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CRISIS IN INDIA**MONEY 8**  
ICICI MOVES NCLAT TO SEEK  
EARLY HEARING ON JAL**WORLD 12**  
PAK BLOGGER, JOURNALIST KNOWN FOR  
CRITICISING ARMY, ISI HACKED TO DEATH

DEHRADUN, TUESDAY JUNE 18, 2019; PAGES 16-22

# The Pioneer

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## Doctors require Mamata's pledge

Medicos end strike as CM assures zero tolerance against assault on them

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The junior doctors of West Bengal on Monday called off their week-long strike following a "fruitful discussion" with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who accepted all their demands, including stringent action against perpetrators of crimes against on-duty medics.

"We are satisfied with the talks being held in an extremely cordial atmosphere," said one of the 31 delegates of doctors from all over Bengal who were escorted by a Government vehicle to the State secretariat Nabanna, where the Chief Minister met them for more than an hour and a half.

"This discussion was very fruitful as both the sides reciprocated to each other's views in a very positive manner," the Chief Minister said, adding, she was "grateful to the doctors as they responded to my call for discussion and came all the way to Nabanna. The talks with them were constructive and I hope the doctors will go back and announce their withdrawal of strike as we have accepted all their demands."

Drawing a loud applause from the doctors' delegation, the Chief Minister further said, "These are like our own children. It is their right to make justified demands and the Government will always stand by them, including in their times of distress, as they are serving the society against all odds."



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee conducts a meeting with doctors in Howrah on Monday

Hours later the doctors formally told reporters at Nil Ratan Sarkar Medical College and Hospital (NRSMCH) that they are ending the strike and "will join our work as soon as possible," adding "we are now convinced that the Chief Minister will take action if any doctor is assaulted in future."

One of their representatives reiterated, "No doctor or nobody from any profession can be

assaulted physically or verbally. We assume after our conversation with the Chief Minister that the State will have zero tolerance against assault on doctors. This has to be remembered by the entire population not only of Bengal but the entire country. If there is violence then that will come with consequences. The Chief Minister has told us that there will be stringent legal action

against the assaulters." In a remarkable display of diplomatic skills, Mamata turned the situation in her favour yielding to the doctors' demand for a live coverage of her meeting with them. The doctors initially wanted her to visit the epicentre of the movement at the NRS Medical College and Hospital but subsequently conceded to the Chief Minister's conditions that

the meeting be held at Nabanna. The doctors, however, said they would go to the secretariat only if the meeting was shown live on television.

Her stance was a climb-down from her Thursday's position when she told a large gathering of striking doctors at the SSKM Hospital to join duty in four hours or face consequences.

She subsequently held out threats of invoking Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) and cited how the State Governments of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, J&K, and Tamil Nadu had taken stringent actions against striking doctors.

Fresh from an unimpressive show in the parliamentary elections and under pressure from all quarters to stand by the doctors, Mamata invited the doctors to a meeting where she was accompanied among others by Minister of State for Health Chandrima Bhattacharya, Chief Secretary Malay De, Principal Secretary Health Rajiv Sinha, State DGP Virendra Kumar, and Commissioner of Police Anuj Sharma and others.

Deliberating on the 12-point demand of the doctors the CM said the Government would forward allow only two persons to go inside the Emergency enclosure, tighten security network, make a provision for public relation officials to handle the patients' party more effectively.

## Pulwama-II bid foiled; Major martyred in raid

9 soldiers injured in Pulwama IED blast; 3 jawans hurt in Anantnag search on attack

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The sinister design of terrorists to enact the February 14 Pulwama terror attack on Monday evening in Arhal area of Pulwama by triggering an IED blast on a patrol party of 44 Rashtriya Rifles was foiled and damage minimised due to the alertness of the security forces and the troops travelling in the hardened ALS (a fortified truck).

However, in another incident earlier, an Army Major was martyred and a terrorist killed, while another officer and two troopers were injured on Monday in an encounter between security forces and the ultras in Jammu & Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said. An intelligence report about terrorists' attempt to use an IED blast on an Army convoy in South Kashmir districts and subsequent alertness obviated the crisis.

Terrorists had used a similar strategy while targeting a CRPF convoy on the Jammu-Kashmir National Highway on February 14 in which 40 para-



Army soldiers cordon off the area near the house where terrorists were hiding during an encounter in which an Army Major was martyred and a terrorist killed at Achabal in Anantnag on Monday

troopers were killed. The area, where Army vehicle was targeted by the terrorists was roughly 25 kms away from the site of the Pulwama terror attack. A Ministry of Defence spokesperson in Srinagar claimed a "failed" attempt was made to attack a mobile vehicle patrol in the general area of Arhal in Pulwama. He said, "All troops are safe with minor injuries."

Police spokesperson in Srinagar said, "During a search and cordon operation by the joint forces at Badura in Achabal area of Anantnag, terrorist fired on the search party."

due to powerful explosion." "The entire area has been cordoned off and search in the area is going on," he added.

In another anti-terrorist operation, a Major of the Indian Army on Monday attained martyrdom in Badura area of Anantnag while one terrorist, believed to be a foreign national, was neutralised during the day-long operation.

Police spokesperson in Srinagar said, "During a search and cordon operation by the joint forces at Badura in Achabal area of Anantnag, terrorist fired on the search party."

## Healthcare paralyses; SC to hear today plea for cops at hospitals

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the medical fraternity's nationwide strike hit healthcare services and left patients and their relatives high and dry across States, the Supreme Court on Monday said it will hear on Tuesday a plea seeking safety and security of doctors in Government hospitals in the country.

The Indian Medical Association (IMA), the apex body of medical practitioners, had called for a three-day nationwide strike in protest against the assault on doctors in West Bengal allegedly by the relatives of a patient who died on June 10 at NRS Medical College Hospital in Kolkata.

A large number of patients and their relatives, caught unaware of the strike, were seen waiting outside various hospitals, appealing to authorities for help. In many Government and private hospitals across the country, out-patient departments (OPDs) remained closed and scheduled surgeries were postponed. However, emergency services remained operational.

Amid protests, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Monday said the Union Government will "revive" the issue of drafting a Central law regarding the safety of medics



A patient and his attendant await doctors at AIMS OPD as doctors stopped work on Tuesday in protest against the assault on their Bengal colleagues, in New Delhi on Monday

at healthcare facilities.

For its part, a vacation Bench of Justices Deepak Gupta and Surya Kant of the SC agreed to list the matter for Tuesday after the counsel for the petitioner, advocate Alakh Alok Srivastava, sought urgent hearing.

The petition has also sought directions to the Union Ministries of home affairs and health and the West Bengal Government to depute Government-appointed security

personnel at all State-run hospitals to ensure safety and security of doctors.

Due to the protests, healthcare services have been badly disrupted and many people are dying because of absence of doctors, the plea said.

It also sought directions to the Bengal Government to take the strictest legal and penal action against those who assaulted junior doctors at NRS Medical College Hospital in Kolkata.

## JP Nadda to step into Shah's shoes in Jan

To work as BJP working president under Shah till Assembly polls

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leader and former Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda was on Monday appointed the working president of the BJP with Amit Shah to continue as the party chief until December by when Assembly polls in Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand are slated for completion.

Sixty-year-old Nadda is expected to become the full-fledged BJP president over the 11-crore-strong party after Shah completes his extended tenure in January 2020.

The announcement was made after the BJP Parliamentary Board, the



Home Minister Amit Shah gives a bouquet to JP Nadda in New Delhi on Monday

party's highest decision-making body, met here at its headquarters with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shah and Home Minister Rajnath Singh, among others, in attendance.

Shah, who is saddled with the heavy responsibility of Ministry of Home Affairs, would ensure continuity and see the party through the three Assembly polls.

## MHA seeks report on police-driver clash, 3 cops suspended

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Having taken cognizance of the attack on a policeman by a Sikh tempo driver with a sword and his subsequent thrashing by police personnel on Sunday evening, the Union Home Ministry on Monday sought a report from the Delhi Police on the issue after a video of the incident went viral.

With the issue snowballing into a major political row, the Delhi Police has suspended three policemen posted with Mukherjee Nagar police station in northwest Delhi for "unprofessional behaviour" and initiated a probe.

Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said he spoke to Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Pattnaik and asked him to take immediate action.

"BJP delegation led by Shri@pringshahsai ji called on me today regarding the incident under Mukherjee Nagar Police station in New Delhi. I spoke to CP Delhi, instructed for immediate action and to submit a detailed report," Reddy tweeted.

Police said the altercation took place after a Gramin Sewa tempo driver's vehicle collided with a police van. Eight police personnel were injured in the scuffle, police said. In one of the videos, the tempo driver identified as Sarbjit Singh, with sword in hand, was seen chasing policemen. In another video, cops were seen thrashing the driver after overpowering him.

An ACP-ranker officer could be seen being chased by protesters. He had gone there to pacify the mob.

## Cloud, wind, shower rain relief on Delhi

Weather comfort till June 20

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The week in the national Capital started on a pleasant note with cloudy sky and moderate wind. Cloud cover, gusty winds and intermittent rain protected Delhi from the sweltering heat, with the weatherman predicting the temperatures will remain below normal for another three-four days.

Drizzle in some parts of the Capital and its adjoining areas brought mercury down with maximum temperature being recorded at 36.3 degrees Celsius while minimum stood at 28.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD)'s Delhi region weather wing forecast, more rain and thunderstorm activities are expected on June 18, 19, 20.

From the Arabian Sea is expected to continue for the next two to three days. Thus, we expect scattered rain and thunder-shower activities to continue over Delhi and NCR until June 19," Skymet, a private weather forecast agency, said.

In the past 48 hours, rain has been witnessed in isolated pockets of Delhi and adjoining areas of Noida, Gurgaon, Faridabad, and Ghaziabad. The Safdarjung observatory said the city received 0.6mm rainfall during the past 24 hours. The humidity recorded at 8:30 am was 54 per cent. On Sunday, the maximum temperature settled at 36.3 degrees Celsius and the minimum at 28.02 degrees Celsius.

On Monday, the maximum temperature at Safdarjung observatory was recorded 33 degrees Celsius and minimum 27. At Palam observatory the maximum temperature was recorded 32 degrees Celsius and minimum 28.



over in Delhi as from June 23 onwards temperature will increase again, said weather experts. The maximum temperature for June 23 has been forecast 41 degrees Celsius by the IMD. This summer, Delhi-NCR witnessed spell of severe

## Bihar Govt shuts door on killer heatwave

As toll mounts to 180, Section 144 imposed, schools closed, all public activities put off

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite respite in northern States, including Punjab and Haryana, from heatwave, Bihar continues to reel under a searing heatwave which has swept most parts of the State, killing around 180 people in the State.

The prevailing situation has prompted the Nitish Kumar Government to order closure of academic activities in all schools till June 22, officials said on Monday.

Though the MeT Department on Monday said rain and thunderstorm have brought down the mercury and there will be no heatwave conditions this week in northern States, including Punjab



Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) have been stopped after 10.30 am.

The Gaya district administration has banned any cultural programmes or gathering in open spaces, between 11 am and 4 pm.

Majority of heatwave deaths have been reported from Aurangabad, Gaya and Nawada districts, where temperatures hovered around 45 degrees Celsius for the past three weeks.



# GM raises various demands with Railway Min

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Tanakpur-Bageshwar rail line should be approved in the current financial year, requested CM Trivendra Singh Rawat while meeting the Union Railway minister Piyush Goyal. He also requested that a special train be started between Delhi and Haldwani, a Shatabdi or Jan Shatabdi train be started between Dehradun and Kathgodam and that the Railway ministry fund the remaining works in the Roorkee-Deoband project.

Rawat said that the proposed Tanakpur-Bageshwar rail line is an important proposed project. Currently, the rail network is present till Tanakpur but this is not the case with Bageshwar and Pithoragarh districts in Kumaon which are completely mountainous. The proposed Tanakpur-Bageshwar rail project is very important to expedite social and economic development, develop tourist destinations and fully utilise local resources. As Uttarakhand also shares borders with China and Nepal, this project would also be strategically important. Stating this, Rawat requested Goyal to grant approval to the Tanakpur-Bageshwar project in the current financial year. He also informed Goyal that there is no direct train service in the morning or afternoon between Dehradun and Kathgodam which is the last railway station in Kumaon region. There is



considerable movement of tourists and other travelers between Dehradun and Kumaon but due to lack of train in the morning, they have to wait till the evening. Hence, in public interest either a Shatabdi or Jan Shatabdi train should be started immediately between Dehradun and Haldwani/Kathgodam between

5 and 6 AM. Considering the number of trains between Delhi and Haldwani is quite less. A special train should be started between Delhi and Haldwani, which would also benefit the tourists. Rawat said that in 2018, the Railway ministry had ascertained the cost of Roorkee-Deoband project at Rs

791.39 crore and an agreement was reached for the ministry and state government sharing the cost in 50:50 ratio. This 27.45 kilometre long project would include 94 hectare and 70 hectare area of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand respectively. Construction of this project would save the time of travelers and make traffic

convenient. Uttarakhand has made Rs 240 crore contribution to the project so far. Rawat requested Goyal that considering the limited financial resources of the State, the contribution made so far should be considered adequate and that the ministry should finance the remaining cost of the project.

## Rawat meets Javadekar, seeks changes in forest related regulations

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State Government should be accorded the right to clear up to five hectare forest land transfer. For project related compensatory afforestation, plantation on degraded forest land should also be allowed. Chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said this while meeting Union minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi on Monday.

Rawat said that swift decisions are needed on forest land transfer cases for reconstruction in disaster affected areas, all-weather road project, PMGSY, rural electrification and other ambitious schemes. For this, the State should be empowered to clear cases of up to five hectare land. Further, compensatory afforestation should also be allowed on degraded forest land for BRO road projects and Central projects. It is mandatory to undertake compensatory plantation on double area of civil land for central funded and state government projects. However, majority of the state's area is under forest cover and civil land is limited, considering which compensatory planta-



tion for all such projects should be allowed on degraded forest land. Rawat said that from time to time the State has requested the Centre to allow felling of mature trees above 1000 metres altitude. This was also recommended by the Forest Research Institute after a scientific study, said Rawat, while requesting the Union minister to grant permission.

He said that earlier, water cess collected from various industrial activities was deposited with the Central Government which provided 80 per cent of this to the state pollution control board. This has been discontinued as a result of GST act, stopping an average annual income of Rs 3.25 crore of the State government. The CM also said

that as per Central Government directions, setting up of regular air quality monitoring stations in five cities along with environmental data centre and 142 additional stations for air quality monitoring, a cost of Rs 20 crore is estimated which should be provided by the Government of India to the state pollution control board. Rawat further said that the Rangers College under the MoEFCC has considerable vacant land which can be used in the future for the smart city project, hosting national games and other events. Considering this, the vacant land of the Rangers College should be transferred to the State Government, demanded the CM.

## Who permitted marriage function at Auli, asks HC

Court seeks status report on environmental damage caused by marriage function hosted by Gupta brothers

PNS ■ NAINITAL

The High Court has pulled up the State government for permission granted to controversial South African businessmen brothers Ajay and Atul Gupta to hold the weddings of their sons at ecologically sensitive skiing destination Auli near Joshimath. Hearing on a public interest litigation (PIL), the court asked how and who granted permission for the weddings to be held at this location. The court has also directed the Uttarakhand Environment Protection and Pollution Control Board (UEPPCB) to inspect the site and submit a status report on Tuesday.

The Gupta brothers are organising an extravagant wedding function at Auli purportedly at a cost of Rs 200 crore. Hearing the PIL filed by advocate Rakshit Joshi, the division bench of chief justice Ramesh Karamanath and justice Alok Kumar Verma asked those

holding the marriage whether they had deposited Rs five crore for cleaning and compensating for the damage caused to the environment. The counsel representing the event organisers said that they had been granted permission by the municipal council and that they had deposited a sum of Rs 30 lakh with the government.

The marriage programme is to be held from June 18 to 22 for which a number of tents have been put up to accommodate guests apart from a helpal facilitated at the site. The court remarked that if the amount for cleaning of the venue is not deposited, approval to the programme will have to be reconsidered. Asking the government who accorded permission for the event, the court also asked whether marriages had been held at Auli in the past and whether the helpal was already there.

The division bench further asked whether Auli is a bugyal (high altitude alpine meadow) and stated that if it is, this would constitute contempt of earlier orders of the high court prohibiting night stays on bugyals. The UEPPCB has also been directed to inspect the site and inform the court on Tuesday regarding the damage caused to the environment.

## Shervani: Coordination between administration & hotel association must for tourism



PNS ■ NAINITAL

Former head of the Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India and managing director of Shervani Hilltop hotel in Nainital, Saeed Shervani said that it is vital to establish coordination among the hotel association of Nainital, local administration and other bodies to ensure good facilities and convenience to tourists arriving here. Addressing the media here, he said that currently the condition of roads has improved considerably which has made travel convenient for the people. With more people preferring to travel by road, the number of tourists and vehicles reaching Nainital is bound to

rise further in the future. Shervani said that the district administration and hotel association should also open booking counters at the entry points of the city so that any tourist coming here without booking can do so before entering the city. While the government earns considerable revenue from the tourism industry in Nainital, many locals also gain employment. Considering this, the district administration and the locals will also have to play a role in enhancing the tourism business here. He also stressed on the need for raising awareness among both locals and the tourists to ensure that the arrival of tourists does not impact the environment and beauty of Nainital negatively.

## CM seeks 90% Central funding of SWM projects

₹5,000 crore one time grant for Kumbh

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Considering the geographical conditions of Uttarakhand, for solid waste management projects under Swachh Bharat Mission, the government of India should approve 90 per cent Central contribution. Chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat made this request while meeting the Union minister of State (Independent) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri in the national Capital on Monday. He also sought a one time grant of Rs 5,000 crore from the Centre for the Kumbh Mela to be held in 2021.

Rawat said that the Kumbh Mela to be held in Haridwar during 2021 is expected to be visited by about 15 crore people from across India and abroad. For the successful organisation of this

major event, works have to be done on a large scale for housing, transport, health, security and various infrastructural facilities. The State Government has started preparations for this. All permanent and temporary works are to be completed by October 2020. Rawat requested Singh that considering the limited financial resources of the state, the Government of India should approve a one time grant of Rs

regarding this. Regarding the Swachh Bharat Mission, he informed Singh and the works being undertaken in Uttarakhand. The mission is especially important for maintaining cleanliness and beauty of the state rich in biodiversity and forests. The State Government is also undertaking serious efforts for this with all cities of the state being declared open defecation free (ODF). Rawat

visited by the Centre in the form of viability gap funding. Most of the towns in Uttarakhand are located in mountainous regions. Further, the scope for public private partnership in solid waste management is also limited. Considering this, the central contribution in current and future stages of solid waste management projects needs to be raised to 90 per cent. The chief minister also requested facilitation of expansion of the



## Rain brings relief, trees fell due to strong winds

Hail & intense showers forecast in mountains

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A spell of rain brought much relief from the heat in Dehradun though strong winds also felled trees in various parts of the city and led to disruption of power supply in many areas on Monday evening. Water logging was also experienced on different roads. The State Meteorological Centre has forecast the possibility of hail and intense showers at isolated places especially in the mountainous regions on Tuesday. Thunder squall is likely to occur at isolated

places especially in the plains during the next 36 hours. According to the meteorological centre, in Dehradun, one or two spells of rain and thunderstorm accompanied by squall are likely on Tuesday.

The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be 35 degree Celsius and 18 degree Celsius respectively. On Monday, the maxi-

mum and minimum temperatures recorded at various places of the state were 37 degree Celsius and 22.7 degree Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 35.6 degree Celsius and 23.6 degree Celsius in Pantnagar, 27.6

degree Celsius and 14.9 degree Celsius in Mukteshwar and 28 degree Celsius and 17.4 degree Celsius in Pantnagar, 27.6 degree Celsius and 14.9 degree Celsius in New Tehri.

## RDMC REPORT ON ALMORA RELEASED BY CM

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Presiding over the second meeting of the State's Rural Development and Migration Commission (RDMC), chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has directed formation of a committee in the commission to coordinate with various departments for implementing the suggestions made by RDMC so far. The chief minister also released the report prepared by the RDMC on Almora district on the occasion.

The report prepared by the commission presents a picture of the status of migration and other aspects in Almora while also making recommendations for strengthening the social and economic development in the district while mitigating migration. The chief minister said that a survey of districts has been done for mitigation of migration. An action plan should be prepared for such districts. A well planned roadmap should be prepared on how to control migration and how to encourage reverse migration, said the chief minister. Rawat said that there is need to focus on public facilities



for stalling migration from the mountainous regions. Detailed study should be conducted to ascertain how particular areas can be developed. Special focus should be laid on encouraging homestays and self help groups, local products along with packaging and branding of local products. Documentary films should also be made on success stories to discourage migration, he said. Such documentaries should also be

made on tourism, agriculture, horticulture and other important subjects. Rawat also said that suggestions on who to stop migration and encourage reverse migration should also be sought from experts and those who have done commendable works in various sectors.

The RDMC has submitted four reports so far. It has submitted reports on aspects of migration from Gram Panchayats, analysis and rec-

ommendations on eco-tourism and a report on Pauri district in addition to the one on Almora released on Monday. The RDMC vice chairman Shard Singh Negi said that in order to strengthen social and economic development and mitigate migration, deliberations were held with experts and locals in the rural areas of various districts. Suggestions were also sought from experts and students of various universities

and institutions. Meetings were also held at the state administration level on the subject. He further informed that in the coming year, the RDMC will prepare a report on migration from rural areas and related social and economic aspects of Pithoragarh and Tehri districts. In addition to this, the schemes operated by various departments of the State Government will be evaluated to provide useful suggestions to the government for reducing migration. Later, talking to media persons the RDMC vice chairman said that apart from reviewing the work done by the commission in the past year and the plans for the future, the CM directed formation of a committee to facilitate implementation of the suggestions made by the commission. The RDMC committee will draft a departmental check list and then hold meetings with the departments to deliberate upon pertinent issues, he said.

# Sidhu could get bigger role in Congress

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

With no sign of end to the prevailing hostility between Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and his Cabinet Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, the Congress high command is considering the options of giving a "bigger role" to the former cricketer.

The party's veteran Capt Amarinder, who has defied the Modi tsunami across the country to secure eight, out of the total 13 seats, in Punjab. Capt Amarinder, who defeated the BJP stalwart Arun Jaitley in his first ever electoral hustings in 2014 general elections despite nationwide Modi wave, is currently ruling Punjab enjoying two-third majority in the State. What exactly the Congress means by "bigger" is yet to be ascertained, but it has been learnt that the party is juggling between three options.

First, to appoint him as the state Congress chief as the incumbent Sunil Jakhar has already submitted his resignation after he failed to secure his seat and lost to greenhorn Sunny Deol in Gurdaspur. Secondly, there are talks of appointing Sidhu as the deputy to the Chief Minister which seems unlikely as the party high command could not afford to challenge Capt Amarinder's authority by appointing a Deputy Chief Minister — a post which he had refused to retain in the first place. After the Congress swept the Punjab assembly polls in 2017, speculations were rife that the party would appoint Sidhu as Deputy Chief Minister to Capt Amarinder. But, Capt Amarinder had reportedly refused to have a

post of Deputy Chief Minister in his Cabinet. Another alternative that the party high command is considering is to appoint Sidhu as one of the four vice-presidents in case the party decides to replace party president Rahul Gandhi, who is adamant to step down from the coveted post, with four in-charges by grouping the country into four segments. In case it happens, the party is considering Sidhu's name for the northern region. In the recently-concluded elections, Sidhu had addressed several rallies in the northern states, except his home state Punjab, and received tremendous response. However, a senior Congress leader, while

taking with The Pioneer "off the record", maintained that giving Sidhu power which, in any way, would mean building a parallel power centre to Capt Amarinder may prove harmful for the party as a whole, where the Congress has managed to maintain its stronghold. Even after 10 days of re-allocation of portfolios done by Capt Amarinder, Sidhu has not assumed the charge of the Power Department. Sidhu was divested of Local Government and Tourism Departments after the Chief Minister blamed him for party's poor performance in the urban pockets as he failed to perform well as the Minister. Sidhu, on the

other hand, had argued that the Congress has won 64 per cent in the purely urban assembly segments by winning 16 out of 25 seats, and in rural areas, Congress bagged 35 out of 63 seats, making it 55 per cent. Sidhu, making the re-allocation of portfolios an issue of prestige, has taken the issue right up to the party high command, which has reportedly asked the former cricketer 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.

