

OPINION 8 FORKED ROAD IN SRI LANKA

WORLD 11 US TO DEPLOY 1K MORE TROOPS AMID IRAN TENSION

AVENUES 12 TAKE AN INTELLIGENT STEP

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AN OPEN PARTNERSHIP 16 SPORT

Opp against PM's polls at one go

Modi to discuss 'one nation, one poll' plan with chiefs of parties today, Mamata demands white paper

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a clear indication of the difficult road ahead for its implementation, the Opposition on Tuesday decided to oppose Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious 'one nation, one election' proposal, for which he would make the first serious push during his meeting with party presidents on Wednesday.

The decision was taken unanimously at a meeting of the Opposition parties convened by UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi and attended by leaders from Congress, TMC, DMK, NCP, INC, RSP, Left and others.

However, BJP's allies like JD(U), Shiv Sena and Shromani Akali Dal are on board the PM's plan. So are those like Samajwadi Party, BJD and TRS.

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the parties were opposed to the idea in principle. "Since some issues are to be sorted out, the UPA will meet again on Wednesday morning to discuss the issue further and take a



UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi along with Congress president Rahul Gandhi and other leaders after a meeting to decide their strategy in Parliament in New Delhi on Tuesday

common stand at the meeting called by Modi in the evening. The Opposition's tone was set during the day itself with West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee excusing herself from attending the meeting citing

lack of sufficient time to come up with a 'proper response' to the matter and calling for circulation of a white paper on the subject to all political parties inviting their views by providing adequate time to respond if the Centre indeed wanted 'con-

crete suggestions". In her letter to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, who had sent out invites to all party presidents, she said such a "serious and sensitive subject" required consultation with constitutional

and election experts and that to frame a proper response, she needed to consult all the members of her party.

The PM will be meeting with presidents of political parties having at least one Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha member on the issue.

The Left parties — CPM, CPI — are strongly opposed to the idea but their presidents Sitaram Yechury and Sudhakar Reddy may, however, join the deliberations. The Left parties term the proposal totally "unrealistic and non-practical" one. The CPM Politburo in a detailed statement said this proposal is not workable as the duration of the Lok Sabha and Assemblies are based on the floor strength. When the Government loses majority, elections have to be conducted within six months. They cited how in 1996, 1998 and 1999 Lok Sabha elections had to be held when Governments lost the majority.

CPI national secretary D Raja said, "We will oppose this proposal which is already rejected by many parties as it is totally non-practical."

The main Opposition Congress said the idea per se is not bad but has preferred to go along with consensus of the Opposition parties. But the Congress was yet to name its representative for the meeting for want of a party chief following Rahul Gandhi's resignation.

BJD chief and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will be here to attend the meeting, party leaders said. But Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray would not make it as he is busy with party's foundation day events. Sanjay Raut is likely to represent the party.

Related report on Page 5 Continued on Page 5

CAPSULE

JEWAR AIRPORT TO GET 8 RUNWAYS
Noida: The Jewar International Airport in Greater Noida will now have eight runways after UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in a meeting held recently endorsed a proposal to add two more runways to existing six.

4 RBW DEPT HEADS QUIT OVER 'RACIST' REMARKS
Kolkata: Four departmental heads of the Rabindra Bharati University here have put in their papers over alleged racist remarks made against them by members of the Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad (TMCPC).

SCHOOLS TO REMAIN CLOSED TILL JUNE 23
Lucknow: In view of the hot weather conditions prevailing in the state capital, District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma has directed all schools to remain closed till June 23. The DM said the schools which have re-opened would also remain closed.

Govt sacks 15 top Customs, Excise officers over graft

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after sacking a dozen-odd errant Income Tax officers, the Government on Tuesday dismissed from service 15 senior Customs and Central Excise officials, including one of the rank of Principal Commissioner, on charges of corruption and bribery.

Invoking rule 56(1) of the Fundamental Rules, the Government has sacked these Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) officers, ranging from the ranks of Principal Commissioner to Assistant Commissioner, some of whom were already under suspension, according to a Finance Ministry order.

These officers either had

corruption cases registered against them by the CBI or were involved in bribery, extortion and disproportionate assets cases, Government sources said.

Among those dismissed include Principal Commissioner Anup Srivastava, who was serving as Principal ADG (Audit) in the CBIC in Delhi, and Joint Commissioner Nalin Kumar, the order said.

Sources said the CBI had in 1996 registered a criminal conspiracy case against Srivastava and alleged that he had shown favouritism to a house building society which was trying to obtain NOC for land purchases in violation of law.

Continued on Page 4

Ordinance to regulate private varsities in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh government has brought an ordinance to make an umbrella Act to regulate, monitor and control mushrooming private universities in the state. The move is aimed at improving the quality of higher education in the state.

The proposal for the UP Private Universities Ordinance has been approved by the state Cabinet on Tuesday which will now be sent to Raj Bhawan for approval. Later, this ordinance will be tabled in the state legislature as a bill during the coming monsoon session next month.

State government spokesperson Sidharth Nath Singh said on Tuesday that the ordinance had been brought to

regulate and control all 27 private universities. "The government has made new laws to improve the quality of education in private universities and secure the future of students as more often than not these universities fail to give degrees at the last moment," he said.

Singh said that the new ordinance would have a say on the fee structure, teachers' appointment and other issues like maintaining quality of education and management of those universities. "Besides, the government will ensure the UGC norms in these universities and revise the salary structure of the teachers," he added.

"There are around 30 to 32 new rules for these private universities, including keeping

Ultra whose IED car martyred 40 CRP men in Pulwama shot

Another JeM terrorist killed, cop loses life

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

One of the key conspirators of the February 14 Pulwama terror attack, whose car was fabricated and later handed over to the suicide bomber, was among two terrorists gunned down by the joint team of security forces in Marhama area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Tuesday. One Army jawan sacrificed his life in the operation.

Meanwhile, two Army jawans, injured in the IED blast late on Monday evening in Arbal area of Pulwama succumbed to their injuries in the command hospital in Srinagar early on Tuesday. Late evening, unidentified terrorists lobbed a grenade outside Pulwama police station causing injuries to several pedestrians. Police said two civilians received serious injuries.

In the last five days, 10 security personnel — five CRPF men, four Army men including a Major, and an Inspector of the J&K Police — have sacrificed their lives.

The martyred soldiers were identified as Jawad Amarijeet Kumar and Naik Ajit Kumar



Paramedics and local people transfer on a stretcher a man wounded in a grenade blast in Pulwama as he is brought for treatment at a hospital in Srinagar on Tuesday

Sahoo. Another soldier, Rifleman Amil Kumar Jaswal, made supreme sacrifice in anti-terror operations in Marhama on Tuesday.

Confirming the identity of the two terrorists killed in the operation, J&K Police DGP Dilbagh Singh said, "Two decorated terrorists of Jaish-e-Mohammad, identified as Sajjad Ahmad Bhat and Tauseef Ahmad Bhat, were eliminated during fierce gunfight in Marhama area of Anantnag on Tuesday morning."

The DGP claimed, "Sajjad Ahmad Bhat's car was fabricated as IED and the same was handed over to the suicide bomber before targeting the

CRPF convoy in which 40 CRPF personnel were martyred."

Singh said, the duo were well trained members of the JeM suicide squad.

"Two other terrorists killed in Achabal and KP road attack were also part of the same JeM group," he added.

According to police, "Sajjad Ahmad Bhat, alias Afzal Guru, had joined militancy days before the Pulwama terror attack. He hailed from village Marhama in Anantnag.

Kashmir Valley has witnessed three vehicle mounted IED attacks on the security forces this year.

Continued on Page 4

4 get lifer for '05 Ayodhya terror attack

PTI ■ ALLAHABAD

A special court sentenced four persons to life imprisonment and acquitted one in connection with the 2005 terror attack on a makeshift temple at the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid complex here in which two locals were killed and seven CRPF personnel injured.

Special judge Dinesh Chandra, who announced the verdict inside the Naiin Central Jail where the accused are lodged, also imposed a fine of

Rs 2.4 lakh on each of the four. Public Prosecutor Gulab Chandra Agrahari told reporters here.

Agrahari said that the four who got life imprisonment are Doctor Irrfan, Shakeel Ahmed, Aziz Iqbal and Mohammed Naseem; while Mohammed Aziz was acquitted for lack of evidence.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath welcomed the conviction. On the sole acquittal in the case, he said the state government would take appropriate action after examining the

ruling. "The court judgment is welcome. For one person who has been acquitted, necessary action will be taken after seeking legal opinion. The government will keep an eye on the case," he said in a statement.

Five heavily-armed terrorists attempted to carry out a suicide attack near the makeshift temple at the disputed site on July 5, 2005. After blasting the outer barricade of the complex, they tried to move towards the inner barricading where troops of the

33rd battalion of the CRPF were deployed.

The terrorists fired heavily at the troops and lobbed grenades in order to storm the Sanctum Sanctorum. Agrahari said that Naseem procured a mobile SIM card using documents stolen by Aziz and on the direction of Pakistan-based terrorist Kari. He said that the vehicle, having a Jammu registration number, that was used to carry weapons for the attack was owned by Shakeel Ahmed.

Kari paid Rs 2.20 lakh to Shakeel to use the vehicle but

the latter was told it will remain in his name, Agrahari said. The vehicle was used to bring weapons to Aligarh on June 5, 2005 and it returned to Jammu on June 7. The public prosecutor said Asif Iqbal was the main accused in the case and Kari gave him the SIM purchased by Naseem. He said that one of the terrorists killed during the gunfight has been identified as Arshad. The verdict in the case came nearly 14 years since the attack and after 371 hearings and testimonies by 63

Continued on Page 4

Adhir Chowdhury to lead Cong in LS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With Rahul Gandhi refusing to budge from his stance on not leading the party either in Parliament or outside, the Congress on Tuesday named its five-time MP from West Bengal and former Union Minister Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury as its leader in the Lok Sabha.

He will succeed Mallikarjun Kharge, who lost the Lok Sabha election, forcing the party to decide on another name. Chowdhury's name was cleared by the top party

leadership during a meeting at UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi's residence, after which a letter of his appointment was handed over to the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Chowdhury, who took part in the meeting, initially denied any deliberation over the issue. However, later on he confirmed saying, "I have been given this responsibility (the leader of Congress in the Lok Sabha). I was asked to stand in the front. I said okay. I am a foot soldier and foot soldiers stand in front. So I will fight as a foot soldier."

Continued on Page 4

Temp-humidity pattern found in Bihar chamki deaths

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Deaths due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) or 'chamki fever' in Bihar's Muzaffarpur had crossed the three-digit mark before 2019 also. Not once but in as many as four calendar years.

An analysis by experts has found that the death toll was high whenever temperature and humidity were recorded to be more than 38 degrees Celsius and 50 per cent respectively for consecutive days. This happened in 2011 (197 deaths), 2012 (275) 2013 (143), 2014 (375) and 2019 (106). The epidemic had been at its worst in 2014, when 375 deaths were reported.

Bihar Health Secretary



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar visits Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital to review the situation prevailing due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome in Muzaffarpur district on Tuesday

Sanjay Kumar said so far 106 children have died this year and more than 430 others between the ages of 4 and 10 years are being treated at Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital

(SKMCH) and Kejrival hospital in Muzaffarpur.

AES is fatal viral infection hitting the brain and leading to coma. At times survivors are left with serious disabilities — mental and physical.

While 2019 has not been an isolated year when the AES deaths have been reported, it is only now that the Bihar Government has woken up to announce a string of measures to contain the deadly disease.

On Tuesday, Nitish, whose visit to the hospital met with a protest from the angry relatives over the Government's cal-

lousness in ensuring timely preventive steps, announced to increase bed strength in hospitals in the district and ordered an environmental study on AES.

At the Central level, Union Health Minister Harshvardhan too held a meeting of multi-disciplinary group of experts in the national capital and deliberated on the factors causing high child mortality in the AES/EIS cases in the district.

Harsh Varadhan also stressed the need for research on AES to identify the disease that is still not identified and for that research facility should be developed in Muzaffarpur.

The socio-economic profile of the households which have reported the cases, their nutrition profiles, issues such as

the ongoing heatwave, reported high percentage of hypoglycemia in the children who have died, the prevailing health infrastructure in the district and other factors that could have aggravated the cases were deliberated thereabout.

According to the health experts, most of the children dying from AES belong to the poorest of the poor — the Mahadalit community, including Musahar and Scheduled Castes — and most of them were malnourished.

Senior paediatrician Dr Arun Shah was of the opinion that only awareness programme would not help in preventing the deaths. The kids are afflicted with another disease or are malnourished.

Continued on Page 4

SP revival a tough task for Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Hitting a political low after losing three elections in the last five years, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav is now faced with the uphill task of reviving the party.

Despite Akhilesh repeatedly urging party cadres to start preparing for 2022 Assembly poll, there is little enthusiasm among the rank and file, who are clueless and crestfallen after the crushing defeat in the recent Lok Sabha poll.

Besides, Akhilesh's decision of forging alliance with the

Bahujan Samaj Party also took a hit, as in the Lok Sabha elections, his party but ended up winning only five seats. The bold political experiment has only weakened Akhilesh's position within and outside the SP. While many Yadav leaders ended up biting the dust in this election, Akhilesh's bete noire and uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav emerged stronger and smugger. Shivpal and Mulayam together built the SP into a Yadav-dominant party that enjoyed considerable support among Muslims. However, after the ascension of Akhilesh

as the Chief Minister in 2012 and later the party's national president, relations between the uncle and nephew soured. After being totally marginalised in the SP, Shivpal founded Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (PSP) and fielded candidates against SP nominees in UP and other states. His special focus was to ensure defeat of Akshay Yadav in Ferrozabad, his other nephews and clan members who supported Akhilesh in the past. SP patron Mulayam Singh Yadav is now keen to reunite the feuding family and there are

speculations that after the poll debacle, he reached out to Shivpal for a merger. However, Shivpal, a veteran of UP's complex caste-based politics, played the victim card with claiming that he was treated unfairly by Akhilesh and ruled out any possibility of re-joining the SP fold. At the same time, he left open the possibility of a strategic tie-up for 2022 Assembly polls. For the SP, the future looks uncertain. In terms of Lok Sabha seats, it has not improved its tally, and in terms of perception, Akhilesh's decision to ally

with the BSP is being seen as an immature move made despite warnings from SP old-timers and Mulayam himself. The 2022 Assembly elections are still far away but with each party claiming it would fight alone, the work is clearly cut out for Akhilesh-led SP. They have to be considered the alternative to the ruling BJP in the state, and whether they do so by allying with breakaway faction PSP and other smaller parties, or going solo is a political call that has to be thought through now and not on the eve of elections.

RLD calls review meeting

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After the debacle in Lok Sabha elections, the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) brass will be brainstorming to identify factors that went against it even though RLD fought the poll in alliance with the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party. "We will convene a meeting at party headquarters in Lucknow on June 24. Senior RLD leaders and office-bearers of the state unit will be participating. Besides other issues, we will also review the reason behind the defeat," RLD leader and spokesman Anil Dubey said in Lucknow on Tuesday.

Party sources said party president Ajiit Singh and his son Jayant Chaudhary, who contested from Muzaffarnagar and Baghat respectively, faced defeat by a slim margin. "Both leaders had a close fight with BJP contestants and the RLD candidates were baffled at the defeat. The alliance formula worked in the RLD's favour when its contestant fought the by-election from Kairana Lok Sabha seat. Also the SP snatched the seats of Gorakhpur and Phoolpur. But the same formula did not work in favour of the RLD or its alliance partners in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The BSP, however, improved its tally in the election," RLD sources said.

The RLD is supposed to have broad vote bank in west UP due to its reach among Jat voters. In the recent elections, the RLD was confident of its

win due to the alliance formula. Party leaders will assess if the formula did not work in its favour," the sources said. RLD sources said that party leaders had asked to find out areas where the RLD polled low in the election. "The review meeting is aimed at analysing areas where the RLD had a weak hold among voters or areas where its hold on voters was dimming. After this, the senior leaders may opt to change some of the leaders who were steering the election," RLD sources said.

CENTRAL ORGANISATION FOR RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION... CORRIQUENDU No.2... DEPARTMENT OF CARDIOLOGY... NOTICE

Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences... DEPARTMENT OF CARDIOLOGY... NOTICE



Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi holding a review meeting of Centrally-sponsored development schemes with officials on Tuesday.

UP govt indifferent to common man: Maya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Tuesday attacked the state government for having no concern for a common man. She also accused the BJP regime of failing to extend security to Dalits, minorities and marginalised sections of the society. Highlighting the doctor-stir in west Bengal, the former CM in a tweet claimed that all newspapers on Tuesday morning were full with information of casualties due to protest by doctors but it was surprising

that the state government was both bothered and had done nothing to intervene and urge doctors to attend to emergency services. She said that the Bengal government had bowed to doctors' demands after which the stir was called off but in UP and other states, the government took no interest in highlighting the doctor-stir in West Bengal, the former CM in a tweet claimed that all newspapers on Tuesday morning were full with information of casualties due to protest by doctors but it was surprising

Opp blamed for power consumers' woes

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Downplaying the proposed hike in power tariff, the state government on Tuesday blamed opposition parties for the step-motherly treatment to consumers in supplying electricity during their regime. "The BJP government is committed to providing power supply at affordable rates to people. Uninterrupted power supply has been ensured even in villages and discriminations enforced by the previous

Akhilesh regime has been abolished," claimed Energy Minister Srikanth Sharma. "The days of blackouts across the state, except for four districts, during the Samajwadi Party rule has ended," he told reporters in Lucknow while blaming the SP, BSP and the Congress for the poor condition of the power sector. Asked about the proposed hike in power tariff as sought by the power utility UP Power Corporation Limited (UPCL), Sharma clarified that the UPCL was sent to power regulator — UP State Electricity Regulatory Commission (UPSERC) — for their approval. "You will have to wait and see what the regulator decides and then come up with any conclusion," the minister said.

Opposition leaders, including BSP chief Mayawati and UP president Akhilesh Yadav, criticised the Yogi government for the proposed hike in power tariff and demanded a rollback. Last Friday, the UPCL had proposed hiking power tariffs by more than 25 per cent for domestic consumers. Against the prevailing tariff of ₹4.90 per unit for the first 150 units of monthly consumption, UPCL proposed to increase the slab by more than 26 per cent to ₹6.20 per unit. Similarly, the variable slab for consumption between 151-300 units, 301-500 units and 500 units upwards has been proposed to be increased by 12-20 per cent to ₹6.20 per unit (₹5.40 at present), ₹7 per unit (₹6.20) and ₹7.50 per unit (₹6.50) respectively.

Additionally, the fixed monthly charge for a domestic connection is also proposed to be hiked by 10 per cent. Besides, power tariffs for commercial consumers have also been proposed to be hiked by 10-15 per cent. The UPCL has already submitted the proposed power tariff structure for 2019-20 with the UPSERC for vetting and approval. The regulator will conduct public hearing and issue a notice before tabling a call on the new tariff for the current fiscal.

Interestingly, the state power utility had kept power tariffs unchanged for 2018-19 in run-up to Lok Sabha elections. Power tariffs following a hike in November 2017, when UPSERC — while sparing industrial sector for 2017-18 — had announced average tariff rise of 12.72 per cent on board. The average tariff hike was then steepened compared to preceding two years with average hike in 2015-16 and 2016-17 figuring at 5.47 per cent and 3.18 per cent, respectively.

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CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I, Shabnam Bano W/o Siraj Ahmad, R/o- Pahia Azampur, Thana-Kakori, Lucknow, have changed my daughter name from Ameena Siraj to Amna Siraj for all future purposes.

सुचना

सुचित हो कि मैं जेरोसीन 681688-M सुवेदर राजीव सिंह निवासी-804(11/2)AT TPSASC, 26, नेहरू रोड लखनऊ में कांवेरि हो मेरे सौतेले रिवाइर में मेरे पुत्र योगेन्द्र सिंह की जन्मतिथि 28.08.2005 अंकित हो गई है जन्मिक सही जन्म तिथि 02.06.2002 है। अतः नीचे में मेरे सौतेले कुम में सही जन्मतिथि 02.06.2002 पता व सम्झा जाये।

NOTICE

It is notified for the information of all that my original Marksheet of High School (T/1979/187) and Intermediate (B/8559/180) and pass certificate have been lost, passed out from city Montessori School, Aliganj, Sector 'O' in the year 2007 and 2009 respectively. Anshika Kumari D/o Munna Lal Kashyap, 482/89, Near Mohan Meakin Road, Daliganj, Lucknow.

Cong revamp drive may be delayed

PREETAM SRIVASTAVA ■ LUCKNOW

A much-awaited exercise to rework Uttar Pradesh Congress is likely to be delayed as the India Congress Committee general secretary and UP (East) incharge Priyanka Gandhi seems to be in no hurry to go in for a change. Priyanka met district coordinators of eastern districts for a deeper understanding of organisational problems and thrash out possible remedies. Congress sources claimed that Priyanka was more interested in working out a road map for the future than analysing causes of poll defeat or taking action.

She asked AICC secretaries Sachin Nayak and Bajirao Khade, along with coordinators, to visit every district and prepare a dossier of each Congressman, with details of their contribution so that deserving leaders could be given key posts and black sheep could be kept aside. She also directed secretaries to visit every district, interact with local leaders and then send their proposal naming active Congressmen. During her interaction with coordinators, Priyanka got some interesting facts. Like in Varanasi zone, a senior leader got his director appointment as district president. Similar input was also received from Gorakhpur zone too. Likewise, another coordinator revealed that in Faizabad zone, a senior leader was running a school and he got one of his college teachers nominated as district chief. Priyanka seemed to be knowing the harrowing facts and admitted that she had inputs of district units being run as fiefdom with 'yes men' of local leaders ruling the roost. Priyanka was also told

about a disconnect between the system developed by local leaders and district unit that often caused disharmony between party workers and candidate. Among other complaints were allegations of local Congress politicians colluding with other parties, the absence of booth committees, inability to match BJP's resources and inadequate presence on social media. Priyanka promised to change the prevailing culture and create new mechanisms to ensure that party workers had a say and promised to meet workers directly twice a week. She was told that the break-up between BSP and SP had created a new opening for the Congress. Most district coordinators insisted that people were fed up with Mayawati and Akhilesh and that the Yogi government was losing popularity, no matter how many Parliamentary seats the BJP won.

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Police firm on 'no helmet, no ride'



Police issuing challans to commuters riding motorcycles without wearing helmets. (Right) Transport Minister Swatantra Dev Singh giving a helmet to a biker at 1090 crossing

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Lucknow police look to be resolute about implementing 'No helmet no ride' rule in the city. On Tuesday, several bikers were challaned for not wearing helmets even as an intensive checking drive was conducted at several prominent crossings of the city. The police had also contacted the heads of different departments of UP government, asking them to make the employees wear helmets and follow traffic rules.

The police issued a total of 4,120 challans to commuters caught violating traffic rules through the day. Out of the total number of challans, 1,509 were issued for riding bikes without helmets. The police issued 1,759 challans while the traffic cops 2,361 challans at different crossings in the city on Tuesday. The police realised a total fine of Rs 2.13 lakh. A sum of Rs 4,300 was realised through on-spot challan while Rs 45,500 through e-challans.

"Barring the sporadic incidents in which the traffic violators confronted the police teams, the drive was by and large peaceful," a police officer said. The Lucknow police had planned the drive on Monday and the same was propagated on different social media platforms. UP DGP OP Singh had kicked off a traffic awareness drive at 1090 crossing on Sunday and senior officers had participated in it.



(Right) Transport Minister Swatantra Dev Singh giving a helmet to a biker at 1090 crossing



Police officer talking to a biker at 1090 crossing

Tempo driver killed in road mishap

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A tempo driver died while six passengers were injured in a road mishap which took place in Mohanlalgarh on Tuesday afternoon. The deceased was identified as Indra Kumar of Mohanlalgarh. As per reports, Indra Kumar was ferrying passengers to Mohanlalgarh when a speeding tractor knocked the tempo at Ganesh Kheda locality in Mohanlalgarh. The tempo overturned and Indra Kumar got trapped under it. The passengers also suffered injuries. Police said the driver was taken to KGMU Trauma Centre where he was declared dead. The injured passengers were rushed to a hospital and were discharged after primary treatment.

Meanwhile, a 50-year-old man, identified as Ramsarwarop of Sitapur, was found hanging from a tree in Bharatnagar locality of Madaion on Tuesday. Police said the man was suffering from some mental disorder. His brother Shivdeen informed the police about the incident. Ramsarwarop was found hanging from a tree with a dupatta tied around his neck," the police said. Ramsarwarop lived with Shivdeen in a house on rent and was a rickshaw-puller.

