

OPINION 8 THE LEFT CRISIS IN INDIA

NATION 5 YOUR EVERY WORD IS VALUABLE TO GOVT: PM TO OPP

WORLD 11 PAK BLOGGER CRITICAL OF ARMY, ISI HACKED TO DEATH

LUCKNOW, TUESDAY JUNE 18, 2019; PAGES 16-33



# The Pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



KUDOS TO IIT STUDENTS: HRITHIK 12 VIVACITY

## Doctors requite Mamata's pledge

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

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Her stance was a climb-down from her Thursday's position when she told a large gathering of striking doctors at the SSKM Hospital to join duty in four hours or face consequences. She subsequently held out threats of invoking Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) and cited how the State Governments of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, J&K, and Tamil Nadu had taken emergency actions against striking doctors.

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

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

Continued on Page 6

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

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

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

However, in another incident earlier, an Army Major was martyred and a terrorist killed, while another officer and two troopers were injured on Monday in an encounter between security forces and the ultras in Jammu & Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said.

An intelligence report about terrorists' attempt to use an IED blast on an Army convoy in South Kashmir districts and subsequent alertness obviated the crisis.

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



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

military troopers were killed. The area, where Army vehicle was targeted by the terrorists was roughly 25 kms away from the site of the Pulwama terror attack.

A Ministry of Defence spokesperson in Srinagar claimed a "failed" attempt was made to attack a mobile vehicle patrol in the general area of Arital in Pulwama.

"All troops are safe with minor injuries," Police spokesperson in Srinagar said, "During a search and cordon operation by the joint forces at Badura in Achabal area of Anantnag, terrorists fired on the search party,"

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

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

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

Continued on Page 6

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

A large number of patients and their relatives, caught unaware of the strike, were seen waiting outside various hospitals, appealing to authorities for help.

In many Government and private hospitals across the country, out-patient departments (OPDs) remained closed and scheduled surgeries were postponed. However, emergency services remained open.

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



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

at healthcare facilities.

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

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

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

Due to the protests, healthcare services have been badly disrupted and many people are dying because of absence of doctors, the plea said. It also sought directions to the Bengal Government to take the strictest legal and penal action against those who assaulted junior doctors at NRS Medical College Hospital in Kolkata.

Continued on Page 6

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

### To work as BJP working president under Shah till Assembly polls

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leader and former Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda was on Monday appointed the working president of the BJP with Amit Shah to continue as the party chief until December by when Assembly polls in Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand are slated for completion. Sixty-year-old Nadda is expected to become the full-fledged BJP president overseeing the 11-core-strong party after Shah completes his extended tenure in January 2020.

The announcement was made after the BJP Parliamentary Board, the party's highest decision-making



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

body, met here at its headquarters with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shah and Home Minister Rajnath Singh, among others, in attendance.

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

Continued on Page 6

## UP Govt accepts resignations of three ministers

### Portfolios reallocated

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik has accepted the resignations of three ministers of the Yogi Adityanath Council of Ministers who have been elected to the Lok Sabha. The resignations of the three ministers were forwarded by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to the Governor.

On the advice of the Chief Minister, the Governor also redistributed the portfolios.

The ministers who resigned include SP Singh Baghel (Animal Husbandry Minister), Rita Bahuguna Joshi (Tourism and Women Welfare Minister) and

Satyadeo Pachauri (MSME and Khadi and Village Industries Minister).

Following the reallocation of the portfolios, the Chief Minister will have additional portfolio of Women Welfare and Tourism. Minority Affairs Minister Chaudhary Lakshmi Narayan will look after Animal Husbandry and Fisheries. Irrigation Minister Dharampal Singh has been given additional portfolio of Minor Irrigation.

Health Minister Sidharth Nath Singh has been given additional portfolio of Family Welfare. Industries Minister Satish Mahana will also hold the charge of the MSME and Khadi and Village Industries.

## Cloud, wind, shower rain relief on Delhi

### Weather comfort till June 20

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

In the past 48 hours, rain has been witnessed in isolated pockets of Delhi and adjoining areas of Noida, Gurugram, Faridabad, and Ghaziabad. The Safdarjung observatory said the city received 0.6mm rain during the past 24 hours. The humidity recorded at 8.30 am was 54 per cent. On Sunday, the maximum temperature settled at 36.3 degrees Celsius and the minimum at 28.02 degrees Celsius.

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

The heatwave is not yet



over in Delhi as from June 23 onwards temperature will increase again, said weather experts. The maximum tem-

## Bihar Govt shuts door on killer heatwave

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

The Gaya district administration has banned any cultural programme or gathering in open spaces, between 11 am and 4 pm. Majority of heatwave deaths have been reported from Aurangabad, Gaya and Nawada districts, where temperatures hovered around 45 degrees Celsius for the past three weeks.

Even works under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has been stopped after 10.30 am.

Continued on Page 6



# Strike leaves patients high & dry

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Prem Ram, a cancer patient from Morawa, was seen sitting helplessly outside the OPD entrance as the agitating medicos had closed the main gate in support of the IMA call to strike work in solidarity with the Kolkata colleagues.

"Aaj admit hone ko kaha tha, ab yahan strike ho gayi hai, pata nahin kya karenin (She was supposed to be admitted to the hospital today, now the doctors have struck work. We don't know what to do)", said her husband standing next to her. Ankit Kumar, another patient down with liver disease, was seen waiting outside the OPD completely oblivious to what was in store for him. Siyaram (of Bahraich), whose wife Maya is suffering from cancer, was a picture of dejection. Another patient down with diabetes was seen lying on the floor as he had nowhere to go as his treatment has been going on for the last few months.

Kamlesh Singh, suffering from Hepatitis E, was also waiting for his turn. Now, I would be staying here at 'rain basera', he said.

Several patients were seen disappointed sitting outside KGMU's Trauma Centre and other departments. There were no new admissions even as services remained disrupted throughout the day.

At RML Hospital, the healthcare services were smooth though junior doctors took out a rally in the hospital premises and outside too.

At Balrampur Hospital, there was no major impact of the strike visible as patients were attended at all counters.

Meanwhile, the IMA call for closure of healthcare services received strong support from junior residents and doctors, private nursing homes, clinics and pathologies on Monday. In a meeting held at the IMA office on Monday, the members said that the government should consider their demands related to a law on



(Top) Patients arrive at KGMU on the day strike was called by IMA. (Above) Huge rush at Balrampur Hospital

violence against doctors.

The protesters assembled in large numbers at the IMA office in the morning and shouted slogans against the government. President Rama Srivastava said police had not taken action in even a single case reported to them by doctors.

"This shows their negligence in sending a strong message to those subjecting doctors to violence. We are here to serve the people and government must ensure safety of doctors," she said, adding: "We urge the government to make a stern law in the ongoing monsoon session of

Parliament."

The doctors expressed concern over the poor response from police authorities to their pleas. In spite of several complaints related to violence against doctors, no action had been taken, they said.

Services were also impacted at Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences. Director Dr Rakesh Kapoor said though there was some inconvenience caused to patients, they managed to keep the life-saving procedures afloat with the support of residents.

"The follow-up patients were attended to and the operations were also performed. At

Urology department, three surgeries were performed. However, there were no new cases," he said, admitting that the issue needed to be tackled and even they had witnesses two incidents of violence in the last 15 days.

He said that the demands of the protesting doctors were genuine because most of the time, patients were brought in a critical state and doctors were blamed for mortalities. "Strengthening of the health system and its revamping is needed. Short-term measures won't help in such cases.

All the OPDs and non-essential services at

Vivekananda Polyclinic and Institute of Medical Sciences also remained suspended on Monday. However, the emergency department was kept open. Secretary of the institute Swami Muktinathananda said critically ill patients in ICU, CCU, NICU, PICU etc were given proper care. In a meeting attended by almost all the consultants and DNB residents, Muktinathananda condemned violence against doctors and healthcare providers. Several senior consultants as well as DNB residents also expressed concern over the recent incidents and asked for safety and security.

# MBBS students ransack shop, house of trader

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Scores of MBBS students of SDR Ram Manohar Lohiya Hospital allegedly ransacked the house of a trader in Vibhuti Khand police station area and committed loot. The victim, identified as Ranjeet Yadav, has a medical store at his house opposite the main gate of RML Institute. Around 1 pm, an MBBS student reached his shop to purchase a deodorant. Ranjeet showed him several flavours.

As the student started spraying the deodorant to make the choice, Ranjeet said

he was not supposed to do that as other customers would not purchase used deodorants. It snowballed into a verbal spat and the student called his classmates.

"The MBBS student was offended at my advice and lost his cool. He left the shop in a huff. After a while, I saw him talking on phone while standing outside the shop. Soon, a huge number of students were at my shop. They vandalised my shop and thrashed me. I ran into my house but they chased me and thrashed my family members, including women. They looted cash and medi-

cines from my shop before leaving the scene," Ranjeet alleged. SHO, Vibhuti Khand, Rajeev Dwivedi said a case of loot, trespassing and attack was registered against unidentified MBBS students. He said Ranjeet had claimed that he could identify some of the students but did not know their names.

"We are working on the case and will take Ranjeet to RML Hospital to identify the accused," the SHO said, adding they would have a word with the hospital administration before laying their hands on the accused.

# Newly-married man ends life over tiff with wife

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A newly-married man consumed some poisonous substance following a discord with his wife in Sarojini Nagar and died on the way to hospital on Sunday night.

As per reports, Pinku (30) of a Sarojini Nagar village got married only a month ago. "Around 8 pm on Sunday, Pinku consumed pesticide in his room. After a while, he started vomiting, following which we contacted a doctor and later rushed him to Lokbandhu Hospital on doctor's advice. He was examined and referred to Balrampur Hospital on the way to which he breathed his last," said deceased's father Gangaram.

"Pinku was upset due to the differences with his wife ever since he got married. He had a verbal spat with his wife on Sunday night after which he consumed pesticide," Gangaram told the police.

# Conmen posing as cops dupe woman of ornaments

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two men masquerading as policemen conned a woman of her ornaments in Mahanagar on Monday.

Kusumlata Dubey of Badshahnagar railway colony informed the police that two unidentified persons stopped her near Rajkiya Balika Inter College in Nishatganj on Monday morning.

"They introduced themselves as policemen and told me that a person had been murdered in the locality. They forced me to take my gold chain and other ornaments off and keep them in a small packet. After that they took the satchet from me and gave it to me after a while. When I opened it, I found stones inside," she told the police.

The cops are baffled in view of the spate in similar incidents of late. "The worst affected are trans-Gomti areas

from where such cases are being reported every other day," sources said. They said conmen were opting for the trick to introduce themselves as policemen.

"Usually, a person avoids confronting a policeman. There are some wings in the police like crime branch, anti-dacoity and swat cells in which the cops are usually in civvies. Most of the victims, mostly women, fall for the trick used by the miscreants," the sources said.

On Sunday, the miscreants had duped a dentist of Deoria, Sachin Jaiswal, using similar modus operandi. Jaiswal had visited the city to purchase some equipment for his clinic in Deoria. The Gomti Nagar police failed to get any clue about the miscreants who looted Jaiswal. Police spokesman said CCTV footages were being scanned.

सबका साथ-सबका विकास-सबका विचार

## 5<sup>वाँ</sup> अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय योग दिवस

21 जून, 2019

'खुद से जुड़ने के लिए योग से जुड़ना एक उत्तम मार्ग है। मुझे विश्वास है कि हम इस दिशा में आगे बढ़ेंगे।' - नरेन्द्र मोदी

International day of yoga 21<sup>st</sup> June

योग प्रवेश उत्तर प्रवेश

योग से लाभ

- योग शरीर में ऊर्जा का संचार करने एवं मांसपेशियों का दर्द दूर करने में सहायक है।
- योग करने से फेफड़ों की समस्याओं से निजात मिलती है।
- योग शरीर में लचीलापन और स्वास्थ्य में सुधार लाता है।
- योग उच्च रक्तचाप और चिंता को कम करने में सहायक होता है।
- योग शारीरिक विकास को लिए फायदेमंद होता है।
- योग विभाग को शांत कर सही काम पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने की शक्ति देता है।

कार चलक सीट बेल्ट अवश्य पहनें।

यू.ए.ए. एवं जलसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

सबका साथ-सबका विकास-सबका विचार

लेखपालों को लैपटॉप वितरण का शुभारम्भ

मुख्य अतिथि

## योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

के कर-कमलों द्वारा किया जायेगा

दिन: मंगलवार, दिनांक: 18 जून, 2019, समय: अपराह्न 4:30 बजे

स्थान: लोकभवन रामगान्ध, लखनऊ

श्री पहिला माहान बजारो हाथमे होलनेट जयराव हन्वारे । योगी भिक्षु लखनऊ है. योगी की उर्द्वे से रोजी को पूरा सहायक है

राजस्व विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

# Hamilton's original telegram in possession of State Archives

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The State Archives, Lucknow, possesses the original telegram which was sent by R Hamilton from Gwalior to Lord Canning in Kolkata announcing the death of the Rani of Jhansi on June 17, 1858. The telegram was sent on June 18, 1858. The telegram which was sent read as follows: "The Ranej of Jhansi is

killed. Maharajah Scindia has received. Brigadier Smith took four guns in the fight yesterday." Archivist, State Archives, Arinabai Pandey said that this document was with the State Archives since 1973 when the unit at Lucknow was first established. It was earlier at the Archives at Allahabad.

