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10 VIVACITY

India's interest to rule S-400 deal

On trade tangle, Pompeo says 'great friends are bound to have differences'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of Washington objecting to India's ₹50,000 crore deal for procuring S-400 missile systems from Russia, New Delhi on Wednesday made it clear to the US that its ties with Russia are time tested and it will go by its national interest while dealing with other countries.

However, appreciating the growing strategic relationship between India and the US, the two countries agreed to work through contentious issues.

The entire gamut of bilateral relations, including the issue of S-400, terrorism and other matters came up for discussion during talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his visiting US counterpart Michael Pompeo here. Jaishankar conveyed to Pompeo that India will be governed by its national interest on matters like S-400.

In a joint press interaction later, Pompeo said India is an important partner of the US and that the bilateral ties were reaching new heights.

Both the leaders agreed that the even best friends can have differences that need to be worked out. Their talks covered ticklish issues like S-400 deal, purchase of oil from Iran, trade tariffs and the H1B visa. On S-400 deal, Jaishankar said India will go by its national interest and Pompeo said, "The US is committed to ensuring that India has the military capabilities it needs to defend its ter-

ritorial integrity." While answering to a question on the issue of sanctions under the US' Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) which may also impact India's procurement of the S-400 systems from Moscow, Jaishankar said India has relationships with several countries.

"We have many relationships... They have a history. We will do what is in our national interest and part of that strategic partnership is the ability of each country to comprehend and appreciate the national interest of the other," Jaishankar said.

Noting that India-US strategic partnership was based on deep and broad convergence, Jaishankar said discussions with Pompeo were held on key issues including energy and trade as well as on the situation in Afghanistan and the India-Pacific region.

On terrorism, Jaishankar said he expressed appreciation for strong support of the Trump Administration. Pompeo, who arrived here on Tuesday night, called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval in the morning and discussed various aspects of the India-US relationship.

The US Secretary of State admitted that his country has a divergence of view with New Delhi on issues such as trade but downplayed it by saying that "great friends are bound to



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during their joint Press conference following a meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday

have differences." Both the Ministers said they will explore ways to work through these issues, including the United States' opposition to the \$5-billion defence deal for S-400 air defence systems between India and Russia.

"On some outstanding issues related to trade, I pushed for a constructive and pragmatic view.

The real test of our intentions will be our ability to deal with this," said Jaishankar. He also said true "maturity" lies in finding ways and means, something that has not worked out so effectively between the two countries in the recent past.

Let's stand up together for religious freedom: Pompeo

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday called for speaking "strongly" in favour of religious freedom rights and asserted that the world is worse off when they are compromised.

"India is the birthplace of four major world religions. Let's stand up together for religious freedom for all, let's

speak out strongly together in favour of those rights for whenever we do compromise those rights, the world is worse off," Pompeo said in his India policy speech at the India International Centre here.

His remarks assume significance as they come days after the State Department's International Religious Freedom Report.

J'khand lynching pains me, punish mob: Modi

PM says kids death in Bihar 'biggest failure' of the system

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Breaking his silence on Jharkhand lynching incident, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said it has pained him and the guilty must be severely punished. At the same time, he stressed that all kinds of violence in the country, whether in Jharkhand, West Bengal or Kerala, should be treated in the same manner and law should take its course.

Addressing the Rajya Sabha, Modi also spoke on the death of over 130 children this month from Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) or 'brain fever' in Bihar, describing it as a matter of "shame" and the "biggest failure" of seven decades that outbreak of such disease continues to kill even after so many years of Independence.

In his over an hour-long reply to the debate on Motion of Thanks to President's address, Modi launched a blistering attack on the Congress saying it was sheer arrogance of the grand old party which is unable to accept its defeat and continues to question the mandate of the people by doubting EVMs.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks in the Rajya Sabha during the Motion of Thanks on President's Address at Parliament in New Delhi on Wednesday

Modi, who received flak from the Opposition over his 'silence' on the lynching of a Muslim youth in BJP-ruled Jharkhand, said, "Security of every citizen is our constitutional duty but the entire State should not be insulted for the incident."

"The lynching in Jharkhand has pained me. It has saddened others too. Guilty should get severest punishment but for this the entire State has been pronounced guilty and everyone put in dock, which is not right," he said.

The Prime Minister said some people in the Rajya Sabha are calling Jharkhand a hub of lynching. "Is this fair? Why are they insulting a State.

None of us have the right to insult the State of Jharkhand," he said and referred to violence in States ruled by Opposition parties. "All kinds of violence

whether in Jharkhand or West Bengal or Kerala should be treated as same and law should take its course," he said, adding perpetrators of violence should get a lesson that the entire country is one on this issue.

On the death of children in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar where BJP and its ally JD(U) are in power, he said the Centre is extending all help to the State to fight the problem. "In modern times, such a situation is a matter of pain as well as shame for all of us," he said. "This is the biggest failure in last seven decades and we should take it seriously."

Modi, who had targeted the Congress during his reply in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, accused the Opposition party of heaping "insults" on the people of the country by calling their decision to give a thumping majority to the BJP as "a defeat of the country, democracy and farmers".

ED attaches Sterling Biotech's ₹9,778 cr assets for bank fraud

Four oil rigs, oil field confiscated

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached movable and immovable properties worth ₹9,778 crore belonging to Vadodara-based Sterling Biotech Ltd (SBL) Sandesara Group and the firm's main promoters, Nitin Sandesara, Chetan and Deepthi, along with others. The ED was probing a money laundering case relating to cheating and bank fraud against them.

The attached properties include four oil rigs and oil field. These include OML 143 located in Nigeria, and three ships (Tulja Bhawani, Varinda, Bhavya and Brahmani) registered in Panama and held in the name of company Atlantic Blue Water Services. The ED has also attached an aircraft registered in the USA and a residential flat in London. All the

companies holding the attached assets are controlled by SBL. The latest move is in addition to the attachment of assets worth ₹4,730 crore made by the ED in 2018.

"The SBL Group had obtained both Indian and foreign currency loans from Indian banks/ lenders. The loans were sanctioned/ disbursed by consortium of banks led by Andhra Bank, UCO Bank, State Bank of India, Allahabad Bank and Bank of India. It is revealed during investigation that the loan funds were diverted for non-mandated purposes, layered and laundered through a web of multiple domestic as well as offshore entities.

The main promoters have not only siphoned off loan funds to finance their Nigerian Oil Business but also for their personal purposes," the ED said.

The promoters used their employees' names and incorporated 249 domestic and 96 offshore shell companies.

Cong, Left snub Didi's unity call against BJP

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In the wake of BJP's impressive show in the Lok Sabha polls in the State, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has appealed to arch enemy CPI(M) and the Congress to unite with her against the "communal forces".

The two parties have, however, rejected her proposal saying no one will like to mount a sinking boat.

Apprehending danger from the BJP in days to come, Mamata on Wednesday told the State Assembly about her fear of the saffron party altering the Constitution of India. "Hence there is a need to unite against the communal forces," she said, and went on to explain her points. "I have fear that the BJP may go on to change the Constitution of India and for this purpose I think there is a need for all the Left and secular forces like the CPI(M) and the Congress to join hands and thwart the BJP's advance in Bengal and India."

On her mysterious silence about the Rafael deal which the



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee after paying tribute to legendary poet and writer Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay on his 181st birth anniversary, at the Assembly in Kolkata on Wednesday

Congress had made a prime election plank, Mamata said she did not have enough evidence so as to raise the issue. She said, "I was silent on Rafael issue because I did not have the documents with me. This does not mean that I opposed the Congress."

About the Left, she said though her party has ideolog-

ical differences with the Marxists, she respects them.

"I have personal respect for many Left leaders who had done a good job for the betterment of the poor. I am aware of their secular credentials. I am ready to work with them and invite them and the Congress to work together with us to stop BJP from

Parties say none will like to mount a sinking boat

advancing further."

Accusing the BJP of running a parallel Government in Bengal for four months by using the Election Commission, Mamata said the saffron outfit had paralysed the administration in the State even after the result of the elections were out.

"They have stoked violence throughout the State," she said adding, "how eight out of 10 people who were murdered after the elections belonged to the Trinamool Congress."

Speaking about the threat of encounter death issued by the BJP leaders of Bengal — when they come to power — Mamata wondered why the police didn't arrest the leaders "speaking like rogues."

Meanwhile, rejecting Mamata's appeal for a united front against the BJP, CPI(M) central committee member and Left legislative party leader Sujan Chakrabarty said, "Mamata Banerjee is day-dreaming about an alliance with the Left which will never mount a sinking boat.

Arvind Kumar new IB chief, Samant Kumar Goel to head RAW

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday appointed senior IPS officers Arvind Kumar and Samant Kumar Goel as the chiefs of Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), respectively.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved their appointments for a fixed two-year tenure, said two separate orders issued by the Department of Personnel and Training.

Kumar will take up the reins of the IB, country's internal intelligence agency, from Rajiv Jain on completion of his extended tenure on June 30. Goel will take charge from Anil Kumar Dhasmana on completion of his extended tenure on Sunday.

Both Jain and Dhasmana, who were appointed for a two-year fixed tenure in 2016, were given six months extension in December last year.



Samant Kumar Goel



Arvind Kumar

Kumar, 59, a 1984 batch IPS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre, is at present the special director in the IB and was heading the Jammu & Kashmir desk.

He has been working with the IB since August 1991.

BJP MLA beats civic staffer on demolition drive run-in, arrested

PTI ■ INDORE

BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya's son — and the party's MLA in Madhya Pradesh — was on Wednesday arrested for assaulting a civic body official with a cricket bat, after a heated argument over a demolition drive.

A local court rejected Akash Vijayvargiya's bail plea and he was sent to jail in the evening, an official said.

A video of the assault went viral on social media, after which police filed an FIR against Akash and 10 others. Akash went about beating up the officer even as media persons surrounded him with cameras and recorded the entire incident.

In-red friend, her lover killed elderly couple: Cops

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The triple murder of an elderly couple and their nursing attendant in South-west Delhi's Vasant Vihar that left Delhiites shocked has been cracked, police claimed.

Preeti Sehrawat (42) and her live-in partner Manoj Bhatt (29) were arrested from a hotel in Gurugram by police on Wednesday. Frustrated with their financial losses, the duo had initially planned to rob elderly couple Vishnu Mathur (78) and Shashi Mathur (75), but ended up killing them and the attendant, Khushbu Nautiyal (24).

The bodies of the elderly couple as well as their attendant were found with their throats slit at their residence in Vasant Apartment on Sunday.

"On June 17, Preeti, a family friend of the elderly couple, visited the Mathurs and stayed

with them overnight to become familiar with the entry and exit points of the house. The same night, she spoke to the daughter of the elderly couple using Khushbu's phone," said Satish Golchha, Special CP (Crime).

The South-west district police, which was tracking the case, had earlier ruled out robbery as a motive behind the murders and had said that the entry was friendly as the house was not ransacked. However, the Crime Branch team, which was also simultaneously working on the case, got a vital clue when they came to know from the daughter of the deceased couple that Preeti had suddenly visited them after many years.

The crime branch also came to know that Preeti was the daughter of one of the colleagues of Shashi.

Police said Preeti used to run a restaurant in Sector 9 in Gurugram. "She had earlier got



Preeti Saharawat and Manoj Bhatt in police custody in Delhi on Wednesday. (Inset) Victim couple

married to Nicholas in 2000 but her husband left her in 2005 and settled in Canada. She met Manoj at her birthday

party about three years back and started a live-in relationship with him. Initially the duo started the business of restaur-

ant and suffered huge losses. Then they both started a paying-guest house in Sector 38, Gurugram, and again suffered

CAPSULE

ORANGE JERSEY: CONG-SP ALLEGE SAFFRONISATION
New Delhi/Mumbai: Congress and Samajwadi Party leaders suspected saffron push from the Modi Government behind the orange colour jersey that the Indian cricket team is likely to wear in its World Cup match against England, drawing ridicule from the BJP which dubbed their reaction as "myopic and reactionary".

MARKETS	
SENSEX	39592.08 (+157.14)
NIFTY	11847.50 (+51.00)
GOLD	34,272.00 (-284.00)
SILVER	37,794.00 (-208.00)
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MAX 38.0°C	
MIN 24.0°C	
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Swami Satyamitranand given Bhu Samadhi

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

Former Shankaracharya Swami Satyamitranand who died on Tuesday was given Bhu Samadhi burial on Wednesday.

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Governor Baby Rani Maurya, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat and his Uttar Pradesh counterpart Yogi Adityanath were among the multitudes who were present on the occasion.

Swami Satyamitranand also worked for the upliftment of lakhs of tribals in Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand in addition to adopting many villages.

A worshiper of Mother India, he had established Samanvaya Manav Seva Trust in 1998 to bring the neglected section of society to the mainstream.

Through the trust he worked for the welfare of the people who were displaced during natural calamities.

Recounting his time spent with Satyamitranand, a trustee of Samanvaya Trust, Govind Dev said, "In 2015 he pledged to distribute one gramme of gold each to 1000 tribal woman of Bastar village to mark his birth anniversary.



He did not have a single gramme of gold but on his appeal 253 devotees came up with gold offerings.

He could materialise whatever he dreamt of," Satyamitranand had abdicated the position of

Shankaracharya to work for the ideals of Sanatan Dharma and spread its tenets in India and abroad.

A scholar, he had visited Africa, Germany, Switzerland, Holland, USA, Indonesia, Thailand, Australia and in

other countries while also establishing religious centres in these places.

At 5.20 PM on Wednesday, he was laid in Bhu Samadhi burial at his residence Raghat Kutir in Bhupatwala area amidst

chanting of Vedic mantras. Mahamandaleshwar Avdheshanand Giri, Acharya of Juna Akhada and members of the religious fraternity along with politicians and a number of citizens were present on the occasion.

Municipal commissioner withholds salary of all officials

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

As the sanitation workers in the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) have not received their salary for a month so far, municipal commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey issued an order on Wednesday stating that no officials in the MCD will receive any salary till the sanitation workers get paid.

There are nearly 600 sanitation workers in the MCD apart from about 2000 workers in various divisions of the corporation. Pandey said, "The salary of the sanitation workers is due for nearly a month now."

I have ordered that salary will not be released for any of the employees of the MCD until the sanitation workers are paid their due salary. No one including myself will be receiving salary till then."

The sanitation workers had met the officials many times regarding their pending salary. Their union was to hold a protest in MCD on Wednesday, but after Pandey's order they decided to wait for their salary. "The salary of these workers was stuck in the accounts department however I believe that the matter will be cleared soon," Pandey added.

Councillors protest, seek removal of private company

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Accusing the private company of not doing its work properly, councillors and BJP representatives stated that the Chennai Waste Management Company which has been contracted by the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) for waste management work should be removed.

They further said that the company has been given too much freedom and even an office in MCD premises which is not appropriate as the company is a private firm.

BJP councillor of Vijay Park, Amita Singh said, "We have given a memorandum to the mayor seeking a solution to this problem which a majority of wards have been experiencing."

The staff of the company that is undertaking the task of door to door garbage collection not only fail to do this work properly but also misbehave with the residents and ask them to pay more money which never reaches MCD.

Earlier the system was fair when workers under MCD used to collect garbage from every house." Councillor from Indiranagar, Shubham Negi said, "The improper management of garbage has been a common sight for all of us. Something regarding this should be done as soon as possible so that people face fewer difficulties in their areas."

The councillors also stated that the contract with the company has crippled the authority of the MCD. Before signing of the contract, the company was not properly checked along with the contract.

From collection of garbage to collection of service charge, nothing is being done properly. They also alleged that leachate and garbage have piled up at the waste management plant in Shishambada which is a serious problem that needs to be tackled.

Mayor Sunil Uniyal 'Gama' said, "The points stated in the memorandum will be considered and necessary steps will be taken regarding it."

Roadways employees union resumes protest against pending salaries

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Members of Uttarakhand Roadways Employees Union have resumed protesting against the Uttarakhand Roadways Corporation at the office of divisional manager of operation.

The union's general secretary Ashok Chaudhary said that the employees have still not been paid their pending salaries of last two months. He alleged that some senior officers of the corporation are paying hiked salaries to their favourites. He also said that the eateries in tie-up with UTC serve stale, inferior quality food and are not even equipped with decent public facilities for the passengers as well as the employees.

Speaking to the media, the union's official spokesman Vipin Chaudhary said, "Our basic issues are mismanagement in UTC and the shortcoming of the system because of which the corrupt are roaming free. Our members have not been paid salaries for past two months. About 60 per cent employees

here are contract wage workers who are finding it difficult to survive." He further said, "Then there are the cases of corruption within the management which are not being investigated properly."

There is a case from Srinagar depot, where an employee went to a union programme taking a bus with him off route.

There are about 200 unauthorised buses operating in the state. It is because of the poor management of UTC that loss is being incurred, resulting in our pending salaries.

Regarding the eateries with which UTC has an agreement, officials do not visit these places to check the quality of services they are providing. Taking advantage of this, the eatery owner and employees misbehave with the roadways staff and passengers.

According to the agreement letter they are supposed to write the fixed rate and give token, but this is not happening. The least UTC can do is send some of their officials to visit these places periodically."

Guv presides over convocation of Horticulture & Forestry University

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Governor and chancellor of Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Uttarakhand Horticulture and Forestry University, Bharsar, Baby Rani Maurya presided over the university's first convocation at its campus in Ranichauri, Tehri district.

A total of 412 students were given degrees on the occasion while six students were presented gold medals, six received silver medals and six received bronze medals for meritorious performance.

In her convocation speech, Maurya said that preparing capable human resources for the horticulture, forestry and hill farming and promoting beneficial research work should be priority of the university.

On account of climate change new challenges are emerging in the management of horticulture, forests and agri-



culture. Farmers are being affected by all this directly. She said that there was immense potential for production of various fruits and off-seasonal vegetables in the State.

She added that Baranaja system (twelve-grain farming) has been part of agricultural practice in Uttarakhand.

Due to good quantity of nutrient, the demand for these local grains of Uttarakhand is high in the global market.

Emphasising on the zero budget natural farming she said that his and other models of organic farming should be studied and implemented in the State widely.

Maurya said that the university should work for the plantation and water conservation in the State.

Every student of the university should plant five plants every year and look after them. The university should award some marks for plantation to students under improved exam-

ination system, she added. The local MLA Dhan Singh Negi, agriculturalist Subhash Palekar, Garhwal commissioner and university vice chancellor BVR Singh Negi, agriculturalist Purushottam were also among those present on the occasion.

इन्स्टीट्यूशन आफ इंजीनियर्स, उत्तराखण्ड स्टेट सेन्टर
सहारनपुर रोड, निकट आई.एस.बी.टी.०, देहरादून

अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना (संशोधित)

निविदा संख्या 01/2019-20 के सभी निविदादाताओं को सूचित किया जाता है कि उक्त अंकित निविदा जो कि पूर्व में दिनांक 20/06/2019 को अपराह्न 3.30 बजे खोली जानी थी। वो अब दिनांक 29/06/2019 को अपराह्न 3.30 बजे निविदादाताओं और उनके प्रतिनिधियों की उपस्थिति में खोली जायेगी। पूर्व की भांति निविदा अधोहस्ताक्षरित कर्ता के कार्यालय से दिनांक 28/06/2019 तक प्रातः 11.00 बजे से अपराह्न 4.00 बजे (राजकीय अवकाश छोड़कर) तक निर्धारित मूल्य जमा कर एवं अन्य औपचारिकताएं पूर्ण कर क्रय किये जा सकते हैं।

मानद सचिव
इन्स्टीट्यूशन आफ इंजीनियर्स
उत्तराखण्ड स्टेट सेन्टर, देहरादून

14th Bn ITB POLICE FORCE

NOTICE INVITING e- TENDERS

The Commandant, 14th Bn ITBP, Jajardewal, Pithoragarh (UK) on behalf of President of India invites online item rate tender on two bid system of following work:-

1. **NIT no. 909-16 Name of Work-** Construction of Coy office ops room, SO,s Accommodation, 08 nos jawan barrack, Recreation hall, Kitchen cum dining hall, Qtr Guard, clothing, ration, WT Office, MI room, Tradesmen shop, Training shed and stable building at Milam post of 14th Bn ITBP Jajardewal Pithoragarh (UKD)

Estimated Cost Rs. 9,18,10,699/= Earnest Money Rs. 18,36,214/= Period of completion 36 (Thirty Six) months, Last date and time of submission of bid 09-07-19 upto 1700 Hrs.

The bid forms (Tender form) and other details can be obtained from the website www.enrocare.gov.in

COMMANDANT
14th BN ITBP POLICE

davp 19112/11/0183/1920

UTTARAKHAND ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
'Vidyut Niyamak Bhawan', Near ISBT, P.O.Majra, Dehradun-248171,
PH. 0135-2641115, FAX- 2641314, Website www.uerc.gov.in, E-mail- secy.uerc@gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

Inviting comments on the draft UERC (The Electricity Supply Code, Release of New Connections and Related Matters) Regulations, 2019

- In exercise of powers conferred under Section 181 & Section 50 read with Section 43, Section 45, Section 46, Section 47, & Section 57 of The Electricity Act 2003, and The Electricity (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2005 and all other powers enabling it in this behalf, the Commission has issued draft UERC (The Electricity Supply Code, Release of New Connections and Related Matters) Regulations, 2019. The draft Regulation has been posted at the Commission's website www.uerc.gov.in.
- Notice is hereby given for inviting comments/ suggestions/ objections on the aforesaid draft Regulations from all the stakeholders. These could be sent to the undersigned latest by **30.07.2019** by post or e-mail or in person at the above-mentioned address for Commission's consideration.
- The comments/suggestions/objections received after the stipulated date in the Commission's office may not be considered while finalising these Regulations.

Advt No. 08/2019-20 **Secretary**

Police leaked tampered video to suppress issue: Anand

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Former president of Mandi Parishad, Ravinder Singh Anand, accused the district traffic police department of leaking an video related to the ongoing investigation in which he filed a complaint against two City Patrol Unit (CPU) officers, stating that they tried to wrongfully issue challan and tried to manhandle him to take the keys of his car when he protested.

Addressing media persons on Wednesday he said, "The police leaked an interim video on Tuesday, which they earlier refused to provide to me stating that it will only be available to me after the investigation is complete and after that too I will have to write an application for it."

Why did they leak the video 23 days after the incident? Their video should also be investigated because it has been tampered with. The police department is trying to suppress the issue." He added, "I am being pressurised by few secretaries of cabinet ministers. In fact, now even my friends are being approached. This is a matter of public interest. These officers are not afraid of repercussions." He further added, "If in a couple of days there is not concrete progress in this case, we will march to the office of Dehradun Senior Superintendent of the Police (SSP). If even after that there is no proper action, we will knock the doors of the court."

He also said that he has filed an RTI, asking for the information regarding the operation of CPU personnel, on the basis of which he will be filing a Public Interest Litigation. It is pertinent to mention here that according to the complainant Ravinder Singh Anand, on June 3 while he was going from Bannu Chowk to Nehru Colony he got a phone call, which for receiving he parked his car. Just then, two CPU officers Shailendra Singh Negi and Bishamber Dutt stating that he broke traffic rule tried to issue Challan.

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

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Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice(Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Joyanti Das/ Sahil Das LBDEH00003241171	Property No. 000072, Khasra No. 118- K, First Floor, Mauza Danda Kudanewala, Pargana Parwadoon, Dehradun June 21, 2019	December 04, 2018 Rs. 2703608/-	Dehradun

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 days Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: 27-06-2019
Place: Dehradun

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House passes 'Uttarakhand Panchayati Raj (amendment) bill 2019'

Special Assembly session adjourned sine die amid pandemonium

Demanding discussion on sting CD of close aide of CM, Cong MLAs created commotion

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Special session of Uttarakhand assembly was adjourned sine die by the speaker Prem Chand Agarwal on Wednesday. Before adjournment, the house passed 'Uttarakhand Panchayati Raj (amendment) bill - 2019 amid a huge pandemonium created by the opposition members of the Congress party. The Congress members were demanding discussion on a purported CD in which an OSD of chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat was seen striking a deal. The Congress MLAs were up on their feet as soon as the proceedings for the day started. Raising the issue, the deputy leader Congress legislature party, Karan Mahra said that since the matter is related with one of a close aides of Chief Minister, who also is the leader of the house the, discussions under rule 310 should be held in the house. Other Congress members including, the leader



of opposition, Indira Hridayesh and Chakrata MLA, Pritam Singh also joined the demand. Hridayesh said that sting video is getting viral and things should be explained. Mahra reminded that he had submitted a pen drive in which had evidences against those close to CM to the chair in last assembly session but no action has been taken as yet. In his response, the officiating parliamentary affairs Minister Madan Kaushik said that the discussion on the issue cannot be held in the assembly as it is pending in the court. The

minister buttressed his stand by citing the rule book and requested the opposition members to let the house function. However the Congress members remained adamant on their demand and marched to the well of the house. The Speaker Prem Chand Agarwal also requested the vociferous congress members to stop creating pandemonium in the house so that the question hour can get started. Unrelenting members of the Congress party continued their protest and marched to the well of the house. Many BJP members

vehemently opposed the stand taken by the Congress members and verbal duels were held between the two sides. The BJP MLAs Munna Singh Chauhan, Rajesh Shukla, Surendra Singh Jeena and Deshraj Karnwal accused the Congress members for disturbing the house with a sole objective of grabbing space in newspapers. Many unsavory words were exchanged between the two sides which forced the speaker to expunge one of them. When the pandemonium continued, the speaker adjourned the house till 12.20 pm which wasted the

question hour. When the house reassembled, the Congress members continued their protest and demanded discussion on the sting CD. The speaker ruled that no discussion on the issue can be held as it is sub-judice and decided to proceed with the remaining business of the house for the day. The agitated members of Congress party marched again to the well of the house where they sat and shouted slogans. After passage of the Panchayati Raj amendment bill, the speaker adjourned the house sine die.

Two children norm enforced for Panchayat elections in U'khand

Class X kept minimum educational qualification for candidates of general category (Male)

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

With passage of 'Uttarakhand Panchayati Raj (amendment) bill 2019 in the state assembly on Wednesday, the state government has ensured that those having more than two children would be debarred from contesting the ensuing election for the three tier Panchayati Raj institutions. The officiating Parliamentary Affairs minister, Madan Kaushik said that educational qualification clause has also been added in the bill. He informed that the min-

imum educational qualification for contesting elections in the Panchayati Raj bodies for general category (Male) has been kept class X while for the general category females and candidates belonging to SC and ST categories (males) the minimum educational qualification is class VIII. The bill mandates that the female candidates belonging to SC and ST categories the minimum educational qualification is class V.

with legal experts. It means that the provision of the act would be enforced from the date of notification of the act. After passage from the assembly the bill would now go the governor for consent. The minister made it clear that ensuing elections of Panchayati Raj bodies would be held on the basis of the new act. He said that the two children clause has been added to promote the concept of small family.



The minister added that the earlier provision of granting a grace period of 300 days from the day of notification of act for third child has been removed after consultation Kaushik added that the purpose of setting up minimum educational qualification norm is to ensure that the people representatives are more educated and aware.

