AYUSH centres, scientifically developed ayurvedic medicines, dietary regimen and yoga classes will be offered to patients suffering with the non-communicable diseases which are increasing at a disturbing rate. In fact, India has already become diabetic capital of the world and Ayush centres aims to focus on preventive health strategies including yoga, providing cost-effective herbal drugs and diet modifications to cut down the NCDs.

A senior Ayush Ministry official talked about the anti-diabetic herbal drugs like BGR-34 which has been jointly developed after standardisation and pre-clinical studies by the two labs --Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) and National Botanical

Research Institute (NBRI).

A few years ago, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Naik had said BGR-34 is meant to be used by patients of newly diagnosed diabetes only as a measure of management of the disease. The herbal composition, BGR-34 is being sold by the AIIMIL Pharmaceuticals from Delhi. BGR-34 is a natural DPP-4 (dipeptidyl peptidase 4) inhibitor with no side effects, added Sachit Sharma from AIIMIL. He explained that DPP-4 inhibitors are a class of drugs used to lower blood sugar in adults with Type-2 diabetes.

In three-year-long study, the Ministry introduced yoga, diet modification and added some simple medicine, and followed the patients for as many duration. In these period, we found that their quality of life had improved and doctors reduced the dosage. The patients had fewer complications, said an official.

Inspector succumbs to Anantnag terror attack injuries at AIIMS

PNS ■ JAMMU

Inspector Arshad Khan, Station House Officer of Sarda Police station, Anantnag, succumbed to his injuries in a terror attack on KP road on July 12. He was airlifted in an air ambulance to All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on Sunday.

The brave officer of the State Police had received grievous injuries in the terrorist attack on KP road on July 12.

He along with his security personnel had immediately rushed towards KP road area after learning about the terror strike on CRPF post near Oxford school.

Paying rich tributes to their colleague, official twitter handle of Anantnag district police posted a tweet, 'Our brave



heart inspector Arshad Khan who got injured as SHO Anantnag couldn't make it. May the departed soul rest in peace.

Officers of Kashmir Zone Police also wrote, 'We pay our rich tributes to Inspector Arshad Khan who attained martyrdom today after sustaining injuries in a terror attack in Anantnag. Our thoughts & prayers are with his family & we stand by each other at this critical juncture.'

PAPER WITH PASSION

Hot waters

Events in the Straits of Hormuz are not good, not just for the players involved but also for the rest of the world



Pictures of an oil tanker ablaze in the Persian Gulf must have sent shockwaves at every foreign ministry across the world. From the crisis in the mid-1980s, when Saddam Hussein went to war with post-revolutionary Iran, all the way up to the end of the first Gulf war in the early 1990s, this narrow stretch of water, just 21 km wide at its narrowest point, has been the spark plug of conflict across the region. Under the water sits trillions of gallons of oil and gas which have powered the global economy for almost a hundred years now. It is also a region laden with strife, from internecine conflict between the two paths of Islam, Shia and Sunni, to conflicting egos of heads of States, once of the dictator Saddam Hussein and now that of a whole new cadre of Arab autocrats. Into this picture has entered the United States (US), not to stop the crises in Yemen or Syria but seemingly angling for a whole new fight with Iran. This has been evident in the way US President Donald Trump called off the deal that his predecessor Barack Obama had orchestrated. Iran, too, is not humoring Trump, rejecting American overtures that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe recently attempted.

But several things have changed since the last time images of burning oil tankers filled newsprint. There has been the transformation of several Arab cities into modern global metropolises, the economies have changed and oil itself seems to be less in demand thanks to progress in new green energy sources. In fact, it is the potential economic damage that a war in the region would cause, rather than any disruption in oil supplies, that is the biggest risk. Take aviation for example. Airlines such as Emirates of Dubai have become some of the largest and most critical inter-continental carriers in the world. In 1988, an American warship, the *USS Vincennes*, shot down an Iranian passenger jet on its way into Dubai killing 290 men, women and children. A war in the Persian Gulf right now could paralyse air travel out of the world's biggest air hubs and from an Indian perspective, with Pakistani airspace still closed, this could potentially paralyse air travel between Asia and Europe. Millions of Indians have made their lives across this region, manifold from the start of the 1991 Gulf War. Evacuating them will be a mammoth task. This, of course, ignores the human cost — thousands of soldiers and civilians might die in any potential war. The US and Iran must be pushed back from the precipice though Donald Trump and his advisors seemingly want war and some in the Iranian establishment want to give the Americans a bloody nose. The rest of the world, particularly countries like India, which are friendly with both sides, should do their utmost to prevent any chance of a conflict. Thankfully, things appear that they can still be managed if some egos are massaged. In the end, both US and Iran are muscling-flexing to renegotiate terms for modifying the old nuclear deal. However, at the same time it is imperative that India's diplomats and government start preparing for the worst and draw up emergency evacuation plans as well as bolster oil supplies. Nobody wants a war and chances of a conflict in the near-term seem remote but it would be prudent to be prepared for one any which way.

Weight of expectation

Everybody is looking forward to the Budget as the 17th Lok Sabha convenes. The Opposition seems to be in a disarray



As the 17th Lok Sabha has its inaugural session today, it is expected to lay the policy map of the Narendra Modi government with the Union Budget expected to set the tenor of proceedings. This will be the maiden Budget for new Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who has a tough call to make at a time when the economy is sputtering, banks are tight-fisted about lending and there is no room left to be adventurist about reforms. Particularly when GDP growth is slow, no matter what the battle about percentages, and joblessness is a monstrous decelerator. Then there is the expectation of well-farism and populism from a new Government, which has returned on a mammoth verdict and needs to honour the promise of development. There will be challenges of boosting investment while giving tax breaks. And the rosy doles of the vote-on-account this January will be assumed to continue as the Prime Minister has committed to empowering the poor economically with quotas and pivoted all his discourse around improving the lot of the underprivileged. Standing on a cliff, Sitharaman's Budget will have to be actionable, not one of intent.

Politically speaking, the Lok Sabha will be a one-sided match with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) having the vote of 303 MPs, a humongous chunk where the Opposition bloc hardly has a chance. The Congress can claim to be a very distant second with 52 but it is yet to work out a coherent House strategy. It is still confused about its floor leader what with Rahul Gandhi not quite ready to be assertive about his political role within the party, leave aside being its face. Much has loosened in the *mahagathabandhan* space, its frontline leaders still smarting under their pathetic electoral performance. And since the alliance of convenience didn't quite work on the ground, each has drifted away, the quickest being the collapse of the Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party (SP-BSP) deal. In fact, they stand sharply divided as ever. Still, in the interest of parliamentary debate, democratic spirit and institutional decorum, the Opposition needs to present a strategic counterweight and frankly, the Congress has to take the lead in coalescing a response during discussion on crucial Bills that are expected to be tabled. The Triple Talaq Bill is the ruling NDA's priority. In its first tenure, it had failed to get the Bill cleared in the Rajya Sabha as the Opposition opposed the criminality clause. Even after removing that criterion, the government could not table the Bill, owing to continuous disruptions. So the NDA's floor managers have a tough task in a hostile Rajya Sabha. However, it is hoping that with friendly State governments and its own hopes of an improved tally in some State elections, it should be able to exert some weight in the Upper House by 2020. Which is why it may introduce certain Bills for the record and debate it across sessions. Two Medical Bills, the Indian Medical Council (Amendment Bill), 2019 and the Homeopathy Central Council (Amendment Bill), 2019, will be reintroduced, too. Given the doctors' stir, both are aimed at bringing in accountability, transparency and quality in the governance of medical education in the country. However, all eyes will be on discipline and disruptions in Parliament, which not only stall necessary business but also tarnish the image of this esteemed institution. Important legislations are held up. Besides, adjournments eat into the valuable Question Hour. According to figures, the 16th Lok Sabha recorded really low working hours. It met for 1,615 hours, 40 per cent lower than all full-term Parliaments. One hopes the 17th Lok Sabha will at least mean business.

... (Continuation of the article text, partially obscured by the image and layout)

Uphold Press freedom

A free media has played a seminal role in strengthening governance in Afghanistan. The international community must help the nation build on its democratic gains



M ASHRAF HAIDARI

Afghanistan has experimented with different forms of Government since its emergence as a modern nation-state. From absolute and authoritarian monarchies to the first republic and communist/Marxist regimes, never has Afghanistan experienced as much democratic rule as over the past 18 years since the fall of the Taliban. Even though democracy has gradually evolved with most of the Afghan State institutions still developing to deliver on the promise of democracy in a system of checks and balances, the process of institutionalisation of democracy continues unhindered with the strong support of the Afghan people and commitment of the country's leadership, including President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah.

Free press, which is one of the key features of any rising and functioning democracy, has played a seminal role in strengthening democratic governance and rule of law in Afghanistan. More notably, free media has directly contributed to the rapid development of a still-growing civil society and as its essential member, has empowered vulnerable groups of women, youth and the poor — a clear majority in Afghanistan — to increasingly exercise their rights under the country's progressive Constitution.

In other words, where women and youth are often relegated to the bottom of society, given traditional practices of gender inequality and other cultural double standards, the free Press — through the media of TV, radio, and print — has awakened them to show how they can play their rightful, equal role in helping to stabilise, rebuild and develop Afghanistan on a sustainable basis. Moreover, the Afghan media has had the opportunity to tap into the social media platforms — Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others — to serve its role as a check on the Government, helping expand transparency and highlighting efforts or lack of them to fight corruption.

Since the judicial institutions of Afghanistan, including law enforcement agencies, lack adequate investigative capacity and are still developing, the free Press has filled some of the gaps, investigating and reporting on major crimes and cases of corruption. This interim contribution from the Press has helped the Government take punitive measures against the perpetrators, who could possibly escape justice.

Even when the exposure by the Press about corruption and crimes has delivered gradual results, the public has at least been informed of the principal criminals and those engaged in corruption — undermining the rule of law. This naming and shaming by media has helped expose the corrupt, who would otherwise evade public knowledge and eventually justice. This critical role of media as a check has extended to the Afghan Parliament and the functioning of this key legislative institution. Media reporting from par-



liamentary sessions and meetings has informed the public of the laws proposed or adopted for implementation and enforcement, as well as follow-up reports whether the passed laws have actually been applied and made a difference in the lives of Afghan citizens.

Moreover, the Afghan media has helped shape and direct electoral processes, reforms and campaigns, including presidential, parliamentary, provincial and now district elections across the country. As relevant State institutions remain weak, the media has informed the public of its electoral rights, how to exercise them, as well as explained the logistical and security preparations in place for conducting elections at the national, provincial and local levels. Ensuring transparency and fairness in all electoral processes has been one of the key achievements of the media as a contribution to institutionalisation of democracy in Afghanistan.

Despite its constructive role in ongoing gains over the past 18 years, however, war and violence have limited the reach of the media to do more to help strengthen democracy in Afghanistan. Since 2001, over 60 Afghan journalists have been killed and many wounded, according to Reporters Without Borders, which recently record-

“AFGHANISTAN HAS THE FREEST MEDIA AMONG ALL COUNTRIES OF SOUTH ASIA AND CENTRAL ASIA. THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THERE WERE ONLY ONE RADIO AND ONE NEWSPAPER SOLELY FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES OF PRE-2001 REGIMES. TODAY AFGHANISTAN BOASTS OVER 1,000 PRINT AND BROADCAST MEDIA OUTLETS

ed that 2018 in Afghanistan was the deadliest year when "a total of 15 journalists and media workers were killed in a series of bombings that began early in the year, nine of them in a single day." Even though the Afghan Journalists Safety Committee (AJSC) — which is led by a dedicated journalist and advocate for free press, Najib Sharifi — has conducted many safety training workshops for journalists across the country, they remain vulnerable to complex terrorist attacks, as well as to threats and intimidation by criminals, whose wrong-doings journalists often investigate to uncover and report.

In spite of these challenges, which have intensified since the end of 2014, when most of international forces withdrew from Afghanistan, the 2019 World Press Freedom Index ranked Afghanistan 121 out of 180 countries. In this light, Afghanistan has the freest media among all countries of South Asia and Central Asia. There was a time when there were only one radio and a newspaper solely for propaganda purposes of pre-2001 regimes. Today Afghanistan boasts over 1,000 print and broadcast media outlets. And this unprecedented progress is continuing unabated, despite ongoing terrorist threats and targeted attacks on Afghan journalists.

Moreover, in 2018,

Afghanistan was ranked at the top on the Global Right to Information Rating with an impressive score of 139 points out of a possible 150, or 93 per cent. Indeed, this is a shared achievement of the Afghan Government and its international partners, who remain firmly committed to ensuring and protecting the freedoms of the Press and expression in Afghanistan.

All told, however, like the rest of Afghanistan's state-building enterprise, media development and the contributions it has made to institutionalisation of democracy remain a work-in-progress. In the years to come, the international community — especially the United States, Europe, India, and other major democracies — has a clear opportunity to help Afghanistan further build on its hard-earned democratic gains of the past 18 years. This should underpin the current peace efforts, in support of the Afghan Government, whose key pre-condition for negotiating a sustainable political settlement is the preservation of the Afghan Constitution and its core provisions for institution-alisation and protection of human rights, including the freedoms of expression and Press.

(The writer is the Ambassador of Afghanistan to Sri Lanka and a Senior International Security Fellow at the New America in Washington, DC)

SOUNDBITE

I worry that if you regulate for the sake of regulating it (data), it has a lot of unintended consequences.

Google CEO —Sundar Pichai



I'm very secure as an actor, but not as a star. I don't know where will I be sent back to if a couple of my films fail at the box office.

Actor —Taapsee Pannu



Terrorism is the gravest threat we face in Asia. CICA members are its victims and so it should be clear that terrorists and their victims must never be equated.

External Affairs Minister —S Jaishankar



We have requested him (Governor) to wake up the Yogi Adityanath government and give direction to control the prevailing 'jungle-raj'.

Samajwadi Party chief —Akhllesh Yadav



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Message delivered well

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Pak back to old games" (June 16). There's no denying the fact that there is huge international pressure on Pakistan to act against terrorist camps and organisations based on its soil. Islamabad knows it well, too, that economic assistance from organisations like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank will come only when it mends its ways in taking action against such terror organisations.

Having said that, Pakistan being Pakistan, which is known for its notorious activities and hostility, cannot change its true colour overnight. After all, whether it is the Jaish-e-Mohammed or Al-Umar Mujahideen — they are all nurtured by the Pakistani Army.

At the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi sent a strong signal by calling upon member countries to promote cooperation in combating the menace.

Bal Govind Noida

Doctors and patients must communicate better

His refers to editorial, "Needed, a healing touch" (June 15). Doctors are no Gods. On the same lines, not all doctors are benevolent. As in every profession, there are black sheep in the doctors' community, too. Similar to professions being termed 'noble', the medical world has certainly ceased to be a virtuous one. Money-mindedness, selfishness and rudeness have become an unfortunate part of the field. However, if there is one section of professionals, who people trust to a large extent, it is the doctors. No doctor will treat to kill; mistakes are naturally ingrained in the day-to-day aspects of his work. But without negligence and arbitrariness, mistakes pale because to a large extent, people tend to forgive the functioning of doctors on their intent than the final outcome. Danger lies in the fact that the sanguine layers of society may be swayed by emotions and may follow in the footsteps of the unscrupulous. The problem intriguingly stems from the advancements made in medicine. Today's medicine is no longer the primitive one where major illnesses were left undiagnosed much to the patient's detriment.

Doctors need time while the patient's kin are impatient. They want instant results leading to heartburn. Sadly, there is no correct communication channel between the doctors and the patients' relatives. What can be conveyed



in two sentences is often missed due to the busy schedule of doctors, lack of understanding of visibly perturbed relatives and the tendency of senior doctors to burden their juniors with all the work in the world. Overworked doctors may tick off the patients' attendants. Governments have taken the doctors for granted because authorities believe that the white collared community is incapable of striking work for a long time. Despite repeated demands for impenetrable security at the work place, the inability of successive Governments to put in place a foolproof mechanism at hospitals is mysterious.

Ganapathi Bhat Akola

The latest attack on a CRPF patrol party on route to the Amarnath cave is the latest example. While Al-Umar Mujahideen, a defunct terrorist group, claimed responsibility, it is being suspected that it was a handwork of Jaish-e-Mohammad. The Imran Khan Government has been reiterating that global terrorist outfits have been banned and their bank accounts have been frozen but such assurances are nothing but lies. As long as the Army with help from terrorists wants to bleed India, Khan calling India for peace talks has no relevance.

KR Srinivasan Secunderabad

Emerge stronger

Sir — Congress chief Rahul Gandhi has shown some courage by owning up to the party's debacle. But leaders do not have the gumption to accept his resignation. The Congress must prove to be a party of substance than one of sycophants.

Shubham Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstospioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Drugs taint Brexit successors

Legalisation of 'hard' drugs is not going to happen in this generation because there is still too much political mileage to be gained by 'fighting' them



GWYNNE DYER

A drug bust can ruin your whole day, so it's best to have a get-out-of-jail-free card ready. In the US, being White usually make the police take a charitable view but in the UK, the best strategy is to say that you are planning to go into politics. (Although being White helps there, too.) These observations are prompted by a recent scandal in the UK, whereby seven of the 10 candidates for the leadership of the Conservative Party had been ousted as former users of illegal drugs. This includes all three leading candidates for the job — Boris Johnson, Michael Gove and Jeremy Hunt — one of whom will, therefore, almost certainly become Prime Minister next month.