"We have conserved this original document. We never put on display the original document and instead we put a digitized copy of it on display when the exhibitions are held. Even when the exhibitions are held in the State Archives the originals are not used," he said. He admitted that the document attracted a lot of attention when the exhibitions were organised with people showing a keen interest in it. On being asked if there was some curiosity among the visitors about the documents related to Rani of Jhansi, post the release of Kangana Ranaut's

film, Rani of Jhansi, in January, he said that they had received no such response. When asked from where they had procured the telegram, he said that they collected such documents from the official gazetteer and revenue records.



It may be pointed out that the Rani of Jhansi died at Gwalior fighting the Britishers after fleeing from the Fort of Jhansi. Historical records state that the construction of the Jhansi Fort is ascribed to the Bundela chief, Raja Bir Singh Deo of Orchha, in 1613. For 25 years it was one of the strong-

holds of the Bundelas till it passed into the hands of the British, who held it for the next 100 years and subsequently came under the possession of the Marathas after another 100 years. The Maratha chief, Nari Shankar, enlarged the Shankargarh area of the Fort. From the Marathas during the period of 1857 it passed into the hands of the British, who defeated Rani Lakshmi Bai and took possession of the fort. It is a tourist attraction now.

Meanwhile, commenting on the popularity of such iconic figures like the Rani of Jhansi, Manoj Chandel, who organises the National Book Fair annually, said that it was ironic that role models had changed down the line. "People of our current generation have different people as role models. They may appreciate what Rani of Jhansi did for the freedom struggle but it is not inspirational enough either to evoke interest in them or inspire them," he added.

**U.P. RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED, OBRA THERMAL POWER STATION, OBRA, SONEBHADRA Extension Notice E-TENDER No. 12/SE-IBTPS/BMD-2018-19 NAME OF WORK :** The work of Annual Breakdown Maintenance of Work of HPI/LP valves & Safety valves etc. for unit no.-9, 10 & 11, 3X200MW, BTPS, OBRA. TENDER No. : 12/SE-IBTPS/BMD-2018-19 ESTIMATED COST OF WORK : Rs. 6.00 (Rs. Eight Lakh Thousand) Approx. Last Date and Time For Submission of e-Bids (Technical and Financial) at e-procurement website <http://tender.up.nic.in> : 24.06.2019 up to 18:00 Hrs. Last Date and Time For Submission of Hardcopy of uploaded Tender along with requisite Tender fee, Earnest Money and tender Document in the Undersign Office : 25.06.2019 up to 17:00 Hrs. Date And Time of Opening of e-Bids : 27.06.2019 up to 16:00 Hrs. Place of Opening of e-Bids : Office of Superintending Engineer, Operation & Mechanical Maintenance Circle-I, B Thermal Power Station, Obra, Sonebhadra Address for Communication : SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, O&M&C-I, BTPS, Obra, Sonebhadra U.P., -231219. E-mail Address: se.ommc-1.btps.obra@upnvl.org Bid Document Cost : Rs. 500.00+90.00(GST)= Rs. 590.00 Earnest Money : Rs. 16,120.00 (Rs. Sixteen Thousand One Hundred Twenty Only) NOTE : The tender documents shall not be sold. Tender specification is available on <http://tender.up.nic.in>. Tender will be accepted online only. SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, O&M&C-I, B TPS, OBRA No. 114 Date 17.06.2019 "SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION"

**CITY BRIEFS**

**DENTAL MAHOTSAV**  
Bank of Maharashtra was the only one at Dental Mahotsav, UP's biggest dental trade fair, on June 15 and 16 at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow. Dentists from across UP and dealers and manufacturers of dental equipment from major states participated in the event. Zonal manager RT Parulekar, DZM Anjay K Ghosh, and marketing manager Richa Jaishwal were also present at the event along with other staff.

**PU PAINTING OF EXPRESS TRAIN**  
(E-Tender No. 10/MechUp Gradation) 12523-24/19. Dated: 13-06-2019. Works under through e-tendering system are invited for the following works. Name of Work: Supply and application of PU Painting scheme of LHB designed coaches as per RSO/Specification No. MMS/CPCN/10/2018 of Train No. 12523/24 New Jagannath-Kanpur-Vijay Terminal Super Fast Express. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00. For application on the line of Sheela - E-Bhopal at CAW Depot, New Jagannath (N.J.) Terminal. Tender Value: Rs. 23,23,440.00. Date of Closing of Tender at 15:00 hrs. on 09-07-2019 and Opening of Tender at 11:30 hrs. on 09-07-2019. Detailed tendered documents and documents can be seen in website [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in).

**NEAR EAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**  
S. DME (C), Kathar Saving Customers Bill & Cost

**EASTERN RAILWAY**

Notice of E-Auction Programme for the month of July 2019  
No. S.A/S/DAP/2019-20 Date: 11.06.2019

Sl. No.	Auction Date	Day	Depot	Jurisdiction (Depot & Divn.)
1.	09.07.2019	Tuesday	BESY	BESY Depot, Howrah & Asansol Divn.
2.	09.07.2019	Tuesday	Jamalpur	Jamalpur Depot, Malda Divn.
3.	10.07.2019	Wednesday	Halisahar	Halisahar Depot, Sealdah Divn.
4.	17.07.2019	Monday	Jamalpur	Jamalpur Depot, Malda Divn.
5.	18.07.2019	Thursday	BESY	BESY Depot, Howrah & Asansol Divn.
6.	18.07.2019	Thursday	Halisahar	Halisahar Depot, Sealdah Divn.
7.	25.07.2019	Thursday	Jamalpur	Jamalpur Depot, Malda Divn.
8.	26.07.2019	Friday	BESY	BESY Depot, Howrah & Asansol Divn.
9.	30.07.2019	Tuesday	Halisahar	Halisahar Depot, Sealdah Divn.

N.B.: Schedule of E-Auction, other details & terms and conditions are available on the website <http://www.irps.gov.in>

AIRC: [airc@erco.irco.gov.in](mailto:airc@erco.irco.gov.in) (STORES-12/2019-20)

\*Tender Notices are also available at website: [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in)

**GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI**

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SW)-III**  
Sector-VII, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110022  
Phone No. 011-26167618

N.I.T No. 01(2019-20) SW III

S. No.	Description	Amount Put to Tender, Earnest Money and tender fee	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last Date/Time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Shifting of 300m dia C.I. water main (Direct Line) along Outer Ring Road in Munirka Village under SW-III (Electrical)	Rs. 2561956/- Rs. 51200/- (Rs. 2613156/-)	15.6.2019 15.6.2019	28.6.2019 At 2:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O (WATER)  
Adv. No. J.S.V. 74/2019-20

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SW-III)

**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI**

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH II)  
JAL SADAN: LAJPAT NAGAR: NEW DELHI

NIT No.9/S-II/2019-20  
Press Tender

S. No.	Name of Work	Reserve Price	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date and time for download & RTGS through e-procurement solution
1.	Replacement of old damaged main sewer line of Gauri Village Main Market under EE(S) II (AC-42 Kasturba Nagar)	3782252/-	2019_JDB_174313_7 19.6.2019	17.7.2019 upto 2:00 PM
2.	Improvement of sewerage system by replacement of old damaged sewer line from 588-D-I upto August Khandi Mang. Andrews Gari under EE(S) II (AC-42 Kasturba Nagar)	3180456/-	2019_JDB_174313_8 15.6.2019	17.7.2019 upto 2:00 PM
3.	Replacement of old damaged and rusted 100/150mm dia CI water line in B-Block Dayanand Colony under EE(S) II (AC-42 Kasturba Nagar)	3245319/-	2019_JDB_174313_9 15.6.2019	17.7.2019 upto 2:00 PM
4.	Improvement of Sewerage System by replacement of old settled sewer line in B-Block Dayanand Colony Lajpat Nagar-IV under EE(S) II (AC-42 Kasturba Nagar)	3570909/-	2019_JDB_174313_10 15.6.2019	17.7.2019 upto 2:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at [govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in](http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in)

ISSUED BY P.R.O (WATER)  
Adv. No. J.S.V. 75/2019-20

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (South-II)

# 35-yr-old Dalit farmer killed, body set ablaze inside hut

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 35-year-old Dalit farmer was allegedly murdered and his body was later burnt inside his hut in Pratnagarh to make it look like a case of accidental death. The incident took place at Bela Rampur village in Patti area of Pratnagarh district late Sunday night.

A case has been registered and investigations are on. Reports said that Vinay Prakash Saroj alias Bablu was murdered and then his house was set on fire to burn him. The hut was reduced to ashes and the body was charred beyond recognition, sources said on Monday.

Tension prevailed in Bela Rampur village as the villagers staged a protest demanding arrest of the assailants. A large contingent of police was rushed to the village to maintain law and order. Meanwhile, taking suo motu cognisance of the incident, Chairman of UP State

Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and former DGP Brijlal has sought a report from the Superintendent of Police of Pratnagarh, S Anand.

After watching the Indo-Pak cricket match, the victim came to his hut to sleep when someone first killed him and then torched the hut, Brijlal said. "The act against the Scheduled Caste person is condemnable and the Commission has sought a report from the Pratnagarh district police chief along with report of with action taken against the assailants," he said.

In a separate incident, one person was killed and three injured during firing at a panchayat meeting called to solve a husband-wife dispute in the Ramala area of Baghat district, police sources said on Monday. According to the sources, Sonu (20) and her husband Bhupendra, residents of Nagla Soop village in the Ramala area, used to have

domestic quarrels and a panchayat was called on Sunday evening to solve the issue. Sonu's brother Ajit had also come to the panchayat from Muzaffarnagar district along with his friend Bhagat Singh and a female member of the family Bimla Devi.

During the meeting, people from Sonu's side started firing which led to a stampede. One Mohak Singh (55) was killed after he received bullet injury while three other people, Mahatam, Rajiv and Sudhir, were injured in the firing and were admitted to a hospital. Ramala police station's inspector in-charge Naresh Kumar said that five people, who included in firing, had been named in a complaint and police were making efforts to arrest them.

In another case in Moradabad, Bharatya Janata Party Morcha city vice-president Saurabh Sharma and father-in-law for this murder. Both the brothers were in dispute over sharing of property for past couple of years.

Senior Superintendent of Police Akash Kulkarni said that an FIR had been registered on the complaint of the victim's wife and effort were on to arrest the accused, who is on the run. He too admitted that a property dispute within the family was the reason for the crime.

# Two youths die in road accident

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two youths of Unnao died in a road mishap in Bantha on Monday morning. They were identified as Pradeep Pal (25) and Kuldeep (19). Reports said they had visited Lucknow on Monday morning and were returning to Unnao. When they reached Bantha, their motorcycle was hit by a truck.

They suffered injuries and were rushed to Trauma Centre by passersby. "Pradeep succumbed shortly after being brought at KGMU Trauma Centre while Kuldeep died late in the night," police spokesman said.

Meanwhile, the body of an unidentified man was recovered from Gomti River in Hasanagar police station area on Monday. Police suspected that the man died of drowning while residents claimed foul play. Reports said some commuters spotted the body and informed the police. Subsequently, a police team reached the scene and the body was fished out. Police said the man was aged around 35 years. Commuters said they saw injuries on the body. However, police contested the claim. They said the post-mortem would ascertain the cause of death.