# SAD to approach MHA for action against Kamal Nath

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) would approach the Union Home Ministry to demand action against senior Congress leader and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath for allegedly leading a mob which attacked Sikhs during the 1984 genocide committed against the Sikh community.

He said that SAD will also formally urge for grant of clemency to Balwant Singh Rajoana, main accused in former Chief Minister Beant Singh assassination case, by commuting his sentence to life imprisonment, formation of a time-bound committee for release of "Bandi Singhs" (Sikh political prisoners) and award of compensation to Sikh "Dharmi Fauji" (who resigned from the forces in protest against Operation Blue Star).

Announcing this, the SAD president Sukhbir Badal on Monday said that a delegation of Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) led by its president Manjinder Singh Sirsa would call on the Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba on Tuesday and hand over a memorandum in this regard to him. "SAD will urge the Home Ministry to direct the SIT to record the statements of noted journalist Sanjay Suri and Mukhtar Singh, who are prime witnesses against Kamal Nath," he said. Sukhbir said that other pending issues would also be taken up for resolution. "We also stand for formation of a special court for day-to-day trial of all cases of 1984 genocide in Delhi so that justice is delivered in a time bound and immediate manner. A request for appointment of the President of the Sri Hazur Sahib, Nanded,

through election by members of its Board will also be put forward to the Home Ministry," he added. He said that SAD will also formally urge for grant of clemency to Balwant Singh Rajoana, main accused in former Chief Minister Beant Singh assassination case, by commuting his sentence to life imprisonment, formation of a time-bound committee for release of "Bandi Singhs" (Sikh political prisoners) and award of compensation to Sikh "Dharmi Fauji" (who resigned from the forces in protest against Operation Blue Star). The party will also urge for compensation to all Jodhpur Sikh detainees as only 40 out of 365 detainees have been paid compensation, he said. Besides, the delegation will urge for giving formal permission for the DSGMC's Nargis Kiran to Nankana Sahib in Pakistan on the occasion of 550th pargash purv of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. It will also urge for grant of citizenship to thousands of Afghan Sikhs living in India besides urging that Jammu and Kashmir Sikhs be given minority status in 18th and immediate redevelopment of Punjabi Colony, Mumbai which has been declared as dangerous.

# ABAKS, BMS stage protest at collectorate



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Members of the Akhil Bharatiya Anganwadi Karmachari Sangh (ABAKS) and Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) held a protest and submitted a memorandum for the Chief Minister Uttam Singh Rawat to district magistrate SA Murugesan on Monday. Demanding fair wages, the district president of the ABAKS Neena Tomar said that the Anganwadi workers have been consistently working in various government projects and works. However, they are not

being paid properly which is a very serious issue. Addressing the media during the protest she said, "Most of the Anganwadi workers are not given proper wages even after they work consistently like a government employee. Most of the women workers struggle to run their households from the meagre income. It is important that something regarding our issue is done soon." It is important to mention that the Anganwadi workers are getting ₹6,000, mini Anganwadi workers get ₹3,550 and Anganwadi helper gets

₹3,000 a month. In October 2018 the minimum wage rule for the Anganwadi was changed in which Anganwadi worker was to receive ₹7,500, mini Anganwadi worker was to receive ₹4,250 and Anganwadi helper was to receive ₹3,750 per month. However, no hike in salary was done. Elaborating this Tomar said, "Even after the wages were raised this is not very much and is not given to us. We have given a memorandum for the chief minister to the district magistrate."

# Leaders seek probe into police-driver street clash



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Condemning the 'assault' of a Sikh Gramin Sewa tempo driver by policemen in Mukherjee Nagar area on Sunday, leaders of various political parties on Monday joined ranks to demand a fair probe into the incident claiming that policemen insulted the man by attacking his turban. The issue took a political turn soon after a purported video of the incident showing the tempo driver waving his "kirpan" (a small dagger carried by Sikhs) and chasing policemen before being overpowered and beaten up by the cops went viral on the social media triggering widespread condemnation, leading to a political storm and the suspension of three policemen.

The guilty so that no citizen is treated like this in the future." "Incidents of crime have increased in Delhi. The home minister and the L-G need to act strictly. It was an unfortunate incident. I hope that the guilty police personnel will be punished severely," Kejriwal said. The incident took place on Sunday evening. In a video posted on social media it can be seen that a man was chasing some policemen with a sword in his hand, while the policemen were seen thrashing him with batons in another. Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Manoj Tiwari said there was no place for violence in society, while demanding punishment for the guilty. "There is no place in any Civil Society, Mukherjee Nagar incident is sad and condemnable. Free and fair enquiry should be done, so that no innocent should be punished and guilty should be brought to book," he said in a tweet. Delhi Congress spokespersons Jitendra Kocher also demanded a thorough probe into the incident. Mere suspension of the guilty police officials was not enough, he said, while demanding that they be removed from service. Meanwhile, a delegation of Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee's (DSGMC) led by its president Manjinder Singh Sirsa called on Delhi Commissioner of Police (CP) on Sunday and demanded an enquiry in connection of an alleged assault on driver of a mini taxi at Mukherjee Nagar

area of north Delhi. Sirsa said that the CP has assured them that a criminal case will be registered against all those police personnel who were involved in mercilessly beating Sikh auto driver Sarbjit Singh and his minor son. He said that the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal is himself monitoring the case and had directed the delegation to take up matter with the CP. The victim Sarbjit Singh, General Secretary Harmet Singh Kalka, Senior vice president Bibi Ranjit Kaur, Junior vice president Kulwant Singh Bath and others were also part of the delegation. Sirsa said that the DSGMC and the SAD will take every step needed to ensure that Sarbjit Singh and his minor son get justice. He said that there will be no compromise on the security of the Sikhs in the whole nation and we are actively working on this angle. According to the police, three personnel have been suspended for their "unprofessional conduct" in handling the matter and legal action to be taken on the basis of an inquiry, which would be conducted by Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northwest) Vijayanta Arya and two other senior officers. According to a senior police officer, the accident between "Gramin Sewa" tempo and the police vehicle led to an argument between them that soon turned violent. The tempo driver allegedly attacked the police personnel with a sword and also drove dangerously.

# Vigilance office to set up IT cell in G'gram, Faridabad

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

The Haryana Vigilance Bureau department will soon set up a dedicated Information Technology (IT) cell at their Sector-43 State Vigilance Bureau office in Gurugram and Faridabad districts. A proposal has been sent to the state government. As of now, the department has only one IT cell in Bureau headquarters at Panchkula. Offering greater results against corruption cases and conducting speedy inquiries the Department of state vigilance is gearing up to set up IT cells in Gurugram and Faridabad districts under its

ambit. "The decision to constitute independent vigilance cells is part of a bid to enhance the efficiency and transparency in the department. We need dedicated cells with adequate powers to crack down on corruption and nepotism," a senior official said on requesting anonymity. Moreover, one of the main advantages of the IT cell is that the work on the complaints related to the technology and petitions regarding different departmental irregularities will be tackled easily and speedily. Sources said Officers for heading the vigilance IT cells will be appointed after securing the approval of the state Government. A special officer

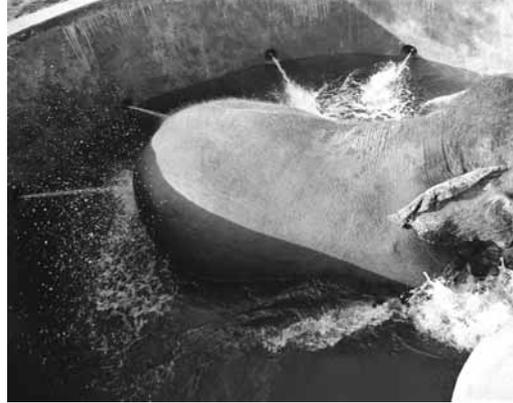
in the rank of the Inspector will be appointed to head the cells in the department. Adequate support staff too will be provided for the smooth functioning of the cells. The functioning of the cells will be monitored by the senior Vigilance officer. "The decision to constitute the cells gains significance in the wake of a string of allegations and cases that have come up against various government officers. The new system offers scope for the public to directly file complaints against corruption and the cell will tab on these complaints so that an immediately taken up for probe and, the cases will not be dragged on for years," the officer said.

# Mathura's hydrotherapy pool treats ailing elephants

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**SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI**  
India's first hydrotherapy pool for jumbos for the elephants suffering from arthritis, joint pain and foot ailments located in Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh. The jumbo pool, situated is 11-foot-deep and has 21 high pressure jet sprays that create water pressure that massage the elephants' feet and body and help in increasing blood circulation. According to an official of the Wildlife SOS, "Rescued

elephants from extreme distress, privately owned and had the cruel history of being used for begging and some spent a lifetime in captivity and confinement as temple elephants or were being forced to perform in circuses will be given therapy treatment." "Captive elephants in such situations are made to navigate environments that their body was not built for. Standing on concrete for prolonged periods becomes an invitation to the early on-set of arthritis," said a wildlife SOS, adding, "Due to lack of improper foot care, the toenails and cuticles of the elephants overgrow and become more prone to cracking. As such, standing and walking becomes painful for these long ranging animals." Dr. Yaduraj Khadepkar, Senior Wildlife Veterinary Officer said, "With each elephant rescue, we have observed a disturbing pattern in captive elephants: their bodies are weakened due to improper nutrition, their bodies and delicate feet are rid-



With wounds and painful abscesses. Osteoarthritis and foot issues are common ailments.

Wildlife SOS Elephant Hospital is equipped with 21 high pressure water jets that massage the elephants' feet and body and help in increasing blood circulation. This is a critically important component of the treatment as it also helps oxygen and vital minerals to reach the muscle tissues. In November 2018, India based wildlife conservation charity Wildlife SOS established the country's first and only fully equipped Elephant Hospital in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh Forest Department. Situated on the banks of Yamuna River in Mathura, the Elephant Hospital is located near the Wildlife SOS' Elephant Conservation and Care Centre (ECCC), which is home to over 20 rescued elephants. The hospital is equipped with state-of-the-art modern facilities like Wireless Digital X-Ray, Laser Treatment, Dental X-Ray, Thermal imaging and Ultrasonography to treat injured, sick and geriatric elephants.

founder and CEO Wildlife SOS said, "The jumbo hydrotherapy pool installed at

**NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice**  
DENR/MB acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. 56-DRM-MB-19-20 closing date: 18.07.2019 16:00 hrs. Name of work: General annual repair work of service building/latrines quarters from 1080 to 1185 (including water and road works for 220-220) in the section of SSE/Works/HR under ADE/HR/H. Tender closing date/time: 18.07.2019 16:00. Cost of work: ₹5,70,10,025.45. Earnest Money: ₹1,40,200.00 Tender Cost: ₹5,500.00. Bidders will be able to submit their original/rescued bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers and not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. For detailed information please log into www.reps.gov.in. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this towards tender documents cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on REPS portal like net banking debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker's cheque, Demand receipts, FDR etc are not allowed. Tender No. 56-DRM-MB-19-20 Dated: 14.06.2019 908199  
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# Your every word is valuable to Govt: PM to Opp

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Having returned to power with a bigger mandate, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday sought to reach out to the Opposition parties on the first day of Parliament's monsoon session saying they need not "bother about their numbers" as their every word is "valuable" to the Government.

"When we come to Parliament, we should forget 'paksh' (treasury) and 'vipaksh' (Opposition) and instead think about issues with a 'nishpaksh' (impartial) spirit and work in the larger interest of the nation," he told the media outside Parliament before the first session of the first session of the 17th Lok Sabha.

Inside the House, many of the newly-elected members were seen in colourful and saffron attire, traditional shawls and headgears even as two Union Ministers from Bengal were greeted with chants of 'Jai Shri Ram' when they were called to take oath as Lok Sabha members.

Outlining the importance of an active Opposition in a parliamentary democracy, Modi said he hoped the Opposition will speak actively and participate in House proceedings. "I am hopeful that this session will be productive," he maintained.

"The role of an Opposition and an active Opposition is important prerequisite in a parliamentary democracy. The Opposition need not bother



PM Modi takes oath as a member of the 17th Lok Sabha at Parliament House in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

about their numbers. I hope they speak actively and participate in House proceedings. Their every word, every feeling is valuable to us," he said even as he urged all MPs to be impartial in the House and address issues related to the larger interest of the nation.

Talking about the newly constituted Lok Sabha, Modi said it is historic in various terms as maximum number of women MPs have been elected to the lower house since the Independence. Modi said as this is the first session with new members, there will be a flow of new energy and a new enthusiasm will be reflected in the House to realise the aspirations of the people.

He said his Government worked on the principle of 'sabka sath, sabka vikas' (with all, development for all) during his first term and people reposed their faith in it for a second time. As a result, a Government has been re-elected with a clear majority after several decades, he said.

Later, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is also the leader of the House, took oath as Member amid thumping of desks by the ruling NDA MPs and slogans such as 'Modi Modi' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'.

The panel of presiding officers — K Suresh, Brijbhushan Sharan Singh and B Mehtab — took oath as Members after the Prime Minister. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, and Chemical and Fertilisers Minister DV Sadanand Gowda also took

oath. Union Minister Smriti Irani, who defeated Congress President Rahul Gandhi in Amethi, received the longest applause when she took oath. Rahul, who was missing from the House in the first phase, took oath in the second half.

When Union Ministers Babul Supriyo and Debashree Choudhury, who are from West Bengal, were called to take oath they were greeted by fellow BJP MPs with 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans apparently as a dig at West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who had objected to uttering the slogan during some incidents.

## Hope trend of using Parl as 'rubber stamp' is reversed: Cong

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Responding to the PM's call, the Congress on Monday alleged that the Modi Government used Parliament as a 'rubber stamp' during its previous tenure and hoped this trend is reversed and key Bills are not pushed without legislative scrutiny using 'brute majority'.

"Legislation through ordinance is a very unhealthy practice in a democracy. It should only be used in extreme cases where there is an emergency

requirement otherwise the due processes of lawmaking must be followed by the Government in office," senior Congress leader Anand Sharma said.

"We will now wait for the Prime Minister's assurance in this regard and whether the practice that was followed in the last five years is reversed, because in the last five years what we have seen is disrespect to Parliament, where the bills were brought by the government and because of its brute majority in the Lok Sabha, Parliament was treated as a rubber stamp," he said.

Most of the bills were not sent to the standing committee for legislative scrutiny which is important for any law to be made, Sharma said. Congress hopes that now this practice will be honoured and dependence of ordinance and pushing through the bills without scrutiny will not be repeated by the Government, he said.

Earlier in the day, addressing the media outside parliament before the commencement of the first session of the 17th Lok Sabha, Modi said,

"When we come to Parliament, we should forget 'paksh' (treasury) and 'vipaksh' (Opposition). We should think about issues with a 'nishpaksh' (impartial) spirit and work in the larger interest of the nation."

"The role of an opposition and an active opposition is important prerequisite in a parliamentary democracy. The opposition need not bother about their numbers. I hope they speak actively and participate in House proceedings... Their every word... Every feeling is valuable to us," he said.

After Ganjendra Umarao Singh Patel (BJP) completed his oath taking with 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' slogan, later, BJP members continued to raise 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' slogans.

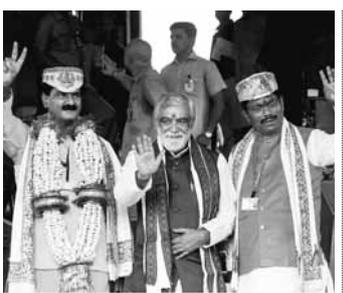
After Ganjendra Umarao Singh Patel (BJP) completed his oath taking with 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', NK Premchandran (RSP) urged the Pro-tem Speaker to maintain the prescribed format of the oath. The Pro-tem speaker Viendra Kumar sought to know from the Lok Sabha Secretary General, the full name. Amid noise and objections, Kumar ruled that only the name written in her election certificate issued by the returning officer would go on record. BJP MPs accused the Congress MPs of unnecessarily targeting the BJP MP.

## MPs choose traditional attire on first day of LS

**PNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were in their trademark Kurta, Pyjama and half sleeve jacket.** Union Ministers Prahlad Joshi, Giriraj Singh and GK Reddy sported saffron attire or half jacket. Bihar MPs Gopal Jee Thakur and Ashok Kumar Yadav donned traditional Maithili attire and headgear, while most of the Assam MPs donned the traditional Assamese gamocha, considered a symbol of the State's culture.

YSR Congress MPs from Andhra Pradesh sported the

'Angavastram' dotted with picture of party president and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. BJP's Bhopal MP Pragna Singh Thakur was seen in her trademark saffron robe while Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal wore the traditional Rajasthan saffron and green headgear as part of the dress. Film star Sunjay Deol, who was elected to Lok Sabha from Gurdaspur in Punjab, came in shirt and trouser and was seen sitting in the second last row. Arunachal Pradesh MP Tapu Gao wore the traditional blue Arunachali jacket.



BJP MPs Gopal Jee Thakur (L) and Ashok Kumar Yadav with Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Ashwini Kumar Choubey (C) arrive for the first session of the 17th Lok Sabha at Parliament House in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

## Sadhvi Pragya creates controversy with her name during oath taking

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

BJP MP from Bhopal Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur's oath taking on Monday created a controversy after Congress MPs objected to her adding her spiritual Gurus name along with her name. Amid protests, Thakur said that it was her full name and she had mentioned that she had already mentioned her full name in the form she had filled for oath taking.

The mention of Swami Purina Chhetana in Avdheshanand Giri as suffix to her name Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur evoked sharp reaction from the Opposition members who said that such a thing was not permitted. She insisted that the suffix was part of her full name, resulting in an uproar from Opposition and slogan shouting in her favour from the ruling benches.

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## INSHORT

### ADVANI, DEVE GOWDA MISSED IN LOK SABHA

**New Delhi:** Several veteran parliamentarians, including LK Advani, HD Deve Gowda and Sushma Swaraj, who had been regulars in the Lower House for decades, were missed in the new Lok Sabha on Monday as they either did not contest the polls or lost. The familiar faces which were not seen included BJP veteran Murlu Manohar Joshi, former Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, M Veerappa Moily and Jyotiraditya Scindia.

### COMMITTED TO SAVE LAND DEGRADATION: MIN

**New Delhi:** Acknowledging that 29.3 per cent of land in India was affected by degradation, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar on Monday said his Ministry was committed to saving it with all necessary contributions in the matter and shall lead by example in combating the crisis.

### ADMISSIONS: CENTRE TOLD TO CLEAR STAND



**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre to make its stand clear on whether it can extend the date for counselling for admissions in post-graduate medical courses for 400-500 seats in deemed universities and private colleges. The Centre informed the top court that it could not find any amicable solution to the problem as directed by it.

## ENCEPHALITIS DEATHS IN MUZAFFARPUR

### Case filed against Union, State Health Ministers on charges of negligence

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

With the death toll crossing the 100 mark due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES), a case has been filed against Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan and Bihar Health Minister Mangal Pandey in Muzaffarpur. Chief Judicial Magistrate's (CJM) court for not creating awareness about the deadly disease. The plea by the social activist Tamanna Hashmi will be heard on June 24.

Harsh Vardhan, who had visited the district on Sunday to review the situation in the hospitals there, has denied any negligence saying teams were stationed in Muzaffarpur from the very first day and were working too. Meanwhile, a video surfaced wherein Pandey is seen asking for latest score of the India-Pakistan cricket match during the State Health Department meeting over the AES deaths on June 16 adding to the prevailing anger among the people against the Government.

The Centre has announced plans to set up five virological labs under the Centre's aegis in the State. The location of the district can be decided in consultation with the State Government and can be funded through NHM, said Harsh Vardhan.

A high-level central team has been sent to Muzaffarpur to set up a state-of-the-art multi-disciplinary research centre in the wake of the children death due to suspected encephalitis.

In one of the decisions taken during his visit to Muzaffarpur, the Union Minister has instructed to set up a 100-bedded paediatric ICU at SKMCH by the State Government. Also, in the adjoining districts, 10 bedded paediatric ICUs will be set up with support from the Centre, so that such cases can be given better and exclusive treatment and there is no unnecessary load on the facilities available at SKMCH.

Harsh Vardhan also said that Ministry of Earth Science will be requested to upgrade its IMD's network of weather monitoring of climate related parameters such as temperature, humidity, rainfall, heat waves, etc, and share it with the State Government. The Centre to accommodate them by increasing one post each in the state cadres of their preference this.

According to official data, 85 children have died in Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital (SKMCH), while 17 have lost their lives in Kejriwal hospital in the city in the past fortnight. Most of the casualties affected by the Syndrome are between the age group of 1-10. AES is a viral disease, which causes mild flu-like symptoms such as high fever, convulsions, and headaches. According to reports, more than 290 children are still admitted in the ICU of the Sri

Social activist Tamanna Hashmi in his petition has alleged that Harsh Vardhan and Mangal Pandey failed to fulfill their duties to control the outbreak of AES, while both had done nothing to create awareness and sensitise people in the affected areas despite the fact that AES had been killing children for years.

Hashmi said that he has filed the case against the accused in the court in Mangal Pandey, under 323, 308 and 504 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

"Large number of children died due to negligence and lack of infrastructure to give them timely proper treatment", he said.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) too has issued notices to the Union Health Minister and the Bihar government over reports of increasing deaths of children due to the deadly disease, a senior official said.

## IAS-IPS cadre allocation policy of 2017: SC seeks Centre's reply on fresh pleas

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre to file its response on a batch of pleas of over two dozen trainee IAS and IPS officers of the 2018 batch, who have sought parity in the government's cadre allocation scheme with 20 of their colleagues, who were granted relief by the top court last month.

The Supreme Court had, on May 17, granted relief to 20 trainee IAS and IPS officers, who had challenged the government's cadre allocation process for the 2018 batch, by asking the Centre to accommodate them by increasing one post each in the state cadres of their preference this.

After the May 17 order, now two sets of 2018-batch trainee IAS and IPS officers have moved the apex court — one group of 20 candidates has challenged the Delhi High Court verdict that had quashed the entire cadre allocation process and the other group of five officers has filed a fresh writ petition seeking parity with 20 of their colleagues.

Several other trainee IAS and IPS officers have also sought implementation in these two petitions.

A vacation bench of justices Deepak Gupta and Surya Kant said prima facie it did not agree with the High Court's view. PTI

## Nath seeks over ₹800 crore Central grant to tackle crime against women in MP

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath has met Home Minister Amit Shah seeking over ₹800 crore as central grant to check crime against women and children in his State more effectively. In his meeting with the Union Home Minister on Sunday, the Chief Minister also sought for more funds for the police infrastructure from the central schemes.

Nath, who took over as the chief minister in December, has also written a letter to the home minister in this regard. In the letter, he drew the home minister's attention towards one of the sensitive issues of the crime against women and children.

"Considering the sensitivity of this issue, the state government is proposing a project for comprehensive set up of investigating officers/legal advisors/prosecutors and counselors apart from DNA laboratories and mobile forensic teams exclusively for dealing with the crime against women and children. The Budget outlay required is ₹880 crore," Nath said.

He requested the home minister to support this initiative as "this will help in dealing with one of the most sensitive issues in the state".

Kumar was working on behalf of contractor Manjeet at the AC plant of the Army Command in Udhampur.

Complainant Kuldeep Kumar alleged in his complaint, now part of the FIR, that Junior Engineer Mohammad Khurshed Ansari posted at Garrison Engineer (Utility), MES, Udhampur allegedly took bribe of ₹4,000 per month from his salary of Rs 10,000 per month.

Kumar was working on behalf of contractor Manjeet at the AC plant of the Army Command in Udhampur under the supervision of Ansari.

The CBI has booked Ansari for alleged corruption under Jammu and Kashmir Prevention of Corruption Act. Ansari had allegedly threat-

## CBI books Army techie for bribery

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The CBI has booked a Military Engineering Service (MES) engineer for taking bribe from the employee of an air conditioning plant maintenance contractor at Army Command in Udhampur.