The revelations were prompted by a just-published biography of Michael Gove, currently Environment Secretary, which revealed that he had used cocaine repeatedly 20 years ago, when he was still a journalist. Indeed, on at least one occasion in 1999, he hosted a party at his Mayfair apartment in London where the guests were openly using cocaine. Now he says that "it was a mistake. Now I look back and think 'I wish I hadn't done that.'" Although mentioning it quite recently in his media coaching in what he thought was a private training session was his real mistake.

But he deserves to suffer. On the day after that party in 1999, Gove wrote a column in *The Times* in which he condemned "middle-class professionals" and "London's liberal consensus" for treating recreational drug use as a harmless peccadillo. In the trade, that's known as working both sides of the street. So Gove wins the Hypocrisy Cup, but it was a highly competitive event. Boris Johnson, tipped to win the Brexit succession struggle after Theresa May's resignation, hasn't said anything about drugs recently, but journalists swiftly dug up a 2005 television appearance in which he said quite a lot.

"I think I was once given cocaine, but I sneezed and so it did not go up my nose. In fact, I may have been doing icing sugar." Vintage Boris, but a) he did think he was doing cocaine and b) in a 2007 interview, he said that he had tried both cocaine and cannabis at university, but that they had "no pharmacological, psychotropic or any other effect on me whatever." This is known as the "Bill Clinton" or "I did not inhale" ploy. And then all other candidates for Conservative Party leader and British Prime Minister were asked the same question. Esther McVey said: "I have never taken any class A drugs (heroin and cocaine), but have I tried some pot? Yes, when I was much younger."

Andrea Leadsom, Dominic Raab and Matt Hancock all said that they had smoked cannabis at university, but had never done "hard" drugs. Jeremy Hunt was more creative, admitting that "I think I had a cannabis lass when I went backpacking through India." Nicely done, that. Hunt didn't really know it was cannabis, he's been around a bit — and he dodged having to say what other drugs (if any) he had done. And finally, Rory Stewart, who explained that he went to a village wedding in Afghanistan when he was walking around the country. It would have been rude to refuse: "I was invited into the house, and the opium pipe was passed around." And then the Bill Clinton defence: The family was so poor that they may have put very little opium into the pipe.

There's nothing surprising about the fact that seven out of 10 prime ministerial candidates have done some drugs. You could hardly have gone to a university in the '70s or '80s in Britain — or anywhere else in the West — without sampling at least a few. It doesn't seem to have done them any harm, except perhaps politically. The shame and hypocrisy lie in the fact that these men and women belong to a Government that routinely jails other, less privileged people who have done exactly the same thing, or at least bans them from working in their chosen profession (as Michael Gove's department did to teachers found to possess class A drugs, even at home, when he was education secretary).

Should we legalise all recreational drugs? Of course, we should. They would no longer support vast criminal empires that exploit their illegality and they would be less likely to harm people if their quality was monitored by the state. Some people would get addicted, just as with alcohol or tobacco, but that's less a function of the drugs than of the individual's vulnerability to addiction. Which particular substance hardly matters.

Legalisation of 'hard' drugs is not going to happen in this generation because there is still too much political mileage to be gained by 'fighting' them. But there is a compelling thought: The people who will finally decide the Conservative leadership contest are the party's 160,000 paid-up members, who are socially conservative, mostly rural and well over 60 on average. If anybody is going to punish these hypocrites, it's them.

(The writer's new book is *Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work*)

NATIONS SUPPORTING, PROMOTING AND FUNDING TERRORISM SHOULD BE HELD RESPONSIBLE AND MADE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

—PRIME MINISTER
NARENDRA MODI

POINT COUNTERPOINT



WHEN INDIA PREPARES ITSELF, IT WOULD FIND US PREPARED, BUT WE WILL HOLD TALKS ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY, IN A DIGNIFIED MANNER.

—PAKISTAN FOREIGN MINISTER
SHAH MEHMOOD QURESHI

Reimagine trust with prosperity

NDA 3.0 is all set to dramatically alter the course of Indian politics as also the economy. The Modi-Shah duo should accord greater primacy to issues of governance over politics



BINDU DALMIA

2019 is a watershed year — a definitive inflection point in reshaping the country's political history. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popular mandate signifies two dominant trends transforming the political landscape here on. First, there is a fading appeal of political parties who built their capital on pseudo-secularism. Asymmetric appeasement of the 20 per cent minorities in preference to the majority community, which comprises 80 per cent within their own country, will no longer hold. Second, it signals the decimation of self-serving, venal and nepotistic dynasties who held a monopoly on Central as also regional power and governance for far too long.

Modi's successive win stems from a groundswell of Hindu consolidation as the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) vote-share rose from 31.3 per cent in 2014 to 37.4 per cent in 2019. This brand of "muscular nationalism" finds its echo in global trends prevalent in the UK and the US. Just as Brexit signalled the voice of Britain that sought to revive its grand narrative, or a Trump's America First, Modi's return signals the resurgence of majoritarianism that seeks to dismantle and de-colonise the elitist mindset of previous regimes.

The Western media tried hard to sabotage pre-election opinions, peddling fears that the return of India's 'divider-in-chief' augured a regressive, illiberal and totalitarian regime. What Western lobbyists and Lutyens' intelligentsia missed was gauging the zeitgeist right, the popular mood of the moment. And that mood perceived Modi as a unifier, whose social uplift schemes had permeated across strata, even if it meant taking a tough stance on the regressive practice of triple talaq. Secularism, defined the Modi 2.0 way, veers at moving away from the parivar's ideology, in favour of a turn more mainstream and inclusive. This means subsuming the networks of vote-bank politics and replacing it with *antardaya*, delivering economic uplift to the last man in the line.

While it's easy to praise the victor, existential challenges lie ahead for the Modi-Shah duo at the helm of a government that has won the election with the same fervour as the BJP won the political battle. Winners don't need free advice. As champions of political wiccraft, Modi and Shah know better that the speed with which the Government of India handles economic headwinds will be crucial to how history will judge Modi's ultimate legacy.

Politically, the dominant takeaway is how Modi's overwhelming mandate impacts the Congress, regional parties as also vests the BJP with greater power to ignore tantrums of mercurial allies like the Shiv Sena and the Janata Dal (United) here on. First, the electoral outcome has slayed every dynastic fief: Lalu and company, gone with the wind. Pawar and company, stung by the debacle, *Mahaganadhans* experiments done and dusted. Most importantly, the capitulation of the Congress after successive Lok Sabha debacles demolishes an entire eco-system of the 1.5+ crore club of fixer-cronies and lobbyists for the Lutyens' club. Which means mercenary is here to stay — whether it is in politics or business deals.

Five more years of exile from power for the Congress could mean "five boring, long years of whining, lying and buck-passing" if the party does not reinvent itself and continues to function as a

“AS CHAMPIONS OF POLITICAL WICCRAFT, MODI AND SHAH KNOW BETTER THAT THE SPEED WITH WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HANDLES ECONOMIC HEADWINDS WILL BE CRUCIAL TO HOW HISTORY WILL JUDGE MODI'S ULTIMATE LEGACY. POLITICALLY, THE DOMINANT TAKEAWAY IS HOW MODI'S OVERWHELMING MANDATE IMPACTS THE CONGRESS, REGIONAL PARTIES AS ALSO VESTS THE BJP WITH GREATER POWER TO IGNORE TANTRUMS OF MERCURIAL ALLIES.”



negative Opposition. With the grand old party at its nadir, the Congress could well splinter into further factions as it did with the exit of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Trinamool Congress (TMC) and YSR Congress Party when strong regional leaders rejected the high-command culture even as the contagion of disarray within the party continues to spread to every State unit — from Telangana to Punjab. In hindsight, had the NCP+TMC+YSR not broken away from the Congress years back, notionally, the combined tally in the current Parliament of all four constituents stands at 52+22+22+5 = 99 seats. Which means the break-away factions over 20 years have chipped away nearly 50 per cent seats from the grand old party.

The expected State-wise aftermath of the 'TsuNamo?' There are multiple possibilities near-term and over the next one year. Imminent ramifications are that it could lead to the collapse of two recently formed Congress Governments in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and the coalition in Karnataka as all three are on fragile ground with Congress Chief Ministers struggling with factionalism. In Karnataka, it's a wait and watch game for the BJP as to how and when it makes a bid for power to topple the minority Government. The BJP retains the momentum, having won 25 out of 28 seats in the State with a large chunk of OBCs and Vokkaligas making a big saffron shift.

Second, if the Modi wave retains its velocity, it could have a cascading

effect on Maharashtra elections slated later in the year and yield a big win for the party in Delhi elections next year.

Third, the exponential growth of the BJP's vote-share in Bengal — from 21 per cent in 2014 to 40.5 per cent in 2019 — reflects the untapped potential for Hindu consolidation in a State that has an above-national average Muslim population. Tapping into economic discontent will be a major plunk as the TMC fails to attract investment in the State, nor did it support Tata Motors for the setting up of a plant in Singur, which has huge employment generation potential. Mounting MLA defections signal ominous trends for the 2021 Bengal elections with the BJP targeting 250 seats. This has left a nervous TMC to go back to its drawing board to plan ahead by signing up political strategist Prashant Kishor, who recently helped YSR Congress sweep Andhra Pradesh.

In the politically crucial State of Uttar Pradesh, the TsuNamo has convincingly decimated regional parties — Samajwadi Party (SP) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) — for the second time in Lok Sabha elections, bringing an end to the divisive politics of the Mandal era. The voter has shown that it has little patience with the revolving door regimes of feudal cult-based organisations like SP and BSP. Because both parties are perceived as nepotistic, corrupt, they now have a diminishing appeal among Yadavs and aspirational Dalits. This was reflected in the BJP's vote-share rising to 50 per

cent in 2019, while the SP-BSP's share languished at 20 per cent.

That the BJP now has on board parties like the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), YSR Congress Party, Biju Janata Dal (BJD), which have been offering unconditional support, augurs well for Centre-State relations turning more cooperative than combative. As the victor, Modi's stance is expected to be more accommodative towards these neutral parties in order to gain political goodwill from States not governed by the BJP. Strategically, YSR's 22 MPs in the Lok Sabha could act as a buffer to counter future pressures from the Shiv Sena and JDU.

NDA 3.0 is now in an uncharted territory to dramatically alter the course of Indian politics as also the economy. One reckons that the pragmatic Modi-Shah duo will accord greater primacy to issues of governance over politics, having raised the benchmarks of voter expectations. Consequently, voter criteria by the next elections will no longer be determined by caste but will be substituted by the quantum of deliverables on housing, health and education. As the Government gears up for India@75 by 2022, Modi 2.0 would target to showcase its achievements at mid-point of his tenure. Personally, I am optimistic to expect that premature surprise from the present regime.

(The writer is an author, columnist and Chairperson for the National Committee of Financial Inclusion at Niti Aayog)

Draw the line on tax evasion

While there can be no two opinions on the overarching need to increase funding for start-ups, the Government must not do anything which compromises its fight against black money. The DCF valuation method is not sustainable and must be challenged

"angel tax" to start-ups — a euphemism for unlisted firms which turn 'innovative ideas' into attractive business ventures. Demands were raised under Section 56 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, treating excess capital so raised (excess of the purchase price over FMV) as "income from other sources." The most crucial determinant of the tax liability is FMV. If it is high, the tax levied will be less. On the other hand if it is low, tax will be high.

The Department questioned the high valuations that were based on future projections about the likely performance of the company. It averred that by inflating the FMV and thereby deflating excess capital, firms were intending to minimise the tax outgo. The taxman had reason to suspect as how come an entity suffering losses in the present could command high valuations?

On a closer look, it turns out that the real culprit is the DCF method, which intends to minimise the tax outgo. Accordingly, the IT department decided not to look at it and instead, opted for a more realistic basis for determining the FMV. But the



Tribunal does not agree. It has ruled "the fact that future projections of various factors made by applying hindsight view cannot be matched with actual performance does not mean that the DCF method is not correct." The Tribunal recognises that actual numbers do not match with projected values and yet, it upholds the DCF method, which acts as a springboard to inflate FMV. This is anomalous and will be a big setback to the taxman. Companies will continue to get away with high valuations and resultant high premium (in many cases despite incurring losses year after year), thereby denying the revenue department its

legitimate dues. Already, the Government has given huge relief to start-ups by (i) increasing the funding limit by unlisted firms and individuals in a start-up to be exempted from the angel tax from the current ₹10 crore to ₹25 crore; (ii) setting no such limit for investments by listed firms with net worth above ₹100 crore or turnover of ₹250 crore; and (iii) relaxing the criteria for start-up from current seven years to 10 years and turnover limit from existing ₹25 crore to ₹100 crore.

Henceforth, a start-up fulfilling the above criteria needs to submit a "memorandum of information" to the

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, who after confirming eligibility, will tell the start-up to "Direct Tax" (CBDT) to notify exemption of the concerned entity from the angel tax.

The liberalisation of norms has ensured that an overwhelming number of start-ups goes out of the tax net. With the ITAT order, even firms other than start-ups (besides a few unfortunate ones on whom the bureaucrat in the Commerce Ministry may not shower his/her benevolence) will be able to escape payment of tax as the DCF method cannot be rejected by the taxman routinely.

This brings us to the genesis of the tax on excess capital raised by the start-up or any other entity. When an investor pays an amount in excess of its FMV (or premium), this is as good as profit/income in the hands of the receiving firm. In case, however, the premium is exceptionally high, having no relationship whatsoever to the fair market value, it raises eyebrows. It points towards unaccounted cash or black money being funnelled into the

corporate entities. This fundamental point can't be brushed aside simply because the recipient of the laundered money happens to be a "Direct Tax" firm. Tax offer huge potential and are crucial to a rising India. Apart from revenue consideration, taxation of the premium amount should also be viewed as an instrument of reining in black money. While there can be no two opinions on the overarching need to ensure an increase in funding for start-ups, the Government must not do anything which compromises its fight against black money. It must refrain from giving the start-up blanket exemption from levy of angel tax.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst)



SPEAK UP, REACH OUT

For all the drawbacks, the idea of talking to strangers is a good one and the promotion of sociality is good for society. Although it does seem to be a general rule that people are friendlier the fewer there are of them and more hostile and indifferent as cities get more crowded, there are still considerable cultural variations; and there is evidence that friendlier places are also healthier and their inhabitants happier. (The Guardian editorial)



UTTAM GUPTA

In a major ruling that will have a profound impact on the way companies are taxed, the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) has upheld the validity of the Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) method for arriving at the fair market value of a company's shares. The order says "the DCF method is recognised; though it is not an exact science and can never be done with arithmetic precision."

The order needs to be viewed in the backdrop of tax demands raised on hundreds of companies by the Income Tax (IT) department for the payment of tax on the extra capital raised through the issue of shares over and above their Fair Market Value (FMV). These included notices for the so-called

Anti-Profitteering Authority GST Council may give one-year extension

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The GST Council is likely to extend till November 30, 2020 the tenure of the National Anti-profitteering Authority (NAA), which deals with customer complaints regarding not receiving tax cut benefits, at its next meeting on June 21, an official said.

The Council at its 35th meeting, the first under Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, is also likely to consider a proposal to set up one appellate tribunal for north-eastern states, and another one for all Union Territories.

Besides, the Council would discuss a proposal to levy Goods and Services Tax (GST) on extra-neutral alcohol (ENA), which is used for manufacturing alcoholic liquor for human consumption, the official added.

ENA is a derivative of sugarcane molasses (95 per cent high-purity ethyl alcohol) and is not an alcoholic liquor for human consumption but can be used as raw material or input, after processing and substantial dilution, in the production of whisky, gin, country liquor etc.

The Finance Ministry is of the view that NAA should be given an extension of one year till November 30, 2020 as the authority continues to receive complaints of profiteering by companies, the official told PTI.

The NAA is headed by P. V. Narayana Murthy, who has a one-year extension, the official said,

adding the final call will be taken by the GST Council in its meeting on June 21.

Earlier, the meeting was postponed to June 20, but has now been postponed to June 21.

Soon after the GST was rolled out from July 1, 2017, the government had approved setting up of the NAA for two years to deal with complaints by consumers against companies for not passing on GST rate cut benefits.

The NAA came into existence on November 30, 2017, after its Chairman B N Sharma assumed charge. So far, the NAA has passed 67 orders in various cases.

The GST law provides for setting up of benches of appellate tribunal in all states. Although 18 states have got the approval to set up appellate benches, none of these states have operationalised them.

The GST Council in its June 21 meeting is likely to approve the proposals of Delhi, Odisha and Telangana to set up appellate benches. The Council will also take a call on setting up a combined bench for all north-eastern states as well as one bench to deal with appeal cases in six Union Territories.

The NAA is headed by P. V. Narayana Murthy, who has a one-year extension, the official said,



States levy Value Added Tax (VAT) and Central Sales Tax (CST) on ENA and states will have to forgo the right to tax the product if it is brought under GST.

The GST Council had earlier sought the opinion of the Attorney General on legality of imposing GST on ENA. The AG had then opined that since ENA is not consumed directly by people, GST can be imposed on it.

Currently, potable alcohol is out of the ambit of GST and states are free to levy taxes on them.