# Off-campus counselling for MBA at LU today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The online off-campus counselling for the MBA programmes at the Lucknow University will start on June 18. Admission coordinator, Lucknow University, Anil Mishra said that the candidates who had appeared in entrance test and interview for MBA and allotted open ranks in the merit list were eligible to participate in the counselling process.

"In the first step, the candidates have to register and submit their choices. Only those within the declared rank can participate in the online counselling and candidates whose graduation results have not yet been declared are advised to wait till their declaration before registration. They can register till July 10," he said. He said that all the candidates had been advised to read the counselling guidelines and submit their choices accordingly. "The candidates with lower ranks are advised to give more choices so they do not miss the chance of allotment. There will be only one round of choice filling," he said.

Candidates have the option to choose the following management programmes which include MBA, MBA (self-financed), MBA (Finance and



Talking about the undergraduate counselling, he said that the seat allotment in the off-campus online counselling had already been done. "The candidates who have been allotted the seats have to confirm this fact till the midnight of June 18. Candidates who have been allotted their second or lower choices have the option to go for upgradation. In such a case the candidate would be allotted a seat in choice of higher priority or the same choice depending upon the vacancy. Results of upgradation and second allotment will be declared on June 21," he added.

The on-campus online counselling for BA, BA (Hons) will end on June 18. On the last day the candidates with rank 3600 till 5200 have been called.

# Noose tightens around traffic violators in city

PNS ■ LUCKNOW



Road Safety Week kicked off on Monday with exercises of awareness and enforcement. According to SP, Traffic, Purnendra Singh, a total of 3,500 challans were issued for traffic violation and the amount collected was over Rs 2 lakh. Singh said they had carried out an awareness workshop at CMS Gomti Nagar auditorium for bus, autorickshaw and tempo drivers.



The ARTO also conducted fitness checking of vehicles focusing on the technical aspects. The SP said the Traffic department tried to follow all three E's associated with traffic enforcement, enforcement, education and education. "The enactment of law has already been carried out and now it is important to enforce and educate people. There are many people who are not aware of traffic laws and then there are youngsters who have just begun riding. They need to be educated about the laws," he said. Regarding the use of technology in the ongoing drive, he added: "He said when the Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS) was implemented, they would not have to issue e-challans manually.



Thus, yet another student has added to the list of CMS cash by dint of his academic excellence. According to chief public relations officer of CMS Hari Om Sharma, till date, CMS students have been offered admission in the top universities of USA, UK, Canada, Australia, Japan, Singapore, Germany etc, most of them on scholarships.

**U.P. RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED, OBRA THERMAL POWER STATION, OBRA, SONEBHADRA Extension Notice E-TENDER No. 9/SE-IBTPS/BMD-2018-19 NAME OF WORK :** The work of Annual Breakdown Maintenance of Coal Pipe Work of unit no.-9, 10 & 11, 3X200MW, BTPS, OBRA. TENDER No. : 9/SE-IBTPS/BMD-2018-19 ESTIMATED COST OF WORK : Rs. 7.00 Lakhs Approx. Last Date and Time For Submission of e-Bids (Technical and Financial) at e-procurement website <http://tender.up.nic.in> : 24.06.2019 up to 18:00 Hrs. Last Date and Time For Submission of Hardcopy of uploaded Tender along with requisite Tender fee, Earnest Money and tender Document in the Undersign Office : 25.06.2019 up to 17:00 Hrs. Date And Time of Opening of e-Bids : 27.06.2019 up to 16:00 Hrs. Place of Opening of e-Bids : Office of Superintending Engineer, Operation & Mechanical Maintenance Circle-I, B Thermal Power Station, Obra, Sonebhadra Address for Communication : SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, O&M&C-I, BTPS, Obra, Sonebhadra U.P., -231219. E-mail Address: se.ommc-1.btps.obra@upnvl.org Bid Document Cost : Rs. 500.00+90.00(GST)= Rs. 590.00 Earnest Money : Rs. 14,000.00 (Rs. Fourteen Thousand Only) NOTE : The tender documents shall not be sold. Tender specification is available on <http://tender.up.nic.in>. Tender will be accepted online only. SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, O&M&C-I, B TPS, OBRA No. 115 Date 17.06.2019 "SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION"

# Your every word is valuable to Govt: PM to Opp

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

with a clear majority after several decades, he said.

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

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

oath.

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MPs choose traditional attire on first day of LS

PNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were in their trademark Kurta, Pyjama and half-sleeve jacket.

Union Ministers Prahlaad Joshi, Giriraj Singh and GK Reddy sported saffron attire or half jacket. Bihar MPs Gopal Jee Thakur and Ashok Kumar Yadav wore the traditional Maithilii attire and headgear, while most of the Assam MPs donned the traditional Assamese gamocha, considered a symbol of the State's culture.

YSR Congress MPs from Andhra Pradesh sported the

'Angavastram' dotted with picture of party president and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. BJP's Bhopal MP Pragya Singh Thakur was seen in her trademark saffron robe while Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal wore the traditional Rajasthan saffron and green headgear as part of the dress.

Film star Sunny Deol, who was elected to Lok Sabha from Gurdaspur in Punjab, came in shirt and trouser and was seen sitting in the second last row.

Arunachal Pradesh MP Tapir Gao wore the traditional blue Arunachali jacket.



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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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



The name written in her election certificate issued by the returning officer would go on record. BJP MPs accused the Congress MPs of unnecessarily targeting the BJP MP. PTI

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

The Pro tem Speaker Viendra Kumar sought to know from the Lok Sabha Secretary General, the full name. Amid noise and objections, Kumar ruled that only

the name written in her election certificate issued by the returning officer would go on record. BJP MPs accused the Congress MPs of unnecessarily targeting the BJP MP. Thakur took oath in Sanskrit and ended it with 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' slogan. Later, BJP members continued to raise 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' slogans.

After Ganendra Umarao Singh Patel (BJP) completed his oath with 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', NK Premchandran (RSP) urged the Pro-tem speaker to maintain the prescribed format of the oath. The Pro tem speaker ruled that the members stick to the format provided. After this, the members of BJP started ending 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' after adding 'Every oath is

## INSHORT

### ADVANI, DEVE GOWDA MISSED IN LOK SABHA

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

### COMMITTED TO SAVE LAND DEGRADATION: MIN

**New Delhi:** Acknowledging that 23.3 per cent of land in India was affected by degradation, Union Minister Prakash Jaisankar on Monday said his Ministry was committed to saving it with all necessary contributions in the matter and shall lead by example in combating the crisis.

### ADMISSIONS: CENTRE TOLD TO CLEAR STAND

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



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

## ENCEPHALITIS DEATHS IN MUZAFFARPUR

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Emphasising the need for early detection and treatment of hypoglycaemia cases, Harsh Vardhan said that a dedicated team of doctors should be placed in endemic PHCs with required facilities at least for 3 to 4 months before and during onset of disease and they may be incentivised under NHM appropriately.

As for present, the correct use of PHCs and IHCs should take prompt corrective measures for hypoglycaemia at the facility itself to utilize the golden hour, he added.

Harsh Vardhan also said that Ministry of Earth Science will be requested to upgrade its IMD. IHCs for better preparedness and management of AES.

"The central government will provide all possible help including financial to the state to control the situation, provide proper treatment and develop infrastructure needed for it," Health Minister said.

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

## CBI books Army techie for bribery

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Ansari had allegedly threat

## IAF AN-32 CRASH

### Black box damaged in air crash

#### Investigation to ascertain cause to be delayed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

Office of B.R.D. Medical College & Nehru Chikitsalaya, Gorakhpur (U.P.) 273013

Tel No. (0551) 2501736 Fax No. 05512501736

No. 23/BRD/Medicine/N.H./e-tender/2019-20 Dated - 13.06.2019

**e-tender Notice**  
Online e-bids are invited for procurement of Medicines from Original Manufacturers/License Pharmaceutical Company For the period of financial year 2019-2020 or up to the finalization of next tender in the next financial year having performance of marketing and manufacturing certificate issued by the State Drug Control Authority/Licensing Authority and quality & safety certification of any authorized National/international standards like GMP/WHO/JPFF/USFDA/CEISO/DGQA certificate etc. The e-bid EMD is Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh only). The e-tender document processing cost is Rs. 1,180.00 (1,00,000+18% G.S.T.) only. The details for submission of e-bids will be available in the e-tender document on the UP Government e-Procurement website http://etender.up.gov.in or Medical College website www.brmdc.ac.in from 20.06.2019. Last date for submitting tender-bid shall be 18.07.2019 at 6:55 PM, and opening date 19.07.2019 at 02.00 PM. The Principal Medical College Gorakhpur reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-bids/annual e-bidding process without assigning any reason and decision of the Principal Medical College Gorakhpur will be final and binding.

SIC: Nehru Chikitsalaya, B.R.D. Medical College, Gorakhpur  
PRINCIPAL: B.R.D. Medical College, Gorakhpur  
UP-141216 Date 14.6.2019 ईशा १३०६ १३:०६:५५ www.upgovt.in व ३०४४३३

OFFICE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
LEFT IRRIGATION DIVISION, GORAKHPUR  
PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE NO-01/EE/2019-20  
This is to inform that the auction of unserviceable/irreparable/obsolete equipment/material as per following lot will be made on dated 17.07.2019 at Chaudhary Charan Singh inspection house tubewell colony near railway station road, Gorakhpur at 11:00 AM as per following terms & conditions.

Unserviceable machine and equipment/material are available on different LIFT Pump Canal head as per following details. The prescribed application form and conditions for participation in the auction will be available from 22.06.2019 to 15.07.2019 on any working day in the office of Executive Engineer, LIFT Irrigation Division, 10/10, Boring, Lachhupur, Gorakhpur. Application form will not be refundable.