Complainant Kuldeep Kumar alleged in his complaint, now part of the FIR, that Junior Engineer Mohammad Khurshed Ansari posted at Garrison Engineer (Utility), MES, Udhampur allegedly took bribe of ₹4,000 per month from his salary of Rs 10,000 per month.

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The CBI has booked Ansari for alleged corruption under Jammu and Kashmir Prevention of Corruption Act. Ansari had allegedly threat-

ened Kumar that he will be removed from service if he does not pay the bribe and will be murdered if he disclosed it to anyone. Ansari allegedly took the bribe amount of ₹4,000 per month for the last five months, according to the FIR.

In his complaint, Kumar said that his wife remains ill and he has two children and unable to run his family with his meagre income and the bribe amount being taken by Ansari is leading to immense financial hardship.

The complainant also stated that he never wanted to pay the bribe to Ansari but continued doing so due to not being highly educated and was unaware of the legal remedies available. He lodged the complaint after coming to know of the CBI.

The CBI conducted a discreet enquiry following a complaint from Kumar and the verification by the agency revealed the allegations to be true and genuine, added the FIR.

## IAF AN-32 CRASH Black box damaged in air crash

### Investigation to ascertain cause to be delayed

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The probe to find out the cause leading to the AN-32 plane crash may get delayed as its black box or flight data recorder is damaged. The black box was brought from the crash site three days back and the investigators are trying to retrieve the data from the instrument. Meanwhile, operation is in full swing to recover the mortal remains of all the 13 on board. Scores of helicopters are flying sorties for this purpose.

It is feared that the plane hit a mountain top leading to the crash. However, the data from



the black box and the court of inquiry will establish the cause of the mishap, sources said here on Monday. As regards the damage caused to the black box, they said the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) help will be sought for retrieving the data or may be sent to some other agency. It was also learnt that Eastern Command chief Air Marshal R K Mathur's scheduled visit to Bangladesh was postponed as he is supervising the salvage operations.

The plane had gone missing

on June 3 while on a flight from Jorhat in Assam for Mechuka advanced landing ground in Arunachal Pradesh and the wreckage was spotted eight days later near the landing ground at a height of 12,000 feet amidst dense jungles atop a steep ridge. Teams of IAF, Army and civilian mountaineers trekked in the rugged terrain to reach the spot to recover the black box and look for any survivors.

Given the nature of terrain and inclement weather, the search operation is facing a major challenge for the mountaineering team and the IAF has deployed more than eight helicopters for retrieval of mortal remains, sources said. They also said more than 200 sorties were carried out since the search and rescue effort commenced on June 3 over an area of 1,000 sq.km. The debris of the ill-fated

plane was finally spotted by a MI-17 helicopter in Lipo.

There are more than 100 AN-32 twin-engine turbo prop transport planes with the IAF. These Russian origin planes were inducted in the mid 1980s. After a crash in 2009 near Mechuka killing all 13 passengers, a contract was inked for 400 million dollars with Ukraine for upgrade. So far, 50 planes have been retrofitted. However, the plane which crashed on June 3 was non-upgraded.

Mechuka advanced landing ground located at an altitude of 6,000 feet is the lifeline for troops deployed on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) facing China in Arunachal Pradesh. The planes and helicopters ferry personnel, food and ammunition from Mechuka which is about 30kms from the LAC as the crew flies.



Trinamool Congress' Nowsara, North 24 Parganas, MLA Sunil Singh along with 12 councillors join the BJP in New Delhi on Monday in presence of leaders Kailash Vijayaragav and Mukul Roy. Singh is brother-in-law of BJP's Barakpore MP Arjun Singh, who had himself switched sides from the TMC ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. Sunil Singh is also the chairperson of TMC-run Garulia municipality. North 24 Parganas is at the centre of mass exodus from TMC. PTI

PAPER WITH PASSION

## Not worth the hype

While India should be grateful that it played Pak despite the weather, its two points in World Cup were never in doubt



Freshly minted member of the Lok Sabha and a hero of India's 2011 World Cup run, Gautam Gambhir mentioned in a post-match television show that Pakistan is not the cricket team it once was and the essence of the India-Pakistan rivalry in cricket is not quite the same anymore. Looking at the evidence of the recent past, with the exception of the Champions Trophy finals loss to Pakistan, India has become so much better as a cricket team that it has left its neighbour way behind. A whole generation of Indians grew up traumatised by Javed Miandad's last-ball six of Chetan Sharma in Sharjah. The names of Pakistan's greats were on our tongues and beating powerful teams in that era was an achievement. We all celebrated when a teenager Sachin Tendulkar emerged on the scene, smashing four sixes of Abdul Qadir, announcing himself to the world. The 1992 World Cup win over Pakistan, where the antics between Kiran More and Miandad could not be forgotten by those who witnessed it, India's legendary victory in Bengaluru in 1996 and the 2011 win at Mohali are matches whose memory will live long. Sunday's match at Old Trafford, Manchester, though will not join that pantheon of amazing World Cup matches between the two nations, it will just be India's seventh straight victory at the global tournament.

Of course, the Pakistani establishment's antipathy towards India and support to terrorists have led to a suspension of India-Pakistan sporting ties. So any current contest between these two nation states, forged in the violence of the Partition of pre-independence India, tends to be hyped up. That is also in small part due to the rise of political forces who have made nationalism their main plank in both nations. Yet, despite the serendipitous rise of India as a cricketing powerhouse over the past decade, there was in many Indian fans a feeling of regret at the decline of Pakistan. Yes, our errant neighbour played and won a great match against pre-tournament favourites England but the World Cup hosts contributed immensely to their own decline in that match. There is no doubt that Pakistani cricket has suffered immensely from the effective global boycott of tours in their nation, with most tours being played in the United Arab Emirates. The Pakistan Super League is but a poor imitation of the Indian Premier League (IPL) and with a fraction of the monetary riches. The IPL, despite its detractors, has played a critical role in identifying and grooming domestic talent in India, gradually building a second line of talent. Players like Hardik Pandya and Ravindra Jadeja are gems formed in that competitive and literally hot cauldron. This should be evidence to the powers that be in Pakistan that their isolation is not just leading to a declining economy but also impacting their sporting prowess. Once upon a time, the world trembled at the Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis duo, the elegance of Saïed Anwar and lackadaisical charm of Inzamam u-Haq. Now no Pakistani player is mentioned in the same breath as most members of the Indian playing XI, with the exception of Mohammad Amir, an exceptional fast bowler but also a convicted match-fixer. Pakistan should pursue for peace and dismantle its terror network not just for economic reasons but to revive its moribund cricket scene. And even if Imran Khan does not understand the economy, he, more than anyone else, should be able to see the decline in Pakistani cricket.

## Another tiger crisis

The odd killing of elephants by tigers at Corbett is not just aberrant behaviour, it is about survival



Tigers tend to get maligned every time they display aberrant behaviour and become the subject of alarmist headlines that make them a feared monstrosity rather than the endangered species that they could become. Yet the fact of the matter is we need to study the conditions and reasons for their uncharacteristic behaviour and mutations and factor them in future wildlife conservation policies. The latest Government study, done with the Corbett National Park authorities, which has found that park tigers have killed and eaten

elephants, at first sounds incredible and unbelievable. Considering the different physical dimensions of both creatures and the fact that elephants move in herds, a tiger's kill potential indeed seems microscopic. But it is not impossible, considering the tiger is remarkably agile, adaptive, has penetrative canines and claws and is extremely intelligent, isolating stray members of any pack animal before the hunt. Elephant calves can become its prime target, even born out by the study which says that carcasses of the young were the maximum among the 60 per cent deaths because of tiger attacks. Besides, the big cat attacks the trunk, the major food conduit of the elephant which usually dies on its own subsequently, unable to eat and nourish itself back to health. Also, as the Sundarbans tiger has shown, the big cat can alter hunting behaviour according to its location. For example, African leopards have taken down the largest antelopes as elands, greater kudus and wildebeests, though they are more than five times heavier than their own size. Lions, too, there have taken down elephant calves. Which is why the study is worrying wildlife experts as tigers usually don't eat elephants and this could be the beginning of a new intra-wild species conflict.

Not that the alerts haven't been there. Instances of tigers charging at elephants have been fairly videographed in Corbett. We also seem to have not learnt our lessons despite isolated cases settling down into a patterned behaviour. In 2017, six elephants died in Kerala's Wayanad wildlife sanctuary in tiger attacks, triggered as they were by bitter turf wars over scarce water in a drought year. Tigers are already bearing the brunt of over-population, reduced roaming territories and prey base, broken habitats and migration corridors as well as human encroachment. All this is challenging their primal instincts and forcing them into evolving survival tactics given the context they find themselves in. So cattle-lifting and man-eating are not just about an old territorial tiger anymore but regulars who are getting accustomed to easy prey options. Even Corbett in-charge Sanjiv Chaturvedi admitted that tigers "need comparatively less amount of efforts and energy in killing an elephant as against that needed in hunt of sambar and cheetal. It is large quantum of food for them too." He said the national park has a unique ecosystem with more elephants than tigers, 1,100 against 225, unlike other national parks like Ranthambore, Kanha and Bandhavgarh. Does this mean that Corbett tigers are working out their own kill choices depending on easy availability of a stray calf or a sick pachyderm? That they are feeding on elephants, which were killed in herd infighting, also proves that they are changing the rules of hunt and game. Does it mean they are prioritising easy availability as evidenced in tiger attacks on elephants in Kaziranga too? If this is an emergent crisis, then we need to develop strategies to save both species. Buried in the report is also the fact that most tiger deaths are because of infighting over mating and territorial rights. Has the tiger then been literally pushed into a corner?

# The Left crisis in India

The declining fortunes of the two communist parties, CPI and CPI(M), which started from West Bengal, have been a body blow to the communist movement



A SURYA PRAKASH

Friedrich Engels had said that one of the principal outcomes of the proletarian revolution would be the withering away of the State. In India, post-2019, the State has emerged stronger than ever before and it is the communist parties which are actually withering away. While much of the focus after the recent Lok Sabha election has been on the disastrous performance of the Congress, the real big story is the declining fortunes of the two communist parties in India.

The Left parties had a decent presence in several States in the early decades after independence. The undivided Communist Party of India (CPI) won 16 seats in the first Lok Sabha election in 1951-52. It rose to 29 seats in 1962 and got around nine per cent of the votes polled. After the party split, the CPI and the Communist Party of India (Marxist)-CPI(M) bagged 42 seats in 1967 but their vote share hovered around nine per cent. This trend continued for three decades. The two parties put up their best performance in 2004 when they together secured 53 seats in the Lok Sabha, although their vote share had dropped to around seven per cent. Thereafter, their fortunes crashed. In 2014, the two parties could win just 10 seats and their national vote share dropped to just four per cent. This time around, they are well below the danger mark having secured just five seats and about two per cent of the national vote.

The decline of the two communist parties and their fellow travellers in the Left Front can be traced to the loss of popularity in their strongholds in West Bengal and Tripura and their fluctuating fortunes in Kerala. The Left's fall is most noticeable in West Bengal where its vote share has crashed from 50.70 per cent and 32 seats in 2004 to 6.28 per cent and zero seats in 2019. While most political parties around the world, including communist parties, reinvent themselves to stay afloat and win popular support, the CPI and the CPI(M) have stubbornly stuck to the theories and slogans that defined them decades ago. Their ideas about the working class and organised labour and about the capitalist-proletariat binary remain unchanged, even though the world has moved on.

This writer found examples of this during the Lok Sabha poll in West Bengal, where during the road shows, CPI(M) cadres kept chanting "Inqilab Zindabad" while waving their red hammer and sickle flags. Which revolution were they talking about in this day and age when the market economy rules the roost? The best example of how these two parties are completely out of sync with today's reality is their refusal to acknowledge the advantages accruing to the poorest of the poor through many innovative schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and the direct benefit transfer scheme. Mudra is an innovative programme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi



to kindle the entrepreneurial spirit among poorer sections of society and to bring about a dramatic shift in their social and economic conditions.

Under the scheme, the Government provides loans to individuals from poorer sections of society to establish their own businesses and pursue entrepreneurship. The idea is to "fund the unfunded." They get loans ranging from ₹50,000 to ₹10 lakh. These small entrepreneurs and businessmen in turn employ five to 10 people to run their enterprise — be it a small eatery, a bakery, a garment or leather-goods-making micro unit or a tea stall. These Mudra beneficiaries can be found all over the country and the programme has the potential to bring about noticeable change in the living conditions of the under-privileged classes. This writer met many beneficiaries during travels in several States recently. Available data on the Mudra scheme is indeed heartening. Women entrepreneurs are the major beneficiaries of Mudra loans across sectors and constitute 70 per cent of those who have taken advantage of this scheme. Early this year, the Government announced that it had disbursed loans amounting to ₹7.23 lakh crore.

Under the Ujjwala programme, the Government pro-

vides free cooking gas connection to families below the poverty line. Thus far, over 70 million families have benefited from it. Another such scheme with far-reaching impact is the aim to build homes for the poor and toilets in every home. Though some of these schemes were initiated by previous Governments, their implementation was sluggish in the absence of motivation and commitment. Delivery of these schemes has picked up pace after Modi became the Prime Minister in 2014.

All these schemes are aimed at ensuring the dignity of women and children, improving their living environment and health and offering them incentives to better the quality of lives. One would have thought that programmes of this kind would be hailed by the communists, but that has not happened. The spokespersons of these two parties have been consistently running down the Mudra Yojana and all other schemes meant exclusively to better the lives of the poorer classes, simply because they were launched by Prime Minister Modi and he is the driving force to ensure their completion within the shortest possible time. The election results show that this kind of negativity has not gone down well with the people.

There are many other factors

which have rendered the two communist parties unpopular. The first of these is their approach to secularism. The two parties have moved far away from the Shah Bano days when Somnath Chatterjee, Saifuddin Choudhury and several others took on the Muslim clergy and strongly opposed the Rajiv Gandhi Government's decision to bring in a law to prevent Muslim women from taking benefit of a civil law and a Supreme Court judgement providing maintenance to divorced women. That was in 1986. However, over the last three decades, the Left has become the standard-bearer of the pseudo-secular brigade, become hostile to the Hindu majority in the country and is pretending as if radical Islam is not an issue at all. The most recent example of its contempt for Hindu sentiment is the way it handled the Sabarimala issue and encouraged individuals to deride Hindus, their customs and way of life. Where will they go from here? Will they do what the British Labour Party did some decades ago and change the way they think and work? If they again turn left, it's a dead-end. If they turn right, they will cease to be left. Where are they headed? The nation wants to know.

(The writer is an author specialising in democracy studies. Views expressed are personal)

## SOUNDBITE

When we come to Parliament, we should forget paksh or vipaksh. We should think about issues with a *nistpaksh* spirit.

Prime Minister —Narendra Modi

I usually get flustered when my wife and I have a fight. It bothers me and I take time to get over it.

Actor —Shahid Kapoor

We think it (one nation, one election) is neither possible nor necessary. It's some sort of fancy idea of the BJP.

CPI general secretary —Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy

Everybody is suspecting EVM. This is a very serious matter. I think many countries like the US after having used EVM have gone back to manual voting.

Congress leader —M Veerappa Moily

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Matter of public health

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Needed, a healing touch" (June 15). Opposition leaders of different parties, including West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, have always been united on various aspects in agitating against the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). All those leaders have maintained a curious silence over the lawful agitation by doctors of Government hospitals in Bengal, which affected healthcare services in other parts of the country as well, with doctors standing united with their counterparts in West Bengal.

Leaders of other political parties should have exhibited their loyalty to national and public interest by going to Kolkata to persuade Banerjee to mend her ways and help in ending the strike by Government doctors earlier. She should take strict action against those guilty of beating doctors in Government hospitals. It is praiseworthy that Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan made a humble appeal to Banerjee to ensure an immediate end to the

### Save our children

The deaths of children hit by encephalitis in Bihar are being underplayed by the Government and it is understandable. But the under-reporting of this unprecedented health crisis by the media is puzzling. They have not made front-page news or produced editorials. Nor have they become a topic for "panel discussions" on prime-time television. May be, it is still a "developing story." Anyway, they are a sad commentary on the abysmal state of food security and health care systems in the State. It would be a betrayal of humanity to ignore the mostly young deaths, develop a sort of mental resistance to them or accept them as normal state of affairs in our country. The Central Government has a convenient excuse — the State machinery could not undertake awareness drives because of election-related work. Clearly, the victims were under-nourished infants from impoverished families. These were all avoidable deaths caused by chronic malnutrition and woefully inadequate healthcare. Much was promised under food secu-



rity and healthcare but little has been delivered.

In a State like Kerala, with high human development indices, mass infant deaths like that in Muzaffarpur do not occur. There is no reason why Bihar cannot take Kerala as a model and improve its public healthcare delivery system. Saving the lives of children is an enormous task in the present social and economic context. Needless to say, it must get priority.

G David Milton Maruthancode

strike of doctors in Government hospitals of West Bengal by accepting their genuine demands.

Madhu Agrawal New Delhi

### Hong Kong stands up

Sir — The proposed extradition Bill in Hong Kong has become

controversial, creating panic and forcing people from all walks of life to come out on the streets to protest. Nearly two million people have taken part in a mass protest. It is clear that most people in Hong Kong fear this proposed law as it is a matter of historical conflict between China and Hong Kong. The Bill itself was ill-conceived, flawed and open to abuse. Had it got a

green signal, any resident or even outsiders passing through Hong Kong would have been extradited to mainland China on mere suspicion of serious crimes. Hong Kong is but an example of boldness in the face of power. It will remain in a cycle of protests unless fears and concerns of protesters are addressed.

P Senthil Via email

### Special status mania

Sir — Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had locked horns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue of special status to his State. Now new Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagannathan Reddy is toying his predecessor's line. Odisha and Bihar, too, are in the queue demanding special status. Special status will ensure that 90 per cent of the Central funds for State projects, routed through the National Development Council under the Planning Commission, will be given as grants. The Special status pitch, if considered by the Centre, will lead to other States demanding the same.

Competitive federalism will be a non-starter if States keep demanding Central largesse. Instead, they must focus on implementing wider reforms and more equitable investment throughout the State.

KV Seetharaman Hassanah

Send your feedback to: [letters@pioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letters@pioneer@gmail.com)

**FIRST COLUMN**

**A new route to Central Asia**

For India, the SCO's significance lies in enhancing peace and security and accelerating economic ties in the Eurasian region

ABHISHEK PRATAP SINGH

The recently concluded Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Bishkek marked a key development towards "strengthening multi-lateral cooperation" in the vast Eurasian region. The summit holds importance given the much media hype and speculation surrounding India and Pakistan, unilateral US sanctions against Iran following the former's withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and the ongoing trade war between China and the US. The summit was set to advance a wide-ranging multi-lateral agenda as agreed under the Bishkek Declaration (May 2019). Discussions around global security, multilateral economic cooperation, people-to-people exchanges and issues of regional importance were key highlights of the meet.

As an important trans-regional grouping, the idea of SCO was envisioned by China in 2001 to address its peripheral concerns and traces back its origin to Shanghai Five (1996). Over the years, the group has evolved itself as a "primary political and security organisation" in the Eurasian region. The SCO has evolved its agenda for cooperation on security, trade and investment, connectivity, energy and culture among partner countries. The "added space" which SCO membership provides, also makes for good show of political stamanship. For Russia, India and China, the SCO provides an expansive platform for engagement beyond the BRICS framework. Ever since it got the role of observer status in SCO (2005), India has been keenly displaying its desire "to play larger, wider and more constructive role in the SCO." After becoming a full-time member in 2017, it emphasised its key role to advance its "Connect Central Asia" diplomacy. Crucially, India had bilateral meetings with Russia and China at the sidelines of the summit. The "wide-ranging discussions" meeting between Prime Minister Modi and Russian President Putin was significant to boost the India-Russia strategic relationship with a focus on next year's summit. Both countries seek to capitalise on concerns about China and it exercising disproportionate influence in Central Asia. The combined trade share of both countries with Central Asian states is far less in comparison to \$100 plus trade between China and Central Asia. India also received invitation to be the "main guest" at the Eastern Economic Forum, 2019 hosted by Russia. Both nations reiterated wider cooperation in energy sector, Arctic region, transfer of technology and joint projects under "Make in India" initiative and also aimed to attract Indian manpower in resource-rich far East Russia.

The bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi noted the gains of strategic communication as agreed upon last year in the context that both have been able to resolve long-pending issues like opening of the Bank of China branch in India and the listing of Masood Azhar as a global terrorist. The warmth of the "Wuhan Spirit", based on broader understanding, was well evident as both leaders had fruitful delegation level meeting and President Xi accepted the offer of second informal summit in India this year. The inauguration of "India Kyrzyz Business Forum" was the key development during the summit as both states noted the developments on Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement and the bilateral investment treaty. Almost 15 agreements were signed.

The summit endorsed India's efforts to build global consensus to "fight terrorism" and exposed state sponsors of terror. All member countries came to a consensus on a statement against terrorism, which was reflected in the joint declaration. During his address, Modi emphasised that "countries will have to come out of their narrow purview and unite." On other issues of concerns, India pushed for flexible visa norms for SCO countries, stability in Afghanistan for the establishment of regional peace and acceleration of economic ties. The Prime Minister's speech highlighted the importance of "security and peace" as a key concern.

India has always looked upon SCO as a key platform towards fostering "constructive engagement" among partner states. Its main goal is to enhance economic cooperation with Eurasian states and benefit from security frameworks. The geographical and strategic spaces, which SCO covers, remain critical for India's interests. The historic visit of Prime Minister Modi to five Central Asian states in July 2015 had called for wider cooperation with the region, which proved how India enjoys "immense goodwill" and "soft power appeal" among Central Asian states. Given the rising US protectionism and constraints in the international economy, India will have to navigate the US-China situation, as noted by Indian Foreign Minister, which also impacts SCO countries. The economic component of SCO still remains at "nascent stage" and the summit did make some forward moves in this direction. It is necessary that SCO remains attached with its consequent economic role for the Eurasian region in a more open, balanced and multi-lateral framework by forging developmental cooperation in areas such as economy, trade, investment, energy, connectivity and capacity development.

(The writer holds PhD in East Asian Studies from JNU)

**DOCTORS ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO TREAT THE CHILDREN. A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY INSTITUTE WILL BE SET UP TO IDENTIFY THE REASON BEHIND THE DISEASE.**  
—UNION MINISTER HARSH VARDHAN



**THE NUMBER OF DEATHS WOULD HAVE BEEN ZERO IF DOCTORS WERE AVAILABLE IN MORE NUMBERS AND WOULD HAVE WORKED AT A GREATER PACE.**  
—MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, MUZAFFARPUR AJAY NISHAD

**Glimmer of hope**

The draft New Education Policy intends to introduce broad reforms. But for it to be successful, the objectives of teacher preparation must be achieved effectively

JS RAJPUT

It was indeed very encouraging that on the very first day of his taking over the charge of the Indian education system, the new Human Resource Development Minister released the much-awaited draft of the New Education Policy (draft NEP 19). In a welcome move, the draft — both in English and Hindi — was promptly put on the Ministry's website. This is an outcome of nation-wide consultations that extended over three-and-a-half years. It must be appreciated across the board that the MHRD has again invited inputs that people, institutions, organisations, experts and others may like to submit after going through the draft. The MHRD shall be considering these before the final policy is announced. The draft report clearly indicates how relevant it has become in the globalised world to ensure active dynamism in education policy formulation to ensure it remains relevant to absorb challenges that are emerging before nations at an unprecedented pace.

The deliberations — before and after the finalisation of the policy — shall invariably make references to the earlier education policies, particularly those of 1968, 1986 and 1992. The contents of these earlier reports — at least in academic and professional circles — shall be scrutinised in the context of what was proposed and to what extent it was really achieved in actual implementation. Chapter five of the draft NEP-19 on "teachers" begins with the objective: "Ensure that all students at all levels of school education are taught by passionate, motivated, highly qualified, professionally trained and well-equipped teachers." Indeed, this is a very well thought out comprehensive policy statement that encompasses every aspect of what a child, community or society could expect from a teacher.

