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Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan
Hon'ble Governor of Telangana & A.P.



Sri Devendra Fadnavis
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra



Sri Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh



WORLD'S LARGEST MULTI-STAGE, MULTI-PURPOSE LIFT IRRIGATION SCHEME PRIDE OF INDIA AND BOON TO TELANGANA KALESHWARAM MULTI-PURPOSE LIFT IRRIGATION PROJECT

Amicably solving all Inter state disputes, obtaining all permissions and clearances, overcoming all obstacles strategically, within a short span of just three years, the multi phase, multi purpose project constructed by the Telangana State Government **Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme is dedicated to the nation today.**



Water is supplied for two crops in a year to 45 Lakh acres



40 TMC of water through "Mission Bhagiratha" to supply safe drinking water daily to every household



Drinking water to be supplied to one crore population in Greater Hyderabad city daily



Supply of 16 TMC of water to thousands of industries in the State for the industrial usage



Opportunity for Hydel power generation



The new and latest records established in the annals of Irrigation history in the country by Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme

- Utilisation of 139 MW maximum capacity Pumps which were never used anywhere in the world
- World's longest Tunnel route of 203 Kilometers
- Kaleshwaram is the one and only project in the world, which can lift 2 TMC of water every day. Efforts are on to lift 3 TMC of water from next year
- This is the only project in the world, which caters to the water needs of 45 lakh acres of agriculture land, hundreds of industries and drinking water to thousands of villages
- This is also for the first time that water from Godavari River is lifted in phases from 92 meters height for supply of water to the farmland, taking it upto 618 meters height

It is indeed, an auspicious day for the people of telangana when Honourable Chief Minister **Sri K. Chandrashekar Rao's** dream is realised and when the multi purpose Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project is inaugurated today. It is a moment of honour and pride for India, with the construction of Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, the World's Largest Multi Phase, Multi-Purpose Lift Irrigation Scheme.

Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan
Hon'ble Governor of Telangana & A.P.

Sri Devendra Fadnavis
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra

Sri Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh participating as Chief Guests,

Sri K. Chandrashekar Rao
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana

will formally inaugurate the **Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project**

Date: 21 June 2019, Time: 10.30 AM

Place: Medigadda, Jayashankar Bhupalpally District

Stage-wise lift irrigation process from 92 meters to 618 meters

Area	Height (Meters)	Height of Lift (Meters)	Water Usage in TMC
Medigadda	92		16.17
Yellampally	148	56	75
Mid-Manair	318	170	25.873
Sriram Sagar	332.54	14.54	200
Malakpet	432.50	127.5	8.6
Anantagiri	397	95	3
Ranganayak Sagar	490	117	11
Mallanna Sagar	557	103	108
Konda Pochamma Sagar	618	120	29

CM: No place for corrupt officers, staff in govt

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Taking a cue from the Centre, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that there was no place for corrupt officers and staff in the government and they could be shown the door by giving them compulsory retirement.

The Chief Minister said this while reviewing the work of Secretariat Administration department at Lok Bhawan here on Thursday. He asked the officials to prepare a list of corrupt officers, saying that such officers could be forced to take voluntary retirement. He also advised firm action against corrupt employees, saying that they be barred from promotion.

Yogi also asked the officials to ensure payment of employees' dues pending for over four months and to take action on issues related to promotion, filling up of vacancies and retirement of employees.

Enquiring about e-office system, Yogi directed officials to expedite work on connecting every office with the system.

"It (e-office system) should later be taken to district offices and arrangements should be made to preserve important documents of the secretariat," he said.

Yogi also issued directive that data of employees be fed on Manav Sampada portal so that their service-related matters could be disposed of in a time-bound manner. "Soon, biometric system will be installed in secretariat," he said.

Speaking on sanitation and security, Yogi directed officials to

Effective action needed in crime against SC, ST and minorities: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday directed officials to take effective action in crime against minorities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and ensure that there were no mob lynching incidents.

Reviewing the law and order in the state, the Chief Minister expressed displeasure that the figures do not reflect the control on crime. "It should also reflect how the common man feels safe," he said.

Asking police officials not to let any criminal loose, Yogi said to uphold public trust, police should strictly and effectively deal with those who commit crime against women and minor girls.

"Our priority is the common man and he should be satisfied. Prisons should not become a refuge for criminals and criminal conduct. Those responsible for it will be marked and a list would be prepared and stern action would be taken," he warned.

The Chief Minister said that law and order situation should be reviewed every week and asked officials to speed up the prosecution so

that it set an example and instilled fear in criminals.

Yogi said any illegal transaction or corruption at any level in any department was not acceptable and should be checked immediately.

"Officials who do not take interest in work are a burden and a blot on the police uniform and they should be given retirement," he said.

The Chief Minister asked field officials to hold weekly and fortnightly reviews of their departments.

He asked the officials to prevent crime against women and minor girls and asked woman police officers to go to the field.

Yogi said that crime could be controlled with a strong will and for this the officers would have to take an interest.

He asked the officials to tighten the security of Vidhan Bhawan and Secretariat and make all preparations for the monsoon session next month.

Chief Secretary Anup Chandra Pandey, DGP OP Singh, Principal Secretary, (Home) Arvind Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary Avanshi Awasthi and media advisor Mrityunjay Kumar were present in meeting.



ensure foolproof security check points in the secretariat and related offices. "No unwanted person should enter any administrative office without official permission and mobile phones be banned for unauthorised persons," he advised.

The Chief Minister also issued instruction that all auditoriums be named after great personalities. He asked secretariat officials to coordinate with municipal corporation and remove hoardings in front of Vidhan Bhawan and Lok Bhawan. Yogi also advocated the strengthening of IGRS (Integrated Grievance Redressal System) monitoring so that complainants could be redressed by the government as it would help in bringing transparency and creating a positive image of the government.

The meeting was also attended by Additional Chief Secretary (Secretariat Administration) Mahesh Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister SP Goyal and other officials of the department.

Guv, CM to take part in Yoga Day today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

International Yoga Day will be observed across Uttar Pradesh with the main programme being held at Raj Bhawan in the state capital on Friday morning. It will be attended by Governor Ram Naik, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and several senior officials and politicians.

While Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma will participate in the Yoga Day programme at Raj Bhawan, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya will attend the programme in Prayagraj and BJP state president and Union minister Mahendra Nath Pandey in New Delhi.

Bharatiya Janata Party state vice-president Vidyasagar Sonkar said in Lucknow on Thursday that International Yoga Day functions would be organised across the state and in almost all districts and UP ministers would join the functions.

Prominent BJP leaders and ministers who will attend the Yoga Day programmes in UP include Union minister General (Retired) VK Singh (in Ghaziabad), UP minister Surya Pratap Shahi (Lalitpur), Swami Prasad Maurya (Budaun), Dara Singh Chauhan (Barabanki), Dharampal Singh (Gorakhpur), Ramapati Shastri (Unnao), Brijesh Pathak (Sitapur), Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary (Shahjahanpur), Chetan Chauhan (Farrukhabad), Srikant Sharma (Bijnore), Sidharth Nath Singh (Meerut) and Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi' (Rae Bareilly).

Truck driver shot by security guard for ₹20

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a sensational murder reported from Hamirpur, a truck driver was shot dead by the security guards of a sand mine in the district for paying them ₹20 less of the extortion amount.

The truck driver was reportedly paying ₹30 to the security guards as 'rangdaari' (extortion) instead of ₹50.

Surprisingly, this cold-blooded murder took place right under the nose of the local police even when the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is probing into illegal mining in Uttar Pradesh, including in Hamirpur.

Station house officer of Sisolar police station, Rakesh Kumar Pandey, said the incident took place around 4 am on Thursday.

He said the security guards at Bhulsi sand mine-3 got into

an argument with truck driver Arun Kumar (22) after he paid ₹30 instead of ₹50 as 'rangdaari'.

"There was an argument over ₹20 and the angry security guards fired at Arun Kumar," the SHO said, adding that the killer guard and those present at the mining site at that time were absconding.

On the basis of a complaint filed by the deceased's father, a case has been registered against four persons, including the mine owner, according to the SHO.

The body of the truck driver was sent for post-mortem and investigation is underway.

Teams of police have been formed to trace out the absconding accused.

In a separate incident, a journalist was critically injured when some people thrashed him badly in the Sadar Bazaar area of Mathura on Thursday.

Senior Superintendent of Police in Mathura, Shalabh Mathur, said Vakil Khan, a lawyer who also works with an evening newspaper, was beaten up badly by some miscreants and thrown out of a moving car. The injured journalist has been admitted to a hospital.

The district police chief said two police teams had been constituted to arrest the assailants. He said it appeared that the scribe was attacked over personal enmity.

The four assailants dragged the journalist inside their car and attacked him with knives after badly thrashing him. Later, they threw him from the moving car after some passers-by chased them.

Reports of attacks on media persons were recently received from Shahjahanpur, Pilibhit, Shamli and other places of the state.

VHP leader shot at, injured

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In a shocking incident, some unidentified assailants shot at and injured a Vishva Hindu Parishad leader, Vijay Agarwal, in an area under the Jhansi police station here on Thursday.

The incident created a sensation in the area. Eyewitnesses claimed that the hooligans fired three rounds. However, the bullets pierced his legs injuring him. The assailants managed to flee from there.

The injured was immediately rushed to the SRN Hospital here for treatment.

As per reports, Vijay Agarwal, a resident of New Jhansi locality near the Jhansi police outpost, is a businessman and owns an electronic goods shop. He is also a VHP leader.

On Thursday afternoon when he was sitting in his shop, three motorcycle-borne miscreants came there and fired at him indiscriminately.

Targeting Vijay the assailants opened three rounds

of fire and one of the bullets hit his legs as a result of which he slumped on the ground bleeding profusely.

When the assailants saw the people of the nearby areas venturing out from their houses to rescue Vijay they beat a hasty retreat.

Before fleeing they threatened Vijay with dire consequences. On getting information the Jhansi police reached the spot.

But by that time the locals had taken Vijay to the SRN Hospital in a critical condition.

CPI-M flays draft varsities ordinance

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Criticising the state government for its draft ordinance on private universities to check anti-national activities, Communist Party of India (Marxists) state secretary Heera Lal Yadav said that Yogi Adityanath wanted to force the Bharatiya Janata Party ideology on educational institutions.

"It is an attack on autonomy and freedom of private universities. The Yogi government aims to appoint its representatives and impose its ideology in educational institutions," he said.

Yadav said that the BJP was offering lame excuses that the ordinance was to check anti-national activities in universities.

The Communist Party of India (Marxists) state secretary pointed out that there were several laws to check anti-national activities in the country and they were applicable on universities.

The CPI-M leader said the draft ordinance cleared by the government was not well defined.

"Anti-national activities have not been defined properly in the ordinance. There are chances that the government could misuse it. It seems to be a hidden agenda of RSS and the Bharatiya Janata Party government may use it against those who disagree with their ideology or oppose them," he said.

PGV hits out at Yogi over law and order

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary in-charge UP East, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra attacked Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath over deteriorating law and order, saying that members of the fairer sex were forced to live in an atmosphere of fear in Uttar Pradesh.

In a tweet on Thursday, Priyanka hit out at Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath "for his failure to check crime", saying that innocent minors were being subjected to brutality in UP and women had been pushed to live in fear of falling prey to sexual abuse.

She alleged that even men were torched alive in the state and those enjoying power had preferred to keep their eyes shut towards such atrocities. The Congress leader sought to know when would the UP government start taking responsibility of saving the modesty of girls and women and when would they ensure a society free from fear to everyone.

In her tweet, Priyanka also posted details of incidents in

June, highlighting the killing of the first woman chairperson of UP Bar Council, torching of a block development committee member in Aligarh, rape and murder of a toddler in Aligarh, rape and murder of a seven-year-old girl in Gorakhpur, gang-rape of a woman after taking her husband at gunpoint in Rampur, rape of an 8-year-old girl in Bareilly and how a woman was forced to make several rounds of a police station in Budaun but her FIR of gang-rape was not registered.

Meanwhile, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati in her tweet on Thursday criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party-led states for attacks on members of Dalit community.

"Caste based atrocities and killings have become rampant in Gujarat," tweeted Mayawati, saying that despite demand of security, a Dalit identified as Manji Solanki (co-sarpanch in Botad district of Gujarat) was murdered due to hatred towards the community.

Condemning the attack, she demanded security for Dalits and marginalised sections of society.

Govt introduces Khadi school uniforms

Lucknow (PTI): Uttar Pradesh government has introduced Khadi school uniforms on a pilot basis in some districts of the state to promote the indigenous fabric among children, the state's Basic Education minister said on Thursday.

"In order to promote Khadi, and also enable the children to know its importance, the state government has decided to introduce Khadi school uniforms in primary schools (classes 1 to 5) in the state on a pilot project basis," Minister of State (Independent Charge) Basic Education, Anupma Jaiswal, told reporters here.

Initially, the project will be implemented in one block each in the four districts of the state including Bahraich, from the academic session beginning in July, she added.

"As per the results, the pilot project will be replicated across the state," Jaiswal said.

The school uniform for boys is dark brown trousers and pink shirts, while for the girls it is dark brown skirts and pink tops. The collars will be brown for both boys and girls.

QUICK TAKES

486 LIQUOR CARTONS MISSING FROM POLICE STRONG ROOM

Muzaffarnagar: A total of 486 cartons of liquor that had been seized during raids conducted in 2017 and 2018 have gone missing from a police station here, an official said on Thursday. It came to light on Wednesday that the seized cartons of liquor were missing from the 'malkhana' (strong room) of the Titavi police station, Station House Officer (SHO) S Kumar said. A case of negligence has been registered against Jagbir Singh, in-charge of the malkhana, and the matter is being investigated, he said. Last year, a 9 mm pistol seized from a criminal had also allegedly gone missing from the strong room of the Titavi police station.

MINOR RAPED FOR 6 MTHS, MAN HELD

Bulandshahr: A 19-year-old man was arrested on Thursday for allegedly raping a minor in Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr district, police said. The accused, a resident of a village under the Khanpur police station here, had allegedly been raping his 16-year-old neighbour for the past six months and had threatened her with dire consequences if she spoke to anyone about it, Siyana Circle Officer Dhan Prakash Tiagi said. The incident came to the notice of the girl's parents on Monday when she was stated to be pregnant. An FIR was filed on Tuesday

by the girl's parents under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. The accused was sent to jail after the girl's statement was recorded in the presence of a judicial magistrate under Section 164 of the CrPC, the CO said.

JEWELLER ROBBED, SHOT DEAD

Pratapgarh: A jeweller was shot dead and robbed of his cash and ornaments by some motorcycle-borne assailants here on Thursday, police said. Lallu Soni (50) was shot at by some men on the canal bridge while he was going to Babuganj market in the city, station house officer of Baghrai police station Nanhelal Yadav said. The miscreants fled from the spot with the cash and gold and silver jewellery that Soni was carrying with him, the SHO said. Soni was taken to a local hospital but was referred to another hospital in Allahabad, Yadav said, adding that the business man succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment.

LESBIAN COUPLE SEEKS POLICE PROTECTION TO MARRY

Muzaffarnagar: A lesbian couple in Shamli district has sought police protection after their families opposed their decision to get married and allegedly threatened them of dire consequences, an official said Thursday.

एक सार्वक कल की शुरुआत, परिवार नियोजन के साथ

समय से परिवार नियोजन अपनाइए अनचाहे गर्भ की चिंता से मुक्ति पाइए

पुरुष या महिला नसबंदी उन दंपति के लिए है जिन्हें और बच्चे नहीं चाहिए। यह एक स्थाई विधि है जो दंपति को अनचाहे गर्भ की चिंता से मुक्त रखेगा।

पुरुष नसबंदी (एनएसवी)

पुरुष नसबंदी यानि बिना चीरा और बिना टांके के एनएसवी विधि से चन्द मिनटों में पूरी की जाती है।

हर महीने की 21 तारीख (अवकाश की दशा में अगले कार्य दिवस में) प्रत्येक जिला अस्पताल में एनएसवी दिवस के रूप में मनाई जाती है।

नसबंदी होने पर विवाहित जोड़े को 90 दिनों के लिए कण्डोम या अन्य गर्भनिरोधक साधन का प्रयोग करना चाहिए।

अधिक जानकारी के लिए अपनी नजदीकी आशा या एनएम से सम्पर्क करें।

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2/3rds TDP RS members join BJP

Chandrababu puts up brave face as MPs seek legislature party merger with BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD

As Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief Chandrababu Naidu vacations in Europe with his family, his party on Thursday landed in a deep crisis. On a day of fast-paced developments, four of the TDP's six Rajya Sabha members passed a resolution to merge their legislature party in the Rajya Sabha with the BJP, "inspired and encouraged" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "impeccable" leadership. Later, they submitted their petition seeking the merger to Upper House Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, who will take a call on the matter.

BJP working president JP Nadda announced the merger of the "Group of Four" — YS Chowdary, CM Ramesh, G Mohan Rao and TG Venkatesh — with the BJP here at the party headquarters. The merger of the RS group comes even as one of the three TDP Lok Sabha members, Kesineni Nani, is also likely to follow suit and cross over to the BJP.

Their decision to back the BJP will give a boost to the saffron party in the Upper House as the BJP-led NDA does not have a majority there yet, though it is the largest block. The Rajya Sabha has a strength of 245 members and the BJP is the single largest party with 71 MPs while its allies have strength of 35 members.

The latest developments triggered speculation about



TDP Rajya Sabha members Y Sujana Chowdary, TG Venkatesh and CM Ramesh submit their resignation to Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu as they resign from the party in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI

the BJP aiming for a majority in the Rajya Sabha by engineering defections as the numbers to pass several key Bills in the Upper House elude the saffron party. With four of six TDP MPs breaking away from their party, it will meet the legal requirement of anti-defection law, which mandates the support of at least two-thirds members for a split to be recognised in Parliament.

Interestingly, till recently, Chowdary — the TDP legislature party leader in the Rajya

Sabha — was being raided by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with an alleged money laundering and bank fraud case against a firm promoted by him. The ED had seized the firm's assets worth ₹315 crore.

Reacting to the development, Chandrababu Naidu sought to put up a brave front saying, "We fought with the BJP only for Special Category Status for Andhra Pradesh and the State's interests. We sacrificed Central Ministers for spe-

cial status and condemn attempts of the BJP to weaken the TDP. Crisis is not new to the party. Leaders and cadre have nothing to be nervous about." He is scheduled to return home on June 24.

Welcoming the TDP MPs, Nadda said merger would make BJP stronger in Andhra Pradesh where "we would expand BJP's base." He said for long these MPs were impressed with the "dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and organisational skills of

party president Amit Shah" and wanted to join the BJP.

He said the MPs held a meeting and gave Shah the proposal for a merger which the party accepted. "I assure them that the BJP believes in politics of positivity and inclusiveness," Nadda said and hastened to add BJP's now famous tagline "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas".

Barring Mohan Rao, who had hurt himself, three other MPs were present at the conference of Nadda. Speaking on the occasion, Chowdary said he and his RS colleagues joined the BJP to contribute to the "nation building" under Modi's leadership. He said all of them thought that the best course is cooperation and not confrontation as far as the implementation of the issues in relation to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act are concerned and the BJP was the best forum to sort it out.

"You are aware of the mood of the nation," he said and pointed out that he had already worked under Modi as an MoS. The trio later attended the PM's dinner along with other leaders cutting across party lines.

The four apart, several of TDP senior leaders and former MLAs held a closed-door meeting at a hotel of Kakinada discussing their future. The meeting has fanned the speculation of them too quitting the party.

Continued on Page 7

Prez: Govt to continue dev journey for inclusive India

Kovind underlines Modi Govt's resolve to remove 'social evils' of triple talaq, illegal infiltration with NRC crackdown

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Outlining the "very clear mandate" for the Narendra Modi dispensation in the Lok Sabha polls for continuing the uninterrupted "development journey" that it started in 2014, President Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday said the Modi-2 Government is "moving ahead to create strong, secure and inclusive India".

Kovind underlined the Government's resolve to remove "social evils" of triple talaq and "nikah halala", intensify crackdown on corruption and to implement the National Register of Citizens (NRC) to check infiltration. The NRC is currently being updated in Assam on priority basis in areas affected by infiltration.

In an hour-long address to the joint sitting of Parliament with the PM, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and MPs of both Houses in attendance, the President said national security was paramount to the Government, he also revealed that the Centre will soon announce a new industrial policy — replacing that of 1991—



President Ram Nath Kovind, accompanied by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, arrives to address the Joint Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Thursday

AP

to promote growth of industries and creation of jobs. The BJP had played the national security card during the elections to the hilt by showcasing the Balakot airstrikes even as it had been at the receiving end over rising unemployment.

The customary address of the President is prepared by the Government of the day.

India "jumped" to 77 position in ease of doing business ranking from 142 in 2014 and would now "work to reach the top 50 in the world", he said, adding, towards this end process of simplification of

rules will be further expedited in collaboration with States.

The President said work is underway in full earnest to transform India into a global manufacturing hub. "Keeping in view Industry 4.0, a new industrial policy will be announced shortly," he said.

The new policy will replace the industrial policy of 1991 which was prepared in the backdrop of balance of payment crisis. This will be the third industrial policy after the ones released in 1956 and 1991.

Continued on Page 7

7 kids feared dead as van falls into canal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Three children drowned while four other kids were feared drowned after the driver of a pick-up van carrying 29 people lost control as a result of which the vehicle plunged into Indira Canal in Nagam area of Lucknow early Thursday morning.

Senior police officials and District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma reached the spot to oversee rescue work.

As per reports, Ram Bahadur of Sarai Pandey area of Barabanki along with members of his extended family had come to Lucknow to attend the wedding ceremony, they left for Barabanki by a pick-up van around 2:30 am on Thursday. As the van carrying 29 persons, including 22 adults, neared Chheda Kheda village, driver Durgesh of Barabanki probably dozed off as a result of which the van plunged into the canal.

On hearing the screams of the passengers who managed to crawl out of the van and reach the bank, the villagers rushed



Search operation underway in Indira Canal on Thursday in Lucknow

Pioneer

to the spot and called the police. The injured persons were taken to community health centre at Nagam.

Later, a massive rescue operation was launched by personnel of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) along with local police.

To control the agitated crowd that had gathered at the spot, PAC jawans and cops

were deployed. Firemen were also pressed into service to locate the missing persons.

The 25-foot water in the canal posed a stiff challenge in the rescue operation. To speed up rescue work, officials diverted water to bring down the water level in the canal and reduce the current.

The rescuers managed to fish out the bodies of three children, identified as Aman (9) of Nagam, Saurabh (8) and Shani

(5) of Sarai Pandey area of Barabanki.

However, four other kids, identified as Sachin (6), Sajan (8), Mansi (4) and Manish (5), all from Barabanki, were missing and efforts were on to locate them.

Later, recalling the ordeal, a victim said, "It was pitch dark outside. As the van hurtled down into the canal, the driver screamed in fear which sent us into a tizzy. By the time we could gather ourselves, the van landed on the canal bed. All of us tried to locate our children. But as it was becoming difficult to hold breath in the water, we somehow came out of the canal. Most of the children were missing and we started crying for help."

A police spokesman said that the bodies were recovered about 200 metres away from the mishap spot around 4 pm.

The police suspect that the driver was driving the van at a high speed and may have dozed off on the wheels, and hence could not control the vehicle even after some occupants cautioned him to take a right turn at Chheda Kheda road diversion point.

6 subs first big Make-in-India project

Govt issues tender for Indian Strategic Partners for ₹45K cr submarines

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the one of the first big decisions after assuming charge for the second term, the NDA Government has issued a tender worth over ₹45,000 crore for manufacturing six submarines in India. These submarine will be made under the Strategic Partnership (SP) model as part of an initiative of "Make in India" to propel Indian industry into the front league of nations capable of manufacturing front line fighter jets, submarines, warships, tanks and helicopters.

The tender or expression of interest was issued by the Defence Ministry on Thursday for shortlisting potential Indian Strategic Partners for construction of six conventional submarines as part of Project-751. At present, the Navy has nearly 15 submarines with more than half of them on their last legs of the operational life. The first Scorpene class submarine built with French collaboration joined the forces last year while the remaining five



will be inducted over the course of next one and half years. The Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL), Mumbai, is building these submarines.

Giving details of the latest tender, officials said here as a major initiative towards Make in India, the Government immediately has issued the Expression of Interest(s) for shortlisting of potential Indian Strategic Partners (SPs) for "Construction of six Conventional Submarines" for

P-75(I) Project of the Navy.

This is the second project being undertaken under the latest SP Model, with the first being the procurement of 111 Naval Utility Helicopters (NUH). This would provide a major boost to the indigenous design and construction capability of submarines in India, in addition to bringing in the latest submarine design and technologies as part of the project. The case was approved by the Defence Acquisition Council

on January 31. The tender for shortlisting of Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) will be issued in two weeks. Most of the submarine builders are foreigners.

The SPs in collaboration with OEMs have been mandated to set up dedicated manufacturing lines for these submarines in India and make India the global hub for submarine design and production. All six submarines under this project will be built in India by the selected Indian Strategic Partner in collaboration with the selected OEM.

In addition, the Indian Navy would have the option to manufacture six more submarines under the project. The project would not only aid in boosting the core submarine/ship building industry but would also greatly enhance manufacturing/industrial sector, especially the medium scale industries by development of an industrial eco-system for manufacture of associated spares/systems/equipment related to submarines.

In first, desi mats for yoga; Modi to lead nation from Ranchi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the nation in performing yoga along with nearly 20,000 other participants at Jharkhand's Ranchi, which will host the main event of International Yoga Day 2019 on June 21. A fifth in the series, this year's event will be the first environment-friendly yoga day, with authorities across the States replacing the synthetic mats with those made of khadi.

On the eve of the International Yoga Day, the latest yoga videos featuring Modi's animated version were shared with the public which is all geared up to celebrate the day. Modi tweeted, "On 21st June, we will mark #YogaDay2019. I urge you all to make Yoga an integral part of your life and also inspire others to do the same. The benefits of Yoga are tremendous."

The International Day of Yoga aims to raise awareness about many benefits of practising yoga. This year's slogan

This year's event will be the first environment-friendly yoga day, with authorities across the States replacing the synthetic mats with those made of khadi

is yoga for Heart. On December 11, 2014, the United Nations had proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga after recognising its universal appeal.

Like every year this time too, preparations are on in schools and offices in India and at Indian embassies around the world. For instance, the Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the Indian Consulate in Dubai, which are leading the Yoga Day activities for the

fifth year, said they have received the support of the UAE authorities in all the emirates to host the event.

Industry bodies like CII, FICCI, Institute of Company Secretaries of India, as well as educational bodies like CBSE, NCERT and UGC will also organise programmes on the occasion.

In the national Capital, the main event will be at Rajpath in New Delhi. This will be organised by New Delhi Municipal Council, NDMC in association with Ministry of AYUSH. Apart from the main event, the programmes will be held at Red Fort, Nehru Park, Lodhi Garden, Talkatora Garden, Yamuna Sports Complex and in Dwarka. A yoga shivir will also be organised for the Members of Parliament on the premises of Parliament House.

A mass yoga congregation of about 50,000 yoga lovers

from Delhi-NCR will be held on Red Fort Grounds. Scheduled to be the biggest gathering for Yoga Day Celebrations in Delhi, the event is jointly being organised by the Brahma Kumaris and Union Ministry of AYUSH. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu will preside over the event as Chief Guest.