Among other things, the GST Council will also consider issuance of e-invoice with turnover of over ₹50 crore for business-to-business (B2B) sales in a bid to curb GST evasion.

IL&FS case: Independent directors, rating agencies, auditors under Sebi lens

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A large number of individuals and entities, including independent directors, top management personnel, rating agencies and auditors formerly associated with crisis-hit IL&FS may soon face action by capital market regulator Sebi for their role in the alleged fraud at the group.

Sebi has been conducting an in-depth investigation into the role of several entities and individuals, including for suspected violation of disclosure and corporate governance norms, and many of them would soon face stringent action for having misled the interest of minority shareholders and the overall capital markets with their fraudulent actions, senior officials said.

Officials said the regulator is also looking into the role of some listed borrowers, who were allegedly given multiple fresh loans despite their earlier defaults.

The Sebi probe had begun soon after the crisis came to light at IL&FS last year, following huge defaults by various entities which together had a debt burden of over ₹90,000 crore.

The government had to supersede its board and appoint a new one, which is now working to clear the mess and also recover the losses caused by fraudulent acts of the previous management. The matter is being probed by several agencies, including the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), which has also found connivance of the previous top management with auditors and independent directors.

Several entities of IL&FS (Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services) group have been found to have indulged in multiple circuitous transactions involving several illegalities, including fast disbursements to some borrowers despite their bad track record in servicing existing loans and also delayed recovery of loans.

Investigations have also found that several entities from the IL&FS group continued to enjoy high ratings from various rating agencies, including due to window-dressing of the books of the companies and ever-greening of their loans.

As per the probe, a number of borrowers, including listed firms, were not servicing their debt obligation timely. The top management at IL&FS was aware of the potential problem actions which were getting stressed, they continued to provide them with fresh loans to serve their principal and interest of the defectors, rather than classifying them as NPAs.

This process was repeated multiple times with the earlier loan facility getting closed and a new facility being created which was again funded, on their default, through another cycle of funding through the same or another group company.

Such manner of debt servicing led to ballooning up of the outstanding liabilities against a group, which were used to raise borrowings from the market.

There can also be an adverse impact on the outstanding housing credit, which stood at Rs 19.1 lakh crore as of March 2019, ratings agency Icria said in a weekend report.

It can be noted that the government is betting on housing sector as one of the major vehicles to push the sagging economic growth.

Given the tough operating environment, we expect housing credit growth in FY20 to be in the range of 13-15 percent which is lower than the last three years when it clipped past 17 percent, it said in a note.

The overall trend in housing growth for housing finance companies had slowed down to 15 percent for FY18.

It said the issues with the non-banking lenders since last September that has seen a slew of companies like DHFL and Reliance Capital suffering, slowed down credit growth of dedicated housing finance companies to 10 percent in FY19.

Banks grew faster in 2019 as against 13 percent, taking their overall market share to 64 percent from 62 in the year-ago period, it said, adding banks will lead the growth curve in FY20 as well.

However, given the under-penetration of mortgages, the regulator expects growth to recover soon.

NBFC crisis to pull down home loan growth first time in three years: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Housingfinance growth is set to slow down to 13-15 percent this fiscal, lower than the average of the past three years, due to the lingering liquidity issues faced by non-banking lenders, warns a report.

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Business Corner



REC Ltd. (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited) has signed a performance-based Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) delisting various targets to be achieved by REC during FY 2019-20. The MoU has been signed by Rajeev Sharma, CMD, PFC and Ajeet Kumar Agawal, CMD, REC in presence of various senior officials of PFC & REC Ltd



Ravinder Singh Dhillon took over the role of Director (Projects) in Power Finance Corporation Ltd. on June 12, 2019. Presently serving as an Executive Director in PFC, Dhillon has more than 34 years of experience in various areas of power sector



Raksha Mantri, Rajnath Singh met General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff, Lieutenant General Devraj Anba, Vice Chief of the Army Staff and all the GOC-in-Cs on Sunday



Union Power Minister, RK Singh addressing the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy & Environment. Singh highlighted the pathbreaking efforts made in last 5 years in providing energy access to all in India



The employees of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) have contributed Rs 3 Crore towards the relief work of cyclone Fani to Odisha Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF). Anil Kumar Chaudhary, Chairman, SAIL, handed over the cheque to the Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patraik yesterday in presence of Union Minister of Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan at Odisha Bhawan in New Delhi



With the declaration of JEE Advanced 2019 results, 38705 students have finally made it to their dream institute, IITs. Himanshu Gaavur Singh (AIR 2) and Archit Bubna (AIR 3) students of IITJEE, pioneer in engineering and other entrance training has yet again performed brilliantly this year

Saudi Arabia remains committed to Aramco IPO: Crown Prince

AFP ■ RIYADH

Saudi Arabia remains committed to selling shares in national oil conglomerate Aramco through an initial public offering but only at the right time, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has said.

"We are committed to the IPO of Saudi Aramco based on appropriate conditions and at the right time," Prince Mohammed told the pan-Arab daily Asharq al-Awsat in an interview published on Sunday.

He reiterated his earlier expectations that the IPO of Saudi Aramco "will take place in (late) 2020 or the start of 2021", almost two years later than expected.

Saudi Arabia plans to sell up to five per cent of the world's largest energy firm and hopes to raise up to \$100 billion.

Prince Mohammed said it was still premature to announce when the IPO will be held, adding that many requirements for the sale to go through had been successfully completed.

Riyadh has taken a number



of key procedures in preparation for the IPO including issuing a law for hydrocarbons tax, appointing a new board for Aramco and allowing an independent auditing of the kingdom's oil reserves, the crown prince said.

Aramco has also opened its accounts books for the first time to international ratings agencies, declared the size of its profits and transformed into a public shareholding company, he said.

The IPO — expected to be the world's largest stock sale — forms the cornerstone of a reform programme envisaged by Prince Mohammed to wean the Saudi economy off its reliance on oil.

India's coal import rises 15% to 24 MT in May

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's coal import increased by 14.5 per cent to 24.01 million tonnes (MT) in May this year.

The country's coal import was at 20.96 MT in May 2019, according to a junction services report, which is based on monitoring of vessels' positions and data received from shipping companies.

The report comes at a time when the government is looking at relaxing the timeline for the one billion tonne coal production target it had set earlier for Coal India (CIL), which accounts for over 80 per cent of the domestic coal output.

Imports during May this year stood at 24.01 MT (provisional) as compared to 26.3 MT (revised) in April, 2019. April 2019 stood at 20.72 MT.

The total import during May, non-coking coal was at 17.74 MT, while coking coal import stood at 3.8 MT.

Metallurgical coke import during the month was at 0.31 MT.

Fin Min assessing capital needs of PSU banks; Budget may make provision for ₹30,000 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry is assessing capital needs of state-owned banks, and likely to provide about ₹30,000 crore in the upcoming Budget to help them meet minimum regulatory capital requirement in the current fiscal, sources said.

The first budget of Modi 2.0 Government is scheduled to be presented on July 5 by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on the backdrop of India's economy hitting a 5-year low growth of 6.8 per cent in 2018-19.

In addition, the public sector banks would also require capital for the credit growth, which has just started picking up. Five weak banks under the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework of the RBI too need capital to maintain minimum regulatory capital ratios as per the Basel III norms.

He said, if the Government goes for another consolidation like Bank of Baroda, the three-way merger would also require additional capital, the sources said.

It is to be noted that the Government infused ₹5,042 crore in BoB to enhance its capital base to meet additional expense due to amalgamation of Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank.

In all the Government made record capital infusion of ₹1,06,000 crore in the public sector banks. Bank of Maharashtra, Allahabad Bank and Corporation Bank — came out of PCA. Following merger of Dena Bank with BoB, it also came out of weak bank category. Out of 11, only five are left under weak bank category of the Reserve Bank of India.

As far as their own resource mobilisation are concerned, sources said, they are unable to tap capital market because of their low share prices.

They are banking of sale of non-core assets which are not enough, the sources said, adding that PSBs would require capital infusion from

the government this fiscal as well.

How much will come would depend on the Government fiscal math that the Budget division of the Finance Ministry will take a final call near Budget preparation, the sources noted.

Initial estimate indicates capital requirement of ₹20,000-30,000 crore, provided banks are also able to raise funds on their own from the market both through asset and share sale, they added.

The banks, including State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda (BoB), have already got the board approval for capital raising as and when required.

For example, BoB plans to raise ₹11,000 crore during the current fiscal through share sale, including Employee Share Purchase Scheme to shore up capital for meeting business expansion requirement.

The bank expects to garner ₹1,500 crore from Bank of Baroda Employee Share Purchase Scheme (BoB-ESPS). ESPS will be within overall limit of capital plan 2019-20 of ₹11,900 crore.

Fed rate decision, trade scenario to set market trend: Analysts

During the last week, the Sensex fell 163.83 points or 0.41 per cent, to close at 39,452.07

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian equities this week will be guided by factors like geopolitical developments, US-China trade negotiations and Fed interest rate decision amid lack of major domestic triggers, say analysts.

Investors will also keep a track on the domestic trade situation following reports that India has decided to impose retaliatory tariffs on 29 US products with effect from June 16.

The Government had on June 21, 2018 decided to impose these duties in retaliation

to the US decision of significantly hiking customs duties on certain steel and aluminium products. India had extended the deadline for imposition of duties multiple times in the hope that some solution would emerge.

"Markets are currently dancing to the global tunes and we do not see this changing any time soon, in absence of any major local trigger," said Jayant Manjlik, President at Retail Distribution, Religare Broking.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said: "Ripple effect from a weak global market while premium valuation and slow economy is hurting the market. Continuous exchange of words between US and Tehran regarding the oil tanker attack, progress of US-China trade war, Fed policy outcome on 19th June and progress of tensions will be closely watched by the investors."

Global markets were spooked last week after two oil tankers were attacked in the Gulf of Oman, leading to ratcheting up of tensions in the Middle East.

Crude oil prices, movement of rupee against the dollar and foreign fund investment trend would be crucial for the markets, experts added.

"Negative news flow from the finance sector on loan repayment is dampening the investors sentiment which can be a trigger for a bigger correction before the budget session," said Romesh Tiwari, Head of Research, CapitalAim.

The BSE Sensex stayed on the back foot for the third straight session Friday as investors dialled down equity exposure amid high valuations and a fresh spell of uncertainty in the global markets.

The markets suffered a sudden sell-off towards the flag-end following reports of India deciding to impose retaliatory tariffs on 29 US products.

During the last week, the Sensex fell 163.83 points or 0.41 per cent, to close at 39,452.07.

Honda Cars mulls hiking vehicle prices by up to 1.2% from July

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Honda Cars India is considering to increase vehicle prices by up to 1.2 per cent from next month to offset rise in cost of raw materials and introduction of new safety features, as per a senior company official.

The company currently sells a range of models from premium hatchback Brio to premium sedan Accord Hybrid, priced between Rs 4.73 lakh and Rs 43.21 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi).

We are working on price increase on our models from July," HCLIL Senior Vice President and Director Sales and Marketing Rajesh Goel told PTI.

He said the cost of raw material has gone up in the last few months, but the same is currently being absorbed by the company.

India can boost exports of 300 products to US, China amid trade war: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The ongoing trade war between the US and China offers an opportunity to India for boosting exports of as many 350 products such as chemicals and granite to these countries, a study by the Commerce Ministry has said.

The identification of these products is part of a study carried out by the ministry which states that the ongoing tariff or customs duties war between the US and China poses a big window of opportunity for enhancing India's exports to these two nations.

Both the US and China are imposing heavy import duties on each other's products, which has triggered a trade war kind of situation.

According to the study, as much as 151 domestic products including diesel, X-ray tubes and certain chemicals have an outright advantage to displace the US exports to China.

Steel, iron makers seek removal of duty on coking coal; higher tariff on scrap

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Budget, domestic iron and steel players have sought abolition of 2.5 per cent basic customs duty on import of coking coal — a key raw material used in steel making.

Removal of duty on coking coal is a long standing demand of the industry.

At present India's 85 per cent of demand of coking coal is met through imports, industry bodies FICCI and CII have apprised the Ministry of Steel in a pre-Budget proposal.

"As there is no substitution for coking coal in steel making, import duty of 2.5 per cent on coking coal is redundant as import protection," the industry demanded in the proposal.

Due to the increasing and volatile coking coal prices, domestic merchant pig iron industry is suffering from huge losses, which forced many players to stop operations, it said.

The industry has forecast that financial year 2020 to be the year by which India aims to take it capacity to 300 million tonnes — the demand for coking coal would be at 178.7 million tonnes and 140.2 MT will be met through imports.

However, it also noted that as per the National Steel Policy, the dependence on imported coking coal is supposed to be brought down to 65 per cent by 2030.

Scrap is another element which is posing a threat for the domestic steel manufacturers, the proposal said, requesting the duty on import of scrap should be raised to 10 per cent from the current level 2.5 per cent.

It also sought for BIS standard for scrap besides review MIP of scrap.

"Cheap quality scrap imports have increased by 9 per cent in FY19 from FY17 which has resulted in net forex outflow increase by 58 per cent to \$1.77 billion till February 2019.

"No BIS certification or standards are in place for scrap which leads to lack of authenticity on material import. There is also risk of scrap being hazardous and radioactive since there is no norms or check," the proposal note said.

Bihar CM announces ₹4 lakh ex-gratia

Child death toll rises to 83 in Muzaffarpur

Patna/Muzaffarpur: With one more child dying of suspected AES in Muzaffarpur on Sunday morning, the death toll of children in the district rose to 83 this month, even as Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced an ex-gratia of Rs four lakh each.

Kumar expressed grief over the children's death in Muzaffarpur and ordered payment of Rs four lakh as ex-gratia to the next of kin of the deceased, an official release said.

He also directed the officials of the Health department and the district administration as well as doctors to take all possible measures to tackle the disease. The chief minister prayed for a speedy recovery of the children suffering from suspected Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES).

A press release issued by the Muzaffarpur district administration said till Sunday 9 am, 83 children had died at the state-run Sri Krishna

Medical College and Hospital (SKMCH) and the Kejrival Hospital, which was run by a trust.

According to the release, 69 children had died at the SKMCH, while 14 died at the Kejrival Hospital due to suspected cases of AES.

Officials, however, maintained that a majority of the victims, most of whom were below 10 years of age, had fallen prey to hypoglycemia, a condition caused by a very low level of blood sugar and electro-lyte imbalance.

Since June 1, 197 children were admitted to the SKMCH while 91 were taken to Kejrival Hospital with suspected AES, but most of them were found to be victims of hypoglycemia.

Union Minister of State for Health, Minister Harsh Vardhan is scheduled to visit Muzaffarpur on Sunday to take stock of the situation. He will hold meetings with doctors and officials of both the central and state governments.

Vardhan is also scheduled

to hold a review meeting with the officials of the Health and other departments concerned of the state government in Patna later in the day.

He will be accompanied by state Health Minister Mangal Pandey during his visit to Muzaffarpur.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, who is also the Bihar unit chief of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), visited the SKMCH on Saturday.

He expressed grief over the deaths and cancelled all the functions for welcoming him in view of the brain fever that has taken a heavy toll on children's lives.

Principal Secretary (Health) Sanjay Kumar had said a few days back that the disease had affected 222 blocks in 12 districts, especially in Muzaffarpur, Vaishali, Sheohar and East Champaran.

A team of experts from the Centre visited Muzaffarpur on Wednesday. **PTI**

13 new Ministers inducted in Maharashtra Cabinet

BN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In the last reshuffle of his ministry undertaken ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly polls to be held in October this year, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday inducted 13 new Ministers — eight Cabinet ranked ones and five Ministers of State — into the State Cabinet, after dropping six existing Ministers from his Cabinet.

As part of the Cabinet reshuffle, Fadnavis brought in ten Ministers from the BJP, two from the Shiv Sena and one from the RPI (Athavale) this is for the first time that an RPI (Athavale) nominee has been given a berth in the State Cabinet.

As anticipated, the Chief Minister inducted into his Cabinet a few days back that the disease had affected 222 blocks in 12 districts, especially in Muzaffarpur, Vaishali, Sheohar and East Champaran.

A team of experts from the Centre visited Muzaffarpur on Wednesday. **PTI**

Bonde, Ashok Uike and Dr Tanaji Sawant.

Similarly, Yogesh Sagar, Anantash Mahatekar, Sanjay alias Bala Bhagde, Dr Pariny Phuke and Atul Save were inducted as Ministers of State in the State Cabinet.

Maharashtra's Housing Minister Prakash Mehta of the BJP, who is among the six BJP Ministers dropped from the State Cabinet, paid the price for his indictment for his involvement in the alleged irregularities in the permissions given by a slum rehabilitation authority (SRA) project at MP Mills compound at Tardeo in south Mumbai. Lokayukta M L Tahalyani.

Maharashtra Governor CH Vidyasagar Rao administered the oath of office and secrecy to eight new Cabinet Ministers and five Ministers of State at a swearing-in ceremony held under the laws of Raj Bhavan in south Mumbai.

Fadnavis, Union Minister of State Ramdas Athavale, Assembly Speaker Haribhau Bonase to serve, and Minister Manohar Joshi, several ministers, Mumbai Mayor Vishwanath Mahadeshwar, legislators and bureaucrats were among those present at the swearing-in ceremony.

Vikhe Patil, who had stepped down Leader of Opposition in March after

comes ahead of the monsoon session of the Maharashtra Legislature, beginning on Monday.