It will be relevant to recall the initial statement of the National Policy on Education of 1986/92 (NPE 86/92): "The status of the teacher reflects the socio-cultural ethos of the society. It is said that no people can rise above the level of its teachers. The Government and community should endeavour to create conditions, which will help motivate and inspire teachers on constructive and creative lines. Teachers should have freedom to innovate, to develop appropriate methods of communication and activities relevant to the needs and capabilities of and the concerns of the community." The NPE-86/92 made a very strong statement that "the system of teacher education will be overhauled." It went ahead to recommend the reorganisation of the method of recruitment of teachers to ensure "merit, objectivity and conformity with spatial and functional requirements." One was privy to the deliberations of the 1992 policy revision and formulation and it was agreed upon that there was no need to make any changes in what was already stated in the NPE-86 on teachers and teacher education.

It is understood that that was envisaged in earlier policies finds a place again in the new draft, which has comprehensively captured the teacher-education scenario as it exists today. It has given indications for formulating a well-



thought out plan of action in preparation of teachers, who are supposed to be "passionate, motivated and well-qualified, and well trained in content, pedagogy and practice." The NPE-92 had assured overhauling of the system of teacher education and in pursuance of the same, several schemes were launched by the Union Government. One of these was the enactment of the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Act and also the formulation of a scheme of restructuring and revisiting teacher education.

Let us take up NCTE first. It was the fulfillment of demand of senior and sincere teacher educators for over 20 years to create a regulatory body for teacher education institutions as they were not satisfied with the manner universities were handling recognition and regulation of teacher education institutions. There were serious concerns about the restructuring and renewal of programmes, content and pedagogy, which had become out of date. It was inadequate and unable to respond to fast-changing scenarios in school education with the advent of computers, internet and universalisation of the accessibility of the Information and Communication Technology. The demand for the creation of a statutory NCTE was also accentuated by the mushrooming of correspondence courses that were initiated by some universities to clear the backlog of large number of untrained teachers in schools. State Governments had begun to squeeze the grants to universities, some brilliant minds converted correspondence courses into degree-awarding resource generating adventures. Every policy implementer in education must comprehend that the decline in the quality of teacher education began mainly because of gross misuse of the distance education mode by university dons, vice chancellors and the University Grants Commission (UGC). The UGC was granting "yearly" permission to continue the BE courses through correspondence, without in any way assessing the quality of courses and products. The NCTE became functional around 1994-95 and in spite of serious hurdles, could discipline the truant universities. Things changed within five-six

years, the NCTE decided to sail along with the tide, the number of private BE colleges mushroomed and today it is touching 20,000. It will be a tough task to create a regulatory mechanism that will enjoy credibility among the aspiring teachers. Comprehension of "Why the NCTE; or other regulatory bodies could not attain and maintain credibility" will determine the fate of the success or otherwise of the proposed mechanism that separates funding, standard setting, regulation and accreditation.

Education policy-makers were knowledgeable enough to include in the NPE-86 that: "Teachers form the very heart of the education process — all teachers will have academic and professional support within a motivating environment and culture." Towards this, the Government of India offered extensive financial and professional support to State Governments to re-energise their teacher education institutions. The scheme of establishing a District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) had the potential to transform the very face of school education in India. It had all the potential to create a vibrant professional community of teachers. However, most State Governments did not make regular appointments to academic positions even against posts for which the Union Government provided full financial support. They preferred to bring in people on deputation.

Similar was the fate of colleges of Teacher Education and Institutes of Advanced Studies in education. These and similar schemes were revisited — and redesigned — a couple of times but the originally expected vibrancy always evaded actual implementation. When private entrepreneurs witness Government institutions "do not even attempt to provide a good education; instead many are functioning as commercial shops." And hundreds of thousands of young people with BE degrees from such institutions are either already in the

system or are ready to enter it. When the Teachers Eligibility Tests were conducted during the initial years, those who could clear it ranged from one to seven per cent.

But there is a ray of hope. The objectives of teacher preparation could indeed be achieved effectively if everyone learns sincerely and seriously from the success of the past and more than that from the failures encountered so far. One wonders how long teachers in *sarkari* schools shall continue to be assigned non-teaching functions by district administrations in spite of repeated recommendations not to do so and even court judgments being in support of it. Is it not cruel to children in a two-teacher school if both teachers are sent out for months together for census, cattle-head counting, vaccination or elections being held rather regularly? States have shunned their responsibility for decades together by not appointing regular teachers. One simply hopes that official hypocrisy will vanish in future and recommendations made (once again) regarding teacher recruitment will sincerely be implemented within a time-frame. The Indian teacher education system still has — though in a small proportion — dedicated institutions and academics who are convinced that they are lucky enough to get an opportunity to prepare teachers for tomorrow. Thus, they are making the future of India. Let them be identified, given the responsibility, inspire and encourage others to become partners in building new India. India can learn a lot from how Japan — a highly demoralised nation after World War II — could achieve an unprecedented transformation through its teachers: Known for producing worst products in 50s, the best of the products now come from Japan. Yes, teachers did it. It was the teacher community that convinced young impressionable children that anything they do must be for the welfare of their country. That they owe it to Japan to work hard, never waste time and equip them continuously to perform better. India has the experience. It can achieve a real change after the new education policy is formally announced.

(The writer is the Indian Representative on the Executive Board of UNESCO)

**Devaluation of care labourers**

We are all receivers as well as givers of care, acted upon as well as agents. This is a difficult position to understand politically, but strength and human cooperation can arise only from our recognition of our mutual interdependence



SURAVI SHARMA

The Indian healthcare sector, mostly comprising Government hospitals, saves more lives, relieves more pain and suffering with available resources (India's healthcare GDP percentage is 2.5 in contrast to 11.2 in Europe and 17.9 in North America) than any other country in the world. Yet, the sector has become a public punching bag. Care-related work has metamorphosed into a notion of seva, allowing room to curtail the rights of health workers (skilled and unskilled like the ASHA workers and the like) and their resistance is being labelled as "immoral".

As per Joan Tronto's theorisation of "care ethics", it is an approach to personal, social, moral and political life that starts from the reality that all human beings need and receive care and also give care to others. Care relationships among humans are part of what mark us as human beings; we are always inter-dependent. In today's context, we can argue that care work in India has been normalised as "voluntary". A moral tone has been given to the highest skilled worker and the unskilled care-giver all alike.

In recent times, health and allied policies have resulted in a major restructuring of the healthcare system. However, the structural transformation most visible to us is the "privatisation" of healthcare, coupled with hardline nationalist language. If we trace history, we will see that changes during the first few decades after independence were at least at the level of planning and there was some commitment to public health. But by the 1990s, health investments were at the lowest and public-private partnerships took over.

Fundamental deficiencies of the country maintain status quo, which are the lack of provision for safe drinking water, sanitation, basic medical

care along with lack of civic sense and ethical behaviour in "care receivers". This is a reflection of the lack of attention to the state of healthcare in a country that touches millions of lives in the corridors of an over-populated Government hospital, resulting in outbursts and breakdown of the health ecosystem at the grassroots level as well as in tertiary care centres. This unsettles the morale of healthcare professionals, who invest a whole decade or more acquiring degrees and experience and in the process, losing the larger picture of the society they belong to. Incidents of assaults on health practitioners demoralise them and degrade the noble profession of medical care giving.

It is understood that such intolerant behaviour is not seen in other professions like the police, who also deal with agitated people or one's overwhelmed with emotions. This is simply because people are aware of the dire consequences of misbehaving with the trained individual who is equipped with arms and trained in legal affairs. Can the Government provide the doctors' community with sim-

ilar training? Can our policy-makers mandate a physical fitness training push a law and create a legal cell for frontline medical staff? The other option, of course, is to provide a healthy environment in Government hospitals in spite of overcrowding so that doctors (and healthcare providers) can apply their minds to the best of their capability instead of staying alert, anticipating assaults and threats from a care-seeker from among the crowd that encircles him/her waiting around his/her table, jostling and pushing one another as they wait for their turn to present.

The social aspect of the state of affairs hindering medical care delivery calls for a public health approach around the perspective that provision of basic needs is the key to good health. And it includes sanitation, safe drinking water, right to treatment, security for care providers and mandatory good civic sense among care receivers at the hospital interface. A healthy working climate allows a practitioner to re-commit to caring, continue the professional's tradition of guarding the dignity of people and shape the social climate with-

in which they practise. A healthcare provider can become a powerful advocate for a climate of caring because of unique perspectives. A lack of it may lead to a collapse of healthcare services, pushing many to the death hole or complicate the state of diseases, leading to prolonged sufferings.

Social movements have also fuelled new problems, namely de-personalisation of the patients and violation of the right to self-determination, as witnessed in the disability rights movement. AIDS movement, queer movement and campaign against clinical trials among others. De-personalisation is reflected in all spheres of healthcare and in the context of Government hospitals with corridors and doctors' chambers choking with patients — there is hardly a culture of courtesy and social grace. In these over-populated set-ups, the first casualty is basic human empathy — all we get is brusqueness, negligence of good manners or the right words, disregard for bed-side manner, which to a patient means bringing him/her hope and comfort to his/her recumbent or expiring patient. The much-

needed bed-side manner is nothing but a sneering jibe in today's state of healthcare system where every patient is eagerly awaiting his turn and competing with one another for the doctor's attention when they are compelled to complete/accomplish care-giving with optimal use of time and exchange of words.

Patients argue that healthcare providers fail to recognise that illness and disability are states charged with personal meaning. Instead of communicating with patients, they often establish distance that diminishes them. They withhold information in a manner that precludes hope, use aloof manners and misuse powers. These discourage patients. Patients appreciate the care-provider to value interactive reasoning and thereby enact a climate of caring. It is important to realise that we are all receivers as well as givers of care, acted upon as well as agents. This is a difficult position to understand politically, but strength and human cooperation can arise only from our recognition of our mutual interdependence.

(The writer is a pathologist)



**FOREIGN EYE**



**INVESTIGATE REAL VIOLENCE**

On June 23, local elections in Istanbul will be rerun after Erdogan's ruling AK party cried foul when March's original ballot narrowly returned an Opposition politician as Mayor. The international community must stand in solidarity with those Turks who, despite everything, still hope that the lineaments of their country's civil society have not been permanently damaged.

(The Guardian editorial)

# ICICI moves NCLAT to seek early hearing on JAL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Private sector lender ICICI Bank on Monday approached the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), seeking a direction to NCLT Allahabad to hear urgently its insolvency petition against Jaiprakash Associates Ltd (JAL) and pass the order without any further delay.

In its plea before the appellate tribunal, ICICI Bank submitted that there has been no progress in its insolvency petition filed against JAL, which was filed in September last year. The bank alleged that Jaiprakash groups flagship firm is delaying admission of the insolvency plea by approaching several judicial forums.

ICICI Bank also said that hearing before the Allahabad bench of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) was adjourned almost 12 times from September 10, 2018, to May 27, 2019, and such adjournments were "unfairly delaying" the resolution process.

Hearing the matter, a single-member NCLAT bench of Justice Bansilal Bhat directed to list ICICI Bank's plea on July 1 for hearing.

JAL owes around ₹1,296 crore and the bank had approached NCLT to recover



the dues by filing an insolvency plea against the company under section 7 of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC). However, JAL challenged the ICICI Bank petition before the Allahabad High Court but the same was rejected. Later, JAL moved Supreme Court, which too refused to stay the application.

"However, despite this, there is no development in this matter," said ICICI Bank counsel on Monday.

"We want direction to NCLT to expedite the matter," the counsel said, alleging that the proceedings before NCLT are being played into the hands of the JAL promoters.

JAL has requested the appellate tribunal to "direct NCLT,

Allahabad Bench to hear the (matter) ... On an urgent and day-to-day basis and pass final order of disposal ... Expediently and without any further delay."

ICICI Bank also alleged that JAL is delaying the insolvency resolution process by approaching several judicial forums "only to prolong and delay the admission of the Insolvency Application".

"It is submitted that the Respondent (JAL) has been deliberately abusing insolvency resolution process by approaching different forums to stay or set aside the Insolvency Application", it added.

JAL was in the RBI's second list of 26 defaulters, against which banking sector regulator had directed to initiate insolvency process.

# Jet Airways shares dip 18%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Jet Airways plunged 18 per cent on Monday as stock exchanges last week decided to impose restrictions on its trading from June 28.

The scrip tumbled 16.76 per cent to close at ₹68.30 on the BSE. During the day, it plummeted 19.56 per cent to hit a multi-year low of ₹66.

At the NSE, shares plunged 18 per cent to close at ₹66.95. On the traded volume from 26 lakh shares were traded on the BSE and over two crore shares on the NSE during the day.

In 11 trading days since May 30, the scrip tumbled 54.72 per cent from ₹150.85 on the BSE. The company's market valuation has fallen by

₹937.13 crore in these 11 trading days.

Stock exchanges will impose restrictions on trading in Jet Airways shares from June 28 as part of preventive surveillance measures to curb excessive volatility, according to a circular issued last week.

The cash-starved airline suspended operations in April. In a circular on Wednesday, the NSE said shares of the company would be shifted from "Rolling Segment to Trade for Trade Segment, wherein the settlement in the scrip will take place on gross basis with 100 per cent upfront margin and 5 per cent price band."

There are restrictions in trading of shares that are under Trade for Trade Segment.

# Financial stability a key metric for monetary policy now: Das

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Financial stability has emerged as a key consideration for monetary policy formulation in the post-2008 financial crisis world beyond the imperatives of inflation and growth, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said Monday.

A healthy financial sector is a pre-requisite to improve growth prospects, he said, and expressed confidence that the end of political uncertainty with the recent polls and continuation of economic reforms may lead to a reversal of the current weaknesses.

The comments come amid a slew of troubles plaguing the NBFCs which account for a fifth of the credit market.

The central bank is taking a "fresh look" at shadow banking regulation and supervision, and is also monitoring the activities of large NBFCs with a view to ensure financial stability, Das said.

He said while a "delicate balance" is necessary between inflation and growth in setting the monetary policy in a flexible inflation targeting framework like the one we adopted since the past two years, financial stability is also important in the present context.

"Financial stability has emerged as another key consideration for monetary policy, though the jury is still out as to whether it should be added as an

explicit objective of monetary policy." Das told a group of senior IAS officers at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in Mussorie.

"The fact remains that though the focus of monetary policy is mainly inflation and growth, the underlying theme has always been financial stability," he added.

The RBI will focus on effective communication and coordination to "achieve broader macroeconomic objectives of price stability, growth and financial stability," he said, adding a healthy financial sector is a must to "reinvigorate" the sagging growth by improving investment climate.

Das said the Reserve Bank has accorded high priority attention to reform both banking and non-banking sectors, and expanded confidence that the new NPA guidelines will "sustain the improvements in credit culture."

On the crisis-hit NBFC sector, he said RBI has issued draft guidelines for liquidity framework and is "taking a fresh look at its regulatory and supervisory framework."

"His arduous endeavour to have an optimal level of regulation and supervision so that NBFCs are financially resilient and robust," he said, and reiterated that RBI will not hesitate to take any step to maintain financial stability.

The governor also said a number of steps were taken to

improve commercial viability of urban co-operative banks like a proposal to establish an umbrella organisation and a centralised fraud registry for them and governance reforms.

"We are also encouraging voluntary merger and consolidation in the sector to help reduce operating costs, diversify risks and economise on capital," he added.

Pointing to the 2013 taper tantrum experience, he said market volatilities in emerging markets could have been avoided through clear advance communication on calibrated withdrawal of monetary policy accommodation.

Das said even after more than a decade since the global financial crisis and six years after the taper tantrum, the "global economy is still not on a stable growth path."

"India has continued to exhibit robust growth driven by consumption and investment demand in recent past. However, we have seen a loss of speed since the second half of FY19 as some drivers of growth, notably investment and exports, slowed down," he said, adding activity in agriculture may lead to a reversal of the current weaknesses in some of the indicators in our economy.

It is expected that the end of political uncertainty associated with an election season and continuation of economic reforms would lead to a reversal of the current weaknesses in some of the indicators in our economy.

# Banks give up on Jet Airways revival, choose to send it to NCLT

PTI ■ MUMBAI

State Bank of India-led consortium of lenders Monday decided to send the grounded Jet Airways to the National Company Law Tribunal.

The decision was taken after a meeting of the lenders. The lenders had decided to seek resolution for Jet Airways under the bankruptcy code since only a conditional bid was received," SBI said in a statement.

The statement further said the move was necessitated as prospective investor wants some SBI exemption deal the deal which can be worked out better under the IBC.

The bank said lenders have been taking efforts to find a resolution for the grounded carrier outside IBC but now have decided to seek a resolution within the IBC.

It can be noted that on June 10, two operational creditors-



"Shaman Wheels and Gagar Enterprises — had moved the NCLT seeking bankruptcy proceedings against the airline and on June 13 the tribunal, which is yet to admit the petitions put off the matter for further hearing to June 20.

The tribunal asked these parties to serve legal notices to the grounded Jet Airways. The airline, which was grounded on April 17, owes ₹8.74 crore to Shaman Wheels and ₹53 lakh to Gagar.

Jet Airways owes more than ₹8,000 crore to a consortium of banks led by the State Bank of India, which now runs the airline, while it has a much larger debt pile by way of accumulated losses to the tune of ₹13,000 crore and vendor dues of over ₹10,000 crore and salary dues of over ₹3,000 crore.

# Impose green cess on polluting vehicles to support EVs: SMEV

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Electric vehicle makers' body SMEV Monday called for imposition of 'green cess' on polluting vehicles besides seeking putting of EVs in priority lending sector to accelerate creation of a robust ecosystem.

In its Budget wish list, the Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (SMEV) also asked the government for a dedicated allocation for 'clean air' campaign, which could be integrated under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

"We strongly advocate the imposition of a notional green cess on the polluting vehicles and use it to accelerate electric mobility," SMEV Director General Sohinder Gill said in a statement.

He further said funds generated from such a cess can help reduce burden on the Government exchequer.

"This fund could be utilised in the frontloading of incentives to customers and bring electric two-wheelers prices down to the level of petrol two-wheelers," Gill said.

# UAE assures supply of oil, LPG to India despite tanker attacks: Pradhan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Oil cartel OPEC member UAE has assured India of uninterrupted supply of oil and LPG despite disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said Monday.

India is 83 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs and is reliant on nations like the UAE to meet half of its cooking gas (LPG) needs.

Pradhan in Twitter posts said he held telephonic discussions with UAE Minister and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) Group CEO Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber over tensions in the Gulf region following attacks on two oil tankers last week.

"Expressed concern at the supply disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz. Dr. Jaber assured me of oil and LPG supplies to India despite the disruptions," he tweeted.

"The attacks on oil tankers last week raised concerns over supplies through the Strait of Hormuz that is the conduit for a fifth of the world's oil. Spoke to UAE Minister of



State and Group CEO of ADNOC Group H.E. Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber and discussed ways to collaborate and work together to strengthen our hydrocarbon engagement," Pradhan said.

During the telephonic call, he also discussed UAE's lead role in ongoing India's strategic petroleum reserves programme.

The UAE has hired storages in the underground storages India has built as insurance against supply disruptions.

Pradhan said he also spoke to OPEC Secretary-General Mohammed Barkindo on

Monday. "SG Barkindo reaffirmed India as an important partner for OPEC and expressed keen interest to further strengthen the India-OPEC partnership," he said.

Pradhan has been making calls to leaders of oil-rich nations ever since the BJP came back to power and he was reappointed petroleum minister.

"Reviewed current developments in oil markets and ongoing supply disruptions. Expressed concern over significant oil price volatility and resulting challenges to Indian consumers," he said in his discussions with OPEC Secretary General.

India, he said, "will continue to work with OPEC membership on responsible oil pricing, which is the best interests of both producers and consumers."

Also, it was decided to work towards an early convening of the 4th India-OPEC high-level institutional dialogue, he added.

# Fitch lowers India's FY20 growth forecast for a 2nd time

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Fitch on Monday cut India's growth forecast for the fiscal year 2020 to 6.6 per cent from 7 per cent, down from a cyclical high of 8.1 per cent in the March quarter of 2018.

"This is the lowest growth rate since 2015. The slow-down over the past year has been driven by steady cooling activity in the manufacturing sector and, to a lesser extent, agriculture. Weaker momentum has been mainly domestically driven, though export growth has also faltered more recently," Fitch said.

It said the Reserve Bank has cut interest rates by 0.25 per cent in its June meeting - the third cut so far this year - in the face of weak growth momentum and continued inflation.

"We expect another 25 basis point cut later in 2019, which will push the policy repo rate down to 5.50 per cent. Monetary and regulatory easing from the RBI, along with a recovery in portfolio inflows, should support a recovery in credit to the private sector and reverse the drag from the negative credit impulse," Fitch added.

"We see growth for FY2019-2020 printing at 6.6 per cent, before stepping up to 7.1 per cent in FY 2021-2022," Fitch Ratings said in its latest Global Economic Outlook.

RBI has projected a growth rate of 7 per cent for the current fiscal.



Courtesy: Authority of India successfully commissioned SkyRev300 system, a cutting edge technology for data gathering, invoicing and realisation at Lao Air Navigation Services (LANS), Vientiane, Lao PDR on June 14, 2019. The project for implementation of SkyRev300 was awarded to Airports Authority of India in January 2018 for all 12 provinces of Lao PDR.

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED BOY

General Public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo) namely **Sumit S/O Dharam Pal R/o I-817, Mangolpuri, Delhi Aged-15** Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 22.08.2014 vide **FIR No.1536/14 u/s 363 IPC Dated 23.08.2014** registered at Police Station Mangolpuri, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-  
**Complexion:** Wholesome, **Height:** 4', **Face:** Round, **ID Mark:** A tattoo mark of name 'Sumit' on right hand, **Clothing:** Black coloured Shirt having yellow coloured lining-Blue coloured jeans pant and Grey coloured sandal in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped boy, may inform SHO, Mangolpuri, Delhi at E-mail: [cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.gov.in) or website: <http://cbl.nic.in>  
Tel. No. : 11-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/-  
FAX No. : 11-24368639 SHO, Mangolpuri, Delhi  
DP/2331/OD/19 Tel.: 011-27921168, 27921166

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Sangeeta, D/o: Vinod, R/o: Pardhan ka Makkan, 20 Foota Road, Chakki Wali Gali, Nihal Vihar, Delhi** missing/kidnapped since 10.10.2014 from the area of P. S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 683/14-u/s 363 IPC dated 18.10.2014** has been registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing girl are as under: **Age:** 17 years, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** Black colour Suit, salwar and Yellow colour plastic sleepers in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbl.nic.in> ACP  
E-mail: [cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.gov.in) District Investigation Unit  
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Outer District, Delhi  
FAX No. 011-24368639 Ph. No. 011-27017805  
DP/2309/OD/19

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Manju D/o Sh. Jagdish R/o Jhuggi No. 209, Moji Wala Bagh, Azadpur, Delhi Aged - 18** Years has been reported missing since 22.05.2019 vide **DD No. 57-A Dated 27.05.2019** lodged at Police Station Adarsh Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-  
**Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5'01", **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Thin, **Clothing:** Red coloured salwar and yellow coloured suit.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi at E-mail: [cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.gov.in) or website: <http://cbl.nic.in>  
Tel. No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/-  
FAX No. : 011-24368639 SHO, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi  
DP/9024/NW/19 Tel.: 011-27672452, 27674452

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl **Namely Sheeba Ameer, D/O Ameer Ahmad, R/O H.No. 158, Mohalla Bhokera Choruhia, Prince Road, PS Gulshahi Distt. Moradabad, U.P.** The girl has been missing since 08.06.2019 from the Gate No. 1, Jama Masjid, area P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi.