Armed forces personnel too are playing active role to be part of the event. Border Security Force (BSF) jawans were seen performing yoga in Kupwara sector in Jammu & Kashmir, ahead of International Yoga Day while ITBP posted several other images and videos as well showing the jawans performing yogasanas across various places in India.



Workers carry yoga mats during the preparation at the venue of the 5th International Yoga Day in Ranchi on Thursday

PTI

Former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt gets life term for 1990 custodial death

PTI ■ JAMNAGAR

A court in Gujarat on Thursday sentenced sacked IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt to life imprisonment in a custodial death case dating back to 1990 when he was posted as an additional superintendent of police in this district.

Bhatt, who earlier made allegations against then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi over his handling of the 2002 Gujarat riots, has been behind bars in Palanpur for the last nine months in another case of allegedly framing a man in a drug seizure matter.

The Gujarat-cadre officer was suspended from the Indian Police Service in 2011 and sacked by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs in August 2015 on grounds of "unauthorised absence from service".

Continued on Page 7

Guv, CM to perform yoga

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Between 35,000 and 50,000 people are expected to participate in the International Yoga Day celebrations which will be held in the city on Friday. Director of Ayush Mission and special secretary RN Bajpai, while talking to *The Pioneer*, said that the main programme would be held at Raj Bhavan while other functions in different parks of the city. He said that over 2,200 people would participate in the programme at Raj Bhavan which would also witness the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Governor Ram Naik.

The programme will take place between 6 am and 7.15 am

and the rehearsals for the same were carried out on Wednesday. "People from organisations such as Patanjali, Gayatri Parivar and Arogya Bharti will be participating in the main programme and a combination of asanas will be performed for a period of 45 minutes," he said.

Bajpai said that the participants were trained at the Yoga Wellness Centres across the state. District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma said International Yoga Day would be celebrated at 11 parks of the city from 6 am to 8 am in which 4,500 people were expected to take part. He appealed to the people to come forward in large numbers to celebrate the International Yoga Day. Yoga will be performed at the Begum Hazrat Mahal Park, Buddha Park Daliganj, Rajaram Pal Park, Kaiserbagh

Baradari, Dr Bandhu Park, Indiranagar, Kargil Shaheed Park, Residency, Jhandewala Park, Aminabad, Ram Manohar Lohia Park, Gontinagar, Janeshwar Mishra Park, Gontinagar, Green Park, Vipul Khand, Gontinagar, and Auroribindo Park, Indiranagar.

DIOS Mukesh Kumar Singh said directions had been issued to all the schools whether government, private or aided for organising Yoga Day celebrations in their institutions. He said that in addition 500 students would be participating in the main programme at Raj Bhavan and 200 each at 11 parks of the city.

On the occasion of International Yoga Day on June 21, 2019, at the Ramakrishna Mission Sevashram, Vivekananda Polyclinic and Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow,

has been organising a free yoga camp since June 1, 2019. The yoga camp which lasted for the past 20 days will be concluded according to the Common Yoga Protocol in the Eastern Lawn of Ramakrishna Math, Niralanagar.

The UP chapter and Secretariat of PHD Chambers of Commerce will also celebrate International Yoga Day. Experts, while explaining the benefits of yoga, said: "Breath is the link between the body and emotions and by attending to it, you are able to soften the emotions and get rid of negative ones. A person performing yoga is one who is connected with infinity, connected with everybody. He doesn't feel isolated with anyone, at any time. Such a person is one who is skilful and flexible. Some people have a very flexible body but their minds are very rigid."

Allahabad boy tops polytechnic JEE

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Rahul Kushwaha from Prayagraj topped the Polytechnic joint examination examination (JEE) in the engineering category. The exam was conducted by the Joint Entrance Examination Council and the results were declared on Thursday afternoon. Rahul secured 378 out of 400 marks.

Smriti Ojha from Lucknow secured 143rd rank and secured first position among girls. Secretary SK Vaish, while addressing mediapersons, said 4.36 lakh candidates registered for the exam and 3,60,787 turned up.

"Nearly 3,39,174 out of these candidate have been successful, which was approximately 94 per cent of the students who had appeared in the exam," he said. Vaish said that online counselling would begin from June 27 and students could lock their choices between June 29 and July 2. "The students can keep changing their college choices as the counselling proceeds," he said.

Vaish said 10 per cent of the seats would be reserved for EWS. He added that the total number of seats for admission was 2,02,552 and it would increase as some more pharma institutes would get recognised in the state in the coming times. "The total number of institutes in the state are 883, including 150 government

institutes, 714 private and 19 aided. The session is likely to begin by August 1," he said.

He added that the OMR sheets were scanned three times this year when the results were being prepared. "Nearly 48,980 females had registered for the exam, 40,718 appeared and 39,457 cleared it," he stated. The top 10 in the engineering category include Rahul Kushwaha from Prayagraj (first rank), Sachin Kumar Bind from Prayagraj second rank, Pradeep Patel from Prayagraj third rank, Ramakant Yadav from Prayagraj fourth rank, Vipin Gupta from Basti fifth rank, Bharat Maurya from Prayagraj sixth rank, Sunil Kumar Maurya seventh rank, Priyank Katiwal from Hapur eighth rank, Suryajeet Yadav from Mirzapur ninth rank, Anjani Kumar Singh from Varanasi tenth rank.

Among girls, Smriti Ojha from Lucknow topped the list with 143rd rank, followed by Pallavi Joshi from Bareilly, Sakshi Pandey from Varanasi, Neha Devi from Banda, and Aradhana Tripathi from Basti.

In Group B, which was Agriculture Diploma, the toppers included Divya Patel from Prayagraj, Raghendra Pratap from Hathras, and Namita Verma from Jhansi.

In Group C related to four diplomas, including Fashion Designing, Home Science, Textile Design and Textile

Smriti Ojha says she took it as a challenge

Lucknow (PNS): Smriti Ojha, who secured 143rd rank in the Polytechnic JEE, said she had taken the exam as a challenge which her father had given her, expressing doubts about her chances.

Talking to *The Pioneer*, Smriti, who will be joining an engineering institute in Rajasthan for B.Tech, said she was surprised by the result. "My father, who is a teacher, had said that I would not be able to clear either engineering or polytechnic exam, and I took it as a challenge," she recalled. She said she had no intentions of joining any polytechnic for a diploma course as she had cleared the entrance test for a private engineering institute in Rajasthan. In IIT-



JEE, her rank was among 10,000s. "I found the polytechnic entrance exam very easy," she said. The young achiever dropped a year to clear the exam and is interested in cracking civil services exam.

Design (Printing), the toppers included Ajeet Kumar from Farrukhabad, Shahid from Moradabad, Shanti Verma from Lucknow and Deepali Rajpoot from Lucknow. In Group D, related to two diploma courses including Modern Office Management and Library and International Science Management, the toppers included Neeraj Kumar from Aligarh, Anniruddh Pandey

from Gorakhpur, Saima from Unnao and Ritu Gupta from Lucknow.

In Group E related to Diploma in Pharmacy, the toppers included Satya Prakash from Lucknow, Mahesh Patel from Kanpur, Jyoti Verma from Barabanki, and Deepali from Kanpur. In Group F, Anand Kumar from Mathura and Alok Kumar Yadav from Kanpur ended up as toppers.

Death of student: Police reconstruct crime scene

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A forensic team on Thursday reconstructed the scene in connection with the mysterious death of a B.Tech (III) student, Shailendra Singh. He was found hanging in the forest cover in phase II of Kukrail under Gudamba police station area on May 23. He, along with a girl, had gone to the place on the fateful day.

On May 27, his mother Laxmi had lodged a case of murder against the girl and her aides. "We have yet to conclude the report as investigations are underway," the police said. Shailendra, who was a resident of Faizullahganj in Madiaon, was a student of Maharshi University. On May 23, he went to take the exam and later reached the forest along with the girl for an outing. The girl told the police that Shailendra was forcing her to accompany him deep inside the forest cover while she was opposed to the idea.

"Shailendra got upset and tried to end his life using her dupatta. I snatched the dupatta from him after which he climbed the tree and tied a belt around his neck and then jumped off," the girl had told the police. The forensic team reconstructed the scene on the

basis of girl's statement. Also, a dummy was hanged from the tree after tying a belt around its neck and observations were recorded.

SUICIDE

A 42-year-old man ended his life at his house in Krishna Nagar some time on Wednesday night. Police said the man ran a salon in Ashiyana. The deceased was identified as Vikas Srivastava of Ashutosh Nagar (Krishna Nagar). He was staying in the house of his father-in-law Surendra Kumar, who told the police that he went upstairs to see Vikas after the latter did not wake up in the morning, but found the door bolted from inside. "I peeped inside through the window and found Vikas hanging from the ceiling with a curtain tied around his neck," Surendra told the police.

Meanwhile, a truck driver died under mysterious circumstances in Mohanlanjan on Wednesday night. Reports said Bhanwarpal of Mainpuri, reached a factory in Gopal Kheda of Mohanlanjan to unload generators. The police said Bhanwarpal complained of uneasiness after he had dinner at a dhaba. He was rushed to a hospital where he was declared brought dead.

Police bid to win trust of people

Lucknow (PNS): In compliance with government's instructions, a police team led by ADG (Lucknow Zone) Rajeev Krishna and SSP Kalanidhi Naithani, took out a foot march in Naka on Thursday night. The officers checked different beat points during the march which kicked off at Nattha tri-section and ended at Naka police station.

During the march, the ASG checked the beat books and registers of the policemen, and gave tips to the cops on improving patrolling, and developing a rapport with residents to win their trust.

The cops were asked to collect very minute information related to the areas in their beats and ensure patrolling for an hour on a daily basis.

The ADG also had talks with some of the onlookers and sought to know about the behaviour and working of the police. During the march, the cops were asked to share the problems they face while on duty. The cops were also asked to remove roadside encroachments so that more space remain available on the road for traffic movement. The ADG asked the cops to strike a direct dialogue with public.

The move came after the senior police officials were hauled up for poor law and order in the state, including in Lucknow.



Police conducting a checking drive for helmets at Hazratganj crossing on Thursday

Pioneer

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD
E-tender Notice Number:- CM-I/Deluxe Pay & Use Toilet/BOT/CNB (City Side)/2019 Date: 14.06.2019
E-Tender Notice
 Following e-tender on prescribed tender forms are invited by the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, North Central Railway, Allahabad on behalf of President of India:

E-Tender No.	Name of Work and Station	Minimum Reserved L/Fee of Contract for 15 years	Minimum Reserved L/Fee of Contract for 01 years	Earnest Money
83/2019	Contract of Deluxe Pay & Use Toilets on "Built, Operate and Transfer" (BOT) basis at Kanpur Central Railway station (City Side) for a concession period of 15 years.	₹2,45,85,506/-	₹9,78,371/-	₹97,900/-

Period of Contract: 15 Years Cost of Tender Form: ₹11,800/- Time & date for the opening of tender: At 15:00 hrs. on 12.07.2019. Website & Notice where the full detail of tender can be seen: E-tender forms shall be available on www.ireps.gov.in upto 13.00 hrs. on 12.07.2019 from the date of opening of the e-tender. The e-tender Notice can also be viewed on Railway's web site www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 828/19(K) North central railway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

कार्यालय : अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जोन-3
जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम, लखनऊ
 पत्रांक संख्या : 715 / E.E.-3/G.L.7 / 19 दिनांक : 20.6.2019

अल्पकालीन निविदा-सूचना

जोन-3 के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न कार्यों हेतु जलकल विभाग जोन-3 द्वारा निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 28.06.2019 अपराह्न 2 बजे तक निर्धारित शुल्क जमा करके कैश काउन्टर से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है तथा दिनांक 28.06.2019 को अपराह्न 3 बजे तक निविदा प्रपत्र डाली जा सकती है, जो उसी दिवस को 4 बजे निविदादाताओं अथवा उनके प्रतिनिधि के समक्ष खोली जायेगी। निविदा विवरण निम्नानुसार है :-

क्रम सं०	कार्य का विवरण	निविदा शुल्क	जमानत धनराशि	अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
1.	अलीगंज सेक्टर एन-1 में नये मिनी नलकूप के लिये पम्प हाउस का निर्माण व एमओएसो गरडर एवं अन्य कार्य।	Rs. 200.00 +12% GST	Rs. 10000.00	Rs. 484960.00
2.	अलीगंज सेक्टर एन-1 में नये नलकूप के लिये रिंग मशीन, कम्प्रेसर, ओपीओ यूनिट एसेम्बली एवं अन्य कार्य।	Rs. 200.00 +12% GST	Rs. 10000.00	Rs. 499142.56
3.	अलीगंज सेक्टर एन-1 नये मिनी नलकूप के लिये 250 पीओएसआईओ एयर कम्प्रेसर व अन्य कार्य।	Rs. 200.00 +12% GST	Rs. 10000.00	Rs. 475104.00
4.	अलीगंज सेक्टर एन-1 नये मिनी नलकूप के लिये पम्पिंग प्लान्ट, मेन पाईपिंग व वाल्व, प्री ग्रेविल एवं अन्य कार्य।	Rs. 200.00 +12% GST	Rs. 10000.00	Rs. 439040.00

जमानत राशि अधिशासी अभियन्ता जलकल विभाग, जोन-3 के नाम बचक होगा जो जमा करना अनिवार्य है। सभी निविदादाताओं का रजिस्ट्रेशन, जीओएसओ नं० की छायाप्रति निविदा के साथ संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है। बिना जमानत धनराशि के व निर्धारित तिथि व समय के उपरान्त किसी भी निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। किसी एक व समस्त निविदा को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी अथवा महाप्रबन्धक जलकल विभाग नगर निगम को सुरक्षित होगा। अन्य शर्तें निविदा प्रपत्र में उल्लिखित हैं।
 (एमओडीओ मिश्रा)
 अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जोन-3
 जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम

Corporator threatens suicide, halts anti-encroachment drive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A corporator created a scene and threatened to end his life after scribbling a suicide note during an anti-encroachment drive and halting the process in Gudamba.

A team led by tehsildar Savita Shukla had reached Bahadurpur village of the area where a house had been illegally constructed on government land. Reports said the corporator, identified as Pankaj Yadav and his aides (some of whom were donning a uniform of an advocate), reached the scene soon after the team started demolishing the illegal structure.

Pankaj lay himself down

before the bulldozer, stopping the demolition work. He scribbled a suicide note on the spot in which he mentioned the name of the tehsildar, holding her responsible for his self-immolation. It forced the team to wind up the operation and leave the scene.

DOC BOOKED FOR EXTORTION BID

A 50-year-old doctor practising electrohomoeopathy was arrested for alleged extortion and issuing life threats to a man in Bazaarkhala on Thursday. A case was registered in this connection and the accused was booked under sections 147 (for rioting) and 323/504 (for threatening and abusing) of IPC.

The accused, identified as Ajay Gupta of Ektanagar in Bazaarkhala, was arrested from Thaggu tri-section in the locality. SHO, Bazaarkhala, Vijendra Singh said Umesh Chandra Gupta of Waterworks road in the same locality lodged a complaint against Gupta and five of his unidentified aides. "Umesh, who deals sale of batteries, alleged that Ajay and his friends stopped him on the way and demanded extortion. They whipped out a pistol and threatened to kill him if he did not cough up the money," the SHO said. He added that the police had got the names of Ajay's aides and were conducting raids to nab them.

Certificate programme in yoga by IGNOU



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

IGNOU has launched a certificate programme in yoga from the July 2019 academic session. Regional director Manorama Singh, in her address on the occasion of Yoga Fest organised at the regional centre from June 19 to 21, said that the launch of the new programme was a great opportunity for learners who wanted to make a career in yoga and wellness sector. She said that anyone who had completed Intermediate could get himself or herself enrolled in this programme.

Assistant regional director Kirti Vikram Singh said that the programme was of six months' duration and could be completed within a maximum

of two years. "After completing the programme, the candidates will understand principles and practices of yoga," he said. He also conducted a meditation session in which the learners were taught the techniques of Planetary Peace Meditation (PPM). Nishant Mishra, a yoga expert, helped the participants in practising yogic kriyas and pranayam.

It was also informed that yoga was essentially a practice based on an extremely subtle science, which focuses on bringing harmony between mind, body and spirit. Keeping this in view Indira Gandhi National Open University has launched a six-month Certificate Programme in Yoga from the July 2019 session.

Conference on smart cities held



Lucknow (PNS): To discuss current infrastructure of the state and to explore further possibilities to identify cities of the state as smart cities, the Lucknow chapter of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organised a conference on smart cities of UP.

The various topics discussed at the conference focused on the importance of enablers such as technology, e-governance, waste management solutions as well as urban housing solutions which can

make the city more user-friendly and environment-friendly. Principal Secretary and mission director (Swachh Bharat), Urban Development, Manoj Kr Singh spoke about the success of Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC) which was implemented at Prayagraj during Kumbh 2019. He said the department was in the process of implementing it for three more cities of UP. He cited the example of Putrajaya city in Malaysia and also highlighted how pink toi-

lets in Jhansi were gaining popularity and appreciation owing to the convenience and hygiene they offer to women. He requested CII to compile the findings of the discussions held during the conference.

Country head, Smart Infrastructure, Microsoft India (Public Sector), Samhita Sharma highlighted that data forms the core of the priorities of any city to address the needs of its citizens.

Speaking on the occasion, managing director of Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation Kumar Keshav said: "Lucknow Metro's Green initiatives like tree trans-location, regenerative braking, wheel-washing facility at construction sites etc have paved the way for green approaches to be adopted while the planning of urban development projects." He added that they would work as an advisory body for the upcoming Kanpur and Agra Metro projects.

SCHOOLSCAN



A five-member delegation of City Montessori School, Indira Nagar, will be participating in a month-long International Children's Campus in France. The student members of the delegation are Abeer Mankatala, Akshat Pandey, Pragati Saxena, and Shambhavi Chauhan, led by teacher Deepika Agrawal. The camp is being organised under the aegis of Children's 39's International Summer Villages (CISV), England, in which several students' delegations from different countries.

Conserve monsoon rainwater: PM to CMs AN-32 crash: IAF retrieves remains of 13 personnel

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Concerned about the water crisis and drought conditions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote to Chief Ministers of all States advising them to conserve rainwater during the forthcoming monsoon.

The PM had earlier written a personal letter to 'Gram Pradhans' (village chiefs) urging them to conserve rainwater. The issue of drought conditions and water scarcity was discussed at the highest level at the NITI Aayog's governing council meeting last week.

According to a NITI Aayog report, Delhi is among 21 major cities that will run out of groundwater by 2020. Situation in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu is also grim. It is not much better in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. About half of Maharashtra - including the districts of Latur, Beed and Osmanabad in Marathwada region - comprising nearly three-fourth of 36 districts of the state are



"Most of these measures need to be taken at the local level by mobilising gram panchayats and communities, and dovetailing resources from various ongoing Government programmes. Recent studies have also shown a marked reduction in fecal contamination of groundwater resources in many States owing to improvements in sanitation and use of toilets"

facing severe drought situation. In Karnataka, two dozen of its 30 districts - nearly 80 per cent - are reeling under drought.

In his letter, the PM advised the CMs to focus on the construction of farm pond structures, desilting and rehabilitation of irrigation tanks, micro-watersheds, construction of groundwater recharge structures, building of rainwater harvesting structures - both roof-top and ground-level tanks. "Most of these measures need to be taken at the local level by mobilising gram

panchayats and communities, and dovetailing resources from various ongoing government programmes. Recent studies have also shown a marked reduction in fecal contamination of groundwater resources in many states owing to improvements in sanitation and use of toilets," Modi stated in the letter.

The Prime Minister also asked them to take this matter on high priority and issue necessary instructions to the concerned departments and districts to draw up action plans with concrete.

According to the Drought Early Warning System (DEWS), about 42 per cent of India is 'abnormally dry' which around 6 per cent is more than last year. The pre-monsoon season this year is the second driest in 65 years, with gross rainfall deficiency recorded at 25 per cent, said private forecaster Skymet. Chennai and its suburbs are experiencing severe water scarcity this summer, with borewells and lakes going dry, forcing people and commercial establishments to depend on water supplied through tankers from villages

in neighbouring districts. A study by the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) from earlier this year found that groundwater levels in Delhi are depleting at an astonishing rate of 10 cm per year.

"Measurable outcomes and implement them under your personal supervision. I am requesting the Cabinet Secretary to follow up with your Chief Secretaries. The Central Government will continue to provide full support to States in the matter. We need to collectively take timely measures to enable optimum utilization of the coming monsoon rainfall by way of storing and conserving it for future use," Modi said.

According to India Meteorological Department (IMD), monsoon rain deficiency has touched 43 per cent till June 20 in the country. The monsoon has covered just about 10-15 percent of the country so far, whereas normally, two-thirds of India should have received monsoon rains by this time of the year.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The IAF, after 17 days of massive search and rescue operation, has finally managed to recover the bodies and mortal remains of all 13 on board the ill-fated AN-32. It had crashed on June 3.

A team of more than 20 mountaineers and commandos of the army were involved in the recovery effort of the bodies of the deceased. The bodies and mortal remains were recovered on Thursday as the rescue teams were unable to conduct the necessary actions due to inclement weather in the last four days. Moreover, the helicopters were also not able to reach the wreckage site located at a height of more than 12,000 feet in Lipo area near Mechuka advanced landing ground in Arunachal Pradesh due to low clouds and rains for the last few days, sources said

here on Thursday.

The mortal remains were now in the process getting airlifted from the crash site to Jorhat air base where the IAF will hand over the bodies to the next of kin after necessary official formalities, they said. Six bodies and seven mortal remains were recovered, it was learnt.

The rescue team had managed to salvage the flight data recorder or the black box some days back and was airlifted to Jorhat. However, the probe to ascertain the likely cause of the mishap after analysis the data of the black box may take time as the equipment is damaged. Experts are trying to retrieve the data.

It is feared that the AN-32 which took off from Jorhat in Assam on June 3 for Mechuka in Arunachal Pradesh crashed into a hill top. However, the analysis of the data and the court of inquiry will find out the exact reason of the accident.

Incidentally, in 2009, an AN-32 had gone down in the same region killing all 13 passengers.

The rescue effort to locate the AN-32 which went missing on June 3 saw the IAF carrying out more than 220 sorties of all kinds of planes including SU-30 fighter jets, C-130J special operations planes, P-8 I long range reconnaissance aircraft and Mi-17 and advanced light helicopters. The wreckage was sighted on June 9 by a Mi-17 on a steep ridge amidst dense jungles.

Mechuka advanced landing ground is located at a height of 6,000 feet and is the lifeline for troops deployed on the line of actual control (LAC) facing China. The distance of this airfield from the LAC is about 30 kms as the crew flies thereby making it strategically important.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will pay homage to the 13 personnel on Friday.

INSHORT

INDIA'S VOTE NOT AGAINST PALESTINIAN CAUSE: MEA

New Delhi: India's vote in the UN's ECOSOC against a Palestinian NGO should not in any way be construed as a vote against the Palestinian cause, MEA spokesperson Ravesh Kumar said on Thursday. In a rare move, India on June 6 voted in favour of Israel in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to deny the Palestinian non-governmental organisation 'Shahed' the observer status, after Israel said the organisation did not disclose its ties with Hamas.

SC WILL PASS ORDER ON DEEMED VARSITY SEATS

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday said it will pass orders on whether to allow deemed universities and private colleges to fill up their vacant seats in PG medical and dental courses by extending the schedule of counselling.

INDIA SHRUGS PAK'S PARLEYS CLAIM

New Delhi: India on Thursday rejected a Pakistani media report claiming New Delhi is ready for talks with Islamabad, saying Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar made no such reference in their response to congratulatory messages from their counterparts in that country.

CORBETT RESERVE SENDS NOTICE TO 15 WEBSITES

New Delhi: Authorities at Corbett Tiger Reserve have sent notices to 15 websites for fraudulently using its name to accept bookings from people for wildlife tourism and other facilities.

PREVIOUS ORDINANCES TABLED IN PARLIAMENT

New Delhi: Copies of 10 Ordinances, which could not be converted into law by the previous Government in the last session of the 16th Lok Sabha, were tabled in both Houses of Parliament on Thursday.

RAHUL'S REJOINER TO NCST'S NOTICE

New Delhi: Responding to a notice over his 'new law to shoot tribals' remark, Congress president Rahul Gandhi has told the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) that he made the comments in "free flow of a political speech". He had made the remarks while addressing a rally in Shahdol in Madhya Pradesh on April 23.

PASWAN TO BECOME RS MEMBER FROM BIHAR

New Delhi: Union Minister for Food and Civil Supplies and Lok Janshakti Party president Ram Vilas Paswan will be accommodated as Rajya Sabha member from Bihar. He will file his nomination papers on Friday. Paswan, who did not contest the Lok Sabha election in 2019 from his bastion Hajipur, owing to his health issues, had reluctantly given his nod to be sent to Upper House from another State.

BOOK ON AYURVEDA RELEASED

New Delhi: The book 'Tattva- Eat and Live' penned down by author Dr Shaily Agarwal and co-authored by Dr. MB Kavita, was released on Friday. The book launch event was organised by Syed Arshad of the Blue Rose Publishers. The author said the book gives an insight on basics of Ayurveda very briefly to help readers to know why the change in their diet is required.

IMA jewels: K'taka MPs meet Fin Min, seeks investigation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP MPs from Karnataka Prapat Simha and Tejasvi Surya met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday and submitted a memorandum to her requesting a high-level probe into the IMA jewels case.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued summons to IMA jewels scam main accused Mohammed Mansoor Khan to appear before it on June 24. But he has reportedly fled the country after threatening to commit suicide.

The police have formed teams to trace him. Names of

senior Congress ministers including RV Deshpande, current revenue minister and defected MLA Roshan Baig have surfaced in connection with the scam, though both of them have denied any involvement.

The scam came to light on June 10 when an audio clip of Khan blaming MLA Baig and other government officials of corruption went viral. In the video, Khan allegedly said that he defaulted on loans and couldn't pay back on account of giving bribes.

Since then, investors have been protesting outside IMA's office. As the number of grieving investors increased, police set up counters for them to file

complaints. The number of complaints increased from a few thousand in the first two days to 10,000 and now stands at 40,000. In addition, there was a separate counter at a different location for 200 employees of IMA, who have invested in the company taking loans from banks and have now lost their jobs.

The BJP MPs also apprised Sitharaman over Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) issue. "They requested to reinstate 2014 notification which made knowledge of native language study till 10th grade mandatory to apply for Regional Rural Banks exams," BJP MPs said.

Centre deploys 8 ambulances in Muzaffarpur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

To ensure timely treatment to the patients affected with Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)/Japanese Encephalitis (JE), the Centre on Thursday deployed 8 additional advanced life support ambulances (ALS) in Muzaffarpur in Bihar to ferry them from remote areas to the hospitals. Meanwhile, the State Government has launched a social audit along with active door-to-door case finding campaign and moving the prospective patients to the nearest PHC for early intervention.

The death toll has reached to 118 while the total number of AES cases registered since June 1 was 398 at the SKMCH

and 154 at Kejrival hospital, according to figures provided by the district administration.