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 Ahmednagar constituency on a BJP ticket, has been rewarded with a ministerial berth by the ruling BJP even before he formally joined the BJP.

Vikhe Patil, who had stepped down Leader of Opposition in March after

Sujay had joined the BJP, had resigned as a Congress MLA on June 4.

Kahrisagar, who quit the NCP and joined the ruling Shiv Sena on May 22, also found a place in the State Cabinet. Shelar, under whose leadership the BJP bagged all the three seats it contested in Mumbai in the recent Lok Sabha polls, made it to the Fadnavis Cabinet.

In his Cabinet reshuffle, Fadnavis has tried to accommodate MLAs from three major regions and Mumbai —

Vikhe-Patil (Ahmednagar), Suresh Khade (Miraj), Sanjay alias Bala Bhagde (Maval), all from western Maharashtra, Shelar, Yogesh Sagar, Avinash Mahatekar (all from Mumbai), Anil Bonde (Amravati) Tanaji Sawant, Ashok Uike, both Yavatmal), Sanjay Kute (Buldhana), Dr Pariny Phuke, all from Vidarbha, KShirsagar (Nanded) and Atul Save (Aurangabad), both from Marathwada. However, Konark region and north Maharashtra have gone unrepresented.

Cabinet expansion for regional balance, new faces: Maha CM

Mumbai: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said the Cabinet expansion carried out on Sunday was for regional balance and to create an opportunity for other party members to serve, and the one in the cabinet was removed because of poor performance.

Thirteen ministers were inducted into the state government Sunday, and six serving ministers tendered their resignations to the CM, all of

which were accepted. Speaking on the eve of the monsoon session of the Maharashtra legislature, Fadnavis said, "We wanted to present new faces as well as create a regional balance. No one in the cabinet was removed because of poor performance. The new team will perform better."

Commenting on a Lokayukta report related to outgoing Housing Minister

Prakash Mehta's alleged land deal, Fadnavis said, "The report is going to be presented in the House. I cannot comment on it now." Speaking on former Congressman Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil's induction into the cabinet, the Maharashtra CM claimed, "I have been doing developmental work and that is why new people are joining the BJP." With Sunday's expansion, the Fadnavis Government now has 41 Ministers. **PTI**

1st batch of 31 pilgrims flagged off for Mansarovar Yatra

Gangtok: The first batch of 31 pilgrims was flagged off for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Nathula Pass in Sikkim on Sunday.

K Jayakumar, the Additional Chief Secretary of Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, flagged off two buses carrying the pilgrims for the first climate acclimatization camp located at 15th Mile and 17th Mile enroute to Nathula.

Earlier in the day, the pilgrims, including monks and two liaison officers, attended a briefing session at a hotel here, which was organized by the Sikkim Government's Tourism and Civil Aviation Department.

Addressing the session,



Jayakumar informed the pilgrims about the significance of the journey to the holy place. The Commandant of the 48th Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), T S Mangang, briefed the pilgrims about the route chart to Kailash Mansarovar and the acclimatization schedules.

Mangang also urged the pilgrims to follow the directions of the liaison officers and adhere to the given timings.

He apprised them about the rules and regulations to be followed during their onward journey and advised everyone to remain mentally strong.

The pilgrims will stay at 15th Mile and 17th Mile for the first two days and at Sherathing for another two days for acclimatization before undergoing the final round of medical check up by the ITBP at Sherathing on June 19, a day before crossing the Indian territory at Nathula for onward journey towards Kailash Mansarovar on the following day. **PTI**

Gutka worth over ₹1 lakh seized in Andhra, 53 held

Machilipatnam (AP): Gutka worth above ₹1 lakh was seized in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh and 53 people were arrested in this connection on Sunday, police said.

SP, Krishna, M Ravindranath Babu said raids were conducted in Machilipatnam, Pedana towns and Kancheekacherla, Gudlavalluri mandals during the fine round of medical check up by the ITBP at Sherathing on June 19, a day before crossing the Indian territory at Nathula for onward journey towards Kailash Mansarovar on the following day. **PTI**

He said 53 people were arrested and 35 cases registered in connection with the seizure of the banned items. **PTI**

Congress' Wadettiwar to be Maharashtra's new LoP

BN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Ahead of the start of the monsoon session of the Maharashtra Legislature on Monday, all the Opposition parties on Sunday decided to nominate Vijay Namdevrao Wadettiwar as the new Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly.

Wadettiwar will replace erstwhile Congress leader Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil, who resigned from the Congress early this month and was inducted into the Maharashtra Cabinet on Sunday.

"Leaders of all the

Opposition parties met State Assembly Speaker Haribhau Bagade and submitted a letter, nominating Wadettiwar as their joint choice for the post as the new Leader of Opposition," Congress' newly appointed deputy leader in the Assembly Naseem Khan said.

With a strength of 41 members, the Congress is the single largest Opposition party in the 288-member State Assembly. The NCP is the second largest Opposition party with a strength of 39 MLAs in the Assembly.

An MLA from Brahmapur, Wadettiwar has been rewarded with the LoP's

post for saving the Congress from a total wipe-out in the May 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Meanwhile, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that the State Government would table 28 bills — including 15 pending bills — in the monsoon session of the State Legislature.

The monsoon session, being held on the heels of a spectacular performance put up by ruling BJP-Shiv Sena alliance in the Lok Sabha polls, is the last session of the State Legislature before Maharashtra goes in for the Assembly polls in October 2019.

K'taka CM offers to hold talks with Opp, BJP leaders court arrest during 'siege' protest

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy on Sunday offered to hold talks with Opposition BJP on issues raised by it even as the saffron party workers courted arrest while attempting to proceed towards his official residence despite police barricades.

As the State BJP, led by its chief B S Yeddyurappa, intensified its two-day sit-in over issues, including sale of land in Ballari to JSW Steel at a "throw away" price, drought and farm loan waiver, Kumaraswamy, in a letter to the opposition leader, said he was prepared to discuss all matters. "I am always ready to discuss with you. Steps will be taken to seek your time as per your convenience," the Chief Minister said in his letter to Yeddyurappa, a copy of which was released to the media.

However, the BJP went ahead with its plan as the leaders and workers, who were on a round-the-clock sit-in at Anand Rao circle here since Friday, attempted to proceed toward the chief minister's residence despite heavy police presence and barricades in the area.

The protesters were stopped by police and huddled into buses as they tried to break through the barricades. In the ensuing melee, a few BJP leaders including, former Deputy Chief Minister R Ashok, suffered some bruises. The protesters were taken to a nearby police ground and let off later, police said. In his letter, Kumaraswamy informed Yeddyurappa about the measures taken to tackle the drought situation and added the loan waiver scheme for farmers in progress. **PTI**

Modi has courage, should bring Ordinance to construct Mandir: Uddhav Thackeray in Ayodhya

Ayodhya (UP): Government should bring an ordinance to construct Ram temple, Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray said on Sunday in Ayodhya, asserting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has the courage to do so and there would be no one to stop it.

Thackeray offered prayers at the makeshift Ram Lalla temple along with his son Aditya and 18 newly-elected lawmakers of his party. The Shiv Sena has said the visit was to fulfill the promise Thackeray made last November to come to Ayodhya again after the elections.

"The case is in the court for many years. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has the courage. If government takes the decision, there is no one to stop it. Not only Shiv Sena, Hindus of the whole world are with this," Uddhav

said, while addressing a press conference after his visit to the Ram Lalla (or infant Ram) temple.

The government should bring the ordinance for construction of Ram temple. The issue concerns all Hindus and the temple has to be constructed at the earliest," he said, raising the slogan of 'kanon banao mandir, hanas (formulate law and construct temple)'.
Maharashtra will be going to polls later this year and the visit is being seen as an attempt by the Shiv Sena to put pressure on all BJP on the Ram temple issue. But Sena has maintained that Thackeray's visit should not be seen through the electoral lens.

"For us Ram temple is a matter of faith and not politics," Thackeray said. **PTI**



Married women perform rituals around a banyan tree on the occasion of Vat Savitri festival in Ahmedabad on Sunday **AP**

Patna's over century-old heritage market demolished for Smart City project

Patna: The over 100-year-old Gole Market, a unique heritage building constructed as Patna's first planned municipal market, has been demolished by local authorities as part of a Smart City project.

The demolition work began on Friday and by Sunday the historical landmark, located in the heart of Bihar's capital and endowed with beautiful red-tiled roof, was reduced to a skeletal shell.

The Gole Market was demolished as part of a major redevelopment project of the railway station area under the Smart City initiative. Other markets lining the streets are also being knocked down as part of the mega project," Patna Municipal Commissioner Anupam Kumar Suman told **PTI**.



A view of demolished structures at the British-era Gole Market, in Patna on Sunday **PTI**

vending line will come up in the area adjoining the Station Road, he said.

Popularly known as Gole Market, among the local people, it was Patna's first planned municipal market designed by architect Joseph Fearis

Munnings while he was planning the layout of the 'New Capital' city of colonial Patna after the creation of the new province of Bihar and Orissa in 1912.

Despite the historical value of the building, the demolition

has drawn feeble protest from citizens of the city, but many people in Patna are angered by this "shocking move" of the Patna Municipal Corporation (PMC).

"This is just madness. It was a historical building and

should have been preserved. But, instead of restoring and reusing it as a cafe or meeting, the corporation razed it," said city-based researcher and author Arun Singh.

"One by one the local government is knocking down heritage buildings in the city. This is an attempt to erase the colonial history of Patna in the name of development," he alleged.

In December last year, the 133-year-old Anjum Islamia Hall, perhaps the first public hall of Patna, was demolished to make way for a modern complex.

The heritage market had faced decades of neglect and its occupant shopkeepers had been feeling the shadow of the wrecking ball for years as local authorities had planned a redevelopment project much earlier too, which kept on getting stalled, a local shopkeeper, who did not wish to be named, said.

"My grandfather had a meat shop in it during the

British time, and elite of the city would come in their cars by boat, fish, chicken, eggs, grocery and milk. It should have been preserved," he said.

City-based 84-year-old architect and IITACH Patna Chapter Convener J K Lall also expressed shock and anger over the demolition of Gole Market.

"It was a unique single-storied building with a raised central hexagonal core topped with elegant red-tiled roof and two flanks came out of it and again it was topped with red tiles of the colonial-era Burn & Co. It was a perfect building and a perfect setting for a heritage cafe," he told **PTI**.

"Smart City also means preserving our architectural legacy and not just building new ones," he said.

PMC Commissioner Suman, when asked why the building was demolished, said, the Gole Market was "coming in the middle" of the layout of the Smart City project plan. **PTI**

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION UNIT
UTTARAKHAND PEY JAL NIGAM
Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur, Distt. Udham Singh Nagar

कार्ड नं: 841/प्रीवा/193 E-Tender Notice दिनांक: 11.06.2019

- Name of the work - FINISHING OF LORD SHIVA'S EXISTING STRUCTURE OF STATUE BY CEMENT & SAND MORTAR WITH MAKING PROPER BEAUTIFUL SHAPE, PAINTING ETC. COMPLETE AND APPURTENANCE WORKS AT BANKHANDI MAHADEV TEMPLE CHAKARPUR (KHATMA), UDHAM SINGH NAGAR.
- Estimate Cost: -Rs. 44.20 Lakh 3. Period of Completion: -09 Month
- Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal: -14.06.2019 (12.00 hrs)
- Last Date/Time of receipt of bids in the portal: -26.06.2019 (17.00 hrs)
- Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening: -28.06.2019 (12.00 hrs)
- Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid - E: Om Prakash, Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur (Udham Singh Nagar).
- Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place: -18.06.2019 (13.00 hrs) Rudrapur.
- For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal: www.uttarkhandnigam.org

Project Manager

Office of Project Manager, Construction Unit
UTTARAKHAND PEY JAL NIGAM, HALDWANI

Letter No. 784/ADHES - 4/84 Date: 15.06.2019

E-TENDER NOTICE

The Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyal Nigam Haldwani (Nainital) 263139, on behalf of Chairman, Uttarakhand Peyal Nigam, Dehradun, invites sealed item rate tender on e-Government Procurement System (e-GPS) portal i.e. <http://www.uttarkhandnigam.org>, for Construction of Transit Hostel (8 Room) for Medical Officer at CHC Ramgarh District - Nainital. Work cost nearly Rs. 170.00 lacs + GST. The tender form can be downloaded from <http://www.uttarkhandnigam.org> from 17.06.2019, 10:00 hrs. to 03.07.2019, 17:00 hrs. Other information can be seen in tender form or office notice board or phone no. 941107868 of office of tender inviting authority. **Project Manager**

जल संचय - जीवन संरक्षक "कृपया जल स्रोतों को दूषित नहो से बचाव" वैधानिक वेबसाई - जल स्रोतों को दूषित करना दण्डनीय अपराध है।

THE HUMAN SIDE OF ANIMALS

Producer RUPERT BARRINGTON tells how his team spent hours with animals to explore their complex relationship with humans, other animals and their own kind in *Dynasties*. By TEAM VIVA



After venturing out on his own, Red, the lion, finds himself fending off over 20 hyenas. Surrounded and king, Red has to fight to stay alive when cornered despite being the king of the forest. How does he strategise with his mind when physically overpowered in a hostile situation?

Sir David Attenborough, through *Dynasties*, follows the struggles of survival of five endangered species — penguins, chimpanzees, lions, painted wolves and tigers — presenting their heroic struggles against their rivals and the forces of nature. One of the episodes, which has been shot in Bandhavgarh Forest Reserve, Madhya Pradesh, documents the story of India's tiger.

What is the series about?

Each episode of *Dynasties* is a single story. This is a very different series to the normal landmark wildlife shows which may contain 10 or 12 separate shorter stories per episode. *Dynasties* is about families and their leaders; families that can dominate the landscape. The leaders are trying to survive and ensure that their dynasty can continue through their offspring. For most animals, success in life is about producing a few offspring and leaving them to take their chances, but a lion or a painted wolf family can completely control their landscape



and their bloodline will rule that landscape for generations. We committed to spending a huge amount of time with each animal. It's a documentary in its traditional sense; a team went out to film, not aware of what was going to happen. They just followed these animals for hundreds of days, and whatever happened would be the story, whether it was an exciting event or a bit of a disappointment.

The last two landmark series were big state-of-the-world events. What reception are you anticipating for something as character-driven as this?

I hope that people will see these great charismatic animals in ways they've never seen them before. By spending vast amounts of time with each, our teams have been able to record what their whole lives are actually like as opposed to just a single moment. They have watched these animals facing immense challenges and great changes with

extraordinary resilience. What really comes through in the films is that for these animals, life is really, really hard. There's a nobility in how they act, whatever is thrown at them. I think because often they're struggling against universal challenges so you can't help but connect with their struggle. You feel for them; sadness at moments of tragedy and joy when they triumph.

What moments are you most excited for people to see?

What's interesting about the series is that the moments with the greatest emotional impact are often not the moments of great action or spectacle. While the smaller incidents are critical points in the bigger story. For example, in the Emperor penguins film, there is a full period after the thousands of penguins in the colony have all paired off, and where each couple is now waiting and waiting for the female to lay her single egg. This can take weeks. Yet somehow one couple appears to be far ahead of

schedule. The female has a bulge under a fold of her belly, which is the outward sign that she has got her egg safely on her feet in order to keep it off the ice, so as to keep it warm.

But then she lifts up her belly and we see (as does her mate at the same moment) that she actually has an egg-shaped snowball there. Presumably she has found it and decided to get in a bit of practice before the brutal winter hits! It's a lovely moment, quite low-key but very telling in the context of the story — about how the penguins will have to keep their egg alive through the most brutal winter on earth. Across the series, we do have great moments of action which are really exciting. There are a number of moments like these which I hope will really draw the viewer in.

Does spending so much time with the animals make it harder for the viewer to delineate between hero and villain?

That's a really good point. In

the tiger film, we focus on a mother trying to rear her four cubs. The big issue for tigers nowadays is that they live in small reserves, so there's a huge premium on space. The mother tiger needs a certain amount of territory where she can hunt in order to fetch enough food for her cubs. Our mother tiger is under pressure from her daughter, from a previous litter, who wants more space. The daughter is trying to take the mother's space, which puts huge pressure on the mother. If you told this story as a short sequence, it would be hard to not see it as a good mother and a bad daughter. But, of course, it's not that; the daughter is in the same position as the mother because she hasn't got enough space either. By being able to get into this story in such depth you see more shades of grey, and I think it's much more interesting.

Blue Planet II had a strong ecological message that's been over in the real-life news agenda. Does *Dynasties* have a similar underlying ethos?

It does. What comes out of these films is that the animals are running out of space. They need green areas in order to live out their natural lives and that space is being chipped away by our growing human population which leads to the conflict. The animals' natural stories are being changed and kicked off in new directions by interactions with humanity. This is something we see several times in this series. The end result is that the lives of these animals are becoming even more difficult than they already were. We are seeing this issue of decreasing space through the lens of the animals we feature in the series, but it is becoming a universal problem for animals across the planet.

(The series will premiere on June 17 at 9 pm on Sony BBC Earth.)



THE WORLD AS A BIG FAMILY

We must have a global open society that has some sort of State control in certain sectors and constantly strives to correct and improve, says RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Globalisation is seen as a planetary phenomenon, which has several different aspects including informational, cultural, economic or political. Although considered by some as beneficial, it has been called into question by other analysts for its disastrous effects on developing nations.