Besides, a two-day-old infant of an unidentified man was recovered from Gomti River near Mankameshwar Temple in Hasanganj police station area on Tuesday. Police recovered a handkerchief and a bottle of whitener from the pair of trousers that the deceased was wearing. The police suspected that he died of drowning whilst in a sedated state. The identity of the deceased could not be ascertained.

Plea to declare Patanjali's birthplace a heritage site

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A yoga organisation of the city, Shri Patanjali Janmabhumi Nyas has written a letter to the United Nations and UNESCO to declare the birthplace of Patanjali in Gondia in Uttar Pradesh as a heritage site. Dr Swami Bhagavadacharya, president of the organisation, said that in the letter they had written that yoga, as we know, was an ancient Indian system of meditation and self-restraint. Yoga besides meditation, comprises various exercises and postures which facilitate proper flow of oxygen in the veins of the human body.



"Yoga was propounded by sage Patanjali about 5000 years ago. According to him, yoga strengthens the immunity of human mind and body. So the importance that has been given to yoga by the UN is in the interest of mankind. The birthplace of such a great sage, Patanjali, is Kondar Wazerganj village in Gondia district of UP in India. Several ancient Sanskrit language books, including Bhojvirrit and Raghavendra Charit, have mentioned it. Kondar is situated about 20 kilometres north of the holy city of Ayodhya, birthplace of Lord Rama. The birthplace of the famous Hindi poet, Goswami Tulsiadas, Rajapur (Sukarkhet) is also

situated about 40 kilometres north east of Kondar," he said. He has further written that such an important place like Kondar has still not been developed. "It is a cultural place. Therefore, we requested the United Nations and UNESCO to declare it as a heritage site," he added.

Meanwhile, the fifth International Day Yoga will be observed with enthusiasm and fervour across the Central Command zone on June 21. A large number of Army personnel and their families across the seven states of Central Command zone under trained instructors will participate in yoga sessions being organised

at various formations and establishments. For the Army personnel posted at Lucknow, yoga sessions will be organised at 11 Gorkha Rifles Regimental Centre, Army Medical Corps Centre and College and Surya Khel Parisar.

The Traffic department announced traffic diversions for the main programme on the occasion of International Yoga Day and its rehearsal will take place on June 20 and 19 respectively at the Raj Bhawan. The officials of the Traffic department said that the traffic diversions would remain in force till the time the programme began. No traffic will be allowed to move from the Bandariya Ragh Crossing to the DSO Crossing from in front of the Raj Bhawan. This traffic will be diverted towards the Golf Club or Lal Batti Crossing. No traffic will be allowed to move from the DSO Crossing towards Raj Bhawan and Bandariyabagh Crossing. This traffic will be diverted towards the Park Road and Golf Club. City buses will not be allowed to move from the Hazratganj Crossing towards the DSO and they will be diverted towards the Park Road. Officials said that if the general public faced any problem because of these diversions it could contact the traffic control room.

Forest dept focusing on planting drumsticks

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Forest department is focusing on plantation of drumstick species in Lucknow this year. According to SDO Jawahar Lal Gupta, it is beneficial because it is nutritious and gives added income to the farmers. He said from the public they were getting the demand of plantation of drumsticks, teal and shesham. "Drumsticks can be planted on the sides of the roads and also in farms. In Lucknow, they will be mostly planted on the edges of the farmers' land. The farmers have been demanding drumsticks and we are also encouraging the same," he said. He said that drumsticks did not require any care as such and thus were good for plantation. The official said that most of the other departments which are part of the plantation process would also be carrying out plantation of this species.



Regarding the height of the saplings to be planting, he said it depended on the species. "Normally, 3-4 feet would do and near the sides of the roads, we are also planting 12-foot saplings," he said, adding that Lucknow Municipal Corporation would mostly be planting decorative species. In Lucknow, over 26 lakh saplings will be planted, including 10 lakh by the Forest department and 16 lakh by other departments. The Forest department is carrying out the biggest plantation drive this year and planting 22 crore saplings. The department has named the drive 'Vriksh Mahakumbh'.

The department had raised 26 crore saplings in the nurseries of the state for the plantation exercise. Officials said it was the first time that they had a micro plan as each of the gram panchayats was visited and feedback was taken from the farmers as to what kind of plantation they wanted. Over 59,000 gram panchayats were visited and details were taken in terms of the species which they desired. Accordingly, the species were raised in the nurseries.

LDA completes road made of plastic waste

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow Development Authority completed its first road made of plastic waste in Gontimnagar Extension here. LDA chief engineer Indu Shekhar, while talking to The Pioneer, said they would now use the same technology for all the roads which they would be making in the coming future in the state capital. He admitted that this would be the first road in Lucknow which was made with plastic waste.

This stretch of road which the Lucknow Development Authority has built on a pilot basis is 300 metres long and 840 metres wide and was constructed in front of the Police headquarters in Gontimnagar Extension. He said that they had constructed this road using primarily plastic which was of less than 50 microns thickness. "This is not an easy process and requires a proper engineering procedure through which the plastic is mixed with the bitumen with which the road is made," he said. The Chief Engineer said that over one tonne of plastic was used which was collected through the solid waste management of the waste collected from the LDA colonies. He said that the road used



all those plastics which were used by the vegetable vendors and also milk pouches and they were even discarded by the ragpickers. "These plastics lie on vacant plots and are often eaten by animals such as cows. We tried to think as to how we can use it as even the Central Road Research Institute has laid down guidelines on this and allows their usage in the construction of roads. We also took the expertise from R Vasudevan from Madurai who has done extensive work on this and is known as the Plastic Man. Both Vasudevan and the CRRI (Central Road Research Institute) have jointly worked

to come up with this technology. I sent my men to Madurai to learn about it as we contacted both of them," he added. He said that the technology was not as simple as just throwing plastic in hot bitumen and that it was important to make modifications in the engineering parameters which were used in the making of the bitumen concrete. Explaining the advantages of using such waste materials, he said that it enhanced all the engineering parameters which were judged in well-constructed roads. "It not only strengthens the road but reduces the water permeability to a large

extent. Water is the enemy of bitumen and the lesser the amount goes into the bitumen the stronger it will be. Our studies show that the road which is made with plastic waste is 30-40 times more stronger in comparison to the one which is made without plastic waste," he added. He said that cost-wise there was not much difference between the two. However, he said that what was of significance was the fact that this kind of construction was useful environmentally. "Plastics take almost 1000 years to degrade which is harmful for the environment,"

Three drug peddlers land in police net

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Launching a drive against drug peddlers, the Lucknow police arrested three persons ferrying psychotropic substance in Gosainganj and Kakori on Tuesday. In Gosainganj, a police team nabbed Atul Kumar Mishra of Rae Bareilly and recovered 175 kg of ganja from his possession. "Atul has been into drug peddling for a long time. We got a tip-off about his movement in Lucknow where he had to hand over drugs to a local peddler. We laid a trap on the road alongside canal and nabbed him," the police said. "Atul disclosed the names

of the persons in his contact in Gosainganj locality. He also disclosed the name of the person to whom he had to deliver ganja. We are searching for him," the police said. In Kakori, a joint team of police and Crime Branch sleuths nabbed two accused involved in drug peddling. One of their aides managed to escape. Those arrested were identified as Zubair Ahmed of Unnao and Ram of Barabanki. "The accused who managed to escape was identified as Karan Verma of Barabanki," the police said. The police team recovered 35 kg of opium powder, called *duda choora* in local language. "The accused had filled the

goods in three sacks and were carrying it in an SUV. Our informer tipped off about the consignment and we worked on the case. We laid a trap near the toll tax plaza on Agra Expressway where cops in civvies nabbed the accused," the police said. Sources said the drug peddlers had expanded their area of operation to rural parts of the city. "A number of colleges and schools have come up in rural parts of the city. The drug peddlers trap the students staying in rented accommodations or in hostels," the sources said, adding that the police swung into action after getting directives from their bosses.

Bike-borne youths snatch phones from man, nabbed

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two bike-borne youths looted two mobile phones from a man in Keshav Nagar locality of Madaion on Monday night. However, the miscreants ran out of luck as one of them was identified by the victim when spotted in a CCTV footage. The duo were nabbed by the police on Tuesday. As per reports, Deep Singh of Keshav Nagar was going to see an acquaintance around 10.30 pm on Monday while

carrying both the phones in his hand. "The miscreants came from behind while the pillon-riker snatched both the phones. I caught the rear guard of the bike but as they accelerated the motorcycle, I fell down," Singh told the police. Singh said he could identify one of the miscreants. On Tuesday, he was shown some footages in which one of the miscreants was spotted. The police said a team worked on the clue and got a tip-off about the miscreants roaming in the area.

"The team raided the place and nabbed both the miscreants," the police said. They were identified as Gaaurav Bajpai and Deepak Yadav, both of Madaion. The mobile phones of Singh were also recovered. They told the police that they had deprived several people of their mobile phones in the past. "We recovered a country-made pistol and Rs 7,800 in cash from the possession of the accused. Their bike has also been impounded," the police said.

Thunderstorm, rains likely in city today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Met department has forecast rain and thunderstorm in Lucknow on Tuesday. The maximum and minimum temperature is expected to be around 38 degree Celsius and 27 degree Celsius, respectively. Besides, rain and thunder-showers are very likely at isolated places over the state. The department has also warned against dust storm and thunderstorm accompanied by gusty winds and lightning at isolated places over Uttar Pradesh. Meanwhile, city residents continued to bear the brunt of hot weather as the state capital. However, there was a slight let-up as the maximum temperature at 39.4 degree Celsius on Tuesday was just a notch above normal. The minimum temperature at 29.4 degree Celsius was also a notch above normal. Most of the people complained that evenings were warm. Some of them expressed concern that long durations in air-conditioned environment was not good for their health.



Hot weather continued albeit with a slight let-up on Tuesday

Hidi for white paper, skips polls at 1 go meet

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday excused herself from attending the meeting convened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday on the issue of 'one nation, one election'.

She cited lack of sufficient time to come up with a "proper response" to the matter and called for circulation of a white paper on the subject to all political parties, inviting their views by providing adequate time to respond if the Centre indeed wanted "concrete suggestions".

The PM convened meeting will also hold deliberations on celebrations for 75 years of Independence and the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.



In her letter to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, who had sent out invites to all party presidents, she said such a "serious and sensitive subject" required consultation with constitutional and election experts and that to frame a proper response, she needed to consult all the members of her party.

Mamata had skipped the NITI Aayog meeting last Saturday and also did not attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his second term on May 30. She had called the NITI Aayog meeting "fruitless".

important subject", she wrote in the letter. The TMC supremo's decision to stay away from Wednesday's meeting in Delhi comes against the backdrop of heightened tussle between the ruling party and the BJP in West Bengal after the saffron party made inroads into the eastern State.

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Opp firm against PM's 1 nation, 1 election call

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition parties have decided to oppose Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for 'One Nation, One Election'. The decision was taken unanimously at a meeting of the Opposition parties convened by UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi and attended by leaders from the Congress, the TMC, the DMK, the NCP, the NC, the RSP, the Left and others.

Prominent leaders who attended the meeting included Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, K Suresh all from the Congress party, TR Baalu, Kanimozhi of the DMK, Supriya Sule of the NCP, Farooq Abdullah of the NC, Thiruvavaalan Thol (VCK), NK Premchandran (RSP), PK Kumbhlikar (IUML), and Thomas Chazhikadan of KC-M. TMC chief Mamata Banerjee has already opposed by declining to attend the meeting called to discuss the issue of 'One Nation, One Election' idea.

The meeting by Sonia Gandhi was called to chalk out their joint strategy for the Parliament session and to take a decision of the choice of Lok Sabha Speaker. Newly appointed leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the Congress and other UPA allies have decided to support the BJP candidate Om Birla for the post of the Lok Sabha Speaker but



UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi after a meet to decide their strategy in Parliament, on Tuesday.

remained silent on the issue of Deputy Speaker. Chowdhury said the Congress has already moved a motion supporting the ruling party candidate for the post of Speaker of Lok Sabha.

The Congress and other Opposition parties, have however, not decided on the strategy for the post of Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha and are adopting a "wait and watch" policy. On the issue of One Nation One Election, Chowdhury said the parties were opposed to the idea in principle. Since some issues are to be sorted out, the UPA will meet again on Wednesday morning to discuss the issue further and take a common stand at the meeting called by Modi in the evening.

Pak Army-ISI trying to create another Burhan Wani in J&K?

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The recent spurt in terror attacks in Jammu & Kashmir is a ploy of the Pakistan Army-ISI combine and their terror affiliates to create a Burhan Wani type character to lambast India a slew of events coming up at the international level, including Financial Action Task Force.

Assessments here suggest, the best Pakistani tactic comes soon after neighbouring country's Prime Minister Imran Khan was isolated at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meet in Bishkek amid a towering presence of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared at the meet to call out nations that sponsor terror.

Earlier, then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has used the United Nations platform in 2016 to hail Wani as a "young leader" who was "murdered" by India. Wani was a Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist who was neutralised by the security forces in an encounter in 2016.

A slew of events at UN and European Union are coming up in the next few months and a desperate Pakistan is seeking to exploit these platforms for an anti-India trade by projecting liquidation of terrorists as human rights abuse by security forces in Jammu & Kashmir. "The spiraling terror attacks in the Kashmir Valley by Pakistan spon-

sored terror groups are aimed at creating hero out of a terrorist to exploit the international audience as well as deflect domestic pressures on the failing economy in the terror sponsoring nation," counter-terrorism expert Dr Rituraj Maiti said.

The Pakistani tactic also comes days ahead of the visit of US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's visit to New Delhi and Islamabad to provoke security forces in Jammu & Kashmir to initiate major counter-terror operation in the Valley.

In its bid to deceive the international community ahead of the FATF meeting later this month, the Pakistan Government has also sent an alert to India and the US that an attack might be carried out in the Valley by terror groups through explosive-laden vehicle to project to the international anti-terrorist financing body and the international community that Islamabad has begun taking action against terror groups and sharing intelligence with New Delhi and Washington, sources said.

As strike ends, SC defers hearing on security of doctors, keeps open 'larger issue' of their safety

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday deferred the hearing on a plea seeking protection of doctor vacation before appropriate bench," it said. The Bench said safety of doctors is a serious issue and it needs to take a holistic view in providing security to doctors.

"We understand it is a serious issue but we can't provide security to doctors at the cost of other citizens. We have to take a holistic view. We have to look at the larger picture like availability of police personnel and other things. We are not against protection to doctors but at the same time we cannot direct to depute police personnel with each and every doctor," the Bench said.

Meanwhile, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) also filed an impeachment application seeking the court's intervention into the plea earlier filed, saying protection needs to be provided to doctors across the country. PTI

was called off. Therefore we find no urgency to take up the matter. List the matter after the summer vacation before appropriate bench," it said. The Bench said safety of doctors is a serious issue and it needs to take a holistic view in providing security to doctors. "We understand it is a serious issue but we can't provide security to doctors at the cost of other citizens. We have to take a holistic view. We have to look at the larger picture like availability of police personnel and other things. We are not against protection to doctors but at the same time we cannot direct to depute police personnel with each and every doctor," the Bench said.

LOKSABHA SESSION: DAY 2

Oath-taking marks exchange of slogans by MPs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The second day of oath-taking in the 17th Lok Sabha on Tuesday was marked by raising of slogans such as 'Jai Shri Ram, Jai Maa Durga, Jai Bheem, Tamil Vazhuka and Allahu Akbar by members with some even engaging in heated exchanges and bravados and countering. The sloganeering went unabated ignoring the Chair's direction to desist from it.

Many MPs were adding their own slogans related to religion and cheering up regionalism from the podium after Oath taking. Ruling party also paid tit for tat for those who on Monday made hue and cry during the Bhopal MP Sadwi Praga Singh Thakur. Asaduddin Owaisi, AIMIM MP from Hyderabad, chanted 'Jai Bheem, Jai Meem, Takbeer Allahu Akbar, Jai Hind', after members from the ruling side shouted slogans of 'Jai Shri Ram', 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and



AIMIM MP from Hyderabad Asaduddin Owaisi takes oath as a Member of the 17th Lok Sabha on the second day of its first Session, at Parliament, on Tuesday. PTI

'Vande mataram'. Chanting of Jai Shri Ram was at its peak, when Owaisi was called to take oath. At one point, Owaisi was seen asking Chair to control the sloganeering BJP MPs, asking how could 'Jai' oath during such a noisy situation. Slogans of Vande Mataram rose at its peak in Lok Sabha after



Samajwadi Party's MP Shaikhur Rahman Barq takes oath as a Member of the 17th Lok Sabha on the second day of its first Session, at Parliament, on Tuesday. PTI

Some of the members especially from West Bengal and Tamil Nadu began and ended their oath with sloganeering despite the presiding officer ruling that that no slogans will go on record. Many DMK MPs ended with slogan 'Tamil Vazhuka' (Let Tamil win), BJP MPs and other MPs from North India also countered them from shouting back Bharat Mata Ki Jai and Jai Hind.

When the members from the West Bengal, especially those belonging to Trinamool Congress, took oath, those from the treasury benches teased them with 'Jai Shri Ram' slogan. TMC members countered with slogans like Jai Hind, Jai Bengal, Jai Maa Durga and Jai Ram. Kalyan Banerjee of TMC recited 'Durga Path' after concluding his oath while his party colleague Abu Taher Khan began his oath with 'Bismillah, ar-Rahman, ar-Rahim' and ended with Allahu Akbar. Devendra Singh Bhole began with 'Om Namah Shivay', while Ravindra concluded his oath 'Jai Yogi, Jai Modi, Nisth Pranamiki' and ended with 'Jai Shri Ram'.

Responding to chanting by treasury benches, he even Modi is not so much popular in the House. Banerjee collected was used to "influence political activities".

A bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices Dipak Gupta had issued notice to Jaising Grover and the MHA, asking them to file their responses on the allegations, including that the money received by Lawyers Collective was used to "influence political activities".

Jaising Grover and Lawyers Collective had issued a press statement, disputing "any allegation of misutilisation of any funds".

It is obvious to us that this is misjaising on account of Ms Jaising taking up the issue of the procedure adopted in relation to the allegations of sexual harassment against the Chief Justice of India by a former employee of the Supreme Court, which Ms Jaising has done so in her capacity as a concerned citizen, a senior lawyer, a member of the bar and a women's rights advocate, without commenting on the merits of the allegations," the press statement had said.

Sluggish monsoon may fuel drought

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The slow progress of the monsoon, which irrigates more than half of India's farms, may worsen the drought-like situation prevailing in many States with an overall 45 per cent rain deficiency recorded till June 18 since its advent on June 8.

The monsoon is yet to mark its arrival in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra and Odisha. The country has so far received 46.1 mm of rainfall against the normal of 82.4 mm for this time.

Due to deficiency of rainfall, kharif sowing area was 82.20 lakh hectares compared to 90.34 lakh hectares during the corresponding week in 2018-19. The Telangana Government has issued advisory asking farmers not to rush into sowing. The farmers are also advised not to grow maize on light soils.

According to IMD, south peninsula, including Kerala, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, are witnessing deficient rains of over 38 per cent till June 18. "As many as 14 subdivisions, including drought-ridden Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, are facing a deficiency of more than 60 per cent," the IMD said. IMD's Director General Dr KJ Ramesh said the monsoon should have reached Central India till June 18. But this year it hasn't even covered Karnataka properly or entered the Northeast.

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- IMD's Director General Dr KJ Ramesh said the monsoon should have reached Central India till June 18. But this year it hasn't even covered Karnataka properly or entered the Northeast.
- The East and North East region recorded 43 per cent rain deficiency while North West recorded 27 per cent deficiency. Except Lakshadweep, all subdivisions of meteorological department recorded deficient rainfall till date.

Lakshadweep, all subdivisions of meteorological department recorded deficient rainfall till date. June-to-September monsoon made a delayed onset over the Kerala coast on 8 June and has been advancing at a sluggish pace over the mainland. If lost momentum because of Cyclone Vayu, whose formation in the Arabian Sea coincided with the monsoon onset and ended up draining it of moisture. The cyclone eventually drifted away from the Gujarat coast. Adequate rainfall in the monsoon season is critical for India's agricultural output and the overall economy. A deficit rainfall during the early part of the season could delay sowing and reduce crop output even if rainfall gathers pace later. According to IMD, the delayed monsoon season is now expected to arrive in Maharashtra by June 21. The south-west monsoon is expected to reach southern Konkan and Goa by June 21, and is likely to cover the entire Maharashtra by June 24 or 25.

Govt restores 'ration in kind' for armed forces in peace areas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has restored supply of rations to Defence officers posted in peace areas following a recommendation by the Defence Ministry. The scheme in practice since mid 1980s was scrapped in 2017 following a recommendation by the Seventh Pay Commission and in lieu officers were paid Rs 117 per day.

Doing away with providing rations had led to discontentment amongst the armed forces and taking note of it the Government gave the nod for the Defence Ministry proposal for restoration of ration in kind, officials said on Tuesday.

Rations include butter, eggs, cheese, pulses and vegetables besides other such items. Incidentally, this is one of the first decisions taken after Defence Minister Rajnath assumed charge. The provision of 'ration in kind' was earlier applicable to junior officers and later allowed for all officer ranks.

The officers were given a choice to opt for allowance instead of rations in kind by very officers opted for it, sources said. They also said the Defence forces had appealed for restoration of the scheme soon after it was scrapped in 2017. However, officers deployed in operation areas continued to get ration in kind besides those posted in peace stations in counter-insurgency areas.

CBI books Anand Grover, his firm under FCRA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has booked noted lawyer Anand Grover and his Mumbai-based voluntary organisation, Lawyers Collective, for alleged violation of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) after receiving funds from abroad and other offences under the Indian Penal Code.

The agency has filed an FIR on the basis of a complaint from the Union Home Ministry which has alleged several discrepancies in the utilisation of foreign aid received by the Lawyers Collective.

The CBI has booked Lawyers Collective and its president Anand Grover, and unidentified office-bearers of the organisation, besides unidentified Government officials. According to the complaint, the ministry, which is now a part of the FIR, the group had received foreign aid worth over Rs 32.39 crore between 2006-07 and 2014-15, wherein irregularities were committed that amounted to violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA).

Based on available information and scrutiny of records of the NGO available with the MHA, prima facie violations of

by the CBI's office in Mumbai. Recently, a PIL was filed by Lawyers Voice, a voluntary organisation of advocates, in the Supreme Court, alleging that the funds collected by Lawyers Collective were misutilised for "activities against the nation".

A bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices Dipak Gupta had issued notice to Jaising Grover and the MHA, asking them to file their responses on the allegations, including that the money received by Lawyers Collective was used to "influence political activities".

Jaising Grover and Lawyers Collective had issued a press statement, disputing "any allegation of misutilisation of any funds".

It is obvious to us that this is misjaising on account of Ms Jaising taking up the issue of the procedure adopted in relation to the allegations of sexual harassment against the Chief Justice of India by a former employee of the Supreme Court, which Ms Jaising has done so in her capacity as a concerned citizen, a senior lawyer, a member of the bar and a women's rights advocate, without commenting on the merits of the allegations," the press statement had said.



Om Birba, NDA's nominee for Lok Sabha speaker's post, is offered sweets by family members at his residence in New Delhi on Tuesday

CNG car rebate on anvil to boost Capital's lungs

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

Yet another relief aimed at middle class voters, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government is going to grant 50 per cent concession in the registration and road tax charges for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) factory fitted private cars. The proposal is a part of Delhi Government's "Green Budget" to recreate breathing space in the city and to reduce pollution level by promoting the CNG usage.

The project was proposed by the Government in the Budget 2018-19 along with other projects such as 1,000 electric buses, 900 electric feeder buses for last mile connectivity, edge-to-edge paving and landscaping of Public Works Department (PWD) roads and others. Under this Green Budget project, 26 anti-pollution schemes have been listed from various departments of the Delhi Government.

According to the official sources, the finalisation of the scheme is at the last stages and will be placed in the upcoming Cabinet meeting which is likely to be held by end of this month. "The proposal was announced in last year's Budget and the Government is working on it to implement the scheme as soon as possible to promote CNG vehicles in the city for better environment condition. The file regarding the same is under submission and will be placed before the Cabinet meeting," said sources.