Cong members not serious in House: Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kaushik

Says that Congress members placed very few questions during the session and created commotion to grab headlines

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The officiating Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Madan Kaushik, accused the members of Congress party of not taking the assembly proceedings seriously. Talking to media persons after the house was adjourned sine die, Kaushik said that the cabinet had decided to hold the special session of Vidhan Sabha for two days but after the demand raised by the members of congress party which included the Leader of Opposition (LoP) Indira Hridayesh, Pritam Singh and Govind Singh Kunjwal, the government accepted for a three day session. "The Congress leaders wanted more time as they claimed that many issues of public interests are required to be raised in the session. We accepted their demand," he said. Launching an attack on



the Congress party, Kaushik said that Congress members placed very few questions during the session and remained non serious. Terming the demand of the Congress legislators on the last day of the session for discussion on the sting CD involving an OSD of chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat as absurd, the Kaushik said that he had told the Congress MLA categorically that the issue which is sub-judice can not be discussed in the assembly. "I showed them the rule book but they remained adamant. It appeared that their only objective was to create ruckus and ensure a place in newspaper headlines," the minister quipped. Kaushik was however appreciative of the LoP, Indira Hridayesh and said that she understood the situation and wanted that the house should function but the members of her own party took no notice of her advice.

Nainital hoteliers start protest against authorities

PNS ■ NAINITAL

The hoteliers in Nainital have started an agitation against the district administration alleging that 60 per cent of their business has been affected due to tourist vehicles being stopped outside the city. Under the banner of hotel and restaurant association, dozens of hoteliers led by the association head Dinesh Sah staged a demonstration at Rusi bypass on the Nainital-Haldwani highway. Hotelier Pravin Sharma said that the association has for long been requesting the administration to arrange parking space in the city but nothing has been done. He alleged that the authorities were stopping tourist vehicles at Rusi bypass, Kathgodam and Kaladhungi, preventing the tourists from reaching Nainital.

Sah said that arrangements made by the administration for the summer tourist season this year had affected 60 per cent of the business here. The hoteliers alleged that the authorities have not made proper arrangements for tourists despite the considerable employment generation ensured through the tourism business. Earlier, Sah presented flowers to police personnel

posted at Rusi bypass stating that the association doesn't oppose them but will oppose conditions created by senior officials of the administration and police.

According to the association, it will stage a demonstration at Gandhi Chowk in Tallital today while a candle march will be taken out on Saturday in the city. Meanwhile, the association office bearers are also seeking appointments with the chief minister and the chief secretary to raise their issues with them.

It will be recalled that hotel owners had earlier put up black flags outside their establishments in protest. Following this, the Nainital-Udham Singh Nagar MP and BJP state president Ajay Bhatt had asked the Kumaon commissioner to hold talks with the hoteliers. It is pertinent to mention here that the rush of tourists and limited parking space in Nainital have often resulted in major traffic jams here.

Recently, visitors had to spend the night in the open after all the hotels and lodges were fully booked. In the past, the issue had also reached the high court which had issued directions for addressing this problem.

6 including 4 minors killed in road accident

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In a road accident on Dehradun-Suvakholi-Uttarkashi road on Wednesday, a car fell off the road into a 300 metre gorge, killing six members of a family including four minors and two women. The other four passengers including two minors have been sent to Tharyur for medical treatment and are said to be in critical condition.

The deceased has been identified as Tehreen (32), Sehjati (26), Riza (15), Natasha (9), Shammi (2.5) and a seven-month baby girl. Those injured include Sarfaraz (36), Alauddin (26), Tubba (5) and Malaika (5).

According to the information provided by the police there were 10 people in the car, going to a wedding function in Uttarkashi from Chutmulpur, Saharanpur. At about 10 AM between Suvakholi and Uttarkashi at Moriyan Top the driver lost control of the car which fell into the gorge. According to the official sources, police are still investigating the case though prima facie it appears that the car was being driven at speed.

Minister's son, friend die in collision



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Education and Sports minister Arvind Pandey's son Ankur Pandey and one of his friends died after the car they were travelling in collided with a truck. While two died, one was seriously injured in the mishap which occurred in Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh in the wee hours on Wednesday.

The 24-year old Ankur was travelling in a car with friends to attend a wedding in Gorakhpur when their car collided with a truck. Their friends in another car behind them took the three injured to a private hospital where Ankur was declared dead while his friend Munna Giri died during treatment. The third passenger in the ill-fated car, Gyanendra Yadav is in a critical condition.

Chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, cabinet minister Yashpal Arya, former CMs Bhagat Singh Koshyari and Harish Rawat among others reached Gularbhoj in Udham Singh Nagar where the last rites of the minister's son were conducted. The chief minister expressed deep grief at the death and wished the family strength to bear the loss.

Health dept to undertake massive deworming drive on August 8

ABOUT 42.77 LAKH CHILDREN OF THE AGE GROUP 1 - 19 WOULD BE ADMINISTERED 'ALBENBAZOLE' TABLET

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A massive de-worming drive against the intestinal worm infection in children would be undertaken by the health department on August 8 in all parts of the state.

The drive is part of the national de-worming day which would be organised in all states of the country on the day. About 42.77 lakh children of the age group 1 - 19 would be administered 'Albenbazole' tablet by the medical health and family welfare department on the day.

The department would take the services of Asha workers, teachers, Anganwadi workers, ANMs and National Health



Mission workers for the drive. The left out children who were not de-wormed on National Deworming Day due to absenteeism or sickness will be dewormed on August 16, the mop-up day. This year the department is claiming to make special efforts to include private schools and children who are out-of-school, so that all children in the state can benefit from deworming treatment.

To prepare for National Deworming Day, the state government has targeted to train 24056 teachers and 19807 Anganwadi workers to administer the tablet. The consultant National Health mission, Dr Pankaj Kumar said the children between the ages 1 - 2 would be given half tablet while chil-

children between age 2 to 19 would be administered one tablet.

The helminthic worms are the cause of malnutrition and retarded growth in a large number of children.

In middle Himalayan region the percentage of helminthic infection is found to be as high as 30 percent. The helminths are the parasites that absorb nutrition from the body tissues and induce malnutrition which adversely affect growth of body and apart from physical growth the worm also affects mental growth of the individual.

The medical experts are of the view that de-worming helps in increasing attendance of students' up to 25 percent in the schools.

They point out that the helminthic infection occurs by defecating in open, walking barefooted, keeping low personal hygiene and eating infected food. The symptoms of the disease are retarded growth, anaemia, loss of appetite, stomach ache, vomiting and irregular bowels.

Light to moderate rainfall likely at isolated places today



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State Meteorological Centre has forecast the likelihood of light to moderate rainfall and thunderstorms in isolated places especially in the mountainous regions today. Overall, the state is likely to experience mainly clear to partly cloudy skies.

In Dehradun, thunder cloud development and light rain are likely to occur in some areas. The sky is to remain mainly clear to partly cloudy. The maximum and

minimum temperatures are likely to be about 38 degree Celsius and 24 degree Celsius respectively.

Meanwhile, the maximum and minimum temperatures recorded at various places of the state on Wednesday were 37.6 degree Celsius and 21.6 degree Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 36.4 degree Celsius and 26.2 degree Celsius in Pantnagar, 24.6 degree Celsius and 14.9 degree Celsius in Mukteshwar, 27.8 degree Celsius and 16.2 degree Celsius respectively in New Tehri.

NTCA to boost tiger protection in western Terai arc of U'khand & UP

PNS ■ HALDWANI

Senior forest department officials discussed measures for tiger protection at an inter-state coordination meeting for the western Terai arc landscape of Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh organised by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) on Wednesday.

More than 70 departmental officials from the two states discussed various aspects and stressed on the need to focus on poaching and protection measures. The intelligence wing of the department was directed to be alert considering the cases of tiger poaching along the border shared by the two States. Officials stated that tiger poaching and smuggling of wildlife contraband is more prevalent in the inter-state border area as the wildlife criminals also use these areas to escape the authorities. It was also decided in the meeting that as in the case of tiger reserves, attempts will be made to provide funds to forest divisions with good tiger population outside tiger reserves in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.



The NTCA will also provide technical support for wildlife protection. The authority officials also spoke of facilitating human resource for wildlife protection and infrastructure to such forest divisions. It was also decided that corridors in areas vulnerable for wildlife in divisions of the Western Circle will be identified and efforts will be made to improve these. Further, the NTCA will also facilitate resources and training aimed at decreasing human-wildlife conflict. Stress was also laid on the importance of coordination between the two neighbour states.

Western circle (Kumaon) conservator of forests, Parag Madhukar Dhakate said that apart from various forestry works, the western circle is an important wildlife area which links Corbett tiger reserve in Rannagar to Nepal and Pilibhit tiger reserve in Uttar Pradesh. The NTCA member secretary Anup Nayak, its inspector general Amit Mallick and other senior officials of the forest departments of Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh were among those who attended the meeting.

Capt moots preventive detention of repeat drugs offenders

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Wednesday mooted preventive detention of repeat offenders in drugs smuggling or trading, besides fast track courts for speedy trials.

"The Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act provides for preventive detention of such criminals," said the Chief Minister while also suggesting fast track courts for speedy trials for NDPS offenders.

"I will take up the matter of operationalising such fast track courts at the earliest with the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court," said the Chief Minister, amid reports that there were around 200 such criminals identified by the Punjab Police.

Capt Amarinder was holding a video conference with the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSPs) to review the progress on drug eradication and discuss the future strategy. The video conference was preceded by a meeting of the

Consultative Group on Drugs: Comprehensive Action Plan against Drugs Abuse, headed by the Chief Minister. At the same time, the Chief Minister extended his government's full support to the eight Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) teams assigned to map the border areas of Punjab and coordinate the fight against drugs in the region.

NCB Deputy Director General SK Jha informed the meeting that around 25 officers, including himself, had been deputed to Punjab to strengthen coordination with other states, such as Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Gujarat, which had emerged as major sources of drugs flow into this state.

Jha underlined the need to chase money trails to check drugs trafficking, while also appreciating the State Government's preventive and rehabilitation steps to eradicate the drugs problem.

The State Director General of Police (DGP) Dinkar Gupta informed the meeting that the Chief Minister's letter to the Prime Minister seeking a

CAPT DISCLOSED THAT A 'REWARDS SCHEME' WAS BEING FINALISED BY GOVT TO INCENTIVIZE PEOPLE TO JOIN FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

national drugs policy had evoked positive response from the Centre, with the Union Home Minister Amit Shah directing his officers to ensure better coordination in the matter.

The Narcotics Control Bureau has drawn about two dozen officers from other parts of the country and deputed them in Punjab to carry forward the anti-drugs fight in the border State of Punjab, said the DGP.

It was also announced that Punjab would host the next meeting of the Chief Ministers of the neighbouring states for more effective coordination of the drug enforcement efforts

across States.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister reiterated his government's 'zero tolerance policy' against colluding government officials, including policemen.

Taking cognizance of complaints of collusion of police officers with drug smugglers, traders or peddlers, Capt Amarinder directed the DGP to bring out a comprehensive postings or transfers policy to break the nexus between police and drug criminals.

Warning of stringent action against black sheep, Capt Amarinder made it clear that those involved would be liable for dismissal and compulsory retirement. Criminal cases under section 29 of NDPS Act (Abetment) and Prevention of Corruption Act to be registered, wherever involvement and wrongdoing is established, he added.

Toughening his stance on the drugs issue, Capt Amarinder said that the drug eradication campaign will now be carried out in "mission mode", with transfers and postings of DCs or SSPs to

depend on performance in 'Drive Against Drugs', to be assessed through quarterly reviews.

Sub-divisional DSPs or SHOs will be held accountable for any drug related crimes in their respective areas, with monthly reviews to be conducted by IGP's or DIGs ranges. Non-performing DSPs or SHOs will be shunted out, the Chief Minister said.

The Chief Minister ordered the Commissioners of Police (CPs) and SSPs to identify drug-affected villages or wards for strict enforcement, and to list out known drug smugglers, traders or peddlers.

He directed them to undertake thorough investigations to unearth forward and backward linkages, crucial for reaching the source of drugs or big fish.

The Chief Minister, in his interaction with the officials, also directed them to conduct regular meetings of District Mission Teams (DMTs) and Sub-Divisional Mission Teams (SDMTs) to strengthen training of DAPOs and Senior

Buddies and also the awareness campaign on drugs.

He directed the DCs and Civil Surgeons to directly supervise de-addiction and rehabilitation programmes, and to associate with Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and other NGOs for more effective execution.

Capt Amarinder underlined the need for intensification of coordination and joint operations with NCB, BSF and other central agencies, to tighten the noose against drug smugglers or big fish.

He directed preparation of detention proposals of big drug smugglers or suppliers under section 3 of PIT NDPS Act, 1988, and also ordered activation of 181 Punjab Police Helpline to enable citizens to provide drug tips.

Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh disclosed that a 'Rewards Scheme' was being finalised by government to incentivize the people to join the fight against drugs. Good performance by government officers as well as the citizens will be suitably rewarded under the scheme, he added.

Links of armed robber with Bijnor; police yet to arrest accused

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In the case of armed robbery from a petrol station owner in Premnagar, who was shot in the shoulder and robbed of cash while returning home on the night of June 24, police have found link of one of the accused robbers to Bijnor.

Police have also found some connections with Saharanpur.

According to Garhwal Inspector General (IG) Ajay Rautela police teams are close to finding the culprits.

Rautela said, "We are close to arresting the accused. One of them is apparently from Bijnor. Our teams with Uttar Pradesh police are checking the routes to and from Bijnor. The investigation is ongoing."

According to official sources, police teams raided places in Bijnor where one of the accused was reported to be though he managed to escape.

The other accused have been traced to some parts of Saharanpur, where the teams have been sent.

It will be recalled that at about 9:30 PM on Monday near Dussehra Ground, when Gagan Bhatiya was returning home from the station he was stopped by two men on a bike.

One of them came near the window of his car and attempted to take the bag filled with nearly Rs 9 lakh. When Bhatiya protested, he was shot by one of the accused near his collar bone.

Meet discusses health, edu demands for new State Govt

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Health and Education Rights Group organised a consultation for release of demand charter on health and education and notify the new State Government on health and education priorities. The programme was organised 24 here on Monday.

The demands for education and health were released in presence of members of CSOs, mediapersons, development practitioners and other eminent personalities of the State, which will be submitted

to the Chief Minister along with the concerned Ministers and Secretaries of Health and Education Departments.

Along with that engagement with different political parties/candidates will be done as a part of post election campaign so as to ensure the education and health rights as promised in the manifestos of the different political parties.

The key demands on health include establishment of a Regulatory Authority to control the quality health services, pricing, fairness, safety, priva-



cy and standard of functioning of private and public healthcare institutions in the State; free provisioning of consultations,

healthcare models, among others. The demands in education include a comprehensive State policy for education to strengthen public education system; transparent policy for teachers' recruitment, transfer and career development; provisions of coaching for candidates of underprivileged communities to appear TET for teachership; training teachers from tribal communities to address language and cultural issues; capacity building allowances to teachers and test of their compe-

tenance once in every five years; MLE policy in letter and spirit and strategy for ensuring quality and equitable education for children of Dalit and minority communities; girl children and children with disability; budget provisioning as per the composition of population of different marginalized groups; effective monitoring of schools and onsite support to teachers; 30 percent of the total Budget of the State for education and 6 percent of the GDP through allocations from the Central Budget, etc.

Northern States to adopt 3 pronged strategy to curb drug menace



Haryana Chief Minister, Mr. Manohar Lal addressing the senior Police Officers during coordination meeting of Director Generals of Police of Northern States on "Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking" in Chandigarh on June 26, 2019.

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a fight against menace of drug abuse, northern States and union territory of

including treatment, enforcement and awareness. Director Generals of Police (DGPs) and other senior police officers of north-

ern States will meet in Chandigarh for a co-ordination meeting to discuss challenges of drug abuse and illicit trafficking and strategies to combat the same. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal addressed the concluding session of the co-ordination meeting.

During the meeting, it was decided to begin eLearning from UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) material for investigating officers, share information about new sources of funding for combating drugs, learning from best practices of other states and focus on TEA: treatment, enforcement and awareness to combat drugs

The Chief Minister while talking to the mediapersons said that special training courses would be arranged for investigating officers handling the cases under NDPS Act so as to ensure maximum conviction of culprits in the state.

To make the fight against drugs a success, he said that an inter-state drug secretariat has already been set up at

Panchkula for data and information sharing to effectively tackle the issue of drug menace in northern region.

To effectively tackle the issue of drug menace, six northern states and union territory of Chandigarh together decided to adopt e-learning modules of UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to raise the capacity of investigating officers in their respective states so as to completely eradicate drug addiction, he said.

The Chief Minister while expressing concern over the increase in cases of drug abuse said that the situation is alarming in northern part of the country and collective initiative is required to deal with it.

He added that last year, a meeting of Chief Ministers of northern states was also held here to discuss and formulate a joint strategy to fight drugs.

Earlier, the Chief Minister, while addressing the senior police officers urged them to adopt three pronged strategy vip treatment, enforcement

and awareness (TEA) which is considered most important to combat the menace of drugs from society.

He said that Health Department should be involved for treatment of addicted persons, Police should increase the enforcement and maximum awareness should be made in the society in coordination with departments concerned, he said.

Manohar Lal also asked the police officers to work together to achieve the goal of making the northern region completely drug free. All states should join hands and coordinate regularly to completely eradicate the menace of drug from this part of the country, he added.

DGP Haryana, Manoj Yadava apprised the Chief Minister about fruitful deliberations held with the DGPs and other senior officers of the respective states.

Haryana Chief Secretary, DS Dhesi, ACS Home, SS Prasad, DG Narcotics Crime Bureau, Abhay, ADGP CID Himachal Pradesh, Ashok Tiwari, ADGP Intelligence Uttarakhand, ADGP Punjab, Gurpreet Deo, Special CP Delhi, Parveer Rajan, D and other senior Police officers from Punjab, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana Narcotics Crime Bureau, and Intelligence Bureau attended the meeting.

In last year's meeting attended by Chief Minister Manohar Lal, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh, Uttarakhand CM TS Rawat and Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur, it was decided to set up a common central secretariat in Haryana's Panchkula for sharing data and work in coordination to counter the menace of narcotics in north India

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e-tenders under two part bid are hereby invited from the reputed bidders on behalf of SJVN Ltd. for the work "Providing & Laying Vitrified Tiles, Chequered Tiles, Pavers in Type-D Qtrs. (6 sets) and Vitrified Tiles in floors of Type-C Qtrs. (80 sets) at NJHPS Colony, Jhakri" (PCD-2550).
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AUCTION NOTICE
Auction of following unseizable/condemned vehicles will be conducted on 30.07.2019 at 10.00 hrs in SHQ (Dehradun) ITB Police Force, Seemadwar, Distt.-Dehradun, Uttarakhand:-

S.NO.	VEH. REGISTRATION NO.	TYPE OF VEH.
1.	UP25AG-0324	CAR AMBASSADOR
2.	CH01G1-1619	CAR AMBASSADOR
3.	CH01G1-0689	SWARAJ MAZDA BUS

2. Vehicle will be auctioned on the basis of "AS IS WHERE IS". All the bidders, participating in the auction, will have to deposit a sum of Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) as a security money, which will be referred to the unsuccessful bidder after completion of auction.
3. After completion of auction, successful bidder will have to deposit whole money according to final bid. GST will be charged extra on highest bid. The store will have to taken off within 24 hrs of auction.
4. DIG, SHQ (DDN) ITB Police, reserves all the rights to cancel, reject and accept to any bid, without assigning any reason.

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DIG SHQ (DDN) ITB POLICE
DAVP 19112/11/0188/1920

Office of The Director General of Police, Uttarakhand
12, Subhash Road, Dehradun

E-Tender
Tender Identification no: DG-III-304/2019

1. Name of Item	- CCTV Camera with other accessories for police stations..
2. Date of Issue of Tender	- 24-06-2019
3. Last Date of Receipt of Tender	- 11-07-2019, 05:00 PM
4. Date of Opening of Tender	- 12-07-2019, 11:00 AM

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P.H.Q, Uttarakhand, Dehradun
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IN BRIEF

RAPIDO BIKE TAXIS LAUNCHED IN DOON
Dehradun: Bengaluru-based Rapido Bike has launched its operations in Dehradun. This organisation offers a novel take on an age-old concept of transportation by replacing the conventional four-wheeler taxis with bikes. It offers commuters the alternative option of a bike instead of a car or public transport to navigate through traffic snarls quickly and reach your destination on time. The app can be downloaded from the play store in an Android or IOS phone. A ride can be booked by entering pick up and drop locations. Expansion manager Prashant says, "The Rapido concept is based around providing economical, convenient and high-quality transport facilities for solo commuters, especially those who need to travel far or have to get somewhere quickly." Rapido is now operational across 40 cities in India.

THDCIL SIGNS MOU WITH MOP
Dehradun: THDC India Limited (THDCIL) signed an MoU defining the Performance Guarantee Parameters for the financial year 2019-20 with Ministry of Power in New Delhi. The Power secretary AK Bhalla and THDCIL CMD DV Singh signed the MoU. Officials stated that an energy generation target of 4650 MU (for excellent rating) has been set for the year 2019-20. THDCIL has contributed 1000 MW in the Xth Five Year Plan from Tehri HPP and 400 MW from Koteswar HEP in Xth Five Year Plan in hydro sector. In renewable sector the corporation successfully commissioned two wind power projects in 2016-17 in Gujarat, registering its presence in western region of the country.

SEWS WELCOMES DY LABOUR COMMISSIONER
Dehradun: The SIIDCUL Entrepreneurs Welfare Society (SEWS) held a programme to welcome the newly posted deputy labour commissioner Vipin Kumar. SEWS head Manoj Tiagi informed Kumar about the status of industries in SIIDCUL Pantnagar and requested that a seminar be held with representatives of the industries on changes in labour laws. The deputy labour commissioner assured full cooperation of the Labour department to the industries. Members of the industrial fraternity requested Kumar to focus on interests of the industries as well as the employees. Later, Tiagi thanked all for planting more than 2,000 saplings in the World Environment Day week and requested that the saplings be taken care of.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
DEN/II/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No 70-DRM-MB-19-20 closing date 25.07.2019 16:00 hrs.
Name of work:- Annual maintenance of track work in the section of SSE/PWay/SAN under ADEN/HRH-I (Incl Time). Tender closing date/time: 25.07.2019 16:00. Cost of work : Rs. 1,11,50,524.54. Earnest Money: Rs. 2,05,800.00. Tender Cost: Rs. 5,000.00. Bidding start date : 11.07.2019 and Period of Completion: 12 Months. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. For detail information please log into www.ireps.gov.in. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. Tender No: 70-DRM-MB-19-20 Dated : 21.06.2019. 2033/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
e-AUCTION NOTICE NO. 04
E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non Ferrous Scrap, Other Misc Scrap, Condemned Loco, Coaches and Wagons, Scrap Rail and other scrap P Way material. Used lead Acid Batteries/Used oil/Refused oil will be sold only to recyclers registered with State Pollution Control Board. Auction programme is as under :-

e-AUCTION DATES FOR 'July, 2019.

S.No	Depot conducting auction	1 st round	2 nd round	3 rd round
1	Alambagh Lucknow	03	18	27
2	Shakurbasti	06	15	24
3	Jagadhari Workshop	08	17	26
4	Sr.DMM/LKO	05	15	25
5	Sr.DMM/FZR	05	18	29
6	Sr.DMM/UMB	10	22	31
7	Sr.DMM/MB	11	22	30
8	Sr.DMM/DLI	05	19	29

- The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at www.ireps.gov.in.
- The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap material before the auction during working hours at nominated locations.
- To participate in e-auction, purchasers need to get themselves registered with The details on last sold rates in auctions are available at www.railnet.gov.in.
- ireps. For further details regarding registration and other conditions of e-auction, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in. No. 117-S-Sales-Auction Programme-2019-20 Dated 26.06.2019 2057/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

14th Bn ITB POLICE FORCE
NOTICE INVITING e- TENDERS
The Commandant, 14th Bn ITBP, Jajardewal, Pithoragarh (UK) on behalf of President of India invites online item rate tender on two bid system of following work:-

- NIT no. 917-24 Name of Work-** Construction of Coy office ops room, SO,s Accommodation, 08 nos jawan barrack, Recreation hall, Kitchen cum dining hall, Qtr Guard, clothing, ration, WT Office, MI room, Tradesmen shop, Training shed and stable building at Dung post of 14th Bn ITBP Jajardewal Pithoragarh (UKD). **Estimated Cost** Rs. 9,28,62,490/= **Earnest Money** Rs. 18,57,250/= **Period of completion** 36 (Thirty Six) months, **Last date and time of submission of bid** 09-07-19 upto 1700 Hrs.

The bid forms (Tender form) and other details can be obtained from the website www.enrocure.gov.in

COMMANDANT
14th BN ITBP POLICE
davn 19112/11/0184/1920

One poll policy not acceptable: Anand Sharma

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday said in the Rajya Sabha that the idea of "One election, One face, One ideology" and "forced majority" is not acceptable to a diverse country like India and asked the ruling dispensation to refrain from "dividing the country for votes."

The main Opposition party also urged the NDA Government to acknowledge the role played by former Prime Ministers including Jawaharlal Nehru in building a democratic and modern India.

Making this assertion during a debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address, senior Congress leader Anand Sharma also urged the ruling party to desist from politicisation of the armed forces. He also claimed violence against minorities had increased under the present regime and demanded the Government to spell out the steps taken to check this dangerous trend.

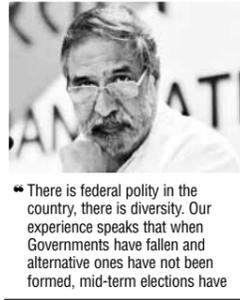
He said the President's address lacked imagination and was disappointing as it was far removed from the reality on the ground. Rejecting the idea of 'One nation, One election' mentioned in the President's address, Sharma said, "There is

federal polity in the country, there is diversity. Our experience speaks that when Governments have fallen and alternative ones have not been formed, mid-term elections have been held.

"You cannot have a forced majority, you cannot impose your decision. You cannot take away the rights of States on elections. When Governments fall in States and alternative Governments are not formed, will you impose President's Rule then? This will not happen. I understand your thought. There should be one country, but one election, one face, one name, one ideology is not acceptable to India," Sharma added.

Sharma, who is deputy leader of the Congress in the Upper House, alleged that no Prime Minister has ever fought elections on the victory of armed forces as Modi did. He recalled how Indira Gandhi after the victory of Indian forces in Bangladesh war of Independence said this was the victory of humanity and not hers, for which opposition leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee had lauded her.

"No Prime Minister has fought elections on the victory of armed forces. The Army does not belong to any party, as



ANAND SHARMA

their victory is that of the country," Sharma said. Asking the BJP to recognise the contributions made by previous Governments and Prime Ministers, Sharma said, "Don't think the country started after 2014 and not after 1947 when India achieved independence. Respect and accept India's diversity... The achievements made by India are by its scientists and why do you not recognise them," he asked.

He urged the ruling party not to make a "New India that has seen lynchings" and asked why the issue of lynching did not find a mention in the President's address.

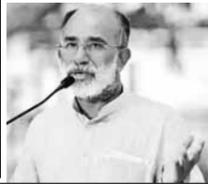
Earlier, participating in the debate BJP leader KJ Alphon

been held

• You cannot have a forced majority, you cannot impose your decision. You cannot take away the rights of States on elections. When Governments fall in States and alternative Governments are not formed, will you impose President's Rule then

• This will not happen. I understand your thought. There should be one country, but one election, one face, one name, one ideology is not acceptable to India

• Have you seen any Christian being beaten up or any church being burnt (since the BJP came to power)...Never has it been safer for minorities than under Modi KJ ALPHONS



said minorities have never been safer in the country than under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He also said Modi is "more democratic" than anyone before him.