The last two decades have seen the world moving towards globalisation of trade, commerce and free-market economy. The academic economists believe that these steps would give a spurt to forces of competitiveness, efficiency which in turn would lead to better job opportunities and generation of wealth and prosperity.

However, one has to take into account not just these benefits but also the overall consequences of globalisation and its free play of market forces. One thing that no one can deny is that every human action emanates from a person's awareness of a set of values and globalisation, too, is based on a set of values. Competitiveness, efficiency, and more form just one set of values and others to see the kind of forces these values further set in motion and what is the overall effect or result of these forces on the society as a whole and not just on the businessmen and industrialists and their employees who constitute only a fraction of the society.

As everyone can see, globalisation is only a small part of the economic philosophy or policy and one must know the all-inclusive world-view or philosophy of which it forms a part. Without viewing it in context, one may develop an erroneous view. Globalisation of business and trade

in the absence of the inward-looking balancing forces, it would lead to stark materialism and commercialism, diminishing or setting at naught the values of sympathy, kindness, compassion, world-brotherhood, cooperation and so on. Thus, it would not only destabilise the financial markets but create disharmony in human relations too. It is often felt that a potent antithesis of the moral and spiritual view. Hence it should be clearly understood that globalisation in business and trade, without its spiritual counterpart, would be a distorted view. Moreover, it's a known fact that capital has a tendency to flow from countries which have free market economy to countries where it has better chance of profit by employing cheap labour, available resources, and so on. On the other hand, it is not easy for labour to go to places where it has better prospects because it has to understand the local circumstances. Thus, due to better mobility and flexibility of capital in contrast to that of labour, it is the international portfolio of investors that benefit rather than the labour. Thus, globalisation would result in disproportionate profit for those who can invest capital and uneven distribution of benefits as well as



social and economic deprivation. Further, in a free market economy, every player in the manufacturing sector would drive others out of the market and thus competition would accentuate instability in financial markets. Thus the whole economy would never return to equilibrium. In this state of instability, the business and industrial class would adopt unfair means to prevent any dwindling of its profit and thus, the whole atmosphere would be vitiated for the port-

investments. In order to take the politicians and the bureaucrats with them in order to survive or thrive. This would further give rise to corruption, black money and other evils. Thus, it is strange that our leaders talk of moral values on the one hand and of globalisation on the other hand. It is important to make an effort to popularise a global spiritual view of society as a global family.

Further, the more powerful a country, the greater is its ability to manoeuvre the world-economy to suit its own interests. One can see that the major economic powers today dominate the multilateral trading system. They define and redefine globalisation to suit their own national interests or the vested interests of their billionaires. This leads to clash of interest and instability. In order to assess merits or demerits of a system, one should also examine its ideological base and take note of its consequences. We should question why we want a free market economy or a state-controlled one. We should be clear about our goal and see whether a particular form of economy takes us towards that goal. If our goal is to remove poverty and great economic disparity and to have a society based on economic justice and fairness, then we should sort out whether globalisation or state-controlled economy can do it better. This should be judged by those who are neutral and have no vested interests in either form of economy. So, if in the present context, we must have globalisation, then we should have a global open society that has some sort of State control in certain sectors and constantly strives to correct and improve. In any case, a happy blend of economics and spirituality — both based on values — is necessary and in the process of decision-making, involvement of neutral institutions would be beneficial.

We live in a world torn by strife, violence, confusion, drug abuse and a medical system, which is too commercial and exploitative. And one of the best answers to the problems and ills of the modern world is yoga, believes filmmaker and historian Benoy Krishna Behl.

Today, the ancient science of yoga has perhaps become more relevant than it was ever before. The first step towards world peace is the creation of peace within each person. It is through the transformation of individuals that the world would be changed. Each person should grow in the understanding of his true self and develop compassion. This would lead to more harmony within families and groups, in society and finally in the community of nations. The world would become more joyous and peaceful.

Through a 52-minute documentary film, shot in 26 cities and regions across 11 countries over five years, he is set to showcase a voyage of discovery, capturing the poetry and grace of yoga and of the world of nature. The film has interviews with leading medical practitioners, who speak in objective and scientific terms about the positive benefits of yoga, and with leading students as well as with academicians and practitioners of the field.

Talking about how he chose the locations across the globe, he says, "These were decided to cover a broad range of the practice of yoga. It began with India, its birthplace. And then it went to East and West Coast USA, as these are some of the places where yoga is extremely popular. To show spectacular seascapes and beautiful backgrounds, we also shot in Bahamas and Costa Rica. We also wanted to show how yoga is proving to be extremely beneficial in areas ravaged by strife and conflict and hence, we shot in Brazil. There, the practice has proved to be useful even in jails and juvenile rehabilitation homes. We shot in dense jungles in Colombia. Other shooting locations were China, Japan and Vietnam to show the spread of yoga in Asia."

Behl calls these five years of shooting as a "long labour of love," which has also been

The art of awareness

Filmmaker BENOY K BEHL says that there is a dire need of introducing and promoting yoga in all branches of education, medicine and even workplace to create an atmosphere of harmony and oneness. By CHAHAK MITTAL



a wonderful experience for him "to shoot with and capture the finest yoga asana practitioners and the beauty of nature."

The filmmaker has been through some unforgettable experiences of meeting some of the "gentlest, kindest, and the most generous people in the world." From hearing the chants of Sanskrit bhajans across the globe at various ashrams every day, he and his team also went to some of the most dangerous and violent cities in the world like Medellin and Cali in Colombia, where yoga is being used to heal the scars of violence. He shares that often the camera had to be kept hidden while in taxis and on the streets. "However, local escorts accompanied us for safety at all times," he says.

Behl says that making and conceptualising the documentary came very easily and "naturally" to him, as it has been 43 years in practising and researching about the



ancient art of India that led him to make a film on the subject. "All Indian philosophy is yoga. It is all about achieving the final knowledge of our oneness with all that is around us, through meditation. Through yoga, we call ourselves and see that we are less affected by the noise and distractions of the world around us. That is the purpose of yoga, it takes us to a state where the ever-changing perceptions around the world do not assail our consciousness. It represents a state when the constant fluctuations of the mind have been stilled, in which we may be able to direct our consciousness in a search for what is true and lasting," explains he.

For someone who has been travelling around and researching about yoga since so many years, how has he witnessed the world around him change in terms of its understanding and recognition of yoga? He says that over the years, yoga has become

extremely popular around the world and today even modern hospitals, schools, colleges like India, Germany and USA have started taking the benefits of yoga seriously. The initiative of the Prime Minister of India in having an international day of yoga declared by the UN has gone a long way to give the practice its true place in modern international society."

Yoga has a vision which symbolises oneness in all that there is around us, believes Behl, who says that there is a dire need of introducing and promoting yoga at more branches of education, medicine and even workplace to create an atmosphere of harmony around us. "It is a vision of a great harmony and works towards integrating and joining us with the eternal reality." However, one obstacle on this way of unity, he adds, is our ego. "Our ego makes us look at ourselves as separated individuals, with limitless desires. This leads to an endless chase towards just the material system. It not only prevents satisfaction and are constantly restless. We remain trapped in the noise and clamour of the materialistic world."

He feels that such a vision of life should be introduced at all levels of education and at the workplace and it goes far beyond just the medical system. "It not only prevents disease, but as well covers all aspects of life."

He believes that yoga not only enables us to understand ourselves better but also puts us on the driving seat for our own health. It is the study of consciousness, understanding one's body, emotions, mind and beyond that, the true self.

Love does not claim possession but gives freedom. —Rabindranath Tagore

DOWNWARD HEAD MAY MAKE YOU DOMINANT

Researchers have found that lowering the head by just 10 degrees makes people more dominating. The study, published in the journal *Psychological Science*, shows that facial features are not the only source of this information, we also draw social inferences from the head itself.

"We show that tilting one's head downward systematically changes the way the face is perceived, such that a neutral face, a face with no movement or facial expression, appears to be more dominant when the head is tilted down," said researchers Zachary Wilkower and Jessica Tracy of the University of British Columbia. This effect is caused by the fact that tilting one's head downward leads to the artificial appearance of lowered and V-shaped eyebrows, which in turn elicit perceptions of aggression and dominance. It has practical impact on our social interactions.

BRACES MIGHT NOT BRING HAPPINESS

A study suggests that braces can help you get straight teeth but it may not always bring happiness and self-confidence. Published in the journal *Orthodontics and Craniofacial Research*, the study followed 448 13-year-old kids from South Australia in 1988 and 1989. By the time that they turned 30 in 2005 and 2006 more than a third of them had received orthodontic treatment.

"The study, examined if having braces led to a greater level of happiness or psycho-social outcomes, later in life. There was a pattern of higher psycho-social scores in people who did not have orthodontic treatment meaning people who hadn't had braces fitted were significantly more optimistic than the ones that did have braces," said Esma Dogramaci, Professor at the University of Adelaide. "Those who didn't have braces had varying levels of crooked teeth, just like those who had braces treatment — ranging from mild through to very severe," Dogramaci said.

SMOKING MAY RAISE THE RISK OF BLOOD PRESSURE

Choosing high-calorie options first might help you opt for a healthier meal later, says a new research. The study showed choosing indulgent dessert first may lead to eating lower-calorie meals. "We believe dieters who chose the indulgent dessert first then picked healthier main and side dishes to make up for their high-calorie dessert."

Those who picked the healthier dessert may have thought they already had done a good deed for their bodies so they deserved higher to make up for their high-calorie dessert. "That's what Martin Reimann, Assistant Professor at the University of Arizona in the US. For the study, researchers included 134 dieters aged between 18 and 60 with an average age of 32. They placed either a healthy or less healthy dessert (fresh fruit versus lemon cheesecake). When the nervous system fires, the blood pressure rises and then a series of things happen to bring that increase, to try to attenuate it," Sinoway said. We think that it could also contribute to the eventual development of hypertension."

2 HOURS IN NATURE PROMOTE WELL-BEING

People who spend at least 120 minutes a week with nature are significantly more likely to report good health and higher psychological well-being than those who do not visit nature at all during an average week, said the study published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

"It's well known that getting outdoors in nature can be good for people's health but until now we've not been able to say how much is enough," said researcher Matt White of the University of Exeter Medical School in Britain. "The majority of nature visits in this research took place within just two miles of home so even visiting local urban green spaces seems to be a good thing," White said. However, no such benefits were found for people who visited natural settings such as town parks, woodlands, country parks and beaches for less than 120 minutes a week. The current findings offer valuable support to spending time in nature to promote basic health and well-being.

HEAVY RED MEAT EATERS AT RISK

Increasing red meat consumption, particularly processed red meat, is associated with a higher risk of death, researchers warned.

A study published in the journal *BMJ* shows that replacing red meat with other protein sources, such as eggs and fish, whole grains and vegetables, over time may help you live longer. For the study, a team of researchers from Harvard University conducted a study that looked at red meat consumption over an eight-year period with mortality rate during the next eight years, starting from 1986 to the end of follow-up in 2010. Every four years the participants were given a food frequency questionnaire (FFQ) where they were asked how often they ate each food of standard portion size in the past year. They were then divided into five categories based on their changes in red meat intake. During the study, the total number of deaths from any cause reached 14,019 (8,426 women and 5,593 men).

Hong Kong leader apologises as massive rally chokes city

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Hundreds of thousands of protesters choked Hong Kong's streets for a second straight Sunday in a defiant rebuke of a revived extradition law, piling pressure on the city's embattled pro-Beijing leader who apologised for causing "conflict" but refused to step down.

The show of force saw huge crowds marching for hours in tropical heat, calling for the resignation of chief executive Carrie Lam, who was forced to suspend the bill as public anger mounted.

Thousands of black-clad protesters snaked their way for miles through the streets to the city's parliament -- a repeat of a record-breaking demonstration last Sunday that organisers said more than a million people attended.

As night fell the huge crowds had once more taken over multiple major thoroughfares, including outside the legislature, with the police seemingly ceding the streets to the jubilant masses.

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



Protesters carry a huge banner that reads "Our hearts are torn to pieces. Withdraw the monstrous bill" as they march on the streets against an extradition bill in Hong Kong on Sunday.

Lam's office put out a statement late Sunday admitting that shortcomings in how her administration handled the law had "led to a lot of conflict and disputes" and "disappointed and distressed many citizens".

"The chief executive apologises to the citizens and promises to accept criticism with the most sincere and humble attitude," it said.

It came a day after she announced she would postpone the law indefinitely.

Still, Sunday's statement fell well short of demands that she resign, shelve the bill permanently and apologise for police using tear gas and rubber bullets earlier in the week.

It was to be extremely arrogant," political analyst Dixon Sing told AFP. "I don't think the anger will subside."

The international finance hub was rocked Wednesday by the worst political violence in decades as protesters were dispersed by baton-wielding riot police. Many accused the police of using excessive force and anger was further fanned by authorities calling the largely young protesters "rioters".

Nearly 80 people were injured in the unrest -- including 22 police officers -- with both sides showing a willingness to escalate action and reaction to levels unseen in the usually stable business hub.

One man died late Saturday when he fell from a building where he had been holding an hours-long extradition protest. He had unfurled a banner on scaffolding attached to an upscale mall, but fell when rescuers tried to haul him in. Police said they suspected the 35-year-old was suicidal.

Throughout the day, demonstrators queued for hours to leave flowers and tributes where he fell. The extradition furor is just the latest chapter in what many see as a battle for the soul of Hong Kong.

GLOBE TROTTERING

LT GENERAL FAIZ HAMEED IS NEW ISI CHIEF

Islamabad: Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed would be the new chief of Pakistan's powerful spy agency ISI, the Army announced on Sunday. The Pakistan Army on Sunday announced a number of changes to postings of its top generals.

GUNMEN KILL 34 VILLAGERS IN NIGERIA

Kano: Gunmen have killed 34 people in Nigeria's northern Zamfara state where criminal gangs have been terrorising remote villages, police said on Sunday. Armed bandits on motorcycles stormed into neighbouring Tungar Kafau and Gidan Wawa villages in Shikafi district late Friday and shot dead 34 people.

FIELD FIRES IN SYRIA'S HASAKEH KILL 10

Damascus: Fires engulfing vital wheat fields across Syria's northeast have killed at least 10 people, a war monitor said Sunday, as Kurdish authorities claim the blazes were set deliberately. Kurdish authorities and the Damascus regime are competing to buy up this year's wheat as fires -- some claimed by the Islamic State group -- continue to scorch crops in the country's breadbasket. The victims included civilians and members of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces.

Damaged tankers reach safe waters after Gulf attacks

AFP ■ DUBAI

Two damaged tankers arrived safely on Sunday to locations off the Emirati coast after they were rocked by explosions in Gulf waters, in an incident Saudi Arabia blamed on its regional arch-rival Iran.

The Japanese-owned Kokuka Courageous was carrying highly flammable methanol through the Gulf of Oman on Thursday when it came under attack along with the Norwegian-operated Front Altair -- the second assault in a month in the strategic shipping lane.



Arab daily Ashraq al-Awsat.

He said Iran had responded to a visit to Tehran by Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe "by attacking two tankers, one of which was Japanese".

The US military on Friday released grainy footage it said showed an Iranian patrol boat removing an "unexploded limpet mine" from the Japanese vessel.

The crew of the Kokuka Courageous saw a "flying object" before a second blast on board, the operator's head said Friday.

The vessel's Singapore-based BSM Ship Management said in a statement Sunday that it had "arrived safely at the designated anchorage" and that its crew were "safe and well".

Israel PM's wife convicted of misusing public funds

Jerusalem: An Israeli court Sunday convicted the wife of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of fraudulently using state funds for meals, under a plea bargain which saw her admit to lesser charges.

Sara Netanyahu was found guilty of exploiting the mistake of another person and ordered to pay a fine and compensation, in a deal approved by Jerusalem magistrates' court justice Avital Chen. Netanyahu was also fined 10,000 shekels (\$2,800) and ordered to reimburse the state a further 45,000 shekels, the latter of which she will pay in ten instalments, at her request.

"The deal reached between the sides is worthy and appropriately reflects the deeds and their severity on the criminal level," Chen said in his ruling.

The 60-year-old, a high-profile presence at her husband's side throughout his long tenure in office, was initially charged in June 2018 with ordering and reimbursing the state for buying catered meals despite the presence of a cook at the minister's official residence.

The amended indictment, approved Sunday, dropped the graft charges.

city has been convulsed by political turbulence between pro-Beijing authorities and opponents who fear an increasingly assertive China is stamping on the city's unique freedoms and culture enjoyed since the handover in 1997.

Opposition to the extradition bill has united an unusually wide cross-section of Hong Kong, from influential legal and business bodies to religious leaders.

Trump to discuss Hong Kong protests with Xi at G20: Pompeo

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump will discuss the mass protests in Hong Kong with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping at the upcoming G20 summit in Japan, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Sunday.

"I think we'll get the opportunity to see President Xi in just a couple weeks now at the G20 summit. I'm sure this will be among the issues that they discuss," Pompeo said in an interview with Fox News.

China stays mum as Hong Kong protests against extradition Bill

AFP ■ BEIJING

Chinese state media remained largely silent Sunday as hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong people took to the streets to protest against a controversial extradition bill, with social platforms scrubbed clean of any pictures or mentions of the rally.