In this regard **DD No. 29-A, dated 09.06.2019** has been lodged at P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the missing girl is as under: **Name:** Sheeba Ameer, **Age:** About 20-22 Years, **Height:** 5', **Built:** Normal, **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Oval, **Wearing:** Light Yellow Colour Kurta, White Colour Chushti, White Colour Pajama and Brown Colour Leather Chappal in her Feet.  
If anyone has any information regarding this missing girl, kindly inform SHO/P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi.  
E-mail: [cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.gov.in), Website: <http://cbl.nic.in> SHO  
Ph. : 011-23015229, 23015218 Ph. No. 011-23261625, 08758074022  
FAX No. 011-23011334 P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi  
DP/16340/CD/19 Ph. No. 011-28726870, 28721115

## Appeal For Identification

General public is hereby informed that this person **Namely: Unknown, S/O Unknown, R/O Unknown Age** about 55 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5 Ft. 5 In., **Built:** Normal, **Face:** Long, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** Cream colour Shirt and Blue Dharidar Pant and a ring in middle finger. Found Unconscious under Karol Bagh Metro Station Delhi on 27.05.2019 and admitted to LHMC Hospital, Delhi. During Treatment Doctor declared him dead. In this regard a **DD No. 16A Dated 13.06.2019** has been registered at PS Karol Bagh, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO DP/6356/CD/19 P.S. Karol Bagh Delhi  
Ph. No. 011-28726870, 28721115

## SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely Sheetal, D/o Shri Bhim Sain, R/O H.No. 78, Gali No. 13, Chanchal Park, Near Mother Dairy, Delhi.** Age 16 years, **Height:** 4'3", **Complexion:** Fair, **Long Face.** Identification Marks A hurt mark on face left side, Wearing Cream Suit-salwar and black colour shoes in feet has been missing / kidnapped from the area of PS Ranhola, Delhi since 25.05.19. In this regard a case **FIR No. 311/19 dated 25.05.19 u/s 363 IPC** has been registered at PS Ranhola, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following.  
E-mail: [cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.gov.in) SHO  
Tel: 011-24368638, 24368641 Ph: 28363001, 28363002, 28363003  
FAX: 011-24368639 Ph. No. 011-27672452, 27674452  
DP/2329/OD/19

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified body of a male **Namely Unknown, S/O: Unknown, R/O: Unknown** was found on 27.05.2019 at 01:36 PM at Safdarjung Hospital Delhi. He was admitted in Hospital on 26.05.2019 due to an accident at In front of Daulat Public School, Patli Gali, Extra-5, Nangloi, Delhi during the treatment he was died on 03.06.2019. In this regard proceeding **DD No. 260/19 u/s 279/337 IPC, dated 27.05.2019** has been lodged at Police Station, Nangloi, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:-  
**Name:** Unknown, **Age:** Approx. 50 Years, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Wholesome, **ID Mark:** Tattoo "Harish" on his wrist, **Wearing:** Without Clothing.

If anyone has any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.  
SHO DP/2346/OD/19 Police Station, Nangloi, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-25947225, 7065036127

Encephalitis death toll rises to 103

Patna: Six more children died in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district on Monday, taking the toll due to suspected Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) to 103 and prompting the state government to announce a slew of measures to tackle the situation.



A view of an over-crowded ward with children showing symptoms of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) as they undergo treatment at a hospital in Muzaffarpur on Monday

According to a release issued by the district administration, 18 deaths were reported from the Kejrival hospital and 85 from the Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital (SKMCH), where Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan had visited the patients on Sunday and assured their families of all possible help from the Centre.

White doctors have maintained that the deaths occurred due to AES. State officials claimed that most of the victims, below the age of 10, have died due to hypoglycaemia - a condition caused by low level of blood sugar, electrolyte imbalance due to high temperature and extreme humidity.

On Monday, five more children died at the SKMCH and one at the Kejrival hospital, while the condition of 12 patients at the two hospitals was stated to be serious, the release said.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan visited Muzaffarpur at a high-level meeting in New Delhi, which was attended by senior officials of the Health Ministry, Indian Council of Medical Research and the AIIMS.

Court said poetic justice needs to be done in Kathua case, rejected defence pleas on defective probe

Pathankot: The special court, which convicted six people in the murder case of an 8-year-old nomadic girl in Kathua in Jammu region, has termed the crime 'devilish and monstrous' committed in the most 'shameful, inhumane and barbaric manner' for which 'poetic justice' needs to be done to its perpetrators.

He said it was needless to say the commission of this 'devilish and monstrous crime has sent shockwaves across the society and the actual guilty needs to be brought under the sword of justice.'

Man abducts, sells relative's boy for ₹20,000; arrested

Saharanpur (UP): A man was arrested on Monday for allegedly abducting and selling a five-year-old boy to a couple for ₹20,000 in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur district, police said.

The boy, however, was rescued within an hour and Rs 19,000 cash recovered from the accused, they said.

Advertisement for Noida New Okhla Industrial Development Authority. Includes details about E-Tender Notice for various projects like MIO Expressway and MIO Extension.

Advertisement for Civil Engineering Department, New Delhi Municipal Council. Includes details about e-Procurement Tender Notice for Smart City Mission Deposit Works.

Advertisement for South Delhi Municipal Corporation. Includes details about Assessment & Collection Department and Public Notice regarding valuation committee.

Payal Tadvi suicide: Police oppose bail of accused doctors

Mumbai: The Mumbai Police on Monday opposed the bail plea of three women doctors, arrested for allegedly abetting the suicide of a junior colleague, saying recording of statements of eye witnesses was underway.

The Mumbai crime branch, probing the suicide of Payal Tadvi, filed its reply to the bail plea before special Judge P B Jadhav on Monday.

The police said that since Tadvi belonged to a Scheduled Tribe, the three accused doctors tortured her mentally, ragged her and forced her to commit suicide.

Guj man booked for giving triple talaq to wife on WhatsApp

Ahmedabad: A man in Gujarat's Valsad district has been booked for allegedly giving triple talaq, prohibited by law, to his wife through a WhatsApp message, police said on Monday.

An official identified the accused as Julian Javed Kalia (27) and said he has sent the divorce message to his father Javed Kalia a few days ago.

The victim, a 25-year-old woman now residing with her parents in Umargam town in Valsad, filed a complaint on Sunday. Julan, a resident of Sanjan, works in a shipping firm and is currently abroad, said Inspector PM Parmar of Umargam police station.

on deaths from suspected AES cases and people dying due to heatwave.

The State Government would bear the cost of treatment of the affected children and reimburse the people reaching hospital by private vehicles if they do not get the ambulance facility, which is free, the official said.

The chief secretary stated that all the primary health centres (PHC) had been activated, adding that the units were equipped with administering saline and glucose.

He emphasised on the need to create awareness to prevent the disease and said children should be given ORS, should not be made to sleep with an empty stomach and reach the PHC as soon as possible.

The chief secretary, however, clarified that the percentage of deaths vis-a-vis the number of admissions of children in hospitals had declined to 26 per cent this year, which he said was 35-36 per cent in earlier years.

He added that the India Meteorological Department had said the heatwave conditions would continue for the next two days in various parts of the State. The department has forecast rainfall and thunderstorm on Wednesday in parts of the State.

Yogi directs Education Dept officials to not hold files for more than 3 days

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday directed officials of the Basic and Secondary Education Department to not hold files for more than three days otherwise strict action will be initiated against them.

Adityanath was holding a recruitment meeting with the officials of the state's Basic and Secondary Education Department.

He asked the officials to form 'Shiksha Seva Ayog' for recruitment of teachers.

He also asked them to link Akshay Patra of Lucknow and Mathura with Aadhaar cards under the mid-day meal scheme.

According to an official release, the chief minister said that selection to the post of principal should be done under the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission and Shiksha Seva Ayog should be formed to maintain transparency in the recruitment process.

During the meeting, he directed the officials to take measures to improve the quality of education in schools and asked them to conduct surprise visits at the educational institutions.

Adityanath also emphasised on installing solar panels in schools and asked principals to work under the Kayakalp Scheme.

He also asked them to link Akshay Patra of Lucknow and Mathura with Aadhaar cards under the mid-day meal scheme.

Akademi rejects Left Govt's decision to review cartoon award

Thiruvananthapuram (Ker): A State-run Akademi on Monday rejected the Left Government's decision to review its decision to honour a cartoon, depicting Bishop Franco Mullaik as a rooster and alluding to the rape charge against him, saying the jury's decision was final and Akademi would stand by it.

Also present in the meeting were officials of the state's Basic and Secondary Education Department.

The cartoon 'Viswasam Rakshathi' had appeared in a Malayalam magazine last year after Mullaik was accused of rape by a nun.

Showing Mullaik as a rooster, it also has a pink coloured lingerie in the crozier (staff), carried by a bishop as a symbol of the pastoral office, while a group of nuns is shown fleeing.

An autonomous cultural organisation of the government, the Akademi also turned down the criticism that the cartoon, titled 'Viswasam Rakshathi' (protection of faith) drawn by K K Subhash of Chengalam, had hurt the sentiments of the Christian community.

Pushparaj, however, made it clear that no religious symbol was shown in a poor light in the award-winning cartoon.

They also called upon them to spread these values around them.

'What had been depicted in the cartoon was the symbol of power and not any Christian symbol.'

Addressing the concluding session of 10-day National Unity Camp here in which youths from different states had come to participate, Gehlot said the celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary would continue for a year even after October 2 this year.

When the staff is carried by a person, whom we can describe even as an anti-social, it is just a symbol of power, there is no need to attach any holiness to it,' he said.

Advertisement for Govt. of NCT of Delhi Executive Engineer (SW-III) Sector-VII, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110022. Includes details about N.L.T. No. 01(2019-20) SW-III.

Advertisement for Delhi Jal Board: Govt. of NCT of Delhi. Includes details about Office of the Executive Engineer (South II) Jal Sadan, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi.

Advertisement for Delhi Jal Board: Govt. of NCT of Delhi. Includes details about Press Tender for replacement of old damaged main sewer line of Gauri Village Main Market under EE(S) II (AC-2) Kasturba Nagar.

**Trend**  
*Slazer*

**Kudos to IIT students: Hrithik**

Actor **HRITHIK ROSHAN**, who will be essaying the role of Anand Kumar in his forthcoming film *Super 30*, is elated upon the recently announced results of IIT entrance exams. The superstar took to social media, "*Super 30* is a reality which takes place every year. It's not a celebration of the past. Kudos to this year's students. I would love to meet all of them." The film hits the theatres on July 12.



**'Vicky Kaushal is one of the most talented actors and it's lovely working with him. It's a genre that both of us haven't explored but I was quite thrilled to experiment with this film, Bhoot Part One. As an actor, I love to experiment. I like taking more challenging roles and love to take risks.'** —Bhumi Pednekar



Actor **APURVA KHURANA** says if he had to be in a same-sex relationship with someone, it would be with *Kabir Singh* star **Shahid Kapoor**.

"I love the way he dresses up. I love his body language. He looks 25 to me," he said. He also spoke about being compared to his brother and actor Ayushmann Khurrana. The *Dangal* actor said, "I don't think I am equal to him right now and hence there's no comparison. If people want to say that I look like him — of course, as we are brothers. I will take it as a compliment."

**Why Chris opened about his anxiety**

Actor **CHRIS HEMSWORTH** says he feels more comfortable about showing his real self to the world now and that is what propelled him to open up about his anxiety woes.

"I think the more comfortable I got just doing press in general over the years and interviews... You feel more comfortable about showing a bit more of yourself."

Hemsworth said, "But for me, it was a part of the journey and being able to talk about what I have learnt. I remember when I started acting, hearing Anthony Hopkins in an interview saying that he thinks that each job will be his last... I found great comfort in that. It was like, maybe there is something which brings anxiety and (is) just part of the process," he added.

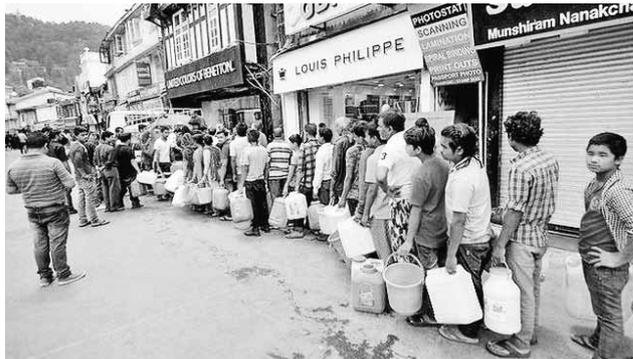


**The hills go under**

As tourists make a beeline for mountain retreats, the hill economy is collapsing and resources are being stretched. Is it time to end overtourism, asks **TEAM VIVA**

A five-hour traffic jam in Dalhousie hotels displaying 'full in red' on travel booking websites; internet flooded with pictures of tourists spending the night under the open sky; and residents left without adequate resources due to overtourism — incidents like these have become commonplace this summer as the temperatures shoot up. But if one thinks about it, even Everest hasn't been spared the evils of tourism. Naturally, the hill stations being more accessible are easier prey.

With weather forecasts unable to keep pace with the rising temperature, people are scrambling to find an escape from the scorching heat and sweaty metro rides in the city. And while tourists flock to the Himalayas and other hill stations to find refuge, these places have descended into chaos. While tourists come here to absorb the serenity of the place, they become



victims of the travel bug. In short, the hill economy is stressed and bursting at seams.

**CONGESTED ROUTES**

Nainital can accommodate 2,000 four-wheelers but more than 4,000 vehicles are pouring into the city on a daily basis. To counter this, the police put up "Nainital Houseful" flexi-banners at Bhimtal Chauraha, Kathgodam Police Chowki Crossing and Nariman Square, to discourage tourist arrivals, but to no avail.

Following this, the Nainital administration decided to restrict the entry of tourists in the hill station if the parking lots are full and only let them in when the traffic has cleared out. Shimla, which has witnessed a 6.2 per cent rise in tourist footfalls over the past three years. This year it has seen the highest space crunch as temperatures hit more than 40 degrees in the surrounding areas of



Delhi NCR, Punjab and Haryana. Ravi Kumar, general manager at RS Sarovar Portico, Palampur, says, "The whole of Punjab, Mumbai and Delhi is rushing to Dharamshala to get some relief from the heat. However, this has resulted in massive overtourism and traffic on the roads to such an extent that it is taking two hours to travel over seven kilometres. And once you reach there, where will you put up?" A major factor that comes to the fore is the affordability of personal conveyance, which in turn, leads to the space crunch. "Earlier, people travelled in

buses or trains, but now they have switched to their own cars. This leads to congestion. Parking space is a major challenge. While the Kullu-Manali highway is getting broadened, the hill station itself has no such provision for it," says Sharad Sharma, hotelier, Apple Country Gulmarg Resort, Manali. He adds that since Manali doesn't have enough parking space, tourists have no choice but to park their vehicles on the road. "This in turn, results in long cars queues which prolongs the hours on the road. The holidays are turning into a tedious exercise rather than an enjoyable one."

**POLLUTION OVERLOAD**

Following the vehicle rush, the rise in pollution level each year calls for an inspection of human-driven global warming. And tourists are urged to ignore sustainable development options which would halt climatic changes and offer some respite from the choking heat? Sandeep Sharma, owner of Shivirama Hotel in Bir, Himachal Pradesh, says, "When people flock to the hills in large numbers, it not only leads to overtourism but also uneducated tourism. Even when they see a place is overbooked, they still keep checking the availability of accommodations rather than wait for some days. Some even reach here without bookings and are fine with spending the night in the open and littering around." Sanjay Austa, owner of the Meena Bagh Resorts, who has two eco-friendly resorts in Himachal one each in Shimla and Ratnari, says, "The hill station is choking up because it was built only for 30,000 people but there are 2,00,000 people living here currently. And with tourists adding to the place's population constantly, it has made it difficult even for its residents."

**WATER SCARCITY**

Along with the tourists, the residents in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are also saddled with the baggage that overtourism brings including a pressure on resources.

Prachi Ratnari Mishra, a resident of Landour in Uttarakhand, shares her experience of acute water shortage in the area. "Due to overlooked hotels and roads, it's hard for the kids to reach their schools in the morning. Water is diverted to hotels, which leaves the local residents without water. I've never seen this happen," she says and goes on to add that in order to save water, the two children in the house bathe on alternative days. Deepak Sharma, owner of Sim Sim Hotel in Himachal Pradesh, says, "The steep rise in the number of tourists is a major concern. We are booking more than our capacity and hence, do not have adequate resources, especially water. The authorities should have planned tourism in an efficient and systematic manner."

Austa further highlights the knee jerk reaction of the authorities and says, "The government has come up with a band aid measure to curb the water scarcity issue by pumping water from a rivulet. This cannot be a long term solution or a sustainable one as it is depleting water. Rainwater harvesting, which government is not enforcing at all, is what needs to be done. This in turn is leading to resource crunch." The situation right now in the hills demands drastic changes rather than the illusion of the same. Is it time to have a sustainable hill development policy?

**Feel the breeze**

Beat the scorching heat by experimenting with colours and natural fabrics. By **TEAM VIVA**



**WHITE REFLECTS LIGHT**

People mostly prefer to wear white dresses as the colour reflects light. Designer Reynu Taandon apprises us that she prefers a lighter palette, especially whites. "It's better to wear a white dress in order to keep the body temperature cool and normal. A white linen kurtan or a Chanderi top with a multi-colour work are the perfect options to look cool and trendy. Poly fabrics and skin-fitted jeans are difficult to wear during the searing heat," advises Reynu. The colours which, according to her, have a great deal of spirit and energy include ivory, white, beige, mustard and gold. However, she points out, "One should prioritise materials that are lightweight and breathable."

**SHADES OF PASTEL**

While talking about her preference for colours, Tara recommends pastels in stripes and polka dots. She says that pastels and a sorbet palette in tie-dye work very well in summers, be it for formal or casual wear. She further explains, "One can pair up a white linen trousers with a pastel stripe shirt. A polka dotted tee with some bohemian accessories can be carried off well by everyone for a stylish yet casual look. The idea is to wear breathable fabric, which is also affordable, yet popular."

**CONTEMPORARY SILHOUETTES**

Unlike previous year when women's wardrobe was full of elegant, feminine and flattering contours, this year, the outfits are moving towards a simpler approach to dressing. For Rahul, this year has witnessed a lot more individuality in fashion. People are moving towards international trends while holding onto tradition in prints. We are seeing a play of pastels and statement hues because nobody wants to look similar to last year or even another person. So in order to give it a fun and bold look, he recommends one to go with a hybrid of contemporary silhouettes.

**PAIR UP WITH RIGHT JEWELLERY**

Additionally, there's one thing which Tara wants to stress upon — the selection of right accessories. She feels that the right ones can create multiple looks if teamed up with the same garments. "During summers, the accessories that work well are nude cream/nude blush open footwear and handbag teamed up with Eri cotton blend and linen short scarf and a floppy headgear. Pearl jewellery creates a cool yet formal look. With dark big shades and a bottle of sunscreen, anyone is ready to face 40 degrees or even more," she concludes.

**'THE FIRST PREFERENCE IS ALWAYS TO WEAR SOMETHING COMFORTABLE. WHILE PEOPLE MIGHT THINK THAT WEARING MINIMUM AMOUNT OF CLOTHES MIGHT BE THE RIGHT WAY TO GO, CHOOSING THE RIGHT FABRIC IS A BETTER STRATEGY'**



**Konkona questions audience choices**

Actress-director Konkona Sen Sharma says though a set of niche audience members and filmmakers are encouraging a new wave of Indian cinema which breaks stereotype, in the larger picture, the investment still happens for formula films as opposed to alternative narratives.

Konkona said, "Every year there is a handful of good films coming as a ray of hope but the bulk of the money is invested in films that are mediocre, which is just upholding the same stereotype. Look, I am not saying that people have to like the kind of films I like. There are certain films that are made and people consuming them, producers are making money so it is a matter of demand and supply. It is all great. I only have a problem with the fact that a small budget film has to fight for a number of screens and right show time with those films that are 10 times of its budget."

She said the audience needs to question itself about the kind of films that they want to watch in a scenario where in most cases, box office result is an indicator of success. "The audience has shown that for them, it is 'okay' to make fun of homosexuals, to have item numbers, to project a woman who is serving the desire of a man and his agenda. Here the question arises that if they even want to watch a different kind of the film. Do they really want choices?" questioned Konkona.

It is why she believes that film appreciation should be taught to children from the school level to develop their taste for a variety of global cinema. After having worked in films like *Page 3*, *Wake Up Sid* and *Tilvar*, she says she is getting a lot of acting and directing offers for the digital medium but not accepting offers from Bollywood.

She will next be seen in her *Lipstick Under the Burkha* director Alankrita Shrivastava's *Dolly Kitty Aur Wohi Ankurita Sitar*. "I like Alankrita's work very much because of the kind of scenes she writes as her female characters are usually the ones we do not get to see in our cinema. We have shown women the way they are expected to be seen in the society — responsible, sacrificing, morally right but in real, they have a colourful life," she said.



# A seminal game

Olga Bogroff's small suite is testament to the genesis of Indian contemporary art in Paris. By UMA NAIR

Picture this, artist Ram Kumar arrives in Paris at the end of 1949. He has a few works with him, which were done in India. Among them is a work titled *Twins*. The price of this gouache on paper is ₹65. Another is called *Why Can't I Get Sleep*, which has a romantic reverie about it as you see a young maiden reclining with a woman who is sitting next to her in companionship, perhaps presiding over the travails of the world. The work belongs to Olga Bogroff, a gallery person in Paris, who used her home as a gallery for young unknown artists. It was called Galerie Olga Bogroff and these works today form Grosvenor's stunning South Asian Modern Art exhibition.

## ROMANCING THE FIGURATIVE

Kumar's works are a reflection of an early romance with the figurative and a study on female studies that unraveled like jewels from the yesteryear. *Twins* and *Why Can't I Get Sleep* are two succinct works steeped in history. This is perhaps the best time to go back in 1993 to Ram Kumar's work as he recalled, "Perhaps every artist starts with the figurative because when we go to an art school, there is a model and we have to do drawings, learn anatomy and all that. So perhaps it is a very natural thing, along with landscape, at least for me. The reason I made these sort of paintings, was that I was a bit inspired by the left politics at that time and I was inclined towards the tragic side of life. It all started here, becoming more mature in Paris. And even if I had not been inspired by pol-



**'AS A YOUNG ARTIST, RAM KUMAR WAS CAPTIVATED BY THE HUMAN FACE BECAUSE OF THE EASE AND INTENSITY WITH WHICH IT REGISTERS THE DRAMA OF LIFE'**

itics, perhaps I would have made the same kind of paintings because that is a part of my nature some sort of sadness, misery or whatever it is. Also my short stories are always towards people who have suffered."

## MODERN WOMEN

*Twins* has two female figures, their saris billowing in the breeze, while *Why Can't I Get Sleep* has a reclining young woman with a bare midriff, eyes wide open resting in leisure while another sits next to her. The division of the space into a grill and the foreground textured with small strokes speaks of both simplicity and sophistication. In this composition, Kumar creates a *tableau vivant*. This painting combines the realism and cultural symbolism of a social construct with the contrast of two complex-

ions — the bronze skin and the fair toned lass, who is unable to get sleep. Indeed it also reflects a romantic dalliance in the features that Kumar created with a softness and feminine aura that sparks hope, and the subtle play of pensive poise.

The third figurative is another head turner from 1949. *Sorrow* has a number of women with the elongated dark faces and hollow eyes. The drapes on these women are indeed a testimony to modernism and the beauty of weaving in a language that was ahead of its time. Even when he created figurative, Kumar had a deep understanding of fluid lines, fervour and creating an expression in his triangular faces that was unique to its time and place. Kumar was acutely aware of his urban surroundings and the sense of togetherness in sorrow is the mood that he binds in this historic image. It is an insight to both technique and treatment. In this range of women in sorrow, Kumar treats the feminine figures with a sombre tenderness, invoking the idioms of both sympathy and sorrow. It is the mood of the gathering and the grace in sadness that transcend their own circumstances.

While looking at these epic early works one recalls the words of India's greatest abstract guru, the thinker, the critic and the genius J Swaminathan when he wrote in an essay on Trends in Indian Modernism, for the Lalit Kala Contemporary published in 1995.

"Ram Kumar, an artist born and brought up in the atmosphere of the city middle class, looking into the empty souls of people ground down by the gruelling run of the daily mill, looking into eyes that have lost their animation, eyes that are windows opening into nothingness, is again a painter who has relied on his personal vision for his artistic endeavors, sad drooping figures, rendered with childlike directness, lingering like shadows in gloomy surroundings of gaunt and empty streets and houses."

And then there is the brilliant observation of Shyam Lal who wrote, "As a young artist, Ram Kumar was captivated by or rather obsessed with the human face because of the ease and intensity with which it registers the drama of life. The sad, desperate, lonely, hopeless or lost faces which fill the canvases of his early period render with pathos his view of the human condition." This small suite belonging to Olga Bogroff is the stuff of history, the testament of Indian contemporary art's genesis in Paris and the connection of great French ambassadors and diplomats who played such a seminal game in the growth of Contemporary Indian art's matters *The Progressives*.