Five years back it was said Christians will be beaten up and churches will be burnt once the BJP comes to power, he said. "Have you seen any Christian being beaten up or any church being burnt (since the BJP came to power)," he asked. "Never has it been safer for minorities than under Modi," he said as some in the opposition jeered, making references to lynching of Muslims in some parts of the country. Alphons claimed if the Congress wants to live in a

In his speech on the debate, Veer Singh (BSP) attacked the Government for the unemployment rate climbing to a 45 year high due to "ill-planned" decisions and "wrong policies" such as demonetisation of high value currency notes and implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. Wansuk Syiem (Cong) said the President's address did not have any mention of special package for the North East.

Participating in the debate, Abdul Wahab (IUML) asked how the Government is going to win the trust of the minorities and Dalits when they were being "subjected to atrocities" everyday. He also took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, saying they had invented a new branch of election engineering.

Saroj Pandey (BJP) in her maiden speech hit out at the leader of Ghulam Nabi Azad, saying he has insulted the mandate of the people by saying the Prime Minister won the elections riding on divisive politics whereas the fact remains that the people have voted for change. K Ravindra Kumar (TDP) said the BJP is all out to wipe the Opposition in order to exercise monopoly which was not a healthy sign.

POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN BENGAL

TMC, BJP members exchange heated words

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Members of the TMC and the BJP on Wednesday exchanged heated words in the Lok Sabha after Locket Chatterjee of the BJP raised the issue of political violence in West Bengal even as TMC leader Saugata Roy referred to mob lynching of a youth in Jharkhand and said instead of attacking the West Bengal Government, the BJP should look into the affairs of the state ruled by it.

Raising the matter during the Zero Hour, Roy said it was a "cold-blooded murder" of 24-year-old Tabrez Ansari as police held the youth, who had sustained severe head injuries, in custody for four days.

"BJP members are speaking about West Bengal, but not taking steps on what is happening in Jharkhand and other places. This is an example of religious intolerance and the TMC will continue to protest against mob lynching," Roy said.

Ansari was thrashed by a mob for alleged theft on June

18 and a video had emerged which purportedly showed that he was forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Jai Hanuman' in Jharkhand's Saraikela Kharsawan district.

Chatterjee who also spoke during the zero hour launched an attack on the West Bengal Government over the law and order situation in the state.

She claimed over 100 BJP workers have been killed in political violence after civic body polls and 15 after the Lok Sabha polls.

When Chatterjee blamed West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for the political violence TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee and other party members countered her vociferously. Geeta Koda of the Congress also raised the issue of mob-lynching in Jharkhand.

Questioning the law and order situation in the State, she said Jharkhand witnessed four cases of mob lynching alone this year.

She also demanded justice for the youth killed in the lynching incident.

Govt suppressing media: Congress in Lok Sabha

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Wednesday accused the Government of using "suppressive" tactics against the media.

He alleged during the Zero Hour that the Government was "undemocratic" and suffered from "megalomania", claiming that it used its advertisement measures to pressure the media.

His remarks drew protests from Treasury Benches.

Speaker Om Birla asked the next member to raise his issue during the Zero Hour, prompting Congress members to protest as Chowdhury wanted to speak further.

Among other issues, Manish Tewari of the Congress asked the Government to make its stand clear on the US decision to withdraw its waiver to import crude oil from Iran, saying it may have a far-reaching impact on India and lead to rise in prices of oil products. Will the Government continue to import oil from Iran or not, he asked.

Gurjeet Singh Aujla of the Congress asked the Government to do away with the steep rise in duties on Pakistani products, saying it has led to joblessness in the border area in his constituency in Amritsar as over 5,000 families depended on trade with Pakistan for livelihood.

The duty was hiked after the Pulwama terror attack.

BJP's Nihal Chand targeted the Congress Government



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□ BJP's Rajiv Pratap Rudy expressed concern over India's poor performance in Olympics and suggested that a parliamentary committee be formed as many members have also been kept sports persons. He also noted that the next global games are due next year

in Rajasthan over suicide of a farmer in the State. In a video message, the farmer blamed the State Government for his decision.

BJP's Rajiv Pratap Rudy expressed concern over India's poor performance in Olympics and suggested that a parliamentary committee be formed as many members have also

been kept sports persons. He also noted that the next global games are due next year.

BJP's Tapir Gao spoke about several political murders in Arunachal Pradesh.

He said one of the cases was handed over to the NIA but no arrest has been made yet. The Government should ensure action, he said.

Priority is to get permanent membership at UN: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government said on Wednesday that it has accorded highest priority to getting permanent membership at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and is actively engaged in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on UNSC reform.

In a written response to a question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said India is working alongside other reform-oriented countries through its membership in the G-4 Group (India, Japan, Brazil and Germany) and the L-69 Group, a cross-regional grouping of developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America to build support among the UN member states for expansion of the UN Security Council.

"Government of India has accorded highest priority to get-

ting permanent membership for India in an expanded United Nations Security Council. A series of initiatives, involving bilateral and multilateral platforms, have been undertaken by the Government in pursuance of this objective. India is actively engaged in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on UNSC reform at the UN," Muraleedharan said.



The Government informed the Lok Sabha that over 6.84 lakh posts were vacant in different departments under it. Of the total sanctioned strength of 38.02 lakh, 31.18 lakh were filled as on March 1, 2018, leaving 6.84 lakh posts vacant, according to a written reply by Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh.

The Indian Air Force lost 27 aircraft, including 15 fighter jets and helicopters, in crashes since 2016, Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik said in the Lok Sabha. The quantum of provisional loss in 11 cases of crashes was approximately Rs 524.64 crore

Lone INLD RS member joins BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ram Kumar Kashyap, the lone Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) MP in the Rajya Sabha, joined the BJP on Wednesday in the presence of party working president JP Nadda.

With this, the BJP's strength in the Rajya Sabha has increased to 76.

Besides Kashyap, two-time former MP from Kannur in Kerala AP Abdullahkutty, who

has been in the CPI(M) and the Congress, also joined the BJP on Wednesday.

He was expelled from the CPI(M) in 2009 for praising the then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi.

He then joined the Congress, which recently sacked him for praising Narendra Modi yet again.

On Tuesday, two INLD MLAs Zakir Hussain and Parminder Singh Dhul had also joined the BJP.

Gadkari appeals Qutab Garh villagers to save water, air

PNS ■ QUTAB GARH (NEW DELHI)

Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday said time has come when people can turn the waste into wealth by its proper utilisation.

After kicking off the Sanitation and Water Conservation Drive of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) here, Gadkari said eradicating the demons of poverty, hunger and unemployment will remain a mirage unless the villages are economically, socially and ecologically empowered.

The KVIC has adopted Qutab Garh under its Swachhata Abhiyaan. Besides maintaining the cleanliness of this village, the KVIC officials would also take care of the progress of deepening of ponds work there. Last year, the KVIC had adopted Jagatpur village of Eastern Delhi and cleanliness drive is still in operation there.

Laying stress on the need of proper water management system, he said, "Our country does not have the dearth of water, but we are lagging in managing the water," he said.

"Main aap sabse kheta hoon ki paani ka nyojan seekhiye. Daudne wale paani ko chalayeye. chalne wale paani ko rokiye aur ruke huye paani ko jameen ke andar jaane dijiye (I request you all to learn the art of planning the water. Force the running water to walk, walking water to slow down and permit the stopped water to go into the earth)," he said.

Appealing the villagers to divert the agricultural yields into power and plastic sector, Gadkari said by selling toilet waste water to power generating companies, the Maharashtra Government had



Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Nitin Gadkari as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, organised by Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), at Village Qutab Garh in Delhi, on Wednesday

so far earned over Rs 2 crore. "One can produce one tonne of bio-CNG by burning five tonnes of parali (crop residues). Very soon five districts of Vidarbha region will be free from diesel," he said.

Applauding KVIC's efforts on 'Honey Mission' Programme, the MSME Minister also appealed the villagers to give up using chemical fertilizers in their fields. "It will be an add-on to both farming and bee-keeping," he added.

Minister of State for MSME Pratap Chandra Sarangi also appreciated the innovative efforts taken up by the KVIC in the recent past.

"Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the true conscience-keeper of Gandhian philosophy of self-discipline and self-reliance, unlike the previous governments using Gandhi as their political tool to

taste the fruit of power. That is why, what Khadi has done in last five years is much more than its achievement in 60-odd years before Modiji," he said.

Earlier, KVIC Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena welcomed the dignitaries and apprised them about different Khadi activities, including Honey Mission, Kumhaar Sashaktikaran Mission and deepening of village ponds in Qutabgarh. He also said that in the current fiscal, all the State Offices of KVIC had been asked to adopt one village in their respective areas, where sanitation and water conservation drive could turn it into the model one.

New Delhi MP Meenakshi Lekhi, her Shimla counterpart Suresh Kashyap and MSME secretary AK Panda were also present on this occasion.

Rural kids lack nutrition care: Study

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

With rural men migrating to urban areas for greener pastures leaving women back home to juggle between agricultural and household work, their kids are at the receiving end having left out of entitlements related to nutrition and care, according to a new study.

The lack of attention to women's time as a key factor in child nutrition outcomes is perhaps the main reason for the persistence of poor nutritional outcomes despite economic growth, said Indian-origin scientist Nitya Rao, professor of gender and development in the University of East Anglia's (UEA) School of International Development in Norwich, England in her study.

It notes that longer working hours for women or increased work intensity on agricultural fields can have adverse impact on their own health and, in turn, their ability to care for their children, leading to poor child- and household-level nutrition outcomes.

The study which has been published in the journal Feminist Economics, stressed



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□ The study which has been published in the journal Feminist Economics, stressed on policies to be context-specific taking into consideration factors such as caste and location in order to improve women's lives and household nutrition and health outcomes in rural India

cent of the agriculture labour force and 48 per cent of the self-employed farmers, according to OXFAM 2018.

"Women's agricultural work could potentially have negative outcomes, especially for the young child whose nutrition depends more on the mother's time for breast-feeding and supplementary feeding. The double burden of work and care often leads to a time trade-off between the two," said Professor Rao.

The study examined the intersections of gender with

other forms of social identity and inequality. The research drew on primary data from 12 villages in two districts, Wardha (Maharashtra) and Koraput (Odisha) between 2014-2016. Malnutrition is high in both areas, with near or more than 50 per cent of children underweight.

In Wardha, women harvest cotton manually, but the semi-arid region has reported severe agrarian distress over the past decade. Moreover, the smell of cotton and cotton dust causes headaches and leaves workers



Between the lines

Modi is still playing comparatives in his speeches when the expectation from him is much more post-verdict



Now that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a massive mandate for governance and has successfully reduced the Congress to an existential crisis, he certainly needs to get the bugbear of anti-Congressism off his back. There is no doubt that India has vociferously voted against dynastic entitlement and for deserved empowerment. If he has indeed managed to convince voters of his leadership capabilities, frankly, there is no need for him to justify it again and again. Which is why the takedown of the Congress during his first

speech in the 17th Lok Sabha and even in the Rajya Sabha was more like rubbing salt into the Congress' wounds than addressing the people who voted him back and are looking for new directions in stressed times. The Congress is already pounded. Doing more of the same won't affect it but it could make Modi look obsessive about a party and keeping it relevant as an excuse with his sarcasm and negative projection. Rather, moribund as it is, he should let it collapse under its own weight. Besides, elections are over now. Perhaps it was the anniversary of the Emergency that did it but Modi tore into the Congress leadership for being out on bail while imprisoning others during its own tenures in history. Then he demolished Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's argument that Modi could not diminish the party's "high" stature, saying the party was so "high" that it was cut off from the grassroots and he would rather it stay there while he connected to the people. Then there was the familiar trope of crediting non-family Congressmen whose contribution went unacknowledged — Pranab Mukherjee, Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh — and how the NDA regime had no issue about acknowledging the work of all past Prime Ministers, beginning with Jawaharlal Nehru. In fact, the reference to Nehru stood apart as he has not been charitable to the Congress' dynastic fountainhead through the heat and dust of campaigning but urged lawmakers to learn from his sense of duty to society. Of course, the smart jab at his descendants was unmistakable. And not that the Congress would change its stance on the Triple Talaq Bill in Parliament, but by recalling its position on the Uniform Civil Code and the Shah Bano case, Modi exposed its votebank mentality of minority appeasement than welfare. Knowing full well that the Bill wouldn't get enough support in the Rajya Sabha, Modi wants to show that he tried but was stalled by the Congress. Apportioning blames and competitive comparisons have been a part of our politics but when it comes to Modi and the way he has crafted his journey, the expectations are not sundry. Nobody likes oversold clichés.

Which is why there needed to be more emphasis on his development work. He did touch upon three areas succinctly that need attention. Although "Make in India" was not showcased much during the campaign, it being considered the NDA's Achilles' heel, it was bold of Modi to rescue his pet project and restate its primacy in his development vision. He even linked it to the "collective endeavour to make India a five trillion dollar economy." The country really needed to hear more of his economic blueprint at a time when growth rates are sputtering, there are challenges of boosting investment while giving tax breaks and incentives and there is pressure to be people-friendly immediately after such a massive mandate. Sensing the anxieties about climate change and resources, Modi rightly emphasised that water conservation was everybody's responsibility and though he had created Jal Shakti ministry to manage resources and ensure potable water to all, he implied a mass awareness, even with the help of NGOs. By recalling his days of sitting in protest against the delay in the Sardar Sarovar Dam project and how it helped farmers, Modi clearly hinted that this could be bigger than his Swachh mission and it could well be a populist pitch that would link the poor, the farmers, the underprivileged and privileged together. So far, his commitment to climate change has not matched his performance when it came to relieve for thermal plants and underwhelming renewable energy goals. Besides, although he addressed the "sabka vishwas" plank by expressing grief over the Jharkhand mob lynching, he asked that the State be spared of the "lynching hub" tag and perpetrators identified. Would he have said the same about Bengal?

Exciting at the end

The fear of a rash of dead games in the cricket World Cup's league stage has dissipated with some stunning feats



The problem, some might argue, with mega international sporting events is that quite often they take far too long to come to the "business end" or the "sharp end", where the favoured teams all rise to the top and compete with each other. You could avoid watching the first week of a grand slam tennis tournament, even stay away from the World Cup of football until the quarter-finals. Every championship tries to resolve this issue through various means while trying ostensibly to be fair. So in tennis you have the seeding system, where top players avoid each other until the second week. In football, too, groups are chosen to avoid pitting too many top teams against each other. But nothing is perfect. Sometimes a rising star can emerge and take out the top seeds in tennis and in football matches, you often end up with the fabled "group of death" where a favourite can be dumped out in the early rounds.

The International Cricket Council (ICC), therefore, moved back to an earlier format where all the teams in the World Cup play each other once in the league stage. This angered some people because it made cricket a rather insular club of the major test-playing nations, although Scotland did come within a hair's breadth of the tournament. But because the top four teams in One-Day cricket — England, India, New Zealand and Australia in that order — were so far ahead of the rest, everyone expected that other than some marquee marketing games such as India-Pakistan during the league phase, the first few weeks of the ongoing World Cup would be a damp squib after the first 15-off games. But as England's implosion, Pakistan's resurgence, Sri Lanka rediscovering its mojo and Bangladesh finally playing to its potential have slightly upset the apple-cart for the hosts, they highlight that one big thing that every international tournament should be about, unpredictability. Nobody expected Germany to be bundled out in the football World Cup at Russia last year and England was the unquestioned favourite for the cricket version as hosts. But some unexpected losses have shaken things up. However, sports administrators will continue toying with new league formats. While the ICC version is fairer than most, it is rather exclusive and if cricket's popularity is to grow globally, more teams will have to be a part of the tournament. But that will invariably lead to calls of league fixing and what not. The challenges of making a tournament fair will remain but let us enjoy this edition till then for all the surprises it is throwing up.

Iran is no pushover

The nation today is very different from what it was in 1991 or 2003. Societally, militarily, diplomatically and even morally, it is a very strong country



BHOPINDER SINGH

In a speech in January 1991, the then Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had invoked a popular idiomatic expression, exhorting his military and simultaneously warning the US against intervening in his invasion of Kuwait by threatening a "mother of all battles." Hussein had under his command supposedly the world's fourth largest Army with over a million and a half in uniform and reserves — a number larger than the US Army and Marine Corps combined. Iraqi forces were also battle veterans of the decade-long Iran-Iraq war and had displayed complex helicopter-borne assault-like commando capability in seizing the Kuwait Emir's palace much before Iraqi armour columns rolled in. However, there were clear chinks in the Iraqi narrative beyond the presidential bravado. The sheer numbers of the Iraqi forces, who were subjected to an unchallenged pummelling of a 30-day air bombardment that broke the country's infrastructure and spirit, are testimony. Ultimately, it took less than 100 hours of ground assault for the complete capitulation, destruction and humiliation of the Iraqi retreat from Kuwait. The Second Gulf War in 2003, entailing a more expanded mandate to oust Hussein, lasted only 21 days before the "end of major combat operations" was announced. However, the strategic aim of "containment" was not achieved in either of the Gulf Wars, yet the mainstream Americans believe in their ability to bulldoze any military opposition in the Middle East.

Today, Iran faces a potential military action from the US following the latest escalation of tensions with the shooting down of a \$130 million worth 'Global Hawk' BMD surveillance drone over the Strait of Hormuz. The ratcheting of mutual distrust has been in the making for sometime, with the Iranians and their proxy forces holding sway in the multiple battles in the Iraqi-Syrian swaths, Yemen and Lebanon to even in the Iran-beholden, modern Iraq nation. The sectarian divide in the Middle East is increasingly tilting in favour of the numerically lesser Shia forces, much to the consternation of the US-supported Gulf sheikhdoms and Israel. The decimation of the Islamic State (IS) landmass and its conventional capabilities has shifted the US' focus onto Iran in order to contain what it calls "the leading state sponsor of terror." Towards the same, the US has unilaterally renege on the path-breaking Iran nuclear deal and reinforced crippling economic sanctions, even though the international community remains a mute spectator despite the global nuclear watchdog organisation, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), giving Iran a clean chit in abiding with the terms of the nuclear deal, which Trump accuses Iran of violating.

But Iran has not undertaken any military intervention as done by the US (all inconclusively) in the last 30 years in the Middle East.



It has simply put a lot more challenges. First, unlike Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen or even Afghanistan — which were deeply divided and polarised societies from within — Iran is relatively homogenous and united in its animus towards the US aggression. Unsurprisingly, the US-led sanctions have had a "catastrophic humanitarian consequence" on the Iranian civil society and has had no support from any of the Iranian Opposition leadership, inside or outside of Iran.

This is starkly a different situation from Hussein's Iraq which had well over 65 per cent of its population composed of persecuted Shias and Kurds, who were happy to see Hussein fall. Likewise, a theoretical US intervention in Syria may just be welcomed by the approximate 90 per cent of the Sunni population, who are ruled by the Shia-Alawite Assad Government.

Similarly, any action against the Shia-Hezbollah forces in Lebanon may be acceptable to other competing stakeholders like the Sunnis, Christians or Druze. Not so in Iran, which has over 90 per cent Shias. Even other minorities like the Kurds, Achomis, Turkmen (barring the Baluch) are also reasonably integrated into the Iranian soci-

WITH 20 PER CENT OF THE GLOBAL OIL TRADED THROUGH THE NARROW STRAIT OF HORMUZ, IRAN COULD POSE UNIMAGINABLE ASYMMETRIC THREATS TO THE US INTERESTS EVEN IF ITS CONSIDERABLE NAVAL FLEET OF AN ESTIMATED 15 SUBMARINES AND ANTI-SHIP SYSTEMS WERE TO BE NEUTRALISED

ety with no major discrimination. This puts a rock solid block of at least 110 million — 85 million in Iran and at least 25 million co-sectarian Shias in the contiguous western border with Iraq — in direct confrontation with the US. This is demographically an impenetrable minefield for the US to potentially penetrate and try to hold ground. Thus, physical land occupation of Iranian soil is absolutely ruled out as can be seen from the parallel fate of the American military, in the face of rag-tag militias in Afghanistan. With 20 per cent of the global oil traded through the narrow Strait of Hormuz (24 miles wide at one point), Iran could pose unimaginable asymmetric threats to the US interests even if its considerable naval fleet of an estimated 15 submarines and anti-ship systems were to be neutralised.

Third, as the emotional flag-bearer of Shias globally, Iran commands considerable clout and loyalty via its powerful proxies across the world to inflict severe damage on US' interests that could be thousands of miles away from the principal battleground. Some of these Iran-supported militias have simply out-performed the Saudi-US supported forces and retained the upper hand, even where outnumbered. Even diplomatically

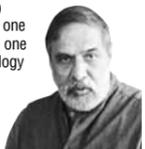
and geopolitically, Iran today is not like Iraq in the previous two Gulf wars, internationally isolated, condemned and subjected to multi-lateral sanctions — the recent US moves against Iran have not been met with enthusiasm in the European Union and Donald Trump's unilateralism may not lead to an effective "coalition" against Iran as was the case in 1991 or 2003.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo dashed to Saudi Arabia and the UAE to muster support, who along with Israel remain in the forefront of the very limited anti-Iran sentiment. Unlike the UN-approved sanctions that preceded the US moves in 1991 and 2003, approval of other nations against Iran in the UN Security Council is extremely unlikely. The possible realisation of the cost of misadventure against Iran may have led to the last-minute cancellation of US military operations despite being in "cocked and loaded" status. Perhaps electoral considerations may still lead to a very limited military action, but only that as Iran is no pushover societally, militarily, diplomatically or in the present case, even morally.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry)

SOUNDBITE

I understand your (BJP's) thought. There should be one country, but one election, one face, one name, one ideology is not acceptable.



Congress leader —Anand Sharma

I won't get younger roles because of fashionable clothes. I am glad that God has given me a good body. I am fashion conscious and love to experiment.



Actor —Neena Gupta

The Government has accorded highest priority to getting permanent UNSC membership. It is actively engaged in the inter-governmental negotiations on UNSC reform.



MoS External Affairs —V Muraleedharan

What is wrong if I try to discipline my party workers? What is wrong if I ask my party workers to ensure that there is no misuse of Government schemes?



West Bengal CM —Mamata Banerjee

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clean your backyard

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Report most foul" (June 26). It is an irony that the Modi Government's return to power with the *aam aadmi's* overwhelming support almost coincided with the timing of the release of the US State Department's 2018 Report on International Religious Freedom, which accused the BJP office-bearers for hate speech. It also criticised the Government for reportedly protecting cow vigilante groups. One wonders that before taking a look at other countries, why doesn't the US ensure equal rights for the Blacks and poor in its own country? Why do the Whites still consider themselves a supreme race and shoot to kill Indian and their other citizens? Naturally, the ruling BJP has termed the report as being biased against the Government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi but even its own response reeks of double-speak. One has to agree that the BJP has a habit of cherry-picking international reports. Whenever there is a favourable report from any country, media or world organisation, immediately electronic

The danger of one-party rule

The Prime Minister's idea of 'one nation, one poll' is all about structuring the Indian electoral cycle in a way that voting to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies are synchronised. The proposal does merit some careful thought but needs to be discussed and debated threadbare before arriving at a definite decision. As a democratic nation, India remains in election mode almost throughout the year. A lot of time and public money is wasted to conduct the elections. Besides, political *tamashas* that necessitate elections to be held intermittently have become a regular affair now. If a nation engages itself in elections all round the year, one can only imagine how difficult it will be for Governments — both Central and State — to pursue their agenda of governance. The general administration, too, is badly affected. But considering the traditions and conventions in a parliamentary system, will the Modi regime be able to surmount the challenges to make the dream of "one nation, one poll" a reality? More than the vision of having a radical change in the pattern of elections in the country, it is the prospect of having a "one nation, one party" that is amusing to the public these days. The overwhelming majority with which the BJP won the 2019 Lok Sabha election has in



its wake brought a lot of suppositions and probabilities. With the Modi-Shah juggernaut having had a free run so far, fears that the duo may now attempt the impossible are not misplaced either. Engineering defections in the Opposition ranks, the BJP has virtually threatened the existence of all other political parties in the country. If this trend continues, the BJP, will stand tall amidst the ruins. Does this bode well for a democracy?

Pachu Menon Margao

Country comes first

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Report most foul" (June 26). All such international reports, articles and any other writings,

and print media advertise it as an achievement of Modi but when there is an adverse remark from any of such organisation, it becomes "clear bias." True, the US report on "religious freedom" is *dadagiri* against us and is a direct attack on our internal matters. But that is as true as Modi's Kerala election speech where he passed the "where the minority is in the majority" remark. Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee Faridabad

which talk ill about India, should be taken with a pinch of salt.

In 2012, when the *Time* magazine dubbed the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as "underachiever", the BJP, which was in the Opposition then, proclaimed that the entire country has been thinking on the same line since long. Present Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad even demanded Singh's resignation.

In 2015, the same magazine published another article titled, "Why Modi Matters." The panned words of the article were soothing to the BJP. But only recently before the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the same magazine called the Prime Minister "India's divider-in-chief."

Whether political parties stand united on sensitive issues within the country or not, they must be on the same page when the foreign media talks ill about our country. At the same time, Governments must be extra careful to not give any chance to the world community to point fingers at us.

N Nagarajan Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

New threat in our backyard

India and Bangladesh have to make every effort to squelch the Neo-JMB and other such terrorist organisations, especially the IS, which is trying to base its operations in South Asia



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

The arrest of four terrorists of the Neo Jamaat-ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) by a Special Task Force (STF) of Kolkata Police on June 25 once again underlines the organisation's continued activities on Indian soil. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), which had banned the organisation on May 24, 2019, under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act of 1967, had stated in a gazette notification that the outfit was planning to set up permanent bases within 10 kilometres of India's borders with Bangladesh in several districts of West Bengal, Assam and Tripura and that it planned to extend its network in South India to establish a Caliphate in the Indian sub-continent. According to the notification, "The involvement of JMB cadres has been established in the Burdwan bomb blast and Both Gaya blast. Assam Police has found involvement of JMB in five cases registered by them and a total of 56 accused belonging to the JMB have been arrested." The MHA also said, "Jamaat-ul Mujahideen was engaged in recruitment and raising funds for terrorist activities, procurement of explosives/chemicals and assembling of IEDs."

The JMB's activities, which had largely remained behind the scenes until then, came into public attention after nine blasts had rocked the pilgrim city of Both Gaya on July 7, 2013, injuring a Tibetan monk and a tourist. While the Students' Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) has been held primarily responsible, the MHA's gazette notification indicates that the JMB was also involved. The latter's hand has also been detected in the blasts that occurred on October 23, 2013, while Narendra Modi, then a prime ministerial candidate, was addressing a rally in Patna's Gandhi Maidan. The five persons sentenced to life for involvement in the Both Gaya blasts were also suspects in the Patna explosions.

The JMB attracted further notice after a bomb had exploded in a house in West Bengal's Burdwan district on October 2, 2014, killing two people. Investigations revealed what was virtually a Bangladeshi-run arms and explosives network in West Bengal, Assam and Jharkhand. According to the National Investigative Agency's (NIA) chargesheet in the case, submitted in March, 2015, terrorists were using territories in the three States to overthrow Bangladesh's democratic Government and put a hardline Islamic regime in its place.

The organisation's South Indian reach was underlined on June 24, 2019, when the NIA arrested Habeebullah Rehman, a suspected JMB militant from Doddaballapur in the outskirts of Bengaluru. He was wanted in connection with the Burdwan and Both Gaya blasts. According to the NIA, five other JMB terrorists may be hiding in Doddaballapur.