Hong Kong's government has been rocked in recent days by massive demonstrations -- and some violence -- which forced the city's embattled leader to indefinitely suspend passage of the bill.

Critics fear the Beijing-backed law will entangle people in China's notoriously opaque and politicised courts and damage the city's reputation as a safe place for business.

Except for a short opinion piece in the Communist Party mouthpiece People's Daily,

Chinese state media -- which has drummed up support for the bill in recent weeks -- remained mum Sunday after the climbdown by Chief Executive Carrie Lam.

The proposed law that would allow extraditions to the mainland was "supported by the Chinese state broadcaster, CCTV, avoided the subject in its main news bulletins throughout the day."

The general public is looking forward to blocking legal loopholes to prevent Hong Kong becoming a haven for criminals, it added.

China has blamed the protests on what it says is a small group of organisers who are colluding with Western governments.

The People's Daily echoed the --repeated government line that "it resolutely oppos-

Trump stirs up feud with London Mayor over attacks in city

PTI ■ LONDON

US President Donald Trump further stirred up his ongoing feud with London Mayor Sadiq Khan by blaming the Pakistani-origin Labour leader a "disaster", blaming him for a recent spate of stabbings and street violence in the UK capital.

Trump and Khan have repeatedly clashed ever since the mayor questioned the red carpet being rolled out for the US President by Britain, most recently for a state visit hosted by Queen Elizabeth II earlier this month.

Khan has also likened Trump to "20th century fascists" for his divisive views on immigration, with Trump hitting back with social media messages about his "terrible job" as Mayor of London.

The US President's latest intervention on Twitter follows in the same vein, demanding that Khan should be replaced.



Khan's spokesperson said the London Mayor's thoughts were with the victims' families -- including several boys and a girl -- have been arrested in connection with the incidents of stabbing and shooting in Wandsworth, Plumstead and Clapham areas of London.

Using the tragedy of people being murdered to attack the Mayor.

"He tweeted, 'Sadiq Khan is rightly supporting the police to do their job while Katie Hopkins spreads hateful and divisive rhetoric. They seek to divide at a time we need to come together'."

The Metropolitan Police said it has arrested several boys and a girl -- have been arrested in connection with the incidents of stabbing and shooting in Wandsworth, Plumstead and Clapham areas of London.

An 18-year-old man was stabbed to death on Friday afternoon in Wandsworth, south London, then minutes later a 19-year-old man was shot dead in Plumstead, south-east London.

Another man in his 30s then died after he was stabbed in Tower Hamlets, east London, on Saturday afternoon. In the early hours of Saturday, two men were stabbed in Clapham and another was stabbed in Brixton.

Police are focusing on supporting London's communities and over-stretched emergency services. He has been in regular touch with senior Met police officers last night and throughout the day," said a spokesperson for the London

G20 agrees marine plastic pollution deal

AFP ■ TOKYO

The Group of 20 major economies said they agreed a deal to reduce plastic waste that is choking the seas at a meeting in Japan on Sunday. Under the agreement, G20 member countries committed to reducing plastic waste but gave little detail on how that would be done. They added that the steps would be voluntary and progress would be reported once a year, according to local media.

The Japanese government hopes to hold the first meeting in November, said newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun.

"It is great that we were able to make rules for all, including emerging and developing countries," Japanese environment minister Yoshiaki Harada said after the two-day meeting of the G20 environment and energy ministers' meeting.

Plastic pollution has become a global concern, particularly after bans imposed by China and other countries on the import of plastic waste from overseas.

degraded waste -- have attracted particular attention.

They absorb harmful chemicals, accumulating inside fish, birds and other animals, and are difficult to collect once in the water.

The framework agreed at the meeting in the central mountain resort of Karuizawa would be the first to reduce plastic pollution in the ocean involving not only rich nations but emerging economies as well. The deal would be "the first step" to tackling plastic waste, Hiroaki Odachi of Greenpeace Japan said in a statement.

"However, it is insufficient to rely on countries' voluntary actions" to resolve the crisis, he said. Only an estimated nine percent of plastics ever produced are recycled and campaigners say the only long-term solution to the plastic waste crisis is for companies to make less and consumers to use less.

"G20 countries should clearly announce that they will prioritise reducing generation of single-use plastics" along with recycling and reusing materials, Odachi said.

MBS says Kingdom isn't seeking war in region

AP ■ DUBAI

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said in remarks published Sunday that the kingdom is not seeking war in the region, but warned it will not hesitate to confront threats to its security.

His comments came just days after the US blamed Iran for suspected attacks on two oil tankers near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, denouncing what it called a campaign of "escalating tensions" in a region crucial to global energy supplies.

The US alleges Iran used limpet mines to target the tankers, pointing to black-and-white footage it captured that American officials describe as Iranian Revolutionary Guard troops removing an unexploded mine from the Kokuka Courageous.

Iran has rejected the US claim that it was responsible for Thursday's attacks, saying it stands ready to play an active and constructive role in ensuring the security of strategic maritime passages.



Iran has also been accused of being behind the May 12 attacks on four oil tankers off the coast of the United Arab Emirates. Two of those vessels belonged to Saudi Arabia.

In his first public comments since the start of these incidents, the powerful Saudi prince, who is also defence minister and oversees all major levers of power in the country, said the attacks "confirm the importance of our demands of the international community to take a decisive stance" against Iran's behaviour.

"The kingdom does not seek war in the region, but we will not hesitate to deal with any threat to our people, sovereignty and vital interests," he said in an interview with the Arabic newspaper, Ashraq al-Awsat.

He also touted US-Saudi relations as "essential to achieving regional security and stability."

B'desh prison breakfast menu gets makeover after 200 years

AFP ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh authorities have upgraded a 200-year-old colonial-era breakfast menu in all its prisons, an official said Sunday, as part of a reform of the country's penal system.

Bazul Rashid, deputy head of the Prison Directorate, said the nation's more than 81,000 convicts would from Sunday receive an improved breakfast, replacing the bread and molasses that has been on the menu since being introduced by British colonial rulers in the 18th century.

The new diet will contain bread, vegetables, sweets and khichdi -- a spiced rice cooked with lentils -- Rashid said.

Previously prisoners were given just 116 grams (four ounces) of bread and 14.5 grams (half an ounce) of molasses, he said.

'Good gifts': Putin presents Xi with birthday ice cream

AFP ■ DUSHANBE (TAJIKISTAN)

Russian President Vladimir Putin presented his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping with a giant box of ice cream for his 66th birthday before a summit in Tajikistan on Saturday, the Kremlin said, in a sign of the pair's warm ties.

"Happy birthday, my best wishes... I am delighted to have a friend like you," Putin told Xi, according to the Kremlin website.

The two leaders met in the Tajik capital Dushanbe for the fifth summit of the Conference

on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), which brought together delegations from 27 countries including Iran and Qatar.

Xi last week made a three-day visit to Russia to visit Putin and to discuss on supporting London's communities and over-stretched emergency services. He has been in regular touch with senior Met police officers last night and throughout the day," said a spokesperson for the London

"We came with good gifts," Putin said on Saturday before presenting a huge box full of Russian ice cream as temperatures in Dushanbe sweltered above 30C degrees (86 Fahrenheit).

Corruption tainted Guatemala set to elect new President

Guatemala City: Corruption-weary Guatemalans are set to elect a new president Sunday after a tumultuous campaign that saw two leading candidates barred from taking part and the top electoral crimes prosecutor forced to flee the country, fearing for his life.

Gang violence, poverty and streams of US-bound migrants have dominated campaigning in Central America's most populous country, where a crowded field of 19 candidates is vying to succeed outgoing president Jimmy Morales.

She was expected to poll strongly, but was barred from running last month over allegations of irregularities dating from when she was a barnstorming public prosecutor.

Sandra Torres, a 63-year-old businesswoman and former First Lady, heads into the election as a favourite, having built clear opinion poll lead over second placed Alejandro Giammettei, also 63.

CRICKETCRADLE

TODAY LIVE

STAR SPORTS

West Indies vs B'desh
3:00 pm IST
VENUE: County Ground, Taunton

RANVIR IN HIS ELEMENTS



Bollywood entertainer and superstar Ranveer Singh dons a new avatar as a sports presenter. He is seen with cricketers legends Sunil Gavaskar, Virender Sehwag, Harbhajan Singh, Brian Lara and Rameez Raja

The only thing more brown than the pitch at Old Trafford was the attire of the as usual on-fire Bollywood star Ranveer Singh who is here to shoot for his upcoming film on the 1983 World Cup win and is playing the central character of then captain Kapil Dev. Though he was all about 1983, his clothing was outlandish by all standards and very 70s. A brown overcoat, over a very brown muffler, bigger than life, brown goggles almost covering his face and Burberry check parallels to cover his legs, also brown.

A sartorial disaster if the fashion paparazzi were to be consulted but symbolic of something which could not be fathomed. His role for today was to play a sports presenter which he did with elan, interviewing great like Brian Lara, Sunil Gavaskar, Virender Sehwag and Ramiz Raja, and having fun doing that mid field.

Besides carrying his notes for what he had to say to the camera, Ranveer as usual was a cauldron of adrenaline and energy, standing under the players' pavilion and egging on the Indian players to give it their all as Shikhar, Hardik, Karthik and others responded. Dhawan came down from the players' box to give him a hug after which he and Bhajji managed the cameras for some time. Deepika, he said, is not here "but nothing like an India-Pakistan match isn't it," he asked with a wink before hopping away to the inaccessible area of the stadium for some work, a whole lot of fan moments and some good engaging play.

MEDIA SNUB

The ICC is likely to impose sanction on Sri Lanka for not fulfilling their media duties after suffering a humiliating 87-run defeat to Australia. Disheartened by their loss to the defending champions here on Saturday, skipper Dimuth Karunaratne and other Sri Lanka players decided to skip the mandatory media conference and the 'mixed zone'. As a result, Sri Lanka, in all probability would face action from the International Cricket Council. "Yes, Sri Lanka have told us they don't want to do it. The ICC will be speaking to them," an ICC spokesman told reporters when asked if Sri Lanka would face any sanction for skipping the press briefing.

SANGA BLASTS

Former Sri Lanka skipper Kumar Sangakkara is disappointed with the variations in wickets at different venues in England, where the 2019 edition of the ICC World Cup is underway and matches are also being affected due to rain. A number of games have been hit by rains so far in the showpiece event, which might also be a factor behind the different wickets across venues. Expressing his disappointment, Sangakkara wrote in his column for *Times of India*: "Uniform neutral pitches are a key requirement for a global tournament like this and that has unfortunately not always been the case. Sides have to adjust, but the disgruntled murmurs emanating from some team camps can be understood." "It's a shame that it's not practical to cover the entire playing area like is the norm in Sri Lanka. That effort requires huge manpower but it has become something of an artform for us and helps protect cricket from some of the monsoonal downpours we have to contend with," he added.

AGENCIES

PRELIMINARY STAGE

Pos	Team	P	W	L	N/R	Net RR	Pts
1	AUS	5	4	1	0	+0.812	8
2	NZ	4	3	0	1	+2.163	7
3	ENG	4	3	1	0	+1.557	6
4	IND	3	2	0	1	+0.539	5
5	SL	4	1	2	1	-1.517	4
6	WI	3	1	1	1	+2.054	3
7	RSA	5	1	3	1	-0.208	3
8	B'DESH	4	1	2	1	-0.714	3
9	PAK	4	1	2	1	-1.796	3
10	AFG	4	0	4	0	-1.638	0

India home, almost

Rohit ton leads Indian charge with 336-5 as Amir takes Big Three

PNS ■ OLD TRAFFORD (MANCHESTER)

With classic lazy elegance, Rohit Sharma scored his second century of the tournament, putting India on a sure footing in their campaign in this World Cup. The Men in Blue scored 336-5 after rain stopped play in the 45th over, Shankar won a referral and Mohammed Amir got the wind back into his bowling, taking three strong Indian wickets in his death over spell, returning with applaudable figure of 3/46.

In the end, India got restricted to an under 350 score, giving Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Singh, not to mention Chahal and Kuldeep who was retained over talk of Shami joining the playing 11, a job to do when Pakistan open their defence after a rain-cut 15-minute break.

But it was Rohit's day more than anyone's, despite Amir recovering from opening spell inaction and a near silent 77 from skipper Kohli. India's front loaders fared well with a century, 77 runs and a half century by KL Rahul promoted to open on account of Shikhar Dhawan's injury.

Decked with 14 fours and three sixes, Sharma's 140 runs bespoke of his signature pull shots, hooks, cuts and glides to nullify the much-feared Pakistan pace battery relying on which their skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed chose to bowl on a wicket that was quite obviously calling for the bat, that despite their Prime Minister's advisory to bat.

Though India was on a sound score by the time he left the middle, Sharma was furious with himself for his pre-meditated bagel shot caught at short fine leg by Dhawan just when he was looking to overreach. Finishing 153 in this tournament, His 140 runs came in 113 balls with 14 fours and 3 sixes. It was nonchalant class, steering clear of the bad balls, avoiding risks, rotating the strike and punctuating it with speed and correctness that came into play after Ahmed elected to bowl, lured in by the expected juice in the pitch aided and abetted by the overcast conditions.

Nothing, meanwhile, worked as planned for Pakistan in the initial phase with Amir taking wicketless from his first two spells and both Hasan Ali and Wahab Riaz pretty much doing the same. Alarmingly for Pakistan, both its lead bowlers Amir and Wahab got two official warnings from the umpire for running dangerously onto the pitch. Three warnings amount to a suspension from the game.

Ironically, however, it was the



Rohit Sharma, left, celebrates with captain Virat Kohli, right, after completing century against Pakistan

warning that came to a harried Pakistan's defence when Wahab decided to come round the wicket in his post warning delivery to upset KL Rahul's concentration and luring him to err. Rahul, wanting to guide it through the covers, spooned it up to Babar

Azam instead for a convenient catch when India was steady up to a 300 plus score and Rahul was making a mark at 57 in 78 balls with three fours and two sixes.

Hardik Pandya's cameo of 26 runs in 18 balls, with him wield-

ing his bat more like Bhim's legendary *gada* than the blade of the game, cut into expectations as he decided to hit Amir out of the field falling short by a few inches as Shoib Malik jumped into the air to catch him at the long on boundary, giving Aamir

HIGHEST STANDS FOR INDIA AGAINST PAK IN WC

Runs	Wkt	Partners	Venue	Date
136	1st	Lokesh Rahul/Rohit Sharma	Manchester	16-06-2019
129	2nd	Shikhar Dhawan/Virat Kohli	Adelaide	15-02-2015
110	3rd	Virat Kohli/Suresh Raina	Adelaide	15-02-2015
102	3rd	Sachin Tendulkar/M. Kaif	Centurion	01-03-2003
99*	5th	Rahul Dravid/Yuvraj Singh	Centurion	01-03-2003

FAISEL FEATURES

VIRAT' RECORD FEAT

- Virat Kohli became the third Indian and ninth batsman overall to complete 11000 runs in one day internationals.
- He also set the record of fastest 11000 runs in one day internationals by reaching this milestone in 222nd Innings.
- Sachin Tendulkar who completed his 11000 runs in 276th innings held the previous record.

FASTEST 11000 RUNS IN ODIs

Batsman	M	I	Time
Virat Kohli (India)	230	222	11 years & 301 days
Sachin Tendulkar (India)	284	276	12 years & 41 days
Ricky Ponting (Australia)	295	286	13 years & 9 days
Sourav Ganguly (India)	298	288	15 years & 228 days
Jacques Kallis (S.Africa)	307	293	14 years & 303 days

FAISEL FEATURES

DECKED WITH 14 FOURS AND THREE SIXES, SHARMA'S 140 RUNS BESPOKE OF HIS SIGNATURE PULL SHOTS, HOOKS, CUTS AND GLIDES TO NULLIFY THE MUCH-FEARED PAKISTAN PACE BATTERY RELYING ON WHICH THEIR SKIPPER SARFARAZ CHOSE TO BOWL ON A WICKET THAT WAS QUITE OBVIOUSLY CALLING FOR THE BAT

his first breakthrough in his third spell.

Pandya's departure brought in the vintage and golden pair of MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli to the middle to loud cheers but did not live up to the billing as Dhoni, wanting to speed up the pace in the last five overs of the game. Amir got his second man in Dhoni who made a huge swipe outside the off-stump going straight into the gloves of Ahmed at a measly score of one, denting his finisher tag on the biggest stage of the tournament.

Meanwhile, Kohli silently scampered to his half century, second consecutive one in this tournament, when India was 278 and in the 44th over.

But just when both sides had gathered steam for extreme round of action in the ultimate five overs, the rain came down to hold up proceedings and excitement for a bit but not before a referral by India showed up that Shankar not being out play cleared.

The rain break had Amir on fire again, as he took out man of the moment Kohli in the most crucial of death overs when he could have led the Indian score line over the 350 mark. But that was not to be and as he nicked Amir's short bouncer to Ahmed on an overhead shot and walked before the umpire could raise his finger, inviting pats on the back for fair play, by the Pakistani players.

Kedar and Shankar (15 off 15 with no boundary) failed to put the ante managing to score just nine runs off the last over.

Over to the arm department now.