## A MIRROR OF SOCIETY

Dastango NUSRAT ANSARI, through *Dastan Alice Ki*, presents Alice in a way that she is a dreamer and digs her own path through her struggles rather than being seen as an escapist. By TEAM VIVA

Imagination has no restrictions. Who would know this better than Lewis Carroll? When Alice stepped through the looking glass one summer afternoon and fell down a rabbit hole, a tale replete with mystery, magic, twisted poetry, rhymes, confusion and logic came to the fore, where rabbits could talk and caterpillars would smoke hookah.

As artists Nusrat Ansari and Alices Farooqui present the classics — *Alice in the Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* — through the art of *dastangoi*, Nusrat explains how the duo brought out Alice's story's essence through the art form. She says, "Dastangoi has been picking up a lot recently. It's written in a way that it naturally brings out the essence of a story. It is such a natural art form that it stays alive within the audience too as much as the performers."

She says the art form involves a lot of improvisations and voiceovers, since this time they had kept it very interactive as well. But how? Nusrat explains with an instance. "When Alice has to goodee the age of the queen, she tries to transfer the questions to the audience. So this way it is interactive. And it was so good to see that the audience was also actively participating in giving the answers and making the guesses."

The artist says that such classics remain timeless and ever-relevant, and hence are narrated time and again. Hence, while Carroll's classics had been penned in the 19th century, they remain relevant and ever-engrossing even today.

There are multiple interpretations of a character. When it was first presented by *dastango* Poonam Girdhani and Ankit Chadha, they had their own interpretation of her, she says. Chadha had once said that the reason he chose Alice's stories to begin their journey in *dastango* is because her adventures are *tilsim* (magical) in nature, and the flavour of fantasy is similar to what they find in traditional *dastans*. Nusrat says, "My understanding and interpretation of Alice is that she is a very smart woman and one of those who knows that they are smart people. Even though she is being called an escapist and a lonely person, I see her as someone who finds her own way through her struggles, is a dreamer and believer, and has vivid ideas and imagination. She is a strong woman who can find out her ways."

The *dastan*, based on Carroll's classics, starts with Alice entering the fantasy land and discovering the world through the looking glass. After her size changes multiple times, Alice begins her journey on the chessboard to become a queen. Talking about how the art form has evolved over the years, which had lost its charm among the audience in the late 1920s and brought back to life by Mahmood Farooqui during 2005, "People were amazed by what they saw and wanted to continue it after that. They saw it as an art form and an engaging form of storytelling."

This is the first time, she says, that the classic is being presented even to the adults when it is mostly labelled as children's tales or literature. "We did not just focus on children but kept in mind the adult audience too. And even they were equally engaged throughout."

In Manhattan Federal Court, there's a trial taking place that has highlighted just how murky the business of art authentication has become.

After suddenly closing in 2011 in the wake of massive lawsuits, Knoedler Gallery and its former director, Ann Freedman, are currently faced with a civil lawsuit by collector and Sotheby's chairman Domenico de Sole, who thought he had bought an US\$8.3 million Rothko from the gallery. It was actually painted by Pei-Shen Qian, a Chinese immigrant living in Queens.

But the collapse of the Knoedler, New York's oldest art gallery, was much more protracted and complex.

## A HISTORY OF QUESTIONABLE DEALINGS

When Michael Knoedler arrived in New York in 1946, the city had virtually no art dealers to speak of. He sold inexpensive prints from Paris. By the turn of the century, the gallery advanced into the field of original old masters.

But the ongoing court case isn't the first time the gallery has been embroiled in nefarious dealings. In 1931, representatives of Knoedler purchased 21 masterpieces from Russia's Hermitage Museum for Andrew Mellon in a set of secret sales sanctioned by Joseph Stalin. The works included van Eyck's *Annunciation* and Botticelli's *Adoration of*

## Art world's murky secret

The collapse of the Knoedler Gallery, New York's oldest, was a much more protracted and complex process than an ongoing law suit

the Magi, which sold for roughly \$900,000. The deal was brokered by Armand Hammer, an American with close business ties to the Soviet Union.

Not is the recent case their first brush with forgery. In the 1958 edition of *Art News Annual*, the gallery took out a full-page ad with a 1948 Matisse that turned out to be a fake.

## A GALLERY REBORN

Soon after Knoedler found itself teetering on bankruptcy. In 1971, the gallery was sold for \$2.5 million — to their old partner in the Hermitage deals: Armand Hammer. Hammer appointed his business partner Maury Leibovitz to run the operation. Leibovitz, in turn, hired a well-connected art world figure, Lawrence Rubin, as gallery director.

Leibovitz and Rubin reversed flagging revenues by switching back to mid-century and contemporary art.



## THINGS FALL APART

Armand Hammer died in 1990, and his grandson, Michael A Hammer, assumed control of the gallery. When Leibovitz died in 1992, the gallery's relationship

with Neiman deteriorated. Then, in 1994, Michael Hammer dismissed Rubin which caused an exodus of artists led by Rauschenberg.

The gallery needed to find a source of

income. Enter: an obscure Long Island gallery named Glafira Rosales, who represented undiscovered 'Abstract Expressionists' belonging to an anonymous "Mr. X," which he was willing to sell below-market prices.

In 1993 the estate of Richard Diebenkorn claimed two drawings from his Ocean Park series were fakes. Without the profits from these sales, however, Knoedler would have likely collapsed.

In fact, much of the argument for Ann Freedman's culpability in the ongoing trial comes from the unlikely profitability of these sales. Many had achieved resale values five to eight times their purchase price from Rosales.

Yet despite some more red flags — including a Pollock sold in 2002 that the International Foundation for Art Research (IFAR) couldn't find support for the claimed provenance — Knoedler continued to sell works coming from the collection of Rosales's mysterious Mr. X.

The full scale of the alleged conspiracy, however, became apparent only through two concurrent cases.

One was a Robert Motherwell painting from the artist's *Elegy to the Spanish Republic* series sold by Julian Weissman, a former Knoedler employee.

The Dedalus Foundation (which publishes the authoritative compendium of

Motherwell's body of work) first wrote in 2007 that it would be included in the upcoming edition. However, it wrote back two years later to say it would not as the piece had not been tested and found to contain materials not yet patented at the time the painting was purported to have been made.

The other case involved another Pollock that Knoedler sold to hedge fund manager Pierre Lagrange with an assurance, apparently, that it would be included in the updated edition of Pollock's catalogue raisonné. In fact, the artist's authentication board had been disbanded since 1995. When no major auction house would accept the painting for sale, Lagrange filed a suit in 2011, and the gallery promptly closed.

The biggest indictment, however, may concern the abstract expressionist art movement. The current court case surrounds a Mark Rothko forgery that Art Basel founder Ernst Reyeler described as "sublime." After all, if a Chinese immigrant in Queens could do them all quite convincingly, one has to wonder how many other abstract expressionist fakes have been bought and sold.

And if a high-profile gallery was willing to sell them, can anyone really trust the authentication process that's in place — for abstract expressionist works and beyond? —AP

Nav Shri Art Centre Culture Organisation presents *Passion Explosion*. This is its fourth exhibition. A group of exhibition of drawings, paintings as well as art and craft, the 20 nominated participants of *All India Painting Competition* were given a chance of free participation. **WHEN:** June 28 to 30 **TIME:** 11 am to 6:30 pm **WHERE:** Artzen Art Gallery, Peary Lal Bhawan.

India Habitat Centre presents *Art of Dynamic Breathing*, a lecture and demonstration on Kalaripayattu for International Yoga Day 2019. It is an ancient form of Kalariyappattu Martial Arts exercises and their transformation and adaptation in gymnastics and acrobatics. **WHEN:** June 18 **TIME:** 7 pm **WHERE:** The Stein Auditorium, IHC.

Team Dastango presents *Dastan-e-Irfaan-e-Buddh* which is being performed by Poonam Girdhani and Rajesh Kumar. It presents a glimpse into the life, philosophy and world view of Tathagata, the enlightened one. **WHEN:** June 22 **TIME:** 7 pm **WHERE:** The Stein Auditorium, IHC.

India International Centre presents *A Sticky Wicket*. Directed by Yasim Kidwai the film is about a peri-urban slum on the outskirts of Delhi and a group of girls who live there. In the midst of their daily routine of cooking, cleaning and looking after younger siblings, enters cricket which gives these girls hope and wings to fly. **TIME:** 6:30 pm **WHERE:** C.D Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC.

Indian International Centre in collaboration with Polish Institute presents *Between Art Deco and Modernism*, an exhibition of archival posters from the collection of the Poster Museum at Wilanow. The exhibition displays Polish posters from 1918-1939. **WHEN:** June 19 to 28 **TIME:** 11 am to 7 pm **WHERE:** Kamaladevi Complex, IIC.

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Iran: Will break uranium stockpile limit in 10 days

Iran will break the uranium stockpile limit set by Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers in the next 10 days, the spokesman for the country's atomic agency said on Monday while also warning that Iran could enrich uranium up to 20 per cent just as step away from weapons-grade levels. The announcement by Behrouz Kamalvandi, timed for a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels, puts more pressure on Europe to come up with new terms for Iran's 2015 nuclear deal. The deal has steadily unraveled since the Trump administration pulled America out of the accord last year and re-imposed tough economic sanctions on Iran, deeply cutting into its sale of crude oil abroad and sending its economy into freefall. Europe has so far been unable to offer Iran a way around the US sanctions. The development comes in the wake of apparent attacks on oil tankers last week in the Middle East, assaults that Washington has blamed on Iran. While Iran has denied being involved, it has used mines in the past against commercial traffic around the crucial Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's crude oil passes. Kamalvandi accused Europeans of "killing time" as the clock runs down.

"If this condition continues, there will be no deal" anyone, Kamalvandi said. President Hassan Rouhani, greeting France's new ambassador to Tehran on Monday, similarly warned that time was running out for the deal. "The current situation is very critical and France and the other parties to the deal still have a very limited opportunity to play their historic role for saving the deal," Rouhani said, according to his website. Under terms of the nuclear deal, Iran can keep a stockpile of no more than 300 kilograms of low-enriched uranium. Kamalvandi said that given Iran's recent decision to quadruple its production of low-enriched uranium, it would pass the 300-kilogram limit on Thursday, July 27. The United Nations nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, said last month that Iran still remained within its stockpile limits. The Vienna-based agency declined to comment Monday on Iran's announcement. Kamalvandi said Iran needs 5 per cent enrichment for its nuclear power plant in southern Iranian port of Bushehr and it also needs 20 per cent enrichment for a Tehran research reactor. The nuclear deal had limited Iran to enriching uranium only to 3.67 per cent, which is enough for power plants and peaceful purposes. But after America's pullout and escalated sanctions, Tehran said a July 7 deadline for Europe to come up with better terms for the deal, or it would take additional steps away from the accord, likely meaning it would boost enrichment further. Kamalvandi enforced that stance, saying that Tehran will increase uranium enrichment levels "based on the country's needs." Enriching a supply of uranium means boosting its atoms of another isotope, called U-238. Boosting its purity to 20 per cent means removing 22 more unwanted isotopes per atom of U-235, while going from 20 per cent to 90 per cent is a relatively quicker process, something that worries nuclear nonproliferation experts. Iran maintains its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes. Iran reached its nuclear deal with world powers in 2015, agreeing to limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

Pak blogger, journalist known for criticising army, ISI hacked to death

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD A 22-year-old Pakistani blogger and journalist known for criticising the country's powerful military and the spy agency ISI was hacked to death by an unidentified men here, police said on Monday. Muhammad Bilal Khan, having over 16,000 followers on Twitter, 48,000 on his YouTube channel and 22,000 on Facebook, was with his uncle Ehtesham, when he received a phone call after which a man took him to the nearby forest on Sunday night. Dawn news quoted police as saying Superintendent of Police Sadder Malik Naem said Khan was attacked in the G-9/4 area of Islamabad and was shifted to a hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. His uncle was severely injured and has been hospitalised, he said. The suspect used a dagger to kill him, Naem said, adding that some people heard gunshot firing as well. Apart from being a social media activist, Khan was also a freelance journalist. He hailed from Gilgit-Baltistan and was a Sarhizat graduate from the International Islamic University of Islamabad (IIUI), according to Express News. Soon after his killing, #JusticeMuhammadBilalKhan trended on social media. Several Twitter users said that his criticism of the

Pakistan Army and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) led to his killing. "Pakistani activist and journalist Muhammad Bilal Khan was shot dead, 20th night in Islamabad. Khan was known for his criticism of the all-powerful military and its notorious spy agency," a man said in a tweet. The deceased's father Abdullah said that his body had marks of a sharp tool. "My son's only fault was that he spoke about the Prophet," he said. A case was registered under various sections including the Anti Terrorism Act. The incident has created fear among people, Khan's father said.

4-member India-born family found dead with gunshot wounds in US

PTI ■ WASHINGTON A 44-year-old Indian-American IT professional and his three family members, including two minor sons, have been found dead with gunshot wounds inside their home in the US state of Iowa, authorities said Monday. The bodies of Chandrasekhar Sunkara, Lavanya Sunkara, 41, their 15-year-old and 10-year-old sons were found in their home on Saturday morning. Autopsies are pending to determine the official causes of death, but police said all had gunshot wounds, West Des Moines police said in a statement. Chandrasekhar was known

as Chandra. The Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS) confirmed that he was an IT professional employee in the Technology Services Bureau for the department. "Our hearts and prayers go out to the family and friends of the Sunkaras," the DPS said in a statement. Officers with the West Des Moines Police Department were sent at around 10 am on Saturday to the 900 block of 65th Street, where they found the bodies. The police said they all died of apparent gunshot wounds but an autopsy has been scheduled to determine the exact cause of death.

TENDER NOTICE FOR PROCUREMENT OF MAIN AND SPECIAL LUBRICANTS AND GREASES ITEMS FOR CONSUMPTION YEAR 2019-20

1. Tenders are invited by IHO of MoD (Army), Quartermaster General's Branch, Directorate General of Supplies and Transport, New Delhi-110105 and on behalf of the President of India for procurement of MGE0 15W40 API CH-4 combined with MB 228.3 (approx qty 43,950 ltrs), Gear Lubricants Multipurpose 85W/140 EP Type GL-5 (approx qty 71,400 ltrs) and Anti Wear Hydraulic Oil HLP VG-32 (Extra Heavy Duty Type) (approx qty 2,00,340 ltrs) for the consumption year 2019-2020 from Indian Manufacturer only. The vendors can search for the tender enquiry on the Defence Procurement Portal in the following way:- www.defproc.gov.in Open Home Page >Click on "Tender Search" Type "Army Hydraulic Chemicals" (Right side of menu page) 2. In case of any clarification the officials can be contacted at phone No: 011-23018963 & 011-23018592 and e-mail ID ddgstrf-ihg@nic.in. These tenders will be available at www.defproc.gov.in with effect from 03:00 PM on 17 Jun 2019. Sd/- (MK Jha) Lieutenant Colonel Assistant Quarter Master General (POL) for Director General Supplies & Transport File No: P/72002019-20/UST-8/Spl Lub/Avt/S15 dated 14 Jun 2019. Davenport/106021/1/0016/1920

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Central Northern Railway, 4/ Floor, DPM Office, New Delhi-110001 invites tender under Single Packet System for the under listed work:- 1. Name of work and location: Design, Supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 22 KV AC single phase OHE for the Electrification work of Balance work of development of additional train handling facilities at NIZO. 2. Completion period of the work: 9 Months. 3. Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 2,23,07,50/- 4. Earnest Money amount: Rs. 2,61,600/- (To be deposited Online). 5. Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender: Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs. on date 10.07.2019 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The bidders can participate in this tender. The tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs on 10.07.2019. 6. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document: The detailed tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in. The bidders can participate in this tender. The tender will be opened on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in on 26.06.2019 to 10.07.2019. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board at the above office. No. 306 DYC/ENDS/2019-20 Dated: 17.06.2019 19162019 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

LICENSE NO. 101 OF 2017 DATED 30TH NOVEMBER, 2017 HARERA REGISTRATION NO. RO/SH/HA/RA/CG/02/16/23 DRAW OF FLATS This is to inform you that the draw of flats under The Hariyana Affordable Housing Policy, 2013 as amended till date in Project "Karyam" Residential Group Housing Flats, located at Sector-106, Gurugram to be developed by M/s Agrate Realty Limited, will be held on 24th June, 2019 at 11 am onwards at JRD Hospitality Casabella Banquets, Food Boulevard, 3rd Floor, Omnia, Celebration Mall, Subash Chohra, Sohna Road Gurugram. In presence of Hariyana govt officials. All applicants are cordially invited to attend the draw of flats. Location Map of Casabella Banquet Kindly note:- Please carry your acknowledgement slip, Aadhaar Card/Voter ID and PAN card. Only one person per acknowledgement slip will be allowed entry. M/s Agrate Realty Limited CIN No U07101DL2013PLC248731 Regd Office: Unit No 704, DLF Tower-B, Jasola, New Delhi-110025. Email ID - crm@karyamhomes.com Call no - 011-41924192

Papua New Guinea set to end Oz refugee contract PORT

AFP ■ MORESBY Papua New Guinea will not renew a contract with an Australian company providing security at Pacific refugee camps, a senior minister has told AFP, in another setback for the deeply controversial policy. Singapore-registered Paladin Holdings provides security and other services at three "transition centres" for refugees being held on Papua New Guinea's remote Manus Island after trying to get to Australia. Canberra has turned back thousands of refugees arriving by sea, instead putting them in offshore camps where mental illness and suicide attempts are rife. The policy has cost Australia billions of dollars and earned it international opprobrium, but remains a vote winner at home. Yet the new government in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea's capital, plans to "terminate (the) Paladin contract by end of this month" said Immigration Minister Petrus Thomas. "The deal is a failure," he said. Thomas said his Government had notified Australia's home affairs department that it will launch a "transparent tender process" that focuses on local firms' participation.

'Explosion' near China-N Korea border causes small quake

AFP ■ BEIJING A "suspected explosion" near the China-North Korea border caused a small earthquake on Monday, Chinese seismology authorities said, less than an hour after news broke about Chinese President Xi Jinping's upcoming trip to Pyongyang. According to the China Earthquake Networks Center, the 1.3-magnitude earthquake with a zero-metre depth occurred at 23:38 pm (11:38 GMT) in Hunchun city in northeastern Jilin province. It was unclear what caused the explosion. In the past, nuclear tests by Pyongyang have caused tremors around the northern border. China shares with North Korea. But the latest incident occurred more than 200 kilometres (125 miles) from Punggye-ri, the North's nuclear site under Mount Mantap. Analysts played down the tremor, saying it may have been caused by a number of factors. "Don't be alarmed just yet folks," tweeted Vipin Narang, a security studies professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "Mining explosions for example can cause small tremors." An official at South Korea's meteorological administration said there was "nothing in particular that can be detected through the seismic waves," according to a country's Yonhap news agency. In September 2017, a test conducted at North Korea's nuclear site at Punggye-ri triggered a 6.3-magnitude earthquake that was felt across China's northern border.

Activist Joshua Wong walks free, calls on leader to resign

AFP ■ HONG KONG Hong Kong democracy activist Joshua Wong called on the city's pro-Beijing leader Carrie Lam to resign after he walked free from prison on Monday, as historic anti-government protests rocked the city. "She is no longer qualified to be Hong Kong's leader," Wong, told reporters. "She must take the blame and resign, be held accountable and step down." Wong was sent to prison in May after he lost an attempt to quash a jail sentence over the huge democracy protests he helped lead in 2014. His release comes as Hong Kong is rocked by historic anti-government protests. They were initially sparked by mass public opposition to a plan to allow extraditions to China. But the movement has since morphed into the latest expression of public rage against both the city's leaders and Beijing. Speaking to the media outside Lai Chi Kok Correctional Institute, 22-year-old Wong called on protesters to continue their protests and civil disobedience campaign. "We demand Carrie Lam to step down, completely withdraw the extradition law, and retract the 'riot' label," he said, referring to Lam's previous term to describe protesters earlier in the week. He also condemned authorities for firing tear gas and rubber bullets during violent clashes on Wednesday.

Prez Xi to make maiden visit to N Korea ahead of his meeting with Trump

PTI ■ BEIJING President Xi Jinping would make his maiden visit to Pyongyang this week - the first by a Chinese leader in 14 years - in a big boost to the North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, who is under heavy pressure from the US to give up nuclear weapons programme. Xi will visit Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) - the official name for North Korea - from June 20 to 21, at the invitation of Kim, the spokesperson for the International Department of the ruling Communist Party of China, Hu Zhaoiming, announced here. His visit coincides with the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. Xi's visit the first by a Chinese leader in 14 years to the internationally isolated country reeling under UN sanctions for pursuing nuclear weapons programme, comes ahead of his proposed meeting with US President Donald Trump on the sidelines of G-20 summit scheduled to be held on June 28-29 in Tokyo. The last state visit made by a Chinese president to North Korea was in 2005 by then Chinese president Hu Jintao at the invitation of the former North Korean leader Kim Jong-il. Kim, who had two summit meetings with Trump, is under immense pressure from the US president to give up the nuclear programme. Their summit at Hanoi, Vietnam in February failed and Trump staved off pressure to agree to lift crippling UN sanctions. Kim, who shares close ties with President Xi, has travelled to China ahead of his proposed meetings with Trump, prompting the Chinese President to allege that the Chinese President was negatively influencing the North Korean leader. Kim is clenching a deal to give up the nuclear programme. The North Korean leader has visited China four times in recent years. Commenting on Xi's visit, Chinese strategic experts said that making such a significant visit shows that China is trying to further highlight its unique influence to push forward the peace process on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue.



Hong Kong police clear streets as protesters move to park

AP ■ HONG KONG Protesters in Hong Kong left the streets, averting possible clashes Monday after haggling for hours with police by moving to areas near the city's government headquarters. The demonstrators who stayed after a massive protest march the day before, demanding that Chief Executive Carrie Lam abandon a proposed extradition bill, were seen streaming Monday morning into a space outside Hong Kong's Legislative Council after police who had cleared it reopened the area. Their decision to move allowed police to reopen streets to traffic. The activists had rejected an apology from Lam for her handling of the legislation, which has stoked fears of expanding control from Beijing in this former British colony. "We are very angry that Carrie Lam has not responded to the demands of all the protesters, but now is the time to talk about strategy, and talk about strategy is to how about how to make the whole struggle into a long-term struggle and not a day struggle, so if Carrie Lam does not respond to the five demands by the protesters, people will continue to see nearly struggle will continue," said Lee Cheuk-yun, a former legislator and activist. Shortly after daybreak, the police had asked for cooperation in clearing the road but said the protesters could stay on the sidewalks. For a time, the protesters, many in masks and other gear to guard against possible use of tear gas, responded with chants, some kneeling in front of the officers. Hundreds were lying or sitting on the roads until they agreed to move to the plaza outside the government building and a spacious nearby park. Activists had called on Hong Kong residents to boycott classes and work, though it was unclear how many might heed that call. Nearly 2 million of the city's 7 million people turned out on Sunday, according to estimates by protest organizers. The police said 338,000 were counted on the designated protest route in the "peak period" of the march. A week earlier as many as 1 million people demonstrated to voice their concern over Hong Kong's relations with mainland China in one of the toughest tests of the territory's special status since Beijing took control in a 1997 handover. The scenes were similar to those seen nearly five years earlier, when protesters camped for weeks in the streets to protest rules that prevented the direct election of the city's chief executive, the top local official.

30 killed in triple suicide bombing in NE Nigeria

AFP ■ KANO Thirty people were killed late Sunday in a triple suicide bombing in northeast Nigeria, emergency services reported, in an attack bearing the hallmarks of the Boko Haram jihadist group. Three bombs detonated their explosives outside a hall in Konduga, 38 kilometres (24 miles) from the Borno state capital Maiduguri, where football fans were watching a match on TV. "The death toll from the attack has so far increased to 30. We have over 40 people injured," Usman Kachalla, head of operations at the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), said on Monday. An earlier toll from the blasts, the bloodiest in months, gave a 17 dead and 17 wounded. The attack happened around 9:00 pm (18:00 GMT). Ali Hassan, the leader of a self-defence group in the town, said, "The explosion was a premeditated one of the bombers from entering the packed venue." "There was a heated argument between the operator and the bomber who blew himself up," Hassan said by phone. Two other bombers who had mingled among the crowd at a tea stall earlier also detonated their suicide vests. Hassan said most of the victims were from outside the soccer viewing centre. "Nine people died on the spot, including the operator and 48 were injured," Hassan said. Kachalla said the high number of fatalities was because emergency responders had been unable to reach the site of the blast quickly.