Sl. No.	Name of Unserviceable Machine No. and equipments/Items	Name of Pump Canal/Head	Quantity Available	Reserve Price (INR)	Cost of Application Form (INR)	Date of Auction	Security Deposit (INR)
1	1. 1/11 E.T. 110V/220V/3 KW	Dohrahat Sahayya Pump Canal, Bahia	10	2178+GST	300.00+GST	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
2	2. Panel set 1/11 Nos. 145000 Amp.		1	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
3	3. C.I. Stator valve 750 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
4	4. C.I. Stator valve 300 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
5	5. C.I. Stator valve 200 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
6	6. C.I. Stator valve 150 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
7	7. C.I. Stator valve 100 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
8	8. C.I. Stator valve 75 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
9	9. C.I. Stator valve 50 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
10	10. C.I. Stator valve 25 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
11	11. C.I. Stator valve 15 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
12	12. C.I. Stator valve 10 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
13	13. C.I. Stator valve 5 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
14	14. C.I. Stator valve 2.5 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
15	15. C.I. Stator valve 1.25 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
16	16. C.I. Stator valve 0.625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
17	17. C.I. Stator valve 0.3125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
18	18. C.I. Stator valve 0.15625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
19	19. C.I. Stator valve 0.078125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
20	20. C.I. Stator valve 0.0390625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
21	21. C.I. Stator valve 0.01953125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
22	22. C.I. Stator valve 0.009765625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
23	23. C.I. Stator valve 0.0048828125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
24	24. C.I. Stator valve 0.00244140625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
25	25. C.I. Stator valve 0.001220703125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
26	26. C.I. Stator valve 0.0006103515625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
27	27. C.I. Stator valve 0.00030517578125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
28	28. C.I. Stator valve 0.000152587890625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
29	29. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000762939453125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
30	30. C.I. Stator valve 0.00003814697265625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
31	31. C.I. Stator valve 0.000019073486328125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
32	32. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000095367431640625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
33	33. C.I. Stator valve 0.00000476837158203125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
34	34. C.I. Stator valve 0.000002384185791015625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
35	35. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000011920928955078125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
36	36. C.I. Stator valve 0.00000059604644775390625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
37	37. C.I. Stator valve 0.000000298023223876953125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
38	38. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000001490116119384765625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
39	39. C.I. Stator valve 0.00000007450580596923828125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
40	40. C.I. Stator valve 0.00000003725290298464645625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
41	41. C.I. Stator valve 0.000000018626451492323228125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
42	42. C.I. Stator valve 0.000000009313225746111615625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
43	43. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000000046566128555578078125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
44	44. C.I. Stator valve 0.00000000232830642777890390625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
45	45. C.I. Stator valve 0.000000001164153213889451953125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
46	46. C.I. Stator valve 0.00000000058207660694479765625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
47	47. C.I. Stator valve 0.000000000291038303472398828125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
48	48. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000000001455191517361994140625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
49	49. C.I. Stator valve 0.000000000072759575868095703125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
50	50. C.I. Stator valve 0.000000000036379787934047890625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
51	51. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000000000181898939670239451953125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
52	52. C.I. Stator valve 0.000000000009094946983511972390625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
53	53. C.I. Stator valve 0.00000000000454747349175868095703125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
54	54. C.I. Stator valve 0.000000000002273736745884297890625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
55	55. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000000000011368683727444239451953125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
56	56. C.I. Stator valve 0.000000000000568434186372211972390625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
57	57. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000000000002842170931861086095703125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
58	58. C.I. Stator valve 0.000000000000142108546593054297890625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
59	59. C.I. Stator valve 0.00000000000007105427329652489451953125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
60	60. C.I. Stator valve 0.000000000000035527136646237447890625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
61	61. C.I. Stator valve 0.00000000000001776356832311889451953125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
62	62. C.I. Stator valve 0.00000000000000888178416159472390625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
63	63. C.I. Stator valve 0.00000000000000444089208079739451953125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
64	64. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000000000000022204460403986972390625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
65	65. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000000000000011102230201993489451953125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
66	66. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000000000000005551115100996972390625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
67	67. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000000000000002775557550498489451953125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
68	68. C.I. Stator valve 0.00000000000000013877787752494447890625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
69	69. C.I. Stator valve 0.000000000000000069388938762472390625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
70	70. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000000000000000346944693812369451953125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
71	71. C.I. Stator valve 0.00000000000000001734723469061847890625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
72	72. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000000000000000086736173453094447890625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
73	73. C.I. Stator valve 0.00000000000000000433680867265472390625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
74	74. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000000000000000021684043362261847890625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
75	75. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000000000000000010842021681132390625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
76	76. C.I. Stator valve 0.00000000000000000054210108406561847890625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
77	77. C.I. Stator valve 0.000000000000000000271050542032809451953125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
78	78. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000000000000000001355252710156147890625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
79	79. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000000000000000000677626355277890625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
80	80. C.I. Stator valve 0.000000000000000000033881317890625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
81	81. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000000000000000000169406589451953125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
82	82. C.I. Stator valve 0.000000000000000000008470329472390625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
83	83. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000000000000000000042351636361847890625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
84	84. C.I. Stator valve 0.00000000000000000000211758182390625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
85	85. C.I. Stator valve 0.000000000000000000001058790911847890625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
86	86. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000000000000000000005293954572390625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
87	87. C.I. Stator valve 0.0000000000000000000002646977289451953125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
88	88. C.I. Stator valve 0.00000000000000000000013234886447890625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
89	89. C.I. Stator valve 0.000000000000000000000066174422390625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
90	90. C.I. Stator valve 0.000000000000000000000033087211847890625 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00
91	91. C.I. Stator valve 0.00000000000000000000001654360589451953125 mm dia		10	10	10	17.07.2019	1,18,000.00

# Encephalitis death toll rises to 103

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

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

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

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

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan revised the situation at a high-level meeting in New Delhi, which was attended



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

by senior officers of the Health Ministry, Indian Council of Medical Research and the AIIMS.

Vardhan directed another high-level team to immediately visit the district and undertake necessary groundwork for the setting up of a state-of-the-art multidisciplinary research centre, according to a statement.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) sent notices to the Union Health Minister and the Bihar

Government over the deaths. It observed that despite reported measures taken by the Government agencies, deaths of children in such large number indicated a possible flaw in the implementation of vaccination and awareness programmes.

Chief Secretary Deepak Kumar said no clear cause of deaths could be ascertained so far and indicated that one of the reasons could be that no rainfall, even pre-monsoon rain, occurred in the district this

year.

The chief secretary said the Government had also decided to send a team to each household, where children died due to suspected AES cases, in order to find out their social and economic background.

The purpose, he said, was to find out whether the deaths had any link with the background of the deceased families.

The official was speaking to reporters after a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Mathura's hydrotherapy pool treats ailing elephants

**SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI**

India's first hydrotherapy pool for 'jumbos' for the elephants suffering from arthritis, joint pain and foot ailments is in Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh.

The jumbo pool, situated in 11-foot-deep and has 21 high pressure jet sprays that create

early on-set of arthritis," said a wildlife SOS, adding, "Due to lack of improper foot care, the toenails and cuticles of the elephants overgrow and become more prone to cracking. As such, standing and walking becomes painful for these long ranging animals."

Dr. Yadraj Khadkekar, Senior Wildlife Veterinary

high pressure water jets that massage the elephants' feet and body and help in increasing blood circulation.

This is a critically important component of the treatment as it also helps oxygen and vital minerals to reach the muscle tissues."

In November 2018, India based wildlife conservation



The jumbo pool has 21 high pressure jet sprays that create water pressure that massage the elephants' feet and body

water pressure that massage the elephants' feet and body and help in increasing blood circulation. According to an official of the Wildlife SOS, "Rescued elephants from extreme distress, privately owned and had the cruel history of being used for begging and some spent a lifetime in captivity and confinement as temple elephants or were being forced to perform in circuses will be given therapy treatment."

"Captive elephants in such situations are made to navigate environments that their body was not built for. Standing on concrete for prolonged periods becomes an invitation to the

Officer said, "With each elephant rescue, we have observed a disturbing pattern in captive elephants: their bodies are weakened due to improper nutrition, their bodies and delicate feet are riddled with wounds and painful abscesses. Osteoarthritis and foot issues are common ailments. Water resistance is useful for muscle strengthening and cardiovascular training whilst water pressure can reduce oedema and swelling."

Kartick Satyanarayan, the co-founder and CEO Wildlife SOS said, "The jumbo hydrotherapy pool installed at the Wildlife SOS Elephant Hospital is equipped with 21

charity Wildlife SOS established the country's first and only fully equipped Elephant Hospital in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh Forest Department. Situated on the banks of Yamuna River in Mathura, the Elephant Hospital is located near the Wildlife SOS' Elephant Conservation and Care Centre (ECCC), which is home to over 20 rescued elephants.

The hospital is equipped with state-of-the-art modern facilities like Wireless Digital X-Ray, Laser Treatment, Dental X-Ray, Thermal imaging and Ultrasonography to treat injured, sick and geriatric elephants.

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

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

District and sessions court here, hearing the matter on the direction of the Supreme Court, convicted six people on June 10 in the case which included Sanji Ram, dismissed policeman Deepak Khajuria and Parvash Kumar, who have been sentenced to life in jail.

"Heaven and hell are no geographical locations, our thoughts, actions and character create the situation of heaven or hell for us," judge Dr Tejwinder Singh wrote in the beginning of his 432-page judgment, a copy of which is with PTI.

# Akademi rejects Left Govt's decision to review cartoon award

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

The decision was taken unanimously by the executive committee and the general council of the Kerala Lalithakala Akademi, which met at its headquarters here.

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

"We have unanimously decided not to intervene into the decision of the expert jury which had selected the cartoon for the award."

Their decision is final and we will not make any change in it," Akademi chairman Nemon Pushparaj told PTI.

"Last time, the award was given to a cartoon criticising Chief Minister Pinarayi

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

He also observed the crime committed against the minor is 'shameful, inhumane and barbaric' but said the evidence brought on record has to be tested on a 'touchstone in order to find out the real culprits, so that no innocent person is crushed under the wheels in an unjust manner'.

After hearing prosecution lawyers, comprising S S Basra, J K Chopra, Harminder Singh and Bhupinder Singh, as also a battery of 57 defence lawyers, the judge said, "There is nothing on record which could show that there is a false implication (as contended by defence lawyers) of accused persons in this case."

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

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

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

Senior Superintendent of

Police (SSP) Dinesh Kumar P said, the accused, Praveen, is a relative of the boy. The boy's parents worked as labourers.

The child's parents were out on work when Praveen along with his wife Renu came to their house in Saloni village of Sarvasa area here and took Saurabh to nearby Sultanpur village, he said.

Praveen then sold the boy

to the couple. The couple had three girls, the officer said.

As the child's parents reported the matter to the police, Praveen was questioned. He later confessed to the crime.

The accused was taken to Sultanpur village where the police rescued the boy, but the couple who had bought the child managed to flee.

# Payal Tadvi suicide: Police oppose bail of accused doctors

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

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

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

The accused were absconding for about five days after the incident and during this period, they planned on how to tackle police interrogation, they said.

Stressing that they were

awaiting the forensic report of the mobile phones of the accused as well as the victim, the police said that if the accused were released on bail, they will hamper the probe.

The accused— Hema Ahuja, Bhakti Meher and Anika Khandelwal, attached to the BYL Nair hospital here, were arrested on May 29 and are currently in judicial custody.

They have been charged under relevant sections of the IPC, the Maharashtra Prohibition of Ragging Act as well as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Meanwhile, the prosecution moved an adjournment application saying it was not in their hands to arrange the equipment required for video-recording of the court proceedings.

# Guj man booked for giving triple talaq to wife on WhatsApp

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

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

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

"Upon getting the divorce message from his son, Javed Kalia took a print-out and approached a cleric to formalise the separation," he said.

The couple were married four years ago and have a three-year-old son, he said, adding that the victim has complained that she was tortured in her marital house.

# Bru repatriation JMG meeting postponed on request of MBDPF: Official

**Aizawl:** The proposed meeting of the Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) on Bru repatriation to be held in Delhi on Tuesday was postponed on the request of the Mizoram Bru Displaced People's Forum (MBDPF) leaders, a senior State Home department official said here on Monday.

The JMG comprised of top officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs, senior Home department officials of both Mizoram and Tripura governments and leaders of the MBDPF, the official said.

The JMG meeting was called to deliberate on the preparedness of the stake-holders for the repatriation process.

The official said the MBDPF said that they would not be able to attend the meeting due to ill-health of their leaders and the time for holding the next meeting was yet to be scheduled.

Meanwhile, the Mizoram government has already announced its proposal to commence the ninth and final

round of repatriation of Brus from October and that the process should be completed before December this year.

Preparations are in full swing from May 28, the day after the election process for Parliamentary polls was over by holding a meeting of the district core committee on Bru repatriation at the border town of Kolashib, followed by a meeting at Mizoram-Tripura-Bangladesh border Mamit town and later at Bangladesh border Lunglei town.

The repatriated Brus would be resettled within the Assembly constituencies where they had resided in 1997, before the exodus in accordance with the guidelines of the repatriation; the official said.

While 4,185 Bru families were proposed to be resettled in Mamit district, 822 Bru families would be resettled in 10 villages in Kolashib district, 371 families would be resettled in south Mizoram's Lunglei district.

**COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (CSIR)**  
Anusandhan Bhawan, 2, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001  
Advt. No.02/2019  
**CSIR is looking for Outstanding Scientists**  
CSIR invites applications/nominations for two positions of Scientist 'H'/Outstanding Scientist at Technology Management Directorates, SCIR Hqrs., in Level 15 (Rs. 1,82,200-2,24,100) of pay-matrix plus allowances as applicable in SCIR.  
For eligibility criteria and other conditions, please see the detailed/complete advertisement No. 02/2019 on SCIR website [www.csir.res.in](http://www.csir.res.in). Interested candidates may send their complete bio-data alongwith list of publications/patents etc. through email/by post to Director-General, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Anusandhan Bhawan, 2, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001 on or before **31.07.2019** Email : [dgcsir@csir.res.in](mailto:dgcsir@csir.res.in), [dg@csir.res.in](mailto:dg@csir.res.in).  
Davp - 36202/11/0009/1920

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD**  
E-Tender Notice No.: ET-26/Elect/CHG-ALD-19-20 Dated: 12.06.2019  
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/Coaching/North Central Railway/Allahabad, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work up to 15.00 hrs. on 11.07.2019. The details of the tenders are as under:  
S. No. Tender No. Name of Work Approx. Cost (₹) Earnest Money (₹)  
1 ETCHG-26 Maintenance Contract of DG sets, Alternators, control panels, etc. of Power Car with excoring and operation of DG sets including 'A', 'B' & 'C' checks of DG set of Power Cars over Allahabad division for three years. 21587830.70 257900/-  
Duration of Completion: 36 Months. Cost of Tender form: ₹10000/- Tender Opening Date: 11.07.2019 Note:-1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on website [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) upto 15.00 hrs. On the due date of tender opening. 2. Bids, other than in the form of e-Bids, shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, Vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2008. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entry in any other form/letterhead if attached by vendor shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 5. This tender notice can also be found on following websites: a) [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in). In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 7. Payment of EMD and Tender Form cost should be made online only through multiple bank's net banking, debit and credit cards. & Eligibility criteria for Tender no. ETCHG-26 (a) The tenderer must have successfully completed any of the following during last 07 years, ending last day of month of previous value to the one in which tender is invited: Three similar works costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of advertised value of the tender. OR Two similar works costing not less than the amount equal to 50% of advertised value of the tender. OR One similar works costing not less than the amount equal to 80% of advertised value of the tender. Definition of "similar work" is "Satisfactory execution of work related to operation and comprehensive maintenance of DG sets of 250 KVA or above capacity for stationary/mobile use of railway power car". (b) Total contractual amount received during the last three financial years (i.e. current year upto the date of opening of tender & 3 previous financial years) should be a minimum of 150% of advertised tender value for the work. (c) The firm should be RDSO approved source as per latest RDSO vendor directory EL-M-7.1.1 version 2.0 or latest of 500KVA DG set for Power Car. 811919K

**Tender Notice No. 230-Elect/TRD/ALD/E-Tender Notice/2019/412,413 & 414 Dated: 14.06.2019**  
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD/North Central Railway/Allahabad, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following E-Tender, the details of the tenders are as under:  
Tender No. Name of work Advertised Value (₹) Earnest Money (₹)  
778 Modification in 132 kV, 3 Phase Double Circuit Transmission line due to shifting from BPCL premises Panke to new Locations in between Bhaupur-Panke section in Allahabad Division. 39940784.16 349700/-  
779 Modification in 25 KV OHLE due to linking of IR track with DFCCIL track at Iradatgari Railway station in Allahabad Division. 40896791.89 354500/-  
780 Modification in 25 KV OHLE due to linking of IR track with DFCCIL track at Cheki Railway station in Allahabad Division. 38472977.21 342400/-  
Tender Document Cost: ₹ 10000/- for each tender. Completion Period: 12 Months for each tender. Tender Closing Date & Time: 15.07.2019 & 14:00 Hrs for each tender. Bidding system: Single Packet for each tender. Note:- 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in). 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate. 3. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 8191919K  
North central railway [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) @CFRONCR

PAPER WITH PASSION

## Not worth the hype

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



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

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

## Another tiger crisis

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



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

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

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

# The Left crisis in India

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



A SURYA PRAKASH

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

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

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

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



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

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

Under the Ujjwala programme, the Government pro-

vides free cooking gas connection to families below the poverty line. Thus far, over 20 million families have benefited from it. Another such scheme with far-reaching impact is the aim to build homes for the poor and toilets in every home. Though some of these schemes were initiated by previous Governments, their implementation was sluggish in the absence of motivation and commitment. Delivery of these schemes has picked up pace after Modi became the Prime Minister in 2014.

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

There are many other factors

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

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

## SOUNDBITE

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

Prime Minister  
—Narendra Modi

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

Actor  
—Shahid Kapoor

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

CPI general secretary  
—Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy

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

Congress leader  
—M Veerappa Moily

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Matter of public health

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

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

### Save our children

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



rity and healthcare but little has been delivered.

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

G David Milton  
Marathandode

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

Madhu Agrawal  
New Delhi

### Hong Kong stands up

Sir — The proposed extradition Bill in Hong Kong has become

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

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

P Senthil  
Via email

### Special status mania

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

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

KV Seetharamiah  
Hassan

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## FIRST COLUMN

## A new route to Central Asia

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



ABHISHEK PRATAP SINGH

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

As an important trans-regional grouping, the idea of SCO was envisioned by China in 2001 to address its peripheral concerns and traces back its origin to Shanghai Five (1996). Over the years, the group has evolved itself as a "primary political and security organisation" in the Eurasian region. The SCO has evolved its agenda for cooperation on security, trade and investment, connectivity, energy and culture among partner countries. The "added space", which SCO membership provides, also makes for good words of political statesmanship. For Russia, India and China, the SCO provides an expansive platform for engagement beyond the BRICS framework.

Ever since it got the role of observer status in SCO (2005), India has been keenly displaying its desire "to play larger, wider and more constructive role in the SCO." After becoming a full-time member in 2017, it emphasised its key role to advance its "Connect Central Asia" diplomacy. Crucially, India had bilateral meetings with Russia and China at the sidelines of the summit. The "wide-ranging discussions" meeting between Prime Minister Modi and Russian President Putin was significant to boost the India-Russia strategic relationship with a focus on next year's summit. Both countries seek to capitalise on concerns about China and it exercising disproportionate influence in Central Asia. The combined trade share of both countries with Central Asian states is far less in comparison to \$100 plus trade between China and Central Asia. India also received invitation to be the "main guest" at the Eastern Economic Forum, 2019 hosted by Russia. Both nations reiterated wider cooperation in energy sector, Arctic region, transfer of technology and joint projects under "Make in India" initiative and also aimed to attract Indian manpower in resource-rich far East Russia.

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

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

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

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

DOCTORS ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO TREAT THE CHILDREN. A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY INSTITUTE WILL BE SET UP TO IDENTIFY THE REASON BEHIND THE DISEASE.

—UNION MINISTER  
HARSH VARDHAN



THE NUMBER OF DEATHS WOULD HAVE BEEN ZERO IF DOCTORS WERE AVAILABLE IN MORE NUMBERS AND WOULD HAVE WORKED AT A GREATER PACE.

—MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, MUZAFFARPUR  
AJAY NISHAD

## Glimmer of hope

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

JS RAJPUT

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Similar was the fate of colleges of Teacher Education and Institutes of Advanced Studies in education. These and similar schemes were revisited — and redesigned — a couple of times but the originally expected vibrancy always evaded actual implementation. When private entrepreneurs witness Government institutions being ignored and neglected — no regular recruitments and no promotions — they follow the suit, appoint staff only on paper and manage inspections following the well-established — though unstated — practices. The result in over 92 per cent of the private institutions "do not even attempt to provide a good education; instead many are functioning as commercial shops." And hundreds of thousands of young people with BE degrees from such institutions are either already in the

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

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

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

## Devaluation of care labourers

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



SURAVI SHARMA

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

As per Joan Tronto's theorisation of "care ethics", it is an approach to personal, social, moral and political life

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is a pathologist)



## FOREIGN EYE



## INVESTIGATE REAL VIOLENCE

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

(The Guardian editorial)



# Will break uranium stockpile limit in 10 days: Iran

AP ■ TEHRAN

Iran will break the uranium stockpile limit set by Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers in the next 10 days, the spokesman for the country's atomic agency said Monday while also warning that Iran has the need for uranium enriched up to 20 per cent, just a step away from weapons-grade levels.

The announcement indicated Iran's determination to break from the landmark 2015 accord, which has steadily unraveled since the Trump administration pulled America out of the deal last year and reimposed tough economic sanctions on Iran, sending its economy into freefall.

The spokesman for Iran's nuclear agency, Behrouz Kamalvandi, made the announcement during a press conference with local journalists at Iran's Arak heavy water facility that was carried live on Iranian state television.

The development comes in the wake of suspected attacks on oil tankers last week in the region, attacks that Washington has blamed on Iran, and also as tensions have spiked between

Iran and the United States, a year after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the nuclear deal.

Kamalvandi acknowledged that the country already quadrupled its production of low-enriched uranium and said Tehran would increase uranium enrichment levels "based on the country's needs." That increase could be to any level, from 3.67% which is the current limit set by the nuclear deal.

Iran need 5 per cent enrichment for its nuclear power plant in southern Iranian port of Bushehr and it also needs 20 per cent enrichment for a Tehran research reactor, the spokesman said.

When uranium is mined, it typically has about 140 atoms of this unwanted isotope for every atom of U-235. Refining it to a purity of 3.67 per cent the level now allowed by the nuclear deal, means removing 114 unwanted atoms of U-238 for every atom of U-235.

Boosting its purity to 20 per cent means removing 22 more unwanted isotopes per atom of U-235, while going from there to 90 per cent puri-



This file photo shows a part of Arak heavy water nuclear facilities, near the central city of Arak, 150 miles (250 kilometres) southwest of the capital Tehran, Iran. Iran will break the uranium stockpile limit set by Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers in the next 10 days, the spokesman for the country's atomic agency said Monday while also warning that Iran has the need for uranium enriched up to 20%, just a step away from weapons-grade levels. AP

ty means removing just four more per atom of U-235, he noted. Ninety per cent is considered weapons-grade material.

That means going from 20 per cent to 90 per cent is a relatively quicker process, something that worries nuclear nonproliferation experts.

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

one of the two ships that were targeted. The Japanese tanker's crewmembers appeared to contradict the assertion that mines were used. They described "flying objects" as having targeted the vessel.

Speaking on "Fox News Sunday," US Secretary of State

Mike Pompeo reiterated the US official position. He claimed that intelligence officials have "lots of data, lots of evidence" tying Iran to the attacks, though he did not provide any specifics.

He called the alleged shipping attacks "an international challenge, important to the entire globe." In Brussels on Monday, European Union foreign ministers said they were still looking for more information on who might be behind the incident involving the tankers. Germany and others insisted they need a clearer picture before wading into a diplomatic conflict which could have serious implications in the Middle East.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said that US and British intelligence needs to be compared with other information sources. "We have to be very careful," he said.

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said it was not a time to jump to action without proper information. "The maximum restraint and wisdom should be applied," she said ahead of the monthly foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg.



In this file photo, Egypt's ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi sits in a defendant cage in the Police Academy courthouse in Cairo, Egypt, on Monday. Egypt's state TV said the country's ousted President Mohammed Morsi, 67, collapsed during a court session and died. It said it occurred while he was attending a court trial on espionage charges. Morsi, who hailed from Egypt's largest Islamist group, the now outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, was elected president in 2012 in the country's first free elections following the ouster the year before of longtime leader Hosni Mubarak. AP

# Egypt ex-President Morsi collapses in court, succumbs

AFP ■ CAIRO

Former Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi died on Monday in a Cairo hospital after fainting during a session in court, judicial and security sources said.

"He was speaking before the judge for 20 minutes then became very animated and fainted. He was quickly rushed to the hospital where he later died, a judicial source said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, a strong ally of the Islamist president during his brief tenure as Egypt's leader, paid tribute to Morsi and called him a "martyr".

The official Al-Ahram news website also reported the death of Morsi, 67, who was Egypt's first democratically elected president but spent just one turbulent year in office after the 2011 uprising before the army toppled him in 2013.

The Islamist leader has been in prison since his ouster on trial for several cases including for spying for Iran, Qatar and militant groups such as Hamas in the Gaza Strip. He was also accused of plotting terror acts.

Since his overthrow on July 3, 2013, his former defence minister now President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has waged an ongoing crackdown targeting his supporters from the Muslim Brotherhood with thousands jailed and hundreds facing death sentences.

The years following Morsi's overthrow have seen a surge in bombings and shootings targeting security forces, particularly in the restive northern Sinai Peninsula, a stronghold of the Islamic State group.

Morsi's turbulent rule was marked by deep divisions in Egyptian society, a crippling economic crisis and often deadly opposition protests.

# Lt Gen Faiz Hameed is new Pakistan ISI chief

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

In a surprise reshuffle, the Pakistan Army has appointed Lt Gen Faiz Hameed as the chief of the powerful Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) spy agency, replacing current spymaster Lt General Asim Munir after a brief stint of eight months.

Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed appointed as the Director General of the ISI, according to a statement issued by the military's media wing. Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) — on Sunday. On April 12, the Pakistan

Army promoted then-Major General Hameed to the rank of Lt Gen and appointed him as the new Director General of the General Headquarters (GHQ) later that month.

He previously served in the ISI as the head of internal security and is believed to be a close aide of Army Chief Gen Qamar Bajwa.

Lt Gen Munir was appointed as Corps Commander Gujranwala. His eight-month stint as the ISI chief was probably one of the shortest among those who had served this office, Dawn reported. Lt Gen Munir was appointed

as the ISI chief in October last year after the retirement of his predecessor Lt Gen Naveed Mukhtar.