If everyone converts their vehicles to CNG, the city will

"The proposal was announced in last year's Budget and the Delhi Government is working on it to implement the scheme as soon as possible to promote CNG vehicles in the city for better environment condition. The file regarding the same is under submission and will be placed before the Cabinet meeting," said sources.

be free from hazardous air pollution, said Jasmine Shah, the chairperson of Delhi Dialogue Commission (DDC). The Government is already promoting CNG vehicles and is taking measures to curb pollution level in the city, said Jasmine Shah, the Chairman of Delhi Dialogue Commission (DDC) adding that the people have confusion about the scheme on which I would like to clear that this scheme will be only for the private car owners and the remaining cab drivers and taxi company can only use CNG fuel."

The registration charges for any vehicle are a very minimum amount which costs up to ₹1,000. But the road tax varies car to car such as if a vehicle is purchased for ₹10 lakh then two percent of that is charged for road tax. It will increase and decrease depending on the vehicle prices. However, if this scheme will be implemented, the car owner

will be benefited, said transport official.

"According to the data compiled by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), concentration of a particulate matters in Delhi's air pollution has declined by 20 per cent. Data shows that average PM volume in the air in 2011 was 277, which increased to 368 in 2012. Since then, it has been continuously rising, and in 2018 it has again reduced to 277. Similarly, the quantity of PM 2.5 was 136 in 2011 which became 164 in 2012, it is registered 128 in the year 2018. Another polluting element NO₂, which was 71 in 2011, increased to 90 in the next years but in 2018 came down to 50 with various efforts of this government. Thus, this scheme will also help to curb pollution," said another official. He added that it was stated by the Deputy Chief Minister in this year's Delhi Budget speech.

I'll produce 500 leaders for every turnout: Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Fresh from her party's unimpressive show in the recently concluded parliamentary elections and tormented by regular exodus of party men, including MLAs and municipal councilors, to the BJP Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said the spate of emigration was not an account of any ideological transformation but "greed for cash."

Addressing a meeting of party corporators at the Netaji Indoor Stadium Banerjee said "only those people who are being investigated for corruption are quitting the party. But they do not know that they will still be investigated for all their past corrupt activities."

Though upset over a large number of TMC councilors and an MLA on Tuesday joining the BJP in Delhi she said, "I am not worried about 15-20 councilors leaving us for cash because TMC is not a weak party. Even the MLAs are also free to quit the party if they want because for every such leader quitting the party I will



TMC MLA from Bongaon Biswajit Das (21) joins BJP in the presence of party's West Bengal leaders Kailash Vijayarajya and Mukul Roy, in New Delhi on Tuesday. Along with Biswajit Das, 12 TMC councilors and Congress spokesperson Prasanna Ghosh also joined the BJP.

produce 500 others. In fact I have my names ready for them." The TMC supreme said, "we don't want thieves in our party. I call upon these thieves who are more eager to get their money out of every project to quit the party immediately so that I can fill their places with honest and hardworking workers," adding she "won't allow the party leaders to extract cut money even from small schemes worth even ₹2,000."

Claiming that she had reports of party men were extorting 10 per cent cut money for a grant of even ₹2,000, she said "TMC is not a

TMC men going to BJP for cash, says Bengal CM



TMC after one had left it. The massive exodus from TMC to the BJP started soon after the conclusion of the Lok Sabha elections where the TMC won 22 a deficit of 12 seats from its 2014 tally where as the BJP got 18 seats 16 more than what it got five years ago.

party of thieves and we shall not allow you to cheat the common people. For that if you want to quit the party and join the BJP you are free to do so. I ask you to go now."

However, she reminded that "no one will be allowed to come back to the party afterwards. None will be allowed to return and rejoin the party by holding some big leaders feet," she said directing senior party leaders Subroto Bakshi and Firhad Hakim to evolve strict conditions for returning to the

TMC after one had left it. The massive exodus from TMC to the BJP started soon after the conclusion of the Lok Sabha elections where the TMC won 22 a deficit of 12 seats from its 2014 tally where as the BJP got 18 seats 16 more than what it got five years ago. Already four TMC MLAs have left the TMC to join the BJP whereas the Bengal ruling outfit has lost at least five municipalities to a surging BJP in the wake of councilors joining that party in hordes.

Thousands join final journey of martyr Major in Meerut



A family member breaks into tears near body of Major Ketan Sharma after it was brought at his home in Meerut, on Tuesday

Meerut: Thousands turned up to pay their last respects to Major Ketan Sharma, who was killed in an encounter with militants in Jammu & Kashmir's Anantnag, as his mortal remains were brought to his hometown Meerut in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday. The 29-year-old officer was killed in an encounter in Achabal area of the south Kashmir district on Monday. A militant was also killed in the gun fight which broke out after the security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation in the area. Sharma's mortal remains were flown from Jammu & Kashmir to Delhi. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Army Chief General Bipin Rawat paid tributes to the slain officer at the Palam airport in the national Capital before his mortal remains were taken to Meerut. The slain Armyman, who will be cremated in Surajkund later, was accorded a gun salute by his colleagues here.

CYCLONE VAYU CROSSES GUJARAT COAST, CAUSES HEAVY RAIN

Ahmedabad: After playing truant for a week, Cyclone Vayu went past the Kutch coast in Gujarat on Tuesday in a considerably weakened state, leaving moderate to heavy showers at several places with the mercury plummeting dramatically. "Cyclone Vayu converted into a low pressure area and crossed over Kutch in the morning," Manorama Mohanty, scientist at the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Ahmedabad Centre, told reporters.

MAHARASHTRA BUDGET

Fin Min presents ₹20.29K cr deficit budget sans fresh tax

- State debt rises to staggering ₹4.14L cr as on March 31
- Announces sops, including 33.5% rebate in power tariff for drought-hit farmers
- Opp stages walkout over 'leak' of Budget proposals ahead of presentation

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Choosing not to propose any fresh taxes on the people ahead of the State Assembly polls due in October this year, Maharashtra Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantwar on Tuesday presented ₹20,292.94 crore revenue deficit budget which among other things contained several sops for the drought-affected farmers, including 33.5 per cent concession in power tariff.

Amid a noisy walkout by the Opposition from both the Houses of the State Legislature over the alleged "leak" of budget papers, Mungantwar presented a budget for 2019-20 which showed that the State debt had mounted to ₹4.14 lakh crore as on March 31, 2019. "As per the revised estimates, at the end of March 2019 the total State debt is at ₹4.14, 411 crore. In view of the economic size of the State, the debt is within the permissible limits of financial indicators," Mungantwar said. The Minister also said that during 2019-20, the state government expected a revenue of ₹3,314, 64,012 as against an anticipated revenue expenditure of ₹3,349, 93,306 Thus, the revenue deficit will remain at



Maharashtra Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantwar and Minister of State for Home Deepak Kesarkar arrive at the Maharashtra Assembly to present Budget during the Monsoon Session, in Mumbai on Tuesday

Rs.20,292.94 crore. Mungantwar said that the tax base of Maharashtra had broadened after the implementation of GST with the increase in number of registered taxpayers from 7,75,000 to 15,50,000. Reiterating his government's resolve to stand solidly behind the drought-affected farmers, Mungantwar said that the State Government had credited ₹4,461 crore in the bank accounts of 66,88,422 farmers from 17,985 villages from 151 tehsils in 26 districts in the State. Among the farmers that Mungantwar came up with were: concession in payment of

land revenues, Restructuring of Co-operative loans, Stay on recovery of agricultural loans, 33.5 per cent concession in current electricity bill of agricultural pump sets, waiver of examination fee for school and college students, relaxation in the criterion of works under Employment Guarantee Scheme Drinking water supply by tanker wherever necessary and no disconnection of agricultural pump sets in the villages. Anywhere scarcity has been declared. The minister said that scarcity control rooms had been set up in all Collector Offices in the state for redress of drinking water scarcity.

RBI to examine concerns over data localisation rule: Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The RBI will examine concerns around its strict data localisation rules that require storing of customer data exclusively in India without creating mirror sites overseas, the government said on Tuesday.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in April last year asked payment firms to ensure their data are stored exclusively on local servers, setting a tight six-month deadline for compliance. That deadline in the said to have been missed by some foreign firms including credit card giants Visa and Mastercard. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday held exten-

sive consultations with the tech industry and e-commerce companies, a statement by his ministry said. "All the companies who were represented in this meeting put forth their concerns related to RBI data storage requirements and processing related guidelines issued by the RBI. Deputy Governor of RBI, BP Kanungo, assured the industry representatives that the Reserve Bank of India will look into this," it said. The RBI said it had put out a circular requiring that all "data relating to payment systems" are "stored in a system only in India" within six months. International giants usually store data on global

servers and the requirement to store data locally would require them to make an additional investment. But policymakers in India believe storing data locally would help monitor and conduct investigations if the need arises.

Mastercard CEO Ajay Banga joined the meeting via video conference, the statement said. Besides the RBI rule, concern was also expressed at the meeting about a draft e-commerce policy that requires exclusive local storage and processing of data generated by users in India from various sources including e-commerce platforms, social media and search engines.

While domestic companies such as Reliance Jio have spoken up in support of the government's data localisation efforts, others like Facebook, Amazon, Microsoft, and Mastercard have led the way in opposing it. "The e-commerce industry representatives also put forth their concerns before the Commerce Minister about the e-commerce draft policy which they felt was not adequately consultative," the statement said adding Goyal assured them that each and every concern of the industry will be addressed. He asked e-commerce representatives to send their concerns in writing within 10

days. On a draft data protection bill released in July 2018 that proposes a requirement for data localisation as a remedy to concerns about protection of personal data, industry representatives told the Minister that though the consultations on it were satisfactory a lot of time had elapsed and they were not sure about the final shape of the Bill. The statement said principles of data protection and privacy were discussed at length in the meeting and industry representatives requested Goyal to ensure that the Bill will have more clarity around the classification of data and the manner of cross border flow of data.

CRPF to launch 'save environment' campaign during Amarnath yatra

PTI ■ JAMMU

In addition to performing its primary duty of providing security, the CRPF will launch a 'save environment' campaign during the pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine of Amarnath in the south Kashmir Himalays. The 46-day annual yatra is scheduled to begin from the twin routes — the traditional Pahalgam track in Anantnag district and the shortest Baltal track in Ganderbal district — on July 1 and will conclude on August 15, coinciding with the Raksha Bandhan festival.

CRPF is part of the multi-security grid comprising Army, local police and other security forces to ensure smooth and incident-free yatra. "This year, CRPF is appealing pilgrims as well as the public in general to

play their vital role in preserving the fragile environment especially along the yatra area," the Jammu-based Public Relations Officer of the paramilitary force Ashish Kumar Jha told PTI.

He said the CRPF had prepared the hoardings and banners and will display these on prominent places along the yatra route, including Jammu Tawi railway station, airport, bus stands, various base camps and "langer" (community kitchen) points before the yatra begins. "It is our duty to safeguard nature and we expect the pilgrims and locals to extend their cooperation and play their role in maintaining the cleanliness of the mountains, rivers and streams," Jha said.

He said the hoardings will be in both English and Hindi to convey a powerful message

for the need to preserve the nature by avoiding plastic and polythene and use environment-friendly material and dustbins to dispose off the waste in a proper manner.

Besides other security agencies, the officer said the CRPF is deployed predominantly along the route of conduct of yatra. "CRPF, like other security agencies, will ensure security of pilgrims, their camps and convoys and will also provide all possible assistance to the pilgrims in consonance of its public friendly image," he said.

Meanwhile, Jammu Divisional Commissioner Sanjeev Verma said the administration is fully geared up for the yatra and has made necessary arrangements for the pilgrims like medical services, banking facilities and food

court. A police control room was also set up at the Niwas besides the State Road Transport Corporation counter, he said adding the first batch of pilgrims will be flagged-off from the Niwas on June 30 by KK Sharma, the advisor to the Governor.

Verma said efforts are under way to ensure wide publicity to the pilgrimage. This year, he said, mobile bio toilets are being installed enroute Jammu to Banihal and Jammu to Pir Ki Gali along Mughal road. "Though, Mughal Road shall be used as an alternate route, there shall be ample langars all along the route as per past practice. Besides, buses for pilgrims shall be lined up separately for both Pahalgam and Baltal routes at Yatri Niwas to avoid any chaos while looking for the concerned route buses by the pilgrims," he said.

No more minimum qualification needed to drive in country

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to benefit skilled persons from economically underprivileged sections of the society, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has decided to do away with the requirement of minimum educational qualification for driving a transport vehicle. A notification to this effect will be issued soon.

At present, under Rule 8 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989, a transport vehicle driver needs to have passed Class VIII.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry, the removal of the requirement will open up employment opportunities for a large number of unemployed persons, especially the youth, and the decision will also help meet shortage of near-

ly 22 lakh drivers in transport and logistics sector, which is hindering its growth.

"In a move to benefit skilled persons from economically underprivileged sections of the society, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has decided to remove the requirement of minimum educational qualification for driving a transport vehicle," the statement said.

The Ministry has initiated process to amend Rule 8 of Central Motor Vehicles 1989 and a draft notification in this regard will be issued soon, it added. There are large numbers of unemployed persons especially in rural areas of the country, who may not have a formal education, but are otherwise literate and skilled, it said.

"However, while removing the requirement of a minimum educational qualification, the Ministry has strongly emphasised upon training and skill testing of drivers so that road safety is not compromised in any way," the statement said. Anyone applying for a driving license will have to mandatorily pass a stringent skill test, it said, adding the Ministry has emphasised that training imparted by a school or establishment as mentioned in the Motor Vehicles Act 1988 should ensure that the driver can read signs and perform logistical duty such as maintenance of driver logs, inspection of trucks and trailers, submission of pre-trip and post-trip records, determination of discrepancies in paperwork, effective communication to report safety hazards.

INBRIEF

BANK FRAUD: 6K VEHICLES OF FIRM ATTACHED

New Delhi: The ED on Tuesday said it has attached more than 6,000 vehicles worth about ₹1,610 crore in connection with a bank loan fraud and money laundering case against a Surat-based company and its promoters. The agency issued a provisional order for attachment of assets under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against Siddhi Vinayak Logistics Ltd (SVLL) and its Director Rupchand Bald. A total of 6,170 vehicles worth Rs 1,610.78 crore have been attached as part of the latest order, it said. The central probe agency had similarly attached assets of the company worth over Rs 19 crore in June, 2017.

SC TO HEAR CON PLEA FOR POLLS FOR 2 RS SEATS

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday agreed to hear on June 19 a plea of Gujarat Congress challenging the decision of the Election Commission to hold separate bypolls to two Rajya Sabha seats in the State. The Rajya Sabha seats fell vacant following the election of BJP chief Amit Shah and party leader Smriti Irani to Lok Sabha from Gandhinagar and Anethi, respectively.

FOREST FIRE A SERIOUS ISSUE, PRA FOR RAIN: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear on June 24 a plea seeking urgent steps to protect forests, wildlife and birds from wildfires in Uttarakhand, saying "it is a serious issue and in the meantime, pray for rain". A verdict of the bench of justices Deepak Gupta and Surya Kant listed the matter for June 24 after the petitioner, advocate Rituparni Uniyal, sought urgent listing of the matter.

Congress suspends K'taka MLA Baig for anti-party activities

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The Congress on Tuesday suspended rebel MLA R Roshan Baig from the party with immediate effect for "anti-party" activities.

All India Congress Committee has approved the proposal sent by KPCC to take action against R Roshan Baig, MLA on account of his anti-party activities," the state Congress said in a release.

"He has been suspended from the party with immediate effect, on the basis of inquiry conducted on this matter," it said. Hitting out at Congress leaders for the party's performance in the Lok Sabha polls, Baig, a MLA from Shivajinagar, had recently held Siddaramaiah's "arrogance" and KPCC president Dinesh Gundu Rao's "immaturity" responsible for the "flop show".

He also called AICC general secretary KC Venugopal a "buffoon". He had also dropped hints of quitting the party, and

appealed to Muslims to "compromise" with the situation, on NDA returning to power.

The Karnataka PCC had issued a show cause notice to Baig for his conduct, to which he has not responded, according to sources.

Earlier in the day, KPCC president Dinesh Gundu Rao had said Baig's alleged links with the IMA levels involved in an alleged financial fraud, duping those who invested would be brought to the notice of Central leadership for further action.

Revenue Minister RV Deshpande on Monday said Baig had introduced the firm's owner Mohammed Mansoor Khan to him about two months ago but denied doing any undue favour.

Baig, a seven-time MLA and a former minister, has been expressing displeasure against the Congress party leadership on not being included in the coalition cabinet headed by HD Kumaraswamy.

Parched Chennai will get drinking water, assures CM

IANS ■ CHENNAI

With reservoirs drying up and ground water levels plummeting in absence of rain, water has become scarce but the Government is taking necessary steps to supply drinking water to people, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami said on Tuesday.

Interacting with reporters here, Palaniswami said owing to failure of rains, the ground water levels have gone down. People are using the water supplied through tankers for drinking and washing as the ground water levels have gone down and hence the shortage, he said.

The reservoirs — Cholavaram (full capacity 1,081 mcf) and Redhills (5,300 mcf) — which cater to the Chennai's water needs are dry while the storage at Poondi reservoir is 24 mcf as against full capacity of 3,231 mcf, according to Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (Chennai Metro).

The Chembarambakkam



lake (full capacity 3,645 mcf) has water level of mere 1 mcf. Palaniswami said water from desalination projects is also being distributed to people and urged people to cooperate with the government as ground water will be supplied for next four-five months till rains begin in October/November.

As regards water from the Telugu Ganga Scheme or Krishna Water, Palaniswami said only water could only be released to Tamil Nadu if there is 8 tmc of water in Kadaluru dam in Andhra Pradesh.

The water level at Kadaluru dam is presently about 4 tmc. Palaniswami also said that water from the Mettur Dam is being released to fill up the Veeranam lake to supply drinking water to Chennai.

BJP's bid to topple Govt still on, tried to bribe JD(S) MLA: HDK

PTI ■ BENGALURU

After a lull, the fear of Operation Lotus to topple the Government returned to haunt the coalition Government with Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy Tuesday accusing the BJP of attempting to bribe one of his party MLAs.

Addressing a public meeting at a village in Ramnagar, Kumaraswamy said relentless efforts have been made to pull down the Government and he knew who have been behind it.

To back his claim, the Chief Minister recalled that when he was on the way from Ramnagar to Bidadi, one of his MLAs called him at about 11 pm on Monday.

The MLA said that half-an-hour ago a BJP leader called him. The leader said the Government's fall was immi-

nent by Wednesday evening.

Already nine MLAs from Congress and the JD(S) have signed. The leader told him that if he (MLA) agreed he would dispatch Rs 10 crore at his location," the Chief Minister alleged, Kumaraswamy said the MLA was shaken badly after the BJP leader told him to join them. "This is going on continuously. They have kept money ready to topple this government," the CM said.

"Whatever attempts they make, the Government will not fall and it will continue for the next four years," he asserted.

Kumaraswamy did not reveal the name of the MLA nor the BJP leader who approached him giving room for speculation. BJP spokesperson GO Madhavadan rubbished the charge, saying the CM was making a baseless allegation.

"Just to advance his vested interest and dynastic politics, the CM has been making baseless allegations against the BJP. The BJP has neither approached his party MLAs nor has any 'Operation Lotus'. Let him focus on development instead of levelling allegations," he said. Time and again, the JD(S) and its ally in the Government, the Congress, have been accusing the BJP of attempting to topple the Government by bribing their MLAs. Ahead of tabling the state budget on February 8, the Chief Minister had held a press conference and claimed that the BJP leaders wanted to bribe JD(S) MLAs.

To substantiate his claim, he had released the audio clip of a purported conversation between a JD(S) MLA and the BJP leaders.

KCR raps MoS for 'Hyd terror-safe haven'

IANS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Naidu on Tuesday said that Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy had made a joke by stating that Hyderabad is a "safe zone for terrorists".

"People are laughing at him. He has become a joke," Rao said at a news conference on Tuesday night.

KCR, as Rao is popularly known, said there was not a single incident of communal violence in Telangana during last five years and the Union Home Ministry also went on to say that Hyderabad had become safe zone for terrorists as any terror incident in the country would have a link to the city.

KCR said since the Andhra Pradesh government had hand-

ed back the buildings at the secretariat to Telangana, a new secretariat complex would be built at the existing premises. He said the foundation stone for the new secretariat building will be laid on June 27. The complex with 5-6 lakh square feet space will be built at a cost of Rs 400 crore.

The Chief Minister also announced that the existing Assembly building will be pre-

served as heritage structure and a new legislature complex comprising legislative Assembly and legislative Council will be built at Verrum Manzil at a cost of Rs 100 crore.

He said Telangana and Andhra Pradesh governments had agreed to hold talks to solve all outstanding issues with regard to distribution of waters of Godavari and Krishna rivers.



Devotees take part in a 'shobha yatra' on the first day of 'Kalyan Mahakumbh' organised by Kallaji Vedpathi at Nimbaehara in Chittoor district, on Tuesday.

Lenders file for Jet Airways' bankruptcy

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The consortium of 26 bankers led by State Bank Tuesday took the grounded Jet Airways to the National Company Law Tribunal to recover their dues of over Rs 8,500 crore. The tribunal will hear the matter Wednesday.

Jet Airways, started over 25 years ago by airline ticketing-agent-turned-entrepreneur Naresh Goyal, stopped flying on April 17 after it ran out of cash and the unpaid lessors took away most of its 100-odd operational airplanes. The lenders have been trying to sell the airline as a going concern since the past five months, but failed due to many reasons.

Apart from banks, the consortium also owes over ₹10,000 crore to its hundreds of vendors, primarily aircraft lessors and over ₹3,000 crore to around

23,000 employees who have not been paid since March.

The airline has been having negative net worth for long and has run a loss of over ₹13,000 crore in the past few years. Thus it has over ₹56,500 crore of dues and being a services company negligible assets to recover.

Also, most of its domestic airport slots have been given to other airlines by the government and so are some of its slots at some key international airports.

On the aeroplane asset side, Jet had only 16 of its book which are valued around ₹5,000 crore as per media reports, as the rest of its 123 fleet were on lease and most of them have been de-registered or taken away by foreign lessors already.

Following a meeting of the lenders, MNC SBI had said that "after due deliberations, the lenders have decided to seek resolution for Jet Airways under the bankruptcy code since only a conditional bid was received".

The statement further said the move was necessitated as the prospective investor (a consortium of Ethad Airways and Hindia group) wants some debt exemption to bring the open offer requirement, which can be worked out better under the bankruptcy laws.

52.78 percent to hit an all-time low of 73 percent of their value.

When banks converted a part of their debt into equity when the stock was trading over ₹250 apiece. The conversion price was fixed at a nominal ₹1, though.

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Car-free weekend in CP from June 29

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The controversial plan to make Asia's popular market and global showpiece Connaught Place a car-free zone is being rolled out soon.

Top sources in the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) said the plan will be executed in two phases.

Senior officials in NDMC told *The Pioneer* that both phases will run at weekends. "We are yet to study the implementation plans, hence we are launching this during weekends," said an official on the condition of anonymity.

NDMC officials have met

Delhi Traffic Police top brass for the required traffic management plan to execute it.

The officials also disclosed the date of the pilot project. "The first phase of experiment will start from June 29, 30, the second on July 6, 7," the officials said.

Connaught Place is favourite destination of Delhiites at weekends as it houses eateries, movie-theaters and shops.

For many residents, who believe in spending time with their families and buying authentic stuff from here, the council's plan to execute this project at weekends only is not good news for them.

This is the third attempt of

the council to make Connaught Place car-free or pedestrian friendly zone, purportedly to help maintain the beauty of the colonial-era structure.

Readers may recall the traders' protest earlier as this plan would hamper their business as shoppers in this area use their vehicles to visit CP.

Traders in the area claimed that they have not been taken into confidence by the NDMC officials. "What is the need to make CP area vehicle-free zone, the council is aware the nature of visitors. The CP market boasts banks, jewellers, pubs and eateries," asked a trader.

"Who will ensure the safety of our visitors and this is an

attempt to divert our customers," a trader claimed.

NDMC officials said the project to make CP car-free zone is inspired from Paris and New York. "We have studied the redevelopment structures of big cities of the world and we have tried to cultivate such facilities here," said the official.

Although it is doubtful if any of town planners are fully cognizant of the planning that went into pedestrian zones of Paris and New York's Woodstock village.

The project was discussed on January 5 this year in a meeting of NDMC officials.

Then Union Urban Development Minister

No more 'VIP stay' at Corbett Tiger Reserve

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Corbett Tiger Reserve authorities have decided that it will not entertain references from VIPs requesting stay and safari facilities among others either for themselves or for their relatives and friends, instead these requests would be reported to their higher authorities. The move comes as the Corbett administration has been receiving a large number of communications, through explicit use/display of official position/state symbols, for arranging safari, stay, other private arrangements of various highly placed authorities, which is otherwise a purely personal activity and has nothing to do with discharge of any duties of the authorities concerned.