Indian fans deluge stands, chirp all blue & happening

PNS ■ OLD TRAFFORD (MANCHESTER)

The Indian Tricolour far outnumbered the green crescent in the stands (50 to 2) at the Old Trafford where decibel levels went zooming past the city limits, breaching the largely insulated Press Box too. The fans started streaming in from 7 am onwards, most of them looking skywards and praying in unison that the rain be kept at bay and it seemed to have been heard as play started on time with Pakistan skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed winning the toss and electing to put the Indians to bat under overcast conditions.

As expected, though not condoned, the chirp between the Indians and Pakistani fans outside the stadium flew fast and high crossing boundaries and limits with impunity, before moving on to the game. There was camaraderie yes, but only on the surface with everything from this match to the 2017 Champions Trophy Final to, of course, Kashmir, becoming topics that drew cheers and boos in equal measure.

"Pakistan is a wannabe with not too many moments to celebrate against India. All they can talk of is the Champions Trophy. So they raise non-cricket issues like Kashmir to aspire for victory where there is none," said an all-Tricolour painted Indian fan calling himself Jiggery India.



Indian fans celebrate after Rohit Sharma smashes a boundary during the ICC World Cup match between India and Pakistan at Old Trafford in Manchester on Sunday

Imran Ahmad, flying the Pakistani flag high, wanted to move on and enjoy a good game of cricket "under the sun and for the full 50 overs each". The total capacity of this stadium is 23000 for the World Cup and it was packed to capacity, filling up in a few minutes after

England is used to. Their noisiest is The Ashes series against Australia which draws in the crowds but never ever has transcended the noise and the chatter that the Indian and Pakistani fans rev up in the stands and out of it. This match is reportedly the most expensive televised match

in recent history of any sport, garnering more than ₹ 100 crore in spot advertisements. It would have been a huge loss for the official broadcaster Star TV had it been rained out, like India's earlier tie against New Zealand. Fans have converged on Manchester from far and wide, including

greatly Indian defence," said one fan, tongue-in-cheek loud enough for a group of Pakistani fans queuing up for some fish and chips could overhear. "Wait my friend, wait," was their goodwill answer. Indeed, the day is yet to pan out.

non-cricket regions like South America where the Indian population is steadily growing. There was a group from Venezuela here.

The high-octane tone for the match was set by none other than Pakistan Premier and former Pakistan skipper Imran Khan who shot off a series of tweets exhorting his team to banish all fear of losing. His advice to Sarfaraz Ahmed was to bat if he wins the toss, a suggestion not heeded by him, perhaps because he got lured in by the juice in the skies and in the pitch consequently. As it turned out, with no success till India reached a handsome 136 run count.

That had the Indian fans in the stands, outnumbering the Pakistanis 80 to 20 per cent, in constant celebration even as the Pakistani fans from across India's border sat quietly waiting for Amir, Wahab or Ali to strike. Sharing a beer in the back stands, there was also a lot of talk about the Pakistani wish to celebrate Indian wickets differently. "The only way the Pakistanis have celebrated till now is by silence as they've been unable to breach the great Indian defence," said one fan, tongue-in-cheek loud enough for a group of Pakistani fans queuing up for some fish and chips could overhear. "Wait my friend, wait," was their goodwill answer. Indeed, the day is yet to pan out.

It was important for South Africa not only to win but to do so emphatically and they did just that against Afghanistan.

CaribSay



By **JACQUES KALLIS**

There will be a lot of happiness and above all relief from that nine-wicket victory and hopefully it can kickstart their ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

There is still a chance they can make the semi-finals if they win all their remaining games, so the camp should be a little more upbeat.

It was a good bowling performance, and a lot of players will have taken confidence from getting some wickets. It was good to see the guys take the opportunity they had and not just go through the motions against a team that was slightly weaker than them.

I was also really pleased to see Hashim Amla get some runs. It wasn't a case of scoring quickly, but instead getting some time out in the middle. The run-rate did not really matter, it was about getting some form and Hashim did just that.

First of many



South African players chat during team meeting ahead team's training session *CSA/Twitter*

“**THERE IS STILL A CHANCE THEY CAN MAKE THE SEMI-FINALS IF THEY WIN ALL THEIR REMAINING GAMES, SO THE CAMP SHOULD BE A LITTLE MORE UPEAT**”

I still think he will be really important for South Africa over the course of this tournament given his experience. That will be especially true in the next game against New Zealand at Edgbaston. The Kiwis always play well in these tournaments and they are always contenders. They also find ways to do something different and be unpredictable.

It will be a big test for South Africa who will have to be at their very best if they are going to win.

For me, the key is to get off to a good start, with bat or ball. That is where Hashim's runs will help. We've seen throughout this World Cup that if you keep wickets in hand, you can really post some big totals. If you lose wickets early, then it can be tough for the players coming in to get in.

South Africa will have to be aggressive with the ball as well. They have to be the ones to throw the first punch in the game. They cannot let New Zealand dictate, they have to

try to smother them from the off. That will not be easy though.

Edgbaston is a good wicket so it should make for a competitive game. South Africa will need a complete performance and that means getting their discipline right with the ball and bowling in the right areas.

We have seen at this World Cup that it is harder to bowl slightly fuller and usually you get more reward if you bang it in back of a length.

So it will be important to summarise the conditions and adjust accordingly. The other thing that will be crucial is that if South Africa do get the upper hand early on, then they cannot take their foot off the pedal and give New Zealand a way back into it.

Overall though, it was great to see South Africa up and running and hopefully we can see them really carry that momentum into the rest of the competition and particularly the next game on Wednesday. © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2019

Keep calm, play full 50 overs

PTI ■ CARDIFF

Afghanistan captain Gulbadin Naib has urged his batsmen to remain calm in the middle and play full 50 overs after yet another collapse saw them go down to South Africa by nine wickets in a World Cup match.

Put into bat under cloudy skies, Afghanistan negotiated the new ball brilliantly, surviving Kagiso Rabada's natural seam and probing length but after a second rain delay, they lost five wickets for eight runs to eventually get all out for 125.

A sudden collapse is becoming a worrying trend for Afghanistan, who fell from 66 for no loss to 70 for 4 against New Zealand last week, and Naib asked his batsmen to control their nerves.

"Every time I'm saying to the batsman, control your nerves. We need calm cricket in the middle. Everyone is trying to put a score on the board so we have an opportunity to defend it," said Naib.

"We did not play a 50-over game because we did not last. We have played a lot of cricket in the last few years but there is pressure on the team. We lost the toss so we did not take responsibility enough and that was the difference," he said.

While Imran Tahir's (4/29) spin did the damage on a green surface, Afghanistan's leg-spin maestro in Rashid Khan, no.1 ranked T20 bowler in the world, failed to extract same advantage from the pitch.

"He (Tahir) is a world-class spinner but we are used to leg-spin in the camp, so we are playing it every day in the nets," said Naib.

The skipper said his team had a realistic chance against a lowly South African side but his players missed the opportunity.

"South Africa is a good side but if you look for the last three games, they didn't play well. We had a good opportunity to play against them but we missed it."

"So credit goes again to their bowlers and also the conditions, it's bad luck we missed the toss. South Africa were just the better team," said Naib.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan batsman Hashmatullah Shahidi felt his team has enough quality to



Mohammad Nabi chats with teammate during Afghanistan innings *ACB/File Picture*

A SUDDEN COLLAPSE IS BECOMING A WORRYING TREND FOR AFGHANISTAN, WHO FELL FROM 66 FOR NO LOSS TO 70 FOR 4 AGAINST NEW ZEALAND LAST WEEK, AND NAIB ASKED HIS BATSMEN TO CONTROL THEIR NERVES

wickets in two overs here. We started well but we lost wickets quickly, that was the main reason for the defeat," he admitted.

Shahidi said Afghanistan must quickly learn from their mistakes.

"We have played four games and they have all been on difficult tracks, on green tracks. But we know that runs can be scored, look at what Australia did against Sri Lanka."

"I hope the next games will be good for the batting. We are making small mistakes, we have to learn from them. We just had a plan to be calm. The first 30 or 35 overs is important and we wanted to take our time and play slowly but in the middle overs we collapsed," said Shahidi.

upset hosts England next week but the ones would be on the batsmen to score crucial runs.

"I can say if we play good cricket, we can beat any team but it depends on our batting," said Shahidi.

The 24-year-old agreed with his captain that the batsmen need to

capitalise on a good start.

"We are struggling. We have lost four in a row so we are disappointed. We tried to come back but things have not gone our way. We still have five games to go."

"We collapsed against Sri Lanka and New Zealand, losing wickets in a short space of time. We lost four

Gib-some tips

PTI ■ CARDIFF

South Africa all-rounder Chris Morris has credited head coach Ottis Gibson for making him a better bowler.

The Proteas finally banked their first victory of the Cricket World Cup with a nine wicket win over Afghanistan here on Saturday. And Morris played his role, with 3/13 his best figures of the tournament.

The 32-year-old all-rounder was a late addition to Fa'du Plessis' team, replacing Anrich Nortje, who was ruled out with a hand injury.

And Gibson, a former pacer himself, has worked hard to establish his place in a squad that have been hit with injuries to their frontline bowling attack. Dale Steyn flying home with a shoulder injury and Lungi Ngidi still on the sidelines with a hamstring problem.

"There are a lot less worms in my head on the cricket field these days. The job I was given by Ottis was quite a clear-cut one. If I stick to that, it's a job I think I can do," said Morris.

"I have worked quite nicely with Ottis in the last two weeks. We have found something in the run-up that we've changed. That's given me a lot more rhythm and more balance at the crease. It's coming on nicely for now."

"I try not to bowl as fast as I can because that's when I tend to break. It's just about finding rhythm, hitting the wicket and not trying to do too many things."

Though Morris opened the bowling against India, he usually comes in at first or second change where he has the dual task of containing the opposition's run-rate and taking wickets.

In the past, Morris focussed more on bowling fast but now he is working on subtle skills to ensure he stays injury-free.

Morris' new approach has brought him consistency, something that South Africa's attack as a whole have been striving for and may have found in their win over Afghanistan. After Afghanistan scored 33 runs in the first 5.5 overs before the first rain delay in Cardiff, Gibson scolded his bowlers for being a little wayward.

They returned with more focus.

"At the first rain break, the bowlers got a bit of a slap on the wrist. We were told we need to be more consistent in what we are doing and that we don't need to try too much,"



Chris Morris celebrates with Fa'du Plessis after taking the wicket of Rahmat Shah *AP*

I HAVE WORKED QUITE NICELY WITH OTTIS IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS AND THAT HAS GIVEN ME A LOT MORE RHYTHM AND MORE BALANCE AT THE CREASE. IT'S COMING ON NICELY FOR NOW

added Morris.

"After that rain break, we came on and we were a lot more consistent, a lot more at the batters and everything in the field just clicked for us. We needed a little bit of a pep talk from the coach and that was quite good."

South Africa then took two Afghan wickets before another rain delay, after which they forced a collapse of five wickets for eight runs in 29 balls, taking advantage of Afghanistan's penchant for playing their shots.

No time to rest

PTI ■ LONDON

In pole position at top of the T20 table to make the World Cup semi-finals, Australia must be tempted to give their key pacer Mitchell Starc a break this week, but the fast bowler said he has no intention of resting.

Starc, who is now joint number two on the all-time list of Australian World Cup wicket takers alongside Brett Lee, said he would not like to take a break considering that he is currently leading the chart with 13 wickets.

"If I'm fit I'd like to play all the games. It's not up to me but it's the World Cup. I definitely won't be putting my hand up to rest," Starc was quoted as saying by ICC website.

Australia have won four out of their five matches at the World Cup, losing just one so far.

Starc, who starred with figures of 4/55 during Australia's 87-run win over Sri Lanka here on Saturday, said: "I'm just glad we won."

“**IF I'M FIT I'D LIKE TO PLAY ALL THE GAMES. IT'S NOT UP TO ME BUT IT'S THE WORLD CUP. I DEFINITELY WON'T BE PUTTING MY HAND UP TO REST**”

Asked about how he has managed to rise to the occasion throughout the tournament with similar breakthrough spells against West Indies and Pakistan, and now Sri Lanka, Starc said: "I do enjoy the challenge."

The pacer admitted having a higher economy rate than other bowlers but insisted that his aim was to provide breakthroughs for the team.

"It's the challenge at the death, that challenge of trying to win a game for your team or trying to defend a title, I really enjoy that. It's something I work really hard at and it's been a role I've done for a long time."

"My economy rate might be higher than others, but I'm there to make breakthroughs for the team," explained Starc.

"Test cricket is still the pinnacle for me but the fact I've kept it pretty simple in terms of my gameplay for white ball cricket has held me in good stead through World Cups," he added.

The Australian team's balance has got affected by the recent loss of Marcus Stoinis to injury, but Starc said the all-rounder was doing all he can just by being with them.

"Stoinis is in great spirits, he's always got a smile on his face, I think that's why Justin Langer calls him the spirit of the team. He's a great team man who just wants to do well for his mates and be around so he's doing all he can."



Mitchell Starc bowls during his opening spell against Sri Lanka *cricket.com.au*

It's all in mind

PTI ■ LONDON

Aaron Finch says it was a slight change in mindset and technique that helped him overcome a dismal Australian summer that even raised questions over his place in the ODI side, both as player and captain.

The Australian skipper is now back to his best and bludgeoned 153 from only 132 balls at the Oval on Saturday to lead the defending champions to an 87-run win over Sri Lanka.

He is now the top run scorer in the World Cup, has equalled Jason Roy for the highest individual score of the tournament so far and also overtaken Ricky Ponting for highest individual score by an Australian captain at a World Cup.

All of that comes after a miserable summer back in Australia that saw him dropped from the Test side and fear for his ODI captaincy. But a change in mindset has yielded rewards when it counts most.

"My technique has tightened up slightly, there are a few technical things I have worked one. Sometimes you change some things but you don't get rewarded straight away for the work you put in behind the scenes. So it's nice to get that reward," said Finch.

"I changed my mindset a bit more than anything. I stated to doubt my game in the Australian summer, there were a lot of times when I was questioning every decision I was making, technical, physical, mental, looking for



Aaron Finch acknowledges crowd after getting dismissed *AP*

an answer and you don't know what the answer is. It was a really great learning for me."

"It would have been nice to have that at 22 net 32, but what I learned is you can strip it back as much as you want but it doesn't change the basics of the game. Defend the good ball and then score runs."



WE'VE PLAYED THEM (B'DESH) QUITE A BIT IN THE PAST AND THEY'VE GOT THE BETTER OF US. BUT IT'S A DIFFERENT OCCASION AND THERE'S LOTS AT STAKE. SO WE'RE ALL UP FOR IT
— JASON HOLDER

Sailors of the same boat

B'desh face West Indies in order to keep semi-final hopes alive

UPNEXT



PTI ■ CARDIFF

Bangladesh will have the psychological advantage when they face West Indies though both teams are sailing in the same boat as far as their World Cup campaign is concerned.

Bangladesh beat West Indies as many as three times in tri-series that Ireland hosted ahead of the World Cup. Even though West Indies stars such as Chris Gayle and Andre Russell were not part of that series, Jason Holder's team still must be smarting from those three consecutive losses last month.

Both teams are on three points from four games, having lost two games with one game each being a washout.

Bangladesh, who last played on June 8 when they lost to England, will be itching to take the field after a forced break of one week with the game against Sri Lanka called off due to rain. They had the opportunity to score two points against a struggling Sri Lanka before the weather sealed their fate.

The Mashrafe Mortaza-led side has batted pretty well so far but needs to step up in the bowling department. The bowlers conceded as many as 386 runs against

England in Cardiff and it was too much of an ask for the batsmen who ended at 280. West Indies, on the other hand, need to change their approach in batting. Most of their batsmen seem to be in T20 mode while playing 50-over cricket.

"Our batters needed to take more ownership and form a few more partnerships. We needed to dig in deep and need to correct it. It has happened twice in two games now. We misread the wicket in terms of pace and didn't get the short balls long enough. Were a bit erratic as well," Holder had said after the loss to England on Friday.

SQUADS

West Indies: Jason Holder, Fabian Allen, Carlos Brathwaite, Darren Bravo, Sheldon Cottrell, Shannon Gabriel, Chris Gayle, Shimron Hetmyer, Shai Hope, Evin Lewis, Ashley Nurse, Nicholas Pooran, Kemar Roach, Andre Russell, Oshane Thomas.

Bangladesh: Mashrafe Mortaza (c), Abu Jayed, Liton Das, Mahmudullah, Mehidy Hasan, Mohammad Mithun, Mohammad Saifuddin, Mosaddek Hossain, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mustafizur Rahman, Rubel Hossain, Sabbir Rahman, Shakib Al Hasan, Soumya Sarkar, Tamim Iqbal.

XFACTOR

- Mustafizur Rahman's pace
- Chris Gayle-Evin Lewis opening partnership
- Windies' pace quartet of Cottrell, Holder, Russell, Thomas
- Shakib Al Hasan's all-round performance



Andre Russell trains during West Indies team practice session

Windies/Twitter

HEAD TO HEAD					
	Played	WI	Bdesh	Tied	N/R
Matches	37	21	14	-	2
Day matches	20	8	10	-	2
In World Cup	4	3	-	-	1
Last 5 matches	5	1	4	-	-

HIGHEST TOTALS					
	West Indies	338-7 in 50 overs at Basseterre	25-08-2014		
	Bangladesh	301-6 in 50 overs at Basseterre	28-07-2018		

PERFORMANCE IN WC						
Team	P	W	L	T	N/R	Success%
West Indies	35	12	22	-	1	35.29
Bangladesh	75	42	31	-	2	57.33

FAISEL FEATURES

MEN WHO MATTER

SHAI HOPE (WEST INDIES)

The wicket-keeper batsman averages a staggering 94.57 against Bangladesh, almost twice his overall career average of 49.72. West Indies, who lost to Australia and England due to lack of partnerships with the bat, need someone to play a long innings — who better than Shai Hope to do that?