Lt Gen Hameed's name first caught public eye when he helped end Faizabad dharna by a radical religious group in November 2017 through a deal.

His appointment comes at a very crucial time and it is believed that his vast experience at ISI may help him deal with both external and internal security challenges.

Lt Gen Sahir Shamsah Mirza would replace Lt Gen Hameed as the adjutant general at GHQ.



Pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong (centre) is chased by reporters after he speaks to protesters near the Legislative Council in Hong Kong on Monday. Wong was released from prison Monday after serving half of a two-month jail sentence for contempt. He headed to join protesters gathered near Hong Kong's government headquarters soon afterward. AP

# HK police clear streets as protesters move to park

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Protesters in Hong Kong left the streets, awaiting possible clashes Monday after haggling for hours with police by moving to areas near the city's government headquarters. The demonstrators who stayed after a massive protest march the day before, demanding that Chief Executive Carrie Lam abandon a proposed extradition bill, were seen streaming

Monday morning into a space outside Hong Kong's Legislative Council after police who had cleared it reopened the area. Their decision to move allowed police to reopen streets to traffic.

The activists have rejected an apology from Lam for her handling of the legislation, which has stoked fears of expanding control from Beijing in this former British colony. "We are very angry that

Carrie Lam has not responded to the demands of all the protesters, but now is the time to talk about strategy, and talk about strategy is to how about how to make the whole struggle into a long-term struggle and not a day struggle," Carrie Lam does not respond to the five demands by the protesters, people will come back and the struggle will continue," said Lee Cheuk-yan, a former legislator and activist. Shortly after day-

break, the police had asked for cooperation in clearing the road but said the protesters could stay on the sidewalks.

For a time, the protesters, many in masks and other gear to guard against possible use of tear gas, responded with chants, some kneeling in front of the officers.

Hundreds were lying or sitting on the roads until they agreed to move to the plaza outside the government building and a spacious nearby

park. Activists had called on Hong Kong residents to boycott classes and work, though it was unclear how many might heed that call.

Nearly 2 million of the city's 7 million people turned out on Sunday, according to estimates by protest organizers.

Police said 338,000 were counted on the designated protest route in the "peak period" of the march. A week earlier as many as 1 million

people demonstrated to voice their concern over Hong Kong's relations with mainland China in one of the toughest tests of the territory's special status since Beijing took control in a 1997 handover.

The scenes were similar to those seen nearly five years earlier, when protesters camped for weeks in the streets to protest rules that prevented the direct election of the city's chief executive, the top local official.

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

PTI ■ BEIJING

President Xi Jinping would make his maiden visit to Pyongyang this week — the first by a Chinese leader in 14 years — in a big boost to the North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, who is under heavy pressure from the US to give up nuclear weapons programme. Xi will visit Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) — the official name for North Korea — from June 20 to 21, at the invitation of Kim, the spokesperson for the International Department of the ruling Communist Party of China, Hu Zhaoxing, announced here.

His visit coincides with the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Xi's visit, the first by a Chinese leader in 14 years to the internationally isolated country

president to give up the nuclear programme. Their summit at Hanoi, Vietnam in February failed and Trump stayed off pressure to agree to lift crippling UN sanctions.

Kim, who shares close ties with President Xi, has travelled to China ahead of his proposed meetings with Trump, prompting the US president to allege that the Chinese president's trip was negatively influencing the North Korean leader from dishing a deal to give up the nuclear programme. The North Korean leader has visited China four times in recent years.

Commenting on Xi's visit, Chinese strategic experts said that making such a significant visit before the G20 summit shows that China is trying to further highlight its unique influence to push forward the peace process on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue.

# 30 killed in triple suicide bombing in NE Nigeria

AFP ■ KANO

Thirty people were killed Tuesday in a triple suicide bombing in northeast Nigeria, emergency services reported, in an attack bearing the hallmarks of the Boko Haram jihadist group.

Three bombers detonated their explosives outside a hall in Konduga, 38 kilometres (24 miles) from the Borno state capital Maiduguri, where football fans were watching a match on TV.

"The death toll from the attack has so far increased to 30. We have over 40 people injured," Usman Kachalla, head of operations at the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), said on Monday.

The attack happened around 9:00 pm (1800 GMT), Ali Hassan, the leader of a self-defence group in the town, said.

The owner of hall prevented one of the bombers from entering the packed venue. "There was a heated argument between the operator and the bomber who blew himself up," Hassan said by phone. Two other bombers who had mingled among the crowd at a stall nearby also detonated their suicide vests.

Hassan said most of the victims were from outside the soccer viewing centre.

"Nine people died on the spot, including the operator, and 48 were injured," Hassan said.

Kachalla said the high number of fatalities was because emergency respon-

ders had been unable to reach the site of the blast quickly.

Nor were they equipped to deal with large numbers of wounded.

"Lack of an appropriate health facility to handle such huge emergency situation and the delay in obtaining security clearance to enable us deploy from Maiduguri in good time led to the high death toll," he said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but the attack bore the imprint of Boko Haram, which has led a decade-long campaign to establish a headline Islamic state in northeast Nigeria.

The last suicide attack was in April this year when two female suicide bombers blew themselves up outside the garrison town of Monguno, killing a soldier and a vigilante and injuring another soldier.

Some analysts are betting that the heavyweight Libra consortium will help to do that.

Facebook's crypto initiative could facilitate shopping applications and gaming, and would leverage its broad user base in Asia, RBC analyst Mark Mahaney said in a research note last week.

It may prove to be one of the most important initiatives in the history of the company to unlock new engagement and revenue streams," he wrote.

# Facebook to unveil new cryptocurrency

AFP ■ LONDON

Facebook is set Tuesday to unveil a bid to bring cryptocurrency payments into the mainstream, reportedly with the endorsement of governments and financial giants.

The world's biggest social network is expected to outline details of a virtual currency launching next year that it hopes will avoid the roller-coaster volatility of "blockchain" technologies such

as bitcoin. Facebook is setting up a consortium called "Libra" which, according to the company, will be managed externally and will seek to build trust among consumers by pegging the virtual coin to a basket of currencies including the dollar and euro, the Journal said.

Facebook has already sought blessings from the US Treasury and the Bank of England, the BBC reported last month. Regulators have been reti-

cent about cryptocurrencies, not only due to potential abuse by criminals but the wild swings in their value harming consumers.

With more than two billion users across its platforms, which include WhatsApp and Instagram, Facebook could have the clout to bring cryptocurrency out of the fringes and emulate the likes of WeChat in China, where the US site is banned. WeChat allows its users to

chat, shop and play games without leaving its platform, generating more revenue by offering a one-stop portal.

But fettered by privacy storms, chief executive Mark Zuckerberg has promised a new direction for Facebook built around smaller groups, private messaging and payments.

But it will need to overcome questions of trust and privacy, not least over how financial data will be stored.

# Pak blogger critical of Army hacked to death

Islamabad (PTI): A 22-year-old Pakistani blogger and journalist known for criticising the country's powerful military and the spy agency ISI was hacked to death by an unidentified man here, police said on Monday.

Muhammad Bilal Khan, having over 16,000 followers on Twitter, 48,000 on his YouTube channel and 22,000 on Facebook, was with a friend when he received a phone call after which a man took him to the nearby forest on Sunday night, Dawn news quoted police as saying. The suspect used a dagger to kill him. Superintendent of Police (SP) Sadrul Malik Naem said, adding that some people heard gunshot firing as well. Khan's friend was seriously injured in the incident.

Apart from being a social media activist, Khan was also a freelance journalist. Soon after his killing, #Justice4MuhammadBilalKhan started trending on social media. Several Twitter users said that his criticism of the Pakistan Army and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) led to his killing.

"Pakistani activist and journalist Mohammad Bilal Khan was shot dead last night in Islamabad. Khan was known for his criticism of the all-powerful military and its notorious spy agency, a man said in a tweet.

The deceased's father Abdullah said that his body had marks of a sharp tool. "My son's only fault was that he spoke about the Prophet," he said. A case was registered under various sections including the Anti Terrorism Act. The incident has created fear among people, Khan's father said.

**Trend**  
*Slazer*

**Kudos to IIT students: Hrithik**

Actor **HRITHIK ROSHAN**, who will be essaying the role of Anand Kumar in his forthcoming film *Super 30*, is elated upon the recently announced results of IIT entrance exams.

The superstar took to social media, "*Super 30* is a reality which takes place every year. It's not a celebration of the past. Kudos to this year's students. I would love to meet all of them."

The film hits the theatres on July 12.



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

—**Bhumi Pednekar**



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

"I love the way he dresses up. I love his body language. He looks 25 to me," he said. He also spoke about being compared to his brother and actor **Ayushmann Khurrana**.

The *Dangal* actor said, "I don't think I am equal to him right now and hence there's no comparison. If people want to say that I look like him — of course, as we are brothers. I will take it as a compliment."

**Why Chris opened about his anxiety**

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

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

Hemsworth said,

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



**The hills go under**

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

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

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



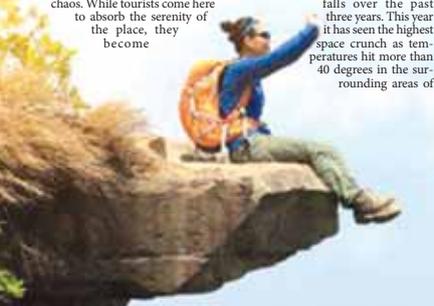
victims of the travel bug. In short, the hill economy is stressed and bursting at seams.

**CONGESTED ROUTES**

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

Following this, the Nainital administration decided to restrict the entry of tourists in the hill station if the parking lots are full and only let them in when the traffic has cleared out.

Shimla, which has witnessed a 6.2 per cent rise in tourist footfalls over the past three years. This year it has seen the highest space crunch as temperatures hit more than 40 degrees in the surrounding areas of



Delhi NCR, Punjab and Haryana.

Ravi Kumar, general manager at RS Sarovar Portico, Palampur, says, "The whole of Punjab, Mumbai and Delhi is rushing to Dharamshala to get some relief from the heat. However, this has resulted in massive over-tourism and traffic on the roads to such an extent that it is taking two hours to travel over seven kilometres. And once you reach there, where will you put up?"

A major factor that comes to the fore is the affordability of personal conveyance, which in turn, leads to the space crunch. "Earlier, people travelled in

buses or trains, but now they have switched to their own cars. This leads to congestion. Parking space is a major challenge. While the Kullu-Manali highway is getting broadened, the hill station itself has no such provision for it," says Sharad Sharma, hotelier, Apple Country Gulmarg Resort, Manali.

He adds that since Manali doesn't have enough parking space, tourists have no choice but to park their vehicles on the road. "This in turn, results in long cars queues which prolongs the hours on the road. The holidays are turning into a tedious exercise rather than an enjoyable one."

**POLLUTION OVERLOAD**

Following the vehicle rush, the rise in pollution level each year calls for an inspection of human-driven global warming. Are our brains wired to ignore sustainable development options which would halt climatic changes and offer some respite from the choking heat?

Sandeep Sharma, owner of Shivirama Hotel in Bir, Himachal Pradesh, says, "When people flock to the hills in large numbers, it not only leads to overtourism but also uneducated tourism. Even when they see a place is overbooked, they still keep checking the availability of accommodations rather than wait for some days. Some even reach here without bookings and are fine with spending the night in the open and littering around."

Sanjay Austa, owner of the Meena Bagh Resorts, who has two eco-friendly resorts in Himachal one each in Shimla and Ratanari, says, "The hill station is choking up because it was built only for 30,000 people but there are 2,00,000 people living here currently. And with tourists adding to the place's population constantly, it has made it difficult even for its residents."

**WATER SCARCITY**

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

Prachi Raturi Mishra, a resident of Landour in Uttarakhand, shares her experience of acute water shortage in the area. "Due to overbooked hotels and roads, it's hard for the kids to reach their schools in the morning. Water is diverted to hotels, which leaves the local residents without water. I've never seen this happen," she says and goes on to add that in order to save water, the two children in the house bathe on alternative days.

Deepak Sharma, owner of Sim Sim Hotel in Himachal Pradesh, says, "The steep rise in the number of tourists is a major concern. We are booking more than our capacity and hence, do not have adequate resources, especially water. The authorities should have planned tourism in an efficient and systematic manner."