"In view of the situation arising due to the AES/JE cases in Muzaffarpur and other adjoining districts in Bihar, the Union Health Ministry has instructed for deployment of eight advanced life support ambulances (ALS) in the affected districts.

"Accordingly, eight additional advanced life support ambulances (ALS) have been pressed into service for transportation of critical patients under National Health Mission (NHM)," said a statement here.

A central teams of 10 pediatricians and five para-medics has already started working in coordination with the state government while sixteen

senior district officials and medical personnel have been sent to the vulnerable blocks for monitoring and early identification of cases and ensuring daily reporting. Their headquarters have also been shifted to these blocks also, the statement added.

Union Health Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan said that the District Collector (DC) has now got involved and is personally taking responsibility. He has deputed the Senior Deputy Collectors (SDC)/District level officers to lead various block teams. These teams will be assisted by a district level Medical Officer and Medical Officer in charge (MOIC) to do the overall work at block level.

"The State government has started a social audit along with

active case finding campaign through house to house survey and moving the prospective patients to the nearest PHC for early intervention. Surprise checks are also being conducted at the PHCs by the Senior Deputy Collectors (SDC). Additionally, the early morning inspection of Anganwadi Centres is also being undertaken by SDCs and Child development Project Officers (CDPOs). They are also distributing of ORS to each house in the affected villages," he stated.

Also, an ICMR team of experts has been deployed at the Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital (SKMCH) hospital for making the virology lab operational at the earliest, said Dr Harsh Vardhan.

US Secy of State Michael Pompeo to visit India from June 25-27: MEA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In the first high-level visit from any country following the Lok Sabha polls, US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo will be in India from June 25-27 and hold talks with the leadership here to strengthen the strategic partnership.

His visit comes ahead of a meeting between US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan on June 28-29.

During his visit, Pompeo would hold talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and call upon other dignitaries, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Ravesh Kumar said at a media briefing.

"We look upon the visit as an important opportunity for both sides to further strengthen the India-US strategic partnership and continue high-level engagement on matters of mutual interest, including bilateral, regional and global issues," Kumar said.

"This is the first high-level engagement between India and the US following the elections. This is also the first incoming

high-level visit from any country. We look upon this visit as an opportunity to discuss all the issues which will be on the table," Kumar said.

He said most of the issues under the bilateral framework will be discussed and there will be some talks on regional as well as global issues of mutual interest.

Asked about media reports on the US considering caps on H-1B work visa, Kumar said, "We have not heard anything officially from the US government. We continue to reiterate and engage with the US government on this matter."

On whether the issue will be taken up with Pompeo during his visit here, Kumar said it would not be right to speculate on the agenda of his meetings here.

"There is no (official) report as such. There is no US official who has come up with a statement. It is a source-based report. We have not yet heard anything from the US government on this. We remain engaged with the US administration, we remain engaged with the Congress on this issue," Kumar said.

INX Media: CBI seeks nod to try four officials

BRIBERY CHARGES AGAINST PC, SON

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CBI has sought sanction for prosecution against four former officers, including three IAS officers, working in the Finance Ministry in the INX Media case involving charges of bribery against former Finance Minister P Chidambaram and son Karti.

The officers found to be involved in conspiracy with Chidambaram in illegally approving the FIPB clearance in 2008 were former NITI Aayog CEO Sindhushree Khullar, former secretary of the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Anup K Pujari and current principal secretary in the Himachal Pradesh government, Prabodh Saxena and retired under secretary Rabindra Prasad.

These officers were then working at Economic Affairs Department and had illegally approved the FIPB clearance to INX Media. Karti is accused of accepting bribe of Rs. five crore from the TV channel promot-

ers Indrani Mukerjea and Peter Mukerjea. Indrani has already become approver in the case, blaming Chidambaram for pressurising her to pay bribe to save her from the Income Tax prosecution.

Khullar was then additional secretary in Economic Affairs Department and was earlier OSD to Chidambaram. Pujari was Joint Secretary and Saxena was Director in Finance Ministry. The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) already approved CBI's sanction for prosecution and the files are currently in Finance Ministry now.

CBI is expected to file chargesheet soon in the fast track court meant for MPs and MLAs as the two accused Chidambaram and Karti are Parliamentarians. CBI has already arrested Karti in February 2017 and attached his Rs. 55 crore worth properties in Delhi, Ooty, Cambridge and Spain.

The Delhi High Court has already reviewed its orders on the anticipatory bail granted to Chidambaram and CBI's request to cancel it seeking custodial interrogation of the former Finance Minister.

MUNGER ARMS CASE

NIA raids 12 locations in Bihar, UP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday carried out searched at 12 locations in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in connection with investigation of Munger Arms Case. During the raids, the investigators seized rifles, lap tops and cash worth Rs. 29 lakhs.

"On the basis of credible evidence collected during investigation, searches were conducted in the houses of suspect Hulas Pandey and his close associates at different places at Buxar, Bhojpur, Rohtas, Varanasi and Patna"

The case pertains to recovery of three AK-47 along with other weapons on the disclosure of accused Shamsheer Alam from the house of his sister Rizwana Begum. In this case a large number of prohibited weapons including AK series weapons were stolen and smuggled out of the COD, Jabalpur to various Naxal organisations and criminal gangs," said NIA in statement.

"On the basis of credible evidence collected during investigation, searches were conducted in the houses of suspect Hulas Pandey and his close associates at different places at Buxar, Bhojpur, Rohtas, Varanasi and Patna," added the agency.

US filtering only anti-American content on terror

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The US continues to make distinction between good and bad terrorists and hosts the servers of a number of websites and app-based communication channels of terror groups circulating radical content online.

The US Government is not encouraging the American companies to remove radical or terror-related content completely from the servers based there. Instead, the American companies are only bothered to filter only anti-US content, said sources tracking online radical content.

The contents of Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammad, banned by the United Nations, are available through American servers including through a number of websites like rangonoor.com, alqalamonline.com and telegram channels.

In addition, the JeM is also contributing terror content through joint venture channel alribat, the official mouthpiece of Al Qaeda in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region. Terror groups sponsored by Pakistan's notorious spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) also Jaish contribute content through joint venture channel. The Brigade 313 which was earlier headed by listed terrorist Ilyas Kashmiri (now dead) also contribute radical content online through the joint venture channel whose server is also located in the US.

"During the last two decades, a noticeable trend of the US to hand over terrorists nabbed by the American forces from terror-infested areas like Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria to the country of belonging of ultras is also leading to terror threat. Such terrorists handed over by the US forces are ultimately freed after serving a few years of sentence and again start radicalisation which culminates into armed struggle against the government in the name of jihad," counter-terrorism expert Dr Rituraj Mate said.

During the Afghan operations, the US has handed over

a number of nabbed terrorists to a range of countries and asked them to punish according to their laws and portrays such actions as counter-terror cooperation.

Recently, the US had nabbed a Kashmiri ISIS operative Adil Ahmad Wada from Syria and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo may propose handing him over to India during his visit to New Delhi next week and seek to paint it as a major counter-terrorism cooperation despite Washington treating Kashmir as a disputed territory.

In the backdrop of the US hiding advance inputs on David Coleman Headley who was co-opted by the American government despite his linkages to the Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Tayyaba that carried out the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack in November 2008, the government here should be extremely cautious while accepting Wada's custody from Americans, sources said, adding Washington would tout it as a major counter-terrorism cooperation to seek various concessions or clear pending arms deals.

Mate said Wada's return to the Kashmir Valley could lead to strengthening of the fledgling Islamic State Jammu and Kashmir (ISJK) and could lead to a spurt in violent incidents by the global terror group. Wada hails from Jammu and Kashmir and had been studying in Australia before he left to Syria after joining the ISIS.

The US, however, does not return terrorists nabbed by its forces to countries like China and instead sends them to third countries from where anti-China radicalisation and terror activities are undertaken, sources said.

Google's Indian American CEO Sundar Pichai on Tuesday claimed YouTube has recently made "significant revisions" to its hate speech policy and removed over nine million videos in the last quarter as part of a process to reduce the spread of harmful content.



Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba and CBI Director Rishi Kumar Shukla pose for a group photograph during the 6th ILO's conference at CBI HQ, in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI

2 dead, 5 hurt in Bhatpara 'police firing'

CENTRE TO SEND FACT-FINDING TEAM TO BENGAL

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ NAIHATI/BHATPARA

At least two persons died and five were seriously injured in an alleged police firing on Thursday even as fresh violence erupted along Bhatpara-Jagaddal area in Barrackpore parliamentary constituency where political clashes have become a regular affair since the conclusion of the general elections on May 19.

The incident started when clashes broke out between two groups leading the police to intervene. While victims' fam-

ilies accused the police of opening fire at the fleeing crowd killing two persons on the spot, local police officers said, they had only resorted to tear-gassing and blank fire in a bid to disperse the violent mob.

"There were violent clashes between two groups and the police had to rush in. When we reached the spot our vehicles were attacked. The car of the Assistant Commissioner-II was badly damaged and it was at this juncture that the police had to fire in the air and burst tear gas shells," a senior officer said adding, "things are being investigated."

From Kolkata Home Secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay said the two dead persons had been identified as Rambabu Sahu and

Santosh Sahu adding the people of Bhatpara had been fleeing area in the wake of continuous violence adding some outsiders were disrupting peace in the area.

"Police have been rushed to the area and the situation has been brought under control," he said adding the area had been brought under Section 144 (IPC).

All shops along the 3-km area in this area remained closed with hardly any people venturing outside. Bhatpara is barely 45 km from Kolkata and is one of mega city's satellite townships. The region had been witnessing intermittent trouble for the past several weeks with goons of both the Trinamool Congress and BJP engaging each other in bomb-

and-gun battles forcing the Government to open a new police station in the area.

The inauguration of the police station on Thursday was however was indefinitely postponed against the backdrop of the violence. "The situation was so grim that State DGP Virendra who was supposed to inaugurate the police station had to return from mid-way. He was however sent to the area late on Thursday following Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's order, sources said.

The condition of five other injured persons was stated to be "very very critical" by doctors of a private hospital where there were being treated in Kolkata. "They are being operated upon and nothing can be said about them before 72

hours," a doctor treating them said. Local BJP MP Arjun Singh accused Mamata Banerjee of provoking the violence in the area. "It is the goons of the TMC who have been rampaging the area. And the police are siding with them. They killed two poor and ordinary citizens from a point-blank today."

Pointing fingers at the Chief Minister, BJP's observer for Bengal Kailash Vijaybargiya said "Mamata Banerjee cannot digest the defeat she has faced at the hands of the BJP and so she is creating trouble in various places encouraging the goons to attack the BJP supporters." He said a central team of MPs would soon visit Bhatpara on a fact finding mission.



Grieving family members of the children, who are feared drowned after a van fell into the Indra canal, at Nagram area of Lucknow on Thursday. The van carrying 29 people, who were returning from a marriage ceremony, fell into the canal late Wednesday night

Mamata war on 'cut money' hits party hard

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Two days after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee warned her party men against taking cut money from the people for getting their works done under various schemes she stated cut-money contro-

versy caught wind on Thursday with more villages of Birbhum district getting hit by intermittent clashes between supporters of the local TMC leaders who allegedly received bribe from the locals for getting their works done and those who paid bribe. At least five

people got bullet injuries at Birbhum's Dubrajpur and Sainthia region when clashes erupted between the supporters of the local TMC leaders and the people who gheraoed their houses asking for the cut money to be paid back.

Banerjee had earlier in a meeting of party councilors said that she would not tolerate accepting cut money. "I hear that some of you even take ₹200 for a work of ₹2,000 to be done. I will not tolerate this. No one will take cut money and those who have taken them will have to return that money."

As people started gathering outside the houses of local TMC leaders to get their money back clashes started,

sources said.

At higher level the "cut money" crisis took an uncomfortable turn for the Trinamool Congress leadership with party's Birbhum MP Shatabdi Roy telling reporters in Delhi that "such a step should have been taken earlier," wondering "what will happen to the share of the bribe that had gone upwards from the lower level."

She also feared "while in lower level the people may stop taking cut money but where is the guarantee that the higher leadership will not charge their share of cut money at higher rates?" The TMC leadership refused in Kolkata however to comment on Roy's statement.

Maha to make Marathi compulsory subject: CM

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Taking serious exception to several of the central board and English medium schools not teaching Marathi as a language, the BJP-led Maharashtra Government announced on Thursday that it would make Marathi a compulsory subject in all schools run under various school boards in the State.

Coming out with a major policy initiative, Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said: "It has come to our notice that several schools - particularly CBSE and ICSE schools - do not follow the legislation relating to the Marathi language. In order to make Marathi as a compulsory subject in schools run under all the school boards, we will

CM takes serious note of schools particularly ones run under CBSE, ICSE boards not teaching Marathi language

State Govt to make law stringent to make Marathi compulsory as a subject in all schools in the State

amend the relevant legislation to make it more stringent and enforce it strictly in schools across the state."

Fadnavis was responding to a question raised by Shiv Sena MLC Neelam Gorhe in the State Legislative Council as an issue of propriety. Gorhe was trying to draw the attention of the Maharashtra government about the plans by several Marathi litterateurs, led by All India Marathi literary confer-

ence president Lakshmi Kant Deshmukh and president of a forum set up to foster the growth of Marathi language Madhu Mangesh Karnik, to stage a protest at the Azad Maidan here on June 24 to demand that Marathi be made a compulsory subject in schools run under all school boards in the state.

The chief minister said that the forum set up to foster the growth of Marathi had proposed: that Marathi be made

compulsory in education institutions run under all boards along the lines of the state language policy practised in Tamil Nadu, that a Marathi language development authority be set up, that the standard of Marathi schools be improved in the state, that the quality of education be enhanced to ensure against recurring closure of Marathi schools, circulars be issued to encourage the reading habits among students in schools and that a Marathi language centre be set up in Mumbai.

The chief minister said that he and Education Minister Vinod Tawade, who is also the minister for Marathi language, would meet a delegation of Marathi litterateurs on June 24 to discuss and decide on their various demands.

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, रायपुर (छ.ग.)
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur (C.G.)
 Tatibandh, G. E. Road, Raipur-492 099 (CG) (www.aiimsraipur.edu.in)
 Advt. No. AIIMS-RPR/Advt. Cell/CS/2019/1522, Date: 19-06-2019
 Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Raipur Chhattisgarh, Govt. invites e-tender for following:

E-TENDER CALL NOTICE				
Tender Title	EMD Cost	Published on CPPP/Website	Pre-bid Meeting Date	Closing Date
ENT Treatment Unit at AIIMS Raipur	Rs. 3,00,000.00	15-06-2019	01-07-2019 At 03:00 pm	15-07-2019 at 03:00 pm
Tender for supply and installation of High End Cardiac Surgical OT Table for Department of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery AIIMS Raipur	Rs. 6,91,000.00	15-06-2019	24-06-2019 At 03:30 pm	13-07-2019 at 03:00 pm
Supply of Broadbased QR for Body Plethysmograph with Diffusion Study for Department of Pulmonary Medicine	Rs. 77,000.00	13-06-2019	Nil	11-07-2019 at 03:00 pm

The details terms & conditions are available on the website- www.aiimsraipur.edu.in and CPP Portal www.eprocure.gov.in. **Stores Officer**

NORTHERN RAILWAY
e-TENDER NOTICE
 Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/General, Hazratganj, DRM office, Lucknow for & on behalf of President of India, invites open Tender through online (e-tendering) for the following work: 1. e-tender N.I.T No: 992-Sr.DEE-NR-LKO Dated 18.06.2019. 2. Name of work: Provision of AC coach attendants in AC coaches of train No. 22407/08 Gareeb Rath originating from Varanasi station for a period of two years. 3. Approximate Cost: Rs. 1,05,71,668/- (Rs. One crore five lacs seventy one thousand six hundred and sixty eight only). 4. Earnest Money: Rs. 2,02,900/- (Rs. Two lacs two thousand and nine hundred only). 5. Completion period: Two Years. 6. Last Date & Time of Submission & opening of e-Tender: 15.07.2019 upto 15:00 Hrs. & opening on the same day at 15:30 Hrs. in office of Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), Northern Railway, Hazratganj, Lucknow. 7. Validity of offer: 45 Days from the date of opening of the Tender. 8. Northern Railway Website: Additional relevant information may be checked on the website www.ireps.gov.in. 9. Tender Cost: Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees five thousand only). 10. Eligibility Criteria: The tenderer(s) shall be eligible only if he / they fulfill technical & financial eligibility criteria. 10.a Technical eligibility criteria: The tenderer must have successfully completed any of the following during last 07 (seven) years, ending last day of month previous to the one in which tender is invited: Three similar works costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of advertised value of the tender, or Two similar works costing not less than the amount equal to 50% of advertised value of the tender, or One similar work costing not less than the amount equal to 80% of advertised value of the tender. For this tender the following work only will be considered similar work for judging the technical eligibility criteria:- "Provision of AC coach Attendants/ Lining distribution attendants in AC coaches on Indian Railway". OR "Carried out maintenance/escorting duty work of AC coaches on Indian Railway". OR "Carried out Electrical Maintenance works/ Facility management service such as security services/recruitment and training/housekeeping in Government bodies and institutions/star category Hotels/reputed hospital having minimum 100 beds/airlines". OR "Carried out maintenance/ escorting of diesel alternator sets on mobile vans/ power cars on Indian Railway". 10.b Financial eligibility criteria: Tenderer should have received the total payments against satisfactory execution of all completed/ongoing works of all types (not confined to only similar works) during the last three financial years and in the current financial year (up to the date of opening of the tender) of a value not less than 150% of the advertised cost of work. 10.c Note:- For judging the technical eligibility and financial capability only those works which had been executed for the Govt. or Semi Govt. Organizations shall be considered and the tenderer will submit the certificate to this effect from the officer concerned duly signed under the official seal. It should be noted that credentials for the works executed for Private Organizations shall not be considered. Note:- Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bid up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored/ rejected. No.: 992-Sr.DEE-NR-LKO Dated: 18.06.2019. 1982/2019

WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. C 78/11/17/SLR/04/2019 dated 17.06.2019
 Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Western Railway, Mumbai Division, Mumbai Central invites open e-tender, for leasing of SLR on single trip basis on payment of lumpsum space for loading/unloading of parcels in specified trains for a period of 5 years. Leasing Contract of 3.9/04 tonnes space in SLRs Compartments of the trains mentioned below: (Period of Contract = 5 years). Earnest Money Deposit shall be accepted only through online Net Banking or E-payment gateway.

Sr. No.	Train No.	From / To	RP (₹)	Sr. No.	Train No.	From / To	RP (₹)
1	12267-FWLRRM	MMCT-RJT	15,311/-	29	12995-FSLR-I	BDTS-AII	4,769/-
2	22989-FWLRRM	BDTS-MHV	9,704/-	30	FSLR-II-12995	BDTS-AII	4,769/-
3	22991-FWLRRM	BDTS-VRL	9,979/-	31	12995-MSLR-III	BDTS-UDZ	2,622/-
4	22903-FWLRRM	BDTS-BHUJ	9,240/-	32	MSLR-IV-12995	BDTS-UDZ	2,622/-
5	22993-FWLRRM	BDTS-MHV	9,704/-	33	12995-RSLR-I	BDTS-UDZ	2,622/-
6	22923-FWLRRM	BDTS-JAM	9,004/-	34	MSLR-III-22945	MMCT-VRL	5,118/-
7	19043-FWLRRM	BDTS-BGKT	10,222/-	35	22945-FSLR-I	MMCT-OKHA	5,489/-
8	22947-FSLR-I	ST-BGP	26,742/-	36	19023-FSLR-I	MMCT-FZR	17,337/-
9	22947-FSLR-II	ST-BGP	26,742/-	37	19045-FSLR-I	ST-CPR	25,758/-
10	22947-RSLR-I	ST-BGP	26,742/-	38	19045-FSLR-II	ST-CPR	25,758/-
11	15068-RSLR-I	BDTS-GPK	18,156/-	39	19051-RSLR-I	BL-MFP	17,500/-
12	12490-FSLR-I	DDR-BKN	6,649/-	40	19053-FSLR-I	ST-MFP	29,708/-
13	12989-FSLR-I	DDR-AII	2,745/-	41	19053-RSLR-I	ST-MFP	29,708/-
14	22953-FSLR-I	MMCT-ADI	1,512/-	42	19115-FSLR-I	DDR-BHUJ	9,478/-
15	22953-FSLR-II	MMCT-ADI	1,512/-	43	19707-FSLR-I	BDTS-JP	12,087/-
16	19061-FSLR-I	BDTS-RMR	8,258/-	44	19707-FSLR-II	BDTS-JP	12,087/-
17	19015-FSLR-II	MMCT-PBR	2,682/-	45	19707-RSLR-I	BDTS-JP	12,087/-
18	19015-RSLR-I	MMCT-PBR	2,682/-	46	19003-FSLR-I	BDTS-BSL	6,734/-
19	22951-FSLR-I	BDTS-GIMB	4,856/-	47	19003-FSLR-II	BDTS-BSL	6,734/-
20	22474-FSLR-I	BDTS-BKN	6,516/-	48	19003-RSLR-I	BDTS-BSL	6,734/-
21	22474-FSLR-II	BDTS-BKN	6,516/-	49	22901-FSLR-I	BDTS-AII	16,829/-
22	22915-FSLR-I	BDTS-HSR	3,721/-	50	22901-FSLR-II	BDTS-AII	16,829/-
23	22915-FSLR-II	BDTS-HSR	3,721/-	51	22901-MSLR-I	BDTS-AII	16,829/-
24	12903-FSLR-I	MMCT-ASR	27,325/-	52	22901-MSLR-II	BDTS-UDZ	10,485/-
25	12903-RSLR-I	MMCT-ASR	27,325/-	53	22901-MSLR-IV	BDTS-UDZ	10,485/-
26	12927-FSLR-I	MMCT-BRC	5,180/-	54	22901-RSLR-I	BDTS-UDZ	10,485/-
27	12927-RSLR-I	MMCT-BRC	5,180/-	55	12922-FSLR-II	ST-MMCT	2,016/-
28	12955-FSLR-I	MMCT-JP	18,821/-				

Date & Time of submission of Tender: Up to 11.07.2019 till 15.00 hrs. through online www.ireps.gov.in only. Date & Time of opening of Tender: On 11.07.2019 at 15.30 hrs.



Actress and TMC MP Nusrat Jahan ties the knot with Kolkata-based businessman Nikhil Jain, in Bodrum, Turkey on Wednesday

'Mission to eliminate corruption will be implemented with greater zeal'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The mission to eliminate corruption from public life and government services will be implemented with greater zeal, President Ram Nath Kovind said on Thursday, suggesting harsher steps may be on anvil to check graft.

He said the government will make the zero tolerance policy against corruption more comprehensive and effective. Addressing both the Houses of the Parliament, Kovind said good governance reduces corruption, enhances self-respect of the citizens and enables them to optimally utilize their talents and capabilities.

"The mission to eliminate corruption from public life and government services will be implemented with greater zeal," the President said. Towards this objective, minimum government - maximum governance will be further emphasised, he said. "In addition, use of technology will be maximised to reduce human interface. Appointment of Lokpal will also promote transparency," Kovind said. The assertion assumes significance as the government has been taking bold steps to check corruption.

Recently, it has dismissed senior government officials for alleged corruption. Kovind said the government has been work-

Cong Veerashaiva-Lingayat leaders seek OBC status

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Congress leaders from Veerashaiva-Lingayat community Thursday met Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy and demanded that the government recommend to the Centre, granting of the OBC status to the community.

The leaders also sought setting up of Veerashaiva-Lingayat Development Corporation.

The delegation that met of Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara included KPCC Working President Eshwar Khandre, Home Minister M B Patil, senior legislators Shamanur Shivashankarappa and S R Patil, among others.

"Those in Veerashaiva-Lingayat community who are backward- socially, economically and in education- for them Veerashaiva-Lingayat Development Corporation has to be set up.

All of us leaders and MLAs have submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister," Khandre told reporters after the meeting.

"Also, we have requested to recommend inclusion of Veerashaiva-Lingayat in the Other Backward Class (OBC) list at the Centre. CM and DCM have responded positively," he added.

Leaders said, various subjects of the community are already on the OBC list in the State.

Patil, who was part of the delegation, said there was no politics involved in it.

Court rejects Pragya's plea for exemption from appearance

PTI ■ MUMBAI

A trial court here on Thursday rejected an application made by BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur, prime accused in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, seeking permanent exemption from appearance once a week.

The newly elected Bhopal MP had said in her plea that she was suffering from various ailments and was not in the condition to attend the court.

Thakur had also said that being a 'sadhvi' (a woman ascetic), she has to follow strict discipline for her sadhna (worship) and adhere to certain dietary rules.

In view of all this, it was not possible for her to travel from Bhopal to Mumbai every week, said the application filed by her lawyer advocate J P Mishra.

She had also cited her

duties as Bhopal MP as a reason for not being able to attend the court.

Advocate Mishra had also submitted that as per her party's whip, she needs to attend the ongoing Parliament session.

Therefore, she should be exempted from appearance at least till the end of Parliament session on July 26, the lawyer said.

However, special judge for National Investigation Agency (NIA) cases V S Padalkar said these grounds were "not reasonable and genuine". The judge, though, exempted her from appearance on Thursday.

"Attendance of Parliament is necessary and one should obey whip of the party", however, no documentary evidence about any such whip was produced, the judge said.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
 Sr.DCM/NR/LKO acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites following E-Tenders closing date 16.07.2019 15:00. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc., are not allowed.

N.I.T No.	Work	Reserve Price (for first year)	Earnest Money	Completion period	Bidding Start Date	Tender Closing Date and Time	Tender Opening Date and Time	Website
992-Sr.DEE-NR-LKO	Commercial Publicity Rights at Pratapgarh station over Lucknow Division for a period of five (5) years.	Rs. 1,44,100/- (Rs One Lac Forty Four Thousand One Hundred only)	Rs. 15,400/- (Rs Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred only)	05 Years	20.06.2019	16.07.2019 at 15:00 hrs.	16.07.2019 at 15:30 hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

Note: 1. "No post tender correspondence for submission of additional documents shall be entertained after opening of offers. Even suo-moto post letters of the tenders shall be treated as NULL & Void." 1989/19

NORTHERN RAILWAY
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NIT No.	Work	Reserve Price (for first year)	Earnest Money	Completion Period	Bidding Start Date	Tender Closing Date and Time	Tender Opening Date and Time	Website
992-Sr.DEE-NR-LKO	Commercial Publicity Rights at Raebareilly station over Lucknow Division for a period of five (5) years.	Rs. 5,65,289/- (Rs. Five Lac Sixty Five Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Nine only)	Rs. 60,100/- (Rs. Sixty Thousand One Hundred only)	05 years	20.06.2019	16.07.2019 at 15:00 hrs.	16.07.2019 at 15:30 hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

Note:- "No post tender correspondence for submission of additional documents shall be entertained after opening of offers. Even suo-moto post letters of the tenders shall be treated as NULL & Void." 1989/19

Congress will decide successor, I've not named anyone: Rahul

Denies giving nod to Gehlot to lead party

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress has no way out but to choose a new president as incumbent Rahul Gandhi on Thursday made it clear he will not back down from his decision to resign from the top post owning responsibility for the party's Lok Sabha debacle. At the same time, he maintained that it will be his party, and not him, which will decide on his successor.