On many occasions, even cases of friends/other known ones have been referred to the authorities at Corbett and sometimes the matter has been tried to be pursued in coercive/intimidating manners, according to a recent official order.

"This is nothing but brazen abuse of official position for seeking favour for personal ends. Such practices also put stress on an already overburdened administration, primary duties of which

are habitat management and protection works," it said.

Therefore, in accordance with constitutional principles, orders of the Supreme Court and other relevant rules/notifications in this regard, it is hereby ordered that any communication received through use of official positions, except for those entitled, in any manner, for the said purpose will not be entertained at all, by any of the officials posted in the Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand, the order said.

Rules framed by the Uttarakhand government regarding state guests allowed very few constitutional functionalities like the president, prime minister, chief justice of India, Lok Sabha speaker, among others to avail such facilities.

"In future such requests are not to be taken cognizance of at all and the same has to be returned immediately, in original, to the office concerned and the matter has to be reported to the higher authorities of such offices for action against them, regarding such abuse of official positions," said Sanjiv Chaturvedi, director of the Corbett Tiger Reserve, in the order. He said the Right to Equality guaranteed under Article 14 of the Constitution, is

one of the bedrocks of democratic polity.

"However, over the years, a 'VIP culture' has crept into our polity, where persons occupying influential positions, started using their official position and powers to create a distinct class for themselves, and using it as a privilege to make undue claim over public resources, for purposes which had nothing to do with discharge of their official duties," Chaturvedi said.

This VIP culture, which is anathema to the cherished principles of equality and fraternity, has created distortions in system of governance and has caused resentment in general public, he said, citing a central government decision on prohibiting use of red beacons on official vehicles.

Chaturvedi said the communications received by those not entitled to the facilities of stay at the Corbett Tiger Reserve "are nothing but brazen misuse of official positions/symbols for absolutely private purposes".

A lot of people, including those in the judiciary and bureaucracy, seek favour and other facilities for themselves or for their friends/relatives, officials said.

Hospital services back to normal in WB

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Patients headed a sigh of relief on Tuesday after junior doctors resumed work at all state-run hospitals following their week-long strike that had disrupted health-care services across West Bengal.

All the 14 medical college and hospitals in the state started functioning, with normal work resuming at outdoor facilities, pathological units and other departments. The patient turnout was high at all the hospitals, including the Nil Ratan Sircar (NRS) Medical College and Hospital, which was the epicentre of the junior doctors' agitation.

"Most of our colleagues have resumed work and they are helping the seniors in delivering regular services in the outpatient departments (OPD) since Tuesday morning," a spokesperson of a joint forum of junior doctors told PTI.

Since many junior doctors



were in Kolkata to take part in the agitation, they could not reach their workplaces in far-off areas on Tuesday morning, he said, adding, "They will resume work as soon as they reach the hospitals".

"It is a relief for us. We are poor and have no other option but to go to government hospitals. The strike had impacted our treatment. I am happy that it has been called off," Ariful Haque from Malda district,

who regularly visits the NRS hospital for the treatment of his brother's cardiac ailments, said.

Santanu Hazra, a thalassaemia patient undergoing treatment at the SKM hospital in the city, was also happy with the doctors calling off their agitation and rejoicing work.

"It was a terrible experience last week when I had to go back home almost everyday due to the agitation. I am financially not that sound to visit private

hospitals. I am happy that my treatment has resumed," he said. Private hospitals, which witnessed a low patient turnout and most doctors taking leave on Monday owing to a strike led by the Indian Medical Association (IMA), also saw a normal inflow of patients.

The junior doctors called off their week-long strike on Monday night after meeting Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who assured them of steps to scale up security at the government hospitals in the state. The medicals were on strike since last Tuesday, protesting against the assault on two of their colleagues by the staff of a patient who died at the NRS Hospital and Medical College.

Principal of NRS hospital Prof (Dr) Saibal Mukherjee said, "Doctors are having a busy time at the OPDs. The patients had come here last week but could not be attended to due to the agitation. We are trying our best to treat most of them as it is our duty to serve them." Senior police officials in the rank of assistant commissioners, along with adequate force, are stationed on the hospital premises to keep a check on the situation, as per the demands of the junior doctors.

At an hour-long televised meeting with the representatives of the junior doctors on Monday, Banerjee announced a number of steps, including asking the police to appoint nodal officers for the security of doctors at all government hospitals in the state, following which the doctors agreed to call off the strike.

They had received support from across the country. On the call of the IMA, medicals in Delhi and other states stayed away from providing non-emergency healthcare services on Monday.

SC to hear plea against separate bypolls in Guj for 2 seats today

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear on June 19 a plea of Gujarat Congress challenging the decision of the Election Commission to hold separate bypolls to two Rajya Sabha seats in the state. The Rajya Sabha seats fell vacant following the election of BJP chief Amit Shah and party leader Smrati Irani to Lok Sabha from Gandhinagar and Amethi, respectively.

A vacation bench of Justices Deepak Datta and Surya Kant agreed to list the matter on

Wednesday after senior advocate Vivek Tankha mentioned it for urgent hearing. The petition filed by Congress MLA from Amreli and Leader of Opposition in Gujarat Assembly, Pareshbhai Dhanani, has sought a direction to the EC to hold the bypolls together.

A press note issued by the poll panel on June 15 scheduled the election for both the seats on July 5. The EC clarified that the vacancies for bypolls to all Houses, including Rajya Sabha, are considered "separate vacancies" and separate notifications are issued and separate polls are held, though the schedule can

be the same.

Shah has been given the charge of Union Home Ministry and Irani Women and Child Development Ministry. In his plea, Dhanani has sought a direction to quash and declare the poll panel's order as "unconstitutional, arbitrary, illegal void ab initio" and said it violated Article 14 of the Constitution.

He submitted that the poll panel be directed to hold simultaneous by-elections and polling for filling of all vacancies in all states, including Gujarat.

The MLA, through his

lawyer, submitted that separate elections for the two Rajya Sabha seats in Gujarat would upset the scheme of proportional representation as mandated under the Representation of People Act.

In the petition, it is stated that the basic principle, both under the Constitution and Representation of People Act 1951, is that if regular vacancies are existing at the time when the election is held, it should be held together so that the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote can be applied to those elections.

The petition contended that if the Election Commission is given a free hand to issue one or more notification with respect to vacancies in Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and if separate elections are held for the same purpose, it may result in abuse of power in as much as the majority party will always be able to arrange the matters in such a way that it gets maximum seats.

In the 182-member House in Gujarat Assembly, BJP has 100 members, while seven seats are vacant.

Children of a lesser God

Bihar's AES deaths are symptomatic of policy apathy towards public health standards and failure to create awareness



The real headline behind the death of over a hundred children in Bihar's Muzaffarpur is the utter lack of priority towards addressing primary health issues in a backward pocket that is living in denial of itself and the ruling class denies it even exists. So disembodied has reality become from our national narrative that losing a hundred young lives was disgustingly set aside by the Bihar Health Minister during a containment strategy meeting in favour of statistics of an ongoing cricket match. And that reality is of

encephalitis assuming epidemic proportions in the dust bowls of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh every season, both of which serially account for 35 per cent of child deaths in the country. The disease is just the manifestation of a chronic illness called malnutrition and low immunity, which makes the locals vulnerable to outbreak of brain fever, particularly the young and the old. The fact that this has been occurring cyclically since the mid-1990s shows how we have grossly misdiagnosed preventive and primary healthcare in the rural hinterland and failed to communicate combat strategies among the community. Had the children been given proper vaccines, had they access to equipped primary health centres and received first-line treatment, the deaths could have been avoided. Had there been proper awareness campaigns, then it would be found that neither encephalitis nor deadly litchi toxins from neighbouring fruit farms or hypoglycaemia were the cause of the deaths. However, each worked together in varying degrees to exacerbate a malaise called collective apathy, covered up as a "mystery disease."

The biggest problem is in defining the malady. Any brain disease, brought on by virus, bacteria, parasites, chemicals or toxins can be defined as acute encephalitis syndrome, which basically manifests as inflammation of the brain. One has to isolate the causative variants, which could differ on a case by case basis. And as studies conducted by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Atlanta-based Center for Disease Control (CDC) over the past few years have shown, the fever strikes when there is a severe heat wave. This leads to severe dehydration, worsening attendant problems relating to under-nourishment. Besides, most victims have been found to work or live near litchi cultivations, consumption of which some say has led to dipping blood sugar levels and hypoglycaemia. But experts have found that malnourished children, who ate litchis and went to sleep without a meal, fell ill, particularly during the high heat of summer. And methylene cyclopropyl-glycine (MCPG) found in litchis only affects the brain in severely malnourished victims. So generalising litchi as a toxin and other such confusing theories are deflecting attention from the Bihar government's abject failure in implementing public health correctives and developing resistance to a known health hazard. Early detection and treatment is a near impossibility in these parts with the nearest health centres sometimes eight hours away. That wait gets longer if the health centre is not equipped enough with either trained staff or intravenous glucose drips and the victim has to be taken to a State hospital. And although the Bihar government has mandated availability of free vaccines at all primary health centres, the execution is yet to be a hundred per cent. Little wonder then that with such glaring lacuna in crisis response, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sent notices to the Union Health Ministry and Bihar government over the Muzaffarpur deaths. There is a need for ensuring basic hygiene, health and nutrition parameters for our children, who are the social and human capital of the future. As an Asian powerhouse that's looking to consolidate its economic and strategic standards, it is shocking that India continues to be among the topmost countries with the largest number of children being stunted (46.6 million) and wasted (25.5 million). This is despite the fact that children's health has been the Government's priority since 1975, when the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme was rolled out, or 1995, when the mid-day meal scheme was launched nationally. The recent National Nutrition Strategy, too, aims to end malnutrition by 2022. It is expected to synergise efforts, monitor progress and issue alerts for timely action and help States/UTs achieve targeted goals. But all of this is possible only when there are resources. In short, budgetary allocation for the health sector needs a thorough relook.

Electric shock

The auto industry is against the move to electrify transport. Is this its last gasp or does it have a point?



The automotive industry is being described by some, who feel the future is electric, as status-quoist. After all India's two-wheeler manufacturers have openly attacked proposals by the NITI Aayog to make all sub-150cc motorcycles and scooters electric. So it is being ridiculed as ancient, not open to new ideas and scared of becoming extinct. But there are some severe issues with electrification in India that urgently need to be addressed and the industry, while dragging its feet on the issue, does have some points. The government and

policy-makers would be silly to ignore them. While India has enough electricity, the electrical grid is nowhere near capable enough of handling the tremendous load that even disaggregated home-charging will place on the system. Of course, that will be built up over the next decades, but the other problem, that of cost, is not going to go away in a hurry.

Electric motorcycles and scooters are expensive, particularly if they have a functional range of over 100 km. The average commuter motorcycle costs around ₹50,000 today, but an e-motorcycle with 100 km range will cost ₹1 lakh at the bare minimum, possibly more. The batteries also will have a lifespan of around 1,500 cycles, which would be decent for a mobile phone, but you wouldn't change your 100 cc motor after five years, would you? Nobody will buy electric vehicles for altruistic reasons, no matter how much greenmail the government and environmentalists indulge in, unless the motorist sees actual benefit of the product. In a two-wheeler, running on electricity is less than half as expensive as running on petrol. Even in extreme scenarios, that means a saving of ₹500 a month. If fuel prices increase faster than electricity prices, buying an electric two-wheeler does not make sense and the government's FAME-II subsidy scheme is but a drop in the ocean. The fact is the four-stroke 100cc petrol motorcycle brought mobility to millions of Indians, giving even the impoverished a mode of transport that empowered them economically. The economic impact of the motorcycle thanks to the mobility it produced was crucial to India in the late 1980s through the 1990s, much like the mobile phone in the mid-2000s and cheap over-the-air data today. Going electric is a noble goal but if we set targets in a very short-term, it will leave millions of Indians behind. It is elitist and if we are to work towards "sabka saath, sabka vikas", we will need to work towards solutions that make environmental friendliness affordable.

opinion 08

Forked road in Sri Lanka

In a conflict between parallel enquiries into the Easter bombings, the question of accountability will be drowned. The Sirisena Government can't evade tough questions by vilifying Muslims



ASHOK K MEHTA

Two months after the Easter bombings, while the dots have been connected, accountability is still playing truant. Besides others, India had alerted Sri Lanka on April 4, 10, 16, 20 and 21 but

incredibly, security agencies in Colombo took no action. On this page, after the horrendous bombings, this writer had balled the catastrophic event a mystery. Both President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe of what was once a National Unity Government of two rival parties have said they received no official information on terror attacks. Sirisena is the Minister for Defence and Minister for Law and Order, which place all intelligence, defence, security and police agencies under his command. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, who has since prohibited all serving defence, intelligence and security officials from testifying before it. It has been boycotted by Sirisena's Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and Rajapaksa's Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP).

Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando, who was forced to resign, told the PSC that intelligence was available on April 9 of a possible threat on April 21 and had assumed that Sri Lanka's state intelligence services chief would have informed the President as was the practice. He added that as Defence Secretary he could not meet the President — not even once in two weeks — as he had no time. The shocker was the revelation that Sirisena had told Fernando not to invite the Prime Minister, MoS for Defence and Inspector General Police, Pujith Jayasundara for National Security Council meetings since November 13, 2018, following the Constitutional crisis in which Sirisena had sacked Wickremesinghe and appointed Opposition leader and his presidential rival, Mahinda Rajapaksa, as Prime Minister, which was later revoked by the courts.

IGP Jayasundara, who refused to resign, was suspended by the President and moved the courts, told the PSC that prior intelligence was available, giving specific details about the catastrophic intelligence failure adding: "No emergency was declared." He said Sirisena offered him an ambassadorial post for his resignation, assuring him that the presidential commission would clear his name. Jayasundara struck the final nail in the coffin by saying there was "total unpreparedness of Government to act on intelligence reports".

The head of national intelligence, Sisira Mendis, a former police chief who



reported directly to the President, testifying before the PSC said that the bombings could have been averted. Mendis also said that the President failed to hold regular security meetings to assess the threat from Islamic radicals linked to National Towheed Jamaat (NTJ). Sirisena has dismissed Mendis.

Linked to the suicide bombings is the revelation that in 2018, the premier spy agency, state intelligence chief, Nilantha Jayewardene, ordered the IGP to stop investigating Islamic militants as well as NTJ. He also did not take seriously the information provided by India on the radical NTJ. While in India for Prime Minister Modi's swearing in, Sirisena said there was no proof that the bombers visited India, contradicting Army Commander Mahesh Senanayake, who told BBC that they did go to India for training. Clearing himself of any responsibility for the intelligence failures, Sirisena said: "I was in Sri Lanka up to April 16 before going to Singapore on a private visit. None of the defence Chiefs informed me of any such intelligence".

All that one wished to know about the nine suicide bombers is now in the public domain. Zahran Hashim, the radical preacher linked to NTJ from Kattankudy in Batticaloa, which has Sri Lanka's biggest mosque, was the ring leader. How the suicide bomber inside Taj Samudra hotel panicked, walked out and blew himself up along with two others in a small hotel in Dehiwala suburb of Colombo is well-known. None of the nine bombers was impoverished, physically or mentally challenged, but all highly educated and affluent, two of them millionaires and all roped in by Hashim. It was a small group connected with Hashim. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's capacity to self-destruct may be hurting it towards another ethnic conflict. The majority Sinhala Buddhists, spearheaded by the clergy and political Opposition, have demonised the Muslims. Anti-Muslim riots, surpassing in scale the worst ones in 2018 in Digana, have occurred after the bombings. A false narrative of hatred and prejudice is being spread against Muslims. Fake tales about swords stored in mosques and mass sterilisation of Sinhalese by a Muslim doctor are being circulated. Vilification of Muslims will

further divide society as Muslims live across the country. Calling for unity among communities, it was disingenuous on part of Sirisena to wait, them of the emergence of a Muslim Prabhakaran, an avoidable simile to the dreaded Tamil supremo of the LTTE who fought an ethnic conflict for three decades, ending 2009. The mass resignation of two Muslim Governors and nine Ministers to enable the Government to conduct investigations, clearing them of linkages to suicide bombings, has opened a new front. Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) envoys based in Colombo have appealed to the Government to protect Muslims and their properties.

The presidential pardon to reactionary monk Gnanasara Thero, who was implicated in the anti-Muslim violence of 2018 and stormed a court hearing old cases of "enforced disappearances", will add fuel to fire. Rumours against Muslims and anti-Muslim riots are a smoke screen to shift focus from the presidential and parliamentary enquiries to resurgent Sinhala Buddhist extremism directed at Muslims. The Government is drafting a leg-

islation to change Muslim laws dealing with *burqa*, *hijab*, *halal*, mosques and *madrassas* in consultation with Muslim clergy and leadership.

The question of accountability will be drowned in the conflict between parallel enquiries reflecting the breakdown of the co-habitation Government. Why did Sirisena not know about the intended bombings and why did intelligence and security forces fail to act? Sirisena can only be investigated after January 2020 by a new President. But the broken-down Government cannot afford to wait to be fixed till after the elections.

The ultimate irony for Sri Lanka was when Wickremesinghe, after a meeting with Modi, who was on a five-hour visit to Colombo this month, sought India's help in counter-terrorism. Since 2009 after vanquishing LTTE, Colombo has proudly showcased its unique prowess and skills in eliminating root and branch, terrorising the 21st century — a historic first!

(The writer is a retired Major General of the Indian Army and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the revamped Integrated Defence Staff)

SOUND BITE

'One nation one poll' is an attractive idea but cannot be put into practice without a Constitutional amendment providing for fixed tenure for legislatures.

Former CEC
—TS Krishnamurthy

It's been a tough journey for me when it comes to my battle with obesity. Everyone has their own struggles. I have had and continue to have mine.

Actor
—Arjun Kapoor

Trade deficit with China is not economically sustainable and it can also become politically sensitive if we don't take steps to address it.

Indian envoy
—Vikram Misri

A vibrant Opposition, notwithstanding whatever its numbers are, is important in a parliamentary democracy. Every word of the Opposition is valuable.

Prime Minister
—Narendra Modi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Good sense prevails

Sir — Like a raging wildfire, the medical fraternity across the length and breadth of the country lent support to agitating doctors in West Bengal, seeking a Central legislation against hospital violence and attacks by infuriated attendants. Failing to grasp the seriousness of the situation, when a 200-strong mob beat up doctors and nursing staff and generally indulged in rowdy acts, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee used harsh language against the agitating doctors and threatened to lock all of them in case they failed to resume work immediately. Instead of controlling the situation, Banerjee let it get out of hand by dismissing it as a Bharatiya Janata Party-Communist Party of India (Marxist) conspiracy. This fuelled the protests. Creating an image of a victim of the conspiracy and machination of the BJP is no way to help reclaim the situation. Violence against doctors trying to follow the best line of treatment for a patient is unacceptable. They may have a demi-god status in the public eye, but they are no

More strength to team India

This refers to the editorial, "Not worth the hype" (June 18). For the thousands of Indian fans waving the tricolour at Old Trafford and lakhs of viewers in India, there was never a dull moment. While people were sweating back home, Indians patiently in the rain to watch the Indian team triumph. As scripted, the game started as one of the fiercest rivalries in world sport. India had put its unbeaten start on the line, while Pakistan was hoping to boost its chances of reaching the semi-finals. But it ended — as is customary — with India riding roughshod over the "Men in Green". It was a day of disruption with the players on and off the field all afternoon. But finally, we had an outcome — India defeated Pakistan by an emphatic 89 runs. Even the rain gods were on India's side. The drizzle hovered over Old Trafford all day but there were only two major interruptions — one towards the end of the Indian innings and the other when Pakistan was on the verge of a huge defeat. For the record, India has now won all its seven



World Cup matches against Pakistan. And remember, it was not firing on all its cylinders — Shikhar Dhawan and Bhuvneshwar Kumar were off the field. Millions are now pondering over the most tantalising question: Can Captain Virat Kohli repeat Kapil Dev's World Cup triumph? If the India-Pakistan match is any indication, Virat's warriors seem sure to be in with a great chance.

KS Jayathirtha
Hassan

Alter oath-taking ritual

Sir — The oath-taking ceremony for the 17th Lok Sabha session witnessed several members affirming in different languages while assuming the position. The day-long event witnessed the members reading transcript of the oath presented in the presence of pro-tem speaker.

However, in today's times, a single day reserved only for oath taking holds no relevance and is only a wastage of tax payers' money. The archaic oath reading ceremony could have been replaced by mere signing of the papers through necessary parliamentary business procedures and the session could have started off directly through business proceedings from day one. There are

many crucial Bills that are pending and require sufficient time to be discussed.

Ravun Dambal
Bengaluru

Focus on real growth

Sir — The Prime Minister is reported to have unveiled his vision for a \$5 trillion dollar economy by the NITI Aayog meeting held last week. This is indeed encouraging. But what is of grave concern is that more than 80 per cent of the population is reeling under abject poverty. There are many villages which do not have access to either potable water or electricity. Without proper healthcare, roads and education, people are suffering. Development must be inclusive. It should not be for data or record. Our economy/GDP should speak well about people's standard of living. On the economic front, India has a long road to traverse. Will a \$5 trillion dollar economy spin the fortune of the poor?

NK Ramachandran
Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Make the right choice

Despite the many risks, it is likely that IPOs will continue to attract investors because they are usually issued by firms in a transitional phase



HIMA BINDU KOTA

Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) is the oldest stock exchange. It has around 5,000 companies listed with it. On the other hand, the National Stock Exchange, which is comparatively a newer exchange, has around 2,000 firms listed with it. Companies range from Goliaths like TCS and Reliance with market capitalisation crossing the ₹8 trillion mark, to inconsequential companies with market capitalisation as less as the price of a car. Companies had to start somewhere. Each sprang to trading through Initial Public Offerings (IPOs), a process where a previously unlisted company sells new or existing securities and offers them to the public for the first time. Prior to an IPO, a firm is considered to be private — with a smaller number of shareholders, limited to angel investors, venture capitalists and high net-worth individuals; and/or early investors, for instance, the founder, family, and friends. After an IPO, the issuing company becomes a publicly listed company on a recognised stock exchange. Thus, an IPO is also known as “going public.”

Although consumers are on the lookout for the next big thing, IPOs can be difficult to gauge ahead of their listing and are probably volatile when they hit the market, but are a potentially lucrative investment if done right. But just as with any share, potential buyers need to sort out the firms offering good value, with staying power to thrive in public market from those where red flags could spell disaster. A company's prospectus will give some of the best clues to the underlying business. It should lay out what the company does and what it hopes to do with the money raised. Details about the management team will also be made available. Investors need to feel comfortable with the business they are buying into and should be aware of any factors that could push them to walk away.

One of the first factors would be investors need to consider is whether or not they like the company and believe that it has room to grow. The listing business should have a sound business model with a strong competitive edge in its market that differentiates it from peers. Investors should feel they understand why a customer would want to pay for the products/services offered by that specific company as opposed to others that offer something similar, especially if its competitors are more established or well-known businesses. As with any other company an investor is looking to buy shares in, discipline is required when assessing the company's strategy, competitive position, finances and the ability of the management team to run it properly.

A more established business may fare better on the public market than one that has less of a track record. Another important question to ask is about the investment plans by management on having access to funds, whether it will be to fund expansion plans or pay off existing debt, or some hybrid of the two. The former is often preferred since shareholders are often encouraged by a business that can demonstrate that it has plans to become bigger. However, paying down debt also frees the firm from the burden of interest payments, allowing it to invest in its core strategy and to improve its business model and efficiency.

Third, a trustworthy and reputable management team, with a good track record, is a must have. Becoming a public company is a significant step in the life of a business and a big commitment for management to take and so the team must communicate clearly with new shareholders and deliver on the promises.

There are some criteria which show that the companies are in good shape before investing in the IPOs:

- Debt should not be more than twice of the profits.
- 10 per cent earnings growth forecast for 12 months.
- Earnings growth of at least 10 per cent during last two years.
- A healthy flow of free cash flows.

An IPO is a key milestone in a firm's life cycle and a healthy IPO market is important for many reasons. IPOs give entrepreneurs liquidity for investments, so a vibrant market can stimulate and help develop new ventures by bringing new investors to a firm, which facilitates its access to future growth capital. Being public also reduces the costs of raising future capital by stimulating the supply of information from the investment community. IPOs are significant as they are regarded as the barometer of the health of the capital market. A single bad IPO can create considerable market disruptions and stall the plans of other firms that want to go public.

Despite the risks, it is likely that IPOs will continue to attract investors because they are usually issued by companies in a transitional phase. Companies in transitions are exciting and interesting to investors. The prospects for a big win and the possibility of earning millions can be very enticing. Just make sure you understand the risks before you take a chance.