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

**Feel the breeze**

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

**WHITE REFLECTS LIGHT**

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

**SHADES OF PASTEL**

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

**CONTEMPORARY SILHOUETTES**

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

**PAIR UP WITH RIGHT JEWELLERY**

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



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



**Konkona questions audience choices**

As a set of niche audience members and filmmakers are encouraging a new wave of Indian cinema which breaks stereotype, in the larger picture, the investment still happens for formula films as opposed to alternative narratives.

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

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

That is why she believes that film appreciation should be taught to children from the school level to develop their taste for a variety of global cinema.

After having worked in films like *Page 3*, *Wake Up Sid* and *Talvar*, she says she is getting a lot of acting and directing offers for the digital medium but not accepting offers from Bollywood.

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

**CRICKET CRADLE**

**TODAY LIVE**  
 England vs Afghanistan  
 3:00 pm IST  
**VENUE: Old Trafford, Manchester**

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

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

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

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

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

**AGENCIES**

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

# India's brick & mortar bowler

## Kuldeep emerges as strike spinner in the middle

PHS ■ MANCHESTER

For his winning smile, petite body structure, young age and rosy cheeks, Kuldeep Yadav is quite a combative person. He throws the temperament of a quick at you, albeit with disarming simplicity. Not surprising, as he initially aspired to be and wanted to train for pace bowling, but was luckily spotted by his Kanpur coach as a better physique for spin, an art he has since perfected. He does not take things lying down, is fearless in challenging even the stalwarts of the bat from any part of the world in any ground of the world with his light deliveries. Ask him why he has not been very successful in taking wickets recently and he is instantly up in vocal disagreement. "It's not as if I have not been performing. As a bowler my job is not just to take wickets. Often I am given the responsibility of containing the opponent and I have been doing that just fine," he said at the Old Trafford after the eventful match against Pakistan where his contribution broke the partnership that was beginning to worry India.



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

Old Trafford was also the ground where this son of a brick kiln owner from Kanpur bowled a beauty to get Babar Azam out at a crucial time. The ball to Azam turned in the air, first to deceive the batter to commit on his leg before mischievously drifting out and then stealthily but smoothly gliding into the stumps from a narrow gap between the bat and the pad. Some decades back, the ground had hosted a then young Shane Warne's ball of the century as it is called, bowled as it was to an experienced Mike Gatting. Yadav's astonishing delivery was equally baffling if not as celebrated, yet. By all counts, it was the ball of the tournament. "Getting Azam out was the best delivery for me in this tournament. I got him out in the Asia Cup as well. In the rain break, I went back and watched that delivery. It had drift and turn, so any spinner will love that delivery. It's a proper dem

delivery and a proper Test delivery. Deceiving the batsman in the air and making him commit the mistake. A perfect delivery," he said in hindsight. The smile was all there despite the fact that his place in the team mostly comes after many huddles, ifs and buts. At Old Trafford too, with overcast conditions, it was being widely perceived that Yadav would be replaced by pacer Mohammed Sami but he retained his place on his skipper's confidence which he buttressed with his twin breakthroughs. After getting Azam, he struck again in his next over to send the left-handed Fakhar packing after he dared to play Yadav against the spin, only to be caught at short fine leg. Zaman too was forced, at 62, breaking whatever effort

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

Pakistan could have made to stand up to India's 336, or later as it turned out, 302 in 40 overs. In the end, Yadav sported a handsome 2-32 figure with his left-arm wrist spinning a win for his team even as a more lionised Chahal struggled unusually at the other end. "Both Azam and Zaman play spin well. They were rotating the strike and were attacking, so it was important to break that partnership. Getting Babar out and then another wicket put them under pressure and according to DLS they needed a very high run-rate and that was a plus point for us," he points out to bring in the relevance of his achievement into context. His place in the Indian squad for the World Cup was mired in scepticism but he has done enough to cement his

position in the squad for some time to come. For a disastrous IPL season which finished for him with giving away a 27-run last over last season, many questioned his place in the World Cup but the small town spinner has held his own with 1-46 against South Africa and a breakthrough performance against Pakistan. "Everyone is talking about my rhythm. I don't think I lost my rhythm. It happens when you don't pick wickets but the last three games I have bowled really well. In the game against Australia, they were struggling to hit me and that's important for any spinner," he said. Yadav is one of the few spinners to have a five-wicket haul in all formats of the game, a talent under Kohli's eye. Even

vice-captain Rohit Sharma is all praise for Yadav's efforts and said the team always gets around him to keep his confidence up. "He's our match-winning bowler in the middle overs and today you saw how important those crucial wickets were. Both the batsmen were set. Of course, he didn't start the tournament the way he would like to, but for us as a group around him, our job is to just make sure that he gets that confidence, he gets that backing from the team," Sharma added. Yadav has claimed 90 wickets from 47 ODI matches since his debut in 2017. That's no mean achievement. Just the beginning for this containment bowling wicket-taker with a big heart and big self-confidence as he understands the game quite well.

# On a high note

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Calinness has always been Rohit Sharma's biggest asset and the bliss of fatherhood has only enhanced his composed personality, something which has reflected in his stellar performances in the World Cup. The Indian vice-captain has hit the high notes with hundreds against South Africa and Pakistan along with a half-century against Australia. For him, more than planning and preparation, it is the "head space" that has made all the difference. "I think it's just the space I am in right now. It's a very good phase in my life. Having a daughter in my life actually has put me in a good space. So, yeah, I think I'm enjoying my cricket," Rohit said after his match-winning 140 off 113 balls against Pakistan here on Sunday. "I think as a team we're heading in the right direction. For us, it is important to just keep ticking all the boxes, and I think, as a team, we have done that most of the time," Virat Kohli's deputy echoed his skipper's sentiments.



Rohit Sharma celebrates after completing his 24th ODI hundred

In every match so far, Rohit's risk assessment has been immaculate in the initial phase of the innings. "The last two days we were here, the pitch was under the covers, and it was a little soft when we started. When the conditions are like that, it becomes more of a new ball game and then the opposition can put pressure if you lose a few wickets," he said. His captain had termed Rohit's hundred against South Africa as his best ODI innings. So when asked where he would rate his match-winning effort against Pakistan, Rohit responded nonchalantly: "I'm sure if I get 100 in another game, you'll ask me the same question. Was this satisfying," he laughed. "I don't know. It's hard to put any knock on the top because all those knocks you play for your country are very, very important," he said.

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

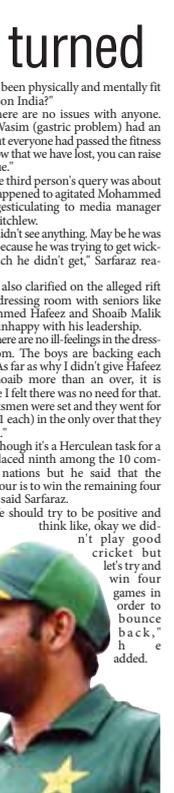
course, we know in England, once you are in, it's very hard for the bowlers to come back, and there's not enough room for error. That is pretty simple," said the second highest aggregator in the competition (319 runs) behind Aaron Finch (343 runs). But he did agree that Pakistan bowled to his strength as the innings went on. "They did bowl up (fuller) a fair amount, but then, again, as a batsman you are ready to just pounce on it when given or bowl to your strength. So I think it is my strength when someone bowls short to me," he added. The best response to a question was the one with which he signed off. A Pakistan journalist asked, what would be his advice for Pakistan team which is in a crisis situation, he said: "Jab main Pakistan team ka coach banonga tab jawab doonga (I will answer when I become 'Pakistan coach')."

# Tables have turned

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed has reconciled to the fact that they "were a better team than India in the 90s" and now the tables have turned. "The soft-spoken Pakistan captain was utterly hounded by his country's media with a host of uncomfortable questions following the team's heavy defeat against India here on Sunday. Asked if the Indo-Pak rivalry has fizzled out over the years, Sarfaraz said: "We are not handling pressure well. The team that handles pressure in these games win. The Pakistan teams of the 90s, used to enjoy upper hand but now India is better than Pakistan. That's why they win matches." Prime Minister Imran Khan's advice was "bat first even if the pitch is damp" but Sarfaraz Khan doggedly defended his decision, saying the reason for defeat was "failure in all three departments". The Pakistan Prime Minister and an iconic World Cup winning captain, in a series of tweets on the marquee dash, had spoken about the right approach for the high-pressure game. "The whole team is not performing well in all three departments. If you talk about fielding, even Virat Kohli had said that he would have fielded. We haven't seen the pitch for two days. There was some moisture and hence I decided on fielding. We won a good toss but didn't hit the right length," said Sarfaraz. A defeat against India inevitably gives rise to conspiracy theories and the post match media interaction was no different. "Why is it that the players' body language is so negative?" asked one of the scribes. The manner in which Sarfaraz kept his counsel was remarkable. "Maybe you guys have seen something in the body language but players are trying their best. Their has been fielding lapses. Rohit could have been run out twice and had we availed those chances, it could have been a different result."

Tables have physically and mentally fit to take on India. "There are no issues with anyone. Imad Wasim (gastric problem) had an issue but everyone had passed the fitness test. Now that we have lost, you can raise the issue." The third person's query was about what happened to agitated Mohammed Amir gesticulating to media manager Raza Kitchlew. "I didn't see anything. Maybe he was angry because he was trying to get wickets which he didn't get," Sarfaraz reasoned. He also clarified on the alleged rift in the dressing room with seniors like Mohammed Hafeez and Shoaib Malik being unhappy with his leadership. "There are no ill-feelings in the dressing room. The boys are backing each other. As far as why I didn't give Hafeez and Shoaib more than an over, it is because I felt there was no need for that. The batsmen were set and they went for runs (11 each) in the only over that they bowled." Although it's a Herculean task for a team placed ninth among the 10 competing nations but he said that the endeavour is to win the remaining four games, said Sarfaraz. "We should try to be positive and think like, okay we didn't play good cricket but let's try and win four games in order to bounce back," he added.



Another one asked, "Have all

**CRICKET CRADLE**

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

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

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

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

**PTI ■ KARACHI**  
Former skipper Wasim Akram led Pakistan's cricket community in lambasting the team for "going down without a fight" against arch-rivals India. The 1992 champions were then restricted to 212 for six in 40 overs in 337 run chase when rain stopped play, paving the way for India's comprehensive 89-run win via D/L method. "The team selection to me is not right and I don't see any planning going into this World Cup," Wasim said. "Win or lose is part of the game but not this way just went down without a fight." Under-fire Sarfaraz, however, defended his decision to bowl first but many former stalwarts said it was a poor decision and reading of the pitch. "Virat Kohli basically



**By K SRIKANTH**  
Former Indian captain

# Clap for opener Rahul

Everyone knows how good a batsman Rohit Sharma is but for me the more important innings against Pakistan was from KL Rahul. Going into the game, the biggest question mark about this India team was how they would cope without Shikhar Dhawan. The fact the top three all got runs, that Sharma and Rahul put on more than a hundred for the first wicket and that Virat Kohli got more runs, is huge for India going forward in the tournament. Every team that comes up against India will know that the top three are going to be a real danger and give them the perfect platform, especially with Rohit's tendency to score big hundreds. That is now three straight wins against three good teams and puts India in a great position to reach the semi-finals. Prior to this, the one bowler who had been a little bit of a concern was Kuldeep Yadav, who didn't seem to have found his form. However he was brilliant in this game, particularly the dismissal of Babar Azam which was a sensational delivery. That leaves India with Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep all bowling well, what more can they ask for? It is a little like England, at the moment everything seems to be going right and the fans should be very happy. This is starting to feel a lit-

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



tle like the West Indian teams of the 1970s, where the opposition would start the game with a psychological disadvantage. Teams are worried about facing India and how they will cope with them, which immediately puts them on the back foot. In this game I felt that Pakistan made a mistake bowling first. Traditionally they are not a chasing team, and we saw how well they played against England batting first. That was a blessing in disguise in many ways and India were able to take the game away from them with their batting. It felt like there was more pressure on Pakistan, who had built this up to be a huge game, whereas India and Rohit, in particular, were able to treat it like any other match. That is vital in an ICC Men's Cricket World Cup. You cannot put too much pressure on yourself because of who the opposition is. The one slight worry was Bhuvneshwar's injury but they have six days before the next game against Afghanistan so that will give him the chance to get back fit again. In the moment it was obviously a blow for India, but in some ways it worked out well for them because it meant we got more of a look at Vijay Shankar. He did well in his first game of the tournament and took his opportunity, first with the bat and then later on with the ball. Shankar's performance increases India's options, and as when Dhawan returns, it will make for an interesting selection dilemma. That is a debate for another time though, for now India should be very happy with how they have performed so far and long may it continue. Courtesy: © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2019