Rahul said he is not the person to take a decision on his successor, even as he denied reports that he had given his nod to Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot to lead the party in his place. "I am not the one who will appoint the party president," Rahul told reporters when asked on who would be his successor.

On reports claiming that Gehlot will be his successor and he has given his approval for



the same, he said, "No such thing." Rahul has been adamant on stepping down as party president following the debacle in the elections, but the CWC, the highest decision-making body of the Congress, has rejected his resignation offer and asked him to restructure the party at all levels. Rahul has maintained that the new party president should be a non-Gandhi, apparently to shed the image of the party being controlled by one dynasty.

By resigning he has also sought to showcase that there has to be accountability at all

levels. But then, while Rahul has been consistent on not backtracking on his decision, the party has taken a hit, be it in Karnataka or Rajasthan, where factionalism is rife.

The Congress had even toyed with the idea of an interim president hoping that Rahul would be back in action sooner or later. But none of its senior leaders expressed their willingness to handle the responsibility — neither AK Antony nor KC Venugopal. However, Rahul on Thursday yet again raked up the Rafale deal, an issue on which he had gone hammer and tongs during the campaigning to target Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I maintain my stand that there has been theft in the Rafale jet deal," he asserted, responding to a question about the aircraft finding a mention in President Ram Nath Kovind's address to the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament. The Congress has already petitioned the CVC for a probe into alleged corruption in the fighter jet deal. The Government has denied any corruption, wrongdoing or favouritism in the deal.

Indian Navy deploys warships in Gulf of Oman, Persian Gulf

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid rising tensions between the US and Iran as well as recent incidents related to maritime security, the Navy has deployed its warships in the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf to reassure the Indian vessels operating and transiting in the region, it said on Thursday.

In addition, aerial surveillance by Indian Navy aircraft was also being undertaken in the area, it said. "INS Chennai and INS Sunayna have been deployed in the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf to undertake maritime security operations. In addition, aerial surveillance by IN aircraft is also being undertaken in the area," the Navy said. The Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region, which was inaugurated by the Navy in December, 2018 at Gurugram, was also keeping a close watch on the movement of ships in the Gulf region, it added.

India's strategic and security interests are closely linked to the Indian Ocean Region. The country's energy security is also linked to the safety and security of ships while

To ensure security of Indian vessels

operating and transiting in the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf. "The Indian Navy has deployed warships in the Gulf of Oman to re-assure the Indian Flagged Vessels operating/transiting through the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, following the maritime security incidents in the region," the navy said.

In further escalation of tensions, Iran's Revolutionary Guards shot down a US drone on Thursday. Previously, the US military had accused Iran of firing a missile at another drone last week that was responding to the attack on two oil tankers near the Gulf of Oman. The US blamed Iran for the attacks on the oil tankers, a charge denied by Tehran. The Director General, Shipping issued two advisories on June 13 and June 16 to all the Indian-flagged vessels operating in the Strait of Hormuz and Persian, Arabian Gulf Region, advising the ships to undertake appropriate protection measures.

32 die as bus falls into Kullu's 500-foot gorge

PTI ■ SHIMLA

At least 32 people were killed and 28 others severely injured when an overloaded bus fell into a deep drain in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh on Thursday, officials said. The private bus (bearing registration number HP 66-7065) fell into the over 500 metre-deep gorge near the Dhoth Morh in Banjar tehsil of the district, Kullu Superintendent of Police Shalini Agnihotri said, adding that the vehicle was en route to Gada Gushaini.

Prima facie, it seems that overloading and negligent driving may have caused the accident, Banjar Patwari Sheetal Kumar said.

Officials said the death toll in the tragic accident has touched 32, and added that the injured were undergoing treatment at the Banjar Civil Hospital and the Kullu district hospital. Most of the victims were residents of various areas in Kullu district.

Himachal Pradesh Governor Acharya Devvrat and Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur expressed grief over the tragic accident. In their condolence messages, they prayed for peace to the departed souls



Locals take the injured passengers for treatment after a private bus fell into a 500-ft deep gorge near Kullu on Thursday

PTI

and strength to the bereaved family members, an official spokesperson said.

The Chief Minister has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident, the official said, adding that Thakur also asked the administration to provide best possible medicare to the injured passengers.

Meanwhile, state Transport Minister Govind Singh Thakur left for Kullu from Shimla after learning about the accident.

The Kullu district administration announced an immediate relief of ₹50,000 to the kin of each of the deceased and the

injured. Talking to PTI, Piyush Tewari, founder of SaveLIFE Foundation said, "It's a shame that mass-casualty bus crashes have become a norm in India, especially in hilly States like Himachal Pradesh."

"The State Government must immediately order a summary audit of all roads, and engineers and contractors responsible for missing basic installations like crash barriers must be booked for causing countless deaths and injuries," he said.

India calls Pak's talk claim fake, seeks verifiable action against terrorism

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday dismissed as "fake news" a Pakistani media report claiming New Delhi is ready for talks with Islamabad, saying there is no change in its position that Pakistan must first take "verifiable" and "irreversible" action against terrorism for resumption of dialogue.

Rejecting the report, the Ministry of External Affairs said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar made no reference to talks in their response to congratulatory messages from their Pakistani counterparts. A report in the Express Tribune on Thursday claimed that Modi and Jaishankar responded to Islamabad's renewed call for dialogue by conveying New Delhi's desire to engage with all countries, including Pakistan, for the prosperity of the region.

Responding to the queries regarding the replies to congratulatory messages by Pakistan's Prime Minister

Imran Khan and Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Ravesh Kumar said, "As per the established diplomatic practice, PM and EAM have responded to the congratulatory messages received from their counterparts in Pakistan."

In their messages, they have highlighted that India seeks normal and cooperative relations with all neighbours, including Pakistan, he said.

"In his message, PM said 'For this, it is important to build an environment of trust, free of terror, violence and hostility'. EAM also emphasised the need for an 'atmosphere free from the shadow of terror and violence', Kumar said.

The letter by Modi was sent to Khan on June 12, the MEA said. Asked if there was any reference to holding talks in the letters, it said there was no such reference. Later, at a media briefing, Kumar said the letters were written by the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister as part of

established diplomatic protocol.

"There is no reference to talks in that letter. These efforts to peddle fake news continue from the Pakistani side... Please one should first check with us," he said. "I don't think there is any change in our position. We have made it very clear that Pakistan has to take action (against terrorism). It has to take action which is verifiable. It has to take action which is irreversible."

"Unless we are convinced that action has been taken on the ground and not the temporary action which we have seen several times in the past (there can be no talks resumption)," he said. India will not be fooled by some cosmetic action here and there, some concrete action will have to be taken by Pakistan, he asserted.

Prime Minister Modi and his Pakistani counterpart Khan exchanged pleasantries last week during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Bishkek.

PM hosts dinner for MPs

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday hosted a dinner for all members of parliament, which did not see the presence of prominent leaders like Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav.

MPs from the Trinamool Congress, left parties like the CPI(M) and CPI, the Bahujan Samaj Party and the RJD abstained from the dinner.

The Parliamentary Affairs Ministry had earlier sent out invites to all members of both the Houses — over 750 MPs. Only vegetarian dishes were served at the official dinner held at a state-run five-star hotel.

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, various leaders of the ruling NDA, DMK's Kanimozhi, AAP Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh and three of four TDP Rajya Sabha members who joined the BJP — YS Chowdary, C M Ramesh and T G Venkatesh — among others attended the dinner at hotel Ashok.

Sources said the dinner was hosted so that the prime minister and other members of the Union council of ministers could meet all MPs from both the Houses in an informal atmosphere.



"The MPs interacted with the prime minister in a very informal manner and they were seen clicking selfies with him," BJP leader Rajiv Pratap Rudy said, adding that the atmosphere was very congenial. The PM reportedly lauded the role played by previous Speaker Sumitra Mahajan at the gathering, the source said.

During the all-party meet on Sunday, ahead of the start of the Parliament session, Modi had told leaders that political differences can be kept aside to discuss issues related to public interest.

Office of Chief Engineer, Information System Organization, Irrigation And Water Resources Department, Uttar Pradesh,
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya Park, Lucknow-226025

IDA Credit No. 52980-IN
Short Term Tender Notice No. 01 / ISO / EE-2 / UPWSRP Phase II / Unskilled Manpower/Security Guard /2019-20 Dated: 18/06/2019

This Invitation for Bid as per Interest follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in Development Business on 10-02-2019.

The Government of India (GOI)/Government of Uttar Pradesh (GoUP) has received for a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) to finance the UP Water Sector Restructuring Project (UPWSRP) Phase-II and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for the services mentioned in the table below.

Executive Engineer, Unit-2, Office of Chief Engineer, Information System Organization, Irrigation and Water Resources Department Uttar Pradesh on behalf of Government of Uttar Pradesh now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders through e-tender for services mentioned in the following table:-

Sl. No.	Details of work	Period	Bid Security Earnest Money (Rs.)	Cost of Document (Rs.)	Last Date and time of Submission of Bid	Date and time of Bid Opening
1	Supply / Engaging Unskilled Manpower for watching and regulating of Data Center, Walmi Campus Lko.	15 Months	32000.00	1000.00+ 180.00 (GST) =1180.00	12.07.2019 15:00 hrs.	12.07.2019 17:00 hrs.
2	Supply of Security Guard at Data Center, Walmi Campus Lko.	15 Months	12000.00	1000.00+ 180.00(GST) =1180.00	15.00 hrs.	17:00 hrs.

4. It is compulsory for bidder to have all eligibility as given in bid document and interested bidder will submit their rate for above work through e-tender. 5. Eligible, interested bidder may see and download the bid document from 26-06-2019 at 5:00 pm to 12-07-2019 upto 3:00 pm from website <http://tender.up.nic.in>. Fee as mentioned Column-6 in form of Demand Draft/ Banker's Cheque/Pay Order on any scheduled/ nationalized bank payable at Lucknow in favour of Financial Management Expert, PACT payable at Lucknow should be deposited at the above address of ISO on or before 12-07-2019 upto 3:00 pm and scanned copy must be uploaded. 6. Self attested scanned copy of Bid Document and all supporting documents must be uploaded. 7. Detailed Bid Document can be downloaded from website <https://tender.up.nic.in> and <http://idup.gov.in>. Note:- In case of any difference in Hindi and English version, terms and conditions mentioned in English version would prevail.

UP - 141324, Dated: 18.06.19
निजीय वेबसाइट www.up.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

Executive Engineer Unit-2, ISO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

PREZ: GOVT TO...

The proposed policy aims at promoting emerging sectors and modernising existing industries. It will also look to reduce regulatory hurdles and encourage adoption of frontier technologies such as robotics and artificial intelligence. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, under the Commerce and Industry Ministry, in August 2017 had floated a draft industrial policy with an aim to create jobs for the next two decades, promote foreign technology transfer and attract USD 100 billion FDI annually. The department last year submitted a Cabinet note on the policy.

On MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises), he said to ensure entrepreneurs associated with the sector do not face any problem in accessing credit, the credit guarantee coverage is being enhanced to Rs one lakh crore. MSMEs contribute around 45 per cent to India's exports, about 25 per cent to the GDP from service activities and over 33 per cent to manufacturing output of India. On the education front, he said the Government is striving to increase the number of seats in higher educational institutions by one-and-a-half times by 2024. Kovind said efforts will be made to amend the Citizenship Act while protecting linguistic, cultural and social identities. The BJP has maintained that the Citizenship Amendment Bill is aimed to give Indian nationality to those people who have been facing persecution in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan for their religion. Apart from Assam, West Bengal, Tripura and some other parts of the Northeast are reportedly affected by the problem of illegal immigration. The President said the Central Government is making all efforts to ensure a

safe and peaceful environment for the people of J&K and maintained that the "recently concluded peaceful elections to local bodies and to Lok Sabha have bolstered our efforts". Lauding the election of 78 women MPs, the highest number in the history of Lok Sabha, Kovind said it presents the picture of a new India. On the foreign policy issue, he said the whole world stands with India on the issue of terrorism and the designation of JeM chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist by the UN is a major testimony to this. "New India" is rapidly moving towards occupying its rightful place in the international community.

FORMER IPS...

On Thursday, the Jamnagar-based court of sessions judge DN Vyas convicted Bhatt and police constable Pravinsinh Zala under section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code and sentenced them to life in jail in the 29-year-old custodial death case. Five others — sub-inspectors Dipak Shah and Sailesh Pandya and constables Pravinsinh Jadeja, Anopsinh Jethva and Keshubha Jadeja — were sentenced to two years' jail term for custodial torture.

Bhatt's wife Shweta Bhatt described the verdict as injustice. "Injustice is very apparent. We will fight against this injustice. But I will be able to make further comments only after consulting my lawyers," Shweta Bhatt, who contested the Assembly election against Modi from Maninagar in Ahmedabad in 2012, told PTI. On October 30, 1990, Bhatt, then additional superintendent of police, detained around 150 people following a communal riot in Jamjodhpur town of Jamnagar. The riot broke out after a bandh call against the halting of BJP leader LK Advani's rath-yatra agita-

tion for Ram temple in Ayodhya. One of those detained, Prabhudas Vaishnani, died in a hospital after release.

His brother Amrutbhai lodged a complaint alleging that Bhatt and other police officials tortured Vaishnani in custody, causing his death. The case could not proceed for many years as the state government did not give its nod for prosecuting him and others. The sanction for prosecution was given later. During the trial, public prosecutor Tushar Gokani argued that Bhatt's role in the torture was evident.

On September 5, 2018, Bhatt was arrested in another case, where he is accused of falsely implicating a man for alleged possession of drugs in Palanpur in 1996. The trial in the case continues. Bhatt made headlines when he alleged in an affidavit before the Supreme Court that after the Godhra train burning incident of February 27, 2002, Modi, at a meeting, asked senior police officers to let the majority community vent its anger. The Special Investigation Team appointed by the apex court to investigate the 2002 riots concluded that Bhatt, being a very junior officer then, was not present at the meeting.

2/3RDS TDP...

TDP leaders led by former MLA Thota Trimurthulu belonging to the Kapu community held a meeting to discuss their strategy. The developments came amid claims by BJP leaders that several leaders from various parties in both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana were keen to join their party.

The TDP suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of YSRC in recent Assembly polls in Andhra Pradesh. The party could secure only 23 seats of the 151 Assembly seats and only three of the 25 Lok Sabha seats in the State.

Shah allocates work to his two deputies

New Delhi: Home Minister Amit Shah has allocated work to his two deputies G Kishan Reddy and Nityanand Rai — that include affairs of Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeast and Centre-state relations, officials said.

While Reddy has been given divisions like Jammu and Kashmir, the Northeast, Union Territories, cyber security and counter-radicalisation, Rai has been allocated Centre-state division, Police-I (that looks after transfer postings of IPS officers), foreigners divisions and others.

Besides the Intelligence Bureau, Shah will take care of all decisions involving Cabinet matters and President's house. Shah will also be the final authority to take any decisions in subjects allocated to the two ministers of state in his ministry, a home ministry official said. This is the first time that both the Northeast and Jammu and Kashmir divisions have been allocated to the same Minister of State. In the previous NDA government, junior minister Kiren Rijju was in-charge of the Northeast division and his colleague Hansraj G Ahir was looking after counter-radicalisation and Kashmir affairs.

Rijju is now in charge of the youth affairs and sports ministry, while Ahir had lost his election. According to the work allocation, Reddy will handle the issues related to freedom fighters, internal security, counter terrorism and counter radicalisation, Left wing extremism, Jammu and Kashmir, Northeast, police modernisation, cyber security, union territories, women safety and judicial.

PTI

Government of India, Ministry of Textiles
Office of development commissioner for handloom

Applications are invited from Handloom Awardees/Cluster for selection of their participation in the various 'Crafts Mela-2019-20' and Dilli Haat during the year 2019-20 enabling them to exhibit and sell handloom products as per detail given below :-

Sl.No.	Name of Crafts Mela	Location	Period of Crafts Mela
1	Surajkund Crafts mela	Surajkund (Haryana)	01st to 15th February, 2020

Eligibility

Sant Kabir Award/National Award/National Merit Certificate Holder/India Handloom Brand (IHB) registered Holder/State Awardees are eligible to participate. The National Awardees, National Merit Certificate Holder and State Awardees who have participated in Surajkund mela in 2018 and 2019 are not eligible to apply. However Sant Kabir Awardees can apply irrespective of previous participation in every year. Individual Weavers are not eligible to apply.

2	Shilparamam	Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)	15 th to 31 st December, 2019
3	Toshail National Crafts Mela	Bhubaneswar(Odisha)	15 th to 27 st December, 2019
4	Shilpgram	Udaipur (Rajasthan)	21 st to 30 st December, 2019
5	Shilparamam	Madhapur (telangana)	15 th to 30 st December, 2019
6	Taj Mahotsav	Agra (Uttar Pradesh)	18 th to 27 st February, 2020

All Handloom Awardees/Clusters which include Co-operative Societies/Producers Groups, Self Help Group(SHG) and Federations are eligible to participate in year 2018 for sl.no. 2,3,4 and sl.no. 5,6 in 2019 are not eligible to apply. However Sant Kabir Awardees can apply irrespective of previous participation in every year. Individual Weavers are not eligible to apply.

7	Master Creation Programme	Dilli Haat, INA Market, New Delhi	01 th to 15 th December, 2019
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Eligibility

Only Sant Kabir Awardees, National Awardees and National Merit certificate holder can apply. Those Naional Awardees, National Mert Certificate holder participated during 2017 and 2018 are not eligible to apply. However Sant Kabir Awardees can apply Irrespective of previous participation in every year.

Dilli Haat	
Sl.No.	Slots
1	1 st to 15 th July, 2019
2	16 th to 31 st July, 2019
3	1 st to 15 th August, 2019
4	16 th to 31 st August, 2019
5	1 st to 15 th September, 2019
6	16 th to 30 th September, 2019

Dilli Haat	
Sl.No.	Slots
7	1 st to 15 th October, 2019
8	1 st to 15 th November, 2019
9	16 th to 30 th November, 2019
10	1 st to 15 th January, 2020
11	16 th to 31 st January, 2020

Eligibility

1. All Handloom Clusters which include Co-operative Societies/Producers Group, Self Help Group (SHG) and Federations are eligible to participate.

2. Agency will be considered for participation after gap of one year from previous allotment to ensure adequate rotation. For example, agencies who have been allotted stalls between 1/07/2019 to 15/07/2019 are not eligible to apply for slot starting from 1/07/2019 to 15/07/2020.

All Eligible clusters are requires to fill up only application for all the above slots of Dilli Haat in the prescribed format and submit to their nearest Weavers Service Centre (WSC) with intimation to the office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms). The last date for submission of application form for Crafts Melas and Dilli Haat will be one month from the date of publication in the news paper. For more details, applicant may contact to their nearest Weavers Service Centre or log on the website of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms (www.handlooms.nic.in).

Office of Development Commissioner (Handlooms)
Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi

Davp 41102/11/0004/1920

Summer of discontent

After PM 2.5 spikes, alarming levels of ground-level ozone are posing a hazard for Delhiites



Just when we had begun to internalise the deadly impact of increasing levels of particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide from toxic fumes, usually in winter, Delhi now has a new pollution threat from ground-level ozone. A recent study by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has pointed out to what could become a new summertime hazard with noxious emissions by the city's vehicular fleet and industrial units combining under severe heat conditions to form polluting or bad ozone,

which is very different from the good ozone in the stratosphere that cuts out ultraviolet rays. The CSE has warned that this complex atmospheric chemistry needs investigation and immediate action as ozone dominance has been found to be stubborn in the city's air quality indices. In fact, we are waking up to the ozone threat only now as repeated assessments over the last year have already isolated vehicles as the highest source of nitrogen oxides (NOx). A SAFAR study, too, last year had concluded how vehicles in Delhi were responsible for 62.5 per cent and industry 24.4 per cent of the total NOx load from all sources. A separate Teri-ARAI report the same year had found vehicles responsible for generating 81 per cent of NOx. Clearly, summer is more than just about discontent, it is about dysfunction.

Ground-level ozone, or O3, is considered extremely damaging to human health and the environment, leading to respiratory problems, exacerbating asthma and in extreme cases complicating heart and lung issues like atherosclerosis. It equally harms vegetation and wildlife, particularly affecting photosynthesis in plants and crops. Rapidly formed as by-products of combustion collide with each other under the sun, ground-level ozone is believed to have caused more than a million deaths each year besides millions of dollars worth of crop losses. Already this year, there has been an uncharacteristic increase in throat irritation, infections and breathing problems being reported at doctors' clinics. The World Health Organisation (WHO) refers to several European studies to deduce that daily mortality rates could rise by 0.3 per cent for every additional 5 parts per billion (ppb) of ozone in the air. A study using data from 2010 found as many as 316,000 deaths in China that year due to ozone, accounting for 28 per cent of all respiratory deaths. In India, with the projected figure at about 450,000 deaths, that rate would be over 32 per cent! Of course, while Delhi has over the years greened its public transport fleet with CNG and even tried the odd-even formula, the pollution overload keeps on increasing each year. And while electric vehicles are still far away from reality as affordable, workable options in terms of charging infrastructure and costs, the fact is Delhi needs faster correctives in emission and exhaust systems. In the US, for example, they have technologies to cut down ozone-inducing components and change fuels used in power plants and vehicles. The auto industry there has already managed to cut emissions of ozone-inducing pollutants by more than 99 per cent over a few decades by changing gasoline formulation as well as engine technology. One auto industry group has claimed that by 2025, passenger vehicle emissions of NOx will have dropped 99.8 per cent. Urban forests also help in absorption of harmful substances. But for emergent powers like China and India, they do not even have a buffer time and there is a need to balance development requirements with clean air. Also, there has to be a good mix of alternatives. For example, a switch to biofuels in vehicles, like Sao Paulo did in 2014, led to an increase in ozone pollution, necessitating a switchback to gasoline. But when it comes to Delhi, other than control measures — and these now have to rise above political or votebank-motivated concerns — what is most needed is a change in behavioural and consumption patterns. Limiting private car use and using public transport will have to be seen as a lifestyle necessity rather than a choice.

Closing the gates

Donald Trump's threats to restrict H-1B visas must be taken seriously but India must not wilt on data storage



You have to hand it to US President Donald Trump and his style of negotiations with countries when it comes to trade that most governments, fearing being locked out of the world's largest consumer economy, go to the discussion table fairly quickly. Even the primary target of his ire, China, which initially decided to face him down, has now found itself being dragged deeper and deeper into a trade war with one of its marquee companies, Huawei, a target. Mexico, the US' southern neighbour, folded quickly when Trump threatened to completely shut the border for Mexican transportation which would have crippled that nation. And now, after a few months of trying to bully India, Trump has suddenly found a soft spot to beat our assertiveness with. He has decided to go after the H-1B visa quotas for Indians, which have allowed Indian IT companies like Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, Wipro and HCL to become big players in the American services space and given an opportunity to millions of Indians to effectively emigrate to the US. Trump believes that threatening to cap the H-1B quota for Indians at just 15 per cent of the available limit will force India's hand in trade negotiations. Considering Indians currently use up two-thirds of the 120,000 available H-1B visas annually, that would indeed be a huge hit.

There is no doubt that such a cap will have a detrimental impact on the fortunes of American companies but Trump is being egoistic about linking it to getting his way on tariff and loosening up data protection. India is one of the few large open economies in the world that is left for American companies and the largest technology firms like Facebook, Google and Uber depend on India for the bulk of their users. India is also an active participant with the US in containing China, and while the Trump administration has some valid complaints against India on some tariff issues and e-commerce, the data storage aspect, which seems to have American financial company Mastercard very upset, is something India should stick its guns on. If our data is not in our control and sits outside, it will not be subject to our laws. Besides, why should we compromise our strategic bargaining chip? There is no doubt that India needs America as a trading partner but it needs us as well and Trump's nativist antagonism will not help. While "waiting and watching" is not a great strategy for policymakers, the fact is that the US does go into a presidential election in the next 15 months. It would be fatal to assume that Trump cannot be re-elected. One should hope that the American Congress, where the opposition Democratic Party has a majority, will defeat most of his proposals given the adversarial nature of his politics. However, India must open up its economy a bit more. This is vital if we are to grow jobs and improve trade. But we should not give in to Trump's bullying tactics and if he acts too tough, we should show how difficult we can make life for American companies.

There is no doubt that such a cap will have a detrimental impact on the fortunes of American companies but Trump is being egoistic about linking it to getting his way on tariff and loosening up data protection. India is one of the few large open economies in the world that is left for American companies and the largest technology firms like Facebook, Google and Uber depend on India for the bulk of their users. India is also an active participant with the US in containing China, and while the Trump administration has some valid complaints against India on some tariff issues and e-commerce, the data storage aspect, which seems to have American financial company Mastercard very upset, is something India should stick its guns on. If our data is not in our control and sits outside, it will not be subject to our laws. Besides, why should we compromise our strategic bargaining chip? There is no doubt that India needs America as a trading partner but it needs us as well and Trump's nativist antagonism will not help. While "waiting and watching" is not a great strategy for policymakers, the fact is that the US does go into a presidential election in the next 15 months. It would be fatal to assume that Trump cannot be re-elected. One should hope that the American Congress, where the opposition Democratic Party has a majority, will defeat most of his proposals given the adversarial nature of his politics. However, India must open up its economy a bit more. This is vital if we are to grow jobs and improve trade. But we should not give in to Trump's bullying tactics and if he acts too tough, we should show how difficult we can make life for American companies.

Morsi's death was foretold

The former President is only one of the thousands of Egyptians who have been murdered or tortured by the military regime that overthrew him in 2013



GWYNNE DYER

Egypt's first and last democratically elected President, Mohamed Morsi, died on July 17, lying on the floor of the courtroom where they were trying him on yet more charges. (He was already serving several life sentences). It was probably a heart attack, but according to witnesses, they left him lying there for 20 minutes before medical help arrived.

His death drew criticism from international and local human rights groups, which accused the Egyptian government of deliberately denying Morsi access to medical care in jail. He was only 67, but he was not in good health: He had both diabetes and liver disease. But he was not getting proper treatment for those illnesses. A British parliamentary group that investigated his situation at his family's request last year concluded that without urgent medical assistance, the damage to his health could be "permanent and possibly terminal." Well, it was.

Morsi was held in solitary confinement for six years and saw his family just three times. His living conditions were such that the United Nations Human Rights office has called for a "prompt, impartial, thorough and transparent investigation" into his death. Fair enough, but he is only one of the thousands of Egyptians who have been murdered or tortured by the military regime that overthrew him in 2013.

Morsi, Egypt's first democratically elected President, who hailed from the now outlawed Brotherhood, was ousted by the military in 2013 after massive protests against his divisive rule. The authorities subsequently launched a major crackdown on the Brotherhood, arresting Morsi and many others of the group's leaders.

Morsi was not a very good President: He was a narrow, stubborn man, who governed solely in the interests of his own Muslim Brotherhood party and its Islamic priorities. He behaved like this even though he had barely scraped into the presidency with the votes of many, who, though secular in their views and values, feared that otherwise the candidate of the old regime would win.

They fully shared his desire to uproot the secular "deep state" that had ruled Egypt through three military dictators and six decades but they had not signed up for an Islamist constitution instead. So they started demonstrating against Morsi and only a year after he was elected, they cheered when the military stepped in and overthrew him, like so many turkeys voting for Christmas.