(The writer is Assistant Professor at Amity University)

SANIA, I AM SO WORRIED FOR YOUR KID. YOU GUYS TOOK HIM TO A SHEESHA PLACE, ISN'T IT HAZARDOUS? YOU MUST KNOW WELL AS YOU ARE MOTHER.

—PAKISTANI ACTOR
VEENA MALIK



I DID NOT TAKE MY KID TO A SHEESHA PLACE. NOT THAT IT'S ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS. I THINK I CARE ABOUT MY SON A LOT MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.

—INDIAN TENNIS PLAYER
SANIA MIRZA

Secure outer space

There is a dire need to revisit treaties governing our space to protect our extra-terrestrial security interests and scale down militarisation



RAGHAV PANDEY ANOUSHKA MEHTA

On May 23 this year, the United States (US) successfully launched 60 of its Starlink internet satellites. Starlink is one of the most ambitious projects of Space X, the private rocket company of high-tech entrepreneur, Elon Musk. The aim of the firm is to launch as many as 2,000 satellites per year, with the ultimate objective of placing up to 12,000 of such satellites into the orbit. Space today has been a witness to numerous projects that are funded by both Governments and private, commercial entities. In the present era of boundless technological capabilities, the use of the outer space for military purposes has become a cause of concern.

“It is not enough to have an American presence in space, we must have American dominance in space,” US President Donald Trump said, adding that he didn't want to see “China and other countries leading us.” With this aim, the Trump administration is in the process of creating a US Space Force, the sixth branch of the US military service, which will undertake missions and operations in the rapidly evolving space domain.

With a global quest for military supremacy and dominance, other space-faring countries have not remained mute spectators. Take the example of India, which recently launched an anti-satellite (ASAT) weapon on March 27. Indian military scientists successfully destroyed a low-Earth orbit satellite in space by using a missile which covered a distance of 300 km to engage the target. In a televised address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, “India has entered its name as an elite ‘space power’.” An anti-satellite weapon, ASAT, successfully targeted a live satellite on a low-Earth orbit.

ASAT weapons can be used in warfare as they have the capability to incapacitate or destroy enemy satellites for strategic military purposes. With the recent accomplishment, India has become the fourth country to possess such a weapon alongside the US, Russia and China.

Given the increased militarisation of space and the immense threat it poses to nations across the world, it is essential to take a look at the laws which govern the military use of space. The use of space is governed by five space-related international treaties of the United Nations. One of them, the Outer Space Treaty, came into effect in 1967 and was signed by most nations on the globe. It has been signed and made official, or has been ratified, by 105 countries across the world. With regard to the use of space, the treaty prohibits military manoeuvres, weapon testing, establishment of military bases, installations and fortification on celestial bodies. Moreover, objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kind of weapons of mass destruction is forbidden in the orbit. However, the use of military personnel — any equipment or facility on the celestial bodies — is not forbidden unless used for peaceful purposes. So far, the treaty has worked well but lacks clarity on several issues, which has left plenty of wiggle room.

Questions have been raised as to what constitutes “mass destruction”, whether the outer

“THE CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL REGIME, MUCH LIKE THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION, IS THE NEED OF THE HOUR. AN INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM NEEDS TO BE SET UP WHEREIN DELIBERATIONS ON PEACEFUL USE OF SPACE CAN BE TAKEN UP THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. SINCE ONLY FOUR COUNTRIES OFFICIALLY HAVE THE ASAT TECHNOLOGY, NEGOTIATIONS MUST START AMONG THEM.”



space can be used for exploration of resources to be used in military machinery; if weapons of mass destruction can be placed in space without fully achieving orbit and what about weapons that would not cause mass destruction? The treaty remains ambiguous in some crucial aspects about the use of the space.

Another issue that has attracted much debate in the arena of public international law is “peaceful purposes”. According to the treaty, the outer space is a “common heritage of mankind” and is to be used exclusively for “peaceful purposes”. However, the term, “peaceful purposes” lacks clarity of definition. There has been a plethora of debates to decide whether the term is supposed to adopt the ideology of being “non-aggressive” or “non-military”. Majority view it as “non-military” but the same has not been substantiated upon any of the space treaties.

Another treaty, commonly known as the ‘Moon Treaty’, falls within the overarching ‘Outer Space Treaty’. The ‘Moon Treaty’ specifically is applicable to the Moon and other celestial bodies in the solar system excluding planet Earth. It explains that these bodies should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes; that their environments should not be disrupted; and that the US should be informed of the location and purpose of any station established on those bodies. It also plugs a loophole in the Outer Space

Treaty by banning ownership of any extra-terrestrial property by any organisation or private person, unless that body is international or Governmental.

However, the most controversial part of the ‘Moon Treaty’ pertains to the natural resources on the Moon. It provides that the Moon and its natural resources are the common heritage of mankind and harvesting of these riches is prohibited except by way of an international regime established to govern the exploitation of such capital. The exact nature of this regime is not detailed, nor the term “resources” is defined.

It becomes a cause of concern for the international community when the ‘Moon Treaty’ is neither signed, acceded to, nor ratified by any of the space-faring nations. Also, the ambiguity of the provisions of the treaties can leave the nations to interpret the provisions in a way that complements their self-interest in the issue.

Take the example of the US’ National Space Policy. On the one hand, it emphasises the country's commitment to the exploration and use of outer space by all nations for peaceful purposes but at the same time, it declares US’ defence and intelligence-related activities in pursuit of national interests to be consistent with “peaceful purposes”.

Ever since the treaties were formulated in the 1960s, there was a limited view of the potential of utilisation

of the outer space. But with rapid advancements in the use of technology and intelligence in the space, there is a dire need that the laws governing the use of space be revisited so as to address some important space issues of the 21st century like that of mining, space tourism, Artificial Intelligence and intellectual property of space resources among other things. Meanwhile, the international community can only live in the hope that the world does not see warfare and attack missions in space.

The creation of an international regime, much like the World Trade Organisation, is the need of the hour. An international platform needs to be set up wherein deliberations on peaceful use of space can be taken up through negotiations. Since only four countries officially have the ASAT technology, negotiations must start among them.

It is highly possible that a Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT)-type of regime may be established, wherein ASAT's powers are recognised and further militarisation of the space may be scaled down. India needs to exercise its diplomatic bent to materialise the same because then the country's strategic and security interests will also be secured while discouraging further space militarisation.

(Raghav Pandey is an Assistant Professor and Anoushka Mehta is a student at Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai)

Avoid catastrophe of a war

Approximately 73 years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the world finds itself in similar straightened circumstances as the US once again puts into motion steps to curb the rise of another Asian power, China. We must be prepared to tackle the fallout



DEEPAK SINHA

American writer and philosopher George Santayana famously said, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” We would do well to remember that on December 7, 1941, the Japanese fleet, under Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, launched its devastating attack on the US Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbour, leaving it all but crippled.

While to the uninitiated it may well have seemed the first act of the tragedy that would ultimately leave Hiroshima and Nagasaki devastated by fireballs, millions dead and Japan utterly defeated, but in truth, it was only a denouement of events set in motion nearly a century

Incidentally, while the attack may have surprised the Pacific Fleet, Washington had broken the Japanese code and was fully conversant with Yamamoto's operational plans. Whether it was sheer incompetence or a deliberate strategy to not inform the Pacific Fleet of the impending attack, to arouse public opinion against Japanese “perfidy” and allow Franklin D Roosevelt to enter the war, still remains a matter of conjecture and debate.

Of course, the delay on the part of the Japanese Ambassador to Washington to convey his Government's decision to declare war on the US, inadvertently delivered after the attack, obviously played into Roosevelt's hands as well. However, what is now well known is that the Japanese Government was fully aware — even before the first shots had been fired — that it was a conflict they could never win.

Yet, they had little choice but to take on the might of the US if they were not to be economically and militarily strangled and denied

their rightful place in the world. Ninety years before, on July 8, 1853, Commodore Matthew Perry of the US Navy, commanding a squadron of two steamers and two sailing vessels, sailed into Tokyo harbour aboard the frigate Susquehanna and imposed an unequal treaty on the Japanese, making full use of the technological superiority that his force enjoyed. A supposedly powerful Japan was forced to retreat.

From this humiliating event emerged the understanding that if they were to avoid the fate that had befallen a weak and divided China, they would have to copy the Western imperialist powers. The year 1868 saw the start of the reformist movement — the Meiji Restoration — which turned feudal Japan into a modern industrialist nation, best exemplified by its defeat of Russia in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05 that gave it control over parts of Manchuria.

Subsequently siding with allies in the World War I allowed it to take control of Germany's colonies

in the Pacific. In effect, it emerged as another great colonial power engaged in competition for resources with the British, Dutch and the US, something these powers did not take kindly to, even refusing to treat it as an equal in the League of Nations.

It was only a matter of time before an expansionist Japan found itself in the cross hairs of the US. In 1937, following the Marco Polo Bridge incident, Japan found itself bogged down in a war with China that put extreme strains on its military capabilities and economic resources. The Nanjing Massacre, the occupation of Korea and a series of other incidents led to the imposition of an economic and oil blockade on Japan by the US that finally forced the former to confront the US at Pearl Harbour and take on the British in the Malayan Peninsula in a desperate bid for oil, rubber, tin and other metals required to keep its factories going.

Today, approximately 73 years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the world finds itself in similar straight-

ened circumstances as the US once again puts into motion steps to curb the rise of another Asian power, the People's Republic of China.

The meteoric rise of US President Donald Trump, his ‘America First’ ideology and the focus on trade restrictions to curb the exponential growth of the Chinese economy are no different from the embargoes we saw on the Japanese those many years ago.

The ratcheting up of tensions in the Persian Gulf from where the Chinese receive most of their oil, is obviously no coincidence and while some may see the US’ actions directed at Iran, one cannot rule out the fact that the ultimate target may well be the Chinese.

Many analysts believe that a miscalculation in the Gulf may well ignite an unwanted conflict between Iran and the US. If so, while extremely serious, it would only be one aspect of a larger global problem. What should be of even greater concern is the possibility that American attempts to stymie Chinese growth may lead to conflict

if China finds itself economically cornered and responds much in the manner that the Japanese did in 1941, preemptively if it feels it is being cornered.

Incidentally, a scenario, which could apply to Iran, in its current standoff with the US as well. In such a situation, where would our best interests lie? Would we want to be at the forefront of the confrontation as a close US ally or would we prefer to keep our powder dry?

Whatever be our choice, one thing is very clear, we better initiate substantive actions to revamp and reorganise our military if we wish to be ready to tackle the fall out of the ongoing US-China tussle for power. This is an issue that diplomacy alone cannot solve and we would do well to remember Mao Zedong's prophetic words that “power flows out of the barrel of the gun.”

(The writer, a military veteran, a consultant with the Observer Research Foundation and a Senior Visiting Fellow with The Peninsula Foundation, Chennai)



FOREIGN EYE



HONG KONG'S EDGE

Beijing has not, until now, shown much concern for the potential economic impact of Hong Kong's political struggle. But the region's economy is intertwined with that of the southern Chinese mainland, and — with the trade war starting to hit home — leaders may well feel the need to tread cautiously. The bipartisan support in the US Congress for the Bill threatening Hong Kong's status as a special trading partner will have underscored the risks. (The Guardian editorial)

Sense ends 86 points higher; let Airways nosedives 4 pc

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Snapping its four-day losing streak, BSE benchmark Sensex Tuesday regained 86 points in a session marked by high volatility in investment, 11,727.20 and a low of 11,641.15.

Top gainers in the Sensex pack included Vedanta, Coal India, ICIPI Bank, PowerGrid, HCL Tech and Bajaj Finance, rising up to 2.65 per cent.

The BSE gauge swung nearly 300 points before settling 85.55 points, or 0.22 per cent, higher at 39,046.34. The index hit an intra-day high of 39,167.83 and a low of 38,870.96.

The broader NSE Nifty closed 19.35 points, or 0.17 per cent, higher, to close at 11,691.50. During the day, the index touched a high of 11,727.20 and a low of 11,641.15.

Top gainers in the Sensex pack included Vedanta, Coal India, ICIPI Bank, PowerGrid, HCL Tech and Bajaj Finance, rising up to 2.65 per cent.

On the other hand, Yes Bank was the biggest loser, cranking 5.94 per cent, followed by Maruti, an HDFC, PNB and Sun Pharma, all dipping to 2.20 per cent.

Shares of Jet Airways plummeted 40.48 per cent after State Bank of India-led consortium of lenders Monday decided to send the grounded Jet Airways to the Tribunal Company Law of National (NCLT) as they have not received any concrete proposal for the airline.

Investors have turned cautious ahead of the US Federal Reserve's meeting, scheduled to begin later in the day, traders said.

According to experts, market is finding it difficult to sustain at elevated levels on the back of muted corporate earnings, slow monsoon season, continuous corporate defaults and developing concerns of India-US trade disagreements.

Elsewhere in Asia, while Nikkei ended significantly lower, Hong Kong Nikkei 225000 closed on a positive note. Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading in the green in early deals.

On the currency front, the Indian rupee appreciated 22 paise to 69.69 against the US dollar intra-day.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, slipped 0.64 per cent to USD 60.55 per barrel.

Khadi production of textiles in 5 years

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The mill fabric production dropped to 2,012 million square metres in 2018-19 while the Khadi fabric production was 170.80 million square metres, a share of 8.49 per cent in overall fabric production.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena said the rise in Khadi fabric production from 4.23 per cent to 8.49 per cent could be possible due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to adopt Khadi.

While the mill fabric production was 2.486 million square metres in the 2014-15 fiscal, the production of Khadi was 105.38 million square metres - showing a share of 4.23 per cent of the overall textile production.

"It is encouraging for us that rise in share of Khadi production in the textiles sector in the last five years has gone from 4.23 per cent to 8.49 per cent. From 2015-16 (2018-19) it produced another 65.42 square metres," he said.

Saxena further said that the number of artisans are increasing in the Khadi sector because of the new policies and initiatives taken by MSME Ministry and KVIC in recent years.

"We started registration of new Khadi institutions for widening the scope of employment as well as revival of defunct Khadi institutions, consequently rising the artisans number to 4,94,684.

Not only that, the KVIC had also laid stress on many artisan-centric programmes since 2015 like distribution of 32,000 New Model Charhkas and 5,600 modern looms," he added.

BMS to campaign against PSU divestment

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
RSS-affiliate Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh Tuesday said it will run a nationwide campaign against divestment of PSUs in the wake of NITI Aayog listing 92 state-owned companies for sell-off.

In the background of NITI Aayog listing 92 state-owned companies for sell-off, a meeting of Public Sector National Coordination Committee of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) was held in Delhi, a BMS statement said.

The meeting decided to hold nationwide awareness programme on November 17, 2019, under the slogan "Save Public Sector" during September 1-7.

Unit level meetings, dharnas, processions etc will be conducted as part of the campaign. A national convention of PSU employees will be held at Delhi.

The convention will discuss the policy document on the role of PSUs in nation building, release a Charter of Demands of PSU workers and demand a national agitation programme, it added.

As a prelude of this, industry wise seminars, roundtable discussion of trade unions, management and experts will be conducted during July-August.

At national level, meetings will be held with policy makers and the government.

Further, parliamentarians and other dignitaries will be contacted as a part of mass contact programme, it added.

The BMS national committee meeting was attended by the union representatives from coal, banking, insurance, steel sectors, among others.

Union representatives from BSNL, MTNL, IOC, ONGC, FIAT, NTPC, NHPC, and other PSUs were also present.

The Commerce Minister assured the e-commerce industry representatives that every concern of the industry will be addressed and for that the minister requested representatives to send their concerns in writing to the DPIIT within 10 days.

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is an arm of the ministry which deals with the issue.

All the companies also raised concerns related to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) data storage requirements and processing related guidelines.

On this, Deputy Governor of RBI BP Kanungo, assured the industry to look into the issues.

Finance Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Ajay Prakash Sawhney assured e-commerce companies that the Data Protection Bill will be drafted in consultation with companies that had taken place in the industry during the formulation of the bill.

"The principles of data protection and privacy were discussed at length in the meeting and industry representatives requested the minister to ensure that the bill will have more data industry orientation classification of the data and the manner of cross border flow of data. The minister assured that MeitY will address this concern too," it said.

Goyal said that MeitY and National Association of Software and Services Companies (NAASSCOM) will deal with the concerns of companies that build products in India and store their data in the country.

The meeting holds significance as the ministry is in the process of finalising a national e-commerce policy. Multi-national firms have raised concerns over certain provisions of the draft policy.

Goyal asks companies to submit concerns on draft e-commerce policy in 10 days

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
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NIFTY 50											
SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	16775.00	17220.00	16411.15	16899.50	18.35	ASIANPA	340.00	340.00	289.00	289.00	-51.00
VEDANTA	164.00	169.50	164.00	168.15	4.10	ICICI	78.00	86.00	78.00	86.00	+8.00
COALINDIA	255.45	260.90	255.20	260.40	5.00	YESBANK	116.00	117.45	107.00	109.30	+3.00
POWERGRID	194.70	198.85	194.15	197.70	3.05	PETRONET	61.00	61.50	32.25	40.45	-20.55
ULTRACEMCO	402.25	426.00	407.75	431.65	7.50	ORIENTAL	75.25	75.25	65.25	65.25	-10.00
BAJAJFINS	814.00	827.50	813.00	820.70	12.70	BRITANNIA	69.00	69.00	60.45	60.70	-8.30
IOC	154.00	158.00	153.90	157.20	2.30	CHOLAFIN	56.00	56.25	44.00	44.00	-12.00
NIFTY	7420.00	7524.00	7400.00	7515.00	15.00	TVS	47.00	48.00	43.70	46.00	+1.30
FINTECH	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	0.00	PV	61.75	61.75	54.00	54.00	-7.75
BAJFINANCE	34.00	35.00	34.00	34.00	0.00	ICPUNJ	4.05	4.18	3.46	3.65	+0.20
HCLTECH	1074.00	1093.00	1069.65	1074.00	47.80	HINDALCO	119.00	119.50	109.00	110.50	+1.50
BAJAJ-AUTO	267.00	282.00	267.00	287.00	38.00	INDUSINDR	146.00	146.00	146.00	146.00	0.00
ONGC	144.00	148.00	143.00	147.00	3.00	SPICET	138.00	139.00	126.00	136.95	-1.05
IRIDIARY	255.00	260.00	254.00	258.00	29.00	INFIL	34.70	35.55	25.25	25.25	-9.50
ZEE	34.00	35.00	33.00	34.15	0.15	SIN	35.05	34.90	33.75	34.02	-0.03
HEROMOTOC	2063.00	2063.00	2035.00	2037.00	23.75	MARUTI	6600.00	6600.00	6390.00	6437.05	-163.25
TATAMOTORS	71.00	71.00	71.00	71.00	0.00	TATASTEEL	474.00	478.00	463.65	472.75	-4.25
CPIA	34.00	35.50	34.00	34.00	0.00	NIFTY	7420.00	7515.00	7400.00	7515.00	+95.00
GAIL	306.00	308.00	304.00	308.00	2.00	ZEE	34.00	34.00	30.75	30.75	-3.25
BHARTIARTL	34.00	34.75	34.00	34.00	0.00	TATAMOTORS	169.00	169.00	156.00	158.20	-1.80
TREDS	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	0.00	ULTRACEMCO	415.00	425.00	415.00	422.00	+10.00
IT	1500.00	1519.00	1497.00	1506.00	7.25	IRIDIARY	112.00	112.00	110.65	112.50	+0.85
M&M	64.00	62.00	62.00	62.00	0.00	TELECOM	276.00	277.00	274.00	275.00	-1.00
INDUSINDR	146.00	146.00	146.00	146.00	0.00	PEL	20.00	20.00	18.50	18.50	-1.50
TITAN	125.00	126.00	125.00	126.00	1.00	SHANSHIN	109.00	109.00	109.00	109.00	0.00
GRASIM	87.00	88.00	86.00	87.00	1.00	AXISBANK	78.00	78.40	77.00	77.25	-0.75
ITC	27.00	27.75	27.00	27.00	0.00	KANBANK	112.25	113.35	111.50	112.00	+0.50
KFARKAN	146.00	147.00	145.00	146.00	0.00	RELIANCE	127.00	128.75	126.00	127.50	-0.50
TCS	144.00	146.00	143.00	145.00	1.00	AXISBANK	78.00	78.45	77.00	77.10	-0.90
TATASTEEL	472.00	478.00	463.65	474.00	0.00	HDPC	207.00	210.00	214.65	215.00	+17.00
NTPC	132.00	133.35	131.00	132.25	0.00	INFRAEEL	27.20	27.20	27.20	27.20	0.00
TATAMOTORS	159.00	161.00	156.75	158.70	-0.05	BRITANNIA	295.00	295.00	295.00	295.00	-0.00
ADANIPOWER	42.00	42.00	42.00	42.00	0.00	MARUTI	6604.00	6604.00	6390.00	6485.00	-119.00
ECHERMTOP	197.00	199.00	196.00	198.95	-27.90	SUNPHARMA	361.00	365.00	374.00	377.00	+5.50
HDFCBANK	241.00	242.00	240.00	241.00	-0.00	ASSAMINDIA	146.00	146.00	137.00	138.00	-21.00
WIPRO	299.00	302.00	298.00	298.45	-0.70	HINDALCO	116.00	117.50	109.00	110.20	-3.30
INDIANRE	101.00	101.00	101.00	101.00	0.00	BHUSHN	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	-0.00
RELIANCE	127.00	128.75	126.00	127.50	-0.50						
AXISBANK	78.00	78.45	77.00	77.10	-0.90						
HDPC	207.00	210.00	214.65	215.00	+17.00						
INFRAEEL	27.20	27.20	27.20	27.20	0.00						
BRITANNIA	295.00	295.00	295.00	295.00	-0.00						
MARUTI	6604.00	6604.00	6390.00	6485.00	-119.00						
SUNPHARMA	361.00	365.00	374.00	377.00	+5.50						
ASSAMINDIA	146.00	146.00	137.00	138.00	-21.00						
HINDALCO	116.00	117.50	109.00	110.20	-3.30						
BHUSHN	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	-0.00						

BSE 500											
SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
ASIANPA	340.00	340.00	289.00	289.00	-51.00	PIDLITIND	124.00	124.00	123.25	123.85	-0.15
ICICI	78.00	86.00	78.00	86.00	+8.00	ABRILL	20.05	20.05	20.00	20.00	-0.05
YESBANK	116.00	117.45	107.00	109.30	+3.00	DELTA	18.15	19.05	18.25	19.00	+0.85
PETRONET	61.00	61.50	32.25	40.45	-20.55	ECHERMTOP	1977.30	1991.10	1954.65	1966.30	-10.80
ORIENTAL	75.25	75.25	65.25	65.25	-10.00	TATACEM	317.00	321.70	315.00	318.20	+4.70
BRITANNIA	69.00	69.00	60.45	60.70	-8.30	WNGNE	21.70	21.40	21.20	21.20	-0.20
CHOLAFIN	56.00	56.25	44.00	44.00	-12.00	NAVINFIL	75.00	75.40	74.95	74.95	-0.05
TVS	47.00	48.00	43.70	46.00	+1.30	TVSMOTOR	460.00	461.20	451.00	451.00	-1.20
PV	61.75	61.75	54.00	54.00	-7.75	ICPUNJ	4.05	4.18	3.46	3.65	+0.20
ICPUNJ	4.05	4.18	3.46	3.65	+0.20	HINDALCO	119.00	119.50	109.00	110.50	+1.50
HINDALCO	119.00	119.50	109.00	110.50	+1.50	INDUSINDR	146.00	146.00	146.00	146.00	0.00
INDUSINDR	146.00	146.00	146.00	146.00	0.00	ADANIPOR	33.00	33.00	32.90	33.00	0.00
SPICET	138.00	139.00	126.00	136.95	-1.05	RELIANCE	127.00	128.75	126.00	127.50	-0.50
INFIL	34.70	35.55	25.25	25.25	-9.50	AXISBANK	78.00	78.45	77.00	77.10	-0.90
SIN	35.05	34.90	33.75	34.02	-0.03	KANBANK	112.25	113.35	111.50	112.00	+0.50
MARUTI	6600.00	6600.00	6390.00	6437.05	-163.25	RELIANCE	127.00	128.75	126.00	127.50	-0.50
TATASTEEL	474.00	478.00	463.65	472.75	-4.25	AXISBANK	78.00	78.45	77.00	77.10	-0.90
NIFTY	7420.00	7515.00	7400.00	7515.00	+95.00	HDPC	207.00	210.00	214.65	215.00	+17.00
ZEE	34.00	34.00	30.75	30.75	-3.25	INFRAEEL	27.20	27.20	27.20	27.20	0.00
TATAMOTORS	169.00	169.00	156.00	158.20	-1.80	BRITANNIA	295.00	295.00	295.00	295.00	-0.00
ULTRACEMCO	415.00										

US to remove 'millions' of illegal migrants: Trump

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

The United States will start removing "millions" of illegal migrants next week, President Donald Trump said Monday, adding that Guatemala is preparing to sign a safe third country deal.