The organisation's presence has been increasing in India mainly because it has been under tremendous pressure in Bangladesh where Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has zero tolerance for terrorism. According to a paper, *The threat of a revitalised JMB to India's security*, by Nikhil Raj Aggarwal, "Between 2014 and 2017, more than 3,000 militants belonging to terrorist groups JMB and HJUI-B entered India through West Bengal, Assam and Tripura." The pressure has been particularly heavy after the savage terrorist strike on Dhaka's Holey Artisan Bakery in Gulshan, Dhaka, on the night of July 1-2, 2016, which killed 22 people, including 17 foreigners, and in which one of its factions was involved. A number of terrorists have been killed since then including two in a clash with security forces who raided their hideout in Dhaka on April 29, 2019.

While the JMB, which has split into three different factions, is on the run in Bangladesh, complacency is hardly warranted. It has a chequered history. Reportedly established in Bangladesh in April, 1998, it was first noted on May 20, 2002, when, according to *South Asia Terrorism Portal*, eight Islamist terrorists were arrested in Parbatipur in Dinajpur District along with 25 petrol bombs and documents relating to its activities. It had close links with fundamentalist Islamist organisations like the Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh, which had unleashed savage violence in north-western Bangladesh under the guise of combatting extremist communist violence, and the Ahle Haadith Andolan Bangladesh (AHAB), and had supporters and shelters in India almost since the beginning. The Operations Commander of the JMB, Siddiqui Islam, widely known as "Bangla Bhai" often crossed over to the border districts of West Bengal.

The JMB perpetrated a large number of terrorist attacks in Bangladesh before international pressure compelled that country's Government to ban it along with the JMJB and the AHAB on February 23, 2005. Follow-up action, however, was half-hearted because the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, a partner in the Bangladesh Nationalist Party-led coalition Government headed by Begum Khaleda Zia, and the fountainhead of Islamic terrorism in Bangladesh, sabotaged strong action.

The JMB suffered a major blow on March 30, 2007, when six of its top terrorists, including its "supreme commander" Maulana Abdur Rahman and second-in-command, Bangla Bhai, were executed in Bangladesh. By 2010, it was thought to have been completely eradicated. That, however, was not the case. A section has emerged as Neo-JMB. India and Bangladesh have to make concerted efforts to squash it and other Islamist terrorist organisations, particularly since the Islamic State, routed in Syria and Iraq, is trying to base its operations in South Asia and has already established contact with a section of the JMB.

(The writer is Consultant Editor, The Pioneer, and an author)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

I REQUEST YOU (PRIME MINISTER MODI) TO KEEP NEW INDIA TO YOURSELF AND GIVE US OUR OLD INDIA WHERE THERE WAS LOVE AND CULTURE.

—CONGRESS LEADER
GHULAM NABI AZAD



I THINK AZAD SAHIB IS HAVING A BLURRED VISION. MAYBE HE IS SEEING EVERYTHING THROUGH POLITICAL SPECTACLES.

—PRIME MINISTER
NARENDRA MODI



Half-baked reforms

Unless we address the core issues, no amount of modern infrastructure will be able to bring in fundamental changes towards the working methodology of the police



KK PAUL

Having gone through media reports about the recent incident at Mukherjee Nagar in North-West Delhi, where some policemen "thrashed" a tempo driver after he allegedly attacked a cop, one is compelled to wonder whether the usual talk of police reforms is yet another oxymoron? Normally, after training, a police officer is supposed to behave with a certain amount of discretion and sensitivity as he may be quite raw and not as experienced and hardened as some of his colleagues.

In the instant case, however, some policemen were reported to have conducted themselves in a very unprofessional manner, drawing adverse comment from all sections of society. This takes us to the quality of training and attitude of police officers who graduate from training schools. It appears that one of the fundamental schisms, which has continued since independence, is whether the police is a service or a force?

The conflict arises from the fact that the society has high expectations and considers the police to be a public service organisation, while the State continues to think of it not only as a service organisation for the society but also as an instrument of its sovereign functions like law and order, public order and internal security. Despite numerous commissions and recommendations, the police organisation has remained as it is. Sometimes it appears strange that despite the police being a State subject and each State having its own set of rules, there is something that binds the police into a homogenous entity as far as the methodology of work and attitude towards the public are concerned.

In this context, the Union Home Ministry's renewed efforts at giving a push to police reforms must be welcomed. To begin with, a country-wide competition to adjudge the best police station was initiated. Police stations competed with each other on the basis of seven parameters, which included among other things, crime prevention, pro-active policing along with public perception and feedback. Some of these have, perhaps, been included for the first time and give impetus to the policemen to take into account the attitude of the public towards the police and policing in general. Topping the Union Home Ministry's list was the Kalu police station in Rajasthan's Bikaner district. The second in rank was Campbell Bay in Nicobar district. Farakka police station in West Bengal's Murshidabad district ranked third. It is to be hoped that such competitions will generate a lot of enthusiasm and bring in the much-needed fresh air into the police stations besides leading to the much-desired course-correction.

Undoubtedly, some of these parameters are extremely important and may even be fundamental to providing good governance to the public. In today's media-driven world, public perception is vital for credibility of any organisation. The police in particular — as even a small incident like the one mentioned — can be stigmatised and spoil years of hard-earned reputation. At the same time, we must



also give a deeper thought to reforms, as despite orders from the Supreme Court, there appears to be an inherent reluctance in implementing them in a meaningful manner.

While the array of police reforms implemented so far — to modernise the communication networks, mobility, IT applications and weaponry among others — has only touched the metropolitan areas and the more fortunate among the district headquarters, large segments of our population continue to be under-policed with the department unable to provide even some of the basics in certain areas. Visible implementation of such infrastructural reforms, even though in a limited manner, besides giving a modern and contemporary look, have resulted in a quantum jump towards efficiency of the police besides leading to a positive perception among the public of being progressive. But unless we address the core issues, no amount of modern infrastructure will be able to bring in fundamental changes towards the working methodology of the police all over the country.

The police and the public enjoy an ambivalent relationship with each other. Even when the police personnel are very friendly — having a positive attitude and police stations with a modern look — people become apprehensive the moment they hear of the police procedures and the courts. Police being integral to the criminal justice system, almost all its actions have to be ultimately placed before the judicial officers, as required by the code of criminal procedure and the various State police rules.

As the number of cases goes up, not only the work load of investigating officers increases, it also adds to delays and pendency in the courts, resulting in an increase in the overall time spent on each case before its final disposal. Such increasing work load and delays deny justice to the people on the one hand and

on the other, it propels the stressed out and overworked police officer towards rudeness and offensive behavior.

In the process, the common man suffers, for justice delayed is justice denied. The Code of Criminal Procedure currently in vogue is basically a document of 1898 vintage. Some amendments have been made from time-to-time but the basic structure remains more or less the same. In fact, most of the aberrations in the working of the police find their origin from this Code.

As such, besides improving and modernising the training and other infrastructural needs as per current and future projections, the real reform will take effect only when such administrative changes are coupled with changes in the requisite police and court procedures. Today, a person is more concerned with the police scriptory work and the court procedures as he may have to make several visits to the police station and later to the courts. Such time-consuming and complicated procedures bring a lot of negativity in the police public relations. Besides, these have almost no bearing on establishment-related reforms of fixity of tenures and the constitution of Security Commissions at the State or national levels. In the current dispensation of procedures, hardly any emphasis has been laid on expediting the delivery of justice to the common man, which in fact should be the top priority.

In order to address all such issues in a comprehensive manner, roughly 20 years ago, the Ministry of Home Affairs had constituted a committee to go into various aspects of the criminal justice system. This committee had submitted a very comprehensive and a meaningful report. The recommendations were not only to expedite the delivery of justice, but also emphasised upon greater involvement of judicial officers at the time of

trial to ascertain the truth.

At present we follow the adversarial system, which no doubt gives a very fair trial. In the inquisitorial system, which is followed in most of the European countries including France and Germany, the supervision of the investigation is done more closely by the judicial officers. It had been recommended that in our prevailing social conditions, an adversarial system with certain good features of inquisitorial system could still be adopted. Changes in the basic approach to investigation were also suggested. An important recommendation was to introduce a provision in the Code where any court shall at any stage of inquiry or trial, would have such powers as to issue directions to the investigating officer to make further investigation or to direct the supervisory officer to take appropriate action for more pointed investigation so as to assist the court in search of truth. Some changes in the nature of the burden of proof beyond reasonable doubt were also suggested. For some reason, this very useful report was shelved after the change of government in 2004.

Ultimately for the benefit of the common man, it would be of utmost importance to deal with the criminals effectively and speedily by expeditious delivery of justice. Accordingly, the police reforms have to be two-tiered. One at the level of the organisation and the establishment besides training and second at the procedural level, entailing a comprehensive review of the code of criminal procedure and state police rules. In the current scenario simply increasing the number of investigators or the number of courts may not suffice as the need of the hour is to introduce comprehensive reforms in the criminal justice system.

(The writer is a retired Delhi Police Commissioner and former Uttarakhand Governor)

Brace up to the new normal

Term it climate change or global warming, the fact is that India and the rest of the world are at the receiving end of natural disasters and extreme weather events. Map sensitive geographical areas and codify a step-by-step action plan



KOTA SRIRAJ

Natural disasters, primarily extreme weather events, triggered the displacement of nearly 17.2 million worldwide in 2018. At 2.678 million, India recorded the maximum number of people displaced — that's more than double the 1.3 million displaced in 2017. About 1.5 million or nearly 54 per cent of the new displacements in India in 2018 were in Kerala, which was hit by the worst floods in a century.

Cyclones Titli and Gaja, which struck Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu respectively in October and November 2018, triggered close to 649,000 displacements. These sad developments are a grim reminder of how a deteriorating environment is

coming full circle and impacting us adversely.

The depth of the issue can be gauged by the fact that natural disasters forced almost 17.2 million people out of their homes across the world in 2018. Ninety four per cent of them left due to weather-related natural calamities — cyclones, floods and drought. About 84 per cent of these affected people were from urban and peri-urban areas. To understand this in a detailed manner, nearly 1,600 disaster events triggered new displacements during 2018. Among weather-related hazards, storms, especially tropical cyclones, were a majority. Geophysical disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions led to 1.1 million new displacements in 2018, up from 758,000 in 2017 — a 45.12 per cent jump.

Displacements associated with disasters affected mainly East Asia and Pacific and South Asia. Both regions are heavily populated and are highly vulnerable to hazards. Sub-Saharan Africa and the Americas were relatively affected lightly but floods and storms still triggered millions of new



displacements. Around 9.6 million new displacements were recorded in East Asia and the Pacific and 3.8 million in South. Sixty per cent of the internal displacements occurred in China, India and the Philippines. In these three countries, 10.3 million were displaced by extreme weather events. Such massive movement of people affects the economy, too. Asia-Pacific's cumulative economic losses due to natural disasters exceeded \$89 billion in 2018 — slightly higher than the 21st century average of \$87 billion.

In just a year, the number of people displaced due to extreme weather events increased by 108 per cent.

Undoubtedly, the displacement burden due to extreme weather events in the country has doubled. India is the 14th most climate-vulnerable country in the world. With 29 per cent increase in deaths from last year due to extreme climate events and the 108 per cent increase in displacements in a year, the burden of displacement and deaths due to such extremes is rising. This year India will be much more prone to cyclones and floods, according to the Inform Risk Index.

Rapid changes in environmental behaviour and weather-related developments have been long expected since anthropogenic interventions

have altered weather patterns and impacted daily lives. India, with diverse climate conditions, is positioned to be deeply affected due to extreme weather events. In fact, a slight change in the rainfall patterns is enough to derail rural economies and send food prices soaring. These conditions have already prompted an exodus in northern Himalayan States where traditional farming families are forced to leave their long-inhabited villages as either drought one year or flood the next year promise to play havoc with their prosperity and personal finances, exposing them to potential poverty if they choose to stay.

On the other hand, untenable agricultural practices have added to the problem. Take the example of Chennai in Tamil Nadu. The State is reeling under yet another extreme weather condition of drought and yet, the farmers in semi-urban and rural areas are still practising the flood irrigation system, which uses a lot of water for relatively low yields of crop productivity. These small yet significant deficiencies are overlooked by the district administration, which in turn

assume forbidding proportions on the state level and cause enormous wastage of precious water resources.

India being the most affected in people displacements due to extreme weather events must take some immediate steps to prevent the situation from getting out of hand. Sensitive geographical areas must first be mapped and this needs to be followed by a step-by-step action plan that builds on past events and the precipitating factors that have played a decisive role in exacerbating the environmental conditions to the extent that the disastrous weather events are triggered. Unless innovative measures are put in place, India cannot escape the penalties of a worsening environment. The world is already experiencing the aftershocks of climate change and India, too, is increasingly finding itself at the receiving end of worsening conditions. How does it overcome the odds and script a turnaround will be crucial. The Government has a pivotal role to play and so does the common man.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



THE REALITY

The Trump administration's grand talk of "the deal of the century" in the Middle East, the launch of its first, economic aspect has been both absurd and pathetic. The Palestinian refusal to attend has meant that Israel is also absent. This is a play missing its stars and half the cast as well; the Arab states involved have sent lower-tier officials. Even its instigator, Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, talked of a workshop rather than a conference; of a vision rather than a plan. (The Guardian editorial)

Data related to payments to be stored only in India: RBI



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Wednesday said all data related to payments must be stored only in India and data processed abroad will have to be brought back to the country within 24 hours.

"The entire payment data shall be stored in systems located only in India..." the RBI said in its FAQs on certain implementation issues raised by the Payment System Operators (PSOs).

The RBI had issued a

directive in April 2018 on 'Storage of Payment System Data'. It had advised all system providers to ensure that within a period of six months, the entire data relating to payment systems operated by them is stored in a system only in India.

The FAQs further said there is no bar on processing of payment transactions outside India if so desired by the PSOs.

"However, the data shall be stored only in India after the processing. The complete end-

to-end transaction details should be part of the data," the RBI said.

In case the processing is done abroad, "the data should be deleted from the systems abroad and brought back to India not later than the one business day or 24 hours from payment processing, whichever is earlier."

Last week, the issue of data localisation was raised by several e-commerce firms during their meetings with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

₹ settles 21 paise higher at 69.15 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian rupee on Wednesday advanced by 21 paise to close at 69.15 against the US currency in line with uptrend in domestic equities.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 69.40 a dollar and advanced to a high of 69.07 during the day. It finally settled at 69.15, up 21 paise against its previous close of 69.36.

Forex dealers said a positive sentiment built up ahead of a scheduled meeting at G20 between US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, later this week.

Meanwhile, US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin's comments eased concern over the trade impasse with China to some extent.

Besides, traders said, gains in domestic equities, foreign fund inflows and latest news on monsoon progress also helped in reviving domestic currency market sentiment.

However, rising crude oil prices and strengthening of the US dollar vis-a-vis other major currencies overseas capped the gains for the rupee.

Brent crude futures, the

global oil benchmark, rose 1.38 per cent to \$ 65.95 per barrel.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.11 per cent to 96.24.

Meanwhile, Financial Benchmark India Private Ltd (FBIL) set the reference rate for the rupee/dollar at 69.3398 and for rupee/euro at 79.0525. The reference rate for rupee/British pound was fixed at 88.4161 and for rupee/100 Japanese yen at 64.81.

V K Sharma, Head-PCG & Capital Market Strategy, HDFC securities, said, "For last two days, overseas investors have been pouring money in domestic equity and debt markets also helped rupee to remain strong during Wednesday's trade."

"Statement released by US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin saying that 'US-China trade deal is 90 per cent complete, has improved the sentiment in emerging market currencies,'" he said.

Meanwhile, the 10-year Government bond yield was at 6.93 per cent on Wednesday.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained net buyers in the capital markets, putting in ₹1,157.87 crore Tuesday, provisional data showed.

Sensex builds on gains ahead of F&O expiry; metal, power stocks rally

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex marched higher for the second straight day Wednesday on robust buying in metal, power and financial stocks ahead of June derivatives expiry.

Overcoming a choppy start, the 30-share index finished 157.14 points, or 0.40 per cent, higher at 39,592.08. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty jumped 51.10 points, or 0.43 per cent, to 11,847.55.

Buying interest was seen in metal, power, healthcare, capital goods and financial counters ahead of the expiry of June futures and options (F&O) contracts scheduled for Thursday, traders said.

Sentiment also received a boost after the US administration said a trade deal with China is "about 90 per cent" complete.

Besides, domestic investors are hoping for positive news on the US-India trade front in the backdrop of US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo holding talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, traders added. Modi and US President Donald Trump are scheduled to meet on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan, later this week.

The progress of monsoon

and a strengthening rupee added to the buying momentum.

Vedanta was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, surging 4.40 per cent. PowerGrid, Sun Pharma, Yes Bank, Tata Steel, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank and Bajaj Auto too ended up to 4.12 per cent higher.

On the other hand, Infosys, IndusInd Bank, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, Maruti, TCS and HDFC were among the top losers, shedding up to 1.12 per cent.

"Indian market bounced higher led by pharma and banking sector due to positive view for Q1 FY20 result given a low base and improvement in business outlook. Metals also inched higher due to ease in trade war tensions."

"Expectation over Budget and Q1 FY20 (results) will control the trend of the market," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Sectorally, BSE metal, power, utilities, basic materials, realty, healthcare, bank and finance ended up to 2.88 per cent higher.

IT, teck, telecom and



FMCG shed up to 0.65 per cent.

The broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices outperformed the benchmarks, rising up to 0.85 per cent.

On the currency front, the Indian rupee appreciated 22 paise to 69.13 against the US dollar intra-day.

On a net basis, foreign institutional investors bought equities worth ₹1,157.87 crore Tuesday, and domestic institutional investors purchased shares to the tune of ₹377.22 crore, provisional data available with stock exchanges showed.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 1.17 per cent to \$65.03 per barrel.

Globally, while bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended on a mixed note, equity markets in Europe were trading in the green in early deals.

G20 nations imposed 20 new trade-restrictive measures in last 8 months: WTO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The G20 countries have imposed as many as 20 new trade-restrictive measures such as high customs duties and import bans between October 2018 and May this year, according to a WTO report.



G20 members include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Japan, Russia, the UK, the US, among others.

"In terms of numbers, G20 economies implemented 20 new trade-restrictive measures between mid-October 2018 and mid-May 2019, including tariff increases, import bans and new customs procedures for exports," the report said.

WTO's 21st Monitoring Report on trade measures of the bloc was issued on June 24 and comes days ahead of the G20 summit in Japan.

These measures impact both exports and imports of the member countries including India.

Commenting on the report, WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo said these findings should be of "serious concern" for the whole international community.

"We urgently need to see leadership from the G20 to ease trade tensions and follow through on their commitment to trade and to the rules-based international trading system," he said.

Further, the report said a total of 29 new measures aimed at facilitating trade, including eliminating or reducing import tariffs, export duties and eliminating or simplifying customs procedures for exports were also implemented by the G20 economies.

CAPSI ties up with Assocham to promote star ratings for private security agencies

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Association of Private Security Industry (CAPSI) said Wednesday that it has partnered with the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham) to establish collaborative relations between the two bodies for the propagation of the 'Security Star Agencies Rating' (STAR) scheme.

The scheme aims to standardise private security agencies based on internationally accepted ISO standards. The STAR scheme was launched on February 8 in Mumbai during the Special Standards Conclave organised by the Ministry of Commerce.

CAPSI Chairman Kunwar Vikram Singh said in a statement, "The 'Security Star Agencies Rating' (STAR) scheme has been conceptualised by CAPSI with the help and support of the Quality Council of India (QCI), the country's apex quality facilitation and national accreditation body."

RBI panel on MSME suggests ₹15,000-cr fund to support industry

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The U K Sinha Committee, set up by the RBI on micro, small and medium enterprises, has recommended a financial support of ₹15,000 crore to the MSME sector, which contributes significantly to employment generation and has as a hefty share of over 40 per cent in exports.

The contribution of the sector in the economy is currently constrained due to several challenges affecting growth in the sector, said the report submitted by the nine-member committee to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Tuesday.

The committee recommended setting up of a government-sponsored 'fund of funds' (FoF) of ₹10,000 crore to support the venture capital and private equity firms investing in the MSME sector that will support crowd funding from venture capital and private equity firms, which focus on investing in the MSME segment on modified

terms sheets developed by SIDBI.

"This would encourage innovation in term sheets and product structures," the committee said in its recommendations.

The panel also recommended that a ₹5,000-crore distressed asset fund be structured to assist units in clusters where a change in external environment, such as a ban on plastics or dumping, has led to a large number of MSMEs becoming non-performing assets (NPAs).

This fund could operate on the lines of the Textile Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFFS), which has been in existence for many years. This would be of significant size which makes equity investments that help unlock debt or help revive sick units, it said.

The committee also recommended introduction of voluntary certification of MSMEs that comply with prescribed internal governance standards.

Lowering GST on automobiles would help the economy: Anand Mahindra

New Delhi: Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra Wednesday said lowering GST on automobiles would help the economy, stating that the auto industry has a huge multiplier effect on small companies and employment.

In a tweet, Mahindra echoed calls from the auto industry to reduce goods and services tax (GST) on vehicles amid a prolonged sales slump, with passenger vehicle sales recording the steepest decline in nearly 18 years in May when it dropped by over 20 per cent.

"What we're all searching for is the 'Mt. Mandara' which can start the 'Manthan' of the economy & get it spinning faster. I'm biased, of course, but the auto industry is one such 'Mandara'. It has a huge multiplier effect on small companies & on employment. Lowering GST would help," he said.

Earlier this month, the Society of Automobile Industry (SIAM) had sought reduction of GST on all vehicles to 18 per cent from the current rate of 28 per cent in the upcoming Budget. Third-largest employer in the country.

India's trade agreements pushing import of cheap paper into country: IPMA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Government's policy of extending preferential tariff treatment to paper and paperboard under the free trade agreements (FTAs) has led to large quantities of paper being imported in the country at significantly lower costs to the dis-

advantage of domestic industry.

In its pre-budget submission, Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA) has stated that both under India-ASEAN FTA and India-Korea CEPA, basic customs duty on paper and paperboard has been progressively reduced, and currently stands at 0%.

Business Corner



Over 150 employees of Healthians donated blood at a recent blood donation camp organised as part of World Blood Donor Day at its Office in Gurgaon



Pond's launched #SeeWhatHappens campaign with the aim of bringing the issue of inner voices into the spotlight

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Sakshi**, D/o Sh. Praveen R/o D-63 j Colony Khanpur, New Delhi has been missing since 24.05.2019. In this regard a case DD No. 110A, dated 27.05.19, has been registered at P.S. Ned Sarai, New 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 female is as under:



Sakshi

Name: Sakshi, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** 22 years, **Height:** 5'1", **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Medium, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Yellow colour suit, sky blue colour payjama with black colour shoes in her feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing girl, kindly inform the SHO/ Ned Sarai, New Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Ned Sarai, New Delhi
DP/5508/SD/19 Ph. No.: 011-2955159, 08750870835

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a man namely **Pankaj Kumar Singh S/o Sh. Nawal Kisor Singh**, R/o HN-A, 32 Flat No-7, Surender Appt. Asola Village, New Delhi has been missing since 09.05.2019 from the area of P.S. Maidan Garhi, New Delhi. In this regard a report vide GD No. 34A dated 16.05.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Maidan Garhi, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing man but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing man is as under:



Pankaj Kumar Singh

Name: Pankaj Kumar Singh, **Gender:** Male, **Age:** 36 years, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Fat

If anyone has any information regarding this missing man, kindly inform SHO/ Maidan Garhi, New Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Maidan Garhi, New Delhi
DP/5490/SD/19 Ph. No.: 08750870825

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a boy namely **Atul Dubey @ Sameer**, S/o Upender Dubey R/o H.No.-B-63, Hari Enclave, Kirari Suleman Nagar, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 06.06.2019 from the area of P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 255/19 dated 08.06.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped boy but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped boy is as under:



Atul Dubey @ Sameer

Name: Atul Dubey @ Sameer, **Gender:** Male, **Age:** 15 years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Green colour T-Shirt, Grey colour Half Pant and Hawaii Slippers in Feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped boy, kindly inform SHO/ Aman Vihar, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi
DP/3007/RD/19 Ph. No.: 011-23014046, 23015218

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Sangeeta @ Aarti**, D/o Raj Kumar, R/o: B-35, Rajeev Nagar, Begumpur, Delhi **Age:** 18 years 5 Months, **Height:** 5'4", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Oval, wearing Yellow Colour Top & Blue Colour Jeans, has been missing/kidnapped from the area of

P.S. Begumpur, since 07.06.2019. In this regard a DD No. 21-A, dated 09.06.2019 has been registered at P.S. Begumpur, Delhi.

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

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S. Begumpur, Delhi
DP/3009/RD/19 Ph.: 011-27581118, 27581128

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** Kunkum D/o Vinod Kumar R/o H.No. S-253/61, Gulack Wali Masjid, Corner Market, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi has been missing since 17.12.2018 from her house. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 432/18 u/s 363 IPC dated 18.12.2018 has been registered at P.S. Malviya Nagar, New Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-



KUMKUM

Age: 15½ years, **Height:** 5'1", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Normal, **Hair:** Black, **Eyes:** Black, **Wearing:** Checkdar shirt and brown colour salwar and shoes in feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Malviya Nagar, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>.

SHO
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Malviya Nagar, Delhi
Fax No. 011-24368639 South Dist. Delhi
DP/5511/SD/19 Ph. No. 011-26691861, 26691862

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. P.c.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Pawan, S/o Ram Chander, R/o H.No. 265/5, Gali No. 5, Bhag Kare Khan, Kishan Ganj, S. Rohila, Delhi** is involved in case FIR No. 85/19 u/s 363 IPC, at P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Pawan cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Pawan has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Processing U/s 82 Cr. P.c. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Pawan, FIR No. 85/19 u/s 363 IPC, at P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi** is required to appear in this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 31.07.2019.

By Order
Ms. Pooja Aggarwal
MM, Rohini Courts,
DP/905A/NW/19-(Court Matter). Room No. 112, Rohini Courts, Delhi

UJVN LIMITED

(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)
H.O.: "UJJWAL" Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun - 248006
Telephones: 0135-2763508, 2763509, Fax No.: 0135-2763507
CIN No.: U40101UR2011SOCC235959, Website: www.uttarakhandjvnyut.com

Tender Notice

The office of Executive Engineer (Maintenance), Maneri Bhal Stage-II, Chinyalisaur (Uttarakhand) invites sealed tenders from interested parties for following work:

NIT - 06/EE (M)/MB-II/19-20: Polyepoxy Coating of Cooling Water Pipelines of Unit # 1,2,3,4 at Dharasur Power House M.B - II, Uttarakhand.

NIT - 07/EE (M)/MB-II/19-20: Supply Installation Testing Commissioning of AB Cables at Shaktipuram Colony MB-II, Dharasur Power House, Chinyalisaur.

Approx value of Tender: Rs 930000/-, Rs. 2494000/- (Taxes Extra respectively)

Earnest Money: Rs 28000/-, Rs 75000/- only respectively

Tender Cost: Rs 1180/- only for each tender

Last date of downloading the tender - 18.07.2019

Last date of submitting the tender - 19.07.2019 up to 15:30 Hrs.

Due date for opening the tender - 22.07.2019 at 11:00 and 12:00 Hrs. Respectively

For Eligibility Criteria and full details kindly visit our website "www.uttarakhandjvnyut.com" Bidders are advised to regularly visit our website for tender notice. Tender can only be downloaded from our website & their cost has to be paid at the time of submission.