Morsi and his party behaved badly, the secular pro-democracy activists were no wiser and they have both paid a high price in blood and misery for their mistakes.



So is there any particular reason to highlight the fact and manner of Morsi's passing?

Yes, because it creates an opportunity to consider what might have happened if he had not been overthrown.

He would probably still be alive, because he would have been getting good medical care, but he would no longer be in power. His four-year presidential term would have expired in 2016 and he would not have won a second term.

Whoever won the first election after the long-ruling dictator Hosni Mubarak was overthrown in 2011, was winning a poisoned chalice, for the Egyptian economy was already on the rocks when the protests began. In fact, that's why they started and the long period of protesting and politicking that followed meant that nobody even started thinking about the economy again until early 2013.

The whole of Morsi's first presidential term, had he served it out, would have been spent struggling to pull the economy out of the ditch. In the course of that, he would

PEOPLE MORE EXPERIENCED WITH DEMOCRACY WOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT THE MORSI AND MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD RULE WOULD BOTH BE REJECTED IN THE 2016 ELECTIONS. ALL THEY HAD TO DO WAS WAIT IT OUT AND LET THE VOTERS SORT IT OUT NEXT TIME. THAT'S WHAT AMERICANS, WHO DEPLORE TRUMP, ARE DOING RIGHT NOW

have had to impose all sorts of austerity measures that would have hurt exactly the people who were his core voters: The pious poor. And half of them wouldn't have voted for him next time.

The whole tragedy of 2013, which ended up with General al-Sisi's snipers killing more than a thousand unarmed protesters in Rabaa and Nahda Squares in Cairo and wounding at least 4,000 others — a massacre perhaps as bad as Tiananmen Square — was completely unnecessary. People more experienced with democracy would have known that Morsi and Muslim Brotherhood rule would both be rejected in the 2016 elections.

All they had to do was wait it out and let the voters sort it out next time. That's what Americans, who deplore President Donald Trump, are doing right now but they have more than two centuries of democratic Government under their belt.

The voters may choose to make the same "mistake" again, of course, being only human but mostly they don't.

And even if they do, there will be another chance to fix things the next time around. As long as the decisions are not completely irrevocable, they can eventually be reversed — and you get to keep your democracy.

If Morsi had not been overthrown, the biggest Arab country, with one-third of the world's Arabic-speaking people, would still be a democracy. Other Arab countries like Algeria and Sudan, where they are trying to make democracy happen today, would have a powerful supporter in Egypt, not a sworn enemy. Syria would probably still have suffered a civil war and so might Yemen but the ultra-conservative monarchies of the Gulf would no longer dominate the Arab world with their money.

Nobody can question the courage of the young men and women who overthrew the Egyptian dictatorship in 2011 but they were too ready to dispense with democracy at the first sign of trouble.

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

SOUNDBITE

We are advancing to such a degree of development, we have to have control, we have to have protection and have to give protection to inventors.



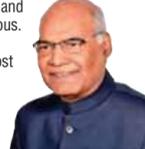
Former CJJ —Dipak Misra

A good Punjabi film is better than a Hindi film with a bad script. If it is a Hindi film, doesn't mean it'll be superior.



Actor —Diljit Dosanjh

New India will be sensitive and also economically prosperous. But for this to happen, the nation's security is of utmost importance.



Indian President —Ram Nath Kovind

The President's address was just a repetition of Modi's speech. He has missed major points like unemployment and GDP downfall.



Congress leader —Anand Sharma

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Celebrate yoga day

Sir — As the world celebrates Yoga Day today, people should be aware of the many benefits of our traditional and comprehensive well-being ritual so that everybody can take advantage and practise it as a healthy way of life. Yoga is the only discipline which aligns the body and mind and helps us gain inner peace. Just five minutes of a yoga routine a day can change one's life. It can help improve concentration, too.

Varsha Tiwari
Via email

Review preparedness

Sir — It is sad that militancy has once again reared its ugly head in Jammu & Kashmir. In yet another encounter, another Army Major died while another officer of the same rank and two soldiers were injured in an encounter in south Kashmir earlier. Our Army has shown indomitable spirit in protecting the borders of the country so that the people, especially in Jammu & Kashmir, remain safe. It is for the Government to make sure that

When real issues take a back seat

It was strange to read an excerpt from the book, *India Positive*, by Chetan Bhagat and the article, "Reimagine trust with prosperity" (June 17) by Bindu Dalmia. Both articles overlooked the deliberately created fissures in society and the state of the unintelligently handled country's economy. Also, the New India, which is now being attempted to be inaugurated, seeks to mutilate the original idea of India, which our founding fathers had espoused.

Social media, the magnified byproduct of the internet, seems to be in a tearing hurry to annihilate fairness and liberal values. Fake news, misinformation campaigns and Goebbelsian methods compete with each other to demoralise and denigrate the opponents and critics of the ruling dispensation. Hindi, Hindutva and Hindu *rashtra*, which used to be undercover projects, are now being orchestrated openly and loudly, disdainful of its potential to sow the seeds of sectarianism. A sizeable number of people, sworn to faiths other than Hinduism, face the prospect of being marginalised and forced into irrelevance. If this trajectory is encouraged anymore, only the regions, which remain unattached to this subaltern

security forces are fully equipped to fight terrorists. The preparedness of our forces has long been questioned. It's high time the Government reviews counter-insurgency operations and invests in capacity-building.

Kirti Agarwal
Via email

Task cut out

Sir — Now that JP Nadda has been appointed the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) working president, he has a task at hand that can only be described as onerous. Nadda, who headed the Health Ministry in

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first tenure, is a symbol of dynamism, perseverance, sobriety and maturity. His ascent from a students' leader to the working president of the BJP — at a time when the party has flourished in a majority of States and has decimated the Opposition in the



Haridasan Rajan
Kozhikode

scheme, would prosper economically and socially. Others may face social unrest and economic regression. It is disheartening that those in the Hindi heartland, trapped in the relentless rhetoric, seem to barter bread-and-butter issues for imaginary threats and jingoism. To make the manifesto for change and the imagined trust with prosperity a reality, India needs to become first once again.

recent parliamentary polls — makes it special and significant as it will likely take him to the top slot by December.

J Akshay
Bengaluru

Lead a healthy life

Sir — Yoga is panacea for all types of physical, mental, emotional, psychic and psychological imbalances. In the famous documentary on meditation, *Spiritual Reality: Journey Within*, many benefits of yoga have been enumerated upon. The documentary reveals how yoga replenishes and rejuvenates a yogi physically, mentally and spiritually. In the state of perfect yoga, one receives abundant cosmic energy, which heals, energises and rejuvenates each and every cell, nerve and organ of the physical, mental and spiritual body of a man. It cleanses the body of all its ills and toxins that might develop into some fatal ailments. We must practise yoga for a healthy, happy and fulfilling life.

Jubel D'Cruz
Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

When military rules the roost

In Pakistan, the shadowy arm of the military establishment is all-pervasive. Yet another proof is Zardari's recent arrest on corruption charges



AVEEK SEN

Early this month, former President of Pakistan and co-chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Asif Ali Zardari, was arrested on corruption charges from his residence. The National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Pakistan's anti-corruption body, made the arrests in connection with the use of alleged fake bank accounts to park ill-gotten money and subsequently transferring it out of Pakistan through money laundering channels. Zardari's arrest happened after the Islamabad High Court rejected the extension of anticipatory bail for Zardari and his sister Faryal Talpur. But is this case only about corruption? Anti-corruption investigations have often been used as a weapon by Pakistan's military establishment to cut 'errant' politicians down to size. Yet another example is that of former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

From the very inception of the state, the military establishment in Pakistan has meddled in domestic politics. In 1958, Army chief General Ayub Khan deposed the then President Iskander Mirza to usurp power (there was a presidential system of Government then). In 1977, Army Chief General Zia-ul-Haq deposed Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. In 1979, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was executed for having been found guilty of "conspiracy to murder" in a trial widely seen as a sham. In 1990, the then President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dissolved the Benazir Bhutto Government on charges of "alleged corruption and incompetence." Fresh elections were held and Sharif, groomed under Zia as the head of the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad (JI), was elected as the Prime Minister. It is worth noting that back in the day, Sharif played the same role as what is being played by Imran Khan today. Again in 1993, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dismissed the Sharif Government for alleged "corruption and incompetence." Do the charges not sound familiar? The same allegations were levied against Sharif and Zardari this time around, too.

There are multiple factors behind the arrest. After the arrest of Altaf Hussain — once the fearsome 'Don of Karachi' — and Sharif, action against Zardari was on the cards as per its Army's "Minus-3 Formula," which means that the military has already pushed three major national leaders into oblivion. It all started with Hussain and the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) in the stronghold of Karachi and Hyderabad. Then, the Punjab heavyweight, Sharif, was incarcerated. Now, the focus has shifted to the Sindh heavyweight Zardari.

Imran Khan seemingly wants to show both Sharif and Zardari their place though Sharif is higher on his hit list. On the other hand, Zardari is giving it back to both Imran Khan and the military establishment by being vocal about economic issues, the failure of the State to govern and speaking in favour of the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM). The NAB, which arrested Zardari, has also been under intense pressure from the establishment. After the NAB chairman, Justice Javed Iqbal, refused to toe Imran Khan's line on Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) (PML(N)) and PPP a sex scandal emerged. This was seen as a plot by the establishment as he didn't follow their *diktats*. In Pakistan, the shadowy arm of the military establishment is all-pervasive.

Zardari escaped crackdown till a point by dealing with the establishment. PPP, thus, managed to get its deputy chairman elected by cooperating in the Senate elections. Zardari's bail also kept getting extended. PML(N) then announced that it would start protests against the Government after Eid. PPP, on which pressure was building up from the military establishment, said that it would also join them. That was the last straw. Zardari's arrest also served to pressurise PPP as the budget session was on the next day. The establishment did not want any protests inside Parliament. Zardari has said it publicly that he doesn't care if he is incarcerated, having already served a decade-long term before.

Former PPP member of provincial Assembly, Sharmila Farooqi, said that the unfortunate trend of incarceration of political opponents has become a trademark of the Imran Khan Government. Zardari had earlier spent 11 years in jail and was eventually acquitted in the politically motivated cases by the Sharif regime. This time, too, we saw it coming and yet again, he might come out clean. The military establishment doesn't want the Opposition to gang up in a way that blocks the Government's functioning. Since public anger is mounting due to high prices of essential commodities, it is a ripe moment for largescale political protests. Hence, members of Opposition will face pressure on corruption charges to prevent them from leading such protests.

(The writer is an independent journalist working on cyber security and the geopolitics of India's neighbourhood, focussing on Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Bangladesh)

A COMMITTEE WILL BE CONSTITUTED TO GIVE ITS SUGGESTIONS ON THE SUBJECT (ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION) IN A TIME-BOUND MANNER.

—UNION MINISTER
 RAJNATH SINGH

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



IT (ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION) IS LIKE MAKING A RULE THAT EVERYBODY SHOULD LIVE FOR 60 YEARS. IF PEOPLE DIE EARLIER, WHAT WILL HAPPEN THEN?

—FORMER UNION LAW MINISTER
 M VEERAPPA MOILY

Breaking new ground

A dynamic business environment, widespread mobile and digital infrastructure and digital finance products are the three building blocks towards achieving the promise of inclusion



MOIN QAZI

Digital technologies have now become the most powerful lever for financial inclusion and are considered the smartest way to rapidly unlock economic opportunity and accelerate social development with economic empowerment. Digital tools have fostered speedier and more inclusive growth by dramatically reducing financial service providers' costs and making services more convenient and accessible for users, especially low-income subscribers in remote locations. Money sits in a virtual account on a server where it can be transferred with the click of a button.

Digital finance payments and financial services delivered via mobile phones and the internet are greasing the wheels of the economic system and transforming the lives and economic prospects of individuals, businesses and Governments across the developing world, thus boosting GDP and making the goal of financial inclusion a reality.

In contrast to digital financial systems, physical channels are prohibitive for even low income populations. First, physical banking is relatively costlier and riskier for consumers to perform even while engaging in basic financial activities — payments, savings, investments and remittances. Second, it is very costly for utility firms, banks, insurance companies and other institutions to transact with them as it makes their operations infeasible and unsustainable. Digital channels offer a robust fix for the problems encountered by both consumers and financial institutions in traditional systems of finance.

Digital finance can be defined as financial services delivered over digital infrastructure, including internet and mobile, with low use of cash and traditional bank branches. Computers, mobile phones or biometric payment cards used over Point-of-Sale (PoS) devices connect individuals and businesses to a digitised payments infrastructure, enabling seamless transaction across all parties.

The popular term for the digital financial revolution is "fintech," which has fundamentally changed people's lives and transformed the business landscape. In many markets, cash is fast becoming obsolete and transactions are mostly via digital tools. Banking is also moving into a presence-less, paperless and real-time era: While there will always be bank branches, banks will become more "invisible" in how they deliver their services — many of which will primarily be accessed online.

The fintech revolution is led by a host of players, including commercial banks, telecommunication firms, payment banks, small finance banks and financial technology companies. It is harnessing technology to reinvent traditional business models, creating opportunities to connect India's hitherto unbanked communities to affordable and reliable financial tools at an unprecedented speed and scale. It offers a preview of what the global banking model may look like a generation from now.

Fintech has freed bank staff from counters and relieved customers of the inconvenience of transacting solely during banking hours. Most of the financial work can now be done via the smartphone, improving payment systems, eliminating paper receipts and reducing a number of frictions thus not only saving customers' time and money, but improving their quality of life.

“WHILE GROUND-BREAKING TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATIVE BUSINESS OPERATIONS PROVIDE FRESH BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES, THERE ARE ALSO NEW RISKS, WHICH RELATE TO IMPLEMENTING DIGITAL FINANCIAL SERVICES, NOT JUST OPERATIONAL AND TECHNICAL. LOSS OF PRIVACY IS THE MOST OBVIOUS ONE”



Meanwhile, the phenomenal data footprint provided by smartphones and data-connected mobile phones is providing an unprecedented opportunity to bring people with limited credit-history into the formal mainstream through alternate credit profiles. In conjunction with this digital data, Artificial Intelligence and machine learning algorithms can assess the credit worthiness of the user, making it possible to provide loans to them even in the absence of a traditional credit history.

Digital finance also offers major technological and infrastructure challenges. Sparse populations, inconsistent network coverage, insufficient capital for building new business models and customers' lack of trust and comfort with technology can stand in the way of success, particularly in remote or underserved communities. And the risks of implementing digital financial services are not just operational and technical: There are also concerns about the security, affordability and safety of these new financial channels. To take just one example, loss of customer privacy is all but inevitable, despite efforts to create safeguards. For India's financial inclusion industry to capitalise fully on the benefits of digital finance, the accompanying risks must be understood and adequately addressed.

However, digital finance can have negative effects for financial inclusion. Providers of digital finance services can be profit-seeking corporations that use digital finance to maximise their profitability or to maximise the profitable opportunities of businesses affiliated with digital finance providers, namely banks, financial and non-financial institutions. Corporate providers of digital finance services can

discriminately use a more aggressive marketing tactic to persuade high and middle income customers to use a new or existing digital finance platform or infrastructure. They must use a less-aggressive marketing tactic to persuade low-income and poor customers to use new or existing digital platforms or infrastructure if they believe the latter cannot afford the associated fees.

The most important need is to strengthen the entire ecosystem within which last-mile agents, clients and financial service providers interact with technology. To facilitate a seamless transition in digital financial services, India will have to consider the following:

- The need to balance the regulatory framework to support innovation and competition, while ensuring the safety and soundness of the financial system.

- Maintain openness to new players and models such as non-bank players like fintechs, telecom-supported financial services providers, crowd funding and big data analytics.

- The role of regulatory sandboxes to test new digital ideas and initiatives.

- The importance of sufficient digital infrastructure.

- The role of national identification systems, biometrics and tiered know-your-customer digital solutions that reach beyond the banking system.

While ground-breaking technology and innovative business operations provide fresh business opportunities, there are also new risks, which relate to implementing digital financial services, not just operational and technical. Loss of privacy is the most obvious one. Despite efforts to create safeguards, it is all but inevitable. Though these risks cannot be eliminated, they can be mitigated. We must keep in mind the

concerns of security, affordability and safety.

India's central bank has been espousing a cautious approach in addressing concerns around consumer protection and law enforcement. The key objectives of the regulator have been to create an environment for responsible fintech innovations, to expand the reach of financial services for the unbanked population, to regulate an efficient electronic payment system and to provide suitable options to consumers.

While India is right in espousing a cautious approach, it would be more practical if it strikes a balance between protecting investors and consumers and giving banks, retailers and financial technology and telecommunications companies room to compete and innovate. Because regulations often shut out non-bank competitors, Governments should consider a tiered approach, whereby businesses, without a full banking licence, can provide basic financial products to customers.

Success cannot occur in a vacuum. To capture the opportunity, Government, leaders and businesses have to make a concerted and coordinated effort. Three building blocks are required: A dynamic business environment for financial services, widespread mobile and digital infrastructure and digital finance products that meet the needs of individuals and small businesses in ways that are superior to the informal financial tools used today. As the Government and the fintech industry work to navigate the many challenges ahead, efforts to maintain a balance between safety and innovation must continue.

(The writer is Member, NITI Aayog's National Committee on Financial Literacy and Inclusion for Women)

Unlock India's green funding potential

Our journey towards green finance is currently at the beginner's stage. To emerge as a potential big player in this field, greening investments require efforts in terms of capacity-building, improving governance and new investment policies



MEGHA JAIN SANDEEP BHATTACHARYA

That sustainability and economic growth are co-dependent is well-known. Green funding, financing environment-friendly activities and projects, can act as a catalyst to fulfil both. Hence, it is important to link the financial sector to make it responsive to climate-related concerns. Green funding can have two aspects — first, financial institutions ensuring (before granting any credit) that no project financed breaches current environmental standards. The second relates to preferring activities or projects that are climate-friendly ie, ones that reduce emissions or help cope with vagaries of climate change.

The "business-as-usual" scenario without achieving environ-

mental goals may lead to loss of civilisation. Such a world will support a small fraction of the current global population, with many places (like the Gulf Cooperation Council) becoming unfit for living. However, there's hope. A recent report by the Global Sustainable Investment Alliance shows at least \$30.7 trillion is held in green investments, up 30 per cent from 2016. How did this happen? And how can we accelerate the same?

Greening investments require efforts in terms of capacity-building, improving governance and new investment policies. The current flow of capital to the green sector is mostly from the private sector, with many involved players largely directing capital to these causes, as per the inclination of the asset holders ie, people, whose money, various institutions like mutual funds and insurance companies invest. These asset holders are aware of the consequences of climate change and want the money to be invested so as to address the issue. The world needs a lot of capital to fight climate change. As per a report by the World

Economic Forum, it would need an added investment of around \$0.7 trillion per year to sustain the challenges posed by climate change.

The notion of green funding in India is very recent. However, within this short period, notable institutions like SBI, Axis Bank, Power Finance Corporation and a few independent power producers like Renew Power and Greenko have tapped dedicated green funds existing in the West by issuing green bonds. To scale up the efforts locally, a collective effort on the part of all stakeholders, including the Government, banks, institutions and regulators is needed to build a climate resilient nation via green funding. "Green banks" are considered to be a promising solution to develop green infrastructure markets. An obvious question that emerges here is: How can India unleash its potential?

Nearly 1,500 investors globally, with \$45 trillion of assets under their management, have made public commitments to responsible investment. The benefits that directly emerge for investors allocating capital to green causes are — access to green

assets/projects without higher project risk, achieving environmental and financial return on investment, compliance to green mandates, awareness and commitment to green growth, and deeper engagement with firms managing green issues. Undoubtedly, this hints towards investors with substantial corpus, who are active supporters of climate change. It is but natural that these investors have an appetite for green bond funding. It is to mop up funds from these sources that the Indian institutions mentioned earlier issued green bonds.

There is evidence that several developing nations like Bangladesh, Nigeria, Fiji and Indonesia among others have committed themselves to green financing. Nigeria, Fiji and Indonesia have issued sovereign green bonds. Given India's existing emission trajectory, it is essential for us to tap green financing to ensure minimum emissions with greater resilience. The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, and Amundi, Europe's largest asset manager, announced the successful launch of the world's largest

targeted green bond fund focused on emerging markets, the Amundi Planet Emerging Green One (EGO), in March 2018. With a \$256 million cornerstone commitment from IFC, the fund aims to increase the capacity of emerging market banks to fund climate-smart investments. Subsequently, an announcement was made about IFC tying up with HSBC Global Asset Management to set up a similar fund targeted at non-banking segment.

How does India fare on attracting green investments? As per a report by Bloomberg New Energy Finance, India reserved the second position in global ranking in attractiveness for renewable sector investments, primarily coerced by its policy push towards increasing renewable energy. Further, it had the second biggest (2017) renewable energy investment market among all such climate-conscious economies, drawing \$9.4 billion fresh funding.

Despite evidence of increasing private sector interest in clean energy and associated green investments, the scale of green investments has a lot

more to cover. Closing this gap is our collective task. Development finance institutions like IFC and ADB among others may support by credit enhancements instruments like guarantee, besides investing in some key projects and help in slashing the overall cost of capital. The unified action of public and private funding leverages far greater capital flow, compared to standalone private sector finance.

India is trying to be a big player here. Nevertheless, more needs to be done. The launch of the Amundi Planet EGO can be an incentive to developing nations, including India. The long time scale and large size of the fund, which will actively invest in emerging market green bonds issued by financial institutions through to 2025, is expected to significantly increase the scale and pace of climate finance in emerging markets.

Further, consistent positions on financial policy and market intervention by Governments can help give confidence to both domestic and international investors. Similarly, consistent policy positions and support for green growth and environmental

objectives will boost investors' confidence in green funding.

A missing piece of the puzzle, however, is a substantial amount of dedicated green capital that exists locally in the Indian markets. This has started with dedicated green funds slowly finding their ground here. Currently, there are a few funds like GEF Capital Partners, Eversource Capital, which are dedicated to green causes. Recently, Avendus, a leading financial service provider, announced that it has launched India's first ESG fund. Is India ready to launch a large "green fund" in which retail or even high net worth individuals are substantial contributors? Industry veterans are not positive about it. Then how do we get there? Clearly, greater awareness is the answer. The good thing is that the journey has already started. Still, more momentum is required to provide the desired impetus.

(Megha Jain is assistant professor, Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi and Sandeep Bhattacharya is projects manager, Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI), Mumbai)

NCLT admits Jet for bankruptcy

Sets 90 days for resolution

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Thursday admitted the insolvency petition filed by the lenders' consortium led by State Bank against Jet Airways.

The tribunal has also appointed Ashish Chhauchharia of Grant Thornton as the resolution professional for the crippled airline that stopped operations on April 17.

The tribunal comprising VP Singh and Ravikumar Duraisami directed the RP to try and finish the resolution process in three months even though the law allows six months, saying "the matter is of national importance."

In its plea, SBI has made a claim of ₹967 crore and said it had given ₹505 crore in working capital loans, and an overdraft facility of ₹462 crore to the company.

However, the tribunal rejected the plea by the Netherlands based vendors for filing an intervention application, saying the Dutch district court had no jurisdiction to order bankruptcy of Jet Airways.

The representatives of two Dutch two logistics vendors wanted the tribunal's nod to make an intervention petition.

It can be noted that two logistics vendors of Jet in the Netherlands had confiscated a passenger jet at the Amsterdam airport late March seeking dues and a local had in May ordered bankruptcy process against the grounded airline and had appointed Rocco Mulder as the administrator for the bankruptcy proceedings.

The tribunal also rejected the bankruptcy pleas filed by two operational creditors of Jet—Shaman Wheels and Gagar Enterprises.

These companies claim ₹8.74 crore, and ₹53 lakh respectively from the airline, and were the first to take the airline for bankruptcy on June 10.

Unprecedented rally in Jet Airways shares; zoom over 122%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Jet Airways witnessed an unprecedented rally on the bourses Thursday, bouncing back sharply after days of massive fall to close the day over 122 per cent higher.

After a highly volatile trading day, the scrip skyrocketed 93.35 per cent to close at ₹64 on the BSE, helped by robust fag end buying. During the day, it zoomed 133.68 per cent to ₹77.35.

Earlier in the day, shares of the company had touched its all-time low of ₹27, down 18.42 per cent.

At the NSE, shares rose by 122.20 per cent to close at ₹73.55. In intra-day trade, it touched a high of ₹82.75 and an all-time low of ₹26.55.

Economic activity clearly losing traction: Das at MPC meet

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian economy has been clearly losing traction and needs a decisive monetary policy to promote growth, said Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das while voting for a 25 basis points (bps) rate cut along with other five members at the MPC meet earlier this month.

Das, as per the minutes of the June 3-6 Monetary Policy Committee, said that since the last meeting of the rate-setting panel in April 2019, greater clarity has emerged about the evolving macroeconomic situation.

The RBI released the minutes of the meeting Thursday. Overall, there is clear evidence of economic activity "losing traction" with the GDP growth in the fourth quarter of the last financial year slowing to 5.8 per cent, he said.

"In sum, growth impulses have clearly weakened, while the headline inflation trajectory is projected to remain below 4.0 per cent throughout 2019-20 even after considering the expected transmission of the past two policy rate cuts.

"Keeping in view the evolving growth inflation dynamics, there is a need for decisive monetary policy action. Hence, my vote is to reduce the policy repo rate by 25 basis points," he said.

He also favoured shifting the stance of monetary policy from neutral to accommodative to send a clear signal, indicating that more measures could be taken in the near future to boost growth.

It was for the third time in a row that the RBI cut the key lending rate (repo) by 25 bps.

MPC member and RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya said the mixed picture on economic growth has morphed into one where at least some aspects have weakened considerably over the past two quarters. He also flagged some upside risks, including deficiency in monsoon and volatility in crude oil prices, to inflation.

"In spite of my dilemma, I vote — albeit with some hesitation — to frontload the policy rate cut from 6 per cent to 5.75 per cent..." the minutes quoted him as saying.

Jaypee Infratech creditors meet to take stock of insolvency process

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Debt-ridden realty firm Jaypee Infratech's creditors, which include banks and homebuyers, Thursday met to assess the progress of the ongoing insolvency proceedings and decide the future course of action.

According to sources, the Committee of Creditors (CoC) did not take any decision on the way forward. The decision on whether to consider bids of Adani Group or Jaypee Group would be taken after a hearing in this matter in the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on July 2.

CGTMSE RECORDS 58% GROWTH IN GUARANTEES IN FY19

New Delhi: Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE), a trust set up by Government of India and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), crossed a significant milestone in FY19 by approving 4.35 lakh guarantees for an aggregate loan amount of ₹30,168 crore recording a growth of 58% compared with the previous fiscal.

Sensex soars 489 pts as dovish Fed lifts global markets

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex rallied 489 points Thursday, driven by gains in banking, healthcare and auto stocks, amid strong cues from the global markets after the US Federal Reserve hinted at a rate cut in the near future.

After gyrating over 700 points during the day, the BSE gauge settled 488.89 points, or 1.25 per cent, higher at 39,601.63. The index hit an intra-day high of 39,638.64 and a low of 38,933.78.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty closed 140.30 points, or 1.20 per cent, higher at 11,831.75. During the day, the index touched a high of 11,843.50 and a low of 11,635.05.