# Dazzling first ball

**PTI ■ MANCHESTER**  
Vijay Shankar made his presence felt on his World Cup debut with two crucial Pakistani wickets and the Tamil Nadu all-rounder is backing himself to play an important role in India's campaign. If someone had told him six months back that his bowling would become crucial to India's plans at the quadrennial event, it would not have been a surprise for him. His three dimensional ability was put to test against Pakistan and he responded with wickets of opener Imran ul Haq and rival captain Sarfaraz Ahmed. "I knew that I was batting well but my handy bowling makes me useful," Shankar told reporters during a mixed zone interaction. He got a wicket with his very first World Cup delivery after Bhuvneshwar Kumar hobbled off the field due to a hamstring injury. "I need to keep on improving on all aspects of game and that's how I look at things, so that when situation comes I am ready to face it. I was always focused on my preparation," Shankar said after returning impressive figures of 2/22 in 5.4 overs. Although he is designated for the number four slot in the batting order, Shankar is now ready to bat at number six or seven since the team management is expected to promote Hardik Pandya up the order in case top three go on to play till 35th over. "First few innings during Australia series, I batted for Nos 6 or 7. When playing for



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

your country, you should be ready to adapt yourself to different situation," said Shankar, who got a run-a-ball 15 in India's 336 for 5. But getting a wicket off the first ball was a "pleasant sur-



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

# Akhtar calls it brainless captaincy

**PTI ■ ISLAMABAD**  
Former pacer Shoaib Akhtar has slammed Sarfaraz Ahmed's "brainless captaincy" after Pakistan's humiliating 89-run loss to India. "I don't understand how can a captain be so brainless, couldn't Sarfaraz think that we don't chase well. Square of the wicket is dry, the wicket is not wet. Knowing the fact and your strength is not batting it's bowling," Akhtar said on his official YouTube channel. Pakistan suffered one more defeat to their already dismal record in the World Cup against India, taking it to 7-0 in favour of the arch-rivals. Skipper Sarfaraz won the toss and opted to field first allowing India to post an imposing target of 337 on the back of a brilliant 140 by opener Rohit Sharma and half centuries by KL Rahul (57) and Virat Kohli (77). According to Akhtar, winning the toss was crucial aspect of the game and half the match was won had Sarfaraz decided to bat first. "Now when you had won the toss, you had won half the match there. But what did you do? You tried that we should not win this match. Yet again, brainless captaincy, utterly stupid management." Highlighting Pakistan's inability to chase, Akhtar referred to their defeat to India in 1999 and the previous game against Australia. "We don't have a history of chasing. Inzamam, Yusuf, Saadee Anwar, Shahid Afridi all big batsmen were playing in this ground in 1999 and we had to make 227, we weren't able to do that. So when you got the chance after winning the toss you should have batted." The Rawalpindi Express also criticised the batsmen for not making use of the conditions unlike their Indian counterparts. "There was no thinking, one-dimensional players came to bat, but the toss was very crucial to win it and in that even if Pakistan scored 260 they would have done it because the pressure is on required run rate. But who would tell them?" "I think it's a very sad and disheartening performance by Pakistan team captain and that's why I was saying that use your head but he tried to not use his brain." Akhtar singled out pacer Hasan Ali — who went for 84 off his 9 overs — as one of the architects of the defeat. "Yet again, our bowling. Hasan Ali, he can jump on Wagah border but when there is time to exert force, do there. All these things look good if you take 6-7 wickets, you come here and give 82-84 runs. What mindset is this?" "I think his mindset is that he wants to be a T20 player, this is his 4th or 5th match for Pakistan and see the conditions, neither there is any pace or swing. I'm failing to understand what he wants to achieve." Meanwhile, Sachin Tendulkar feels Sarfaraz Ahmed was a "confused" man and his team lacked "imagination". "I thought he (Sarfaraz) was confused because when Wahab (Riaz) was bowling he had a short mid-wicket. And when Shadab (Khan) came on to bowl he had a slip for him," Tendulkar said. "In these conditions it becomes difficult for a leg-spinner to grip the ball, especially when he's not getting the right line and length. That is not the right way to approach a big game," he added. "They lacked imagination, lacked out of the box thinking."

# All barbs lead to Sarfaraz



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

knew that the present Indian team was a quality side with top class batsmen and the only way to beat them was to bring them under pressure. "Two years back the mistake Kohli made at the toss by allowing Pakistan to bat in the final was repeated by Sarfaraz yesterday. No matter how good a batting side a team when you chase in a big match like this you always come under pressure." Former Test opener Mohsin Khan lamented that the team lacked self belief against India. "No matter how strong this Indian team the fact is our players just didn't display the moti-

vation, energy or heart to believe in themselves that we can win the match," said Khan, a former chief selector and head coach. "In the past when we didn't have so many facilities it was our spirit that won us so many games against India. Now it is different. I see more energy and desire to win on part of Indian players compared to us." Former allrounder Abdul Razaq felt it was the responsibility of captain and coach to give a plan to the players and ensure they had the game sense and skills to execute them. "If some player is not skillful enough to execute plans he should be sacked. India lost Kumar early on but they didn't feel his absence as the other bowlers knew what their job was," he said.

# Tale of contrasts

Hosts seek semis berth as Afghans eye first breakthrough win



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

**PTI ■ MANCHESTER**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indies.

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

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

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

Playing in their second World Cup, the

HEAD TO HEAD						
Matches	Played	ENG	AFG	N/R		
	1	1	-	-		
HIGHEST TOTALS						
England	101-1 in 18.1 overs		at Sydney			
Afghanistan	111-7 in 36.2 overs		13-03-2015			
at Sydney						
13-03-2015						
PERFORMANCE IN WC						
Team	P	W	L	T	N/R	Success%
England	76	44	30	1	1	59.21
Afghanistan	10	1	9	-	-	10.00

## XFACTOR

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

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

failed to capitalise on that.

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

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

## SQUADS

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

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

## MEN WHO MATTER

### JONNY BAIRSTOW (ENGLAND)

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



### RASHID KHAN (AFGHANISTAN)

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



**UNDER THE WEATHER**

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

## Roy to miss 2 games



AFP ■ MANCHESTER

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

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

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

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



Jason Roy returns to pavilion after getting injured during WI game. AP

basis this week.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### First Slip



By MIRWAIS ASHRAF  
Afghanistan all-rounder

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

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

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

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

For me, it all comes down to preparation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# BANGLADESH ROUT WINNERS

## Shakib, Liton Das hammer Caribbean attack to succeed in second-highest run chase

PTI ■ TAUNTON

All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan struck a magnificent unbeaten 124 to help Bangladesh record a comprehensive seven-wicket victory over the West Indies and script the second highest successful run chase in World Cup history here on Monday.

The 32-year-old Shakib (124 off 99 balls) produced a batting master class as he led Bangladesh to a famous win, chasing down the target of 322 with 8.3 overs to spare. He also took 2 wickets for 54 runs while bowling during the West Indies innings.

Liton Das also played a big part in the win as he remained not out on 94 off just 69 balls in a brilliant batting show. He hit 8 fours and 4 sixes in his knock.

The Shakib-Das stand for the unbroken fourth wicket yielded 189 runs from 22.3 overs to take Bangladesh to 322 for 3 in 41.3 overs and notch up their second win in the tournament after their 21-run victory over South Africa on June 2.

The highest successful run chase in World Cup history was the 329 for 7 by Ireland to beat England in the 2011 World Cup in Bengaluru while Bangladesh have also earlier managed 322 batting second, against Scotland in 2015 World Cup.

Shakib's 124 not out, his ninth ODI century, was topped with 16 fours. In the process, he also reached the personal milestone of scoring 6000 ODI runs in his 202nd innings.

This was his second century in this World Cup after the 121 against England for a losing

cause in Cardiff on Jun 8.

Bangladesh remained in the reckoning for a semifinal spot with five points from five matches while the West Indies will get together for a place in the last four as they now have three points from five matches.

The win was though not a surprise as Bangladesh had beaten the West Indies thrice in a tri-series in Ireland last month. But this was Bangladesh's first win over the West Indies in a World Cup.

Bangladesh made a confident start to their run chase as they repelled the West Indies' barrage of bouncers initially before slowly beginning to dictate terms on the Caribbean bowlers. In the end, it turned out to be an easy win with Shakib and Das taking their side home with 51 balls to spare.

Opener Tamim Iqbal made a confident start to the run chase with six fours in his 53-ball innings of 48 before being superbly run out by Sheldon Cottrell.

Coming in the pivotal number 3 in the ninth over at team score of 52 for 1, Shakib stitched 69 runs with opener Iqbal for the second wicket before the 189 with Das.

Shakib, whose three innings in this World Cup read 75, 64 and 121, continued with his imperious form as he punished all the West Indies bowlers during his memorable innings.

Earlier, Shai Hope hit a patient 121-ball 91 while Shimron Hetmyer produced a quick-fire fifty as West Indies posted a challenging 321 for eight after being sent into bat.

Hope shared a 116-run partnership with Evin Lewis (70) for the second wicket before adding

another 83 runs with Hetmyer (50 off 26 balls) after West Indies had a sedate start following Bangladesh's decision to field first.

The two-time champions seemed to be on course for a 350-plus score before Bangladesh tied things up a bit in the last five overs, which yielded just 33 for loss of one wicket.

For Bangladesh, pace duo of Mohammad Saifuddin (3/72) and Mustafizur Rahman (3/59) snatched three wickets each, while Shakib Al Hasan (2/54) took two.

Earlier, West Indies lost Chris Gayle (0) early and could manage only 32 runs in the first powerplay with the Bangladesh pacers bowling in tandem.

Lewis and Hope then brought up the team hundred in 22.4 overs. The left-handed opener then exploded, smashing successive fours off Shakib before sending one from the bowler out of the park in his next over.

But Shakib returned to dismiss Lewis, having him caught at long-off as West Indies slipped to 122 for two. Hope then completed his fifty in 75 balls but new man Nicholas Pooran (25) could not stay longer as WI lost their third wicket in the 33rd over.

That brought Hetmyer to the crease and he took the Bangladesh bowlers to the cleaners, smashing four boundaries and three sixes in his 26-ball whirlwind innings.

Once Hetmyer was back to the bat, captain Jason Holder blasted 33 off 15 balls with the help of four hits to the fence and two sixes to keep the flow of runs but West Indies lost their way after he was dismissed in the 44th over.

Hope too holed out in the 47th over.



Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan celebrates reaching his century during the Cricket World Cup match between West Indies and Bangladesh at The Taunton County Ground on Monday. AP

## OTHER SPORTS

# Bromance

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

AFP ■ BELO HORIZONTE

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

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

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

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

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

Uruguay were off to a dream start.

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

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

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

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



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

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

That left Ecuador with a mountain to climb.

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

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

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

tional goal.

### PATIENT URUGUAY

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

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

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

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

"The important thing was that the team won and the 30th-ranked Berrettini's third title, after triumphs on clay in Gstaad last year and Budapest in April.

AFP ■ PALMA

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

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

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

"When you go out in a tournament, anything can happen," the 32-year-old former world number one told [wta.com](http://wta.com).

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

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

"The next day, you get bet-

# High expectations



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

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

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

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

Sharapova thinks that, due to the injury, she was not enjoying her tennis six months ago. "I've been through it before. My shoulder has been troublesome for a majority of my career," she said.

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

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

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

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

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

# Berrettini win Stuttgart final



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

AFP ■ STUTTGART

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

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

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

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

didn't face a break point in the final.

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

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

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

# Conversion rate needs to improve: Marijne

PTI ■ HIROSHIMA

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

The 45-year-old Dutchman said his team is now gelling well. "The most important aspect for me, is to see how the players enjoy playing together, and how they combine on and off the field. When you keep trying to combine on the field, it results in everybody getting an opportunity to play and perform as well," he said.

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