Executive Engineer (Maintenance)

316 गुरुदेव रोड/शक्तिपुरा/देहरादून : 25.06.2019

"Save electricity in the interest of Nation"

MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one person, **Namely:** Shashi Ranjan Prasad, R/o: H. No. 2702/31, Asthal Mandir, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi, has been missing since 31.05.2019 from the area of PS Neb Sarai, New Delhi. In this regard, a Case Vide DD No. 78A, Dated 31.05.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi. Investigations have been carried out but despite best efforts, the person could not be traced. The description of the missing person is as under:

Namely: Shashi Ranjan Prasad, R/o: H. No. 2702/31, Asthal Mandir, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi, **Age:** 66 years, **Height:** 5'5" Feet, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** White Colour Kurta Payjama and Chappal in his feet. If anyone has any information about the missing boy, then please inform P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi.

SHO
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph. No. 011-24368639
Fax : 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi
DP/5515/SD/19. Ph. 011-29551326, 29551597, 8750870825

Assam publishes addl NRC draft

Excludes 1,02,462 names

IANIS ■ GUWAHATI

The Assam Government has found an additional 1,02,462 people ineligible to be included in the National Register of Citizens (NRC), which is being updated in the State under the Supreme Court's monitoring.

The Assam Government on Wednesday published an additional draft exclusion list of the NRC comprising the names of 1,02,462 persons, who were included in the draft NRC published on July 30, 2018, but have been subsequently found ineligible due to different reasons.

According to a statement issued by the State coordinator of NRC, the additional draft exclusion list was published as per the provisions contained in Clause 5 of the Schedule of The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.

"The persons whose names figured in the additional draft exclusion list published today include those who were found to be DF (declared foreigner), DV (doubtful voter) or PFT (persons with cases pending at



foreigners tribunals) or their descendants, as applicable, discovered after the publication of the draft NRC," said a senior official of the NRC authority.

"Persons who were found to be ineligible while appearing as witness in hearings held for disposal of claims and objections, persons who were found to be ineligible during the process of verification carried out by the Local Registrar of Citizen Registration (LRCR) under the provisions of Clause 4(3) after the publication of the complete draft NRC on July 30, 2018, were also included in the list," the official said.

He said the additional draft exclusion list didn't contain the results of claimants and objects to be DF (declared foreigner), DV (doubtful voter) or PFT (persons with cases pending at

Dhinakaran's outfit in crisis as party strongman dissents

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) formed by VK Sasikala, the former aide to late J Jayalalitha, and her nephew TTV Dhinakaran is in a State of crisis as Thanga Tamilvelvan, the propaganda secretary of the outfit finding himself as a persona non grata in the party.

Tamilvelvan, who was the public face of the faction headed by Dhinakaran and Sasikala, has been removed from the posts he held in AMMK following the former's outbursts against Dhinakaran. Though Dhinakaran has not issued any statements till Wednesday evening, sources close to him told *The Pioneer* that Tamilvelvan is as good as axed from the party.

"He described Dhinakaran as a mean and petty-minded person. What else we should tell you about a person who uses such language against our party leader?" asked an AMMK functionary on conditions of anonymity.

But CR Saraswathy, spokesperson, AMMK said Thanga Tamilvelvan has himself paved the way for his ouster from the party. "I don't think he would come back to the party



as he was holding discussions with leaders of other parties. His career with the AMMK is over," said Saraswathy.

The AMMK which was formed by Dhinakaran following the easing out of the Mannargudi clan from the AIADMK, has been facing crisis after crisis following the setback suffered by it in the recent elections. The party which was expected to take away a major chunk of the AIADMK votes had to content with just 5.2 per cent votes which has put a question mark on the future of the outfit.

Thanga Tamilvelvan has been welcomed to AIADMK, his mother organisation by senior minister D Jayakumar. It is widely believed that he may make a come back to the AIADMK as immediately after

the announcement of the General Election results he had said that though the DMK-Congress alliance had won the election in Tamil Nadu, it was not a vote for the DMK. "People felt that it would be ideal if they vote for the DMK-led alliance in the parliament election. That was all," he had said.

He also reminded the media recently that he was not after power or position. "I was the one who resigned from Andippatti assembly constituency in 2001 to facilitate the election of Amma (Jayalalitha) and I reminded content with doing campaign works for her," said Tamilvelvan.

It was Tamilvelvan who led the 18 AIADMK MLAs to the then Governor of Tamil Nadu stating that they were withdrawing support to the Edappadi Palaniswamy government which led to the disqualification of all the MLAs including himself. Though he had contested to the Lok Sabha from Theni, he was defeated by AIADMK's Raveendrakumar, son of Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam. Tamil Nadu is in for another bout of political drama as the State would see biennial election to six Rajya Sabha seats from the State on July 18.

Amit Shah holds high-level meet in J&K ahead of Yatra

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, accompanied by a high-level delegation of Government officials, chaired a high-level security review meeting ahead of Amarnath yatra, during his two-day long maiden visit to Srinagar on Wednesday.

The State Government was represented by Governor Satya Pal Malik, his adviser in charge Home Affairs K Vijay Kumar, state Chief Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam, Northern Command Army Commander Lt-Gen Ranbir Singh, DGP Dilbag Singh and divisional commissioners from the Kashmir & Jammu divisions.

Union Home secretary Rajiv Gauba and top brass of the central/state intelligence agencies also remained present during the meeting.

Earlier, Governor defied convention and arrived at the Srinagar airport to personally accord warm welcome to the Union Home Minister. Though no bandh/hartal call was given by any separatist or militant outfit on account of visit of Union Home Minister, tight security arrangements remained in place in different parts of Srinagar. High alert was also sounded in the region



Union Home Minister Amit Shah chairs a meeting to review the security arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra, in Srinagar, on Wednesday

to prevent any terrorist strike on security personnel.

According to official sources, "the home minister was briefed about the overall security situation in the state, especially in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack in which 44 CRPF personnel had sacrificed their lives".

Senior security officials had prepared comprehensive power point presentations and briefed Home Minister about ongoing anti-terrorist operations leading to elimination of top commanders since January 2019. Over 120 terrorists have been killed by the security forces this year in different operations.

Shah was also briefed about

the steps taken for ensuring smooth and safe conduct of the annual Amarnath Yatra, which is due to commence on July 1. Union Home Minister, is learnt to have instructed senior officials to ensure safety of Amarnath bound pilgrims especially during their movement along the National Highway and in and around base/transit camps setup at several places during the yatra period.

Adequate paramilitary troops have been deployed on area domination and patrol duties to guard the entire yatra route from Lakhnapur (in Jammu region) to base camps in Pahalgam and Baltal in Kashmir region.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
 (O/o CE/TS, B-1, Shakti Vihar, Patiala)
 Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001
 Phone No. 0175-2301537, Fax No. 0175-2220143,
 Email: addisecell2@gmail.com
 Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
 Website: www.pspcl.in

Online Tenders are invited for the supply of the following material as per tender specification No. 187/2019 of PSPCL:-

Item No.	Description	Qty.	Enquiry No./Year	Last date & time for downloading of tenders	Last date & time for bid submission	Date & time of opening of bids
1.	15 KV NCTs of assorted ratios	202	187/2019	11-07-19 11:30 A.M.	12-07-19 11:00 A.M.	12-07-19 11:30 A.M.

EMD: 79,030/-
 Minimum EMD 19,758/-
 Detailed NIT and specification may be down-loaded from PSPCL e-tendering website <https://pspcil.abcpurchase.com>
 It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, No CORRIGENDUM will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on PSPCL website www.pspcl.in and www.pspcl.abcpurchase.com

Dy. CE/ Sub-Station Design, PSPCL, Patiala
 Contact No. 96461-22185

C-250/19
 DPR/25/JUN/C5949 Dt. 25-06-2019

Modi Govt spent ₹5,909 cr on ads in its 1st term: RTI

Incurs max of ₹2,172 cr on radio spots, spends ₹2,109 cr on display ads, ₹612 cr on outdoor publicity

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

With a penchant for reaching out to the people in a big way, the BJP-led NDA Government has incurred an expenditure of staggering Rs 5,909.39 crore on various types of advertisements during its first term in office from 2014-15 to 2018-19, according to reply to an RTI query.

Responding to a query by RTI activist Anil Galgali, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting's wing Bureau of

Outreach and Communication has — in its reply dated June 16, 2019 — stated that the Narendra Modi Government incurred Rs 5,909.39,5100 for publicising its policies and achievements through advertisements in print media, electronic media and outdoor media between 2014-15 and 2018-19.

Interestingly, the Government spent a maximum of Rs 2,172.07 crore on radio spots between 2014-15 and 2018-19, while it incurred an expenditure of Rs 2,109.30

crore on display classification during the five year period. The Government spent Rs 612.18 crore on outdoor publicity during the period. The reply furnished to

RTI activist Anil Galgali shows that the Modi Government spent ₹979 crore in 2014-15, ₹1,162 crore in 2015-16, ₹1,258 crore in 2016-17, ₹1,313 in 2017-18, ₹1,195 in 2018-19 and the total figure in all these five fiscal year stood at ₹5,909.39 crore

The I & B Ministry has furnished the reply showing all the expenditure in four heads such as Plan, Non-plan, Client Department and Advance Department. Interestingly, a maximum expenditure has been incurred on the head of the Client department.

as Plan, Non-plan, Client Department and Advance Department.

Interestingly, a maximum expenditure has been incurred on the head of the Client department.

"After several concerns were raised against the lavish expenditure incurred by the NDA Government to glorify Prime Minister Narendra Modi's image, it put a break and therefore in the last year of its dispensation, it spent relatively less money on advertisements," Galgali said.

NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
 ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT
 VIDYUT BHAWAN, DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM ROAD, NEW DELHI-110011
 e-Procurement Tender Notice

Name of Work: Purchase of Energy Efficient LED Street Light fittings of 120 Watt ±2%.
 Estimated Cost : ₹6,77,480/-
 Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution : 25.06.2019
 Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution : 03.07.2019 at 03:00 PM
 Further details can be seen at www.ndmc.gov.in or <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
 Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with e-tendering system Government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory. Sd/-
 Tender ID No. 2019_NDMC_174941_1 Executive Engineer (E) S-II
 To Be The Global Benchmark for a Capital City

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a boy (depicted in the photo), **Name: Samir Anish Ansari S/o Anish Ansari R/o R-564, J.J. Colony, Raghuraj Nagar, Delhi** has been missing since 15.06.2019 from his house. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 193/19 dated 16.06.2019 has been registered at PS Khyala, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Age: 14 Years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Face: Round, Wearing: Badami colour kurta & pajama and red colour chappal in feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing boy, may inform SHO, Khyala, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

SHO
 Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Khyala, Delhi
 Fax No. 011-24368639 West Distt., Delhi
 DP/18304/WD/19 Ph. No. 011-28335686, 28335696

GPS, sensors to check pilferage of water



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

As water war in Tamil Nadu has spilled out to the streets with the ruling AIADMK and the Opposition DMK blaming each other for the present scarcity, water has become the most precious commodity in the State.

For the first time in the history of Tamil Nadu, authorities have been forced to take pre-



Women push a cart containing vessels filled with water from a tanker following an acute water shortage, in Chennai, on Wednesday

cautions while transporting drinking water for supplying in Madurai Municipal Corporation limits.

Water lorries and tractors operated by the Madurai Municipal Corporation are being installed with GPS devices and sensors to prevent pilferage and illegal sale by lorry drivers. According to S Visakan, commissioner, Madurai Municipal Corporation, 34 tankers and 25 tractors have been pressed into service to supply 5.4 million litres per day water within the Corporation limits to meet the water scarcity.

"This is the first time any city corporation has equipped every water carrier it operates with GPS based devices. Our control room will receive an alert if any water carrier deviates from the path. The sensors attached to them would make use of the water pressure to furnish the quantity. This will help

the officials to keep check on the quantity of water being distributed to specific locations," said Visakan. Corporation authorities also disclosed that the GPS devices would help them to find out the time the lorries and tractors spend at each distribution spot.

The drought like situation has taken a heavy toll on the school attendance of girl students in the State which may derail the Prime Minister's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana. Many girl students studying in classes 8 to 10 are being used by their parents to fetch water for the households. Dharsini (9) and Priya (11) staying at Vysarpadi area are forced by their mothers to walk 2 km to fetch water from the Metro Water Dispensing Units. Priya, a class 8 student, said that since her father leaves home for

work early in the morning, she has to help her mother in carrying water from the dispensing spot. "I go to school only in alternate days. I have company as many girls in the area are compelled to skip classes," said Priya.

There are reports from the Vysarpadi suburb that instances of jaundice have seen a jump as a fall out of the supply of contaminated water. While government officials are tight lipped about the report, residents said cases of water-borne diseases are on the increase. The State government is yet to come out with an action programme to counter the emergency situation except the statements by some of the ministers that there was no water scarcity as it has been made out by the Opposition and the media.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Name: Ishika, D/o: Data Ram @ Ajay, R/o: B-262, J.J. Colony, Sawada, Delhi, Age: 05 Years, Height: 2'10", Face: Long, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Pink Frock** has been missing since 22.04.2018 from the area of P.S. Kanjhawala. In this regard **FIR No. 192/10 dated 21.05.2019** has been lodged at **PS. Kanjhawala, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform the undersigned.

SHO
 E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi
 Fax: 011-29551597 Ph.: 011-25951486, 25951485
 DP/2998/RD/19

GURU GOBIND SINGH INDRAPRASTHA UNIVERSITY
 (Established by the Govt. of NCT of Delhi)
 Sector-16 C, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110 078
 Website: www.ipu.ac.in

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The Executive Engineer, University Works Division, GGSIPU, Sector 16 C, Dwarka invites on behalf of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University online item rate tenders for following work(s):

Name of work : A/A GGSIP University, Dwarka Campus, New Delhi
Sub Head : Drinking Water arrangement at GGSIPU Dwarka Campus
NIT No. : 08/EE/UWD/Elect/2019-20
Estimated Cost : Rs. 23,36,886/-, Time of completion : 30 days
EMD : Rs 46,738/-

The tender forms and other details can be obtained from website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> and www.ipu.ac.in. Last date of submission of bids is 02/07/2019. EE/UWD

Gold cheaper than water in Chennai: RS member on TN water crisis

New Delhi: As Tamil Nadu reels under severe water shortage, a Rajya Sabha member on Wednesday highlighted the plight of the people saying "gold is cheaper than water" in State capital Chennai.

During a short duration debate in the Upper House on water crisis in the country, TK Rangarajan of the CPM said Chennai is the first Indian city "to have gone dry" with the Central Water Commission reporting a rainfall deficit of 41 per cent in Tamil Nadu till June 13 this year.

"Most of the Chennai population today depends on water tankers, municipal supply and private supply for drinking water. A tank of private water costs more than one gram of gold. Now gold is cheaper in Chennai than water. This is the truth," Rangarajan said. PTI

MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one person, **Name: Deepak, S/o: Sh. Chini, R/o: N17C/312, JJ Colony, Wazirpur, Delhi**, has been missing since 16.04.2019. In this regard, a report vide **DD No. 34-A, Dated 02.05.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Bharat Nagar, Delhi**. Investigations has been carried out but despite best efforts, the person could not be traced. The description of the missing person is as under:

Name: Deepak, S/o: Sh. Chini, Address: N17C/312, JJ Colony, Wazirpur, Delhi, Age: 30 years, Height: 5' Feet, Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Built: Medium, Hair: Black, Wearing: Grey Auto Uniform and Chappal in Feet. If anyone has any information about the missing person, then please inform P.S. Bharat Nagar, Delhi

SHO
 email: cic@cbi.gov.in P.S. Bharat Nagar, Delhi
 Fax: No.011-24368639 Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/9036/NW/19

NORTHERN RAILWAY e-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. CST/PSW, DIVISIONAL RAILWAY MANAGER OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, ROOM No. 203, State Entry Road, New Delhi - 110055 for & on behalf of 'President of India' invites online OPEN e-tender in single packet system from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the under noted work:

1 Name of work	"Provision of OFC & associated equipments in ASR-ATT, ASR-PAX, PAX-KEMK, ASR-DBNK, BAT-QDN, BEAS-GWSB & GWSB-TTO Sections of FZR Division."
2 Approximate cost of the work	Rs. 6,91,21,590.43 (Six Crore Ninety One Lakh Twenty One Thousand Five Hundred Ninety and Forty Three only).
3 Cost of tender form	Nil.
4 Address from where tender document can be downloaded.	Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in from 27.06.2019 from 11:00 hrs.
5 Earnest money	Rs. 4,95,60,000 (Four Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Six Hundred only).
6 Completion period	11 (Eleven) months.
7 Date and time of submission of tender and time of opening of tender	Tender to be submitted online on Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in from 08.07.2019 up to 11:00 hrs of 22.07.2019.
8 Date of tender Opening	22.07.2019 at 11:30 hrs.
9 Detailed Tender Notice	Available at Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in .

No. 172-SIG/PSW/NRT-187 Dated : 26.06.2019 2050/19
 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, New Delhi
 ... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi

NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date: 27.06.2019

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) are invited for following jobs:

NIT No.	Brief Work Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BIY/19-20/RB/MD/32	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF 11KV SWITCHGEAR PANELS	2,65,00,000	5,30,000	11.07.2019, 14:30 HRS	11.07.2019, 15:00 HRS

Cost of each Tender Documents: ₹ 1180/-
 For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents, corrigendum etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com --> Tenders --> BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD --> Open Tenders Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525
 TEL: 011-39997111 | Fax: 011-39992076 | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

Trend Slazer

Why Ayushmann did Article 15?

Actor **AYUSHMANN KHURRANA** says that the intent to bring about social change by starting a conversation is what compelled him to back a film like *Article 15*, which is centred around caste discrimination in the society. It was important for him to show India a very significant social film.

"As an artist, you sometimes get a film that demands you to back it wholeheartedly because it is trying to make a strong statement, it is trying to affect social change by starting a conversation.

This compelled me to put my voice behind it because it is cinema that needs to be made and seen. It is cinema for the entire country, for the youth to notice," says Ayushmann.



'I am trying to get onto the YouTube world by launching my channel, after exploring the Instagram and Twitter world. As a person, I have been super expressive. Somewhere, I have become more private after becoming an actor. Let's see how it goes.'

—Alia Bhatt

Director **ALI ABBAS ZAFAR** is known for his huge scale movies and his penchant to deliver wholesome entertainers that the entire nation can enjoy.



He says, "It's humbling to get so much love from audiences. When I set out to make a film, I don't think about records. That's never my approach. It could be a hugely limiting, pressurising proposition for any filmmaker especially me. I always set out to tell a story of audiences have empowered me to tell heartfelt and entertaining stories that the entire nation could go to the theatres and enjoy it."

I live the most regular life: Tom

It has been a crazy ride to fame for **TOM HOLLAND**, who is winning hearts all around the world as the new Spider-Man. But, he does not want to get lost in the glitz and glamour of the industry.

The actor thinks he has done a great job at evading the spotlight, and says he lives the most normal and regular life ever.

"I don't get paparazzied. I don't go to fancy parties," Holland said.

He added, "When I am not on the press tour or red carpet, I live the most regular life ever. I have done a good job at keeping out of the spotlight. It is very important because you can get lost in it. No one will ever say no (to you) and no one will ever tell you anything bad. That is why I keep my brothers, my family very close because they will tell me that 'I am being an idiot.'"



THESE JEWELS BRIGHT I WEAR!

If you are a Tintin fan, you know of singer Bianca Castafiore and her love for trinkets. Now they are a reality. A report shows that coloured gemstones outperform traditional choices in the jewellery market. By TEAM VIVA

It is time to invest in and own coloured gemstones compared to traditional gold and platinum, if a latest lifestyle study is to be believed. And around seven per cent of Indian UHNWIs (ultra high net worth individuals) are collecting coloured diamonds as a passion-led investment. India already has a well-established wedding jewellery tradition that celebrates stones embedded in gold and silver, so the traction here is but expected.

Thanks to transparent valuation standards, the establishment of institutional gemology labs and active market transactions, gemstones have come of age. Knight Frank, a global property consultancy, launched its luxury investment index (KFLI), which cited that in coloured gemstones, a 17.43 carat Kashmir sapphire ring was the top performer at Bonhams' London sale at the end of April. Formerly owned by a European noble family, this Kashmir sapphire ring fetched ₹7,23,063, far exceeding its ₹3,00,000 to ₹4,00,000 guide price.

The report focussed on the increasing value of coloured gemstones, seen to be outperforming the wider jewellery market and, therefore, increasingly popular with investors and collectors worldwide. The index series provides data on investments of passion, such as whisky, cars, jewellery and others, tracking each over time.



Experts say that consumers are preferring high-quality gemstones which are rare and unique in designs. Shishir Bajjal, chairman and managing director, Knight Frank India, said, "More than 100 per cent incremental value of the gemstones and jewellery over a decade have made them lucrative asset investment classes, than just

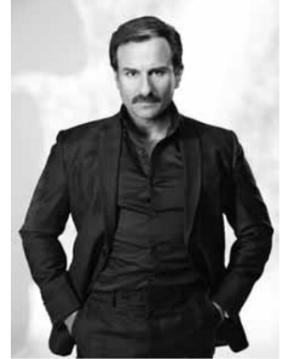
purchasing it for its aesthetic value. Indian UHNWIs are increasingly making passion-led investments in gems and jewellery. Much of the rising popularity of coloured gemstones is due to growing awareness and developments that have boosted consumer confidence, such as widespread certification, more industry trans-

parency and gemological analysis." Talking about how coloured gemstones are outperforming the wider jewellery market and therefore increasingly getting popular among investors, Milind Mather, partner, Kohinoor Jewellers, Agra, said, "Precious coloured gemstones are gaining prominence in the market of late owing to their everlasting charm and emerging trends among the customers. The market for coloured gemstones has flourished notably owing to their

increasing demand. Their rarity and undeniable allure are what makes them truly stand out. It is the colour, cut, clarity and carat that play a pivotal role in deciding their value and making them desirable. On the other hand, we have witnessed royals adorning coloured gemstones in the recent past and I think that has also influenced the buying pattern of the customers."

Varda Goenka of Fine Jewels by DIAGOLD has observed a spike in demand for natural gemstones like rubies, emeralds, blue and yellow sapphires. Blue sapphire and emerald are considered top quality and are seen as highly desirable acquisitions. Besides, such stones in India have an auspicious aspect, which makes for a value-added choice.

Andrew Shirley, Head of Luxury Research at Knight Frank, said, "The interesting story here is that coloured gemstones are outperforming the wider jewellery market with some significant sales taking place already in 2019." Jean Ghika, global head of jewellery at Bonhams, cited, "The rarity factor is an undeniable pull," she says. "Potential buyers are looking to expand their collections beyond colourless diamonds. They're keen to seek out the very best examples of highly desirable and rare specimens, whether that be Kashmir sapphires, Burma rubies or no-oi emeralds, the likes of which they may never find again."



'Pataudi palace is special'

Actor Saif Ali Khan says his ancestral home Pataudi Palace holds a lot of emotional value for him.

Saif's brand House of Pataudi has come out with its latest collection inspired by the Pataudi Palace. He owns the brand with Mynta and Exceed Entertainment.

"The palace is an architectural marvel for many, but for me its home and holds a lot of emotional value," Saif said.

"It is interesting for me to see a collection inspired by the hues of the palace gardens. The floral patterns and designs used in the collection intertwine with elements of the nature that surround Pataudi Palace," he added.

The Summer Palace Collection brings alive the ornate beauty and grandeur of the palace. It comprises everyday Indian wear conceptualised as Firdaus, festive with royal charm, Noor and Riwayat for classic Indian weddings.

Amar Nagaram, Head, Mynta Jabong, said, "The collection is a reflection of the opulence and grandeur surrounding the Pataudi palace and is a royal treat for patrons of ethnic wear."

—IANS

ATTENTION PLEASE

Actor **LEONARDO DICAPRIO** draws eyeballs to Chennai water crisis



Oscar winning actor Leonardo DiCaprio, known for his environmental activism, has raised awareness about the ongoing water crisis in Chennai. He shared a photograph of a dry well on social media.

Caprio wrote, "Only rain can save Chennai from this situation. A well, completely empty and a city without water. The southern Indian city of Chennai is in crisis, after the four main water reservoirs ran dry.

The acute water shortage has forced the city to scramble for urgent solutions and residents have to stand in line for hours to get water from government tankers. As the water levels depleted, hotels and restaurants started to shut temporarily and the air con was turned off in the city's metro.

Officials in the city continue to try and find alternative sources of water but the community continue to pray for rain."

Chennai has been facing a severe water crisis. While Cholavaram (full capacity 1,081 mcf), Redhills (full capacity 3,300 mcf) and Chembarambakkam (3,645 mcf) lakes that supply water to Chennai have gone dry, there is only 19 mcf water left in the Poondi reservoir (full capacity of 3,231 mcf), according to the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board.

DiCaprio, who works extensively as a climate champion, had visited India in 2015 to film a segment for his 2016 documentary film, 'Beyond the Flood'. He also visited the Taj Mahal during his trip.

—IANS

To demolish or conserve?

The tourism industry wants old structures preserved to attract visitors but the public demand for better civic amenities calls for mass demolition

Agra, a city that is home to three world heritage monuments, including Taj Mahal, is caught in a dilemma between development and conservation. The tourism industry wants old structures preserved to attract visitors but the public demand for better civic amenities calls for mass demolition.

To develop, you have to demolish but heritage conservation requires maintaining the status quo. When every corner of the city has a monument or two, raising its tourism potential, carving out of open spaces for modern projects is neither easy nor permissible under the stringent provisions of the Ancient Monuments Protection Act.

The state government has announced plans to introduce Metro rail to facilitate mobility within the city. "When the work will start after extensive surveys of two corridors, we expect large-scale demolition in the old city," said Surendra Sharma, president of the Braj Mandal Heritage Conservation Society. "Whether the departments concerned will allow or give no-objection certificate for the project, and what measures would be taken to keep the dust level, already touching alarming level, from rising further remains to be seen," he adds.

The ecological fears are real as thousands of trees could be chopped for the project. They are planning the Metro rail depot at the PAC ground, dangerously close to Taj Mahal, says Shrawan Kumar Singh, an activist. So much environment conservation work is claimed to have been done in the



past three decades due to lawyer MC Mehta's activism, but the results are not visible. The ground reality paints a dismal picture as both nature and people conspire to hasten the process of decay in this premier Mughal metropolis.

River Yamuna is too sick with toxic pollutants and is virtually dead. The air quality continues to remain alarming as an increasing number of vehicles spit noxious gases, fumes and harmful emissions. The suspended particulate matter in the ambient air remains higher than the standard for the eco-sensitive Taj Trapezium Zone, spread over 10,400 sq km. The green cover in the district has come down to a pathetic 6.71 per cent. Compare this with Delhi's 35 per cent and Chandigarh's 45 per cent.

Of the 400 odd community ponds, only a few survive. The irrigation network, an extensive canal system that the British left behind, is mostly encroached upon. The six tributaries of Yamuna in the district remain choked with garbage and sludge round the year.

Lucknow Expressway has resulted in reduction of the green cover and increased road traffic.

City planners are confused whether Agra has to be conserved as a heritage city or to graduate it to a higher level as a smart city.

Many people have suggested that the central government work out some institutional arrangement to prevent conflicting perspectives and action plans.

At present, there is the Mission Management Board, the Taj Trapezium Zone Authority, the central and state pollution control boards, the municipal corporation, the district board and the Agra Development Authority, each with its own set of priorities and levels of accountability. Though no one can claim a clear vision for the city, a hastily compiled voluminous document, the Agra Heritage Vision has been submitted to the Supreme Court and is likely to be adopted soon.