Yes Bank was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 10.94 per cent.

Other gainers included Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank, L&T, ICICI Bank, Maruti, Bajaj Auto, Tata Motors and ONGC, rallying up to 4.01 per cent.

HUL, HDFC Bank, ITC and NTPC were the only losers in the index, shedding up to 0.26 per cent.

Meanwhile, shares of Jet

Airways witnessed a massive rebound, ending 93 per cent higher, after tanking nearly 90 per cent in the past 13 sessions.

According to experts, domestic investors took cues from firm global markets that rallied after the US Federal Reserve's policy outcome.

The US central bank Wednesday left the interest rates unchanged, but indicated it will not hesitate to cut rates to boost the economy amid growing uncertainties.

Bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended significantly higher. Equity markets in Europe too were trading in the green in early deals.

Hopes of a breakthrough in US-China trade talks too boosted global investor sentiment, traders said.

On the currency front, the Indian rupee appreciated 11 paise to 69.57 against the US dollar intra-day.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 2.67 per cent to USD 63.47 per barrel amid a flare up in geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
YESBANK	102.00	115.90	98.70	115.00	11.80
IBULHSFIN	565.35	607.00	554.80	603.00	47.50
INDUSINDBK	1380.00	1441.10	1348.00	1438.00	56.65
SUNPHARMA	368.00	392.20	368.00	389.00	13.80
JSWSTEEL	261.00	270.00	258.25	269.55	9.00
IT	1509.25	1563.00	1507.05	1557.15	52.00
CPIA	531.80	552.45	528.65	551.90	18.20
MARUTI	6390.00	6649.00	6340.25	6629.00	204.35
ICICIBANK	419.75	434.65	419.00	433.00	13.20
BAJAJ-AUTO	2837.90	2906.90	2806.15	2905.00	82.10
ONGC	166.30	172.75	166.30	172.15	4.80
TATAMOTORS	153.45	160.00	152.15	158.95	4.30
INFRAEEL	269.15	280.25	269.15	279.30	7.20
BHARTIARTL	339.25	350.00	339.25	349.75	8.65
M&M	614.80	630.65	611.25	630.40	15.25
GRASIM	876.15	906.60	870.00	903.10	21.05
TITAN	1274.50	1308.95	1266.05	1304.50	29.40
ULTRACEMCO	4499.00	4589.85	4425.00	4585.00	100.00
HINDALCO	1920.00	1948.80	188.10	1942.50	22.60
HEROMOTOCO	2600.00	2669.70	2600.00	2661.80	55.65
BAJAJFINSV	817.00	847.00	817.00	843.00	174.00
SBI	341.00	346.25	335.60	346.00	7.15
VEDL	168.90	172.50	166.50	171.90	3.40
RELIANCE	1280.00	1300.00	1278.00	1299.90	22.55
BAFINANCE	3519.00	3589.00	3507.40	3583.90	58.40
RPLCL	374.10	386.45	377.00	385.50	6.15
IOC	154.40	157.25	154.00	156.90	2.50
TATASTEEL	494.10	502.80	489.85	501.60	6.90
KOTAKBANK	1500.50	1520.00	1497.00	1518.00	20.20
GAIL	307.50	311.90	305.30	311.80	4.05
COALINDIA	256.00	261.00	256.00	260.35	3.30
HDFC	2174.10	2207.00	2165.65	2203.20	27.60
TCPS	2230.00	2284.00	2212.00	2283.30	23.40
ASIANPAINT	1365.55	1404.90	1360.70	1391.30	10.15
DREDDY	2550.00	2577.25	2518.00	2568.95	18.10
HINDUNILVR	1799.00	1809.45	1791.50	1808.45	9.75
HDFCBANK	2428.35	2437.00	2416.60	2425.70	12.35
HCLTECH	1070.00	1091.00	1065.65	1089.45	5.35
POWERGRID	200.65	202.75	199.30	201.15	0.85
INFY	737.80	756.90	735.90	754.95	3.05
NTPC	134.60	137.25	133.60	134.85	0.20
AXISBANK	772.00	775.45	768.00	771.50	0.80
ECHERMOT	1999.00	1999.00	1920.00	1979.00	-0.70
ITC	277.00	277.95	275.35	277.00	-0.20
ZEE	351.30	355.95	342.20	351.10	-1.90
TECHM	722.00	731.00	717.85	726.75	-8.85
BRITANNIA	2890.00	2870.85	2796.55	2838.00	-37.70
ADANIAPORTS	395.75	412.60	389.70	402.25	-5.45
WIPRO	284.05	287.80	282.40	286.75	-7.30
UPL	945.55	940.55	833.00	870.00	-80.30

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	26522.50	27058.85	26390.50	26998.15	446.35
PEL	1745.00	1889.00	1705.90	1876.15	134.25
ASHOKLEY	80.70	85.55	80.40	87.85	4.95
BHEL	67.75	71.05	67.20	70.95	3.30
MCDOWELL-N	521.10	543.95	518.10	543.75	23.55
IDEA	11.30	11.95	11.25	11.90	0.50
SAIL	47.85	49.85	47.20	49.80	2.05
SHREECEM	20452.15	21270.00	20059.60	21250.00	811.45
L&T	107.50	114.10	106.30	113.95	4.40
DIVISLAB	1548.30	1615.00	1539.10	1598.50	58.10
AMBUJACEM	207.20	214.30	204.80	213.50	7.05
SRTANSFIN	1063.00	1108.00	1046.95	1099.00	36.25
CONCOR	532.00	549.00	528.95	548.90	17.80
ACC	1493.25	1546.50	1470.10	1538.95	45.35
DLF	176.40	183.25	173.35	181.20	8.00
BOCHLTD	16275.00	16699.00	16058.90	16699.00	439.50
BANKBARODA	116.20	119.00	115.25	118.80	3.00
ICICIPRULI	368.90	375.60	366.00	374.40	9.00
AUROPHARMA	610.95	628.00	608.15	626.80	14.40
CADILAC	237.90	243.65	234.00	242.50	5.00
MOTHERSUNI	125.25	128.20	123.75	127.90	2.60
DABUR	380.00	389.80	376.85	388.00	6.05
LUPIN	705.00	715.50	702.90	714.10	10.30
OFSS	3200.00	3255.05	3146.20	3250.00	43.65
GODREJCP	660.40	677.80	657.95	672.35	8.65
NHPC	24.60	24.90	24.35	24.85	0.30
PAGEIND	20360.00	20649.00	20210.15	20612.30	241.85
BAJAJHLDRG	3570.00	3630.00	3547.00	3620.00	40.80
ICICIGI	1151.00	1165.00	1122.00	1164.90	13.15
HINDZINC	231.00	234.00	234.15	234.15	2.25
MRF	54599.95	55000.00	54119.00	55000.00	504.20
HDFCAMC	1805.00	1830.00	1801.00	1819.00	16.15
BIOCON	250.95	254.00	246.60	253.20	2.25
MARICO	362.50	367.80	360.60	367.30	3.25
PETRONET	235.00	238.70	232.20	237.25	1.85
PIDILITIND	1245.10	1261.35	1235.05	1255.00	9.60
PGHH	10570.35	10790.00	10375.35	10767.00	82.45
ABB	1555.90	1586.30	1535.00	1562.10	7.65
SBIIFE	696.40	705.00	690.05	699.25	2.95
HDFCLIFE	436.05	442.00	429.45	438.50	1.40
NMDC	106.55	108.90	106.55	108.50	0.35
DMART	1329.95	1349.95	1316.10	1337.00	1.30
GICRE	208.00	210.00	206.00	206.95	0.15
HAVELLS	780.20	788.00	776.00	784.15	0.15
SIEMENS	1266.50	1277.90	1251.05	1267.50	-4.80
UBL	1349.00	1353.40	1338.05	1344.45	-4.40
COLPAL	1141.50	1151.40	1127.15	1138.15	-7.65
BANDHANBNK	548.50	548.50	534.00	535.55	-5.00
NIACL	152.60	153.30	149.55	151.00	-1.60
HINDPETRO	297.00	299.60	289.25	291.95	-3.80
INDIGO	1622.00	1623.95	1564.00	1568.35	-40.80

BSE 500

SCRIP	Open	High	Low	LTP
JETAIRWAYS	30.20	77.35	27.00	64.00
YESBANK	102.35	115.90	98.75	114.45
RELCAPITAL	53.00	70.25	49.40	69.05
IBULHSFIN	559.00	606.80	555.05	599.95
RELIANCE	41.50	60.45	40.00	57.60
RPOWER	4.15	5.43	4.05	5.28
SUZLON	3.39	4.20	3.02	4.10
DHFL	61.80	70.25	60.05	69.30
JSJLAEQ	18.20	24.70	16.30	24.05
UPEJ	947.55			

IRAN SHOOTS DOWN US SPY DRONE

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's Revolutionary Guard said Thursday it had shot down a US "spy drone" which violated Iranian airspace near the Strait of Hormuz, in the latest incident to stoke tension in the strategic sea lane.

There was no immediate reaction from the United States.

The US-manufactured Global Hawk surveillance drone was hit with a missile "after violating Iranian airspace" over the waters of Hormozgan province, the Guard said in a statement.

The Iranian military did not immediately publish images of the drone.

The incident comes at a time of growing antagonism between Iran and the United States following two waves of still unexplained attacks on Gulf shipping, which Washington has blamed on Tehran.

Iran has denied any involvement and hinted that the US might have orchestrated them itself to provide a pretext for the use of force against the Islamic republic.

Shooting down the drone on Thursday was "a clear message" that Iran will defend its borders, the head of the Revolutionary Guard said.

Iran will "respond to all foreign aggression and our reaction is, and will be, categorical and absolute," Hossein Salami said, quoted by Tasnim news agency.

"We declare that we are not looking for war but we are

States following two waves of still unexplained attacks on Gulf shipping, which Washington has blamed on Tehran.

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"We declare that we are not looking for war but we are

ready to respond to any declaration of war," he added.

Tensions have been running high between Iran and the United States ever since President Donald Trump abandoned a landmark 2015 nuclear agreement in May last year.

The subsequent reimposition of crippling unilateral sanctions has dealt a heavy blow to Iran's already flagging economy.

Washington has also bolstered its military presence in the Middle East in a campaign of "maximum pressure" against Tehran.

Its deployment to the Gulf of an aircraft carrier task force as well as B-52 bombers, an amphibious assault ship and a missile defence battery has sparked fears of fresh conflict

in the region.

One of the two tankers attacked in the Gulf of Oman last week was damaged by a limpet mine, the US military said Wednesday.

Commander Sean Kido of US Naval Forces Central Command, or NAVCENT, said the mine used in the attack "is distinguishable and it is also strikingly bearing a resemblance to Iranian mines that have already been publicly displayed in Iranian military parades".

The Japanese-owned Kokuka Courageous, loaded with highly flammable methanol, came under attack last Thursday as it passed through the Gulf of Oman along with the Norwegian-operated Front Altair.

It was the second attack in a month on ships in the strategic shipping lane.

On May 12, two Saudi oil tankers and two other vessels were damaged in mysterious "sabotage attacks" in the Gulf of Oman off the United Arab Emirates.

Kido told reporters in the UAE emirate of Fujairah that the US military had recovered "biometric information" of the assailants on the Kokuka Courageous including fingerprints.

This information "can be used to build a criminal case", Kido said as the US Navy took journalists to the damaged ship currently anchored some 14 kilometres (nine miles) off Fujairah.

Defence Minister Amir

Hatami flatly rejected allegations Iran was behind the twin attacks.

"Accusations levelled against Iran's armed forces and the published film with regards to the incident (that) happened to the vessels... are unsubstantiated and we categorically reject these accusations," the official news agency IRNA quoted him as saying.

Washington has released images and a grainy black-and-white video it says shows Iranians on a patrol boat removing an unexploded limpet mine attached to the Kokuka Courageous.

The US commander Kido said there was an "ongoing joint and combined investigation with our regional partners into the attacks" on the two tankers.

Xi meets NKorea's Kim ahead of talks with Trump

AFP ■ PYONGYANG

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un welcomed Chinese President Xi Jinping to Pyongyang on Thursday on a historic visit to burnish an uneasy alliance, with the two men each facing challenges of their own with US President Donald Trump.

Xi is the first Chinese president to visit North Korea in 14 years, after relations between the Cold War era allies deteriorated over Pyongyang's nuclear provocations and Beijing's subsequent backing of UN sanctions.

But as he embarked on a flurry of diplomacy last year, Kim ensured that Xi — the leader of his country's key diplomatic supporter and main provider of trade and aid — was the first head of state he met.

The North Korean has now visited his older ally four times in China and Pyongyang has been increasingly keen for Xi to reciprocate, while according to diplomats Beijing has been biding its time to see how nuclear talks between Kim and Trump play out.

But Beijing's own trade negotiations with Washington hit a wall last month and some analysts say Xi is now looking for leverage ahead of his meeting with Trump at next week's G20 summit in Japan.

"When both China & North Korea are confronted by US, they have a lot to discuss with each other," Lijian Zhao, the deputy chief of mission of China's embassy in Pakistan, wrote on Twitter.

Kim met Xi at Pyongyang airport as he began a two-day state visit with his wife Peng Liyuan, Foreign Minister Wang Yi, and other officials, according to Chinese state media.

Portraits of the two leaders stood outside the terminal,

pictures showed, and a 21-gun salute was fired.

Chinese flags hung throughout the capital and hundreds of thousands of residents were lined up along the streets according to CCTV — standard procedure when a foreign leader visits the isolated North, whose authorities are adept at mounting spectacular displays. But in an unprecedented move, Xi was welcomed at the Kumsusan Palace, the mausoleum where the preserved bodies of the North's founder Kim Il Sung and successor Kim Jong Il — the grandfather and father of the current leader — lie in state.

Kim and Xi went on to hold formal talks, Xinhua reported.

The Rodong Sinmun newspaper, the mouthpiece of the ruling party, devoted the top half of its front page to the visit, with a colour picture of Xi accompanying a profile.

In an editorial, it said the trip at a time of "complex international relations" showed that the leadership in Beijing attached "high importance on the DPRK-China friendship".

"Our people are proud of having a trustworthy and close friend like the Chinese people," it added.

Xi's visit will be largely symbolic, with no formal joint communique expected — as was the case with Kim's April summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Vladivostok, Russia.

Authorities have imposed tight restrictions on coverage. International journalists in Pyongyang were told they would not be able to cover it, while foreign media organisations initially invited to attend proved unable to secure visas.

Sources said the Chinese media delegation accompanying Xi was also reduced in size from initial plans.

Terrorists in safe havens must not be allowed to negotiate, India to UN

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

India has told the UN that militant groups enjoying "support and safe havens" to carry out terrorist activities in Afghanistan from across the borders cannot be allowed to negotiate from a "place of advantage" as the US and the Taliban are planning to meet for the next round of crucial peace talks in Qatar.

Calling for a need to end the activities of Pakistan-based terrorist groups Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin said that the "sanctuaries and safe havens" provided to terror networks have to be addressed for a genuine and sustainable peace in Afghanistan.

"As the way forward is chalked out, we cannot ignore that groups enjoying support and safe havens carry out violent and terrorist activities

from across borders. They cannot be allowed to negotiate from a place of advantage," he said during an open debate here on the situation in Afghanistan on Wednesday.

The terrorist activities of the Taliban, the Haqqani Network, ISIS as well as al-Qaeda and its proscribed affiliates the LeT and the JeM need to end, he said.

The concluding communique of the Loya Jirga, convened by President Ashraf Ghani on April 29, called for a ceasefire, talks without preconditions, a Taliban office to be opened in Afghanistan, a responsible withdrawal of international forces, the formation of an inclusive negotiating team, continued support from the international community, and the preservation of human rights, particularly women's rights, Akbaruddin said.

"However, we see that some may be driven by a sense of an urgency with timelines

which are, perhaps, not intrinsic to the needs of the Afghan people. "We need to be cognizant that it is the Afghan people who will have to implement and sustain these agreements," the Indian diplomat said.

By all accounts, this is a crucial year for Afghanistan, he said. "While Afghanistan gears up to have its fourth Presidential elections later this year, all of us need to be mindful of the gains that the Afghan people have made in the last 18 years," Akbaruddin said.

The dignity and sustainability of the gains made by the people of Afghanistan should be the paramount factor in determining what outcome will best suit the country and will be implementable in a sustainable and dignified manner, he said.

"Experience with the Hizb-e-Islami shows that a peace settlement within the rubric of the current Constitution is possible both politically and socially," Akbaruddin said.

China admits hosting Taliban negotiator

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Thursday for the first time acknowledged that it recently hosted Afghan Taliban's chief peace negotiator Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar for talks as part of its stepped-up efforts to enlarge its strategic role in Afghanistan and efforts to restore peace in the war-torn country.

Mullah Baradar, one of the four top commanders who formed the Taliban in 1994, was released from jail last year by the Pakistani government. He is believed to be the highest ranking Afghan Taliban prisoner freed so far.

After his release from the jail, Mullah Baradar has been holding talks with US Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad.

China, a close ally of Pakistan, has been trying to iron out differences between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Afghanistan accuses Pakistan of providing safe

haven to the Afghan Taliban, Haqqani network and other militant groups, which carry out attacks in the war-torn country.

The "head of Taliban political office in Doha, Bardar, visited China", Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told the media here Thursday.

"During his visit, the Chinese officials exchanged views with him on the peace and reconciliation process as well as the fight against terrorism," he said.

Bardar was told about the constructive role being played by China in peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan, Lu said.

"We always support the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned extensive and inclusive peace and reconciliation as well as the internal dialogue among the Afghans. So, we have made the position clear with the Taliban chief negotiator," he said.

"This is an important part of our efforts to promote peace talks. Both sides agreed that the

exchange is mutually beneficial and we also agreed to seek communication and cooperation for a political settlement of the Afghan issue. We will try and talk through various means and ways to play our due role in realising peace and reconciliation, stability and development in Afghanistan," Lu said.

Mullah Baradar held several senior positions in the Taliban government before its fall in 2001. He was once considered the most influential Taliban leader after Mullah Muhammad Omar.

Asked what the Taliban wants to end civil war in Afghanistan, Lu said, "I believe the relevant parties in Afghanistan who are committed to peace talks hope to resolve the internal situation in Afghanistan and achieve sustainable peace and reconciliation".

"China is trying to promote the dialogue of Afghans. Another issue is the joint fight against terrorism," he said.

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Tories pick final two in battle to become British PM

AFP ■ LONDON

Conservative MPs will decide Thursday who will join Boris Johnson in the final two battling to become Britain's next prime minister, with three contenders jostling for the second spot.

Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, Environment Secretary Michael Gove and Interior Minister Sajid Javid are vying to join Johnson on the ballot paper to be put before 160,000 Conservative Party members.

Two rounds of voting are scheduled to whittle the four down to two, though Johnson, barring a spectacular collapse in support, already has more than enough backing to ensure he cruises through.

The last two will then face 16 hustings meetings around the country and two televised debates before Tory party members send in their postal votes to pick a new leader.

The winner will be announced in the week beginning July 22 and then take over from Theresa May as prime minister.

In Wednesday's third ballot of 313 MPs in the governing, centre-right Conservative



British Conservative party leadership and prime minister contender Boris Johnson leaves home in South London in London on Thursday

Party, former foreign secretary Johnson came first with 143 votes, ahead of Hunt on 54, Gove on 51 and Javid on 38.

International development minister Rory Stewart was eliminated with 27 votes.

Thursday's fourth ballot takes place between 10am and 12pm (0900 GMT and 1100 GMT), with the result declared an hour later.

If no candidates withdraw and three remain, MPs are

then scheduled to vote again between 3:30pm and 5:30pm (1430 GMT and 1630 GMT).

Thursday's double round of voting will see candidates frantically scrambling for their colleagues' support — and arm-twisting galore.

Before Wednesday's vote, Stewart said he had been speaking to Gove about potentially joining forces.

Hunt has come second to former London mayor Johnson

in the first three rounds and pledged: "If I make it to the final I will put my heart and soul into giving him the contest of his life."

Gove said: "I'm determined to make this a contest of ideas."

Home Secretary Javid was upbeat, saying: "We can do this!" Former interior minister Amber Rudd on Thursday called on Johnson to denounce reports that some of his supporters were lending their support to other candidates in order to get his less favoured rivals eliminated.

"This is a serious moment," she told BBC Radio. "We don't need that sort of game playing going on in parliament."

His supporters were reported by the Daily Telegraph to be plotting to eliminate Gove in revenge for bringing down Johnson's previous bid to become prime minister in 2016. Bookmakers say Johnson has a 10 in 11 chance of becoming the next Conservative leader.

May stepped down as Conservative leader earlier this month over her failure to deliver Brexit on time, although she remains prime minister until her successor is chosen.

100 fighters killed in 48 hours in northwest Syria: Monitor

AFP ■ BEIRUT

Fighting raged in northwest Syria on Thursday as clashes between regime forces and jihadist-led fighters killed more than 100 combatants in two days, a war monitor said.

The Idlib region, home to some three million people, is supposed to be protected by a months-old international truce deal, but it has come under increased bombardment by the regime and its Russian ally since late April.

On the southwestern edges of the jihadist-run enclave, strikes and fierce fighting since Tuesday killed 75 anti-regime fighters and left 29 dead on the government side, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

This included at least 14 anti-regime fighters and 19 pro-government forces killed early Thursday, it said.

The fighting has centred around Tal Meleh in the north of Hama province, according to the Britain-based monitoring group.

"The clashes are ongoing," with both regime and Russian war planes pounding the area, Observatory chief Rami Abdel



Lebanese children look from the rooftop of their home at a Syrian camp in the eastern Lebanese border town of Arsal, Lebanon. Authorities in Lebanon are waging their most aggressive campaign yet against Syrian refugees, making heated calls for them to go back to their country and taking action to ensure they can't put down roots

Rahman said.

On Wednesday, 16 civilians were killed in regime bombardment on several parts of the rebel region, he said.

Russia and rebel backer Turkey brokered an agreement intended to stave off an all-out regime assault on Idlib in September, but that deal was never fully implemented as

jihadists refused to withdraw from the planned buffer zone.

The Hayat Tahrir al-Sham group, led by ex-members of Al-Qaeda's former Syria affiliate, extended its control over the region, which spans most of Idlib province as well as slivers of the adjacent provinces of Latakia, Hama and Aleppo.

The Syrian government

and Russia have upped their bombardment of the region since late April, killing more than 400 civilians, according to the Observatory.

Syria's war has killed more than 370,000 people and displaced millions at home and abroad since it started in 2011 with the repression of anti-government protests.

Indian royal jewels fetch high prices at Christie's auction

PTI ■ NEW YORK

A premium "once-in-a-lifetime" collection of royal Indian jewellery has fetched over USD 109 million in the US, the highest total ever for any auction of Indian art and jewelled objects, according to global auction house Christie's.

The items included a 17-carat Golconda diamond "Arcot II", once owned by the Nabab of Arcot, that sold for a stunning USD 3,375,000 (Rs 23.5 crore).

The sale also includes an antique diamond rivière necklace once owned by the Nizams of Hyderabad, which sold for nearly USD 2,415,000 (Rs 17 crore).

The 33-diamond necklace was estimated to sell for USD

1,500,000 (nearly Rs 10.5 crore), Christie's announced on Twitter.

"Once-in-a-lifetime collection, and a specially designed New York exhibition, the Maharajas and Mughal Magnificence auction in New York achieved USD 109,271,875, establishing the highest total for any auction of Indian art and jeweled objects, and the second highest auction total for a private jewellery collection," the global auction house said in a statement.

Almost 400 lots were offered in the auction titled "Maharajas and Mughal Magnificence" — ranging from legendary Golconda diamonds to dazzling coloured stones, the finest jewelled objects used in the royal courts of India to

swords and daggers once owned by Indian rulers, it said.

The current auction record is held by "The Collection of Elizabeth Taylor" which totalled USD 144 million in 2011.

The auction had started with the "Indore Sapphire Taveez Bead Pendant Necklace, Mounted By Cartier" that owes its provenance to Indore's Maharaja Yeshwant Rao Holkar II, who was educated in England and spent much time abroad with his wife.

The royal necklace achieved USD 206,250 (Rs 1.44 crore), surpassing a high estimate of USD 60,000 (Rs 42 lakh), Christie's said on in a tweet.

An antique diamond ring of Rajmata Gayatri Devi of Jaipur sold for Rs 4.45 crore.

Another major sale was of an enamelled and jewelled "hugqah" set from 1680-1720, "almost certainly made in the imperial Mughal workshop" as per Christie's, which went under the hammer for USD 759,000 (almost Rs 5.3 crore) as compared to its higher limit estimate of USD 350,000 (almost Rs 2.4 crore).

Another carved emerald brooch, and interchangeable "jigha" mounting depicting Lord Rama, Sita and Hanuman has sold for USD 735,000 (close to Rs 5.12 crore).

A five-strand natural pearl and diamond necklace and a diamond brooch created by Mumbai-based jewellery house Bhagat sold for high prices as well — Rs 11.8 crore and Rs 1.5 crore respectively.

Turkey sentences 24 to life in 'coup ringleaders' trial

AFP ■ SINCAN (TURKEY)

A Turkish court on Thursday gave life sentences to 24 people including senior military officers in one of the biggest trials over the 2016 failed bid to overthrow President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The judge handed 17 of those sentenced 141 aggravated life terms each over the deaths of 139 people, for "violating the constitution" and "attempting to assassinate the president", state news agency Anadolu reported.

Seven others were given between one and 17 aggravated life sentences each, according to Anadolu.

Such sentences carry harsher prison conditions.

More sentences are expect-

ed to be handed down on Thursday against others among the 224 suspects on trial.

Among them is US-based Muslim preacher Fethullah Gulen, who Turkey accuses of ordering the attempted putsch which left hundreds dead and thousands more injured in July 2016.

Gulen strongly denies the claims. Turkey has failed to secure his extradition.

Former air force chief Akin Ozturk and Mehmet Disli, the brother of former ruling party lawmaker Saban Disli, who since September has served as Turkey's ambassador to the Netherlands, were among the 17.

One suspect, Lieutenant Colonel Levent Turkkan, who

was the aide to then Chief of Staff General Hulusi Akar, was given one aggravated life sentence, Anadolu reported.

Akar was appointed defence minister in July 2018.

There was a tense atmosphere minutes before the judge issued his verdicts with dozens of people including relatives of those killed during the coup bid in July 2016, lambasting the court for not allowing them to enter.

Saliha Arigan, whose son was killed on the night of the failed overthrow, pressed herself against the gates, crying and shouting to be allowed inside.

"The state should be ashamed," she said. Even as the verdicts were handed down, the strained mood continued

with further attempts by individuals to enter the courtroom complex by force.

An AFP correspondent was not allowed to enter the courtroom by police.

The trial began in May 2017 in the country's largest courtroom inside a prison complex in Sincan, outside the capital Ankara.

The court also handed down an aggravated life sentence for "violating the constitution" to Colonel Ali Yazici, Erdogan's former military aide, Anadolu reported.

Yazici was already sentenced to 18 years in jail in 2017 after a trial of dozens who plotted to assassinate Erdogan at a luxury Aegean hotel during the coup attempt.