ICICI Bank Limited PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER COUNTER OFFER FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSETS Notice for sale of immovable property E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is what is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder:- (See proviso to rule 8 (6)) Notice for sale of immovable property Sr. No. Name of Borrower(s) Co-Guarantors (if any) Loan Account No. (A) (B) Details of the Secured assets with known encumbrances, if any (C) Amount Outstanding (in ₹) (D) Reserve Price (in ₹) (E) Earnest Money (in ₹) (F) Date of Property Deposition (in DD/MM/YY) (G) Date & Time of Auction (in DD/MM/YY) (H) 1. Vivek Kumar Sharma (Borrower) Rajeev Gautam (Guarantor) (LBH0200002014386; LBH0200002024953) Uj. A/c No: 1079-41 Nagpur, Ghazabadi, NER, Sec 47. House No. III- K- 35/5 Ground Floor Without Roof Right, NER, Sec 47, Nagpur, Ghazabadi, NER, Sec 47. Rs. 50,21,781/- as on 27.05.2019. Rs. 27,50,000/- From 12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM on 17/06/2019. The online auction will take place on the website of auction agency Shriram Automall India Ltd. (URL: Link - https://e.auctions.samil.in). The Mortgagor/Auctioneers give their last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till July 10, 2019, before 5:00 PM failing which, this secured asset will be sold as per schedule. The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with affidavit earnest money deposit (as referred in column no. (F) in a sealed envelope subscribed "offer for purchase of property" so as to reach at ICICI Bank Limited, 2nd Floor Videocon Tower, Block E-1, Jhandewalan Extension, Rajaji Road, Delhi-110055 or any of our marketing agents Shriram Automall India Ltd. having their office at 2nd Floor, Best Sky Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Patparguna, New Delhi - 110034 on or before July 10, 2019 before 5:00 PM. The successful Bidder(s) must be engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. EMD DD / PO should be from a Nationalised / Scheduled Bank favouring "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi. For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of the offer, please contact the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited, 2nd Floor Videocon Tower, Block E-1, Jhandewalan Extension, Rajaji Road, Delhi-110055 or any of our marketing agents Shriram Automall India Ltd. The tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank-auction vendor official and registered before the cut off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any reasons therefor. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit ICICI Bank Ltd website at https://www.icicibank.com/notice-board/properties-for-sale/properties/page? Date : June 18, 2019 Place : Delhi/NCR Sd/- Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited



AS A TEAM WE'RE HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. FOR US, IT IS IMPORTANT TO JUST KEEP TICKING ALL THE BOXES, AND AS A TEAM, WE HAVE DONE THAT MOST OF THE TIME — ROHIT SHARMA

# Waste ENGLAND

## CRICKETCRADLE

### TODAY LIVE

England vs Afghanistan  
3:00 pm IST

VENUE: Old Trafford, Manchester

## BHUVI OUT

India pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar has been ruled out of at least the next two World Cup games after picking up a hamstring niggle during the clash against Pakistan. The paceman walked off the field without completing his third over and India skipper Virat Kohli confirmed that he will be replaced by Mohammed Shami in the following games. 'Slight niggle (in his left hamstring) for Bhuvi, he slipped on one of the footmarks. He's out for two, maybe three games, but he should come back for us at some stage during this tournament. He is very important for us,' Kohli said at the post-match presentation ceremony. Kohli added that 'Shami was raring to go.'

## TWO-DAY BREAK

A jubilant Indian team, led by skipper Virat Kohli, will take a couple of days off to relax and rejuvenate after their dominating win over Pakistan. Two-time former champions India dished out yet another professional performance on Sunday to oust arch-rivals and 1992 winners Pakistan by 89 runs to stay on course for a semifinal spot. 'Indian team will now have a two-day break,' the Indian team management said. India will next take on Afghanistan on June 22 at Southampton.

## NOT SO COOL

Pakistan's humiliating defeat to India was due to feud among players and their unhappiness with captain Sarfaraz Ahmed, local media from Karachi reported on Monday. A defeat to arch-rivals India is always difficult to digest for the passionate Pakistani cricket community anywhere in the world and particularly when it is in a World Cup. A day after the defeat in Manchester, the media here ran stories about groupings in the team and how some players wanted to topple the captain. The *Samaa* channel reported that soon after he got out, Sarfaraz allegedly lost his cool in the dressing room and accused some players including Imad Wasim and Imran-ul-Haq, of forming a group against him and not supporting him. The *Dunya* channel did a similar report about how there were different groups in the team — one led by Mohammed Amir and another led by Imad — which were letting Sarfaraz down.

## AS GOOD AS OVER

Former Pakistani players have come down heavily on all-rounder Shaoh Malik for his first-ball duck, saying the veteran should consider his career over after the debacle. Malik, 37, had said early this year that the World Cup would be his last ODI assignment with Pakistan as he would retire and focus on the World T20 next year in Australia. But with just eight runs under his belt in three matches, many former players believe that Malik might just have played his last one-day international for Pakistan in Manchester on Sunday. 'He himself has announced before the World Cup that he would retire from ODIs after the event. Given his performance in the tournament so far I don't see him playing again in the remaining four matches,' former test spinner Iqbal Qasim said. The former captain, who appeared in 35 Tests before announcing his retirement from the format in 2015, has played in 287 ODIs and 111 T20 internationals as well.

## LOVELY GESTURE

Steve Smith has appreciated Virat Kohli's 'lovely gesture' after the Indian skipper asked fans to stop jeering the former Australian skipper during their encounter on June 9. During the clash with India, which Australia lost by 36 runs, the Indian fans booed Smith and chanted 'cheater, cheater' when the defending champions were fielding. Kohli, who was batting at the time, urged them to calm down and instead cheer his batting. 'It was a lovely gesture by Virat,' Smith told reporters after Australia's victory to Sri Lanka. Smith said the frequent booing and heckling by the English crowd doesn't affect him but appreciated Kohli's gesture nonetheless. 'It doesn't really bother me what the crowds do to be perfectly honest. I am just blocking it all out but it was a lovely gesture from him,' Smith said.

AGENCIES

PRELIMINARY STAGE						
Pos	Team	P	W	L	N/R	Net Run Rate
1	AUS	5	4	1	0	+0.812
2	NZ	4	3	0	1	+2.163
3	IND	4	3	0	1	+1.029
4	ENG	4	3	1	0	+1.557
5	SL	5	1	2	2	-1.778
6	WI	4	1	2	1	+0.666
7	RSA	5	1	3	1	-0.208
8	B'DESH	4	1	2	1	-0.714
9	PAK	5	1	3	1	-1.933
10	AFG	4	0	4	0	-1.638

# India's brick & mortar bowler

## Kuldeep emerges as strike spinner in the middle

PNM ■ MANCHESTER

For his winning smile, petite body structure, young age and rosy cheeks, Kuldeep Yadav is quite a combative person. He throws the temperament of a quick at you, albeit with disarming simplicity. Not surprising, as he initially aspired to be and wanted to train for pace bowling but was luckily spotted by his Kanpur coach as a better physique for spin, an art he has since perfected. He does not take things lying down, is fearless in challenging even the stalwarts of the bat from any part of the world in any ground of the world with his flighted deliveries. Ask him why he has not been very successful in taking wickets recently and he is instantly up in vocal disagreement.

'It's not as if I have not been performing. As a bowler my job is not just to take wickets. Often I am given the responsibility of containing the opponent and I have been doing that just fine,' he said at the Old Trafford after the eventful match against Pakistan where his contribution broke the partnership that was beginning to worry India.

Old Trafford was also the ground where this son of a brick kiln owner from Kanpur bowled a beauty to get Babar Azam out at a crucial time. The ball to Azam turned in the air, first to deceive the batter to commit on his leg before mischievously drifting out and then stealthily but smoothly gliding into the stumps from a narrow gap between the bat and the pad.

Some decades back, the ground had hosted a then young Shane Warne's ball of the century as it is called, bowled as it was to an experienced Mike Gatting.

Yadav's astonishing delivery was equally befuddling if not as celebrated, yet. By all counts, it was the ball of the tournament.

'Getting Azam out was the best delivery for me in this tournament. I got him out in the Asia Cup as well. In the rain he was watching his first ball that delivery. It had drift and turn, so any spinner will love that delivery. It's a proper dem



Kuldeep Yadav, left, celebrates the dismissal of Pakistan's Babar Azam, center, during the World Cup match between India and Pakistan at Old Trafford in Manchester on Sunday

AP

delivery and a proper Test delivery. Deceiving the batsman in the air and making him commit the mistake. A perfect delivery,' he said in hindsight.

The smile was all there despite the fact that his place in the team mostly comes after many huddles, ifs and buts. At Old Trafford too, with overcast conditions, it was being widely perceived that Yadav would be replaced by pacer Mohammad Sami but he retained his place on his skipper's confidence which he buttressed with his twin breakthroughs.

After getting Azam, he struck again in his next over to send the left-handed Fakhar packing after he dared to play Yadav against the spin, only to be caught at short fine leg. Zaman too was forced, at 62, breaking whatever effort

“IT'S NOT AS IF I HAVE NOT BEEN PERFORMING. AS A BOWLER MY JOB IS NOT JUST TO TAKE WICKETS. OFTEN I AM GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY OF CONTAINING THE OPPONENT AND I HAVE BEEN DOING THAT JUST FINE”

Pakistan could have made to stand up to India's 336, or later as it turned out, 302 in 40 overs. In the end, Yadav sported a handsome 2-32 figure with his left-arm wrist spinning a win for his team even as a more lionised Chahal struggled unusually at the other end.

'Both Azam and Zaman play spin well. They were rotating the strike and were attacking, so it was important to break that partnership. Getting Babar out and then another wicket put them under pressure and according to DLS they needed a very high run-rate and that was a plus point for us,' he points out to bring in the relevance of his achievement into context.

His place in the Indian squad for the World Cup was mired in scepticism but he had done enough to cement his

position in the squad for some time to come.

For a disastrous IPL season which finished for him with giving away a 27-run last over last season, many questioned his place in the World Cup but the small town spinner has held his own with 1-46 against South Africa and a breakthrough performance against Pakistan.

'Everyone is talking about my rhythm. I don't think I lost my rhythm. It happens when you don't pick wickets but the last three games I have bowled really well. In the game against Australia, they were struggling to hit me and that's important for any spinner,' he said.

Yadav is one of the few spinners to have a five wicket haul in all formats of the game, a talent under Kohli's eye. Even

vice-captain Rohit Sharma is all praise for Yadav's efforts and said the team always gets around him to keep his confidence up.

'He's our match-winning bowler in the middle overs and today you saw how important those crucial wickets were. Both the batsmen were set. Of course, he didn't start the tournament the way he would like to, but for us as a group around him, our job is to just make sure that he gets that confidence, he gets that backing from the team,' Sharma added.

Yadav has claimed 90 wickets from 47 ODI matches since his debut in 2017. That's no mean achievement. Just the beginning for this containment bowling wicket-taker with a big heart and big self-confidence as he understands the game quite well.

# Virat Kohli on Cloud 24 Tables have turned

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Calmness has always been Rohit Sharma's biggest asset and the bliss of fatherhood has only enhanced his composed personality, something which has reflected in his stellar performances in the World Cup.

The Indian vice-captain has hit the high notes with hundreds against South Africa and Pakistan along with a half-century against Australia.

For him, more than planning and preparation, it is the 'head space' that has made all the difference. 'I think it's just the space I am in right now. It's a very good phase in my life. Having a daughter in my life actually has put me in a good space. So, yeah, I think I'm enjoying my cricket,' Rohit said after his match-winning 140 of 113 balls against Pakistan here on Sunday.

'I think as a team we're heading in the right direction. For us, it is important to just keep ticking all the boxes, and I think, as a team, we have done that most of the time,' Virat Kohli's deputy echoed his skipper's sentiments.

In every match so far, Rohit's risk assessment has been immaculate in the initial phase of the innings. 'The last two days we were here, the pitch was under the covers, and it was a little soft when we started. When the conditions are like that, it becomes more of a new ball game and then the opposition can put pressure if you lose a few wickets,' he said.

His captain had termed Rohit's hundred against South Africa as his best ODI innings.

So when asked where he would rate his match-winning effort against Pakistan, Rohit responded nonchalantly: 'I'm sure if I get 100 in another game, you'll ask me the same question. Was this satisfying,' he laughed.

'I don't know. It's hard to put any knock on the top because all those knocks you play for your country are very, very important,' he said.



Rohit Sharma celebrates after completing his 24th ODI hundred

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed has reconciled to the fact that they 'were a better team than India in the 90's' and now the tables have turned.

The soft-spoken Pakistan captain was literally hounded by his country's media with a host of uncomfortable questions following the team's heavy defeat against India here on Sunday.

Asked if the Indo-Pak rivalry has fizzled out over the years, Sarfaraz said: 'We are not handling pressure well. The team that handles pressure in these games win. The Pakistan teams of the 90's, used to enjoy upper hand but now India is better than Pakistan. That's why they win matches.'

Prime Minister Imran Khan's advice was 'bat first even if the pitch is damp' but Sarfaraz Khan doggedly defended his decision, saying the reason for defeat was 'failure in all three departments'. The Pakistan Prime Minister and an iconic World Cup winning captain, in a series of tweets on the marquee clash, had spoken about the right approach for the high-pressure game.

'The whole team is not performing well in all three departments. If you talk about fielding, even Virat Kohli had said that he would have fielded. We haven't seen the pitch for two days. There was some moisture and hence I decided on fielding. We won a good toss but didn't hit the right length,' said Sarfaraz.

A defeat against India inevitably gives rise to conspiracy theories and the post match media interaction was no different.

'Why is it that the players' body language is so negative?' asked one of the scribes. The manner in which Sarfaraz kept his counsel was remarkable.

'Maybe you guys have seen something in the body language but players are trying their best. Their has been fielding lapses. Rohit could have been run out twice and had we availed those chances, it could have been a different result.'

Another one asked, 'Have all

IT'S A VERY GOOD PHASE IN MY LIFE. HAVING A DAUGHTER IN MY LIFE ACTUALLY HAS PUT ME IN A GOOD SPACE. SO, I THINK I'M ENJOYING MY CRICKET

Against Pakistan, Rohit scored 30 runs through cuts and 28 through pull shots which included seven fours and three sixes.

Was he pleasantly surprised that Pakistan bowlers, especially Hasan Ali and Wahab Riaz, bowled short and wide to him?

'I don't know what happens in their team meeting, whether it's to bowl up (fuller) or bowl short. The first 10 overs, they bowled pretty well. Of

course, we know in England, once you are in, it's very hard for the bowlers to come back, and there's not enough room for error. That is pretty simple,' said the second highest aggregator in the competition (319 runs) behind Aaron Finch (343 runs).

But he did agree that Pakistan bowled to his strength as the innings went on. 'They did bowl up (fuller) a fair amount, but then, again, as a batsman you are ready to just pounce on it when given or bowl to your strength. So I think it is my strength when someone bowls short to me,' he added.

The best response to a question was the one with which he signed off. A Pakistani journalist asked, what would be his advice for Pakistan team which is in a crisis situation, he said: 'Tab main Pakistan team ka coach banaunga tab jawab doonga (I will answer when I become 'Pakistan coach').'

players been physically and mentally fit to take on India? 'There are no issues with anyone. Imad Wasim (gastric problem) had an issue but everyone had passed the fitness test. Now that we have lost, you can raise the issue.'

The third person's query was about what happened to agitated Mohammed Amir gesticulating to media manager Raza Kitchlew.

'I didn't see anything. Maybe he was angry because he was trying to get wickets which he didn't get,' Sarfaraz reasoned.

He also clarified on the alleged rift in the dressing room with seniors like Mohammed Hafeez and Shaoh Malik being unhappy with his leadership.

'There are no ill-feelings in the dressing room. The boys are backing each other. As far as why I didn't give Hafeez and Shaoh more than an over, it is because I felt there was no need for that. The batsmen were set and they went for runs (11 each) in the only over that they bowled.'

Although it's a Herculean task for a team placed ninth among the 10 competing nations but he said that the endeavour is to win the remaining four games, said Sarfaraz.

'We should try to be positive and think like, okay we didn't play good cricket but let's try and win four games in order to bounce back,' he added.



**CRICKET CRADLE**

**Leave cricket**  
Pakistan's crushing defeat to India in their crucial World Cup fixture has left many Pakistani fans disappointed, with questions being raised about the fitness level of the players and demands for them to give up cricket. In a 15-second video which is doing rounds on social media, a disappointed Pakistani fan claims that Pakistani players were having pizza and burgers prior to Sunday's marquee. "I just came to know that the Pakistani players were having pizza and burgers last night. The Pakistani players should go for wrestling instead of cricket. Look at their fitness. We had so many hopes pinned on them and they were having pizza and burgers," said the dejected fan.

**Nihari to IMF loan**  
As various social media platforms went berserk after India's historic win, the unanimous winner was twitterati from the other side of the border that created jokes, memes, GIFs and one-liners on the Sarfaraz Ahmed-led team. The moment the rain-hit match at the Old Trafford in Manchester on Sunday went into final overs, users from Pakistan began bashing their team, although keeping the humour intact — be it Ahmed's yawning face on the field or Shoaib Malik being dismissed for a duck. "Don't call me a traitor, but look at the Indian players, they look like proper athletes, our players look like they've eaten two plates of *waris nihari* with *fezqay kharssi* and *benazir kuffa*, all at once," tweeted one user. The tweet immediately went viral and Indian users started retweeting it. Another tweet from across the border read: "Dear India *thora hath hola rakhen... Hamary Sarfraz ne ro dena ha abi*." As the skipper returned to the pavilion after scoring just 12 runs in 30 balls, a user posted: "When I die I want Sarfraz to lower me into my grave so he can let me down one last time". "*Aree humari toh team hai, toh hum dekh rahe hai. Apko kina aur time pass karna hai in nikam ko haarta dekh ke*," a user wrote to an Indian follower. Aleena from Lahore wrote: "*Na partition hoti na hum zaleel ho rahe hote*." "*Dollar ka rate aur India k runs control karna hamare bas ki baat nahi*," one Twitter user posted from Pakistan. Knowing well that Pakistan is frantically looking for an economic bailout, one user tweeted: "*India to aisay dho rahi hai jesy IMF se qarza nahin in se letay hn hum*".

**Another strike**  
Home Minister Amit Shah Monday congratulated Indian cricket team for its victory saying it was "another strike" on the neighbouring country and the "result is same". "Another strike on Pakistan by #TeamIndia and the result is same. Congratulations to the entire team for this superb performance. Every Indian is feeling proud and celebrating this impressive win. #INDVPAK (sic)," he tweeted. By mentioning "another strike", the home minister referred to the surgical strike carried by the Indian Air Force on a terror camp at Balakot in Pakistan on February 26 after terrorists exploded a CRPF bus at Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir killing 40 personnel.

**Win as our own**  
Mehran Marri, one of the prominent Baloch human rights activists, has congratulated Team India and said the people of Balochistan are celebrating the victory as their own. "Congratulations to India from the people of Balochistan for their outstanding defeat of Pakistan. We Baloch are celebrating your victory as if it was our very own. *Jai Hind. Jeeay Balochistan*," tweeted Marri on Sunday night. Banuk Zarina Baloch, another Baloch activist, also congratulated the Men in Blue in a tweet and hoped "India will repeat 1971's history for Balochistan's freedom to remind the world that defeat is Pakistan's destiny," she said.

**PTI ■ KARACHI**  
Former skipper Wasim Akram led Pakistan's cricket community in lambasting the team for "going down without a fight" against arch-rivals India. The 1992 champions were then restricted to 212 for six in 40 overs in 37 run chase when rain stopped play, paving the way for India's comprehensive 89-run win via D/L method. "The team selection to me is not right and I don't see any planning going into this World Cup," Wasim said. "Win or lose is part of the game but not this way we just went down without a fight." Under-fire Sarfraz, however, defended his decision to bowl first but many former stalwarts said it was a poor decision and reading of the pitch. "Virat Kohli basically



**By K SRIKANTH**  
Former Indian captain

# Clap for opener Rahul

Everyone knows how good a batsman Rohit Sharma is. But for me the more important innings against Pakistan was from KL Rahul.

Going into the game, the biggest question mark about this India team was how they would cope without Shikhar Dhawan.

The fact the top three all got runs, that Sharma and Rahul put on more than a hundred for the first wicket and that Virat Kohli got more runs, is huge for India going forward in the tournament.

Every team that comes up against India will know that the top three are going to be a real danger and give them the perfect platform, especially with Rohit's tendency to score big hundreds.

That is now three straight wins against three good teams and puts India in a great position to reach the semi-finals.

Prior to this, the one bowler who had been a little bit of a concern was Kuldeep Yadav, who didn't seem to have found his form.

However he was brilliant in this game, particularly the dismissal of Babar Azam which was a sensational delivery.

That leaves India with Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep all bowling well, what more can they ask for?

It is a little like England, at the moment everything seems to be going right and the fans should be very happy.

This is starting to feel a lit-



India's Rohit Sharma, left, Vijay Shankar, center, and Lokesh Rahul bat in the nets during a training session at The Oval in London. AP/File Picture

**TEAMS ARE WORRIED ABOUT FACING INDIA AND HOW THEY WILL COPE WITH THEM, WHICH IMMEDIATELY PUTS THEM ON THE BACK FOOT**

like the West Indian teams of the 1970s, where the opposition would start the game with a psychological disadvantage. Teams are worried about facing India and how they will cope with them, which immediately puts them on the back foot.

In this game I felt that Pakistan made a mistake bowling first. Traditionally they are not a chasing team, and we saw how well they played against England batting first.

That was a blessing in disguise in many ways and India were able to take the game away from them with their batting.

It felt like there was more pressure on Pakistan, who had built this up to be a huge game, whereas India and Rohit, in particular, were able to treat it like any other match. That is vital in an ICC Men's Cricket World Cup. You cannot put too much pressure on yourself because of who the opposition is.

The one slight worry was Bhuvneshwar's injury but they have six days before the next game against Afghanistan so that will give him the chance to get back fit again.

In the moment it was obviously a blow for India, but in some ways it worked out well for them because it meant we got more of a look at Vijay Shankar.

He did well in his first game of the tournament and took his opportunity, first with the bat and then later on with the ball.

Shankar's performance increases India's options, and as when Dhawan returns, it will make for an interesting selection dilemma.

That is a debate for another time though, for now India should be very happy with how they have performed so far and long may it continue.

Courtesy: © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2019

# Dazzling first ball

**PTI ■ MANCHESTER**



Vijay Shankar, left, celebrates dismissal of Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed

Vijay Shankar made his presence felt on his World Cup debut with two crucial Pakistani wickets and the Tamil Nadu all-rounder is backing himself to play an important role in India's campaign.

If someone had told him six months back that his bowling would become crucial to India's plans at the quadrennial event, it would not have been a surprise for him.

His "three dimensional" ability was put to test against Pakistan and he responded with wickets of opener Imam ul Haq and rival captain Sarfraz Ahmed.

"I knew that I was batting well but my handy bowling makes me useful," Shankar told reporters during a mixed zone interaction.

He got a wicket with his very first World Cup delivery after Bhuvneshwar Kumar hobbled off the field due to a hamstring injury.

"I need to keep on improving on all aspects of game and that's how I look at things, so that when situation comes I am ready to face it. I was always focused on my preparation," Shankar said after returning impressive figures of 2/22 in 5.4 overs.

Although he is designated for the number four slot in the batting order, Shankar is now ready to bat at number six or seven since the team management is expected to promote Hardik Pandya up the order in case top three go on to play till 35th over.

"First few innings during Australia series, I batted at Nos 6 or 7. When playing for

your country, you should be ready to adapt yourself to different situation," said Shankar, who got a run-a-ball 15 in India's 336 for 5.