—IANS

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)
Name of work with its location: Provision of interlocking at L-xing no. 109 & 133 in section of ADSTE/ROK of DLI Division. App. Cost of the work: Rs. 50,85,862.38/- only. Tender Document Fee: Rs. 5,900/- only. Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 1,01,700/- only. Address of the office: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-I, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.
Date & Time for upload the tender/closing of tender: Tender uploading/closing date & time-17.07.2019 up to 15:00 hrs. Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.: See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055. No.: 558-Sig-16-M-Tender-1282
Dated: 26.06.2019. 2055/2019

PUBLIC NOTICE
Kindly take notice that my client Nokia India Private Limited (CIN: U74999DL1995PTC068904) having Registered Office at Flat No. 1213, 12th Floor, Kailash Building 26, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, Delhi-110051 has during the course of its business lost/misplaced the following Form F (50F Forms in Total) original, duplicate and counter 'oll, issued by the Uttar Pradesh Commercial Tax Department, Govt. of U.P. during (mention the period). The same are not traceable and lost/misplaced. Necessary intimation in this regard is duly being given before the Gurugram Police Station, vide reference number: 13227/09/190295/2019. Any person who may find it is hereby requested to return the same either to the Company at its aforementioned Registered Office or to the address given below. List of missing forms are provided below at the end of this notice.
The Public at large is forbidden by virtue of this notice to use the Forms and return the same to the Company at its Registered Office or the address given below.
S.Rajwanshi & Co, Advocates & Solicitors
C-10, First Floor, Ashoka Enclave, Peeragarhi, New Delhi-110087
Tel. No. 011-25270734, 45141059

List of lost Form F issued by U.P. Department							
S. No.	Form F number	Issued Year	Remarks	S. No.	Form F number	Issued Year	Remarks
1	0081965	2014-15	Form lost	26	0081990	2014-15	Form lost
2	0081966	2014-15	Form lost	27	0081991	2014-15	Form lost
3	0081967	2014-15	Form lost	28	0081992	2014-15	Form lost
4	0081968	2014-15	Form lost	29	0081993	2014-15	Form lost
5	0081969	2014-15	Form lost	30	0081994	2014-15	Form lost
6	0081970	2014-15	Form lost	31	0081995	2014-15	Form lost
7	0081971	2014-15	Form lost	32	0081996	2014-15	Form lost
8	0081972	2014-15	Form lost	33	0081997	2014-15	Form lost
9	0081973	2014-15	Form lost	34	0081998	2014-15	Form lost
10	0081974	2014-15	Form lost	35	0081999	2014-15	Form lost
11	0081975	2014-15	Form lost	36	0082000	2014-15	Form lost
12	0081976	2014-15	Form lost	37	0082001	2014-15	Form lost
13	0081977	2014-15	Form lost	38	0082002	2014-15	Form lost
14	0081978	2014-15	Form lost	39	0082003	2014-15	Form lost
15	0081979	2014-15	Form lost	40	0082004	2014-15	Form lost
16	0081980	2014-15	Form lost	41	0082005	2014-15	Form lost
17	0081981	2014-15	Form lost	42	0082006	2014-15	Form lost
18	0081982	2014-15	Form lost	43	0082007	2014-15	Form lost
19	0081983	2014-15	Form lost	44	0082008	2014-15	Form lost
20	0081984	2014-15	Form lost	45	0082009	2014-15	Form lost
21	0081985	2014-15	Form lost	46	0082010	2014-15	Form lost
22	0081986	2014-15	Form lost	47	0082011	2014-15	Form lost
23	0081987	2014-15	Form lost	48	0082012	2014-15	Form lost
24	0081988	2014-15	Form lost	49	0082013	2014-15	Form lost
25	0081989	2014-15	Form lost	50	0082014	2014-15	Form lost

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
By, CSTE/P/SW, DIVISIONAL RAILWAY MANAGER OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, ROOM No. 203, State Entry Road, New Delhi - 110055 & on behalf of 'President of India' invites online OPEN E-tender in single packet system from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the under noted work:
1 Name of work: "Provision of OFC & associated equipments in JUC-HSX, PGW-NSS, PHR-LNK, JUC-NRO, NSS-JJJ & NSS-RHU Sections of FZR Division."
2 Approximate cost of the work: Rs. 7,79,19,880.79 (SEVEN Crore Seventy Nine Lakh Nineteen Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty and Paise Seventy Nine only).
3 Cost of tender form: Nil
4 Address from where tender document can be downloaded: Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in from 27.06.2019 from 11:00 hrs.
5 Earnest money: Rs. 5,39,600.00 (Five Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Six Hundred only).
6 Completion period: 11 (Eleven) months.
7 Date and time of submission of tender: www.ireps.gov.in from 08.07.2019 up to 11:00 hrs. of 22.07.2019. Date of tender opening: 22.07.2019 at 11:30 hrs.
8 Detailed Tender Notice: Available at Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in.
No. 172-SIG/P/SW/INRIT-186 DATE: 26.06.2019. 2051/2019
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

WESTERN RAILWAY

Sr. No.	e-Tender Notice No. & Date	Work and Location	First Year Reserve Price Rs.	Approx. Cost of Work in Rs.	EMD.	Website where Tender form available	Date & Time of closing of online submission	Date & Time of opening of e-tender
1.	CA11-NFROOH-MIRA-BYR-19-11 dated 22.06.2019	Bulk advertising rights at circulating area of or at Mira Road & Bhayandar stations for display of advertisements on existing hoarding structures by dismantling & replacing with erection of new hoarding structures for a period of five years.	₹ 45,13,600/- (excluding taxes etc.)	₹ 2,39,79,562/- (excluding taxes etc.)	₹ 4,79,600/-	www.ireps.gov.in	upto 15.00 hrs on 15.07.2019	At 15.30 hrs on 15.07.2019
2.	CA11-NFROOH-BAROB-19-12 dated 22.06.2019	Bulk advertising rights at Bandra ROB, North Location (Group-I) for display of advertisements by dismantling existing hoarding structures & replacing with erection of new hoarding structure of size 120' x 40' (3) i.e. Triple dacker facing west for a period of five years.	₹ 11,17,72,800/- (excluding taxes etc.)	₹ 59,38,19,795/- (excluding taxes etc.)	₹ 1,18,76,400/-	www.ireps.gov.in	upto 15.00 hrs on 16.07.2019	At 15.30 hrs on 16.07.2019

Please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details.
Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly • Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

HOW TO COMBAT DRUG MENACE

Alcohol continues to be the most common psychoactive substance used in India though its prevalence varies across the states, says SB SHASHANK



Drug menace is so alarming worldwide that the special session of UN General Assembly on drug policy, which was scheduled to take place this year was brought forward to take place in year 2016. There are three international conventions, namely, Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1954, Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 and Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988 to which India is a signatory. It covers India's commitment to the international community in combating the use and abuse of psychotropic substances. At home, there is a policy document which was brought out in 2012 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to guide ministries, state governments, NGOs, international organisations on gamut of issues related to reduction in demand and supply, relief and rehabilitation. Recently, the ministry released findings of a nationwide comprehensive survey, which was undertaken last year to know magnitude, spread and extent of substance use in the country. This document provides data across all the states, for the first time, about the extent of problem and will enable poli-



cy makers and planners in determining the target of demand reduction and further in identifying focus areas which are to be prioritised. The survey report will prove to be milestone in our fight against the substance use and problem. When compared to the previous survey, which was conducted in 2001 with turn of the millennium, though with limited sample size, the trend in use and abuse shows rise over last eighteen years. To reverse the trend requires more focus on policy gap and implementation strategy.

As the survey report shows, alcohol continues to be the most common psychoactive substance used in India though its prevalence varies across the states. In contrast to the common perception that

Udda Punjab may be the numero uno, what is surprising is that Chhattisgarh occupies top position both in prevalence of use and dependence followed closely by Tripura and Punjab in that order. The national average is that every seventh person is current user of Alcohol and out of that, every fifth person requires medical intervention for being alcohol dependent. On gender classification on use, men constitute 27.3 per cent of population whereas women constitute just 1.6 per cent. This also gives strong reason to support why women should be involved in combating alcohol abuse as some states have also shown by example. Delhi with 21.3 per cent of population as current user of alcohol is much above the national average of 14.6

per cent and use disorder at 6.2 per cent is also much above the national average of 5.2 per cent.

Cannabis and Opioids occupy the second and third position in prevalence of substance use. On national level 3.1 crore people 2.8 per cent use cannabis which includes *bhang*, *hashish* (*charas*) and weed (*ganja*), which is more harmful than the former. Every fourth user is either suffering from harmful use or from dependence requiring intervention. The states of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Sikkim, Chhattisgarh and Delhi top the list and have prevalence more than the national average. Sikkim and Punjab have much higher cannabis use disorder than other states.

The most common opioid used are

heroin, pharmaceutical opioid and opium coming in same order in use prevalence showing that heroin is now the predominant opioid which is a major shift in use pattern. But in southern states pharmaceutical opioids are predominantly used. On national level 2.06 per cent of population come under the category of current users and around one third of them are problem users requiring intervention. Among the states Mizoram, closely followed by Nagaland, tops the chart in use where the prevalence is more than 12 times the national average. Punjab (9.69 per cent) and Delhi (7.79 per cent) also have much higher user load, with significant proportion requiring corrective interventions, than national average of 2.06 per cent.

Sedatives and inhalants are also used as psychoactive substance. About 1.18 crore people (1.08 per cent) use sedatives which are non medical and non prescribed. North eastern states Sikkim, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur top the chart in maximum prevalence in use of sedatives. Among all the substances, inhalants are the only substance for which prevalence of use among children and adolescents are more than adults. At national level 4.6 lakh children and 18 lakh adults require intervention for being problem users of inhalants.

With this survey report, the states have their tasks cut out to accelerate the action to combat the menace of substance abuse. June 26 is observed as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The states joined the world community in creating more awareness about the gigantic problem. To many, such symbolism may not impress but it is significant so long as it goes beyond symbolism per se with resolve.

(The writer is an IAS officer and director of Department of Women and Child Development, GNCITD dealing with the matter of Prohibition.)



Max Bupa partners with MobiKwik for health insurance products

Max Bupa, on Wednesday, announced a strategic partnership with MobiKwik, a Fintech platform, to promote affordable and convenient bite-sized group health insurance products for MobiKwik's customers across the country. Bite-sized insurance offerings, which are essentially easier to buy over the counter health insurance products, primarily targeted towards working professionals and millennials, are fast picking up pace in the country and gaining huge interest from customers who are always on the go and are looking for convenient, low price and accessible health plans for their specific health needs. It is for those customers who are looking for quick, simple and affordable health insurance propositions to take care of their specific health needs.

No paperwork or medical will be required. An immediate policy issuance at affordable premium will be available. It will be digitally enabled, which will involve buying health insurance in just two clicks.

Max Bupa is also offering a cancer cover at nominal premium and a HospiCash product, in order to make health insurance purchase simple, instant and affordable for MobiKwik's vast customer base.

The HospiCash product offers a perfect solution for their evolving health needs. It provides for a pre-defined daily allowance basis the number of days of hospitalisation irrespective of the actual expense incurred by the customer. Priced at an annual premium as low as ₹135, it will offer ₹500 per day hospital allowance for up to 30 days in a year to a customer. If admitted to an ICU, the amount receivable by the policy holder is twice the daily hospitalisation cash benefit. In addition to this, customers will also get additional security against accidents wherein the family would receive ₹1 lakh in case of accidental death of the customer.

The organisation will also offer a new proposition for Vector-Borne diseases like dengue, chikungunya, malaria, Japanese encephalitis, lymphatic filariasis, for those who are interested in further safeguarding themselves. A lumpsum of ₹10,000 against these conditions will help the customer to not only take care of hospitalisation expenses but also work leave losses. Such proposition would soon be available on the MobiKwik platform at a nominal premi-

um of ₹49. Further, customers will also get an accidental death cover for ₹1 lakh as an additional security.

Cancer being one of the most dreaded diseases with over 1 million patients getting registered every year, the battle against cancer has a severe financial drain which leads to families of patients to borrow from friends or family or even sell their assets. To provide solution to these challenges, Max Bupa will be offering a fixed benefit cancer plan for MobiKwik's customers which would provide the required protection to the customers and support them in such tough times, with a lumpsum payout to not just take care of their medical expenses but also support the financial needs of their family.

Upasana Taku, co-founder, said, "Our mission is to build affordable and accessible financial services for billions. Bharat needs a truly disruptive approach to ensure health cover is available to every citizen at a low premium, with instant issuance and without fear of medical exams and piles of paperwork. A single hospital stay without any insurance cover becomes a long lasting financial burden on many lower and middle class families. We are committed to enabling our customers with smart insurance products that are affordable and simple to understand with lightning fast purchase experiences. With this partnership, we are bringing together the power of protection and digital to provide affordable health insurance to millions of Indian families."

Speaking on the announcement, Ashish Mehrotra, managing director and CEO, Max Bupa Health Insurance, said, "The customer is at the center of everything we do and it is our constant endeavour to design products and solutions that fulfill their growing requirements. Today's customers demand simple, affordable and digitally enabled on the go products which provide coverage for lifestyle illnesses as well as basic hospitalisation cover. In line with this, we foresee bite-sized insurance products driving the insurance sector in the near future, eventually bringing more and more new customers into the ambit of health insurance. We are enabling financial inclusion by making pocket size health insurance solutions available and plan to acquire one million MobiKwik customers over the next three to four years."

A spiritual practice

Lalit Kala Akademi, an institution for the promotion of art and culture organised "Yoga, Yantra and Tantra" on the occasion of International Yoga Day. Adesh Gupta, mayor, North Delhi, was the chief guest on this occasion. Dr Uttam Pacharne, chairman of the institute was also present.

Welcoming chief guest and participants, Dr Pacharne mentioned about his recent visit to Poland and shared his experience of the popularity of yoga among people over there. He said, "NRI as well as local people were excited and proud of the yoga tradition of India. Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done commendable efforts in establishing the identity of yoga internationally."

Adesh said, "Yoga as a spiritual practice originated in the ancient Indian civilisation and to keep hold of it, the great *yogis* and *rishis*, sages have been the highest role models and have recommended this practice since millennia. Likewise, Swami Ramdev, Shri Shri Ravi Shankar have taken the repertoire of yoga to new heights. The framework of yoga provides one guidance as to how to gain mastery over the mind and on spiritual growth. We can practice yoga anytime of the day not necessarily in morning."



Ramkrishna Vedala, secretary, mentioned the contribution of yoga guru BKS Ayyangar and gave vote of thanks to the chief guest, artists and participants.

After the inaugural address, the chairman along with staff, artists and art lovers practiced yoga under guidance of yoga guru, Rahul Singh Chauhan and Rajat Sharma from Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga.

This event's highlight was an art demonstration segment on 'yoga, yantra and tantra' followed by five senior artists. Eight college students also worked in sync with senior artists. Practitioners of these arts spoke on this connection through their own experience.

A children workshop also illuminated the event wherein 20 children made pictures and paintings. Colour kits and gifts were also distributed among children.



On the occasion of Sant Kabir Jayanti, the founder of Swami Vivekananda Subharti University, Dr Atul Krishna Baugh was awarded as Eminent professor by Bhartiya Dalit Sahitya Academy. GR Banjara, provincial head, said that Atul has been felicitated with this award because of his selfless contribution to the field of education and social service. "A personality like him has always tried to unite people and curb the caste system," said Dr Champal Mandrele.



SCOPE organised a meeting of its think tank on Wednesday to deliberate on the PSU Economic Summit and its consultancy wing. Rakesh Kumar, chairman and CMD, NLC India Ltd, professor NR Bhanumurthy of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy and Dr UD Choubey, director general addressed the meeting. Among others, CMD and directors and senior management executives of public sector enterprises were also present.



NHPC Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Power for the year 2019-20. The memorandum was signed by Ajay Kumar Bhatta, secretary, Ministry of Power and Balraj Joshi, chairman and managing director, NHPC. As per the MoU, the generation target has been set as 26,000 MU as compared to the last year's target of 25,400 MU. Targets for revenue from operations has been kept as ₹8,200 crore. Furthermore, targets regarding plant availability factor, trade receivables and reduction in claims against the company not acknowledged as debt, etc., have also been included in the MoU.



The SSB Wives Welfare Association (SWWA), Sandiksha organised and celebrated the 5th International Yoga Day. The event was addressed by the president Seema Prasad, who laid down the importance of practice of yoga and its role in promoting a healthy lifestyle. The programme was also attended by other dignitaries including its secretary Ameta Negi, treasurer Vinita Upreti, Smita Agarwal, Rita Misra and Swarna Sajwan.

The department of Women and Child Development celebrated the International Day against Drug Abuse and illicit trafficking by participating in "The Run" organised at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Wednesday. This annual event to raise awareness amongst the masses is being organised since the last 16 years. All the stakeholders including Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, National Institute of Social Defense (NISD), Narcotics Control Bureau, Directorate of Prohibition, UN Agencies and corporate partners like ONGC, GAIL, Indian Oil, IGL, Petronet, NDMC, ITS, LPU put their efforts to involve the masses, especially the youth in sports and physical activities to keep children and youth away from drugs and channelise their energy into positive mode.

The morning routine included the one kilometre race, thematic cultural show, theme poster making, *Shapath* by all 5,000 participants.

The Union Minister of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawar Chand Gehlot, assured the gathering that his ministry has framed a national action plan to educate the public and pro-

LISTEN FIRST



viding them counselling and management of drug-related problems.

This year's theme 'Listen First' is an initiative started in 2016 to increase support for prevention of drug use that is based on science and is thus an effective investment in the well-being of children and youth, their families and their communities. Speaking on the occasion, SB Shashank, director of department of Women and Child Development, mentioned that the department is

coordinating with all the stakeholders such as health and education, Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences, Delhi Police, Delhi State AIDS control society, etc., to combat drug abuse. For the past 16 years, the campaign has seen more than 1,00,000 participants or families.

All the activities were planned keeping the drug abuse preventive measures in the focus and educating the youth to stay away from the drugs.

Tailik Sahu Mahasabha felicitates its ministers

The Delhi Chapter of Akhil Bhartiya Tailik Sahu Mahasabha organised a felicitation ceremony for elected around 100 MPs, ministers and MLAs of the community at MP Club, North Avenue.

Gauri Shankar Sahu, president, said that the efforts will be made for the welfare and

betterment of this community through the help of dignitaries. A bhavan for this organisation will be set up to further facilitate it.

Surendra Prasad, convenor, informed that the membership drive has been initiated to strengthen the organisation further.

NMDC, in association with Chhattisgarh government, runs an education initiative named *Choo Lo Asman* to support the students of Bastar region of Chhattisgarh for preparing them academically to pursue higher studies in different disciplines like engineering and medical courses.

To encourage the candidates in the entrance examinations like IIT-JEE and AIIMS, NMDC has started a scheme for sponsoring their education

Nurturing talents

with an amount of ₹5 lakh per student. The amount will be provided to the students during the entire course in equal annual installments. For the present year, it is going to sponsor four students of Bastar, who have cleared JEE, advance entrance recently. These students are — Santhuram Kunjam, Kiran Baghel, Harish Baghel, Ved Prakash Som.

NMDC has always been in

the forefront to improve educational facilities under various educational schemes such as establishment of education city, Siksha Sahyog Yojana, Balika Siksha Yojana, Mid-Day meal scheme etc.

NMDC's focus areas under CSR activities are education, health and sanitation, infrastructure, integrated village development, skill development for gainful employment.

Northern Railway organises beneficiary identification and awareness drive

National Health Agency in collaboration with Northern Railway was organised a 'beneficiary identification and awareness drive' was organised at New Delhi Railway Station, Old Delhi railway station, Anand Vihar railway station and Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station. A single day drive was launched in the presence of member staff.

Among members from



more than 1,100 contractual staff, SN Agrawal, director general (Railway Health Services), Dr Pradeep Kumar, assistant general manager, Archana Joshi, chief medical director, Dr Vinay Kumar, divisional railway manager, SC Jain and other officials from Northern Railway, along with Dr Indu Bhushan, CEO, National Health Agency, also attended the event.

Seven railway hospitals have been empanelled for implementation of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. The union government has launched this programme to provide a cover of ₹5 lakh per family annually for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation and cashless access to healthcare services at the point of service to eligible individuals.

Conflict won't last long: Donald Trump

REUTERS ■ WASHINGTON/GENEVA

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday he was "not talking boots on the ground" should military action be necessary against Iran, and said any conflict would not last long.

Asked if a war was brewing, Trump told Fox Business Network: "I hope we don't but we're in a very strong position if something should happen." "I'm not talking boots on the ground," Trump said. "I'm just saying if something would happen, it wouldn't last very long."

The comments come just days after Trump canceled air strikes minutes before impact, with allies warning that the increase in tensions since the United States pulled out of a nuclear pact with Iran last year could accidentally lead to war.

Iran suggested it was just one day from breaching a threshold in the agreement that limited its stockpile of uranium, a move that would put pressure on European countries that have tried to remain neutral to pick sides.

The fate of the 2015



File photo

nuclear deal, under which Iran agreed to curbs on its nuclear program in return for access to international trade, has been at the heart of the dispute which has escalated and taken on a military dimension in recent weeks.

Washington sharply tightened sanctions last month, aiming to bar all international sales of Iranian oil. It accuses Iran of being behind bomb attacks on ships in the Gulf, which it denies.

Last week, Iran shot down a U.S. drone it said was in its airspace, which Washington

denied. Trump ordered retaliatory air strikes but called them off at the last minute, later saying too many people would have died.

Although the United States and Iran both say they do not want war, last week's aborted U.S. strikes have been followed by menacing rhetoric on both sides. On Tuesday Trump threatened the "obliteration" of parts of Iran if it struck U.S. interests. President Hassan Rouhani, who normally presents Tehran's mild-mannered face, called White House policy "mentally retarded."

Iran unbowed by US insults: supreme leader Khamenei

AFF ■ TEHRAN

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday that his country remains unbowed by pressure exerted by the United States and its "insults" against the Islamic republic.

"The Iranian nation seeks dignity, independence and progress; that's why pressures by cruel enemies do not affect Iranians," Khamenei said in a speech to a crowd in Tehran. "The graceful Iranian nation has been accused and insulted by the world's most vicious regime, the US, which is a source of wars, conflicts and plunder," he said, quoted by his office. "The Iranian nation won't give up over such insults," said Khamenei.

Tehran and Washington have engaged in an escalating war of words following Iran's shooting down of a US drone last week. Pressure mounted this week with US President Donald Trump announcing sanctions on Khamenei and other top Iranian officials.

The new measures are the latest against Tehran since Trump last year pulled out of a landmark nuclear accord between Iran and world powers.

Won't surrender to US-led sanctions, says North Korea

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea said Wednesday it won't surrender to US-led sanctions and accused Washington of trying to "bring us to our knees."

The statement is yet another reminder that North Korea keeps mistrust of the US. Though its leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump recently exchanged letters.

Their second summit in Hanoi in February ended without an agreement due to disputes over the extent of sanctions relief North Korea should win in return for a limited denuclearization step.

The North's Foreign Ministry said it "will not hesitate to pull a muscle-flexing trigger in order to defend ourselves" if anyone dares to trample over its sovereignty.

It accused the U.S. Of



File photo

maintaining hostility toward North Korea. It cited recent U.S. Reports on alleged human trafficking and religious crackdowns in North Korea, and comments by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo that some 80-plus percent of the North Korean economy is sanctioned.

Pompeo "let loose a sophistry as if the sanctions are rendering the bilateral talks possible," said the statement, carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

The statement said all these developments show the "wild dream of the U.S. To bring us to our knees by means of sanctions and pressure has not changed at all but grows even more undisguised."

Lebanese town bans Muslims from buying, renting property

AP ■ BEIRUT

Mohammed Awwad and his fiancée, both Muslims, recently found an affordable apartment for rent online in a town in Lebanon, southeast of Beirut.

The 27-year-old journalist called the number and asked the owner when they could drop by to take a look.

He was stunned by her response: Muslims are not allowed to settle in the town, she said.

The apartment owner apologised to Awwad, saying she wouldn't mind renting to people of any sect but officials in the town of Hadat issued orders years ago that only Christians be allowed to buy and rent property from the town's Christian residents.

Iran 'never seeks war' with US: Rouhani

AFF ■ TEHRAN

President Hassan Rouhani said Iran "never seeks war" with the US, state media reported Wednesday amid a spike in tensions between the two countries.

"Iran has no interest to increase tension in the region and it never seeks war with any country, including (the) US,"

the president said, quoted by state news agency IRNA.

Rouhani was speaking by phone to his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron, as Tehran and Washington engaged in an escalating war of words following Iran shooting down a US drone last week.

"We have always been committed to regional peace and stability and will make

efforts in this respect," the Iranian president told Macron.

US President Donald Trump said he pulled back from retaliatory strikes on Iran at the last minute, rejecting Tehran's claim that the aircraft was in its airspace.

But pressure mounted this week with Trump announcing sanctions on Iran's supreme leader and top officials.

The new measures are the latest against Tehran since Trump pulled out of a landmark nuclear accord between Iran and world powers.

Rouhani blamed the United States for regional tensions Wednesday and said if Washington had stuck to the deal "we would have witnessed positive developments in the region."

Robert Mueller to testify publicly on Russia probe

AFF ■ WASHINGTON

Former US special counsel Robert Mueller is to testify in public about his report into Russian electoral interference, paving the way for a historic television moment in which Democrats will attempt to make the case for President Donald Trump's impeachment before the American people.

The scrupulously tight-lipped Mueller will appear at back-to-back hearings on July 17 of the House Judiciary and Intelligence Committees, which announced Tuesday that the prosecutor had agreed to abide by subpoenas for his testimony. "Russia attacked our democracy to help Trump win. Trump welcomed and used that



help," House Intelligence Committee chairman Adam Schiff said on Twitter.

"As Mueller said, that should concern every American. And now, every American will get to hear directly from Mueller."

Trump's apparent response to the announcement came swiftly in a two-word tweet in

which he complained, without referring to Mueller, of "Presidential Harassment!" The Mueller report released in April outlined numerous contacts between Trump's 2016 election campaign and government-linked Russians, as well as evidence that the president tried on several occasions to stymie the investigation.

The Democrats have been split on whether to launch impeachment proceedings against the Republican president but -- fearing that much of the country is unaware of the Mueller reports contents -- have been asking major figures in the probe to testify in public on its findings.

But the president has asserted executive privilege to bar current and former aides from cooperating with several congressional investigations into his conduct.

Making his only public statement about the high-stakes probe on May 29, Mueller said longstanding Justice Department guidelines prevented him from charging Trump, despite at least 10 possible acts of criminal obstruction by the president.

But not indicting Trump was not equivalent to clearing him, Mueller said, suggesting Congress has both the constitutional powers and the responsibility to pursue the case.

Mueller's testimony comes with both parties focused squarely on next year's presidential election.

WESTERN RAILWAY
VARIOUS WORKS
Sr. No. 01. Tender Notice No. & Date: BCT/19-20/162 dt. 20.06.2019. Work and location: Udhna-Jalgaon section: Ukai Songhad Depot. Supply of 50 mm size M/Crushed stone ballast in connection with track works on Udhna-Jalgaon section. (Qty: 10214 Cum). Approx. cost of work: ₹ 4,71,20,046.64. EMD: ₹ 3,85,600/-
Sr. No. 02. Tender Notice No. & Date: BCT/19-20/163 dt. 20.06.2019. Work and location: Udhna-Jalgaon section: Paldi Depot. Supply of 50 mm size M/Crushed stone ballast in connection with track works on Udhna-Jalgaon section. (Qty: 72643 Cum). Approx. cost of work: ₹ 5,11,87,889.95. EMD: ₹ 4,05,900/-
Date & Time of submission of both tenders: On 18.07.2019 at 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening of both tenders: On 18.07.2019 at 15.30 hrs. Regarding detailed tender condition please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered.