"Next week ICE will begin the process of removing the millions of illegal aliens who have illicitly found their way into the United States. They will be removed as fast as they come in," Trump said on Twitter, referring to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

He added that "Guatemala is getting ready to sign a Safe Third Agreement," an apparent reference to a pact in which migrants entering Guatemalan territory would have to apply for refugee status there, not in the United States.

The US is facing a surge in migrant arrivals from Guatemala and other impoverished Central American countries which are plagued by gang violence. The numbers have overwhelmed the ability of US authorities to temporarily shelter and process them.

Trump has called it "an invasion," and has made the fight against illegal migration a



Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallim (left) shakes hands with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi during a meeting at Diaoyutai state guesthouse in Beijing on Tuesday

AP

central plank of his administration.

Earlier Monday the US said it would not offer any more aid to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras unless they take "concrete actions" to deter undocumented migrants from heading for the US.

For fiscal 2019, USD 370 million initially planned will be allocated to other foreign poli-

cy priorities, the State Department said, and all future aid is now conditional.

"We will not provide new funds for programs in those countries until we are satisfied the Northern Triangle governments are taking concrete actions to reduce the number of illegal migrants coming to the US border," Ortugas said.

Under a deal between the US and Mexico this month to

avert threatened tariffs, Mexico agreed to deploy 6,000 National Guardsmen to reinforce its southern border, and to expand its policy of taking back migrants as the United States processes their asylum claims.

"Mexico, using their strong immigration laws, is doing a very good job of stopping people long before they get to our Southern Border," Trump said on Monday.

China warns US against opening Mideast 'Pandora's box'

AFP ■ BEIJING

China on Tuesday warned against opening a "Pandora's box" in the Middle East after the United States announced the deployment of 1,000 additional troops to the region amid escalating tensions with Iran.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi also urged Tehran to not abandon the nuclear agreement "so easily" after Iran said it would exceed its uranium stockpile limit if world powers fail to fulfill their commitments under the agreement in 10 days.

The United States ratcheted up pressure on Iran Monday, announcing the deployment of additional troops to the Middle East and producing new photographs it said showed Tehran was behind an attack on a tanker ship in the Gulf of Oman last week.

"We call on all parties to remain rational and restrained, not to take any actions to provoke the escalation of tension in the region, and not to open a Pandora's box," Wang told reporters in Beijing during a joint press conference with visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallim.

In particular, the United States should change its practice of extreme pressure," Wang said. Tensions between Tehran and Washington have escalated ever since the US quit the



Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallim (left) shakes hands with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi during a meeting at Diaoyutai state guesthouse in Beijing on Tuesday

nuclear deal and with Washington blacklisting Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards as a terrorist organisation.

Wang urged Iran to "make prudent decisions" and not "so easily abandon" the deal that aims to keep Tehran's nuclear ambitions in check.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani announced on May 8 that Iran would stop observing

restrictions on its stocks of enriched uranium and heavy water agreed under the deal, a move he said was in retaliation for the unilateral US withdrawal.

Iran has threatened to go even further in scaling down nuclear commitments by July 8 unless remaining partners to the deal — Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia —

help it circumvent US sanctions and especially enable it to sell its oil.

"China's determination to safeguard the comprehensive agreement has not changed," Wang said.

"We are willing to work with all parties to continue to make efforts for the full and effective implementation of the agreement."

Morsi buried, rights groups call for probe

AFP ■ CAIRO

Egypt's first democratically-elected President Mohamed Morsi was buried in Cairo on Tuesday, his lawyer said, a day after he collapsed in court and died.

Rights groups called for an independent probe into the detention conditions and death of the Islamist, who was ousted in 2013 after a year of divisive rule.

State TV said the 67-year-old's death was due to a cardiac arrest.

"He was buried in Medinat Nasr, in eastern Cairo, with his family present," said Abdel Moneim Abdel Maksoud, one of his lawyers.

Morsi, also the country's first civilian president, had appeared "animated" during a hearing in a retrial over charges of collaborating with foreign powers and militant groups, judicial and security sources said.

"The court granted him his request to speak for five minutes... He fell to the ground in the cage... and was transported immediately to the hospital. A medical report found... no pulse or breathing," said the attorney general's office.

"He arrived at the hospital dead at 4:50 pm exactly and there were no new, visible injuries found on the body."

Another of Morsi's legal defence team described the moment he received news of his death.

"We heard the banging on the glass cage from the rest of the other inmates and them screaming loudly that Morsi had died," the lawyer, Osama El Helw, told AFP.

Since Morsi's overthrow on July 3, 2013, his former defence minister, now President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, has waged an ongoing crackdown that has seen thousands of Muslim Brotherhood supporters jailed and hundreds facing death sentences.

A judicial source said Morsi had fainted during a break in the trial hearing.

"The court officials" had just finished the session for the espionage case and they informed the judge that he had fainted and needed to be transported to a hospital where he later died," he told AFP.

Morsi last saw his family in September 2018. A month later, one of his sons, Abdallah, was arrested.

Abdel Maksoud was the

last member of his defence team to see the former Islamist president, in November 2017.

The Brotherhoods political wing — the Freedom and Justice Party — accused Egyptian authorities of "deliberately killing him slowly."

"They put him in solitary confinement... they withheld medication and gave him disgusting food... they did not grant him the most basic human rights," it said in a statement.

Rights group Amnesty International called on Egyptian authorities to open "an impartial, thorough and transparent investigation probe" into Morsi's death and his detention conditions.

Human Rights Watch echoed that demand, saying Morsi had suffered years of "insufficient access to medical care."

"The United Nations Human Rights Council... should establish an investigation into ongoing gross violations of human rights in Egypt, including widespread ill-treatment in prisons and Morsi's death," it said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, a strongly ally of Morsi and the Muslim

Brotherhood, paid tribute to the "martyr".

The Gaza-based Palestinian movement Hamas, originally an offshoot of the Brotherhood, also hailed Morsi's influence.

Iran's Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi called his death "sad and unfortunate" and said that "while respecting the views of the great nation of Egypt, offers its condolences."

Internationally he received some support, but in his homeland, Morsi has a chequered legacy.

He spent just one turbulent year in office after the 2011 uprising, before being toppled by the military after millions took to the streets demanding his resignation.

The Islamist leader has been in prison since his ouster, on trial in several cases including for spying for Iran, Qatar and militant groups such as Hamas.

Morsi was also accused of plotting terrorist acts.

He was sentenced to death in May 2015 for his role in jailbreaks during the uprising that ousted his predecessor, longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

US deploys 1000 more troops to Middle East amid Iran tensions

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Amidst an escalation of tensions with Iran, the US has approved the deployment of 1,000 additional troops in the Middle East for "defensive purposes" to address air, naval and ground-based threats.

The announcement by Acting US Defence Secretary Patrick Shanahan came hours after Iran said it would surpass the uranium stockpile limit set by its nuclear deal in the next 10 days against the backdrop of soaring tensions between Tehran and Washington.

The action of deploying 1,000 more troops is being taken to ensure the safety and welfare of US military personnel working throughout the region and to protect its national interests, Shanahan said on Monday.

The United States does not seek conflict with Iran, he said. "I have authorised approximately 1,000 additional troops for defensive purposes to address air, naval and ground-based threats in the Middle East," Shanahan said.

"The recent Iranian attacks

validate the reliable, credible intelligence we have received on hostile behaviour by Iranian forces and their proxy groups that threaten United States personnel and interests across the region," he said.

The US will continue to monitor the situation "diligently and make adjustments" to force levels as necessary given intelligence reporting and credible threats, Shanahan said. Last month, National Security Adviser John Bolton said that the US was deploying the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group and a bomber task force to the Middle East in response to a "number of troubling and escalatory indications and warnings" from Iran.

America has blamed Iran for last week's attacks on two oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman, an accusation Tehran has denied as "baseless."

Following the Shanahan's announcement, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi demanded an immediate briefing from the Trump administration.

"Congress must be immediately briefed on the admin-

istration's decisions and plans. "This deeply concerning decision may escalate the situation with Iran and risk serious miscalculations on either side. Diplomacy is needed to defuse tensions, therefore America must continue to consult with our allies so that we do not make the region less safe," Pelosi said.

Earlier in the day, the State Department urged Iran not to obtain a nuclear weapon, to abide by its commitments to the international community.

Earlier Iran announced that it will increase its nuclear fuel supply beyond limits set in the 2015 nuclear agreement.

"I think it's unfortunate that they've made this announcement today. It doesn't surprise anybody," State Department Spokesperson Morgan Ortugas told reporters at her news conference.

Reiterating that the Iranian nuclear deal needs to be replaced, she said Iran, as evident by its announcement and pattern of behaviour over the past few years, is keen on expanding — or seems to be expanding — its nuclear

programme, and it now wants to exceed these nuclear limits in advance of these so-called sunset clauses.

"We have made it very clear since this President came into office and since the Secretary came here that we will not tolerate Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon. Full stop," Ortugas said.

"So any actions that they take to get a nuclear weapon will be countered by a maximum pressure campaign by the United States Government that continues to this day. There should be no relieving of sanctions for their malign and unacceptable behaviour," Ortugas said.

Senator Dianne Feinstein urged all parties to work towards a diplomatic solution to avoid further escalation.

"The Trump administration inflamed tensions by withdrawing the United States from the agreement and reimposing sanctions on Iran. Iran now says it will violate the agreement unless our European partners can make up for the economic loss caused by US sanctions," the Democratic Senator said.

China denies Xi's NKorea visit for leverage against Trump

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Tuesday refuted reports that President Xi Jinping's sudden move to make a rare visit to North Korea this week was aimed at using Beijing's close ties with Pyongyang as a "leverage" to deal with his US counterpart Donald Trump's threat to impose tariffs on more Chinese imports.

China on Monday announced that President Xi would make his maiden visit to Pyongyang on Thursday — 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.

The sudden announcement of Xi's visit to Pyongyang ahead of his much-sSpeculated meeting with Trump at the G-20 summit in Osaka on June 28-29 led to speculation that he wants to flout Beijing's importance in any future deal

between US and North Korea over denuclearisation.

Answering a spate of questions over Xi's visit to North Korea, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang denied that the trip was aimed at using Beijing-Pyongyang close ties as leverage in China-US trade talks.

China is under pressure as Trump, who had imposed additional tariffs on USD 250 billion worth of Chinese imported goods, threatened to impose tariffs on the remaining USD 300 billion Chinese imports if no deal worked out in his likely meeting with Xi at Osaka. "You said China may use this visit as leverage on US," I shall say certain people with such thinking may over interpret that," Lu said.

"China and DPRK (North Korea) are close neighbours enjoying the friendly relations. The two countries always maintained good exchanges. We hope you can get clear idea about this visit and our firm



determination to develop friendly ties with DPRK and do not make unnecessary links or connections," Lu said.

He also took exception to reports questioning the timing of Xi's visit to North Korea and speculation linking the trip to Xi-Trump meeting, which China is yet to confirm.

Kim already had two failed summits with Trump, who in the past accused Xi of "influencing" the North Korean

leader against working out a deal to give up nuclear weapons. "The timing of Xi's visit has nothing to do with talks with US," Lu said.

"Trade disputes between US and China have dragged on for one year or so. I don't see why it's getting more sensitive for the moment," he said, adding that China was surprised by the outcome of Trump-Kim summit at Hanoi in February.

The summit failed to yield any results to end the deadlock over denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

"But after that the situation is moving forward with the resumption of dialogue. I wonder why the situation is more sensitive than February," Lu said. After his Singapore summit with Kim last year, Trump accused Xi of influencing the North Korean leader against going for a deal. Kim met Xi four times in recent months.

It could very well be that he's influencing Kim Jong-un. We'll see what happens. Meaning the President of China, President Xi, could be influencing," Trump said in May 2018.

Another Chinese official Song Tao, head of the International Department of the ruling Communist Party of China, said Xi's visit to North Korea is of great significance for efforts to build on past successes to further advance bilateral relationship.

HK leader offers 'most sincere apology' over law turmoil

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam apologised Tuesday for the political unrest sparked by a proposed Beijing-backed law that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China.

Unprecedented mass rallies against the bill have rocked the city's government — plunging the city into its biggest political crisis in decades — with protesters calling for Lam to step down.

"I personally have to shoulder much of the responsibility. This has led to controversies, disputes and anxieties in society," Lam told a press conference.

"For this I offer my most sincere apology to all people of Hong Kong," Lam suspended the bill after the city saw massive rallies on June 9 and 12 —



with bouts of violence between the police and some protesters.

But that failed to quell public anger, and was followed by an even bigger protest Sunday that organisers said drew over two million people — more than a quarter of the population — to the streets.

Lam gave no indication she was prepared to step down, say-

ing instead she wanted to "continue to work very hard... to meet the aspirations of the Hong Kong people."

Critics of the extradition bill fear the legislation will entangle Hong Kong residents in China's notoriously opaque and politicised justice system, and damage the city's reputation as a safe business hub.

NASA funds videos to teach Hindi through Indian scientific innovations

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A programme funded by NASA in the US has produced a series of videos about famous archaeological sites and institutions in India along with lesson plans in Hindi to teach the language internationally in the context of science and technology.

The videos focus on scien-

tific innovations at various sites like Amer Fort palace and Hawa Mahal in Jaipur, the rust-resistant Pillar of Delhi, UNESCO Heritage site famous archaeological sites and institutions in India along with lesson plans in Hindi to teach the language internationally in the context of science and technology.

The NASA-funded pro-

gramme STARTALK, which makes it a priority issue for national security to expand the teaching and learning of Hindi, Arabic, Chinese and other world languages, made a USD 90,000 grant to Ved Chaudhary, director of the project.

The programme is supplemented by funding from Chaudhary's New Jersey-based

foundation Educator's Society for Heritage of India.

The programme is administered by the National Foreign Language Centre at the University of Maryland.

"This was a unique experience. I never knew I was going to have so much fun doing my research," Alok Kumar, principal investigator in the project, said.

Supported by research studies, Kumar said, context is crucial in learning new languages. Each video, designed for learners from middle school through college, employs a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) perspective "to provide interesting and incredibly rich context to create learning experiences that can push learners to the

advanced level of Hindi." Kumar, professor of physics at State University of New York, has published several books on ancient Hindu science, mathematics and medicine. "I met a number of high-quality individuals who have made a profound impact on my life," he said.

The University of Maryland said that science-

based innovations are abound in the sites Kumar chose.

With no air conditioning in 1799, a Hindu architect designed the honeycomb-patterned Hawa Mahal as a "Palace of Breezes," taking advantage of what is known as the "Venturi effect," Kumar said, adding that air enters narrow passages of the building, increasing the speed of

flow and producing natural cooling.

The nearly 24-foot-tall Iron Pillar of Delhi, built in the year 402, is a testament to the skill of Hindu metal smiths who processed phosphorus-rich iron that, instead of corroding, creates an even, protective layer that has withstood centuries of monsoons and scorching summer heat, the university said.

Take an intelligent step



With college admissions underway, students often get confused about which course to opt for. DEEPA SAYAL shares tips that may help them to choose the right option

As college admissions are underway especially for private institutes. Students have already filled forms for admission to Delhi University. It is normal for students to get bogged down with vexing questions as to which course to choose and how to build a lasting career. Here is some help.

For those coming from a Science background, there are a myriad of promising career avenues to choose from. The adoption and innovation of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), Internet of Things (IoT), and Robotics are increasing impressively high, especially now when the underlying potential of these techs is unlocked. From software development to robotics engineering, diverse industries call for scientific knowledge and technical skills to register double-digit growth. In fact, Indian Engineering Research and Development (ER&D) is also expected to double to \$42 billion by FY 2022. Therefore, the students setting an eye on Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) jobs will hit the nail right.

The STEM as the industry is contained with a pool of education and career prospects because the world is

moving towards data-driven decision-making. From marketing managers to financial analysts, from executives to C-suite, expertise in data and computation is more of a necessity than merely a choice.

The NASCOM predicts that nearly 65 per cent of four million jobs in IT are going to change over the next five years. With it, skills and talent in demand will also change. In the present case scenario, most of the highly-paid jobs require an engineering or tech degree as well as digital engineering skills at the least.

Lately, AI has emerged as one of the most interactive fields of the study. It is the technology that keeps on bestowing us with smart and intelligent creations that makes our life a lot easier. Whether it is Siri or Netflix, these AI powered software help us type message without using fingers, turn on the lights at home, and even discover new shows and movies that are a delight to our eyes. As businesses strive to offer us more convenience through AI technologies, the field is going to expand creating over 2.3 million jobs by 2020, as Gartner estimates.

To work in this domain, students should have a B.Tech degree in computer science, artificial intelligence,

AI HAS EMERGED AS ONE OF THE MOST INTERACTIVE FIELDS OF THE STUDY. IT IS THE TECHNOLOGY THAT KEEPS ON BESTOWING US WITH SMART AND INTELLIGENT CREATIONS THAT MAKES LIFE EASIER

machine learning and a postgraduate degree or diploma.

There are many institutes like SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Delhi-NCR and Manav Rachna University (MRU) that have started offering these courses from this new academic year.

The mightiest of tech advancements are born out of small bit-sized information, otherwise called data. The present is futuristic age where even a human gene is a source of the pertinent data and information and can open a whole new world to us. The organisations understand the real value of this data as it allows them to innovate and serve the customers through a result-driven approach. For example, a brand can introduce a new product line that fulfils the requirements of the customers, on the basis of their previously shown behaviour. But, the world produces an infinite amount of raw and unstructured data the value of which is insurmountable for businesses, government bodies, and scientists.

To derive insights from the complex data, there is an urgent need for data scientists, data analysts, data engineers, and data managers. The job market for data science jobs has witnessed a hike of nearly 76 per cent in

India, according to UpGrad Analytics and Data Job Survey 2018. The average salary of a data scientist ranges from 4-6 lakh at an entry level. The candidates should have a B.Tech or BSc degree in computer science as well as should be thorough with programming languages such as Perl, Java, and Python. An equivalent degree or certification in business analytics, data analytics, and data science strengthen one's educational background.

The digital transformation continues to revamp the business landscape where almost every stakeholder, data, and information is vulnerable to cyber security threats. The antidote to cyber security risk is ethical hacking, which is going to be the game changer in future.

An ethical hacker is responsible for building and protecting the company's security system and network against any weakness, fault, and cyber attack. For this, B.Tech in computer science will be a brownie point for those looking to become ethical hackers. If not, courses in Certified Ethical Hacking (CEH), Certified Security Analyst, and Computer Hacking Forensic Investigation suffice to build a secure future in the domain.

The writer is Executive Director, Vivoki & Director-Co-Founder, ADG Online Solutions

QUOTE OF THE DAY
Education is not just about going to school and getting a degree. It's about widening your knowledge and absorbing the truth about life
— Shakuntala Devi

BTECH CLOUD COMPUTING
 Keeping in view the emerging field of Cloud Computing and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Computer technology, Apeejay Stya University (ASU) has introduced specialisations in Cloud Computing and AI under its B.Tech in Computer Science & Engineering programme.

Programme: B.Tech. in Computer Science & Engineering with specialisation in Cloud Computing and Artificial Intelligence in academic collaboration with Oracle University (Workforce Development Partner).

Duration: Four years
Eligibility: Minimum 50 per cent aggregate marks in Class XII with PCM (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics) from any recognised board.

All eligible applicants shall be short listed on the basis of their academic performances and aptitude followed by a mock test.

How to apply: Log on to www.amity.edu/gurugram.
Last date to apply: June 21, 2019.

Admissions OPEN

mic session.
Programmes: BSc Clinical Psychology, BA Applied Psychology and MSc. Clinical Psychology, MA Applied Psychology, MA Counselling psychology and Post Graduate diploma in Counselling psychology.

Duration: Three years for UG course, two years for PG course and one year for Post graduate Diploma.

How to apply: Log on to www.amity.edu/gurugram.
Last date to apply: June 21, 2019.

CIVIL PROGRAMMES

Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies (MIR&S) invites applications for admissions to its Civil programmes.

Programmes: B.Tech — Civil Engineering, M.Tech — Civil Engineering (With specialisation in Structural Engineering / Construction Management/Transportation Engg and PhD — Civil Engineering.

Duration: Four years for B.Tech.
How to apply: Log on to www.manavrachna.edu.in.

Odd-ball programmes

PNS | NEW DELHI

As odd education is becoming mainstream, the field is witnessing an increase demand of institutions which offer cross-disciplinary courses with contemporary curriculum. There are very few educational institutions in India that offer futuristic odd-ball courses for the students.

Shankar's Academy of Art equipped with one of the largest portfolio of art and design courses is offering many cutting-edge programmes including art, book illustration and computer graphics for which it awards diplomas.

These professional future-oriented odd-ball courses aim to produce skillful professionals who will shape up seamlessly with the work environment and readily meet the requirements of the fast-growing global design economy. These courses offer unique programs that not only aid academics but also look to spread awareness of newer, emerging career streams and even lead to job creation.

"We aim at providing experiential learning through a mix of in-studio learning, field-work and theory. The odd-ball courses are in fact well-researched well-thought out courses that have been designed keeping the future generation in mind. These courses will prepare the students in various streams other than the traditional ones thus making them future ready," said director, Children's Book Trust and Shankar's Academy of Art.



Up to 100 Knight Hennessy studentships are available to pursue any graduate degree at Stanford in the USA. Students from around the world are eligible to apply for this application programme. The aim is to call students from around the world to receive full funding to pursue a wide.

Eligibility: If you are applying to enrol in a full-time graduate degree programme or if you plan on pursuing one of many joint- and dual- graduate degree options. First/Bachelor's Degree Received in 2014 or later; You are eligible to apply to the scholars if you apply within four years, and enrol within five years after you earn your first/bachelor's degree. For the pioneer class that enrolls in 2018, that means you must have graduated in 2013 or later and must apply in 2017.

If you're still in college studying for your first/bachelor's degree, you're eligible to apply as long as you complete your first/bachelor's degree before you enrol as a graduate student.

You must complete the entire application process for your department — including any standardised test that your discipline requires (GMAT, GRE, LSAT, MCAT).

Resume/C.V, two recommendation letters, two personal essays, two short-answer responses, a video submission, in-person assessment, graduate degree programme application.

English Language Requirements: Scores on standardised tests for admission, as required by the graduate program that you are pursuing.

How to apply: The mode of application is online.

Application deadline: The deadline to apply for the 2020 cohort is October 9, 2019.

Northern Arizona University (NAU) invites International Excellence Award to provide opportunities for high-achieving underrepresented international students.

The programme is a merit-based tuition waiver for first time F-1 UG and graduate degree-seeking overseas students admitted directly into a university degree programme on the Flagstaff campus.

Eligibility: Applicants from all around the world are eligible to apply. The applicants must submit all the following required documents: two Honors admissions essays, resume or list of activities and accomplishments, the SAT and the ACT, GPA of 3.0 or higher (unweighted) is required.

Language Requirement: You must provide proof of English proficiency from if English is not your native language: Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) an International English Language Testing System (IELTS). The minimum scores of English proficiency are: 80 (TOEFL iBT) or 6.5 (IELTS).

Application deadline: March 1 for the fall semester and October 1 for the spring semester

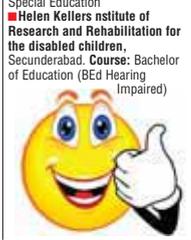
STUDY CENTRES

Those who love to teach and want to work with children with special needs, a career in special education is perfect.