But getting a wicket off the first ball was a "pleasant surprise".

"That was a surprise for me as it's rare for someone to get injured and I come in as a replacement. Getting a wicket off first ball is special thing for me.

"It was a great opportunity for me to make my World Cup debut against Pakistan as a lot of people would have watched the game. I just wanted to enjoy the moment as you don't get to experience this often," he said.



Pakistan skipper Sarfraz walks past Kohli during India Pak game. ICC/Twitter

# Akhtar calls it brainless captaincy

**PTI ■ ISLAMABAD**

Former pacer Shoaib Akhtar has slammed Sarfraz Ahmed's "brainless captaincy" after Pakistan's humiliating 89-run loss to India.

"I don't understand how can a captain be so brainless, couldn't Sarfraz think that we don't chase well. Square of the wicket is dry, the wicket is not wet. Knowing the fact and your strength is not batting it's bowling," Akhtar said on his official YouTube channel.

Pakistan added one more defeat to their already dismal record in the World Cup against India, taking it to 7-0 in favour of the arch-rivals.

Skipper Sarfraz won the toss and opted to field first allowing India to post an imposing target of 337 on the back of a brilliant 140 by opener Rohit Sharma and half-centuries by KL Rahul (57) and Virat Kohli (77). According to Akhtar, winning the toss was crucial aspect of the game and half the match was won had Sarfraz decided to bat first.

"Now when you had won the toss, you had won half the match there. But what did you do? You tried that we should not win spirit that way. Yet again, brainless captaincy, utterly stupid management."

Highlighting Pakistan's inability to chase, Akhtar referred to their defeat to India in 1999 and the previous game against Australia.

"We don't have a history of chasing. Inzamam, Yusuf, Saad Anwar, Shahid Afridi all big batsmen were playing in this ground in 1999 and we had to make 227, we weren't able to do that. So when you got the chance after winning the toss you should have batted."

The Rawalpindi Express also criticised the batsmen for not making use of the conditions unlike their Indian counterparts.

"There was no thinking, one-dimensional players came to bat, but the toss was very crucial to win it and in that even if Pakistan scored 260 they would have done it because the pressure is on required run rate. But who would tell them?"

"I think it's a very sad and disheartening performance by Pakistan team captain and that's why I was saying that chase your head but he tried to not use his brain."

Akhtar singled out pacer Hasan Ali — who went for 84 off his 9 overs — as one of the architects of the defeat.

"Yet again, our bowling, Hasan Ali, he can jump on Wagah border but when there is time to exert force, do here. All these things look good if you take 6-7 wickets, you come here and give 82-84 runs. What mindset is this?"

"I think his mindset is that he wants to be a T20 player, this is his 4th or 5th match for Pakistan and see the conditions, neither there is any pace or swing. I'm failing to understand what he wants to achieve."

Meanwhile, Sachin Tendulkar feels Sarfraz Ahmed was a "confused" man and his team lacked "imagination".

"I thought he (Sarfraz) was confused because when Wahab (Riaz) was bowling he had a short mid-wicket. And when Shadab (Khan) came on to bowl he had a slip for him," Tendulkar said.

"In these conditions it becomes difficult for a leg-spinner to grip the ball, especially when he's not getting the right line and length. That is not the right way to approach a big game," he added.

"They lacked imagination, lacked out of the box thinking."

# All barbs lead to Sarfraz



Pakistan players return to pavilion after the end of India's innings

knew that the present Indian team was a quality side with top class batsmen and the only way to beat them was to bring them under pressure.

"Two years back the mistake Kohli made at the toss by allowing Pakistan to bat in the final was repeated by Sarfraz yesterday. No matter how good a batting side a team when you chase in a big match like this you always come under pressure."

Former Test opener Mohsin Khan lamented that the team lacked self belief against India.

"No matter how strong this Indian team the fact is our players just didn't display the moti-

vation, energy or heart to believe in themselves that we can win the match," said Khan, a former chief selector and head coach.

"In the past when we didn't have so many facilities it was our spirit that won us so many games against India. Now it is different. I see more energy and desire to win on part of Indian players compared to us."

Former allrounder Abdul Razaq felt it was the responsibility of captain and coach to give a plan to the players and ensure they had the game sense and skills to execute them.

"If some player is not skillful enough to execute plans he should be sacked. India lost Kumar early on but they didn't feel his absence as the other bowlers knew what their job was," he said.



# naomastley ENGLAND

SPIN IS KEY FOR US. THE LAST THREE YEARS, HOW WE PLAY OUR CRICKET. IF THERE'S A LITTLE BIT OF SPIN THERE, MAYBE IT'S A GOOD DAY FOR AFGHANISTAN  
GULBADIN NAIB

# Tale of contrasts

## Hosts seek semis berth as Afghans eye first breakthrough win



**UPNEXT**

England vs Afghanistan

**LIVE ON** STAR SPORTS

3:00 pm IST

English pacer Mark Wood, left, and wicket keeper batsman Jonny Bairstow shares a light moment during team's practice session

### PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Struck by a series of injury setbacks, England will look to get the combination right when they take on the low-ranked but spirited Afghanistan in their bid get closer to a semi-final berth today.

The hosts are struggling with fitness issues, the latest being captain Eoin Morgan having to leave the field with a back spasm during the game against the West Indies.

Opening batsman Jason Roy was also forced off the field during the same match

due to a tight hamstring and has been ruled out of the game today and on Friday (against Sri Lanka).

Himself in doubt for the Afghanistan game, Morgan insisted there is no need to hit the panic button just yet. His fitness will be monitored over the next 24 hours before the final call is taken on his participation today.

"It is sore. I have had back spasms before and it normally takes a few days to settle down. It is unclear, we will know more in the next 24 hours. You normally get a good indication the following day," Morgan said after the victory against West

Indies.

In case Morgan isn't fully fit, vice captain Jos Buttler is likely to lead the team which boasts of a strong bench strength that includes the likes of Tom Curran and Moeen Ali.

After suffering a shock loss to Pakistan, England have got their act together, excelling in all three departments and the hosts will want to continue riding on the winning momentum.

On the other hand, Afghanistan will be eager to post their first win in the ongoing 50-over showpiece.

Playing in their second World Cup, the

HEAD TO HEAD			
Matches	Played	ENG	AFG
	1	1	-
HIGHEST TOTALS			
England	101-1 in 18.1 overs		
	at Sydney		
Afghanistan	111-7 in 36.2 overs		
	at Sydney		
PERFORMANCE IN WC			
Team	P	W	L
England	76	44	30
Afghanistan	10	1	9
T N/R Success%			
England	1	1	59.21
Afghanistan	-	-	10.00

**FAISL FEATURES**

**XFACTOR**

- Joe Root's outstanding run
- England's new opening combination
- Spin trika of Rashid, Nabi and Mujeeb ur Rahman
- Afghanistan's performance with the bat
- Jofra Archer, Mark Wood's pace
- Power hits like Ben Stokes and Jos Buttler

**AFTER SUFFERING A SHOCK LOSS TO PAKISTAN, ENGLAND HAVE GOT THEIR ACT TOGETHER, EXCELLING IN ALL THREE DEPARTMENTS. THE HOSTS WILL WANT TO CONTINUE RIDING ON THE WINNING MOMENTUM**

failed to capitalise on that.

The rest of the team couldn't reach double digits apart from Rashid Khan, who once again showed that he is shaping up to be a talented all-rounder.

The conditions, and whether the wicket supports spin, will play a crucial for the Afghans who rely heavily on their tweakers Rashid and Mohammad Nabi to get them the breakthroughs.

**SQUADS**

**England:** Eoin Morgan, Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Jonny Bairstow, Jos Buttler, Tom Curran, Liam Dawson, Liam Plunkett, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Jason Roy, Ben Stokes, James Vince, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.

**Afghanistan:** Gulbadin Naib (c), Noor Ali Zadran, Hazratullah Zazai, Rahmat Shah (wk), Asghar Afghan, Hashmatullah Shahidi, Najibullah Zadran, Samiullah Shinwari, Mohammad Nabi, Rashid Khan, Dawlat Zadran, Aftab Alam, Hamid Hassan, Mujeeb ur Rahman, Ikram Ali Khil.

## MEN WHO MATTER

### JONNY BAIRSTOW (ENGLAND)

Bairstow has got starts in each of the last three games but has failed to convert them into a big one. With Jason Roy unavailable for Tuesday's clash, the right-hander will look to take extra responsibility and score big against Afghanistan.



### RASHID KHAN (AFGHANISTAN)

The star spinner, who couldn't bowl against New Zealand after being hit by a Lockie Ferguson bouncer earlier in the day, went wicket-less in seven overs against South Africa. Rashid will eye a much-improved performance on Tuesday, as he holds the key to Afghanistan stopping the power-packed England batting line-up.



**UNDER THE WEATHER**

The day will have a cloudy start, with some sunny periods thereafter and minimal chances of rain. While breezy conditions will assist new-ball bowlers early on, the large boundaries at Old Trafford will keep spinners from either side interested.

# Roy to miss 2 games



### AFP ■ MANCHESTER

England opener Jason Roy will miss the hosts' next two World Cup matches with a torn left hamstring, the England and Wales Cricket Board said on Monday.

Roy, who suffered the injury while fielding during England's win over the West Indies on Friday, has been ruled out of Tuesday's group fixture against Afghanistan at Old Trafford and Friday's match against Sri Lanka at Headingley.

Meanwhile, England captain Eoin Morgan, who suffered a back spasm in the field against the West Indies, and like Roy did not bat in that match, will be assessed ahead of the Afghanistan clash and could yet play against the tournament minnows.

"England batsman Jason Roy, who left the field during West Indies'



Jason Roy returns to pavilion after getting injured during WI game

basis this week.

"He is set to miss England's next two matches in the ICC Cricket World Cup against Afghanistan (18 June) and Sri Lanka (21 June)."

As for Morgan's condition, the ECB said he had undergone a scan at the weekend and received further treatment.

"The spasm has settled down and will be monitored over the next 24 hours ahead of England's next match against Afghanistan tomorrow (Tuesday) at Old Trafford, Manchester," the statement added.

Roy, who suffered a hamstring injury during England's tour of the Caribbean earlier this year, hit a fifty in their World Cup opening win over South Africa and then struck a commanding 153 in a victory over Bangladesh.

But he fell for just 14 during England's surprise group loss to Pakistan at Trent Bridge.

Joe Root was promoted to open alongside Jonny Bairstow against the West Indies and the Test skipper responded with an unbeaten century.

### First Slip



By MIRWAIS ASHRAF  
Afghanistan all-rounder

In the next few years, Afghanistan must work on their batting if they are to bridge the gap and improve.

Right now, that's the difference when you compare them with other teams in the World Cup.

Batting was always going to be the main problem for Afghanistan, particularly in English conditions, and we still haven't seen out 40-plus overs in a game, which makes it very tough to achieve.

It's hard to be competitive when the batting is not clicking. You can't just depend on fielding and bowling all the time, so that's where the improvement needs to come.

For me, it all comes down to preparation.

This is a big stage, playing in England against the world's top sides means the level is very high, so you have to get the preparation just right.

In the last two games, the openers Hazratullah Zazai and Noor Ali Zadran have at least started better, but instead, the collapses have come further down the order.

These are not simple issues to resolve as most are technical, but they are important if Afghanistan are to improve as a cricketing nation.

It's now about working very hard on skills and shot selection. Mentally, the focus needs to be just right.

Next up for the team is England, and that's obviously not going to be

# Bat for success

easy. In my opinion, they are the hot favourites to win the competition just ahead of India.

It's always tough playing England in English conditions, so it's about playing good, respected cricket to create a close match.

Beating them here would create history, but to do that it'll take more than just good bowling.

"The conditions and whether the wicket supports spinners, will be crucial. Equally, Afghanistan must also work hard and show passion for the country.

If these things happen and everyone contributes, maybe then we can make history.

Whatever happens in this World Cup though, the future is still bright for Afghanistan. We have lots of young talent, particularly in the U15 and U19 sides.

In Rashid Khan and Mohammad Nabi, we have talented players who have played all over the globe and can be key to our bright future.

Rashid once again showed against South Africa that he is a very talented all-rounder on top of his spin bowling, which everyone already knows about.

Don't forget that we are still new to European conditions. Day by day we will improve, and next time we will be better.

**BATTING WAS ALWAYS GOING TO BE THE MAIN PROBLEM FOR AFGHANISTAN, PARTICULARLY IN ENGLISH CONDITIONS. IT'S HARD TO BE COMPETITIVE WHEN IT IS NOT CLICKING. YOU CAN'T DEPEND ON FIELDING & BOWLING ALL THE TIME, SO THAT'S WHERE THE IMPROVEMENT NEEDS TO COME**

Courtesy — © ICC Business Corporation  
FZ LLC 2018

# Hope for the best

Caribbean wicket-keeper's 96, Hetmyer's 26-ball 50 & Lewis' return to form with 70 guide Windies to 321-7

PTI ■ TAUNTON

West Indies took control of their World Cup clash with Bangladesh as Shai Hope's 96 and the joint-fastest fifty of the tournament from Shimron Hetmyer inspired an imposing 321-8 at Taunton on Monday.

It seemed Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza might be rewarded for his decision to bowl first when the West Indies were contained to a sedate 94-1 from the first 22 overs.

But the Windies couldn't be held in check in the second half of the innings as Hope laid the foundations for his country's fourth highest World Cup score with a resolute 121-ball innings.

Hitting around Hope, Evin Lewis made 70 from 57 balls before Hetmyer smashed 50 in 26 balls, featuring four fours and three sixes.

It was the equal fastest 50 in this year's tournament and the third quickest by a West Indies batsman in World Cup history.

Bangladesh will need the second highest successful run chase in World Cup history to take maximum points.

"The pitch flattened out a bit more at the end and I was pretty pleased with 321," Hope said.

"We've got a bit more pace and height so hopefully we can extract a bit more."

West Indies opener Chris Gayle was expected to wreak havoc in the tournament, but the big-hitting 39-year-old has only managed scores of 50, 21 and 36.

Once again Gayle looked out of sorts and he went 12 balls without scoring before dangling his bat limply at Mohammad Saifuddin's seaming delivery on the 13th, with



Shai Hope plays a shot during his 96-run innings against Bangladesh on Monday at County Ground, Taunton, (right) Shimron Hetmyer celebrates after completing his maiden World Cup fifty

the edge held low down by wicket-keeper Mushfiqur Rahim.

Lewis kept grinding away and reached his first World Cup fifty from 58 balls.

That was the signal for the opener to step on the gas and he

smashed a six and two fours in quick succession.

But Lewis paid the price for his sudden aggression when he was caught off Shakhb Al Hasan going for one more blast with the score on 122.

Lewis's partnership of 116 with Hope was the West Indies' first century stand of the World Cup.

A towering six from Nicholas Pooran off Mehidy Hasan Mirza left a hole in the roof of one of the Taunton stands.

But Pooran, on 25 from 30 balls, perished when he tried to slog-sweep Shakhb and miscued to Soumya Sarkar at long-on.

Urgency finally injected into the innings, Hetmyer followed Pooran's gung-ho example with a sublime

display of hitting.

Blasting boundaries to all parts of the ground, Hetmyer passed 1,000 ODI runs in his 27th innings.

His flamboyant display was curtailed when he holed out off Mustafizur Rahman.



Cricket World Cup/Twitter

FIGURATIVELY

West Indies	
Chris Gayle	c. Rahim b. Saifuddin 0
Evin Lewis	c. Saib/Sabbir b. Shakib 70
Shai Hope	c. Litton Das b. Mustafizur 96
Nicholas Pooran	c. Soumya b. Shakib 25
Shimron Hetmyer	c. Tamim b. Mustafizur 50
Andre Russell	c. Rahim b. Mustafizur 0
Jason Holder	c. Mahmudulhaq b. Saifuddin 33
Darren Bravo	b. Saifuddin 19
Oshane Thomas	not out 6
Extras	(b. 0, lb. 6, w. 16, nb. 0, p. 0) 22
Total	(8 wickets; 50 overs) 321
Fall of wickets: 5-1 (Chris Gayle, 3.2), 122-2 (Evin Lewis, 24.3), 159-3 (Nicholas Pooran, 32.2), 242-4 (Shimron Hetmyer, 39.3), 243-5 (Andre Russell, 39.6), 282-6 (Jason Holder, 43.4), 297-7 (Shai Hope, 46.6), 321-8 (Darren Bravo, 49.6)	
Bowling	
Mehrab Hossain	8-1-37-0
Mohammad Saifuddin	10-1-72-3
Mustafizur Rahman	9-0-69-3
Mehidy Hasan	9-0-57-0
Masoudul Hossain	6-0-36-0
Shakhb Al Hasan	8-0-54-2

Skipper Jason Holder's 33 from 15 balls — including four fours and two sixes — filled in admirably for Hetmyer to ensure the Windies went past 300.

Bangladesh have had the upper hand against the West Indies in recent meetings, winning six of the last seven, including all three games in the Tri-nation series in Ireland last month.

Both the West Indies and Bangladesh have won one of their four group matches, with two defeats and one no result apiece.

## OTHER SPORTS

# Bromance

Suarez, Cavani score again as Uruguay crush 10-man Ecuador 4-0

AFP ■ BELO HORIZONTE

Luis Suarez and Edinson Cavani were on target as Uruguay thumped 10-man Ecuador 4-0 in their opening Group C match at the Copa America on Sunday.

Nicolas Lodeiro opened the scoring after just six minutes before Ecuador full-back Jose Quintero was dismissed for a falling arm.

With a numerical advantage, Uruguay ran riot at the Mineirao stadium in Belo Horizonte as Cavani and Suarez netted before the break. The rout was completed 12 minutes from time with an Arturo Mina own goal.

"We had chances in the first half, we managed to take them and that gave us the tranquility to manage the game," said Cavani, who finally scored his first Copa America goal in his fourth participation.

"It was an important step." It was the ideal beginning for Uruguay in a tough Group C alongside champions Chile and guests Japan, who meet on Monday in Sao Paulo.

Uruguay were off to a dream start.

Suarez crossed from the right and Lodeiro proved the coolest customer in the Mineirao stadium as he beat one defender with his chest control, flicked the ball over another and then hit a crisp, low volley into the bottom far corner.

Uruguay were rampant and had the ball in the net soon afterwards only for Cavani to be given offside in the build-up.

Ecuador brought a physicality to the contest that upset the Uruguayan players and Quintero was perhaps lucky to escape punishment when catching Diego Laxali with an elbow in an aerial challenge.

But moments later, his arm made contact with Lodeiro's face when challenging for another header, this time drawing blood.



Luis Suarez celebrates after scoring Uruguay's third goal. Copa America/Twitter

Brazilian referee Anderson Daronco — whose bulging arm muscles put even Ecuador's strapping players to shame — initially showed the full-back a yellow card but after consulting VAR he changed that to red.

That left Ecuador with a mountain to climb.

On 27 minutes, Alexander Dominguez made a brilliant low save to turn behind Cavani's half-volley from 15 yards.

Paris Saint-Germain forward Cavani was denied again when Dominguez stunningly tipped his clever back-flick onto the post one-handed.

But it was third time lucky on 33 minutes as Diego Godin headed the ball into the danger area and Cavani acrobatically rasped a bicycle kick from seven yards past a helpless Dominguez, his 47th interna-

tional goal.

### PATIENT URUGUAY

Nahitan Nandez wasted a good chance, shooting straight at Dominguez but Suarez put the game to bed a minute before the break, stealing in at the back post to poke home a flick-on from Martin Caceres.

With the game all but over as a contest, the second half was a damp squib of an affair.

The fourth came in calamitous fashion as Gaston Perero tried to pick out Suarez from Cavani's cross even though he was only six yards from goal.

His header dropped to Ecuador center-half Mina, who inadvertently volleyed into his own goal.

"The important thing was that the team won and now we'll prepare for the next match," against Japan on Thursday, said Suarez, who notched his 57th goal for Uruguay.

APP ■ PALMA

Maria Sharapova said on Sunday that she has "expectations" for herself ahead of her return from a five-month injury absence in Mallorca next week.

The five-time Grand Slam champion has not played since withdrawing from the St Petersburg event in January to have surgery on a long-standing shoulder injury.

Sharapova has struggled to find top form since coming back from a 15-month doping ban in 2017.

"When you go out in a tournament, anything can happen," the 32-year-old former world number one told *wtatennis.com*.

"You want to go out on the court and you want to show the world that you can produce. I certainly have expectations for myself... And I enjoy getting better every day."

"The injuries are very frustrating... But then the next day, you start feeling better."

"The next day, you get bet-

# High expectations



Maria Sharapova trains during pre-tournament practice session. WTA/Twitter

ter and you get a little more optimistic. A few months later, even though it's a long process, here you are and you're excited to compete again."

Sharapova will face Slovakia's Viktoria Kuzmova in the first round of the grass-court Wimbledon warm-up event and could play three-time Grand Slam title winner Angelique Kerber in round two.

The Russian star beat former world number one Caroline Wozniacki at the Australian Open earlier this year, but has only reached one major quarter-final since being suspended for taking meldonium.

Sharapova thinks that, due to the injury, she was not enjoying her tennis six months ago.

"I've been through it before. My shoulder has been troublesome for a majority of my career," she said.

"In January, I wasn't really enjoying playing because after every match I would think about what we would do to help my shoulder."

"I wasn't really thinking about being excited about the way I was playing, even though there were some great matches that I played in the start of the year."

Sharapova has slipped to 86th from 29th in the rankings during her lay-off.

"I took this time in order to come back to my first event and feel like I have a really good chance at it."

"Being away from the game for a few months is always challenging, because you miss a lot of things, but from a shoulder perspective, I'm giving it a really good chance here. Every match is going to be a really good test."

# Berrettini win Stuttgart final



Matteo Berrettini, left, holds the winners trophy next to runner-up Felix Auger-Aliassime. AFP

APP ■ STUTTGART

Canadian rising star Felix Auger-Aliassime's wait for a maiden ATP title was extended on Sunday as the teenager was beaten by Italian Matteo Berrettini in the Stuttgart final.

The 18-year-old has risen to 21st in the world rankings this season, but fell to his third defeat from as many finals, as Berrettini won 6-4, 7-6 (13/11).

The victory in the grass-court Wimbledon warm-up was the 30th-ranked Berrettini's third title, after triumphs on clay in Gstaad last year and Budapest in April.

The Italian won all 50 of his service games in Stuttgart, and

didn't face a break point in the final.

"On grass, beating these unbelievable guys... there were a lot of tough moments," said Berrettini, who did not lose a set during his run, ousting second seed Karen Khachanov in the second round.

Auger-Aliassime is one of a number of Canadian youngsters climbing through the tennis ranks, including Denis Shapovalov and Bianca Andreescu.

He saw five set points come and go in the second-set tie-break, before the 23-year-old Berrettini — the first Italian grass-court finalist since Andreas Seppi at Eastbourne in 2011 — took his third match point.

# Conversion rate needs to improve: Marijne

PTI ■ HIROSHIMA

Tackling a lower-ranked Fiji should not be a problem for the Indian hockey team at the FIH Women's Series Finals but chief coach Sjoerd Marijne says the job will get easier if his side could improve its "conversion rate".

At number nine, India is top ranked side in the tournament and has conceded just one goal in two matches played so far. India beat Uruguay 4-1 before blanking Poland 5-0.

A victory against World No 44 Fiji in their last Pool A match will ensure a semi-final place for the Rani Rampal-led Indian side on Tuesday.

"There is no doubt that the team has played well in the first couple of matches, but we want to be performing at the highest level possible, and I believe that there is still room for improvement. Our conversion rate can definitely be higher and



Women's coach Sjoerd Marijne watches Eves play against Poland. HI/Twitter

if that happens, it will be easier for us to win the matches," said Marijne.

"What has impressed me in the first two matches has been the fact that we have created good field opportunities, and have also been able to earn more penalty corners. The team is enjoying themselves on the pitch, and that is good to see as a coach that your players are enjoying each other's company," he added.

The 45-year-old

Dutchman said his team is now gelling well.

"The most important aspect for me, is to see how the players enjoy playing together, and how they combine on and off the field. When you keep trying to combine on the field, it results in everybody getting an opportunity to play and perform as well," he said.

The chief coach said the team is focused on winning all the matches and won't take any opponent lightly.