MUSHFIQUR RAHIM (BANGLADESH)

A key middle-order batsman, Mushfiqur, along with Shakib, laid the foundation for Bangladesh's win over South Africa with a steady innings of 78. Mushfiqur, who has scored five half-centuries in his last ten outings against West Indies, averaging 63.71 in that time, will aim for a big innings on Monday.



UNDER THE WEATHER

A fine start to the day is expected, with early sunshine, followed by partly cloudy intervals thereafter. With the sun expected to stay out for the most part, and the boundaries at Taunton featuring short dimensions, a high-scoring game could be on the cards.

Courtesy — © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2018



Nicholas Pooran returns to pavilion after getting dismissed AP

All weather man

■ TAUNTON

Nicholas Pooran is keen to shed his T20 specialist tag, insisting his mature knock against England proves he can become West Indies' man for all formats.

The 25-year-old has played in 102 T20 matches in his career, compared with just three first-class games with Trinidad and Tobago — the last of which came in December 2014.

He only made his international ODI debut in February against England and was picked for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019 after a single 50-over appearance for his country.

But on a tricky Southampton pitch, he made a composed 63 against the hosts, putting on 89 for the fourth wicket with Shimron Hetmyer to help steer West Indies away from a perilous 55-3.

Both eventually fell cheaply and West Indies subsequently collapsed to 212 all out en route to an eight-wicket defeat.

But Pooran's innings was nonetheless impressive and the Trinidad left-hander believes he can thrive at ODI and, ultimately, Test level.

"My job is to play cricket, it does not matter which format. I'm not rushing anything. I'm just trying to get better and better each day. I back myself to do that," he said.

"My dream was always to play

cricket professionally and represent the West Indies at a World Cup someday. It feels wonderful.

"I just learned a lot from T20 cricket and now my chance is to play ODI cricket. It's different, you have to bat longer and so it is up to me now to adjust.

"I want to get better and better and not make the same mistakes over and over again. You can't judge T20 cricket and every game brings a different situation."

West Indies need Pooran to deliver more runs if they are to stand a chance of reaching the semi-finals.

Their defeat to England leaves them with just one win from four matches and sixth in the group standings ahead of Monday's game with an equally under pressure Bangladesh.

"We will come out hard and we need a victory," he added.

"We made simple mistakes [against England] but we need to stick to our game plan. We lost some wickets cheaply but I don't think we have given our hand away yet."

"They were soft dismissals. In every game, we have dominated periods but we now just need to dominate for a lot longer.

"We need to improve in the middle and dominate the big periods for us."

Courtesy — © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2019

Tigers can tame pace attack

■ TAUNTON

West Indies' explosive batting line-up may be feared around the world, but Mashrafe Mortaza believes Bangladesh's Tigers can tame them again at Taunton.

Needing victory in Monday's clash to keep pace with the leading pack, Bangladesh boast an enviable record against Jason Holder's side over the past few years, triumphing in ODI series home and away as well as the recent Tri-Nation series.

Key to that successful match-up has been the potent use of spin, and with Mehedy Hasan and Shakib Al Hasan both in wicket-taking form so far this World Cup, skipper Mashrafe is confident his side has a viable plan of attack — even on the notoriously short boundaries of the County Ground.

"It's a very important match for us, especially losing few points in the last three matches," he said.

"We've been quite successful against them with some off-spinners. And if you look at recently, Mehedy bowled really well against them. And also he's bowling so well in this World Cup as well, even the right-handed."

"Obviously the top five West Indies batsmen are left handers, and Mehedy bowled against them really well too.



Mashrafe Mortaza trains during team's practice session ahead of Windies clash AP

"So it's a positive sign. And the same thing I'll say that it's a small ground, too, so we have to think about it as well. West Indies have so much power to do it."

With T20 specialist Chris Gayle at the top of the order and Andre Russell providing an x-factor in the middle, West Indies will hope to take advantage of the specific conditions they are likely to face at the County Ground on

Monday. And while facing players of their quality is a daunting task for any team, Mashrafe, 35, feels the Men in Maroon's reputation as big-hitters remains something of a double-edged sword.

He added: "They come hard. And the kind of cricket they play, they're always positive and play shots in the middle, which is good, which can be bad, both

ways. "So we take it positively that, as we said, the matchup, I think our bowling has been fantastic against them last two, three series we played against them."

"We've got to back ourselves. But as we've been succeeding against them, I think we have to rethink about it. And whatever the ground, whatever the wicket, we have to back our own strength. That's what I feel."

Approaching the midway point in the competition, the Tigers have been left to rue several near-misses, including the narrow defeat to New Zealand at the Oval.

Further ground was lost in the rain-soaked clash with Sri Lanka last week, but Mashrafe, a World Cup stalwart, insists belief remains high in the camp regarding qualification for the semi-finals.

"We lost against New Zealand, that might cost a little bit," he concluded. "But we have still five matches left, as I said, that if we can take one by one at a time, and if we really perform well, you have to do it."

"It's been ups and downs. But we can make the difference.

"But we believe in it, which I believe that my team is believing."

Courtesy — © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2019

Not over yet

Captain call

AFF ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Jos Buttler says he is ready to step up and captain England in the World Cup if injured skipper Eoin Morgan fails to recover in time to face Afghanistan on Tuesday.

Morgan had to leave the field with a back spasm during the West Indies innings in Southampton on Friday, with opening batsman Jason Roy also forced off the field due to a tight hamstring. Vice-captain Buttler himself was unable to get wicket in the team's previous match against Bangladesh but said he was fully fit as he contemplates leading the side.

"I'd rather Eoin plays," said Buttler. "He'll have a scan and Jason the same and see how their injuries are but obviously we hope for the best." But he said England's approach would not change much if Morgan did not make it in time.

"We've played under Eoin for a long time," he said. "I think he's a fantastic captain. He's someone I've tried to learn from, being vice-captain. I've talked to him a lot about the game. We've got some quite similar views so I think it would be very similar."

The injuries to Roy and Morgan in Southampton forced England to rejig, with Test captain Joe Root moving up the order and scoring a century as an opener as the host nation cruised to victory by eight wickets.

It is that flexibility and the quality of the players not currently in the starting 11 including Tom Curran, Moeen Ali and James Vince that gives Buttler confidence.

"Yes they are absolutely (ready to step in). We've talked about how hard the 15 was to pick and getting in the 11 is a really competitive squad so those guys on the side-

lines are fantastic players who are all ready to play."

Buttler, 28, said multi-tasking by performing wicket-keeping duties and captaining the side would not be a problem.

"If it comes to it and I have to captain it's obviously a huge honour every time you have to do it. From behind the stumps you have a fantastic view of what's going on but it's just down to yourself to manage those two jobs and separate them as much as you can," he said.

"One of the strengths of the group is that there are lots of guys in the team willing to offer opinions and advice so there are plenty of guys to talk to but Joe Root would be the obvious one."



“**WITHOUT THE MIDDLE ORDER FIRING, IT WILL BE TOUGH TO POST TOTAL ABOVE THE 300-MARK BUT SRI LANKA IS DEFINITELY CAPABLE OF BEATING ENGLAND, ALTHOUGH IT WON'T BE EASY**”

They attacked the England spinners, especially in the middle overs, and I thought Mohammad Hafeez batted brilliantly in that period.

Sri Lanka have to take those chances, put those England bowlers under pressure and kick on when they can.

What you've seen to win games at this World Cup is that either posting a score above 300 or restricting the opposition to less than 270.

It's all about how Sri Lanka can achieve that. Pakistan had the bowling attack, had the variation and pace to challenge the England batting line-up. I don't think Sri Lanka have the pace but the variety is there and I think they have to use a spinner in their line-up to create those opportunities in the middle overs.

Without the middle order firing, it will be tough to post that total above the 300-mark but they are definitely capable of beating England, although it won't be easy.

Courtesy: © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2019



Kusal Perera leaves the pitch after he is bowled by Mitchell Starc

teams is by picking up wickets in middle overs, so you can keep them to 270 or 280.

If Sri Lanka had a genuine spinner in the side it could've made a difference and I thought they should've gone with Jeewan Mendis because he can bat as well.

Now they need at least two more

wins to be in consideration for the top four and it's four tough teams left — England, South Africa, West Indies and India.

It's England next and for that match, you have to take a leaf out of Pakistan's book — they played their natural game against England and deservedly won.

MASTERSTROKE



By **MAHELA JAYAWARDENE**
Former Sri Lanka captain

It's going to be an uphill struggle for Sri Lanka to reach the semi-finals following the 87-run defeat to Australia but it is still possible.

It was a disappointing defeat because they had a great opportunity to get two points but let it slip away.

The opening batsmen, Dimuth Karunaratne and Kusal Perera, set up the chase of 335 really well with a brilliant century partnership at 6.5 runs per over.

We just needed two good partnerships to get through the two later spells from Mitchell Starc because there wasn't much momentum for the other Australian bowlers.

But then there was a complete collapse in the middle order, which is exactly what happened in the warm-up game against South Africa, then the New Zealand loss and even the win against Afghanistan.

It's a bit of a concern and when Glenn Maxwell bowled, our left-handers got stuck in the situation where he's their fifth bowler but they were unable to put him under pressure.

If they could have got after Maxwell, then Australia didn't really have many other options to turn to but it's a worrying pattern where the middle order are consistently unable to control the tough situations.

They're experienced players as well, so it's disappointing. They're trying different ways to get out of it but for me, the only way is the old-fashioned way — grind it out.

Sri Lanka had opportunity to do that because of the brilliant start by the openers — two good 50-run partnerships would've put Australia under tremendous pressure and enabled us to control the chase quite easily.

The fast bowlers bowled really well but both teams tactically probably didn't get right by not playing a main spinner — which you need to control the middle overs.

Our quicks bowled really well with control but couldn't pick up wickets. The only way to limit good batting

OTHER SPORTS

Colombia stun Messi's Argentina

AFF ■ SALVADOR

Roger Martinez and Duvan Zapata put a dent in Lionel Messi's hopes of finally landing a major international title as Colombia began their Copa America campaign with a 2-0 win over Argentina on Saturday.

Martinez struck a stunning opener on 72 minutes and fellow substitute Zapata sealed the win three minutes from the end after Argentina had dominated the second half of this Group B encounter in Salvador.

On paper at least, this promised a thrilling attacking spectacle between two star-studded forward lines.

For Argentina, five-time Ballon d'Or winner Messi was joined by Sergio Aguero and Angel Di Maria, while Colombia could count on James Rodriguez, Radamel Falcao and Juan Cuadrado.

But it was two players who began the game on the bench that took the chance to steal the headlines. It was a fast and furious opening that proved too helter skelter to produce any genuine chances.

Colombia, playing in a fluorescent blue and orange kit, were the first to really threaten on 16 minutes when Falcao laid off a Cuadrado cross for Martinez, whose shot was deflected behind.

Argentina gifted Colombia an opening with time running down in the first period as goalkeeper Franco Armani and center-back Nicolas Otamendi played themselves into trouble



James Rodriguez, 2nd right, and Lionel Messi, 2nd left, at the end of the Copa America Group B match

deep inside the area.

Falcao robbed Otamendi and tried to tee up James but Guido Rodriguez got back to nick the ball off the talented playmaker's toes.

Moments later, Martinez wriggled free down the right and picked out Falcao but his shot was blocked.

Colombia had been much the better side, dominating possession and chances, with a subdued Messi, as so often for his country, a peripheral figure in a goalless first half.

DECISIVE SUBSTITUTES

Argentina created their best chance so far in the opening minute of the second period as Leandro Paredes let fly from 30 yards, sending the ball whistling

past the post with goalkeeper David Ospina scrambling to his right.

Messi briefly came to life, nutmegging Davinson Sanchez to burst into the area, but the tireless Wilmar Barrios got back to crowd out the Barcelona superstar.

Argentina had their tails up and Paredes thrashed in a shot from an angle that Ospina did well to punch clear.

What had been a petulant affair threatened to boil over when Cuadrado was booked for a foul on Messi that sparked a brief melee of pushing and shoving.

Colombia were in danger of losing their heads and Cuadrado was quickly withdrawn by Portuguese coach Carlos Queiroz.

Argentina were by now well on top and Ospina made a smart low save to deny Otamendi's header, before Messi headed the rebound wide.

But against the run of play, Colombia struck a hammer blow to Argentina and Messi's Copa hopes.

James spread a delightful crossfield ball out to Martinez, who cut in from the left wing and thumped a stunning right-footed shot into the far corner.

And four minutes from time, Martinez found overlapping full-back Jefferson Lerma, another substitute, and his left-wing cross was stab home from close in by Zapata.

Argentina created several chances but most fell harmlessly into Ospina's arms.

Gurjit scores brace in India's 5-0 win

PTI ■ HIROSHIMA

Gurjit scored a brace to lead the Indian Women's hockey team to a dominant 5-0 victory over Poland at the FIH Women's Series Finals Hiroshima 2019 here on Sunday.

Right from the outset, India were on the attack, their left side causing problems for Poland's defence with regularity. Poland enjoyed the lion's share of possession, but India were causing more problems with their speed in attack. The best chance to open the scoring fell for India in the final seconds of the quarter.

High pressing strategy put Poland's defenders constantly under stress as they looked to play the ball out quickly, often inaccurately and turned over possession in crucial areas with regularity.

Put under pressure by Sunita Lakra, Poland faltered in playing out from the back, and the ball fell to Navjot Kaur on the left. Her cross was inch perfect, directed towards the far post, where Jyoti deflected it in, giving India a deserved lead.

India won a flurry of PCs in the final five minutes of the quarter. From one of them, Vandana Kataria pounced on a loose ball — after Gurjit's dragkick had been saved by Gabara — to score India's second. From another, Gurjit slotted the ball into the bottom left corner, to give India a three goal lead as they went into halftime. India got a stroke in the 35th minute, and Gurjit duly dispatched it to score her second and India's fourth of the game. It was with that lead the team went into the final break.

The final quarter was an ill-tempered affair, both teams reduced to ten at times,



Indian Eves celebrate after scoring fifth goal against Poland

Hockey India/Twitter

by players being carded. India held firm control over the game though, their regular circle penetrations enough to keep Poland in defensive mode.

India's fifth came via brilliant stick work from Navneet Kaur in the 56th minute. Navneet picked up the ball with her back

to goal at the top of the Poland circle, turned away from her marker with ease and unleashed a shot into the bottom corner. Gabara got a hand to it, but the power of the shot was too much for her to save. It was the final bit of action as India got home comfortable 5-0 victors.

Federer fresh for 10th Halle title tilt

AFF ■ HALLE WESTFALEN

Roger Federer says staying in wide awake will be the key to his grass court season with a focus on claiming a record tenth Halle title this week. The 37-year-old Swiss was given the run around by Rafael Nadal last time out on the Roland Garros clay, but says he'll be back in his element in Paris in 2009.

"I feel fresh, rested and ready for the grass season now," said Federer, who will target a ninth Wimbledon win in July.



Roger Federer was presented a memento upon his arrival at Halle Westfalen

"The surface suits me: I like the intuitive, aggressive game," Federer told a press conference ahead of Halle.

"The matches on grass are

often decided in a few rallies. You have to stay awake and concentrated." Federer added: "Winning the tournament always has to be my goal in

Halle. "I love to play at this venue, so I am going into the tournament with a very good feeling," said Federer, who first appeared in Halle in 2000 and has gone on to play the tournament 15 times.

"It would be just amazing to win for a 10th time," said Federer, who was beaten by Croatia's Borna Coric in the final last year.

Federer gets his campaign under way against a tricky opponent in John Millman, who beat him at Flushing Meadows last season.

"John is always a tough opponent who doesn't give anything away. He always gives 100 percent on court and it will be a real test, but that is perhaps exactly what I need."

Pogba hints Utd exit

AFF ■ MANCHESTER

Paul Pogba has given a strong indication that he wants to leave Manchester United this summer to seek a "new challenge".

The French World Cup winner rejoined United from Juventus for a then world record £89 million (\$112 million) fee three years ago, but has largely failed to live up to expectations.

Pogba has been strongly linked with a move to Real

Madrid or even a return to Juventus with United having failed to qualify for the Champions League next season.

"For me I have been for three years in Manchester and have been doing great; some good moments and some bad moments, like everybody. Like everywhere else," Pogba was quoted as telling reporters in Tokyo by *The Guardian* on Sunday.

"I think for me it could be a good time to have a new chal-

lenge somewhere else. I am thinking of this: to have a new challenge somewhere else."

Despite scoring 16 goals this season, half of which came from the penalty spot, Pogba was often criticised for his contribution under both Jose Mourinho and Solskjaer as United limped to a sixth-placed finish in the Premier League.

Should Pogba move on, United are likely to seek a higher fee than they spent on the 26-year-old in 2016.



Paul Pogba celebrates after scoring