Children with special needs require training and instruction by specially-trained professionals. The field offers different career opportunities. One can enter this field either doing a diploma course or a bachelor of special education programme. For diploma course 10+2 is the minimum requirement. Special education teachers usually work along with speech therapists, psychologists and physiotherapists. A few colleges to study are:

- **Chitana Institute for the Mentally Handicapped,** Bhubaneswar. **Course:** MEd Special Education
- **Kurukshetra University ;** Department of Education, Kurukshetra. **Course:** MEd Special Education
- **MJP Rohilkhand University ;** Faculty of Education and Allied Sciences, Bareilly. **Course:** MEd Special Education

- **National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped,** Secunderabad. **Course:** MEd Special Education
- **Helen Kellers Institute of Research and Rehabilitation for the disabled children,** Secunderabad. **Course:** Bachelor of Education (BEd Hearing Impaired)



GRAPHIC DESIGN AT TIKLIVE
 Location: Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru
 Stipend: ₹14,000 per month
 Link: internshala.com/1001667
 Application deadline: June 27, 2019

CONTENT WRITING AT TALENTO CONSULTING
 Location: Delhi
 Stipend: ₹8,000-₹8,000 per month
 Link: internshala.com/1001668
 Application deadline: June 27, 2019

MARKETING AT ARMOUR DISPLAY SYSTEM
 Location: Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru
 Stipend: ₹8,000 per month
 Link: internshala.com/1001669
 Application deadline: June 24, 2019

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT RENTROOM
 Location: Delhi, Pune, Bangalore
 Stipend: ₹2,000 per month
 Link: internshala.com/1001670
 Application deadline: June 25, 2019

CS AT SHANU BAKIWALA & CO
 Location: Delhi
 Stipend: ₹ 4,000 per month
 Link: internshala.com/1001671
 Application deadline: June 27, 2019

VENDOR MANAGEMENT AT CHAMPU INCORPORATION
 Location: Delhi
 Stipend: ₹10,000-₹15,000 per month
 Link: internshala.com/1001672
 Application deadline: June 28, 2019

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT YUPP FOODS
 Location: Work From Home
 Stipend: ₹4,000-₹6,000 per month
 Link: internshala.com/1001673
 Application deadline: June 28, 2019

Practice is key

AIIMS topper, BHAVIK BANSAL speaks with ROHAN BAILWAL about his success story

■ **What was your study plan?**
 I never followed any particular pattern. It was regular depending upon the topic and subject. I used to think topic wise. In AIIMS' Entrance examination, questions come up every year for which you need to have brief knowledge about every topic and subject.

■ **Time spent studying.**
 I never went for the hours. Like I mentioned earlier, I planned everything topic-wise and not time bound. Even if a particular topic took a week I never worried about the time it took. The aim was to gain insight knowledge. When you have vast syllabus, one should learn topic wise for better understanding.

■ **How did you manage your institute and school studies?**
 It's a myth that we can't handle both. Both of them have the same syllabus. All you need to do is practice.

■ **How long have you been a part of Akash institute?**
 I have been a part of institute for two years. It gave me the peripheral knowledge that one requires to apply for entrance exam. The NCHT gave me the base and the institute gave me peripheral content.

■ **What role did your parents play?**
 The main thing they did was to support me in my decisions rather than enforce their ideologies on me.

■ **Who have been your inspiration?**
 When I was in school, I was attracted towards this field. I always wanted to be a doctor. Biology, Chemistry and Physics were my favourite subjects. It is my passion and what's better than doing what you love.

■ **Who have been your inspiration?**
 I don't have any inspiration. The thing which keeps me going is that I enjoy the scientific method to explore different things and learn more.

JEE Open House

PNS | NEW DELHI

The IIT-Gandhinagar is organising the JEE Open House at three different locations with the first being held at New Delhi on June 22, 2019 at the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Nipced Campus, Hauz Khas.

The second and third events will be held on June 23, 2019 at Mumbai in the Dharamchand Hirchand Hall, Churchgate, and at the IIT Gandhinagar campus.

Interested students visit: <http://events.iitgn.ac.in/2019/openhouse/>. Highlighting the objectives of these Open

House Events, Prof Pratik Mutha, Dean (Academic Affairs), IIT Gandhinagar said: "The JEE Open House aims to address doubts and queries of prospective students and their guardians regarding various disciplines, structures, activities and opportunities at IITs so that they can take informed decisions. The Open House being organised at three different locations will make it convenient for them to attend at a place of their choice."

The New Delhi session starts from 10 am. The Mumbai session will start from 3 pm onwards.

New courses on offer

PNS | NEW DELHI

The Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi (IIT-Delhi) has announced B.Tech in Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence programme for the academic year 2019-20. The students can log on to the website www.iitd.ac.in to get more details about the eligibility criteria and admission process.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become an integral part of technology in our daily lives. With its rapid adoption, there is a significant requirement of researchers and technologists who can build AI technologies. Being one of a kind course in India, IIT-Delhi's B.Tech in CSAI programme will provide students an opportunity to learn both foundational and practical components of AI and Machine Learning. Presently,

only a few universities offer four-year engineering course dedicated to Artificial Intelligence.

Highlighting the importance of the course, Professor Ranjan Bose, Director, IIT-Delhi, said: "Even though many institutions today are embracing AI-powered products and applications, still there is a scarcity of job-ready talents who can engineer next home-grown AI technologies. The objective behind offering this course is to equip our future engineers with expertise in AI so that we can also significantly contribute towards ground-breaking development and innovation in the field."

A student completing this programme will be able to build a career in varied industries as well as can become a researcher in niche AI-related fields such as computer vision, robotics and many others.

Captain Marvelous

Morgan's record-breaking 148, Bairstow's 90 and Root's 88 guide England to 150-run win against hapless Afghanistan



England's captain Eoin Morgan, right, celebrates with teammate Joe Root after scoring a century

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

England captain Eoin Morgan set a new world record for most sixes in a one-day international innings as the World Cup hosts crushed Afghanistan by 150 runs in their World Cup tie on Tuesday.

Morgan hit 17 sixes in his career-best 148, with England's total of 25 sixes also a new world record, to pile up 397 for six.

Morgan, dropped on 28, dominated a third-wicket stand of 189 with Joe Root (82), whose contribution to their partnership was a mere 33. Afghanistan star leg-spinner Rashid Khan set an unwanted record with 0-110 in nine overs — the most expensive return at a World Cup and second costliest in all ODI cricket. Morgan's tally surpassed the record of 16 sixes in an ODI innings previously shared by India's Rohit Sharma, South Africa's AB de Villiers and West Indies' Chris Gayle. But one ball after launching Gulbadin Naib for the record-breaking six, Morgan holed out off the Afghanistan captain to end a 71-ball innings that also featured four fours. His innings, which featured 118 runs in boundaries, was all the more impressive as Morgan had been doubtful for this match with a back spasm suffered in England's eight-wicket win over the West Indies, in which he could not bat. Jonny Bairstow (90) got England off to a solid start after

MOST SIXES IN AN INNINGS IN ODIs					
Sixes	(Score)	Batsman	Opponent	Venue	Date
17	(148)	Eoin Morgan (Eng)	Afghanistan	Manchester	18-06-2019
16	(209)	Rohit Sharma (Ind)	Australia	Bangalore	02-11-2013
16	(149)	Ab de Villiers (SA)	West Indies	Jo'burg	18-01-2015
16	(215)	Chris Gayle (WI)	Zimbabwe	Canberra	24-02-2015
15	(185*)	Shane Watson (Aus)	Bangladesh	Dhaka	11-04-2011

FASTEST CENTURIES					
Balls	(Score)	Batsman	Opponent	Venue	Date
50	(113)	Kevin O'Brien (Iri)	England	Bangalore	02-03-2011
51	(102)	Glenn Maxwell (Aus)	Sri Lanka	Sydney	08-03-2015
52	(162*)	Ab de Villiers (SA)	West Indies	Sydney	27-02-2015
57	(148)	Eoin Morgan (Eng)	Afghanistan	Manchester	18-06-2019
66	(101)	Matthew Hayden (Aus)	South Africa	St Kitts	24-03-2007

Morgan won the toss, with the home side accelerating after James Vince fell for 26 when he mishooked paceman Dawlat Zadran to short fine-leg. Rank outsiders Afghanistan, yet to win a game at this tournament, did not help themselves with some woeful outfielding. Bairstow was untroubled until, and in sight of his eighth ODI century, he chipped a return catch to Naib. A visibly annoyed Bairstow walked off having been in command during a 99-ball innings that featured eight fours and three sixes. Morgan settled in quickly, hitting Naib for two sixes including a fine hit over long-off.

But the left-hander should have been out when he skied Rashid Khan only for Dawlat Zadran at deep midwicket to make

such a mess of the catch that the ball bounced out of his hands and over the rope for four.

It was a costly error, with Morgan immediately hitting a soaring six. He cleared the boundary again in a 36th over that cost 18 runs. Morgan then went to fifty with his fifth six in 36 balls faced when he pulled off-spinner Mohammad Nabi high into an 8,000-capacity temporary stand. Root was denied a second successive hundred and third of the tournament when he holed out off Gulbadin, whose three for 68 was not a bad return in the circumstances. But the sixes kept coming, with Moeen Ali setting a new team record when he launched the penultimate delivery of the innings, from Dawlat, over long-off.

MOST RUNS CONCEDED IN AN INNINGS					
OVERS	RUNS	BOWLER	OPPONENT	VENUE	DATE
10	113	Mick Lewis (Aus)	South Africa	Jo'burg	12-03-2006
10	110	Wahab Riaz (Pak)	England	Nottingham	30-08-2016
9	110	Rashid Khan (Afg)	England	Manchester	18-06-2019
10	106	Bhuvneshwar Kumar (Ind)	South Africa	Mumbai	25-10-2015
10	106	Nuvan Pradeep (SL)	India	Mohali	13-12-2017



Roy targets Aus match for return

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Jason Roy is targeting England's match against arch-rivals Australia for a World Cup return after being sidelined with a torn hamstring.

The in-form opening batsman was ruled out of England's match against Afghanistan at Old Trafford and their pool encounter with Sri Lanka at Headingley on Friday.

He tore his left hamstring in the field during England's eight-wicket win over the West Indies last week and did not bat. But having suffered a similar injury during England's tour of the Caribbean earlier this year and with the World Cup featuring a long pool phase that sees all 10 teams play each other ahead of the semi-finals, the 28-year-old Roy is confident of returning to action.

"I did it in the West Indies and it was a lot worse," Roy told Sky Sports. "It could be way worse — the scan told me it's minimum 10 days. We've got to assess it as we go along."

"It's a huge understatement being frustrated, but I've got to keep smiling," the Surrey star added.

Roy hit a fifty in England's opening win over South Africa and then struck a commanding 153 in the host nation's victory over Bangladesh. But he fell for just eight during England's surprise 14-run defeat to Pakistan at Trent Bridge. Now he hopes to face reigning champions Australia at Lord's on June 25.

"We're targeting Australia but we'll see how this week goes," said Roy, whose opening partnership with Bairstow has been a key factor in England's rise to the top of the one-day international rankings and their status as favourites to win the World Cup.

"If it all goes to plan, then Australia. If not, then who knows. Hamstrings are such a grey area."

OTHER SPORTS



Chile's Eduardo Vargas, center, celebrates scoring his side's second goal during Copa America Group C match against Japan

Vargas scores brace as Chile rout Japan

AFP ■ SAO PAULO

Eduardo Vargas scored twice as Chile launched the defense of their Copa America crown with an emphatic 4-0 defeat of Japan in Sao Paulo on Monday.

Vargas, who plays for Mexico club Tigres UANL, netted twice in the second half as Chile gradually overpowered a skillful but limited Japan, who are playing in the South American showpiece as one of two invited teams from Asia.

Erick Pulgar had opened the scoring for Chile in the first half before Vargas doubled the 2015 and 2016 champions' advantage with a deflected second-half strike.

Manchester United's Alexis Sanchez then took his Chilean record goals tally to 42 after diving to head home in the 82nd minute before Vargas scored the pick of the goals moments later with a deft lob over Japan goalkeeper Keisuke Osako.

The win saw Chile join Uruguay at the top of Group C, level on points and goal difference.

"The important thing is that we move on now with humility," said Chile coach Reinaldo Rueda.

"This win doesn't suddenly make us a dream team, just as we weren't the disaster that our critics were saying we were before."

The scoreline was harsh on Japan, who had carved out several promising chances but were let down by poor finishing from young striker Ayase Ueda.

"We deserved to score a goal," said Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu. "The difference was that they were clinical and took their chances. We're sad to lose but proud that we really took it to them."

Japan had started confidently, dominating territory and possession albeit without threatening the Chile goal.

Their best early chance came after nine minutes when Shoya Nakajima let fly after bursting forward only to see his shot saved by Chile goalkeeper Gabriel Arias.

As the first half wore on, Chile looked increasingly more threatening, and Sanchez sounded the alarm in the Japanese defense in the 35th minute when his low shot flashed just wide.

Sanchez then almost played in Charles Aranguiz but the Bayer Leverkusen midfielder took too long to get his shot away, allowing Japan to deflect behind from a corner.

Chile coughed up possession inside their own half and Gaku Shibasaki released Ueda on goal.

PTI ■ HIROSHIMA

Gurjit Kaur slammed four goals, including a hat-trick as India thrashed lowly Fiji 11-0 to storm into the semifinals of the FIH Women's Series Finals hockey tournament, here on Tuesday.

Gurjit struck in the 15th, 19th, 21st and 22nd minutes, while Monika (11th, 33rd) scored a brace for India in a lop-sided Pool A match.

Lalresiami (4th), Rani (10th), Vandana Katariya (12th), Lilima Mizu (51st) and Navneet Kaur (57th) were also among the goal scorers for the winners.

World No 9 India dominated their lowly ranked opponents throughout the match, allowing Fiji to only have one circle entry in the entire 60 minutes, whilst making 74 entries into the opposition's striking area.

The first quarter was dominated by India which saw them take the lead in the fourth minute when Lalresiami's cross-field ball was deflected by a Fiji defender into the back of the net.

Captain Rani scored India's second goal in the 10th minute from a penalty corner.

India maul Fiji 11-0, enter semis



Indian player battles for ball possession with her Fiji counterpart during last group stage game

In the next minute Monika made the scoreline 3-0 from Neha Goyal's assist.

Forward Vandana Katariya scored only her second goal of the competition when she struck in the 12th minute.

Gurjit then scored her first of four goals by converting a penalty corner in the last minute of the first quarter to hand India a 5-0 advantage.

In the 19th minute, Gurjit scored from another penalty corner by slotting home in the left bottom side of Fiji goal to make it 6-0 in India's favour.

Two minutes later, Gurjit completed her hat-trick when she scored from a rebound with a reverse stick shot after her drag-flick was blocked by a defender.

Gurjit struck again in the 22nd minute from another penalty corner to make it 8-0 in India's favour.

Early in the third quarter, midfielder Monika scored India's ninth goal of the match, deflecting in Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam's shot from just outside the circle in the 33rd minute.

Lilima then joined the party and registered her name in the scoresheet with reverse stick shot in the 51st minute.

Six minutes later, Navneet pounced on a loose clearance by the Fiji goalkeeper to round off the tally for India.

India will play their semifinal encounter on Saturday.

Real's Rodrygo identifies with Neymar

AFP ■ MADRID

Real Madrid's new signing Rodrygo has said he models his game on Neymar and Robinho as the 18-year-old went on Tuesday game as the latest arrival unveiled at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Madrid completed a 45-million-euro (\$50.3 million) deal for Rodrygo Silva de Gois in June last year but agreed to let the Brazilian striker stay at Santos for another season.

He is the fifth player to join Madrid this summer, following Eden Hazard, Eder Militao, Ferland Mendy and Luka Jovic for a minimum transfer outlay to 300 million euros.

"For me it is a dream come true," Rodrygo said at a press conference. "I have always said it is the dream of every child in Brazil and the world. I'm living a dream, it's the happiest day of my life."



Brazilian player Rodrygo Gois, left, poses with Real Madrid President Florentino Perez during his official presentation at the Santiago Bernabeu

for Castilla, the club's B side, to gain experience.

After being presented in the stands by club president Florentino Perez, Rodrygo emerged on the pitch at the Santiago Bernabeu, where he kicked balls into a crowd of around 2,000 fans.

"I'm a fast striker, I score and dribble," he said. "I'm Brazilian and we're a bit like that, like Robinho and Neymar, I identify a little with them."

"I like to play on the wings, on the left especially, but I have no preference. I'm ready to play."

Neymar has been linked with a return to Spain, just two years after he joined Paris Saint-Germain from Barcelona for a world record 222 million euros.

Asked if he would like either to play alongside or emulate his compatriot, Rodrygo said: "Neymar is a great player but he's on another team and I can't talk about him."

"No, I would like to be the Rodrygo of Madrid. There is only one Neymar, there can't be another."

Madrid struggled for goals last season in the wake of Cristiano Ronaldo's departure to Juventus, despite another Brazilian teenager, Vinicius Junior, enjoying an impressive first year in the Spanish capital.

Vinicius began the season on playing for Castilla but was promoted by coach Santiago Solari. Rodrygo hopes to follow suit.

"No, I would like to be the Rodrygo of Madrid. There is only one Neymar, there can't be another."

"I have spoken to Vinicius since I signed and when we met in the national team we talked about the club," Rodrygo said.

"Your growth has been spectacular and you now face the challenge that you have chosen. Here you will succeed with work and humility, the fans will always be on your side but you must know the high demands of our club, it is a hallmark of Real Madrid."

Fight for existence

Proteas desperately need big win to stay alive as Black Caps look to retain No 1 spot

UPNEXT

LIVE ON
 3:00 pm IST

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

With pacer Lungi Ngidi back in the side, South Africa will look to avenge their 2015 semifinal defeat while New Zealand will aim to reclaim their position at the top when the two sides clash in a World Cup match here on Wednesday.

South Africa, who suffered a heart-breaking loss to New Zealand in the last edition, had a dismal start to their World Cup campaign, losing three straight games followed by a wash-out before registering their maiden win against bottom-placed Afghanistan.

In contrast, New Zealand are yet to face defeat in the tournament and are lying second on the table with three wins and a wash-out.

Injuries to pacers Dale Steyn and Anrich Nortje have hurt the South African bowling unit severely.

With Ngidi fully fit and the team finally tasting victory, skipper Faf du Plessis will breathe a sigh of relief.

"Hopefully this is a real confidence booster for everyone on the team. And there's a little bit of weight that you feel that's off your shoulders now. We need to win every game that we play" Du Plessis had said after the win against Afghanistan.

South Africa will need their bowlers to step up to keep their World Cup hopes alive.

A lot will depend on veteran spinner Imran Tahir should the Edgbaston surface offer turn. The 40-year-old took two wickets each against England and Bangladesh, before running through Afghanistan.

The Proteas have been mostly done in by their batting but they will take heart from the fact that openers Hashim Amla and Quinton de Kock finally clicked in the previous game.

The pair, alongside du Plessis, will have to navigate their way through a quality seam attack led by Trent Boult.

However, considering South Africa's dismal record against spin and the



New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson, right, and pacer Tim Southee

HEAD TO HEAD				
	Played	NZ	RSA	N/R
Matches	70	24	41	5
Day matches	33	13	18	2
In World Cup	7	5	2	—
Last 5 matches	5	2	3	—

HIGHEST TOTALS				
New Zealand	299-6 in 42.5 overs at Auckland			
South Africa	324-4 in 50 overs at Centurion			

PERFORMANCE IN WC						
Team	P	W	L	T	N/R	Success%
New Zealand	82	51	30	-	1	62.31
South Africa	60	36	21	2	1	62.50

FAISLE FEATURES
 brown Edgbaston wicket, the Black Caps might consider deploying leg spinner Ish Sodhi alongside the reliant Mitchell Santner.
 New Zealand have a solid batting unit. Skipper Kane Williamson anchored the side to victory against Bangladesh and Afghanistan while Ross Taylor has also been among the runs but the team will hope for openers Colin Munro and Martin Guppitt to start clicking.
 New Zealand also have two destructive all-rounders in Jimmy Neesham and Colin de Grandhomme in their ranks



South African captain Faf du Plessis reacts during team practice session

SQUADS
New Zealand: Kane Williamson (captain), Martin Guppitt, Matt Henry, Tom Latham, Colin Munro, Jimmy Neesham, Henry Nicholls, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, Trent Boult, Colin de Grandhomme, Lockie Ferguson, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor, Tom Blundell.
South Africa: Faf du Plessis (captain), Aiden Markram, Quinton de Kock, Hashim Amla, Rassie van der Dussen, David Miller, Chris Morris, Andile Phehlukwayo, JP Duminy, Dwaine Pretorius, Beuran Hendricks, Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, Imran Tahir, Tabraiz Shamsi.

XFACTOR
 ● Pace battle between Rabada-Ngidi and Boult-Henry
 ● Ross Taylor & Williamson's batting in middle overs
 ● Imran Tahir's spin magic
 ● De Kock & Du Plessis' role
 ● Morris' all-round performance especially with ball
 ● Will South Africa be able to take revenge of 2015 semis defeat?

playerspeak
TRENT BOULT, NZ
 ■ How much assistance are you expecting out of that wicket?
 Not really too sure. It looks pretty light. Obviously, there's been a lot of weather around, but it's just going to be one of those things that we adjust to as it comes. Looking forward to getting out there. We've obviously had a few quiet days. We can't wait to get started.
 ■ You've only got three wickets so far. What would you put that down to?
 We've got 30 wickets that's the only main thing I'm worried about. As a unit we've been going really well. We've put the ball where we wanted, and we've put a lot of pressure on the teams that we've come against. If we can continue to do it as a unit then I'll be happy.
 ■ Which South African batsman are you looking forward to bowling to?
 We've got to respect all of them. They've got some classy players at the top of the innings. They've obviously had an interesting start to their tournament, so they'll be hungry to come out and perform. Led by an experienced captain, they've got some dangerous hitters lower down in the order. We need to be on the mark with how we start 100 per cent.
 ■ Have you had to try a few other things during this competition?
 I'm always trying to get better, first of all, but when the ball hasn't swung, it's always been the biggest challenge to try to get wickets and try to apply pressure. In terms of running on the wicket, it's not really something that I'm worried about. I'm just trying to get close to the stumps and, I suppose, make the most out of the swing that is available.
 ■ This is essentially a knockout match for SA. Does that confer an advantage?
 There have always been exciting games between NZ and SA over the past World Cups and past time that we've met each other. 2015, the semis at Eaton Park was one of the greatest games that the Kiwis have played. It obviously got a lot of attention back home, and it was a cool one to be a part of. We're looking forward to facing them.
 ■ Why do you think NZ has had the upper hand over SA at World Cups?
 I'm not too sure. Like I said, they're big games. Whether there's a lot of pressure on them, I'm not too sure. For us, we know what works well. For me as a bowler, I'm sure I want to lead the bowling attack as best as I can. If we can do the things that we do well and we know that works well, put some early pressure on and get some wickets, then, hopefully they feel that pressure a little bit more.
 ■ NZ have come across as the nice guys. What do you think about that?
 I don't think we're going out there to aim to be the nice guys of world cricket or put on a front of any sort. We're just being genuine and being who we are. Just playing the game in good spirits and enjoying it. That's why I fell in love with the game and that's why a lot of people follow the team is because we go out and have fun.
 ■ Has the NZ attack been sufficiently challenged in the matches?
 It's definitely going to be a big challenge to see where we're at. We've been lucky to be on a couple of new surfaces that have offered a lot to our style of bowling. The challenge is always going to be to see what we can do on the wickets that don't offer too much, and that's what we're prepared for here. It's a quality wicket. There's been a lot of runs scored here, so it's definitely going to be a good challenge.

Courtesy — © ICC Business Corporation
 FZ LLC 2018

MEN WHO MATTER

KANE WILLIAMSON (NZ)

The skipper has been in prime form, scoring 40 and 79* in his last two innings after aggregating 152 runs in the two warm-up games. Williamson, who scored a century in his last outing at Edgbaston, will once again look to play a long innings.



KAGISO RABADA (SOUTH AFRICA)

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 wicket-packed England batting line-up.



UNDER THE WEATHER
 It will be a cloudy start to the day with chances of some light rain showers. However, it should become increasingly dry and bright as the day wears on. Teams batting first have won three of the last four completed games at Edgbaston.

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

South Africa pacer Lungi Ngidi has confirmed he is "100 per cent fit" to take the field in their World Cup match against New Zealand today.

South Africa's start to their World Cup campaign has been far from ideal, having lost three opening games and a wash-out tie, with a slew of injuries hampering their progress.

Ngidi played just the two opening games before sustaining a left hamstring injury in a match against Bangladesh.

"It's been tough. Injuries are never nice, but with the support staff that I've had around me it's been pretty good and I've been alright," Ngidi was quoted as saying by the official website of the Cricket World Cup.

"It's just been frustrating not being able to play."

"I've just finished a fitness test today and passed that, so I'm match-fit ready. It's 100 per cent. That's how the fitness test goes and if you're not bowling at 100 per cent then you're not ready to play," the young fast bowler added.

South Africa had been forced to field a depleted pace attack with legendary fast bowler Dale Steyn ruled out of the entire tournament, while Ngidi sat out of three matches.

The 23-year-old pacer's return is expected to bolster South Africa, who have only an outside chance now of making it to the semi-finals after three losses from five games.