WESTERN RAILWAY
VARIOUS WORK OF SIDE DRAIN
Executive: DEN/Central/BCT. Tender No: BCT/19-20/167 dt. 25.06.2019. Work and location: Udhna-Jalgaon section. (i) USD:- Providing side drain at North side of track at Km USD/2021-2023 and Km GEB/09 to Ukai GEB gate in USD yard under ADEN-Vyara section. (ii) Providing side drain and central drain at Km 3/14 to 4/02 and 36/30 to 37/4 under ADEN-Vyara section (iii) Providing central drain UP & DN Main Line at Km 49-50 at LOTARVA yard under ADEN-Vyara section (iv) Providing side drain at North side of track near DN Main line at Km 58/6 to 58/22 under ADEN-Vyara (v) Repairs to existing side drain and central drain at Km 119/16 to 120/10 and 122/12 to 122/20 under ADEN-Vyara section. (vi) Repairs to side drain and central at Km 136/2 to 136/30 and 141/22 to 142/22 under ADEN-Vyara section. Approx cost of work: Rs. 6,53,93,193.48/- EMD: Rs. 4,76,500/-
Date & Time of submission: 22.07.2019 at 15.00hrs. Date & Time of opening: 22.07.2019 at 15.30hrs. For Detailed tender conditions, Please visit www.ireps.gov.in

POLICE HEADQUARTERS J&K SRINAGAR
Phone/Fax No.: 0194-2443031/2443032 (Sgr), 0191-2459029/2459255 (JMU) Website : www.jkpolice.gov.in, E-mail : phqjk@nic.in
Extension Notice
Due to administrative reasons, the last date for submission of on-line bids & opening of Technical bids against NIT No: 24 of 2019 dated 11.05.2019 floated by this Hqrs for the installation of Inventory Management System is re-scheduled as under:-
1. Last date of receipt of tenders = 04.07.2019 up to 1800 hours.
2. Date of opening of technical bids = 06.07.2019 at 1100 hours.
The other terms and conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.
Sd/- Mubassir Latifi (JKPS) AIG (Provision & Transport),
For Director General of Police, J&K-Srinagar

DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS SRINAGAR
Balgarden, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir 190010
E-mail: dpsrinagar@jkpolice.gov.in, Tele: 2455047, Fax: 2453897
Subject: Corrigendum
In reference to e-NIT No. 7485 of 2019 dated 17.06.2019 issued under endstt. No. GB/ eTender-2019/7486-92 dated 17.06.2019 regarding procurement of goods. The bid submission closing and opening dates are amended as per the request from various bidders and new schedules of dates is as under:
1. Date of re-publishing of e-NIT :- 25.06.2019
2. Period of downloading of e-tender documents :- 07 days
3. Tender submission start date :- 25.06.2019
4. Tender submission end date :- 01.07.2019
5. Date of opening of Tenders :- 02.07.2019
Other contents of the tender shall remain unchanged.
No: DPK-NB-1404/19
Dated: 26.06.2019
Sd/- [Dr. Muhammad Haseeb Mughal-JKPS]
Senior Superintendent of Police, District Srinagar

Ex-Hong Kong leader Tsang cleared of misconduct conviction

AFF ■ HONG KONG

Former Hong Kong leader Donald Tsang saw his misconduct conviction quashed by the city's top court on Wednesday, the final twist to one of the financial hub's most high-profile corruption cases.

Tsang was jailed in 2017 after being found guilty of failing to disclose his plans to lease a luxury flat from a major

investor in a broadcaster, which was later granted a licence from the government while he was leader. The 74-year-old, who held the leadership post of chief executive for seven years from 2005, was the most senior city official ever to be convicted in a criminal trial and the highest-ranking one to be put behind bars. But on Wednesday he was exonerated by the Court of Final Appeal which quashed his mis-

conduct in public office conviction, ending a seven-year legal ordeal. Tsang, who was released from jail in January on health grounds, was not present in court for Wednesday's verdict.

The unanimous decision overturned two lower court rulings which found that his failure to make a declaration of interest over the flat deserved steep punishment because of the high office he held. The acquittal revolved around improper directions given by the trial judge to the jury over the misconduct charge, given jurors had cleared Tsang of a more serious bribery offence.

Merkel ready to compromise on EU Commission chief

AFF ■ BERLIN

German Chancellor Angela Merkel admitted on Wednesday that she might have to drop her choice for the next leader of the European Commission in a spirit of compromise.

Reporting to the German parliament on a failed effort last week to name a new top team to reform the bloc in the coming years, Merkel said a fresh summit on Sunday could again prove fractious. "Only those put forward by the European Council for the election of the European Commission president can stand and I don't decide on this recommendation alone," she said.

Protesters urge discussion of Hong Kong issues at G-20

AP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong activists opposed to contentious extradition legislation on Wednesday called on leaders of the US, the European Union and others to raise the issue with Chinese President Xi Jinping at this week's G-20 summit in Japan.

Beijing has strongly opposed such a development, saying Hong Kong matters are strictly an internal Chinese affair. Groups of protesters gathered outside the U.S. and EU consulates Wednesday morning to deliver petitions stating their requests.

A spokesman said changes to the Chinese territory's legislation could expose citizens of all nationalities to being extradited to China for unfair trials and possible torture, reducing Hong

Kong's judicial independence and the civil liberties it retained after the handover from British rule in 1997.

Activists planned to present petitions at 19 consulates in total and planned further protest actions for Wednesday evening following an expected vote of no-confidence in the local legislature on the administration of Hong Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam. Government supporters have a solid majority in the assembly and the measure is not expected to pass.

Lam's push to pass the extradition bills has prompted hundreds of thousands of people to fill Hong Kong's streets in protest marches, while smaller groups have surrounded government offices, the legislature and police headquarters.



Protesters gather near the US Consulate as they stage a protest in Hong Kong on Wednesday

COLLEGE OF ART
GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
(Affiliated to University of Delhi)
20-22, TILAK MARG, NEW DELHI-110 001
Phone Nos.: 23383612, 23387485, 23387571
Website: <http://colart.delhi.govt.nic.in>
E-Mail: proca.delhi@nic.in

Corrigendum
This is with reference to release of Admission Notice/ Advertisement dated 02 June 2019, published in various newspapers and uploaded Admission prospectus data of BFA and MFA on college website.
It is informed to all applicants that due to the implementation of 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) vide order No. F. DHEI (119) East/2018-19/2549-76 dated 17.06.2019, issued by the competent authority, the revised seat matrix of BFA & MFA Intake Capacity for Admission 2019-20 is uploaded and applicants may visit or download for their reference from the college website "<http://colart.delhi.govt.nic.in>".
Hence, the following schedule may please be noted by all applicants.
1. Admission in EWS (Economically Weaker Section) category in MFA (Master of Fine Arts): The date for submission of Application Form by hand has been extended upto Wednesday, 10 July, 2019 4.00pm and by Registered/Speed Post/Courier on or before Thursday, 11 July, 2019 4.00pm, only for applicants belonging to EWS category. Eligibility list of EWS category will be displayed on Friday, 12 July, 2019 4.00pm.
NOTE: There is NO CHANGE in Dates of final Interview/Viva for all streams of MFA. Admission will be held as per schedule, as mentioned earlier.
2. Admission in EWS (Economically Weaker Section) category in BFA (Bachelor of Fine Arts): Application form for BFA along with requisite fees, supporting documents, duly completed, should be submitted by hand, from Wednesday, 10 July, 2019 4.00pm to Wednesday, 24 July, 2019 4.00pm and by Registered/Speed Post/Courier on or before, Friday 26 July, 2019 4.00pm, only for applicants belonging to EWS category. Eligibility list of EWS will be displayed on Tuesday, 30 July, 2019 4.00pm.
NOTE: Entrance Test for applicants of EWS category will be held on Sunday, 04 August, 2019. Result of EWS category will be declared and uploaded on college website on Tuesday, 13 August, 2019 4.00pm.
The Applicants are advised to check the college website for all details. No separate intimation/letters will be sent for the above purpose. Ikd.
Sd/-
(Prof. B.S. Chaudhary)
Officiating Principal
D/P/Shabdarth/028119-20

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, & Fax- 0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR20015SG025866
CORRIGENDUM
The Model-2017 or later shall be read in place of model-2018 or later for Non AC Jeep to be hired vide tender notice reference no. 02/EE(M&G)/DKN/2019-20 invited by Executive Engineer (M&G), Dhakrani.
Other terms & conditions shall remain the same. For eligibility criteria and full & further details please visit our website www.ujvn.com
322 322 322 322 322 322
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

UJVN Limited
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808 & Fax-0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR20015SG025866
Short term e-Tender Notice
Office of the Executive Engineer (M&G), Kulhai Power Station invites online bids from interested parties for following work:-
Tender No.: e-04/EE(M&G)/KPS/ 2019-20 :- Hiring of one no. (35 seater) School Bus Model 2017 or later for two years on contract basis for school going children.
Estimated cost : ₹ 26,40,677/- (GST Extra) only
Earnest money deposit : ₹ 53,000/-
Tender Fee : ₹ 2360/- only
Date of availability of bid : 27-06-2019, 17:00 hrs.
on website
Last date for submission of bid : 11-07-2019 up to 17:00 hrs.
on website
Last date of submission of bid : 12-07-2019 up to 12:00 hrs.
hard copy
Date of opening of bid on website : 12-07-2019, 12:30 hrs
For downloading tender documents and other details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "<https://ukntenders.gov.in>"
322 322 322 322 322 322
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

WESTERN RAILWAY
VARIOUS TYPE OF WORK
E-Tender No: BFG-43-6-2(SS)-Tele-WA/R/ dt. 24.06.2019. Executive: Sr. DSTE/Co./ ECT Name of Work: Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Video Surveillance system in connection with implementation of Integrated Security system (ISS) on Mumbai Suburban Section of Mumbai Division, Western Railway. Approx cost of work: Rs. 36,59,70,329/-. Particular office where E-tender open: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer (South), 2nd Floor, DRM's Office, Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400008. EMD: Rs. 19,79,900/-. Time & Date for Pre Bid conference: 09.07.2019 up to 15.00 hrs. Date of opening & time: 17.07.2019 at 15.30 hrs. Regarding detailed tender conditions, please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered.
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

WESTERN RAILWAY
Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400 008 invites E-tender as per details given as follows.

Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	Work and Location	Approx. Cost of Work in Rs.	EMD in Rs.
1.	BCT/19-20/170 dt. 25.06.2019	Bhayander - Virar Section: Annual Maintenance of drainage system (Sewerage & Storm water) of new colony at Bhayander, Vasai Road, Nallasopara, Virar & relay room, running room, substation etc. under the jurisdiction of SSE(W)BVI for a period of 02 years.	17,70,384.00/-	35,400.00/-
2.	BCT/19-20/171 dt. 25.06.2019	Rehabilitation of Dadar Rly colony-Type-II (54-units), Type (IV) (2-units), Type III (1-units) along with Road, Drainage line, Toilets, Garden, Boundary wall and Providing Dy.CE (Bridge) office, yard master office, store and signal cabin-social welfare centre, underground tank, overhead tank and pump room at Dadar Colony, in connection with Rehabilitation of western railway south colony in connection with relocation of infringing structure and proposed new STR in connection with 5th and 6th line at Dadar station.	16,74,64,482.77/-	9,87,300/-

Date & Time of Submission : Sr. No. 1: 23.07.2019 at 15.00 hrs., Sr. No. 2: 31.07.2019 at 15.00 hrs., Date & Time of Opening of tender: Sr. No. 1: 23.07.2019 at 15.30 hrs., Sr. No. 2: 31.07.2019 at 15.30 hrs.,
NOTE: Please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details.
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly



naabaste ENGLAND

MAHMUDULLAH HAS SUSTAINED A LOW GRADE CALF INJURY. WE WILL MONITOR HIS PROGRESS OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS WITH REGARDS TO HIS AVAILABILITY FOR THE NEXT WORLD CUP MATCH
—THIHAN CHANDRAMOHAN

CRICKETCRADLE

TODAY LIVE
STAR SPORTS

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



Mohammad Amir's fan holds a poster to show her love and support for the Pakistani bowler during Pakistan-New Zealand game at Edgbaston in Birmingham on Wednesday
—ICCTwitter

Ganguly supports MS

Former Indian skipper Sourav Ganguly has come in support of veteran wicketkeeper-batsman MS Dhoni who had to face criticism for his slow knock against Afghanistan in India's World Cup game in Southampton. However, Ganguly feels that his performance against Afghanistan was a one-off situation and he will prove that he is a great asset to the Indian team in the remaining matches of the tournament. "At the end of the day, MSD is a very good batsman and he will definitely prove that in this year's World Cup 2019 as well despite his sticky form against Afghanistan. It's just one match," Ganguly was quoted as saying by DNA.

Fit and fine

Brian Lara was on Wednesday discharged from a hospital here in Mumbai, declared "fit and fine" a day after he complained of chest pain. The 50-year old from Trinidad, considered one of the greatest batsmen to have played the game, was admitted to the Global Hospital in Parel after complaining of chest pain during a gym workout session. "He (Lara) has been discharged at 12:20 from the hospital," a source told PTI. "He is fit and fine," he added without divulging any further details. In a late evening message on Tuesday, Lara had allayed concerns over his health. "I may have just extended myself in the gym this morning. I was getting a pain in my chest and I just thought that it was best to see a doctor," he had said.

Remembering Malcolm

He arrived as a raw talent, became a world beater, made friends for life and suddenly left them with moistened eyes and a void that they have never been able to fill. That's Malcolm Marshall for you. He is forever embedded in the soul of Hampshire cricket and in the memory of those who saw him run in from the ridge at the Old Northlands Road ground. The imposing new stadium which is off city limits became operational in the early 2000 and probably doesn't give an idea what the 'Bajan' meant for the club for whom he took 1000 wickets in the Championship. "Malcolm and I were very close and it was wonderful. He was the best friend I had in cricket," said Mark Nicholas, now a renowned commentator and back then Marshall's captain at the Hampshire county. Nicholas sported an indulgent smile as he termed a young Marshall "splendidly naive". In a space of four to five years, he became the best fast bowler of his time with every skill in his armoury. "He began by bowling sort of awesomely fast with a whippy action. He then developed his skills. Once he had perfected the outswinger, he moved to perfect the inswinger. By about 1984-85, he had about everything - stamina, pace, control, movement, fantastic bowling brain." "He had deep knowledge, almost frenzied in his investigations for opposition players, he shared with us. He was the best ally that a captain could dream of. It's always good for a skipper if the fast bowler is on your side," Nicholas recalls. —Agencies

PRELIMINARY STAGE							
Pos	Team	P	W	L	N/R	Net RR	Pts
1	AUS(O)	7	6	1	0	+0.906	12
2	NZ	6	5	0	1	+1.306	11
3	IND	5	4	0	1	+0.809	9
4	ENG	7	4	3	0	+1.051	8
5	SL	6	2	2	2	-1.119	6
6	B'DESH	6	2	3	1	-0.407	5
7	PAK	6	2	3	1	-1.265	5
8	WI	6	1	4	1	+0.190	3
9	RSA	7	1	5	1	-0.324	3
10	AFG	6	0	6	0	-1.712	0

Self-belief meets self-doubt

Men in Blue look to cement semis berth as Windies play for pride

PNS ■ MANCHESTER

It will be, by and large, a for-the-record match at Manchester today with India bidding to cement their semi-final positioning and the West Indies trying to take one back home.

The Caribbeans have already lost a lot in the tournament besides defeats to Australia, England, Bangladesh and New Zealand on a trot, not to mention one wasted game against South Africa as rain called day.

They have 3 point from six games and have lost the fire power of big-hitter Andre Russell who is out of the tournament with a knee injury which they fervently hoped would heal; their prime striker Chris Gayle has been comparatively windless, unable to kick up a storm with his run-getting abilities and their outage from the Cup despite a brilliant warm-up run (they defeated New Zealand) has dented their morale and the famous Caribbean magic they are traditionally rated for.

India is in red hot form and unbeaten, having won all their outings, four so far if you discount the washed away match against New Zealand. Directly contravening this, the Windies have lost all they have played for so far since after thrashing Pakistan in their tournament opener and would be meeting India to proverbially play for pride or whatever is left of it in this competition.

In another manner of speaking, self-belief will meet self-doubt but since it is cricket, gloriously uncertain underdogs can emerge triumphant, a feat one almost saw in the clash against Afghanistan where the famed Indian batting line-up was stymied and the bigger team won only on a late burst by its pacers feeding on Afghan inexperience.

West Indies would be looking at that closely to draw some strength for themselves. Also, Chris Gayle is known to tear into the scene when there is nothing much to play for, so this one could be the one for the road back home for him and consequently the Windies.

Over the ifs and buts, over all the speculation, fact is that India have so far played professionally sound, convincing cricket, hiding their middle order niggles and the impactful loss of Shikhar Dhawan to injury on the arm of their bowlers.

Kohli's team work chant has been at play even though the talk of a struggling Mahendra Singh Dhoni, more so after the Afghanistan match, has found momentum, what with the great Sachin Tendulkar talking about his disappointment with the Dhoni-Jadhav partnership against Afghanistan on a talk show.



Bhuvneshwar Kumar, right, watches fellow bowler Mohammed Shami bowl during a training session ahead of India's World Cup match against West Indies at Old Trafford in Manchester
—AP



Rohit Sharma bats in the nets during a training session
—AP

HEAD TO HEAD

	Played	WI	Ind	Tied/NR
Matches	126	62	59	2/3
Day matches	93	53	37	-/3
In World Cup	8	3	5	-
Last 5 matches	5	1	3	1/-

HIGHEST TOTALS

India	418-5 in 50 overs at Indore	08-12-2011
West Indies	333-8 in 45 overs at Jamshedpur	07-12-1983

PERFORMANCE IN WC

Team	P	W	L	T	N/R	Success%
India	79	50	27	1	1	63.92
West Indies	77	42	33	-	2	55.84

FAISEL FEATURES

Bhuvi over Shami

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar on Wednesday picked pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar over fellow speedster Mohammed Shami, who took a sensational last over hat-trick against Afghanistan, when an unbeaten India take on West Indies in their World Cup game at Manchester today.

The Master Blaster picked 'Bhuvi', as pacer is commonly known, for his sheer ability to trouble swashbuckling West Indies batsman Chris Gayle.

"It's a great news for India that Bhuvneshwar Kumar is fit. I have seen his body language which showed that he is really confident," Tendulkar told Star Sports.

Kumar (29) had sustained an injury against Pakistan and missed the game against Afghanistan, which India won by 11 runs on June 22.

Shami (29), who was drafted in the team in place of Kumar, took a hat-trick in the 50th over of

Afghanistan's innings, becoming just the second Indian, after pacer Chetan Sharma, to achieve the feat in a World Cup match.

"For the upcoming match between India and West Indies, if I had to choose between Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Mohammed Shami, I would definitely pick Bhuvneshwar Kumar."

"The only reason being, Bhuvneshwar Kumar can bowl to Chris Gayle at the outer angle and that is what makes Chris Gayle uncomfortable."

"I still remember how uncomfortable Chris Gayle was when Bhuvneshwar Kumar was bowling at him in the last Test I played," added Tendulkar, who holds numerous records to his name.

The 46-year-old batting legend played his last of 200th Test, a world record, at Mumbai in 2013.

"I know it will be a little unfortunate for Mohammed Shami but I believe for this game, Bhuvneshwar Kumar should be picked," Tendulkar signed off.

Dhoni, who is playing his last World Cup, has not been among the runs right from the start. Trying to pace up the scoreboard, he went in a flash against Pakistan and failed to energise against South Africa and Australia earlier in the tournament. Dhoni being crucial for middle order momentum tends to come under quick scrutiny. He did not take the optional nets at Manchester on Wednesday.

Like its middle order performance, it is also crucial for India to win against the West Indies this Friday, to not just put a seal on their semi-final qualification, but more importantly get the spot they want in the knockout match on the basis of run-rate and number of wins.

Among the unbeaten teams, India figures alongside New Zealand, vying for the top slot in the semi-finals where the No 1 team plays No 4.

'All preped to face Carib challenge'

■ MANCHESTER

How do you look at this match to ensure a big score?

If you look at our first three games, we put up some really big scores. And Afghanistan match, the wicket was a little sticky; it was tricky to bat under those circumstances. But I think it's a question of adapting, understanding these conditions and adapting to that.

How will we prepare for bowling and prepare our batsmen for the left-arm fast bowlers in absence of our own, or even in the practise bowls?

We have Khalil with us as our net bowler. And also we have a throw-down specialist who is particularly a left-hander. So I think we have enough practise of the left-arm bowling as of now.

What about the evolution of Hardik Pandya? Kedar was not even used. What he has added to his arsenal as a bowler in ODI cricket?

Over a period time it was a big challenge for him to bowl those 10 overs, and he realised that to be able to bowl those 10 overs I need to develop a certain armory in my bowling. And that's what he's worked on. He's worked on his slow balls, his slow bounces also, and also he's worked on perfecting his bounces. So all these put together have given him the confidence to go through those 10 overs.

Does the fact that England lost yesterday take the pressure off you?

We're not thinking of those



Mohammed Shami, center, and Jasprit Bumrah, right, prepare to bowl as they stand with Indian bowling coach Bharat Arun during a training session
—AP

matches. We're looking ahead and looking at the matches that we're going to play. And we are absolutely focused on the next game.

Is that a matter of concern of the middle order kind of going into a shell?

Not really. I think according to the situation and the condition

of the wicket, we were able to successfully defend the total that we put up. And had we probably lost a wicket at that stage, then things would have turned out differently. So I don't think it's too much of a concern for us right now.

Does the head coach or the skipper or the coaching staff

support staff, the batting coach, the head coach — Ravi Shastri has a constant dialogue with all the coaches. I can't really get into the brass tacks of what we discuss, but yes if I have to answer your question, there is a constant dialogue for us to improve.

What's the message that you're giving your bowlers?

Here in the World Cup where every match we're playing a different team. For the bowlers to do well, they need to be aware of the batsmen's strength and their shortcomings. So I think what they really focus on, they have enough breaks between the games, and as you rightly said the workloads have also been managed. What they really work on is the mindset and the strength and weaknesses of the opponents.

Both fast bowlers and spin-

ners have done well. How have you managed the spinners and the fast bowlers simultaneously?

If you don the role of a coach, you should be adept with the skill of spin and fast bowling. It's about understanding both that gives you the best chance to manage them. As for the spinners, again, as I answered the earlier question, the more you're aware and the more you understand what you're capable of doing, these two factors would ensure that you have the best platform for you to perform.

How do you look at the West Indies batting challenge?

They're an outstanding side and they play real positive cricket. We are aware of the challenges that exist in this game. And I think our plans are pretty much in place and we are up for the challenge.

WI has the likes of Chris Gayle and Brathwaite. Do you have to change your approach at all against such a positive batting lineup?

Yes, of course. It's a big challenge for the bowlers too — especially when they come after you. But whenever batsmen come after you, if you're willing to look at it deeply, there is a chance for it — in it for the bowlers, and I think that's what the bowlers would be looking to do.

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Courtesy — © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2019

Jason Holder's Press conference on Page 2

nacoste ENGLAND

BUMRAH IS THE NUMBER ONE BOWLER IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW. HE'S A WORLD-CLASS BOWLER, PRODUCING IN ALL FORMATS
— CHRIS GAYLE

'I am there with greats'



Chris Gayle bats in the nets during a training session ahead of their match against India at Old Trafford in Manchester

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Chris Gayle's swagger is unmatched and the 'Universe Boss' shows no modesty or pretension when asked where he sees himself among the pantheons of greats in West Indies cricket.

"I'm definitely up there with the greats without a doubt," Gayle, who came for an interaction after a request from the travelling Indian media contingent, answered it in two straight sentences.

Gayle, who was supposed to retire after the World Cup, has reversed his original decision and will hang his boots after playing a home series against India, a country where he enjoys manic fan following.

"Like I say, I enjoy each and every moment of West Indies, playing for West Indies. Like I said, it's still not the end. I still have a few games to go. Maybe another series to go who knows we'll see what happens," said the soon-to-be 40 Jamaican.

Gayle has had a roller-coaster ride in the last two decades for West Indies cricket when the performance of the assortment of islands reached an all-time nadir.

"But like I say, it's been a lot of ups and downs. I have got to say I really enjoy each and every moment. But we share some quality moments with some quality players as well," he said when asked to reflect back on his career in which he has scored more than 18,000 international runs.

He took a trip down the memory lane having started way back in 1999.

"I started my career with the likes of Courtney Walsh, Curtly Ambrose, you watch them on TV and you realise they're in the dressing room, it's just a bunch of guys. And Brian Lara, the first captain as well, Carl Hooper. So it's some quality moments when you look back on it," he fondly recollected.

"I'll have to analyse it and give you full details, a better exclusive interview on that

It's not the end

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Dashing West Indies batsman Chris Gayle will retire from international cricket after the home ODI and Test series against India scheduled in August-September, revising his earlier plan to call it quits after the ongoing World Cup.

Among the high profile players in the last two decades, Gayle will follow the footsteps of Steve Waugh (2004) and Jacques Kallis (2013), who announced their international retirement after playing against India.

It is expected that Gayle will play his final international game, a Test against India, at his home ground Kingston in Jamaica starting August 30.

The 39-year-old had last month stated that he would retire after the World

Cup but speaking to the media on the eve of the game against India here, the left-hander said he has had a change of mind.

"It's still not the end. I still have a few games to go. May be another series to go, as well. Who knows, we will see what happens," Gayle said when asked about his career which was supposed to end after the World Cup.

When he was asked a specific questions on his plans post World Cup, he did spill the beans.

"My plans after World Cup? I may play a Test match against India and then I will definitely play the ODIs against India. I won't play the T20s for sure. That's my plan after the World Cup," Gayle said.

West Indies media manager Philip Spooner later confirmed that the assignment against India

will be Gayle's last in national colours.

"Yes, Chris will play his last series against India," Spooner said.

It has been learnt that Gayle's participation in the India series was necessary keeping the commercial aspects in mind as it is scheduled right after the World Cup.

Also a Test match in Jamaica and good friend and former IPL teammate Virat Kohli in the opposition ranks will be seen as a fitting farewell for cricket's greatest modern day entertainers.

India's tour of West Indies comprises three T20 Internationals, three ODIs followed by a couple of Test matches.

There will be two T20 games in Florida on August 3 and 4, followed by a third in Guyana.

GAYLE, WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO RETIRE AFTER THE WORLD CUP, HAS REVERSED HIS ORIGINAL DECISION AND WILL HANG HIS BOOTS AFTER PLAYING A HOME SERIES AGAINST INDIA, A COUNTRY WHERE HE ENJOYS MANIC FAN FOLLOWING

particular moment, and then you can take it further," he laughed.

"But like I said I could not have had a better career as a player representing the West Indies," he added.

Call it irony, his limited overs jersey number is 333, which again is his highest Test score. The two triple centuries were absolute highs along with a double hundred in the 2015 ODI World Cup.

"Two triple centuries in Test cricket. Those two will definitely be on top. A double century in the World Cup as well. But there's a lot more to actually talk about. But if I get into detail it will be a long list, to be honest with you. But I'll stick with those for now," Gayle said.