Trend Blazer

Sunaina was assaulted: Rangoli



Actress **KANGANA RANAUT**'s sister **RANGOLI CHANDEL** alleged that Hrithik's sister **Sunaina Roshan** was assaulted by the family since she is in love with a Muslim man.

She said on social media, "Roshans have been physically assaulting Sunaina because she is in love with a Muslim man from Delhi."

Hrithik's former wife **Sussanne Khan** has come to his defence amid ongoing family tensions regarding his sister, who she has called extremely loving, warm and caring person.

She said, "I know her as a part of my experience, being a part of this close knit family."

'I would've definitely been disappointed if any other actor would've recreated Tip Tip Barsa Paani, a song which has been synonymous with me and my career and I can't thank Ratan Jain ji enough. At times you realise, we may have come a long way but we also go back a long way.'
—**Akshay Kumar**



Actress **PRIYANKA CHOPRA JONAS**, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for Child Rights, marked World Refugee Day with a special message.

She pledged her support to children who have been forced to flee their homes. She even shared a video of herself from her meetings with children at refugee camps on social media.

"The truth is quite simple, the future lies in the hands of the children of today. But the harsh reality is that there is an entire generation of innocent children growing up without any future prospects. These children are affected by displacement due to conflict and emergencies in their various regions," says the actress.



KUSHAN MITRA



What would Sherlock Holmes say?

The MG Hector tries very hard, a bit too hard

The road between Coimbatore up to the Nilgiri mountains that overlook the city has clearly been resurfaced recently. It has some amazing turns and switchbacks. Despite the suicidal two-wheeler riders that seem to populate all hill roads in India, traffic is relatively moderate and even though the road is slightly narrow at times, it would be a great road to drive in, if you had the right vehicle. Something like a Mini, or even a Swift for that matter. The new MG Hector, on the other hand, is not quite the right vehicle. This was the wrong stretch of road to drive this much anticipated new SUV, purely from a physical point of view.

And I am fairly sure that I am not alone in these complaints. The MG Hector had noticeable body roll. Sure I was attacking the corners and not driving with passengers in the back, but the amount of body roll reminded me of vehicles from the mid-2000s. The last time I had such a wobbly ride in the mountains while driving was back when I drove the Hyundai Santro ZipPlus

back in 2003 between Hubli and Karwar. Of course, the soft suspension set-up meant the Hector cushioned the impact of uneven surfaces better than most, but this was certainly not the sort of road to do the first drive impressions on.

And then there was the petrol engine. This 1.5-litre unit with 150PS of power is sourced from MG's parent company Shanghai Automotive Industrial Corporation (SAIC), again a statutory reminder that while Benedict Cumberbatch is quite English, the MG Hector is very Chinese. Frankly again, much like the wobbly suspension, you tend to notice flaws in a vehicle on certain roads. Mountain roads, for example, involve a lot of gear changes, and since MG only had the manuals and I was driving the petrol Hector uphill, there is the sudden realisation that there is barely a third gear. Many Indian cars have what we call "tall" gears. Explaining tall and short gears is a highly technical subject but tall gears are primed for fuel economy and shorter gears for better accel-

eration. Many gearboxes nowadays have a mix of both, short first and second gears and tall fifth or sixth gears. This is all due to modern manufacturing methods for gearboxes. Long story short, with the Hector petrol, when you shifted from second to third at the engine speeds you would normally shift, maybe a bit higher than usual because one is in the hills, you would discover that there is nothing in third. Nothing. Nada, you press the accelerator and find no power whatsoever. Which is disappointing in the mountains. But it could be a big concern while overtaking on the plains. That said, the Fiat-Chrysler sourced 2-litre diesel that also does service on the Compass, complete with its six-speed gearbox, is far superior to drive. The heavier engine up front also makes the diesel Hector feel ever so slightly more planted. Sure,



you can argue that the MG Hector will mainly be bought by folks who will be driven around, and the driving dynamics really do not matter all that much and the soft suspension will be appreciated by people who work in Okhla Industrial Area for example. But what about the Hector's

party piece, since the car even wears an 'Internet Inside' badge, and you have undoubtedly seen that advert where Benedict Cumberbatch is talking to the car and the sunroof opens and we are told it is all thanks to 'artificial intelligence' (AI). Well, a couple of things, voice controls have been

around in cars for two decades now, and they have never really been all that great until recently.

The AI aspect of all this is that the system is now connected through the cloud to a back-end which analyses the voice commands for you. I tried such an AI assistant on the new BMW 3-series last December in Portugal and it worked fabulously well. On the Hector, well, it did open the sunroof, the driver side window and allowed me to set the temperature. Very nice. But it could not find our hotel, Le Meridien in Coimbatore. One possible reason is that in the hills, India's notoriously poor cell-phone networks are diabolically bad. But you know what, voice recognition and AI assistance via Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, which the Hector also has support for, worked fine.

Frankly, on the Hector and the Hyundai Venue for that matter, some of these aspects seem redundant and other bits of AI as being promised seem positively Orwellian. More on that in a future column. I agree that voice commands powered by a back-end, like Amazon's Alexa,

are the future and you will likely see that even on entry-level hatchbacks within years. The Hyundai santro and Maruti WagonR, both already have support for third-party systems from Apple and Google. Opening the sunroof is quite gimmicky but I do expect MG to work on the AI that will continually update itself. Next time, it might even recognise the place I want to go to, although somehow I trust Google Maps more than the in-built TomTom system on this car.

So should you buy one? Frankly, it depends on the price. And MG gave us no indications of what the price will be. It has to undercut the Hyundai Tucson. In fact, top-spec models have to come close to the Hyundai Creta prices to make it worthwhile. Because the vehicle, as is, cannot command a price premium. As far as Chinese products go, the analogy I'd use is that it aimed to be a OnePlus but ended up being a Realme, not bad and it will possibly be value for money, but not a vehicle to get excited about. If Sherlock Holmes could drive, this wouldn't be the vehicle he would go about London in.



Art alive

The do-not-touch policy no longer applies to artworks as they evolve and change with the participation of the audience, says **CHAHAK MITTAL**

It was on a summer evening in 2013 when a video, showcasing a group of performers who presented a flashmob recreation of Rembrandt's famous painting *The Night Watch*, surfaced on Youtube and went viral overnight. One must remember that this was a pre social media sensations world. The stunt was organised to coincide with the return of the painting, which is considered one of the Dutch artist's greatest works, to Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum.

Fast forward to 2019 and you have "Public Radio," a unique art installation at District Hall's outdoor plaza in the Seaport, Boston's home for innovation. Standing 10 feet tall, elegantly sloped along at its front face with the soft rainbow LEDs glowing behind half inch of frosted acrylic, it's an innovative way to activate a public space using a combination of interactive art and technology. You can turn the metal-rimmed dials to tune to a different station as the corresponding LEDs light up on this giant radio inviting the public to play with and listen to the latest broadcasts and music. Built by New American Public Art in the Microsoft Garage at the New England Research and Development Centre, Public Radio is an interactive art installation with microprocessor parts and a futuristic look that encourages a spirit of community, working and grooving together.

In interactive art works, where the art itself engages with the audience at a public space, it is presumed that the viewers are no longer passive onlookers but the ones who complete the work's purpose through participation. These could also be deliberately left open-ended in order to make it more understandable and readable for the audience and draw them into what was once considered erudite and classic.

STREET ART

From art in caves to graffiti and sign illustrations in churches, fresco in mosques and tombs, Madhubani art to miniature paintings on fortified walls, the age-old tradition of street art is the first one that comes to mind when we talk about art in the public space.

Giulia Ambrogi, co-founder and curator of the Start India Foundation, talks about how street art directly engages the population, triggering conversations and beyond the confined walls of a gallery.

"The idea was to move away from the elusive nature of the uptight art gallery concepts that the cities offer. It's important because cities need identities. The great power of street art, the skills and the sensitivity of the artists speak, everywhere they go they try to respond to the local narratives. Street artists have to keep in mind a lot of things while making the murals — the architecture, texture of the wall, specific city in which they are, country, colours around them, the people that they meet, area that they breathe in, flora and fauna, everything should merge together in conceptual-



Priya's Mirror



One Thousand Tears

isation and eventually execution of their pieces."

She feels we live in a time and age where people are disconnected because of the fast chaotic life, "There should be some moment in which we recognise ourselves in our own cities." For instance, artist Dattaraj Naik, who recently painted one of Goa's biggest football-themed murals, where a child is sitting in a classroom and thinking about football, which is below his feet. The artwork aimed at representing the common aspirations and feelings of school students who try hard to keep a balance between academics and sports.

Artist and illustrator Rohan Chakravarty's *Gaj Yatra* was a series of comic strips displayed at the Mandi House Metro Station, engaging people and triggering conversations around vanishing habitats of elephants.

Time Changes Everything at the Lodhi Art District changes with the angle of the sun. Come at noon to see the wall's metal cut-outs cast perfect shadows that spell out words like "hope", "ambition", "time", "people"—all concepts that shift meanings over time. At 6 pm, the shadows are melting; at night or early morning, there are none at all. It is a commentary on the nature of street art, which is ephemeral because once a piece has been made, it is abandoned.

not to confuse these for 3D artworks.

Anahita Taneja, director, Shrine Empire, tells us about their recent curation at the gallery, which allowed viewers to engage in a direct conversation with the artwork on display.

The installation titled, *One Thousand Tears* by artist Suchitra Gahlot, asked a thousand people from the audience 'Why did you cry last?' Their one word replies were labelled on to a thousand small vials. They were then filled with a saline solution that matched the exact composition of human tears. An accompanying use and throw book had the one-word replies printed on tissue paper. Once read, the answers are lost forever.

Taneja says, "It was so beautiful to see how people were constantly getting attracted towards the work. It showed how interactive works make a difference to people, especially the artwork that is touchable. Other sculptures and paintings in a gallery are mostly looked at and forgotten but such works stay within the person even when s/he walks out. They would not only be engaged with it at that time, but would also tell the story to people they know outside."

AUGMENTED REALITY

Priya's Mirror, the art exhibition, curated by art connoisseur Mukta Ahluwalia, brought together a range of artworks and augmented reality installations by four different artists that aimed to invoke in people a sense of responsibility towards the society. The artworks were divided into four chapters, featuring India's first female superhero, 'Priya Shakti'. She is a rape survivor, who helps a group of acid attack survivors to find their strengths and overcome their fears — finding similarity with the way she had conquered her fears after the brutality she went through.

One of the visuals had a young girl, in a quiet land, sitting on the back of a tiger. To make it appear real, one had to install a free application on their phones called Blippar, and scan the image through their phone's camera. The app would activate the digital programme, which in turn would allow people to see the images moving. Here, the girl sits on the back of the tiger and flies away.

She explains that since art is capable of instilling in people a sense of responsibility, then "why not make it more interactive through various media we have today?"

Astral, by Australian illustrator and designer Stuart Campbell (popularly known as Sutu), features a sequence of 21st century tableaux vivants that give participants the sense that they are actually stepping into the paintings.

In another illustration, *Dark*, by California-based digital artist Steve Teeple, technology and organic matter converge within an inverted, globular space where a few multi-coloured lights pierce through the uncharted inky black terrain of deep, dark space.

Coping mechanism



The ancient science of yoga can benefit children with autism in a variety of ways, says **NITIN BIDLISH**

Yoga is a complementary therapy for children diagnosed with autism and special needs. As the identification and detection of autism is on the rise, schools and parents have started to participate in several innovative yoga programmes. According to Centre for Disease Control, one out of 68 parents and educators faces challenges in supporting children with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder).

Autistic children face difficulty in being expressive, social and face emotional challenges and sensory integration deficits. Many children with special needs experience heightened levels of anxiety.

Yoga provides supplementary support. By connecting the mind, body, and breath, it improves physiological and psychological processes through breathing techniques, postures, relaxation and meditation. It increases strength, co-ordination, balance and flexibility while improving social-emotional skills, body awareness, communication, self-regulation, improves concentration. It reduces impulsiveness, anxiety, obsession and aggression.

They display decreased co-ordination, body awareness, sensory integration and competitive physical outlets can be frustrating for them. Yoga is non-competitive and increases self-confidence. It allows people with autism to process the stimuli easily and self-regulate. Research on yoga has confirmed qualitative behaviour changes in them including increased tolerance of sitting, adult proximity and subsequent socialisation.

"They should practise yoga and *asanas* which direct the flow of blood towards the brain. This increases the blood circulation and oxygen flow in the nervous system. *Asanas* such as *Halasana*, *Vipreet Naukasana* for five times a day for 10 seconds are helpful. It strengthens their immune system, growth of tissues. Research has proved the importance of *pranayam*," says Dr Deepak Jha, yoga consultant and expert at Medanta hospital.

AWARENESS AND EXPRESSION OF EMOTIONS

Yoga not only creates awareness of social cues like actions, facial expressions and social behaviour but puts them in touch with their own emotions. Controlled breathing teaches them to release emotions like anger, anxiety and frustration in a healthy and constructive manner. It provides them with an outlet and gives out the message that it is okay to feel such emotions.

REDUCES ANXIETY

They experience high levels of anxiety which adversely affects their behaviour, mood, health and sleep. Children can be constantly anxious because of sensory integration deficit, difficulty in communication along with several other challenges. Yoga has specific breathing strategies to reduce anxiety and soothe the nervous systems.

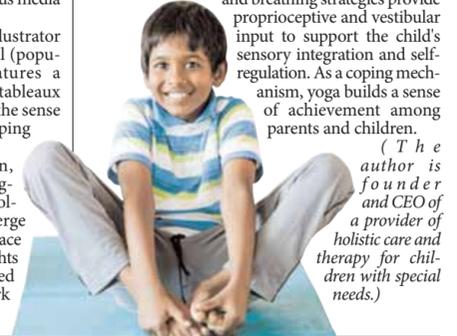
INCREASES SOCIAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Yoga is an effective tool for improving social-communication and cognitive skills in children. There is also the development of skills like eye contact, sitting tolerance, receptive as well as non-verbal communication skills. Once they follow the instructor and listen to their mind and body, it enables them to develop emotions, language and communication skills.

GREAT REDUCTION IN CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS

Children with ASD may display challenging behaviours which can be improved with the intervention of yoga. It not only reduced anxiety but also impacted mood and behavior. Several yoga *asanas* and breathing strategies provide proprioceptive and vestibular input to support the child's sensory integration and self-regulation. As a coping mechanism, yoga builds a sense of achievement among parents and children.

(The author is founder and CEO of a provider of holistic care and therapy for children with special needs.)





David Warner celebrates after completing his 16th ODI hundred against Bangladesh on Thursday cricket.com.au/Twitter

Oz runmatazz

Warner's 166, Khawaja's 89 fire Kangaroos to easy win over Bangladesh

PTI ■ NOTTINGHAM

Australia opener David Warner made Bangladesh pay for an early drop with a big hundred as the reigning champions register an easy 48-run win in a World Cup match at Trent Bridge on Thursday.

Warner, missed on 10, made 166 in Australia's imposing total of 381-5 -- his second century of the World Cup.

The 32-year-old, the highest run-scorer of the tournament, with 447 runs, is back to his devastating best for Australia after completing a 12-month ban for his role in a ball-tampering scandal in South Africa.

Chasing a mammoth total, Bangladesh played well to get closer to the target and finished at 333/8 in their quota of overs. Mushfiqur Rahim scored a ton while Tamim Iqbal and Mahmudullah hit half-centuries.

"Today was a great foundation for our batting," said Warner, who shared stands of 121 with captain Aaron Finch (53) and 192 with Usman Khawaja (89).

"I felt a little bit bogged down and frustrated. I kept hitting fielders but I managed to hang in there."

"I was feeling a little bit fatigued by the end but I was looking to score as many runs as possible so our bowlers had something to bowl at."

Soumya Sarkar gave Bangladesh fans something to cheer with 3-58 in eight overs.

But the Tigers still need to complete their highest one-day international chase and the highest at a World Cup if they are to achieve an improbable victory.

"They will be buoyed by making 322-3 to beat the West Indies by seven wickets in their previous match -- the second-highest run chase in World Cup history."

Bangladesh suffered a blow before



Usman Khawaja, right, bats during his 89-run innings against Bangladesh at Trent Bridge on Thursday AP

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES FOR AUS IN WC

Score	Batsman	Opponent	Venue	Date
178	David Warner	Afghanistan	Perth	04-03-2015
166	David Warner	Bangladesh	Nottingham	20-06-2019
158	Matthew Hayden	West Indies	North Sound	27-03-2007
153	Aaron Finch	Sri Lanka	The Oval	15-06-2019
149	Adam Gilchrist	Sri Lanka	Bridgetown	28-04-2007

CENTURY STANDS FOR FIRST TWO WICKETS IN WC

Runs	Wkt	Partners	Opponent	Venue	Date
142	1st	Sehwag/Tendulkar (IND)	South Africa	Nagpur	12-03-2011
125	2nd	Tendulkar/Gambhir (IND)	South Africa	Nagpur	12-03-2011
122	1st	Thirimanne/Dilshan (SL)	Bangladesh	Melbourne	26-02-2015
210*	2nd	Dilshan/Sangakkara (SL)	Bangladesh	Melbourne	26-02-2015
100	1st	Thirimanne/Dilshan (SL)	England	Wellington	01-03-2015
212*	2nd	Dilshan/Sangakkara (SL)	England	Wellington	01-03-2015
121	1st	Warner/Finch (AUS)	Bangladesh	Nottingham	20-06-2019
192	2nd	Warner/Khawaja (AUS)	Bangladesh	Nottingham	20-06-2019

FAISAL FEATURES

play when a back spasm ruled out Mohammad Saifuddin, their leading bowler at the tournament.

But his absence could not excuse Bangladesh's often wayward bowling, with the recalled Rubel Hossain's nine wicketless overs costing an expensive 83 runs.

Even so, Warner could have been out for just 10 when a slashing cut off Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza found its way to Sabir Rahman at backward point.

But the fielder appeared not to have seen the ball properly against the backdrop of the crowd and it burst through his hands.

Australia captain and opener Finch, fresh from his 153 in an 87-run win over Sri Lanka, was out soon after completing his eighth fifty in 11 ODI innings when he guided a rising Sarkar delivery straight to Rubel at short third man.

But that did not stop Warner pressing on to a hundred.

He eventually fell when, trying to uppercute Sarkar, he lobbed a catch to Rubel at short third man. Warner faced 147 balls, hitting 14 fours and five sixes.

But his exit simply brought in the big-hitting Glenn Maxwell, who smashed 32 off 10 balls before he was run out.

Khawaja fell in sight of a hundred when he bottom-edged a pull off Sarkar and wicket-keeper Mushfiqur Rahim dived forward to hold a good catch while Steve Smith was plumb low to Mustafizur Rahman for one.

A brief rain break halted play after 49 overs before Australia scored 13 off the last over. Australia are currently third in the World Cup table, with four wins from five games, while Bangladesh are fifth.

The top four sides from the 10-team round-robin stage qualify for the semi-finals.

OTHER SPORTS

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India hockey captain Manpreet Singh on Thursday said new chief coach Graham Reid's "simple and friendly approach" has brought a calming influence on the team and it is reflecting on the turf.

"The coach has created a friendly environment in the team and he has kept a very simple approach. He is very open about his thought process and is approachable to each and every team member. If any player has any concerns, he is always welcoming," Manpreet said.

"This has also improved the performance of the team on the pitch," added the 26-year-old midfielder from Jalandhar, who had an impressive FIH Series Finals in Bhubaneswar.

Manpreet said 56-year-old Reid, who replaced Harendra Singh as Indian men's hockey team chief coach in April this year, didn't tinker too much with their attacking style of play.

"The coach (Reid) has not made any significant changes as of now as he is currently new to the set up. He will be looking to make a few changes during our camp which is scheduled in July," he said.

"Right now, he wants us to continue the good work we did in this tournament (FIH Series Finals). He also wants us to improve in our attacking game and work more on creating goal scoring opportunities and penalty corners," added Manpreet.

India, led by Manpreet, lived up to their billing and thrashed South Africa 5-1 in the summit clash to win the FIH Series Finals in Bhubaneswar recently.

And the skipper said the team would like to carry forward the momentum ahead of the final qualifying round of the 2020 Olympics to be held in November.

"We will continue to carry forward the momentum into the next tournament. We will continue to rectify the mistakes we made in this tournament. We are currently preparing for the final qualifying round which is in November," said Manpreet.

India put up a stupendous show during the FIH Series Finals and Manpreet said there were plenty of positives to take home from the just-concluded tournament.

"There were many positives from the tournament as the team performed collectively as a group and we focused on both aspects of our game."

"We showed what we are capable of both attacking and defensive play. We were very sound as we did not give many scoring chances to our opponents," he signed off.

Reid's approach is helping us: Manpreet



Indian players celebrate after scoring during FIH Series Finals in Bhubaneswar Hockey India/Twitter

Juve crowning moment of Sarri's career

AFP ■ TURIN

Maurizio Sarri said his appointment as Juventus coach was "the crowning" moment of his 30-year managerial career as the former Chelsea manager was presented by the Serie A giants in Turin on Thursday.

The 60-year-old returns to Italy after just one turbulent season in the Premier League with Chelsea, having previously coached his hometown team Napoli for three seasons.

Juventus is the 20th team that Sarri has coached since the former banker took over at Stia, a team in the Italian eighth division back in 1990.

"The offer of Juve, the most important team in Italy, is the crowning of a very long career, which for 80 percent of the time has been quite difficult," Sarri told a press conference at the Allianz Stadium in Turin.

Despite his long coaching career Sarri only lifted his first trophy last month when he guided Chelsea to the Europa League trophy.

"From an emotional point of view, it was a very long path through the lower divisions and then Serie A and then Premier League."

"It has been step after step in a gradual way, a very long process."

Chelsea was the only time Sarri has coached outside of Italy but he failed to win over the English fans despite returning the club to the Champions League with a third-placed finish in the Premier League and winning the Europa League.

"The Premier League was a great experience, but in the latter half (of the season), I felt professional and personal needs to return to Italy," he said.

"I decided to come back to Italy because such an important club wanted me so strongly."

"I have never seen so much determination on the part of a club to hire a coach."

'BEST COACH'

Sarri takes over from Massimiliano Allegri, who led Juventus to an eighth consecutive Scudetto title.



Maurizio Sarri poses with Juventus sporting director Fabio Paratici Juve/Twitter

"He was absolutely the first choice," said Juventus sporting director Fabio Paratici of Sarri.

"We chose Maurizio because we felt he was the best coach for Juventus right now, just as Allegri was five years ago (Antonio) Conte three years before that."

"Sarri showed he can win in the Premier League and internationally, so he's the right man for the job."

Allegri paid the price for another Champions League failure despite Cristiano Ronaldo's 100-million-euro (\$115 million) signing.

Sarri said he was relishing the chance to coach five-time Ballon d'Or winner Ronaldo.

"I coached some very strong players, but training him will be yet another step forward," he said.

"I'd like to help him break some new records."

The Champions League is the top target for Juventus who have not won the European title since 1996.

"At European level we have this dream, this target we have to pursue with great determination but also great difficulty," he said.

"Juventus will start with the target of winning the Champions League but with the knowledge there are another eight or nine clubs that can win."

The former Empoli coach said that he would try to prove his critics wrong once again.

"In football, I know only one way of removing scepticism from the minds of people by winning convincingly."

"I haven't won a lot, but I believe that having fun on the pitch doesn't stop you winning."

Messi's spot kick rescues Argentina against Paraguay



Lionel Messi, right, fights for the ball with Gustavo Gomez, left, during a Copa America Group B match AP

AFP ■ BELO HORIZONTE

Lionel Messi penalty salvaged a 1-1 draw for Argentina against Paraguay as the two-time world champions once again struggled at the Copa America.

Messi swept in a 57th-minute spot-kick at Belo Horizonte's Mineirao Stadium to cancel out a first-half opener from Paraguay's Richard Sanchez.

Argentina also had goalkeeper Franco Armani to thank for a second half penalty save that prevented Paraguay from taking a 2-1 lead in the Group B battle.

The draw left Argentina with one point from two games and on the bottom of the table with one game remaining.

However with the two best third placed teams advancing to the quarter-finals, Argentina can still reach the last eight with a decisive win over Qatar in their final group game.

The South American giants will need to raise their game however to advance any further after another disjointed performance which followed their opening defeat to Colombia on Saturday.

A lacklustre opening saw both sides struggle to generate any sort of attacking momentum, with neither side manag-

ing to get a shot on goal until Paraguay striker Derlis Gonzalez's effort was deflected behind for a corner in the 29th minute.

From the ensuing setpiece, centre-half Junior Alonso scooped a half-chance wide as Argentina escaped.

That flurry of activity spurred Argentina fleetingly at the other end, with Lautaro Martinez winning a free-kick in a dangerous position on the edge of the area after a foul by Paraguay skipper Gustavo Gomez.

Messi however was unable to conjure anything from the free-kick, floating his effort up and over the wall but without the pace to trouble goalkeeper Roberto Fernandez, who gathered comfortably.

In the 37th minute however, Paraguay's more organised performance got its reward.

A swift counter-attack saw the ball transferred to Newcastle United's Miguel Almiron near halfway.

The livewire forward turned on the after-burners to roast Roberto Pereira down the left wing before crossing for Sanchez who drove a low finish into the bottom corner of the Argentina net.

A rattled Argentina were given a huge let-off moments later when Armani came rac-

ing out of his area to shut down Gonzalez.

A wild kick brought down the Paraguayan player but Armani somehow escaped a red card and was only cautioned.

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni went for broke at half-time, bolstering his attack with the introduction of Sergio Aguero and the move paid instant dividends.

Aguero deftly lost his marker on 51 minutes and pulled back for Martinez, whose shot cannoned off the woodwork. Messi pounced on the rebound but Fernandez blocked with a diving save.

The chance appeared to have gone begging but VAR had spotted that Martinez's shot had in fact struck Ivan Piris's arm before hitting the bar and Brazilian referee Wilson Sampaio pointed to the spot.

Messi stepped up to sweep in the spot-kick and Argentina were level.

Yet there was more drama in the 62nd minute when Paraguay's Gonzalez burst into the box and was clumsily hacked down by Nicolas Otamendi for a clear penalty.

Armani, who was fortunate to be on the pitch, dived the right way and parried Gonzalez's spot-kick wide.

CRICKETCRADLE

TODAY LIVE

STAR SPORTS

England vs Sri Lanka
3:00 pm IST
VENUE: Headingley, Leeds

Mahi way



BCCI posted Hardik Pandya, Yuzvendra Chahal, Virat Kohli and MS Dhoni's picture collage on its Twitter account with new haircut captioning 'Who's haircut ?????????? is the coolest?'

After some clinical performances on the field, the Indian cricketers were handed a two-day break before they regrouped in Southampton on Wednesday. And no sooner did they hit the training ground did they catch the attention of the fans with their new haircuts. Skipper Virat Kohli along with stumper MS Dhoni, all-rounder Hardik Pandya and leggie Yuzvendra Chahal were all spotted in new hairdos and the social media was flooded with pictures of them. Dhoni, who has been always been known for following the latest style trends, got a new haircut along with Hardik from celebrity hairstylist Aalim Hakim. The hairstylist posted photographs of the duo on Instagram. In the pictures, Dhoni is seen sporting faded sides along with his beard. In fact, Kohli was also seen sporting the same look with a heavier beard. The India cricket team also took to social media to post photos of the four and asked the fans to vote on who they thought looked the coolest.