In their last match, South Africa finally managed to get a win under their belt after beating Afghanistan and now they would need to win the

All is well



South African pacer Lungi Ngidi reads during practice session

rest of the league stage matches in order to make the last four, and Ngidi feels New Zealand do have some weaknesses that could be exploited.
 "I don't think their middle and lower order have been tested enough. They have got most of their runs at the top of the order, so if we can get one or two maybe we can test them. I think then you could be looking at a different situation with their batting," said Ngidi.

AFP ■ EDGBASTON

Quinton de Kock has told his South Africa teammates to keep their heads high when they face New Zealand in a must-win World Cup match on Wednesday.

South Africa's hopes of making the semi-finals would effectively be over if they lose at Edgbaston after a wretched start to the tournament.

Defeats to England, Bangladesh and India have left South Africa wicketkeeper-batsman De Kock billing the New Zealand match as a "quarter-final".

A nine-wicket victory over Afghanistan on Saturday was their first win in this World Cup in England and Wales.

The Proteas cannot afford any more slip-ups in their remaining games against New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia if they are to maintain slender hopes of a semi-final berth.

De Kock admits South Africa's chances of avoiding an embarrassingly early elimination will be wrecked if they do not cope with the stress of playing in a do-or-die situation.

"Obviously it's a big game for us but, in saying that, our next three or four games that we have, they are all going to be big games for us for the rest of the tournament."

"We're just going to have to go out there, keep our heads steady and play freely."
 "Tomorrow is a quarter-final, I guess you could say it, but if we

Keep heads high



South African wicket keeper batsman Quinton de Kock

do win it, then it's another big game again.

"We have to win all the games, not just focus on tomorrow. But in saying that, we know how good New Zealand are playing at the moment. They are a big team in World Cups. They always seem to step up."

Unbeaten New Zealand are favourites to push South Africa towards the World Cup exit door and De Kock admits morale among Faf du Plessis's squad has not been as high as he would like.

But he hopes the comprehensive victory against minnows Afghanistan will provide a much-needed spark in the nick of time.

"I think before our first game that we played against England, we were in a pretty good space also then, mentally and with our preparation," he said.

"Then obviously, during the course of the tournament, obviously after losing all the time, there's always a bit of a slump in being mentally strong."

"Getting a win again has given us high hopes. It just becomes a mental game at a World Cup, trying to deal with all the pressures and stuff."

"We've put a lot of emphasis on our energy going into the games, and the situation we're in right now, our energy needs to be better than ever."

Shakib best in business

At this moment, I have to say Shakib Al Hasan is the most in-form all-rounder in the world.

He is in very good touch with his bowling and his batting has been brilliant at this ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

He made another century in the win over the West Indies, his second of this tournament with two other half-centuries.

He is the number one all-rounder in the ICC rankings as well and he is in tremendous form. In fact, I have never seen him play like this — the consistency he is showing is incredible. I have played with him many times over the years but this is the best form of his career.

That was a very good win for Bangladesh against the West Indies because they are a very very good side — they've played really good cricket in this World Cup.

For Bangladesh it was a crucial game because if they lost or even it rained, then they wouldn't have had a great chance to go through to the semi-finals.

It's really, really important to start quickly, especially in England. If you

TIGER TALK



By **ABDUR RAZZAK**
Bangladesh spinner



Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan

CricketWorldCup/Twitter

“ I HAVE NEVER SEEN SHAKIB PLAY LIKE THIS. THE CONSISTENCY HE IS SHOWING IS INCREDIBLE. I HAVE PLAYED WITH HIM MANY TIMES OVER THE YEARS BUT THIS IS THE BEST FORM OF HIS CAREER ”

start well, either bowling or batting, most of the time those teams win — we've seen that at this World Cup. We started well with the ball by getting Chris Gayle out early and that was important. When West Indies scored 300+, I heard from quite a few people saying 'Bangladesh will lose this game'. But I told them just wait and see. I know the ground at Taunton, I've played over there, and on a wicket which wasn't seaming they had a chance. It was a batter's wicket and at Taunton, 320 isn't an easy target but it isn't that hard either.

They started well with the bat and then Shakib and Liton Das did brilliantly to put on that 189-run partnership and see them over the line.

It's really difficult coming into the team in the middle of this type of tournament, so Liton Das was definitely under pressure. When a new player comes to play in a big game, in a big tournament, with this type of atmosphere, it is really tough.

It was a pressure moment and he coped very nicely. He showed what he can do as a player and it's exciting for Bangladeshi cricket. Bangladesh had confidence from their recent record against the West Indies, which is now

eight wins in the last ten ODIs.

They've beaten them in the West Indies, in Ireland and in Bangladesh as well. If you keep beating any team consistently then it's really, really confidence-boosting.

When they were set 320, the boys would have still felt they were going to win the game because they know they can do it against the West Indies. Importantly, their chances of reaching the semi-finals are still alive. Each and every game is so important because if you lose one now, it will be really difficult to get through.

This one was crucial and the game against Australia at Trent Bridge on Thursday is the same but this confidence will help them and carry over to that clash. They will believe they can beat anyone because they are playing really good cricket.

Bangladesh reached the quarter-finals at the 2015 World Cup and then the semi-finals at the ICC Champions Trophy in 2017 — they've done really well at recent big tournaments — but I honestly believe they are playing even better than that at the moment.

Courtesy: © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2019

Revelry@124

AFP ■ TAUNTON

Shakib Al Hasan admitted his match-winning 124 in Bangladesh's victory over the West Indies ranked as one of the best moments of his career.

Shakib's majestic display paved the way for Bangladesh to record the second highest run chase in World Cup history as they reached 322-3 at Taunton on Monday.

Hitting 16 fours in his unbeaten 99-ball innings, Shakib was well supported by Liton Das, who scored 94 from 69 balls in his first World Cup appearance.

The pair's unbroken stand of 189 was the second highest for the fourth wicket in World Cup history.

It was a memorable day for Shakib, who rated both his performance and his team's among the greatest he has experienced.

"It's obviously one of the best, because the way we chased that run, the way I paced the innings. I was never in a rush. I didn't have to play too many shots from a good ball," he told reporters.

"I had to be patient. And I was patient enough to put the ball away. I think every time I did that quite well. And it's one of the key things in my batting in this chase."

Only Ireland's 329-7 against England in 2011 stands as a bigger World Cup run chase.

But Shakib insisted Bangladesh never

doubted they could overhaul the West Indies' total of 321-8.

In the end they reached the target with 8.3 overs to spare thanks to Shakib and Das.

"At the end of the first innings in the dressing room no one felt that this was tough. Everyone was comfortable and was chilling," he said.

"It gave a lot of confidence in the dressing room and belief that we could chase that run. Once we started batting, I think the way the openers started their innings, everyone in the dressing room felt good and comfortable and relaxed."

"That helped us a lot. So at no point of time we had to panic." Shakib has now scored two centuries in this World Cup after hitting 121 against England.

In the course of the West Indies match he became just the second player to score 6,000 career ODI runs for the Tigers.

His heroics have kept Bangladesh in with a chance of making the semi-finals and Shakib hopes there are more golden moments to come.

"I don't know if this is the best I have been batting or not, but so far it's going well and fingers crossed, hope it continues," he said.

Unsettled Aussies embrace Cup uncertainty

Assistant coach Haddin praises Khawaja as Australia try to settle on their best XI



Australian skipper Aaron Finch, right, and assistant coach Brad Haddin during team's practice session at Trent Bridge stadium in Nottingham. cricket.com.au/Twitter

AGENCIES ■ NOTTINGHAM

Australia concede they're still uncertain of their best side for the remainder of the World Cup, despite losing just one of the opening five matches of their title defence.

But assistant coach Brad Haddin believes their flexibility could be a trump card for the crunch matches to come.

With a loss to India marking their only blip so far, the Aussies find themselves in the unusual spot of sitting on top of the World Cup standings yet openly admitting there are question marks hanging over several crucial positions.

An injury to key man Marcus Stoinis shapes as their biggest headache, with the allrounder set to test out his troublesome left side in Nottingham this week ahead of Thursday's clash with Bangladesh.

"At the moment, we're still trying to find that best XI," Haddin said.

"We're still trying to find what works best for us. Come later in the tournament, we'll start to understand what the conditions are like a lot better and what ... our best XI (is)."

"At the moment, we're not settled on our best XI."

Haddin, the wicketkeeper in Australia's 2015 World Cup-winning side that used all 15 of its available squad members throughout the tournament, suggested the uncertainty isn't necessarily a bad thing.

"We're not too concerned about it all," he said. "One of the things we spoke to the squad about is we need to be a flexible squad to win a World Cup."

"The players understand that and they're training them accordingly. We make sure each and every player is ready for game day."

"I don't think it's a concern, you'd like to start getting your team (right) at the back-end of the tournament. I think one of the luxuries at the moment is we're still winning, and we still haven't found

WE'RE STILL TRYING TO FIND WHAT WORKS BEST FOR US. LATER IN THE TOURNAMENT, WE'LL START UNDERSTANDING WHAT THE CONDITIONS ARE LIKE AND WHAT OUR BEST XI (IS).

the perfect rhythm for our game, which is a dangerous sign."

Usman Khawaja, having thrived as an opener in the lead-in to the World Cup, has been forced to adapt to unfamiliar late-innings scenarios in a handful of Australia's matches so far.

He performed admirably after coming in at No 4 halfway through Australia's run chase against India, scoring 42 at better than a run-a-ball, but has contributed scores of 15, 14 and 10 when he's been in the No 3 spot he's more accustomed to.

"He's playing a different role. It's not that he's not having success, he's been in a role where he's had limited opportunities," Haddin said.

"Before he could go out and set the pace of the innings and now the innings is dictating the role he needs to play. He's been okay with it — he's a class act."

"He's had little cameo through-out ... We're pretty happy with where he's at. He's just got to bat (according to) the situation."



West Indies players walk off dejected after losing World Cup game against Bangladesh. AP

Bitter pill to swallow

AFP ■ TAUNTON

Jason Holder says the West Indies face a tough task to reach the World Cup semi-finals after their dismal seven-wicket defeat against Bangladesh on Monday.

Holder's side fell victim to the second highest run chase in World Cup history as Bangladesh reached 322-3 with 8.3 overs to spare at Taunton.

It was a bitter pill to swallow for Holder after they had posted a solid 321-8, only to implode with a combination of woeful fielding and sloppy bowling.

The West Indies have lost three of their five matches and, with four games left, captain Holder conceded there is only a slim chance they can make the semi-finals in the 10-team tournament.

"It's looking tough at this pre-

sent moment, but it's not impossible. We have to play every game here now as a final," Holder said.

"We've got to win every game left to give ourselves a really good chance."

New Zealand and India, both in fine form, are the West Indies' next two opponents and they must beat both to remain in contention.

"If we want to go through into the semi-finals we've got to beat the best teams," Holder said.

"We've got to back ourselves and be more clinical with the ball. A few top edges didn't go our way, but we didn't help ourselves as well."

"We've also got to score more runs because we haven't got a batsman with a hundred yet. I thought with the pitch conditions we could have got 365-375 but we were well short, 40 or 50 runs."

AGENCIES ■ NOTTINGHAM

Injured allrounder Marcus Stoinis returned to the bowling crease on Monday at Trent Bridge as he aims to prove he can still play a part in Australia's World Cup campaign.

Having injured his side against India more than a week ago, time is running out for Stoinis to hold onto his spot in Australia's 15-man squad, with Mitchell Marsh ready and available to replace his state teammate.

Under World Cup playing conditions, Stoinis cannot return to the squad should selectors decide to officially draw a line through him and call up Marsh for the rest of the tournament.

Australia will face Bangladesh in Nottingham on Thursday and Stoinis is doing everything he can to prove his fitness ahead of that match. He bowled four overs at Trent Bridge on Monday — the first time he's bowled since the India game — and now faces a bigger test at the team's main training session on Tuesday.

As the sole allrounder in the squad, the absence of Stoinis left

Race against time



Marcus Stoinis stretches during Australia's training session. cricket.com.au/Twitter

Having injured his side against India, time is running out for Stoinis to hold onto his spot in Australia's 15-man squad, with Mitchell Marsh ready and available to replace his state teammate

Australia with an unbalanced XI for their matches against Pakistan and Sri Lanka, something selectors would be reluctant to repeat heading into the business end of the tournament.

With time running out,

Stoinis' teammates remain hopeful the popular allrounder can keep his World Cup dream alive.

"He had a light bow today and he'll have a better run around tomorrow at the main session," wicketkeeper Alex Carey told

RSN. "Mitch Marsh is here as well ready to go and in really good condition."

"Hopefully Marcus gets up. It's such an important role and he's done such a great job for Australia over the past 12-18 months as

well."

With selectors keen to give Stoinis every chance to return to full fitness, they took a risk for the matches against Pakistan and Sri Lanka by picking a side with just four frontline bowlers along with off-spinner Glenn Maxwell, who skipper Aaron Finch said last week is "a good part-timer".

Maxwell impressed in bowling his full allotment of 10 overs against Sri Lanka while Finch chipped in with two overs himself in the win against Pakistan.

But vice-captain Carey indicated Maxwell's bowling was ideally viewed as a handy sixth option, rather than a frontline required to bowl 10 overs in every match.

"His bowling is really handy for us, ideally as an option, but not 'we need the 10 overs from him,'" he said.

"But we went to him for 10 (against Sri Lanka) and he did such a good job. Even Finch got a wicket against Pakistan, so there's an option there."

"Maxi is bowling well, but fingers crossed the allrounder comes up."

CRICKETCRADLE
TODAY LIVE
 New Zealand vs South Africa
 3:00 pm IST
 VENUE: Edgbaston, Birmingham

Tweet a buzz
 India maintained their dominance over arch-rivals Pakistan in World Cup history when the Virat Kohli-led team thrashed Pakistan by 89 runs at Old Trafford, Manchester on Sunday. It was for the seventh consecutive time in the history of the show-piece event when the Green Brigade failed to put up a show against the Men in Blue. While everyone saw the rivalry between both teams on the field, the roar of the fans was also loud on microblogging site Twitter. The much anticipated World Cup game broke records by becoming the most tweeted ODI match, generating 2.9 million tweets. While there was dialogue between both countries on the platform, when compared, official hashtags like #TeamIndia and #WeHaveWeWill as well as the number of tweets mentioning Indian cricketers and Pakistani cricketers, the Indian side dominated the conversation on Twitter.

We are Indians
 India vice-captain Rohit Sharma slashing Pakistan pacer Hasan Ali for a six over backward point in their clash at Old Trafford on Sunday had fans revisit the upper-cut played by the legendary Sachin Tendulkar off Shaob Akhtar in Centurion in 2003. While there have been constant comparison between the two shots and who played it better, Tendulkar shared his take on the same. Taking to Twitter, Tendulkar wrote: "We both are from India and in this case, Aamchi Mumbai as well. So heads I win, tails you lose! (sic)" Earlier, ICC had posed the question for the fans when it tweeted: "Sachin in 2003 or Rohit in 2019 — who did it better?" It was an amazing display of professionalism from the Men in Blue against Pakistan in Manchester. They first scored 336/5 in their 50 overs with Rohit hitting a brilliant 113-ball 140 and the bowlers then tightened the screws on the Pakistan batsmen as the Indians won the game by 89 runs (D/L method).

Don't get personal
 Shoab Malik, who is drawing flak after Pakistan's embarrassing defeat to India, has lashed out at the country's media for claiming that he and other players were out partying and smoking sheesha hours before the crucial encounter in Manchester. There were questions raised about the Pakistan players' fitness and the apparent flouting of the curfew norms after a series of photos and videos showed certain members of the team allegedly socialising past curfew. "When we Pak players are accountable for their credibility by our courts? Having served my country for +20 years in international cricket, it's sad that I have to clarify things related to my personal life. The videos are from 13th June and not 15th," he tweeted. Sania too took to Twitter to answer poshshots being aimed at her post the defeat. She battled Pakistani actress Veena Malik as she denied taking her kid to the Sheesha bar. "Veena, I have not taken my kid to a sheesha place. Not that it's any of your or the rest of the world's business cause I think I care about my son a lot more than anyone else does. Secondly I am not Pakistan cricket team's dietician nor am I their mother or principal or teacher," she tweeted.

Forget & move on
 Sarfaraz Ahmed has warned his teammates of further backlash at home if they fail to lift their game in the remaining matches of the ongoing World Cup. Pakistani cricketers are facing strong criticism from both fans and former players after the 89-run defeat to India in the marquee World Cup clash on Sunday. With just three points from five games, Pakistan are at the second last position in the tournament table and Sarfaraz has cautioned his teammates to be ready for the wrath of the public back home if the below-par performances continue. "If anyone thinks that I will go home, then it is their idocy. If God forbid something unfortunate happens then I won't be the only one going back home," Pakistani media outlet *theNews.Com.Pk* quoted Sarfaraz as saying. The captain has urged the team to forget the loss against the neighbours and move on. "Forget the bad performance and uplift the team for the remaining four matches," said Sarfaraz.

AGENCIES

PRELIMINARY STAGE

Pos	Team	P	W	L	N/R	Net RR	Pts
1	ENG	5	4	1	0	+1.862	8
2	AUS	5	4	1	0	+0.812	8
3	NZ	4	3	0	1	+2.163	7
4	IND	4	3	0	1	+1.029	7
5	B'DESH	5	1	2	2	-0.270	5
6	SL	5	1	2	2	-1.778	4
7	WI	5	1	3	1	-0.272	3
8	RSA	5	1	3	1	-0.208	3
9	PAK	5	1	3	1	-1.933	3
10	AFG	5	0	5	0	-2.089	0

An open partnership



Rohit Sharma, right, congratulates teammate KL Rahul on scoring fifty runs during World Cup match between India and Pakistan at Old Trafford

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON
 Communication has been the biggest USP in Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan's enormously successful opening partnership and the Indian vice-captain wants to create the same level of understanding with KL Rahul by the time World Cup reaches business end.
 Dhawan's fractured left-hand has put Rahul in the line of fire in a stage like World Cup but his senior opening partner is confident that they will slowly be able to build up the right level of communication required in such big event.
 In fact against Pakistan, Rohit allowed Rahul to take first strike, which he normally does when Dhawan is around.
 "Yeah, KL also likes to take the strike, and for me it was important to give him that because just like me, he also has the mindset of taking the first ball. That is

his comfort. He is playing his first game as an opener here, so I wanted to make sure that he's comfortable." Rohit said while making it clear what his responsibilities are as a senior player.
 Rahul, on his part, knows what a big opportunity it is and he is ready to fill in the big boots of Dhawan till the time he comes back (if at all in this tournament).
 "Obviously Shikhar and Rohit for the last three or four years have been such a dangerous combination having done so well. They have owned those positions. I had to wait for my chance and I am just happy that I got to bat in the top of the order," Rahul told reporters in mixed zone.
 However, during their stand of 136, there were a couple of occasions when Rohit could have nearly got run out primarily because of the lack of communication between the two.
 But the champion opener is game for this new challenge as it was

WE (RAHUL & I) HAD A LOT OF COMMUNICATION (DURING PAKISTAN GAME) WHILE WE WERE BATTING, SO SLOWLY WE WILL BUILD ON IT. NOW THAT I KNOW HE'S GOING TO OPEN FOR THE NEXT FEW GAMES AS WELL, SO THAT CONVERSATION BETWEEN US IS REALLY, REALLY IMPORTANT, AND I HOPE THAT CONTINUES BECAUSE IT'S GOING TO ONLY HELP BOTH OF US — ROHIT SHARMA

Not a perfect score

PTI ■ MANCHESTER
 Promoted to the opening slot, KL Rahul rated his performance against Pakistan at six out of ten, saying he will only get better after his composed fifty helped India set up a challenging total against the arch-rivals.
 With Shikhar Dhawan ruled out of three World Cup games following a hairline fracture on his thumb, Rahul opened the innings with Rohit Sharma in his first international match against Pakistan here Sunday.
 Rahul, who made 57 off 78 balls as part of the record 136-run opening partnership with Rohit, said he is grateful to get the opportunity to realise his dream of representing his country against Pakistan.
 "Shikhar and Rohit, in the last three or four years, have been such a dangerous combo. Their partnerships, if you see anywhere in the world, they've played so well for the country and they've been No 1 and 2 — they've owned those positions," said Rahul.
 "I've had to wait for my chance and I'm just happy that I got to bat in the top three. It's my first international game against Pakistan and it has come in a World Cup so I couldn't ask for anything bigger or better.
 "As a kid or as a young cricketer growing up this is what you dream to do — I'm really happy that I got the opportunity and I give myself six out of ten! Hopefully I carry on the confidence and get better.
 The 136-run partnership was India's best first-wicket stand in a World Cup match against Pakistan as the two-time champions set an intimidating total of 336/5 against their arch-rivals.
 Rahul stressed on the need to fight in the initial few overs to



KL Rahul bats during nets session

international cricket is all about — clearing new obstacles every passing day.
 "These are the sort of challenges you face — the understanding of when he wants to run that two, when I want to take that single, and things like that.
 "These are very little things, but of course, eventually they add up to a whole lot for the team because at that point we never wanted to get run out. That was the last thing in our mind to do that," said Rohit.
 But since they batted for nearly 24 overs (23.50 to be precise), they had communicated a lot and it's only going to improve from here on, feels Rohit.
 "But we had a lot of communication (during game against Pakistan) while we were batting, so slowly we will build on it. Now that I know he's going to open for the next few games as well."
 "So that conversation between us is really, really important, and I hope that continues because it's going to only help both of us."

build up a partnership.
 "With the new ball, against any bowler, it's important to see off the first few overs. That was especially true here because we didn't know what to expect from the wicket as it had been under covers for the past few days," he said.
 "Once we got through those, we felt a lot more comfortable. For an opening batsman it's important to hit a few balls in the middle of the bat and get a few boundaries going."
 Then you start to focus on the game and all the pressure, the hype of India-Pakistan and the World Cup stage just goes away from your head. The initial few overs are the fight, so we were happy to get through that and happy to get the win.

Fun, food & other things

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON
 A team that stays together, plays together.
 At least that's what the Indian team management believes as its plans various activities during long tours which has a two-fold gain — to switch off a bit and also enjoy each other's company off the field which is very important for on-field performances.
 The current Indian team also actively take part in bonding sessions, which are carefully planned during an away series. It could be anything from fun games to having a simple meal in a group of four.
 Before the start of the World Cup, Indian team was seen playing paint ball and now that there is a break before the next game against Afghanistan on Saturday, some bonding activities are planned.
 The team members are provided with a weekly activity schedule and they are told to do things which are more organic in nature than forced.
 "In this Indian team, the bonding sessions have been a part for some years now. It could be some fun games and at times some other activity. Right now, the players are with their families enjoying a break. Once they come back, some activities are

planned," a senior BCCI official said.
 While Virat Kohli is the captain, the team's 'Leadership Group' has three members — Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Mahendra Singh Dhoni.
 At times, in a team of 15, the 12 players are divided into groups of four and they are handled by each of the three senior members.
 It is always insisted that players from different regions hang out together and at least have a meal together. Just for example, Vijay Shankar, newest member of the team will certainly feel more comfortable interacting with a Dinesh Karthik. Same language, food habits, that is natural.
 "But there are times when Karthik will need to have a meal with another junior player. It's not something that is forced but it should happen naturally," the official said.
 It's not only about cricket but seniors are encouraged to speak to the junior players about other aspects of life also where they can take a cue from them.
 "It could be anything from handling stardom to managing investments. The seniors with their practical experiences could help the juniors out or may be dividing them into groups of three, with the same gym slot.



Shikhar Dhawan's Instagram post in which he and his opening partner Rohit Sharma is seen spending time with their families

Bonding during some strenuous exercises isn't a bad idea either," he added.
 Team bonding sessions have been in vogue in Indian cricket for long, only the terminology has changed with changing times.
 In '70s, it used to be Sunday Clubs, a concept that was borrowed from English countries where players were told to dress up in a certain way or enact certain scenes.
 There used to be punishments like walking from one's own hotel room to the team activity room in underwear with a neck tie around the waist.
 Or else, some were made to apply lipstick and told to dance like *Basanti of Sholay*. At times it would be fun but other times it could be bordering on ragging as some of the old timers recall.
 It became more of a fun during Gary Kirsten's time and Paddy Upton's much acclaimed book *Barfoot Coach* has some cute pictures of Virender Sehwag and Gautam Gambhir dressed as women during a play they were part of.
 From the mid 90s till early 2000s, the team bonding activities hardly took place, especially during Azharuddin's era when the Indian side was a disjointed unit with not much trust existing between the players.