As he prepares to bid adieu in the next couple of months, Gayle finds Nicholas Pooran as a "savage youngster" who could potentially be a 'mini Universe Boss'.

"Mini-universe boss, that's a serious name. Nicholas Pooran is going to

be a savage youngster, trust me on that one. I must commend Pooran's work ethic. It's fantastic for a youngster to actually just come into the team. And he's going to be a world record breaker," he didn't say but declared.

He sees a future leader in Shai Hope.

"And Shai Hope as well. Definitely, he will have a big part to play in West Indies cricket. He's a guy who actually may be a future captain as well."

Gayle is confident that with the likes of Pooran, Hope and Shimron Hetmyer in the ranks, the future is bright for West Indies.

"Definitely, the future is bright for West Indies cricket, without a doubt. The likes of Nicholas Pooran and Hetmyer, his name has been calling in all forms of the game so far, for these guys to actually believe and build on start. Trust me, it will be much, much better for them within their career going forward," said Gayle.

Time to fight

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

West Indies captain Jason Holder says he is proud of his players but wants them to put everything together in a "perfect" World Cup performance against India.

The two-time champions opened their campaign with a convincing victory against Pakistan but have not won since and, barring an unlikely sequence of results, will be heading home after the group phase.

Batsmen Shai Hope, Shimron

Hetmyer, Nicholas Pooran and Carlos Brathwaite have shown glimpses of what they can offer but have failed to win games for the team.

Brathwaite hit his maiden one-day international century in West Indies' ultimately fruitless chase of a target of 292 against New Zealand on Saturday.

Holder urged his team to show fight on Thursday against Virat Kohli's unbeaten side, who look certain to reach the semi-finals.

"We've shown glimpses here and there of what we can produce. And as a



West Indies' captain Jason Holder, center, and teammates attend a training session

side we just haven't brought it together collectively more often than not," Holder said at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

"And it hurt us in games before. So tomorrow (Thursday) is another opportunity for us to bring it all together and play a perfect game."

The West Indies' World Cup hopes were hit by injuries to Evin Lewis and Andre Russell, who has been replaced by Sunil Ambris in the squad, but Holder said the batsmen should step up despite the problems.

"Injuries have definitely plagued us. But I've been proud of them so far. I think for them it's just a matter for them to grasp batting on the international circuit," said Holder.

"And I think Shai has done a reasonable job so far. Hety (Hetmyer) has shown

glimpses of brilliance, as well as Nicholas. It's up to them to take it deeper. They've got to be the rock and soul for our team.

"And they've got to set up games and learn to close them out. And a guy who has done that over the tournament is (New Zealand captain) Kane Williamson."

West Indies are languishing in eighth spot in the 10-team table with just three points as the group stage nears its conclusion.

"In terms of the squad, I think everybody's upbeat for the occasion. Playing India is always a big game for West Indies, and we're looking forward to it," said Holder.

"First we need to finish the campaign as best as we can. And our objective is to win all three games."

Shakib's game out of this world

TIGERTALK



By **ABDUR RAZZAK**
Bangladesh spinner

It's amazing what Shakib Al Hasan is doing, it's just unbelievable batting.

Shakib has improved a lot because he was dropped in the Indian Premier League and had to practise really hard.

Importantly, he knew what needed to improve — and he did it.

As well as being a fantastic all-rounder, Shakib also has the potential to be one of the best batsmen in the world.

When he started, he was a batting all-rounder, but after that he steadily started to improve his bowling as well.

His partnership with Mushfiqur Rahim has been particularly strong in this ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

A good understanding is really important when building partnerships, and they've been playing for

such a long time together that they now know each other inside-out.

Both are fighters, mentally strong and also smart cricketers too. It's a partnership that works well.

It was obviously a wonderful performance by the team against Afghanistan, but especially Shakib.

The boys want to play in the semi-finals and to do that there is no other option than to win games like this.

Watching the game, and indeed other matches in the competition, it's clear to see some similarities between this Afghanistan team and Bangladesh when they were starting out.

Like us, their strong point is spin, while the level of performance is also similar to Bangladesh from the past.

Everyone was saying before the game that Afghanistan had superior



Shakib Al Hasan celebrates with Liton Das after completing his five-wicket haul

SHAKIB HAS IMPROVED A LOT BECAUSE HE WAS DROPPED IN THE INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE AND HAD TO PRACTISE REALLY HARD. HE KNEW WHAT NEEDED TO IMPROVE - AND HE DID IT

bowlers to us, but I didn't particularly agree.

In truth, I was expecting a performance like this from the Bangladeshi spinners. Everyone knows that if the pitch is turning, Shakib and Mehidy are dangerous, and so it proved.

Bangladesh play Asian rivals India and Pakistan next, but I have to say no cricketer thinks about facing their neighbours in any different way to normal; they're just another opponent.

India have been a very good in the World Cup so far and came into the competition as one of the favourites.

Everyone is talking about them, but that creates an opportunity for our players. I'm sure they'll be up for the challenge.

Bangladesh can definitely take some lessons from Afghanistan's performance against India where

they ran them close, but everyone has different ways of playing.

On that day, Afghanistan's bowling and fielding was amazing, but if we bat well and focus on our strengths, we can do well too.

It depends on the wicket and the situation on the day but you have to play what is in front of you.

India's batting line-up is so strong that Bangladesh will have to be at their very best with the ball if they want to stand a chance of winning.

That said, I believe they can do it.

The team is playing really well at this moment. I still think that it will be very difficult to qualify for the semi-finals, but they've created a great chance for themselves.



naabaste ENGLAND



I'M LOVING BATTING AT THE MOMENT, TRYING TO KEEP IT REALLY SIMPLE, AND THEN JUST HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO BAT THE LAST 10 OVERS WHEN THE FIELD'S OUT
— AARON FINCH

Match of brute strength

WaughEye



By STEVE WAUGH
Former captain, Australia

Without doubt this was a commanding performance by a team that is gathering confidence and momentum at exactly the right time.

Australia played an old-fashioned ODI game based around a solid platform with the bat from the rock-solid Aaron Finch and David Warner, allowing the rest of the order to capitalise and construct a challenging total on a pitch that more represented a Test match than a one-day game.

Coming against a quality attack on the biggest stage in world cricket, Finch's century was his best in the green and gold.

He is at the top of his game right now; mentally tough, technically sound, focussed and trusting in his judgement of line and length. He is leading the charge and allowing others the freedom to relax and play their own way.

Together with Warner, they continue to ensure Australia is ultra-competitive in every match by either posting an imposing total or chasing



Ben Stokes kicks his bat away as he reacts in frustration after being bowled out by a yorker from Australia's Mitchell Starc

down any target.

Another to impress has been Alex Carey who is a hybrid of Michael Hussey and Michael Bevan. Carey plays with the perfect mixture of calmness and intent, assessing the situation and pouncing on any opportunities that present themselves in the frenetic pressure of the final overs.

He shapes as a potential match-winner for Australia in the back end of the competition.

The Australian selectors must be congratulated for the bold selection of Jason Behrendorff and the faith they showed in presenting him with the new ball.

It had an immediate impact, with Behrendorff producing one of the deliveries of the tournament — an unplayable late in swinger that sent a bewildered James Vince back to the pavilion and destabilised England's chase.

His five-wicket haul was not only significant for its impact on the match, but his ability to swing it in conjunction with Mitchell Starc will

have put all future batsman on notice that their techniques will be forensically examined.

England will feel deflated by their underwhelming effort in a match where they had a chance to flex their muscle and show why they were the pre-tournament favourites.

Perhaps this loss will focus them as they now have no choice but to win all remaining matches much in the same way we did back in the 1999 World Cup.

They are capable but they must locate the intensity and free-spirited style that has defined their cricket of recent times.

It was a match that showcased skill and composure over brute strength and power largely because of a pitch that was fair to both bat and ball.

It was a genuine contest won by a team that knows its game plan and believes it can go all the way.

England must now respond or face elimination.

Courtesy: © ICC Business Corporation FLZ LLC 2019

Power shifts from left Eion of a difference



Jason Behrendorff celebrates after taking the wicket of England's James Vince clean bowled

PTI ■ LONDON

Jason Behrendorff doesn't see an issue if left-arm pacers like him and Mitchell Starc feature in the Australian playing 11 more often, especially after the duo's match-winning performances against England in the World Cup here on Tuesday.

Behrendorff was brought into the side for just his eighth ODI due to England's historic struggles against left-arm pacemen and that decision proved a masterstroke at Lord's.

The 29-year-old took his maiden international five-for thanks to figures of 5/44, while Starc ended with 4/43 as England were skittled for 221 in pursuit of 286 — a 64-run defeat.

Although this was just the second ODI in which they have appeared together, Behrendorff is now keen to continue his burgeoning new-ball combination with Starc.

"We don't often see it but I don't see why we can't play together," he said.

"Sometimes you play three right-armers, so why can't we play two lefties? Mitch and I have different roles throughout the team, so it's really good that we could partner together. It's something we thought was going to work well against England and then we picked up nine wickets between the two of us, so it potentially worked quite well!"

Behrendorff hopes to play alongside Starc more often.

"Mitch and I are really happy to be able to play on the same team together and to have two lefties, hopefully we could see more of it. That would be great. One of those things you dream of as a kid is to play cricket for Australia and then to come here and play at Lord's for the first time was something special."

"You don't play cricket for the accolades but to play at Lord's and to take five wickets was really special."

Victory means Australia are the first side to rubber-stamp their place in the knockout stages, with six wins from seven.

England's hopes though are on a

SOMETIMES YOU PLAY THREE RIGHT-ARMERS, SO WHY CAN'T WE PLAY TWO LEFTIES? MITCH AND I HAVE DIFFERENT ROLES THROUGHOUT THE TEAM, SO IT'S REALLY GOOD THAT WE COULD PARTNER TOGETHER

knife-edge with must win games to come against India and New Zealand after they suffered their first back-to-back ODI defeat on home soil in four years.

Even though their semi-final place is secure Behrendorff is eager to keep building momentum in the remaining group-stage fixtures and also doesn't believe Australia should be considered favourites to lift the trophy.

"I don't think we're the team to beat," he said ahead of concluding group stage matches with New Zealand and South Africa.

"The competition is still very open. England are still a great side and they are probably still favourites, with it being in their home country."

"We aspire to continue just playing good cricket but I don't think we're favourites, that's for sure."

PTI ■ LONDON

England captain Eoin Morgan feels not sticking to their "batting mantra" has cost them back-to-back defeats against Sri Lanka and Australia in the World Cup, making the road to semifinals much tougher for the pre-tournament favourites.

England had not lost back-to-back ODIs on home soil since 2015, yet they followed a loss to Sri Lanka at Headingley, where they failed to chase down 233, with a 64-run reverse against their oldest rivals at Lord's.

It was once again an unsuccessful chase that proved their undoing as Australia's 285/7 was more than enough when left-arm seamers Jason Behrendorff and Mitchell Starc took nine wickets between them.

"Both this game and the last, we struggled with the basics of what we call our batting mantra," said the England captain after the loss here on Tuesday.

"Strong intent, building partnerships, and doing it in our own way — we haven't done those for long enough periods of the game in order to either chase down 230 or chase down 280, and that's disappointing."

"Our mantra is always evolving — if you've watched the last two years of the way we've played, it has evolved a

lot."

Starc and Behrendorff ripped through England's deep batting line-up while the home team's pacers failed to find the right length on a helping pitch after Morgan opted to field.

"Early on they bowled well. Being 20/3 obviously creates a bigger challenge, especially chasing 280. To make those inroads — I thought they bowled well. Normally when we lose games of cricket, we go back to what we do well. We'll still strive to do that for Sunday's game against India."

England's chances of reaching the semi-finals have taken a hit in the last two matches but their path to qualification is still in their own hands — with victories in their final two group games guaranteeing a knockout spot.

Those contests are against two sides also currently ensconced in the top four — India and New Zealand — and Morgan is hoping to set an example that his squad can follow.

"They (hopes of reaching the semi-finals) are still strong. The chances are in our hands."

Everything is within our control. We just need to produce a performance worthy of winning either one or both of the next two games.

"Ideally, I'd like to lead from the front. I think majority of the captains have success with a team when they lead from the front. Contributions from myself over the next two games might have an impact on the changing room, so hopefully I can make a difference."

England will hope to have in-form opener Jason Roy available for the India game as his replacement James Vince has failed to make a mark in the two games he played.



PTI ■ LONDON

England all-rounder Ben Stokes insists that back-to-back losses have not hampered their hopes of winning a maiden World Cup trophy.

After a relatively promising start to their World Cup campaign, England suffered consecutive losses Sri Lanka (by 20 runs) and Australia (64 runs) to find themselves in a precarious position.

England have slid to the fourth position in the 10-team standings with eight points from seven games. The hosts now have two tough games remaining against India on June 30 and New Zealand on July 3.

"This is our World Cup. We've had great support over the last four years and we know how much the World Cup means to fans and we know that as players as well. It's one of the biggest times and greatest times to be a cricketer, which is why we want to represent our country at a World Cup," Stokes said after the defeat against Australia on Tuesday.

"But we are not going to take a backwards step and, as I've said, this is our World Cup and we are going to go about it how we want to," he added.

In both the defeats against Sri Lanka and Australia, Stokes played a fine hand and very nearly got England home with knocks of unbeaten 82 and 89 respectively.

Best foot forward



Ben Stokes reacts after getting dismissed

"I think it's just disappointing, losing. Everyone tries to go out there and play knocks to get over the line for the team. It always feels nice getting runs and stuff like that, but it counts for nothing when you can't get over the line," said Stokes.

"But normally we have two or three guys in the order who can do that. We have to really dig deep in these last couple of games here, not go back on how we know we play well."

Incidentally the losses against Sri Lanka and Australia were England's first back-to-back defeats in ODIs on home soil since 2015.

England now face a daunting task of upstaging India in their penultimate league game to keep their semifinal hopes alive.

"I think we just need to take these last two games as they come. It could be completely different conditions to what we faced here. We know what we are going to do going in with our plans and then it's all about adjusting once the game starts," Stokes said.

"We've got a great record against India in England, but we'll just have to wait and see what conditions we're faced with, but they are another team who are in good form, so hopefully we can bring our best game."

PTI ■ LONDON

Australia became the first side to book a semifinal berth in the World Cup but team's pace spearhead Mitchell Starc said the defending champions can't afford to take their foot off the gas ahead of the knock-out stage.

"There's a lot of cricket to come before semifinal time. We've got two really important games but playing here at Lord's where the final is going to be has given us confidence," Starc said.

"We've got another game here against New Zealand, which is going to be tough. They're playing some fantastic cricket and they've really gone under the radar. Nobody's really spoken too much about them and they keep winning games."

Starc, who returned with impressive figures of 8.4-1-43-4, showered accolades on left-arm pace colleague Jason Behrendorff (5/44), who took a five-for in only his second World Cup match.

"Dorff bowled awesome, beautifully, and deserved his five wickets — and it's great to see him do so well here at Lord's against England. I've bowled a fair bit with Mitchell Johnson in the past and this showed again day before yesterday that there's no reason why

No breather

Starc says can't afford to take it easy after Australia secure semis berth



Mitchell Starc celebrates after dismissing Joe Root lbw during World Cup game at Lord's

you can't play two left-armers when the pitch and match-ups suit," he said.

"Dorff actually asked me if there was anything of note about the wicket here and, to be honest, I didn't have much for him as I haven't been here for about four years."

Starc removed the well-settled Ben Stokes (89) with an unplayable reverse swing yorker, just when the English all-rounder looked threatening. "He's (Stokes) a fantastic player, one of their key batters. He nearly got them home against Sri Lanka and so we knew while he was batting that we couldn't rest up. Fortunately, I got one through the gate," said Starc.

"I've got a pretty simple one-day plan and for me it's all about execution. To execute that ball exactly how I wanted and for it to result the way it did was pleasing for me — but it was pleasing to contribute to the whole group."

Starc also laughed off a confrontation with an English fan, who tried to sledge him at the breakfast in his team hotel.

"He had a bit of a click at me — all good fun. I was still half-asleep, didn't think much of it. It's all been good fun around the tour, it's all part and parcel of a World Cup!"

Neesham takes NZ to 237-6

Kiwi all-rounder's unbeaten 97 leads Black Caps recovery after Shaheen's early strike

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Jimmy Neesham and Colin de Grandhomme hit fighting half-centuries as New Zealand posted 237 for six after Shaheen Shah Afridi's three-wicket burst left them in a perilous position against Pakistan on Wednesday.

Neesham finished with a career-best one-day international score of 97 not out, hitting a six off the final ball, while De Grandhomme scored 64 to give their unbeaten team side a defensible total at Edgbaston.

The pair, who came together at 83-5, added 132 for the sixth wicket, repairing the damage after a collapse following Kane Williamson's decision to bat in overcast conditions in Birmingham.

Teenager Shaheen, who finished with figures of 3-28 in his 10 overs, wrecked the New Zealand top order, taking three wickets in 20 balls as Pakistan looked for a crucial victory following their win against South Africa.

Neesham, whose previous highest ODI score was 74, hit five fours and three sixes in his sixth ODI fifty and was ably supported by De Grandhomme.

Despite New Zealand's fight-back, Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur said he was confident his side could win the match and stay in the hunt for a semi-final place.

"Shaheen Afridi is only 19, we've got to understand that. Today he was outstanding, he asked a lot of questions," he said.

"Jimmy Neesham and Colin de



Colin de Grandhomme congratulates Jimmy Neesham after the duo put on 100 run stand for 6th wicket against Pakistan

Grandhomme played well. I thought we kept them at bay pretty well. I think there's always going to be a partnership, it's that sort of wicket, but they showed us how to play on the wicket. I'm backing us to chase that total."

New Zealand were wobbling badly when the in-form Williamson

was dismissed by leg-spinner Shadab Khan, who enticed the captain into giving an edge to wicketkeeper Sarfaraz Ahmed when he was on 41.

Williamson, who had scored centuries in each of his previous innings, put on 37 for the fifth wicket with Neesham after New Zealand had slipped to 46-4.

Mohammad Amir was first to strike, bowling Martin Guptill with the New Zealand score on five before Shaheen had opener Colin Munro (12) caught by Haris Sohail in the slips.

Ross Taylor edged a Shaheen delivery to Sarfaraz and Tom Latham departed in similar fashion.

SCOREBOARD	
NEW ZEALAND	
Martin Guptill	b Amir 5
Colin Munro	c Sohail b Shaheen 12
Williamson	c Sarfaraz b Shadab 41
Ross Taylor	c Sarfaraz b Shaheen 3
Tom Latham	c Sarfaraz b Shaheen 1
Grandhomme	run out (Amir/Sarfaraz) 64
James Neesham	not out 97
Mitchell Santner	not out 5
Extras	(b 2, lb 3, w 4, nb 0, p 0) 9
Total	(6 wks, 50 Ov) 237
Fall of wickets: 5-1 (Martin Guptill, 1.1), 24-2 (Colin Munro, 6.2), 38-3 (Ross Taylor, 8.6), 46-4 (Tom Latham, 12.3), 83-5 (Kane Williamson, 26.2), 215-6 (Colin de Grandhomme, 47.4)	
Bowling	
Mohammad Hafeez	7-0-22-0
Mohammad Amir	10-0-67-1
Shaheen Afridi	10-3-28-3
Imad Wasim	3-0-17-0
Shadab Khan	10-0-43-1
Wahab Riaz	10-0-55-0

Overnight rain delayed the start by an hour but the umpires decided the match would remain at 50 overs per side.

New Zealand, who are second in the 10-team table with 11 points, kept the same team for the fifth match in a row.

Pakistan, who are seventh, with five points, also kept faith with the team that beat South Africa at Lord's on Sunday.

If New Zealand win they will join title-holders Australia in the semi-finals.

'It hurts but we're helpless'



Sarfaraz Ahmed in a file picture

Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed says incidents like the one in which he was compared to a "pig" by a fan are hurtful but there is nothing he can do to prevent them and can only plead for civility in criticism.

Pakistani fans have severely criticised the national team after its 89-run loss to arch-rivals India in a World Cup encounter in Manchester.

In a recent video that went viral on social media, Sarfaraz, walking in a mall in England with his son, was stopped by a fan, who

asked him why he looked like a fat pig. The fan eventually apologised for his conduct after drawing flak from all corners for targeting the player during a private moment.

"I can't say anything on this. It's not in our hands to control what people say about us. Winning and losing is part of the game and it's not that we are the first team to have lost a match; previous teams also have faced defeats," Sarfaraz said.

Pakistan have kept alive their semifinal hopes with the win over South Africa in London.

"Had earlier teams faced the kind of criticism that we are facing, they would have realised how much these things hurt us. Now, there is social media. People write, comment and say whatever they like. These incidents affect the psychology of the players," he added.

Sarfaraz is not the only Pakistani cricketer to have expressed his displeasure over abusive criticism. Senior all-rounder Shoaib Malik and pacer Mohammed Amir too had urged the fans not to indulge in personal attacks.

"While criticising, one must not abuse. Criticise us on our cricket but don't get abusive with us," Sarfaraz said.

Oranje fever



Lieke Martens, center, celebrates after scoring Netherlands' second goal from the penalty spot against Japan

A last-minute Lieke Martens penalty took the Netherlands through to the women's World Cup quarter-finals as they joined Italy in the last eight, confirming Europe's supremacy at the tournament and ending Asian interest already.

The Dutch on Tuesday scraped past Japan 2-1 to set up a quarter-final on Saturday in Valenciennes against the Italians, who had beaten China 2-0 earlier in the day thanks to goals from Valentina Giacinti and Aurora Galli.

Those results mean seven of the eight quarter-finalists in France are European, with holders and favourites the United States the sole exception. There had never previously been more than five European sides in the last eight of a women's World Cup.

Such an early exit is particularly painful for Japan, who won the World Cup in 2011 and were beaten finalists four years ago in Canada.

The Nadeshiko had their hearts broken in Rennes as

Barcelona star Martens converted a 90th-minute spot-kick awarded after a Vivianne Miedema shot had struck the arm of captain Saki Kumagai in the box.

The European champions, who lost by the same scoreline to Japan at the same last-16 stage in 2015, are through to the quarter-finals for the first time.

"It is history that we have made. We are really proud about that but we are not done yet here. We are really looking forward to the next game and we hope we can surprise more," said Martens.

She had given the Netherlands a 17th-minute lead with a superb backheel flick into the net from a Sherida Spitse corner, but Japan equalised just prior to half-time when Mana Iwabuchi supplied Yui Hasegawa to fire high into the net.

Japan had hit the post before that through Yuika Sugawara, and Hina Sugita smashed a shot off the underside of the crossbar during a second half in which Japan

OTHER SPORTS

AFP ■ LONDON

Spanish midfielder David Silva has confirmed he will leave Manchester City at the end of next season when his contract expires.

Silva is one of City's most decorated players of all-time having won four Premier League titles, two FA Cups and four League Cups since joining from Valencia in 2010.

He scored his 71st goal in 396 appearances so far for the English champions in the FA Cup final last month as City completed a first ever domestic treble in English football.

However, the 33-year-old believes completing a decade in Manchester is the perfect time to step away.

"This is the last one," Silva told reporters in his native Gran Canaria. "Ten years for me is enough. It's the perfect time for me."

"Initially, City were talking

10 years later

David Silva to leave Manchester City at the end of 2019-20 season

about two years, but I decided to sign another one, so I finished at 10 years.

"It completes the cycle. It's a nice round figure. I can never see myself playing against City for another team. So 10 years — that's it."

Silva missed chunks of City's title-winning 2017/18 season to return to Spain where his pre-mature born son Mateo was being treated in hospital.

Mateo has since recovered and was in attendance for City's first home game of this season in August, when Silva scored in a 6-1 rout of Huddersfield.

However, Silva has previously spoken of his desire to return to Spain for family rea-



David Silva in a file picture

Can Federer defy age to lift 9th title?

AFP ■ PARIS

Twenty years after his debut, Roger Federer will take aim at a ninth Wimbledon title and a place in history as the oldest man to capture a Grand Slam singles crown.

Federer, who turns 38 in August, is already the oldest player to win the Wimbledon men's title in the modern era, a feat achieved in 2017 when he was 35.

Australia's Ken Rosewall was only just past 37 when he won the 1972 Australian Open, an age barrier Federer hopes to smash when Wimbledon starts Monday.

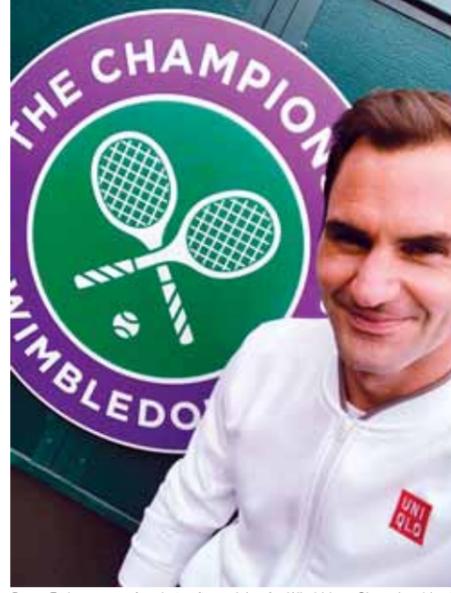
"I love being around here. It's a good vibe. I have great memories. My heroes all won here," said 20-time major winner Federer.

"Every time I come back here, I try to be like them." However, despite his lifetime affection for the All England Club, the tussle to add to his London silverware has become increasingly fraught.

His eighth and most recent Wimbledon title came off a straight-sets demolition of an injury-hit and tearful Marin Cilic in the 2017 final.

Federer was a force of nature that year, not dropping a set in the entire fortnight as title rivals fell by the wayside.

Novak Djokovic retired with an elbow injury in the last-eight against Tomas Berdych while Rafael Nadal was stunned by



Roger Federer poses for photo after arriving for Wimbledon Championship

Gilles Muller 15-13 in the final set of his last-16 engagement.

Federer's seventh Wimbledon title had come five years earlier with a final win over Andy Murray.

His first six arrived in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2009.

But 2017 aside, recent trips to London have proved disappointing for the Swiss star whose first experience of Wimbledon was an opening-round loss to Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic in 1999.

In 2013, he was shocked in the second round by Ukrainian serve-and-volleying journeyman Sergei Stakhovskiy.

The next two seasons saw runners-up finishes to Djokovic

Ramkumar bows out of Qualifiers

PTI ■ LONDON

India's Ramkumar Ramanathan yet again failed to crack a Grand Slam main draw, losing the second round of the men's singles qualifying at the Wimbledon championships to Poland's Kamil Majchrzak.

The unseeded Indian lost 6-7 (5), 3-6 to 11th seed and world number 111 in one hour and 19 minutes.

Ramkumar, who possesses a big serve and a lethal

inside out forehand, did not get a single breakpoint in the match while his opponent converted two of the seven chances.

The 24-year-old from Chennai, ranked 154, has been trying to qualify for the main draw of a Grand Slam since 2015 but has not succeeded so far.

The closest he came to make the main draw was in 2018 when he reached the third and final qualifying round at the Australian Open.

Having seen Nadal win a 12th Roland Garros to move within two majors of Federer's record 20 for the first time, the Swiss headed to Halle where he won a 10th title at the grass court event.

"To win 10 times in one place is a very special moment in my career," said Federer who now has 102 career titles, just seven off the all-time record held by Jimmy Connors.

It also made him the oldest tour-level champion since 43-year-old Rosewall won at Hong Kong in 1977.

"Every time I've won in Halle, I went on to play really well at Wimbledon," added Federer.

"It's never a guarantee of course, but I've been on the Tour for long enough to know what it means."