Mann ki baat

Narendra Modi @narendramodi

Dear @SDhawan25, no doubt the pitch will miss you but I hope you recover at the earliest so that you can once again be back on the field and contribute to more wins for the nation.

Shikhar Dhawan @SDhawan25 · 23h

I feel emotional to announce that I will no longer be a part of #CWC19. Unfortunately, the thumb won't recover on time. But the show must go on... I'm grateful for all the love & support from my team mates, cricket lovers & our entire nation. Jai Hind!

Prime Minister's responds to Shikhar Dhawan's tweet after he was ruled out of Indian squad due to fractured thumb

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday wished India opener Shikhar Dhawan a speedy recovery. After being forced out, an emotional Dhawan had tweeted that the "show must go on" without him at the ongoing World Cup. Retweeting the opener's tweet, PM Modi wrote: "Dear @SDhawan25, no doubt the pitch will miss you but I hope you recover at the earliest so that you can once again be back on the field and contribute to more wins for the nation."

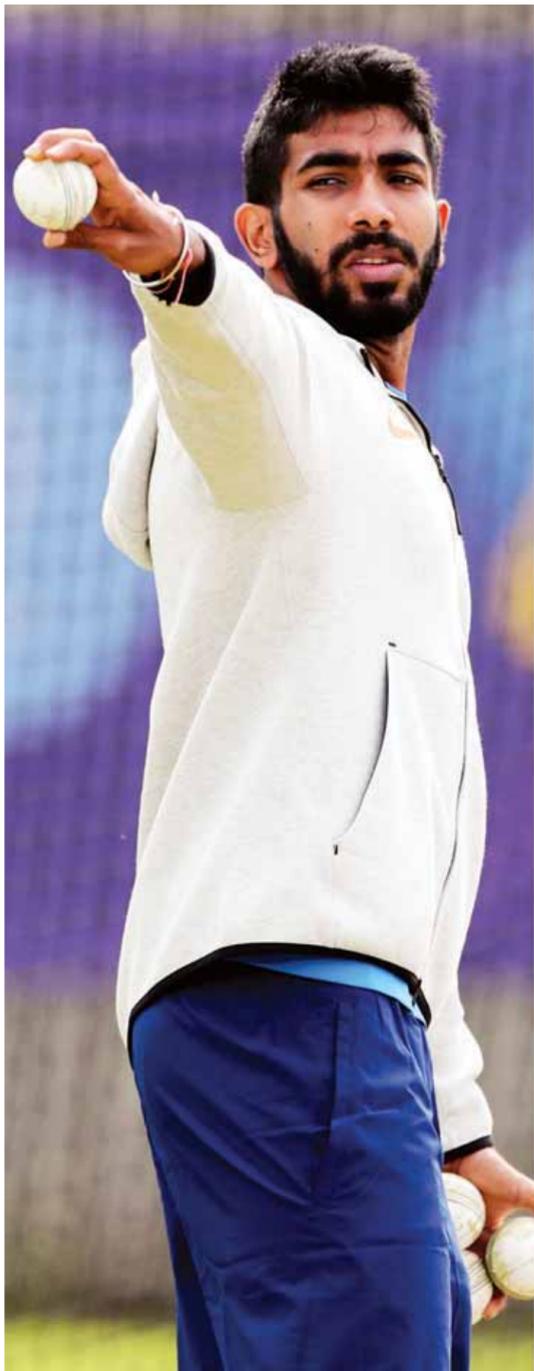
Master's wish

Cricketing great Sachin Tendulkar believes injured India opener Shikhar Dhawan will come back strongly after he was forced out of the ongoing 2019 World Cup with a fractured thumb. Tendulkar also backed Rishabh Pant, Dhawan's replacement, to do well. Taking to Twitter, Tendulkar said: "Feel for you Shikhar. You were playing well & to be injured in the middle of such an important tournament is heart-breaking. I'm sure you'll come back stronger than ever." Meanwhile, wicketkeeper-batsman Pant, who flew in as Dhawan's cover ahead of India's game against Pakistan in Manchester, was officially named his replacement on Wednesday evening. Wishing the young stumper, Tendulkar said: "Rishabh you've been playing well & there can't be a bigger platform to express yourself. Good luck!"

AGENCIES

PRELIMINARY STAGE							
Pos	Team	P	W	L	N/R	Net RR	Pts
1	AUS	6	5	1	0	+0.849	10
2	NZ	5	4	0	1	+1.591	9
3	ENG	5	4	1	0	+1.862	8
4	IND	4	3	0	1	+1.029	7
5	B'DESH	6	2	3	1	-0.407	5
6	SL	5	1	2	2	-1.778	4
7	WI	5	1	3	1	+0.272	3
8	RSA	6	1	4	1	-0.193	3
9	PAK	5	1	3	1	-1.933	3
10	AFG	5	0	5	0	-2.089	0

English wickets flat, difficult: Bumrah



Jasprit Bumrah prepares to bowl in the nets during India's training session

PNS ■ HAMPSHIRE BOWL (SOUTHAMPTON)

For Jasprit Bumrah, wickets in England are the most difficult to bowl on, when it comes to white ball cricket. He dispelled the popular notion that the cloudy conditions give bowlers a lot of help in English conditions and said, for him England has been the toughest turf to strategise his bowling on.

"In white ball cricket, England is the flattest and the most difficult wicket to bowl on for any bowler. Usually, there is no help. It may seem as if in the cloud conditions the ball will swing but the ball doesn't swing nor does it seam. So, in these conditions, we have to rely on our accuracy and clarity. Knowing there our flat wickets, we accordingly adjust. We prepare for the worst situation and then if there is help we focus on that," he told journalists after training at the stadium here on Thursday.

However, he said, overall till now that wickets in the World Cup have been decent. "In the first game that we played here, there was some help with the new ball but still it was a decent wicket. As the ball got older, it got better to bat on. The oval was a flat wicket with 350 runs etc. There is some help at times, but you don't focus on all those things. You see on a given day what works for you, analyse the wicket quickly, if there is no help you go back to your strengths. If there is help, you try to swing the ball and try to take wickets. But most of the time it is always easier to analyse the wicket and decide on the day how the wicket behaves," he said while talking about 400 plus scores not happening.

Talking about the entry of Mohammed Shami into the opening overs due to Bhuvneshwar Kumar's hamstring injury, Bumrah said it made no difference for him. "We are just focussing on our strengths and discussing the same with Shami. The three of us have played before and I am just focussing on what we have to do and not on does it affect us or not," he said.

Though, he said, the injury of Shikhar Dhawan was unfortunate, he was all praise for KL Rahul's adaptability and how the team benefits from such strengths. Him batting up the order "shows a lot about the ability of the player to adjust to the situation. He was playing at No 4 and he adapted well. In the game against Australia, he got few balls but he cleared the ball well. It says a lot about the quality of the player if he can adjust according to situation. Whenever he wants to accelerate he can so that gives us a lot of flexibility and no headaches when we are facing an injury. That's a positive sign for us," he added.

According to his skipper Virat



Vijay Shankar, left, and Bhuvneshwar Kumar participate in a training session at the Hampshire Bowl in Southampton on Thursday

IN WHITE BALL CRICKET, ENGLAND IS THE FLATTEST & THE MOST DIFFICULT WICKET TO BOWL ON FOR ANY BOWLER. USUALLY, THERE IS NO HELP. IT MAY SEEM AS IF IN CLOUD CONDITIONS THE BALL WILL SWING BUT THE BALL DOESN'T SWING NOR DOES IT SEAM. SO, IN THESE CONDITIONS, WE HAVE TO RELY ON OUR ACCURACY AND CLARITY — JASPRIT BUMRAH

Kohli, Bumrah bowls as seriously at nets as he does in the matches and in doing so he had hit Vijay Shankar in the nets yesterday. Talking about it, the bowler not many batsmen have been able to fathom, said: "We don't obviously want to injure the batsmen but... nobody tells the batsmen not to hit so they hit as well. It was unfortunate that he got hit but he is fine. You have to do all your preparation (in the nets). You have to practice all your deliveries so best preparation for me is to bowl to batsmen," he said.

And does he plan his strategies to a batsman? "Sometimes you can do that, sometimes you want to try something but before that you try it in the nets because it is easier. You want to execute everything in the nets in the match, it is just about repetition so I try to do all of that be it anything be it death bowling," he added.

Talking about his late burst against Pakistan he said, it was a stop and start game against the arch rivals. "We had a good start against South Africa against Australia. As a bowling unit we did well against Pakistan too despite the conditions. The ball was getting wet... It is difficult sometimes for the bowlers to adjust in getting in and out of the field but it was a good match for us. We didn't take a lot of wickets early up, we kept the runrate under check so when the spinners came in the middle overs, they had to take some chances. They had a good partnership but once Kuldeep took a wicket a lot of wickets came after that because the runrate kept going up. After that when we came, we came to know that in five overs Pakistan had to make some 135 runs so we were just focussing on getting through the overs and just get along with the game," he said.



Hardik Pandya has a play session with local school kids after nets at Hampshire Aegis bowl on Thursday

Pioneer Photo

Toe-hit Shankar skips nets

PNS ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Just one match old in the tournament, young the all-rounder Vijay Shankar who found space in the playing 11 against Pakistan, suffered an injury scare at training on Wednesday due to which he had to skip training on Thursday.

Talking to the media, pacer Jasprit Bumrah allayed all fears regarding the hit on the toe and said he was fine. It was Bumrah's yorker that had hit Shankar on his toes.

On Thursday, Indian players entertained a group of school kids with a light game of cricket, Shankar was spotted walking

in his slippers with a slight limp before he jogged for a bit in his gym trainers. That just half a lap of the field. He preferred to do some basic exercises after that not taking part in the usual drills and the net session.

Having bowled Imam-ul-Haq in his very first delivery in the game against Pakistan, Shankar proved himself with his medium paced arm and carries a good reputation as a middle order batsman.

The Team India injury roster has been growing with Shikhar Dhawan out of the tournament due to a metacarpal fracture and Bhuvneshwar Kumar out for at



Vijay Shankar performs stretching exercises during a training session

THE TEAM INDIA INJURY ROSTER HAS BEEN GROWING WITH SHIKHAR DHAWAN OUT OF THE TOURNAMENT DUE TO A METACARPAL FRACTURE AND BHUVNESHWAR OUT FOR AT LEAST TWO GAMES

least the games against Afghanistan on Friday and the one after that in Manchester against the West Indies on June 25.

The team management is confident that Kumar's hamstring "stiffness" would allow him to be up and bowling before the England encounter on June 30 till when Shami would be opening the defence with Bumrah. A hamstring tear would have packed Bhuvneshwar out of the tournament.

Pacers Khaleel Ahmed and Ishant Sharma are on back-up list in case Kumar needs to give way.

Lankans battle for survival

SL ready to lock horns with England to stay alive in competition

UPNEXT

+ VS **Sri Lanka Cricket**

LIVE ON

3:00 pm IST **STAR SPORTS**

PTI ■ LEEDS

Still recovering from their 87-run drubbing against Australia, former champions Sri Lanka will now face a tough battle for survival when they lock horns with a dominant England in their World Cup fixture here today.

With just one win, Sri Lanka are currently at the sixth spot with four points and will have to win rest of their four matches to salvage hopes of a semifinal berth.

The 1996 champions had lost their opening match against New Zealand and then rain robbed them off a chance to fight when two of their games were washed out.

Last week, Sri Lanka suffered a 87-run loss against Australia at London and it will take a special performance for the Island nation to keep themselves afloat for the knockout stage when they come across hosts England, who have looked simply unstoppable.

England are placed comfortably at the second spot with four wins from five games, the only blemish being their loss to Pakistan.

Eoin Morgan and his men have emerged as the best batting side this World Cup as they have blown away their opponents, amassing 300 plus scores in four of the five games — two of them being 386/6 against Bangladesh and 397/6 against Afghanistan.

In fact, five English batsmen are among the 10 highest-scoring batsmen this World Cup and the team boasts of five hundreds out of the 12 World Cup centuries so far.

Though England missed the services of opener Jason Roy due to an injury, Morgan's brutal 148 which was studded with a record 17 sixes helped them put 397-6 against Afghanistan, with Joe Root playing the second fiddle.

To stop this brute force called England, Sri Lanka will have to play out of their skins with the onus resting on the pace duo of Lasith Malinga and Nuwan Pradeep.



England captain Eoin Morgan smiles during team's practice session

England Cricket/Twitter

In batting, Sri Lanka too have to address their vulnerability in the middle order which saw them collapse in every match so far.

While against New Zealand, Sri Lanka lost five wickets for 14 runs to be bundled out for 136, they were dismissed for 201 in 36.5 overs by Afghanistan after

losing seven wickets for 36 runs.

In their last match against Australia, Sri Lanka slipped from 205 for 3 to be all out for 247 and the Dimuth Karunaratne-led side will have to come up with an extraordinary batting effort to counter the likes of Jofra Archer and Mark Wood, who have 12 and 9 wickets so far respec-



Sri Lankan pacer Lasith Malinga in action during game against Australia

Cricket World Cup/Twitter

HEAD TO HEAD

	Played	Eng	SL	NR/Tied
Matches	74	36	35	2/1
Day matches	38	16	21	1
In World Cup	10	6	4	—
Last 5 matches	5	3	1	1

HIGHEST TOTALS

England	366-6 in 50 overs at Colombo	23-10-2018
Sri Lanka	333-9 in 60 overs at Taunton	11-06-983

PERFORMANCE IN WC

Team	P	W	L	T	N/R	Success%
England	77	45	30	1	1	59.74
Sri Lanka	76	36	37	1	2	49.34

FAISEL FEATURES

tively.

SQUADS

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

Sri Lanka: Dimuth Karunaratne (capt), Dhananjaya de Silva, Nuwan Pradeep, Avishka Fernando, Suranga Lakmal, Lasith Malinga, Angelo Mathews, Kusal Mendis, Jeevan Mendis, Kusal Perera, Thisara Perera, Milinda Siriwardana, Lahiru Thirimanne, Isuru Udana, Jeffrey Vandersay.

XFACTOR

- English pace attack
- Joe Root's golden run with the bat
- Karunaratne and Kusal Perera's opening stand
- Eoin Morgan, Dimuth Karunaratne's leadership
- Lasith Malinga's spell
- Eoin Morgan, Jos Buttler and Ben Stokes' power striking

MEN WHO MATTER

JOE ROOT (ENGLAND)

Eng's Mr Consistent, Root is second on the tournament run charts, with 367 runs that include two centuries and two fifties in five innings. Root is playing his part to perfection: by holding the innings together and building it, he's letting the rest of Eng's fearsome line-up come out and express themselves without inhibitions. That spells ominous signs for all the other teams.



DIMUTH KARUNARATNE (SL)

What Root is doing for England, Karunaratne is doing for Sri Lanka as their captain, although of a lesser magnitude. Karunaratne is leading by example, and his form is even more impressive, considering that before this tournament, he had played just one ODI in the last four years.



UNDER THE WEATHER

Leeds should wake up to a sunny day with some clouds hanging overhead, but chances of rain are extremely minimal. There should also be a moderate breeze. This will be Headingley's CWC19 debut.

Courtesy — © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2018

Everything is shipshape Proud revolutionary

It was awesome to watch Eoin Morgan play an innings like that against Afghanistan. His performance was literally a highlights reel from start to finish, it was great hitting.

It was definitely important for him to deliver as the captain. There's been a lot of talk about positive cricket over the last four years and Morgan just went out there and showed it from the off.

The way he plays, how he lives the game, that innings was brilliant. It was remarkable how he struck the ball so consistently. He obviously got a life on 28 and then just took the game to Afghanistan.

A lot was made of their spinners coming into the game but he just hit them out of the park — literally. It was not just him, though, as all the top four batsmen contributed to England's total of 397/6.

That batting order is in real good shape at the moment with everyone playing their part. I think Morgan was the only one who hadn't really gone on and got a big score so that'll be nice for him. I know from personal experience, it's always nice to be out there scoring runs when you're leading a side.

All round, it was a very professional performance from England. I thought the way they approached it was impressive. Jonny Bairstow being very aggressive upfront and Joe Root looking very comfortable easily getting a run-a-ball 80 and then Morgan just went mad.

The bowlers also did their job and I've been really impressed with Mark Wood. There's been a lot of talk about



English pacer Jofra Archer in a file picture AP

Jofra Archer in the build-up to the World Cup — and he's performed brilliantly — but I think Mark's bowled outstandingly well, especially considering the injuries he's had.

England will be desperate to keep him fit as that friendly competition with him and Jofra is probably pushing him to the next level. I think they're probably looking at the speed gun after games and it's healthy friendly competition which is pushing both guys forward. The way England have played over

the last four years, it was always going to be interesting going into a World Cup to see whether they would stay so aggressive, it can be harder in a World Cup.

To see them doing that at Old Trafford was great. They are really living and breathing that mindset of cricket that's pushing the boundaries, they're playing that positive cricket, and the performance against Afghanistan was a clear example of that.

I know Afghanistan haven't had the best competition but they're a potential banana skin so for England to come out and play like that and win so convincingly is a really good sign.

They've got Sri Lanka next, who haven't had a great competition either, but then England have got some real testing games so they'll take a lot of confidence into those and I think they'll be glad they have those testing games just before they hopefully play in the knockout stages. Sri Lanka, like Afghanistan, are a dangerous side on their day so they'll want to get that win and secure their place in the top four as they can relax a bit then.

They can then keep playing the way they play. Bar the top few, Sri Lanka's middle order haven't really contributed in this World Cup so it'll be a tough test for them against Jofra and Mark.

England will be looking to continue their fine run of form and keep contributing with the bat and keep the bowlers bowling the way they have. Hopefully the weather will stay away too.

Courtesy — © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2019

AFP ■ LEEDS

Moeen Ali says he will always cherish being part of England's one-day revolution ahead of what could be his 100th one-day international appearance against Sri Lanka on Friday.

Moeen, 32, has played a key role in England's rise to the top of the ODI rankings after they crashed out of the 2015 World Cup in the first round.

The Eoin Morgan-led team have played an aggressive brand of cricket since then and have lived up to their pre-tournament favourites tag, with four wins from five matches so far at the World Cup.

"It obviously means a lot," said Moeen, a left-handed batsman who bowls off-spin.

"To play 100 ODI games for England is obviously a dream. It's just being part of the team, being part of the change.

"Looking back, if I was to retire I'd always be able to say I was part of that change, the whole mindset changing and the great cricket we've played."

Coming in at number seven in England's last game against Afghanistan, Moeen smashed 31 off just nine balls to give the side fresh impetus after Morgan blasted a record 17 sixes in his breakthrough 148.

Moeen, who made his ODI debut in 2014, said batting down the order was not easy but was an important role.

"Seven is not an easy position in my opinion," he said. "You're dictated to by the pace of the game and you have to try to get quick runs which doesn't always happen.

"Top players like Jos Buttler and Ben Stokes find it hard as well. I once heard from a great player that if you come off three times in 10



Moeen Ali bowls during nets session England Cricket/Twitter

you've done really well but if you come off make sure it's properly."

The fancied sides at the World Cup are laying down a powerful marker but Moeen said there was still room for upsets.

"At the moment, the top four are there for a reason, because they're probably playing the best cricket of all of the teams and the most consistent," he said.

England, finalists in 1979, 1987 and 1992, have never won the 50-over World Cup but Moeen said that they are hoping for glory on home turf.

"As a team we know that a trophy matters for us. Hopefully this is it," he said.

KNIGHTWRITER



By HEATHER KNIGHT
England women's captain



नालवाइटे ENGLAND

INJURIES ARE PART AND PARCEL NOBODY HAS CONTROL ON IT. THIS IS A GOOD INDIAN TEAM AND THEY WILL MAKE IT TO THE SEMIS AND WE WILL SEE WHAT HAPPENS
— SOURAV GANGULY

SILVER FERN



By DANIEL VETTORI
Former New Zealand captain



Kane Williamson has to be New Zealand's greatest ODI player of all time — and innings like that against South Africa tells you exactly why.

Winner all the way

He's already there now and by the end of his career his record will far exceed anything we've had in the past or present, he really is that good.

Kane has done so much in such a short period, whether a captain or not, he's been exceptional and he's an absolute joy to watch. He plays all the shots, he knows how to manipulate the strike and he's always going to run hard.

What differentiates him from a lot of batsmen in this day and age is his sole focus is winning the game and he tailors his batting towards that.

The wicket was tricky, the South African bowling was very good and they took the pace off the ball well, it was a tough time to bat.

But the way he understood that situation and got his team across the line was exceptional, it's what makes him one of the greatest in the world now and by the end of his career he'll be up there with some of the greats of all time.

Then you have him alongside Ross Taylor and you just want to sit down and watch, for New Zealand to have both of those together at a World Cup is pretty amazing.

You can't underestimate Colin de

Grandhomme's influence in this win as well — he came out and was fluent and had the best strike rate of anyone in the match.

To come out there in a pressure situation and play your natural game takes a lot of guts, it is Colin's game and the way he plays and he does that no matter what.

He took the pressure off Kane and allowed him to rotate the strike — that wicket was always going to be tough to start on but these two really nullified that and made it easier for guys around them.

They looked unflappable. There were overs where you'd have dots and a couple of runs but they never worried at all.

Colin only plays one way! He sees ball, hits ball, and that simplicity makes him a good player. He'd have got confidence from the way he bowled and at times he's been criticised for the way he bats but you take the rough when you get the smooth of these games.

If New Zealand play on that type of wicket against a team with lots of spinners it's going to be a challenge, so that's something that will be on the forefront of their mind.

But it was a great game of cricket and a type we don't see too regularly anymore,

240 plays 240 is really exciting to watch because you simply don't know who is going to win.

This is a game that made you want to watch right to the bitter end and it's really great to have that alongside the high scores. You don't see many other sports with the variables quite like cricket and the sport is very fortunate.

Next up for New Zealand is West Indies, a side who haven't quite matched the expectation they had of them before the tournament.

On paper they're very impressive but they're going to need something from that top order if they want to beat New Zealand. Trent Boult and Matt Henry will look to be as aggressive as possible early on.

On the flip side Martin Guptill is someone who will enjoy the pace coming onto the ball that he can really get into with a chance to be aggressive.

But for now it's another win on the board for New Zealand, they've put in another good performance and should be more and more confident with each game that comes.

Courtesy- © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2019

Why didn't Kane walk?

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Former South Africa spinner Paul Adams has questioned New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson's integrity after he did not walk out despite being caught behind by wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock.

Williamson struck a composed unbeaten century to help New Zealand post a four-wicket win over South Africa on Wednesday. However, his knock was marred by a controversy after he was caught behind by Kock in the 38th over off the bowling of leg-spinner Imran Tahir. Williamson was at 76 then.

"Why didn't Kane Williamson walk," Adams wrote on his *twitter* page sparking a debate.

He further added in another tweet: "Kane Williamson was Mankad after he didn't walk. Would he be upset?"

Interestingly, Tahir had appealed against the inside edge of Williamson's bat, but it was turned down by the umpire. The South African team did not request for a review and later replays showed a nick from Williamson.

South Africa skipper Faf du Plessis, in the post-match presser, explained that he trusted de Kock's judgement and that's why he didn't go for a review.

"We weren't aware of it. I think I was at long on at the time, and Quinny is the closest to the action. He's always my go to man," du Plessis said. "I just thought it was a plain miss. I just heard about it now at the post match that he said he had a nick on it. But even Kane said he didn't know he had to fine tune it. He would have referred it. But that's not where the game was won and lost," he added.

Down and out

AFP ■ BIRMINGHAM

Captain Faf du Plessis was left contemplating the ruins of another World Cup campaign on the ground where South Africa experienced their greatest heartache in the competition 20 years ago.

The Proteas' hopes of reaching the semi-finals in England and Wales are all but over after a four-wicket defeat by New Zealand on Wednesday.

One minor consolation is that the recriminations from Wednesday's reverse at Edgbaston are unlikely to be as great as those at Warwickshire's headquarters 20 years ago when a disastrous run-out saw them tie with Australia and miss out on the final due to an inferior net run rate.

South Africa are still alive at the World Cup but with just one win from six matches it would take an extraordinary combination of results to see them into the semi-finals from a 10-team round-robin group phase.

Fans of AB de Villiers will argue this proves the Proteas were wrong to refuse the gifted batsman's offer to come out of international retirement for the World Cup, but others will say the offer came far too late for it to be accepted by South Africa's selectors.

Inevitably, given their painful World Cup history, the question of whether South Africa "choked" on Wednesday is bound to be asked.

"Choking", however, implies squandering a winning position, whereas this match in Birmingham was more of a see-saw contest determined largely by Williamson's knock.

The New Zealand skipper is a world-class batsman and the truth is that South Africa's World Cup campaign was in trouble long before this fixture.

Losing Dale Steyn without the veteran fast bowler delivering a ball at the tournament was blow, but South Africa were gambling on the 35-year-old recovering from a longstanding shoulder injury.

South Africa did not help themselves on Wednesday when Williamson, who had then made 76, got a thin edge off Imran Tahir to wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock.

The Proteas did not request a review, only for replays to show a nick.

This World Cup could well mark the last appearance at the global showpiece for players in their mid-30s such as Du Plessis and Proteas opener Hashim Amla, who never really got back to his best after being hit on the head by a bouncer from England's Jofra Archer.

"If you look at our batting unit, we've got some future talent and some promising players, but if you put our top six and you put the other top sixes around the world, purely on a numbers point of view, we won't be in the top three," admitted Du Plessis.

The Kiwi with simple mantra

BIRMINGHAM: On a day when everyone found batting to be tough on a slow track, Colin de Grandhomme was the only player to show fluent stroke-play and he credited his mantra of "keeping it simple" for the knock.

De Grandhomme (60 off 47 balls) played a crucial role in New Zealand's four-wicket victory over South Africa on Wednesday.

"I just tried to watch it as hard as I can. I tend to see the ball and hit the ball and it worked. That's just my game and that's how I play. It went well. I just try to do my job when I can. Some days it doesn't work, today it did. Cricket is a simple game," said De Grandhomme.

Chasing 242 in 49 overs in the rain-truncated match, New Zealand recovered from a mini slump at 137 for five, riding on a 91-run stand between skipper Kane Williamson (106 not out off 138 balls) and de Grandhomme, to reach home with three balls to spare.

De Grandhomme acknowledged that having a player of Williamson's calibre alongside him made the task easier.

"Having Kane at the other end makes it a lot easier, knowing he's a gun. He didn't give me too much advice, I don't take too much in.

"We had to take it to the last 10 overs so we had to build for 10 overs. Then we could see where we were. Luckily the run-rate didn't get above seven so we were always still in the game," explained De Grandhomme.

सबका साथ-सबका विकास-सबका विश्वास



5वें अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय योग दिवस

21 जून, 2019



के उपलक्ष्य में

सामूहिक योगाभ्यास कार्यक्रम



गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

राम नाईक
राज्यपाल, उत्तर प्रदेश

योगी आदित्यनाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

डॉ. दिनेश शर्मा
उप मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

डॉ. धर्म सिंह सैनी
राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)
आयुष विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

संयुक्ता भाटिया
महापौर
लखनऊ

समय: प्रातः 6:00 बजे | स्थान: राजभवन प्रांगण, लखनऊ



कार चालक सीट बेल्ट अवश्य पहनें। सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश