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NEW ZEALAND
FACE PAKISTAN
IN WORLD CUP
15 SPORT

Kerala healthiest; UP, Bihar at nadir

Andhra, Maha too at the top of NITI Aayog health index

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Kerala, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, has emerged as the best health performer, while five States — Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha — saw a decline in the overall health index score and "only about half the States and UTs had an improvement in the overall score between 2015-16 and 2017-18", reveals the second edition of health index released by NITI Aayog on Tuesday.

The health index is a composite measure of States and Union Territories calculated on the basis of health indicators with weightages on the basis of outcome. In other words, the index is supposed to provide a comprehensive view of health outcomes, while taking into account the efficacy of governance, policies, processes and interventions.

The decline in the overall health index score for five Empowered Action Group (EAG) States that lag behind in demographic indicators and have high infant mortality rates — Bihar, UP, Uttarakhand,



NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar, with NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, releases the second edition of 'Healthy States, Progressive India' report in New Delhi on Tuesday

Madhya Pradesh and Odisha — is attributed to "deterioration of performance in several indicators", said the report which was prepared in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Health and the World Bank.

In Uttar Pradesh, for instance, the decline was attributed to "low birth weight, TB treatment success rate, average tenure of key positions at State and district level of birth registration." In fact, despite being among the fastest improving States, Uttar Pradesh ranked at the bottom among 21 large States on health indicators.

In Bihar, this was due to "performance related to total

fertility rate, low weight, sex ratio at birth, TB treatment success rate, quality accreditation of public health facility and time-taken for NHM (National Health Mission) fund transfer," it added.

In Odisha, the decline was attributed to the "worsening of the full immunisation rate and TB treatment success rate", while in MP there has been a "reduction in level of birth registration and TB treatment success," added the report. In Uttarakhand, the report cited a decline in neonatal mortality, unstable administrative appointments and issues with NHM fund transfers.

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PM raps Cong for family adulation

Asks Opp to correct 'mistake' in Shah Bano case, back triple talaq Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Making a scathing attack on the Congress for what he described as its "rootlessness" and culture of lauding only one family to the exclusion of others, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday affirmed that his Government would continue its fight against corruption and "follow law" in the cases involving Congress leaders as he asked Opposition party to correct its past "mistake" in the Shah Bano case and support the triple talaq Bill in Parliament.

In his first address to the Lok Sabha after being voted to power for the second-time, Modi stressed he had a dream of a Modern India with new infrastructure, ease of living for common men and equal opportunity to rural and urban Indians.

In a sharp retort to Congress' Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary's speech in the Lok Sabha where he said though low in numbers Congress never lost its height, Modi said the Congress has gone so high that it has lost its roots.

"Aapki uchayi apko mubarak, aap itne uche chale gaye hain ki jad se ukhad gaye hain aad aapko jameen dikhna band ho gaya hai," (let Congress be contended with its so-called height, it has turn rootless and lost ground), the Prime Minister said, adding "We don't need that kind of height and would always like to be grounded."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Motion of Thanks on Presidents Address on Tuesday

Replying to the Motion of Thanks to the President's address, the PM lashed out at the Congress for accusing him of not mentioning the first PM of the country Jawaharlal Nehru, saying he would perhaps be the first premier of the country who in his speech from the Red fort had praised the contributions of all Governments since Independence.

Interestingly, Modi concluded his address with Nehru's quote saying "citizens should be mindful of their responsibilities while demanding their rights". He posed a counter-question to the Congress whether it had for a single-time praised NDA Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

"Let alone praising us, please tell, did you even for once praised your own leaders Narsimha Rao or Dr Manmohan Singh?" he asked. "Why no Bharat Ratna given to Rao or Singh," he asked and went on to say it was the BJP that awarded Bharat Ratna to Pranab Mukherjee, a Congress leader. Modi alluded that in the Congress praise is reserved for only one family.

Modi recalled what he called a retrograde role of Congress in not implementing common civil code in 1950 and missing out the opportunity and thereafter in 1985-86 again not allowing women empowerment in the case of Shah Bano where the Supreme Court had given full support.

Having criticised Congress for its past "mistakes", the PM invited the Congress to "correct" itself and support the Muslim women (protection of rights on marriage) Bill which the BJP introduced in the Lok Sabha this week. The PM, however, did not leave the issue relating to Muslims without a final sting when he quoted a Congress Minister making a disparaging remark against the community during the Shah Bano controversy.

"Musalmanno ke uthhan ki jimmedari Congress ki nahin hain, if they want to lie in gutter, let them be..." (it is not Congress responsibility to uplift Muslims, if they want to lie in gutter let them be), Modi quoted a Congress leader as saying

amidst loud protests from Congress benches. "I will send you a youtube link of it," Modi responded to the protest.

On Adhir's apparent challenge to the Modi Government as to why it did not arrest Congress leaders (Sonia and Rahul) if they had done wrong, the PM said it was for the judiciary to decide, and hastened to add "Jamanat multi hain to enjoy karein".

Recalling that today was June 25, the day Emergency was imposed by the Congress, Modi said this was a black spot on democracy, it also prompted people to show their maturity in rising above the barriers of caste, language or religion to vote out the Congress and re-establish the democracy.

Modi said by the time India complete its 75 years of Independence in 2022 when Mahatma Gandhi's 150 birth anniversary would also be celebrated, all should together work for a new and modern India.

He said effort should be as how India reached five-trillion economy and gave a slogan of "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan aur Jai Anushandhan". Modi said India has 200 years of manufacturing of weapons. "We had 18 weapon factories when China had none. But today China exports arms and we import them," he said and sought that the country invests into research.

The PM made a special plea for vigorous effort to regenerate and save every drop of water.

Defence, trade on Pompeo-Jaishankar table

Talks to iron out trade differences; Terrorism, Iran also on discussion list

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/GANDHINAGAR

The entire gamut of bilateral relations between India and the US will be discussed during US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo's two-day visit to New Delhi on Wednesday. This will be first high-level visit by a foreign dignitary since Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed charge for the second time and will see issues, including terrorism, trade ties, growing defence and strategic ties figuring, prominently in the discussion.

India is likely to urge the US to supply armed predator drones, naval helicopters, surface to air missiles and attack helicopters to its armed forces.

Giving a hint on the issues which will be on the table during his forthcoming talks with Pompeo, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday that India will try to find common ground on trade issues during discussions. Terrorism, Afghanistan, the Indo-Pacific, Iran, trade issues, and growing bilateral defence ties will be the focus of the bilateral discussions on Wednesday. Pompeo will also call on Modi.



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrives at AFS Palam in New Delhi on Tuesday

"We will be meeting with a positive attitude," Jaishankar told reporters in Gandhinagar after filing his nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha poll from Gujarat. "The meeting with Mike Pompeo will be an important one. We will definitely discuss issues related to trade between the two countries," Jaishankar said.

"Both the countries are having their own interests. And it is natural to have some conflicts because of that. We will find a common ground

using diplomacy. We will hold discussions with the US with a positive approach," he said. His remarks assume significance against the backdrop of increasing tension in trade ties between India and US.

Continued on Page 7

Disability pension non taxable only if veterans lose job in harness

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The circular issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Monday said the disability pension given to military personnel will be taxable unless they have to leave the service due to the disability sustained in service.

The order said tax exemption for disability pension will be "available only to armed forces personnel who have been invalidated from service on account of bodily disability attributable to or aggravated by such service and not to personnel who have been retired on superannuation or otherwise."

Facing criticism, officials justified the order on Tuesday by stating that those personnel who retire after serving full tenure with some disability will not get income tax exemption. Stating that this was always the case, they said there are instances where income tax exemption was availed by those who retired with disability and the latest order clarifies the position.

Continued on Page 7

UP govt to amend rules to expedite civil cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The state government on Tuesday decided to amend its rules to expedite long pending civil cases, besides allowing private printers to get government printing orders.

The decisions were taken in the state Cabinet meeting, which was chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Tuesday morning. The government also approved loan worth Rs 3,000 for the civil works in the mega Poorvanchal Expressway. While Punjab National Bank has already given Rs 7,800 crore, the Bank of Baroda/Vijay Bank agreed to give Rs 2,000 crore and the Corporation Bank Rs 1,000 crore loans for the project.

Briefing media persons, the state government spokespersons and ministers Srikant Sharma said the government had decided to amend section 102 and 115 of the Civil Cases Act wherein the bond/guarantee had been increased to Rs 50,000 from Rs 25,000 and in section 115 the bond/guarantee would be of Rs



25 lakhs from the existing Rs 50 lakhs.

Similarly, under section 2, where the High Court is authorised to hear cases but it has now been given the authority to the district court. Besides, now these cases can be heard in the district court as well as additional district judges court.

"Such amendment will expedite pending cases at the High Court as well as in the civil courts," the spokespersons said. The state Cabinet also permitted the private printing press to get government work which was banned since 2002. "Now, private companies can get orders of printing government

work through e-tendering but preference will be given to the government press on price and quality," they said.

However, the private printing press seeking government orders should possess ES, PF and GSI to get themselves empanelled for the purpose. Besides, there will be three categories of these printing press — Category A of turnover of over Rs 2 crore, category B of turnover of over Rs 1 crore and category C turnover of over Rs 50 lakh.

The BJP government has also decided to transfer funds directly to beneficiaries of the Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana. The decision was taken as there were complaints about delay in payment to beneficiaries.

The government has also approved Rs 45.99 crore for the construction of a conference hall, suites and museum of Allahabad High Court in Prayagraj besides another Rs 530 crore has been sanctioned by the Cabinet for the construction of a multi-level parking and lawyers' chambers also in Prayagraj.

SC refuses to interfere in separate Guj RS bypolls

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to entertain a plea by the Gujarat Congress against the EC's decision to hold separate bypolls to two Rajya Sabha seats in the State, saying the poll process has already been set in motion and the court will not interfere.

The SC, however, granted liberty to the Gujarat Congress to file an "election petition" after the RS polls to the two seats vacated by Amit Shah and Smriti Irani.

An election petition is a procedure to call into question the poll results and is filed in the high court concerned.

Continued on Page 7

Will strip Choksi of citizenship, will repatriate to India: Antigua PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Antigua citizenship of diamond trader Mehul Choksi — wanted in India in the ₹13,500 crore Punjab National Bank scam — will be scrapped once he has exhausted all his legal options, the Government of the island nation has said, according to a report in the Antigua Observer.

The revocation of citizenship will pave the way for his deportation to India to stand trial in the case. Antigua — among the many tax havens in the Caribbean — has no extradition treaty with India.

"His (Choksi) citizenship was processed; he got through but the reality is his citizenship will be revoked and he will be

repatriated to India; so there is recourse. It's not a case that we are trying to provide any safe harbour for criminals, for those who are involved in financial crimes," Prime Minister of Antigua Gaston Browne was quoted as saying by the Antigua Observer on Monday.

"We have to allow for due process. He has a matter before the court and as we said to the Indian Government, criminals have fundamental rights, and Choksi has a right to go to court and defend his position. But I can assure you, after he has exhausted all of his legal options, he will be extradited," Browne said.

Choksi, 60, had taken citizenship of Antigua and

Barbuda in November, 2017 using Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP) of the twin island nation. He fled India in the first week of January 2018, days before PNB credit fraud scam worth ₹13,400 crore was detected and reported by the bank.

Choksi, promoter of Gitanjali Gems, and his nephew Nirav Modi, who is currently in a London jail, are wanted by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for allegedly masterminding the biggest banking fraud of India and laundering the proceeds of the crime.

Under the CIP, a person can take Antigua Barbuda passport on a minimum investment of \$1,000,000 in the NDF investment fund in the island nation.

The CBI has managed to get a Red Corner Notice against Nirav but its application to get a similar notice from Interpol against Choksi has met a deadlock at the Lyon-based international police body.

The ED recently told the Bombay High Court that it was ready to provide an air ambulance to bring Choksi to India.

Choksi, currently based in the Caribbean nation of Antigua and Barbuda, told the Bombay High Court that he left India for medical treatment and not to avoid prosecution in the case. He said he would return to India as soon as he is medically fit to travel.

He had escaped the country on January 4 last year on an Indian passport and took the oath of allegiance in Antigua on January 15, sources said.

Monsoon advances

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Monsoon further advanced India Tuesday with several places in Rajasthan receiving heavy rainfall, but dry weather prevailed in most parts of eastern and northern states.

Maximum temperatures were above the normal at many areas in Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Rewa in Madhya Pradesh, Jodhpur in Rajasthan and Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh were some of the hottest places in the country.

In Delhi, dry conditions pushed the mercury up and rains will continue to elude the national capital for the next three to four days, the weatherman said.

Jammu and Srinagar also saw their maximum temperatures increase from 32 degrees Celsius and 24.7 degrees Celsius on Monday to 39.8 degrees Celsius and 27.5 degrees Celsius on Tuesday, respectively.

In Rajasthan, Jaisalmer recorded 55 mm rain Tuesday, while one to seven centimetre of rainfall was recorded in the past 24 hours in many parts of the desert state.

Jodhpur was the hottest place in the state at 41.5 degrees Celsius. It was 41.1 in Bikaner and 41 degrees Celsius in Churu.

Monsoon further advanced in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

In Madhya Pradesh, monsoon rains advanced towards Indore in the western part of the state, a MeT official said. On Monday, the eastern and southern areas of the state were lashed by rains.

The south-west monsoon

entered Gujarat with southern parts of the state receiving showers, a Met department official said.

Monsoon, which also arrived in southern Saurashtra, will advance to remaining parts of the state soon, according to the IMD. For Mumbai, which has been reeling under water shortage, there was good news from the Met department that has declared onset of the south-west monsoon for the city.

In slight respite from heat, a few places in Uttar Pradesh received rainfall with state capital Lucknow witnessing cloudy skies.

The state capital recorded a maximum temperature of 38.6 degrees Celsius and Allahabad was the hottest place in the state at 42.5 degrees Celsius, the Met said.

Rainfall was recorded in Sultanpur (3.0 mm), Basti (8.2 mm), Kanpur (26.2 mm) and Hardoi (22 mm).

Burglars cock a snook at cops' 'Jaagte Raho' drive

Cash, goods stolen from eatery; abortive bid at medical store

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

On the first day of the Lucknow police's drive named 'Jaagte Raho' to crack down on burglars, two shoplifting cases were reported on Nawal Kishore Road in Hazratganj on Monday night. On Monday, the Hazratganj police were tasked with conducting night patrolling by police vans fitted with recorders blurring out the 'Jaagte Raho' slogan.

As per reports, Akash Deep of Ansal's Gold City in Gosainganj informed the police about the theft after his employees reached his restaurant and found the shutter



locked up on Tuesday morning.

On the information, a team reached the place. While the investigation was underway, another shop-owner Akash Dayal reached the police complaining that burglars tried to sneak into his medical store and had broken the locks of the shutter. During preliminary investigation, the cops recovered a CCTV footage in which

iron rod to dismantle the shutter and later, one of them entered the shop while the other stood guard outside.

Akash Deep told the police that the thieves made off with Rs 24,000 in cash and a Samsung mobile phone from the shop. More stunning facts surfaced when the cops scanned the CCTV footage.

The sources said no police van was seen passing via the road at the time of the incident. Police spokesman said a case had been registered and the police were conducting investigations. Denying media reports that the medical store was also burgled, he said the thieves attempted to commit theft there but failed.

The Lucknow police had been asked to check the feasibility of the plan to drive away thieves in view of spurt in cases in the city. Ironically, Hazratganj was chosen as an area for the scheme.

KGMU patients to get reports of all medical tests on mobiles

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

It's good news for the patients of King George's Medical University (KGMU) as soon, they will be able to get the reports of all medical tests on their smartphones. KGMU's IT incharge Dr Sandeep Bhattacharya said they have already begun these services for biopsy and pathology tests and would soon include CT scans and MRIs to facilitate the patients in a big way.

He said the patients could just visit the e-hospital site and click on the lab tests where they would get options of 6-7 hospitals. "All they have to do is click on KGMU and feed their respective unique ID

numbers after which OTPs will be generated through which they can view all the reports of the tests carried out. Patients living in other districts, and even those in Lucknow, need not visit the hospital to get their reports. Their doctors can also view the reports" he explained.

Since the start of e-hospital, the figures show that almost 34-35 lakh patients have secured KGMU services over the last one-and-a-half years, and 500 patients are being discharged everyday.

"It's a robust software. On Sunday, over 750 patients visited the Trauma Centre, and the number is much more than other hospitals across the

state can handle. All the data is available on the website and anyone can access it," Dr Bhattacharya said.

"The data shows that 9,500 receipts are being issued across Uttar Pradesh while in case of KGMU, there have been 6,000-7,000 receipts every single day, which indicates that we bear 80 per cent of the UP workload.

"ALL the online services of KGMU are being prescribed by the doctors from Gandhi Ward and the receipts are being issued by doctors and nurses. The receipts are placed by the patients and the samples by nurses while the ward boys carry the same to the collection centre where the investigations are fed online. Patients

can also give the samples directly," he added.

He said that e-hospital and IT hospital were engineering services while the operational issues were handled by the hospital. He said that the IT cell was also managing telecom services.

Dr Bhattacharya said they had also started telemedicine services and established a smart room which was being used by various departments.

He said they had technically configured with the Lucknow Central Jail for telemedicine health services. "It's complete from our side and its for the jail authorities to decide when to use the services," he added.

Body of 17-year-old student recovered from railway tracks; murder suspected

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A 17-year-old Class X student, named in a case of elopement in Itaunja, was found dead and the body was recovered from railway tracks in Madaon, nearly 15 kilometre away from his house, on Tuesday. The incident fuelled the speculation of murder by the girl's kin to salvage the family prestige. Father of the deceased lodged a case of murder, naming five members of the girl's family.

Police claimed that the youth committed suicide as he was perturbed over the

sudden developments after the girl's family got to know about his his relationship with her. The deceased was identified as Krishna Murari of Bhagta Kheda of Itaunja. His body was recovered from railway tracks near a hospital.

According to police, Krishna Murari was named in a case lodged by girl's father alleging that he eloped with her. The missing report of the girl was registered on Monday. Contrary to the police claim, deceased's father said Krishna Murari was missing since June 22. "On June 22, he left the house for

some work but did not return. We kept searching for him, but in vain. We kept waiting him hoping for his return. On Monday, we came to know from Itaunja police that Krishna Murari was named in a case lodged by girl's father," his father said.

He alleged that the girl's father and four members of his family killed Krishna Murari and put the body on the railway tracks to make it look like a case of suicide. He further claimed that girl's father and other kin had caught her with Krishna Murari in the house of a relative.

"Krishna Murari went missing after this. I have a hunch that they killed my son for saving the prestige of their family," he alleged.

The police spokesman said a case of murder, destroying evidence and criminal conspiracy was registered against girl's father and her kin. About the recovery of the girl, the spokesman said she had been traced. "She is staying in a relative's house. The message was given to police by her family. However, the police have yet to contact her to record her statement," he added.

Two held for looting NRI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A joint team of Husainganj police and cyber cell on Tuesday nabbed four persons in connection with loot in the house of an Indian having Australian citizenship. Those arrested were identified as Nizamuddin aka Nizam of Bakshi-Ka-Talab, Mohini aka Dolly & Menka aka Dimple Claudius (both of Azamgarh), and a minor.

The cops recovered Australian dollars, 8,000 in Indian currency, two mobiles and a digital camera which the miscreants had looted from the house of Vishnu Prasad, who is presently staying in Prakash Apartment and came in contact with the women through a friendship app in the recent past. The police said the miscreants developed greed seeing the money Vishnu had and they committed loot in his house. Vishnu had given an application to SSP, Lucknow, who directed the police to work on the case.

Woman, live-in partner arrested, booked for abetment to suicide

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A woman and her live-in partner were arrested on Tuesday in connection with the death of a businessman, Ashish Goel, who had fallen off the 8th floor of Kalyan Apartment in Ghazipur police station area on June 2. Both were booked for abetment to suicide. Earlier, the police had registered a case of murder against unidentified miscreants on the complaint of deceased's family.

The woman was identified as Deepika Vishwakarma aka Annie of Darjeeling (West Bengal) and her partner in crime as Furqan aka Samir aka Rehan of Kanpur. Police said Annie and Furqan worked with a company providing escort services.

Circle officer Deepak Kumar Singh said Ashish came in contact with Annie through an advertisement and came close to her. However,

Annie had another idea. During her association, she had come to know about Ashish's rich background and she planned to exploit him.

She lured Ashish into accompanying her to several destinations, including tourist places, and filmed him in a compromising position. She later passed the information to Furqan, who in connivance with her, started extorting money from him.

"She and Furqan kept extorting money from Ashish till he was completely drained out. In the last message retrieved from Ashish's laptop, he had written that he was left with only Rs 50,000 in his bank account and transferred that to her account. He stated that he had no option but to end his life," the CO said.

For police, it was not an easy task to crack the case as all the three high-end mobile phones of Ashish were password-protected. "While work-

ing on the case, we succeeded in getting an access to his gmail account. He had sent a letter to the complaint cell of WhatsApp, informing the officials concerned that a girl had gained access to his WhatsApp account and copies some of his personal photos to blackmail him. He had also mentioned the number of the girl and that gave us the lead," Ghazipur SHO Brijesh Singh said.

It surfaced that Ashish came in contact with Annie four years back. "Furqan and Annie owned up their crime and disclosed that they had realised lakhs of rupees from Ashish," the police said.

The CO said Annie lodged a fake case against Furqan at Chinhat police station to gain sympathy from Ashish and win his trust. "Since Annie stopped pursuing the case and changed her address, the investigator submitted the final report exonerating Furqan," he said.

CH. CHARAN SINGH UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, MEERUT
U.P. State University Formerly Meerut University, Meerut

Registration / Admission Notice for 2019
Institute of Business Studies (IBS) (M.B.A.)
Department of Computer Application (M.C.A.)
Sir Chhotu Ram Institute of Engg. & Tech. (B.Tech.)

Eligible candidates are invited for Registration/Admissions in the following courses of the University Campus- (i) B.Tech. 1st Year (ii) B.Tech. IInd year (lateral Entry) (iii) B.B.A. (Campus) (iv) B.Sc. Hons (Computer Sc.) (v) M.B.A. (vi) M.B.A. (H.A.) (vii) Integrated M.B.A. (H.A.) with the exit option after 3 year receiving degree of B.B.A. (H.A.) (viii) M.C.A. (ix) M.C.A. IInd year (lateral Entry). All admissions shall be done by the University selection process and based on the online merit through registrations on CCS University web portals (www.ccsuweb.in or ccsuniversity.ac.in/scriet). Registration to the M.B.A., M.C.A. and B.Tech will be against the seats lying vacant after UPSEE-2019 counseling. The details of the courses and eligibility criteria are available on University official website ccsuniversity.ac.in/scriet or ccsuweb.in or contact : (0121) 2770083, 2774974, (B.Tech. - 9997999458, 9837783332), (M.B.A. - 9105179605), (M.B.A.-H.A. - 9713530009), (B.B.A. - 9837280480), (M.C.A. and B.Sc. Hons. - Computer Sc. - 9927964844, 9997867023

SEPARATE HOSTEL FOR GIRLS & BOYS REGISTRAR

'Clerical error' in ASP circular kicks up row

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A clerical mistake in the circular issued by ASP (East) Suresh Chand Rawat on donation for cleanliness in police station campus of the east circle kept senior officials on their toes with social media commentators terming the order whimsical. On Monday, the ASP office issued a circular to the police station, asking the cops deployed there and living at the staff quarters to donate Rs 100 each for ensuring cleanliness. As soon as the circular reached the police stations, the cops already paying the same put forth their objection. As the

message got leaked to the media, the social activists started pillorying the Lucknow police, terming the order unjust.

The news also reached the social media cell of Lucknow police and SSP Kalanidhi Naithani had to intervene to scotch the controversy. Later, on Tuesday evening, the ASP (East) issued an e-byte, claiming that the circular had a clerical error. He said the donation was to be given by only those cops or their families living at the police station staff quarters. He clarified that those living outside the police station campus or those already paying it would not have to make any donation.

POSSESSION NOTICE
(for immovable property)
[Appendix IV under the Act-rule-8(1)]

The Authorized officer of Syndicate Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice on the date mentioned against account & stated here under calling upon the borrower/surety/owner to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days with further interest at contractual rate on the aforesaid amount & incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. being together with the date of the said notice. The borrower/surety/owner having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/surety/owner & the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise to powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with the rule 8 of the said rules, on the date mentioned hereunder. **The borrowers attention is invited to the provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.** The borrower/surety/owner in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Syndicate Bank, for the amounts and interest thereon. **Details of the mortgaged Property of which the possession had been taken is as follows:**

Name & Address of the Borrowers/ Guarantors	Description of the charged/mortgaged/hypothecated property (All the part and parcel of the property consisting of)	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession	Amt. Outstanding
Branch : Mahanagar Lucknow			
1. Borrowers-1. Smt. Sumita Gupta Khan W/o Sri Abdul Moid Khan, R/o- A1, Ghamar Kunj, Kanchnanpur, Matiyari, Chihnat, Lucknow. Guarantor- Sri Abdul Moid Khan, R/o- A1, Ghamar Kunj, Kanchnanpur, Matiyari, Chihnat, Lucknow	UREM of Land and Building-House No. A1, Situated at Kharsa No. 716-A & 716B, Mirjuma, Kanchnanpur, Matiyari, Chihnat, Distt. Lucknow. Admeasuring Area-176.57 Sq. mtr. Owned by Smt. Sumita Gupta Khan W/o Sri Abdul Moid Khan. Boundaries: East-Plot of Sri Sher Bahadur Singh, West-House of Sumita Gupta Khan, North-Plot of Nem Singh Yadav, South-20 Feet wide Road	04-04-2019 21.06.2019	Rs. 5,95,509.00 as on 02.04.2019+ Intt & other Charges w.e.f. 01.04.2019
Branch : Raibareilly Road, Lucknow			
2. Borrowers-1.Smt. Lila Soni W/o Sri Shiv Kumar Soni & 2- Sri Shiv Kumar Soni, Both R/o E/345, Sector M-1, Kanpur Road Yojna, Lucknow Guarantor- Sri Raj Kumar R/o 588/645, Nali Tola, Bagla Bazar, Lucknow	UREM of Land and Building-Situated-House E-345, Sector M-1, Kanpur Road Yojna, Lucknow. Admeasuring area 30.00 Sq.mtr. Owned by Smt. Lila Soni W/o Sri Shiv Kumar Soni. Boundaries- East- House No. 346, West-House No. 344, North- House No. 388, South-4.50 Mtr. wide Road.	08.04.2019 24.06.2019	Rs. 5,99,574.00 as on 31.03.2019 + Intt & other Charges w.e.f. 01.04.2018
Borrowers-1-Sri Dilip Kumar Pathak S/o Sri Dwarika Prasad Pathak, R/o- 4A, Keshav Park, Saraswatiapuram, Raibareilly Road, Lucknow-226014. Guarantor- Sri Achey Lal S/o Late Sampati Ram, R/o- H, No. 55, Saraswatiapuram, Near Keshav Park, Lucknow.			
	UREM of Land and Building-Situated at part of Kharsa No. 1923, Plot No. 4A, Village- Haivat Ma. u. Mawaiya-Keshav Park, Saraswatiapuram, Raibareilly Road, District Lucknow-226014., admeasuring area 90.00 Sq.mtr. Owned by - Sri Dilip Kumar Pathak S/o Sri Dwarika Prasad Pathak, Boundaries- East- 30 ft wide Road, West- Boundary Wall North- Plot No. 4/Keshav Park, South- Plot No. 4/B, Keshav Park	11.03.2019 24.06.2019	Rs. 3,00,878.00 as on 28.02.2019 + Intt & other Charges w.e.f. 01.03.2019

Date: 24.06.2019, Place-Lucknow Authorised Officer, Syndicate Bank

Lucknow witnesses pre-monsoon rains



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The state capital received light pre-monsoon showers on Tuesday morning which made the weather pleasant. MeT director JP Gupta said the showers occurred because there was a troughline passing through south-eastern parts of the state. The southwest monsoon would arrive after two to three days, he said.

However, the cloudy skies soon gave way to clear skies after light rains. The forecast for Lucknow is partly cloudy skies with rain and thunder-showers likely in some areas. The maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to be around 39 degree Celsius and 29 degree Celsius, respectively. Rain and thundershowers are likely at isolated places over the state.

On Tuesday, Lucknow recorded the maximum temperature at 38.6 degree Celsius, which was three notches above normal, while the minimum temperature of 28.3 degree Celsius was a couple of notches above normal.

सबका साथ-सबका विकास-सबका विश्वास

मादक पदार्थों का दुरुपयोग एवं अवैध व्यापार विरोधी अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस
26 जून, 2019

प्रदेशवासियों से अपील

आधुनिकता एवं भौतिकवाद के इस युग में एक बड़ी चिन्ता एवं चुनौती समाज में मादक पदार्थों के सेवन की बढ़ती प्रवृत्ति है। समाज में संयुक्त परिवार के सापेक्ष एकल परिवार की प्राथमिकता के फलस्वरूप बड़ी संख्या में किशोर एवं किशोरियाँ इस कुप्रवृत्ति के कारण अपना स्वर्णिम भविष्य बर्बाद कर अपने जीवन का ध्येय नष्ट कर रहे हैं और जिन कंधों पर राष्ट्र निर्माण का दायित्व है वही कंधे इस व्यसन के कारण असमय कमजोर एवं असहाय हो रहे हैं। किसी भी नशे का सेवन समाज के लिए अभिशाप है और इस अभिशाप को समाज से यथाशीघ्र समाप्त किया जाना समाज, प्रदेश एवं देश हित में सर्वोपरि है। इस कुप्रवृत्ति को समाज से मिटाने का दृढ़ संकल्प हमें मिलकर लेना होगा एवं इसके खिलाफ एक महा अभियान हमें मिलकर चलाना होगा ताकि विश्वपटल पर हम अपने देश को महाशक्ति के रूप में पुनर्स्थापित कर सकें।

26 जून, 2019 मद्य निषेध दिवस के रूप में मनाया जा रहा है। इस अवसर पर मैं प्रदेशवासियों का आह्वान करता हूँ कि मादक पदार्थों के सेवन से स्वयं दूर रहें और घर परिवार एवं समाज के अन्य लोगों को भी जागरूक करें तथा देश के स्वर्णिम भविष्य के निर्माण में सहभागी बनें। आइये हम सभी शपथ लेकर इस सामाजिक अभिशाप को समाज से हमेशा के लिए समाप्त करने का दृढ़ संकल्प लें।

शुभकामनाओं सहित

योगी आदित्यनाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

'नशा मुक्त हो जीवन सारा-सुख समृद्धि का हो उजियारा'

नशा नहीं, खुशी अपनाइए

मद्यनिषेध विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

DM holds series of review meets, issues directives

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma held a meeting of Zila Udyog Bandhu Samiti on Tuesday to review the pending applications given by the various industrial units to government departments. The meeting witnessed the presence of representatives from the various industrial units along with officials from government departments with whom they wanted to sign MoUs, such as Nagar Nigam, Forest department, LLDA, Fire department etc. The DM said that in two days, all the pending cases on the investment portal should be cleared by government departments.

It was informed that in the Lucknow district from the level of Zila Udyog Bandhu Samiti, 87 MoU proposals Rs 7,316.1 crore had been received. The MoUs from the second ground-breaking ceremony were also reviewed at the meeting.

Meanwhile, the District Magistrate also had a meeting for rehabilitation of the manual scavengers with the monitoring committee constituted for the purpose.

District social welfare officer SK Mishra apprised the committee of the state government's directives that any one who dies while cleaning the sewer lines will be awarded Rs 10 lakh. The district social development officer said 20 such cases had come to the fore while only one family had been given the ex gratia of Rs 10 lakh.

He said that the KGMU registrar had been given the responsibility of giving Rs 10 lakh compensation to the affected families and apprise the District Magistrate about the same. The DM directed the police to carry out arrests in the pending cases of sewer deaths. The DM also directed the Municipal Commissioner to give compensation to the families of 12 persons who have died within a week and to apprise the district social welfare officer of the same. Similar



सभाकार कलेक्टर लखनऊ

instructions were given to the Jal Kal general manager. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, the DM directed the officials to identify three to four villages amongst the priority areas of the Chief Minister. He said such villages should be selected where work needed to be done on roads, plantation, door-to-door garbage collection. He added that the block development officer should himself ensure that the work was completed in time.

Reviewing the Ayushman Bharat scheme, he said the pending cases should be seen to find out if there were any objections and the same should be cleared at the earliest so that matters could proceed further and beneficiaries could get the advantages required. He also issued directions for proper cleanliness in the premises of CHCs and PHCs cleaned as they could be checked at any time by the Chief Minister. He said that there were 100 Gau Ashray Kendras in rural areas where 11,000 cows were kept. He added that tenders should also be floated for dispersal of cattle bones and skin.

FSDA to utilise used oil to make biofuel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Food Safety and Drug Administration (FSDA), with the support of a private company, will be utilising the cooking oil used by vendors in the city to make biofuel.

FSDAs designated officer TR Rawat said they held a discussion was carried out with the private company on Tuesday on the issue of sale and collection of oil. Rawat said they started the exercise of getting the food business operators to join them for the exercise. "The company is claiming that they would get all the support from food business operators because it is an issue associated with health and economy of the country," Rawat said.

He added that the company had created a website which could be visited by all the food business operators from time to time and update the quantity of reused oil they were using. On Tuesday, the FSDA continued with its raids and seven samples of different food products were collected. The samples included those of ice-candy, vanilla ice-cream, chocobar and mango drink.

Food safety officer Suresh Mishra said they were focusing on local manufacturers of ice-cream for raids. "It is important to look into the aspect of contamination rather than adulteration in ice-creams. In the local factories, it is also necessary to look into hygiene"

He said because of the usage of milk, contamination was a possibility. The food safety officer said they also checked ice-creams for edible colours and hygiene. "In case of ice-candies, we check for contaminated water and colours. In majority of cases, we have found that the colours used are edible," he said.

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Metro ridership reaches 1.11 cr



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation on Monday touched the ridership figure of 1.11 crore. "LMRC takes this moment to thank all its passengers who have supported us since the commencement of commercial services in 2017," senior officials said. Starting September 6,

2017, Lucknow Metro have completed 1,83,561 revenue trips till date, amounting to a total of 19,76,580 km. "The trains have travelled equivalent to three round trips to the moon or around 50 times around the Earth," the officials said.

The Lucknow Metro trains complete an average of 331 trips everyday on the

North-South corridor with nearly 60,000 passengers.

The officials said that with time, Lucknow Metro had become synonymous with a world class state-of-the-art public transport system which was safe, energy-efficient, inclusive and had a dedicated workforce ready to serve the passengers with the best of their abilities.

WESTERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM
Corrigendum to NIT No. C 78/1/117/SLR/04/2019 dtd. 17.06.2019. RP for FSLR-I in Train No.: 12903 MMCT-ASR. Published in newspaper as Rs. 27,325/- be corrected to read as Rs. 27,235/-. All the terms & conditions will remain unchanged. Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly_01

U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. E-TENDER NOTICE
Following E-Tenders are invited from the experienced/reputed contractors for the execution of following works for more details login on website www.etender.up.nic.in. 1- E-Tender No. 35/AETC/2019-20: Replacement of old (0.5011 class accuracy) 220 KV C.T. P.T. & old 220 KV Bus Coupler panel at 220 KV S/S Jaunpur under Elected. Trans. Division, Jaunpur. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand only). Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only. 2- E-Tender No. 36/AETC/2019-20: Replacement of old (0.5011 class accuracy) 132 KV P.T. at 220 KV S/S Jaunpur under Elected. Trans. Division, Jaunpur. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand only). Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only. 3- E-Tender No. 37/AETC/2019-20: Supply and Fixing of 3 phase outdoor type L.T. Cubical Boxswitchyard area of 112 KV S/S Sub. Station Badlapur, Shahganj & Siddiquepur under Elected. Trans. Division-II, Jaunpur. Earnest Money: Rs. 8,000.00 (Rs. Eight Thousand only). Tender Cost: Rs. 94.00 (Rs. Nine Hundred Forty) only. 4- E-Tender No. 38/AETC/2019-20: Construction of 33 KV Jack Bus at 132 KV S/S Kerakal under Elected. Trans. Division-II, Jaunpur. Earnest Money: Rs. 5000.00 (Rs. Five Thousand only). Tender Cost: Rs. 590.00 (Rs. Five Hundred Ninety) only. 5- E-Tender No. 39/AETC/2019-20: Construction of 33 KV Jack Bus at 132 KV S/S Sub. Station, Shahganj under Elected. Trans. Division-II, Jaunpur. Earnest Money: Rs. 5000.00 (Rs. Five Thousand only). Tender Cost: Rs. 590.00 (Rs. Five Hundred Ninety) only. 6- E-Tender No. 40/AETC/2019-20: Providing and Fixing of outdoor type L.T. to Cubical box in switchyard at 132 KV Sub. Station Mehaur under Elected. Trans. Division, Azamgarh. Earnest Money: Rs. 1000.00 (Rs. Three Thousand only). Tender Cost: Rs. 354.00 (Rs. Three Hundred Fifty Four) only. 7- E-Tender No. 41/AETC/2019-20: Painting works at 132 KV S/S Machhalishahar under Elected. Trans. Division, Jaunpur. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand only). Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only. 8- E-Tender No. 42/AETC/2019-20: Rewinding & Overhauling of cooling fan and repairing of marshalling box of power transformer at different 132 KV S/S Stations under Elected. Trans. Division-II, Jaunpur. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand only). Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only. 9- E-Tender No. 43/AETC/2019-20: Construction of Sandpit at 132 KV S/S Rani Ki Sarai under Elected. Trans. Division, Azamgarh. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand only). Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only. 10- E-Tender No. 44/AETC/2019-20: Daily Checking and Minor Maintenance of Fire Hydrant System installed at 400 KV S/S Azamgarh under Elected. 400 KV S/S Division, Azamgarh. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand only). Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only. 11- E-Tender No. 45/AETC/2019-20: Daily Checking and Minor Maintenance of Fire Hydrant System installed at 400 KV S/S Azamgarh under Elected. 400 KV S/S Division, Azamgarh. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand only). Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only. 12- E-Tender No. 46/AETC/2019-20: One Year Running Maintenance of lighting arrangement, battery & battery charger at 132 KV S/S Azamgarh under Elected. Trans. Division, Azamgarh. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand only). Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only. 13- E-Tender No. 47/AETC/2019-20: Replacement of old used (RY & B Phase) 220 KV 132 KV Jack Bus Single Moose Conductor in to double moose conductor of 160 MVA T/F-III at 220 KV S/S Azamgarh under Elected. 400 KV S/S Division, Azamgarh. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand only). Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only. 14- E-Tender No. 48/AETC/2019-20: Replacement of CT & other misc. work on 220/132 KV 160 MVA T/F-III at 220 KV S/S Azamgarh under Elected. 400 KV S/S Sub. Station Badlapur, Shahganj & Siddiquepur under Elected. Trans. Division, Azamgarh. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand only). Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only. 15- E-Tender No. 49/AETC/2019-20: Providing One No. Diesel Jeep for the use of Executive Engineer, Elected. Trans. Division, Jaunpur alongwith driver for the period of 10 months. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand only). Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only. 16- E-Tender No. 50/AETC/2019-20: Making of Buffer Zone in Control Room at 220 KV S/S Azamgarh with glass and aluminium framing under Elected. 400 KV S/S Division, Azamgarh. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand only). Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only. Earnest money will be in shape of RTGS/NEFT duty pledged in favour of Superintending Engineer, Elected. Trans. Division, Azamgarh. Tenderer can upload their tender bids against Short Term E-Tender No. 35 & 38 upto 17.00 hrs. of 28.07.2019 and the same will be opened on dated 29.07.2019 at 12.00 hrs. 13.00 hrs. & 15.00 hrs. respectively through E-Tendering. Tenderer can upload their tender bids against E-Tender No. 43 to 46 upto 17.00 hrs. of 05.08.2019 the same will be opened on dated 06.08.2019 at 12.00 hrs., 13.00 hrs., 14.00 hrs. & 15.00 hrs. respectively through E-Tendering. Tenderer can upload their tender bids against E-Tender No. 47 to 50 upto 17.00 hrs. of 07.08.2019 the same will be opened on dated 08.08.2019 at 12.00 hrs., 13.00 hrs., 14.00 hrs. & 15.00 hrs. respectively through E-Tendering. Intimation regarding opening of tender bid part-I i.e. Price Bid will be given on above e-website in due course of time. Please visit website: www.etender.up.nic.in for details/down load and for any other corrections/amendments/modification extension till the date of submission of tender. In case the tender opening date is holiday or undersigned remain out of headquarter the date of submission and opening of tender will stand extended to next working day. Undersigned has the right to reject/revise any tender without assigning any reason therefor. Conditional tenders shall not be accepted. Superintending Engineer (Trans), Azamgarh No. 834 20/- Daily Checking and Minor Maintenance of Fire Hydrant System installed at 400 KV S/S Azamgarh under Elected. 400 KV S/S Division, Azamgarh. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand only). Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only. 11- E-Tender No. 45/AETC/2019-20: Daily Checking and Minor Maintenance of Fire Hydrant System installed at 400 KV S/S Azamgarh under Elected. 400 KV S/S Division, Azamgarh. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. 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Opp attacks NDA over 'rising communalism'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition on Tuesday attacked the NDA Government in the Rajya Sabha over the issue of rising communalism in the country and charged the ruling dispensation with following the policy of divide and rule. Rising unemployment and economic crisis also figured in the criticism during the debate on motion of thanks to the President's address.

The debate, which started on Monday saw senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh leading the Opposition charge on Tuesday over alleged religious divide. "You have injected venom of communalism into the people of this country. Slogans of Jai Shree Ram and Allah Ho Akbar are being raised in Parliament. This is not the tradition of Parliament," Digvijaya stated.

Talking about economy, the former Madhya Pradesh Chief minister said, "Economy is in shambles. You want the economy to grow to USD 5 trillion by 2024. But that requires economic growth of 20.1 per cent every year. You fudged the statistics and two senior officials resigned."

The issue of lynching too figured prominently with NCP member Majeed Memon attacking the government for increase in such incidents. He sought to know how the Muslim youth could be living in constant fear trust and whether the 21 crore Muslims were getting the right to life under the constitution.

"With all humility and

respect I am asking from the Prime Minister" how can the government win the trust of Muslim youth when Tabrez was mercilessly beaten and forced to say 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Jai Hanuman'. He said it was a shame that the youth died despite the Constitution promising that every citizen of India is entitled to right to life which has been reinforced by the Supreme Court. "Mob lynching case is the worst kind of crime in a civil society", he said.

D Raja of the CPI claimed Prime Minister Narendra Modi had not uttered a word on the deaths in his home-state so far. Participating in the debate on the Motion of Thanks to President's Address, Raja accused the BJP of trying to impose a monolithic, illiberal and socio political order in the country.

Raja claimed that Dalits and minorities were being targeted in the name of majoritarianism and that the attacks on the two communities have increased manifold. He also said the government was spending crores on the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (cleanliness campaign) but not doing anything for Safai Karamcharis.

"Seven people were killed in Gujarat while cleaning a sewer, that is our Prime Minister's state, what a shame the Prime Minister has not uttered a word so far," Raja said. Seven persons, including four sanitation workers, died earlier this month after inhaling toxic fumes while cleaning sewer of a hotel in Vadodra district of Gujarat.

Besides, Raja sought to know the mandate given to Niti Aayog and claimed the government think tank was proposing that PSUs be handed over to the private sector.

PL Punia of the Congress said he did not find any reference to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the President's Address. He batted for reservation in jobs in the private sector saying public sector has limited opportunities. He suggested that Indian Judicial Services be set up.

Trinamool Congress member Derek O'Brien on his part attacked the social media firms, alleging they favoured the BJP led NDA during the election campaign for the recent Lok Sabha polls. Speaking during the Motion of Thanks to the President's address in the Rajya Sabha, he also blamed the social media platform for providing a major share of advertisement for BJP.

On the relevance of media he said, "These days with media in hand, it is easy to manufacture great men. Dr BR Ambedkar said this. He saw this problem coming long years ago. "We appeal to media owners that you have role to play to save democracy. We appeal to the journalists to bring back the days of Editors, the 60's 70's".

He also demanded sweeping electoral reforms saying that there should be a collegium to appoint the election commissioner. He sought re-introduction of paper ballot. He called for state funding for the political parties to provide level playing field to all contestants during the elections.

J'khand lynching blot on humanity: Rahul

Expresses shock over Govt's silence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said the alleged lynching of a 24-year-old man in Jharkhand was a "blot on humanity" and expressed his shocks over the "silence" of powerful voices in the BJP-ruled Centre and State governments over the incident.

Tabrez Ansari was thrashed by a mob for alleged



theft on June 18 and a video had emerged which purportedly showed that he was forced to chant "Jai Shri Ram" and "Jai Hanuman" in Jharkhand's Saraikela Kharsawan district. He was declared "brought dead" by doctors at the Tata Main Hospital in Jamshepur, Jharkhand, Saturday. "The brutal lynching of

this young man by a mob in Jharkhand is a blot on humanity. The cruelty of the police who held this dying boy in custody for 4 days is shocking as is the silence of powerful voices in the BJP-ruled central and state governments," Gandhi tweeted, along with a still from the video of the incident.

The Congress president used the hashtag 'India Against Lynch Terror' with his tweet.

Eleven people have been arrested in connection with Ansari's death and a special investigation team (SIT) has been set up to look into the matter.

Chant Jai Shri Ram by embracing people, not by throttling them: Naqvi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Tuesday termed the lynching of a 24-year-old man in Jharkhand a "heinous crime" and said "Jai Shri Ram" can be chanted by embracing people and not by throttling them.

Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi made the remarks on the side-

lines of a training programme for Haj deputations and called for stern action against those involved in such incidents.

Tabrez Ansari was attacked by a mob, which accused him of theft and allegedly forced him to chant "Jai Shri Ram" and "Jai Hanuman" in Jharkhand's Saraikela Kharsawan district.

RaGa to meet Cong leaders from poll-bound States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After keeping himself in 'political hibernation' for almost a month following Congress' flop show in Lok Sabha polls, party chief Rahul Gandhi is all set to start interactions with leaders on a routine basis, particularly with the leaders from States headed for Assembly election in few months.

The reports of Rahul Gandhi expressing his interest to start the interactions after maintaining that there would be a no rollback on his decision to quit the party post, has raised hopes within the party that he would keep on the helms of affairs.

Most significantly, the party has also decided to hold a meeting of the Congress Working Committee soon after the series of meetings scheduled between the Gandhi scion and other important leaders concerning the state assembly elections in Haryana, Jharkhand, Jammu Kashmir and Maharashtra.

Congress sources now say Rahul Gandhi will meet leaders of Maharashtra Congress on Thursday followed by Haryana and Delhi units a day later. The meetings are meant to discuss the preparations for upcoming assembly elections. All General Secretary in-charges of state units have been asked to submit a report on the performance of the units in the Lok Sabha elections to AICC General Secretary Organisation K C Venugopal. It is also believed the main aim of the meetings is to re-jig the state organizations.

The party has already dissolved its committees in Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka amid buzz that it was a churning before the party announces its new leadership. Sources said the rejig will be based based on recommendations of the state in-

charges. For more than a month, Rahul Gandhi withdrew himself from the party leaders. Two days after the results, he announced his decision to quit the top post taking responsibility for the rout in the Lok Sabha elections citing "accountability" over the failures.

Rahul's sister and General Secretary incharge of Uttar Pradesh Priyanka Gandhi, has already taken up the task to meet state leaders frequently focusing directly on the assembly elections in the biggest state two years from now. She has set up a two-member team to oversee election preparations and management of upcoming bypolls in the state for each constituency.

While the party is on a look for the new party chief which according to Rahul Gandhi has to be anyone outside the Congress' first family, notably during the last one month, he has limited his interactions only with senior party leaders Ahmed Patel and KC Venugopal. Sources said that Rahul's decision to hold sessions with regional leaders of the party could be outcome of information that state units like that in Haryana, Delhi are in trouble due to factionalism gripping the party for many years now.

"Though he may meet leaders and general secretaries in charge of election-bound states over the next few days to discuss preparations but should be no indication of his willingness to continue as Congress president," said a senior leader. He said Rahul has in fact yielded to pressure from states like Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand where Assembly elections are barely three months away and he has agreed to discuss pressing issues and help them draw the roadmap for the future.

Centre plans to set up common online platform for RERA of all States, UTs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry on Tuesday said that interest subsidy under Prime Minister Awas Yojna (Urban) will not be extended if the project is not registered with the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA). The Ministry has planned to set up a common online platform for the RERA of all States and UTs, a move which will provide an opportunity to homebuyers, builders and authorities to exchange views.

According to Housing and Urban Affairs secretary, Durga Shankar Mishra homebuyers will not be able to avail Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) under the mission if real estate project is not registered under RERA. Under PMAY (U), home-buyers can avail an interest subsidy of upto 2.67 lakh.

Mishra said that with the common platform for RERA, the real estate law will become "more strong". We are working to introduce a common platform where RERA of all states and Union Territories (UTs) can exchange their views. With this, RERA will be more strong," he said.

As many as 14,170 crore has been disbursed and over 6.32 lakh are beneficiaries under credit linked subsidy scheme (CLSS) under the Prime Minister Awas Yojna (Urban).

Under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, all states are mandated to constitute their respective real estate regulator RERA which provides proper protection to home buyers. As many as 30 states and UTs have notified RERA, but West Bengal has notified its own real estate regulator — Housing and Industrial Regulation Act,



2017 (HIRA). In July last year, the ministry had sought the opinion of the Law Ministry over West Bengal notifying its own real estate law instead of implementing the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act enacted by Parliament.

Earlier, interacting with media on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the Prime Minister's flagship programmes-PMAY (Urban), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Smart City Mission (SCM), Union Housing and Urban Affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that people should for those project which is registered with the RERA.

The minister expressed confidence that the target of completion of constructions of all houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban will be achieved by the end of 2020 as against the target of 2022. The minister validated demand for total houses under the scheme is one crore and so far more than 81 lakh houses have been sanctioned. He said, sanctioning of all the houses will be made by 1st quarter of next year. Puri expressed hope that all the houses will be handed over to the beneficiaries by 2020. The Minister said, an investment of Rs 8 lakh crore rupees has been made in these three schemes. "The PMAY

(Urban), AMRUT and SCM are not only transforming the Urban Landscape of the country but also ensuring ease of living for the citizens," he said.

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said his government is committed to further improving urban infrastructure and will leave no stone unturned to fulfill the dream of housing for all. Taking to Twitter, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Four years ago, today we started important initiatives PM Awas Yojana (U), AMRUT, Smart Cities with the aim of #TransformingUrbanLandscape in India. These initiatives have not only helped usher in a new paradigm of urban development but have also transformed crores of lives." In another tweet, he said, "These initiatives have seen record investment, speed, use of technology and public participation. We are committed to further improving urban infrastructure. No stone will be left unturned to fulfill the dream of Housing for All, which will give wings to crores of aspirations."

Highlighting the achievements of these three programmes, he said as compared to overall investment of ₹1.57 lakh crore during 2004-14, the investment in Urban rejuvenation during 2014-19 is ₹10.31 lakh crore which translates into 554 per cent increase.



An activist of All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation holds a placard during a protest against the upcoming visit of US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to India in New Delhi on Tuesday

Govt seeks views of States, UT's on PMFBY scheme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Agriculture Ministry has written to States and Union Territories seeking their views on whether the Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY) crop insurance scheme should be made voluntary for farmers. At present, the scheme is compulsory in nature. As per data, as many as 5.5 crore farmers have been enrolled for Kharif and Rabi crops under the scheme in 2018-19.

Responding to a supplementary question during Question Hour in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Agriculture Purushottam Ropala said on Monday, the Agriculture Ministry has written to all States seeking their views on whether the scheme



should be made voluntary/optional for farmers.

He said the letter was written after some State Governments and farmer unions demanded the Agriculture Ministry make the scheme voluntary.

In its written reply, the government said the scheme is made compulsory for farmers who have availed loans and remains voluntary for those who have not availed loans. "With a view to provide finan-

cial support to farmers and to make them eligible for next crop at the time of crop loss due to natural calamities, pests & diseases, the scheme is made compulsory for the loanee farmers growing notified crops in notified areas and the scheme is voluntary for non-loanee farmers," the minister said.

According to agriculture ministry, the PMFBY scheme envisaged a flat premium of 2 percent for Kharif crop and 1.5 percent for Rabi crops and 5 percent for horticultural crops to be paid by the farmer. The difference between the market rates and the rates paid by the farmer would be borne by the government.

Despite overall good monsoon during first two years of implementation of PMFBY, the

claim ratio during 2016-17 and 2017-18 was about 74 percent and 83 percent respectively. But the farmers in most affected areas/States received higher claims and the claim ratio was high in these States viz. Kerala 209% and Karnataka-134%, during Kharif 2016, Tamil Nadu - 286% and Andhra Pradesh 172% during Rabi 2016-17.

Similarly during Kharif 2017, the higher claim ratio was in the States of Chhattisgarh - 451%, Haryana - 269%, Madhya Pradesh - 161% and Odisha - 216%. During Rabi 2017-18 high claim ratio States were Odisha (226%), Tamil Nadu (122%) and Chhattisgarh (105%).

Though complete data for Kharif 2018 season is not avail-

able, high Claims ratio has been reported in States of Himachal Pradesh (215%), Haryana (120%), Uttarakhand (115%) and Chhattisgarh (111%) Hence, it is not correct to say that loanee farmers, for whom the Scheme is mandatory, are severely affected economically due to less settlement of claims. State-wise details of claim ratio during 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 (Provisional for Kharif 2018 season only as complete data is not available for Rabi 2018-19)

The performance of PMFBY was dismal in kharif 2017 itself. As against 4.04 crore farmers enrolled in kharif 2016, the numbers dropped by 14 per cent to 3.49 crore in the 2017 kharif season.

The total area insured

under the scheme decreased by 13.27 per cent from 2017-18 to 2016-17. The area insured per farmer in the crop in 2017-18 was 0.02 hectares lesser than that in 2016-17.

In another reply on heat wave to livestock, the ministry said that it has issued a "Pashupalak Calendar" which is a month wise animal husbandry advisory for the farmers, which also include advisories for the months of April, May, June and July for reducing the impact of high temperature on livestock.

The ministry also stated that the government has taken a series of steps to protect indigenous breeds of cow under the Gokul Mission and in the next five years local breeds will be on par with foreign ones.

BJP breaking TDP through coercive politics: TDP netas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The defection of four TDP Rajya Sabha members to the BJP figured in the debate on the 'Motion of Thanks' to the President's address on Tuesday in the Lok Sabha where a Telugu Desam Party member slammed the BJP, saying it was "breaking" the TDP by resorting to "coercive politics" and "weaponising" institutions.

Four of the six TDP members in the Rajya Sabha recently joined the BJP and sought merger of the TDP Legislature Party with the saffron party.

"The BJP is breaking our party and driving out four of our Rajya Sabha MPs by resorting to coercive politics and weaponising institutions," Jayadev Galla said participating in the Motion of Thanks to the President's address.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said, was using the slogan 'Sabka Sath' but on the ground and in Parliament and in State Assemblies the reality was different.

"What is the meaning of 'Sabka Sath'...The real meaning is you should take us along with you to build this great country. It does not mean that you should gobble MPs from other parties...No party, however, powerful it may be... should be able to dictate terms to smaller and regional parties," he added.

"I wish Prime Minister all the success and hope his slogan 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas' will apply to all regions states and people equitably," he said.

"We have built our institutions brick by brick over decades. And destroying, tinkering, weakening, weaponising these institutions will cripple our democracy," he said.

TDP members Y S Chowdary, C M Ramesh, Garikapati Mohan Rao and T G Venkatesh recently met Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and handed him letter of a resolution passed by the legislature party urging its merger.

BJP's working president J P Nadda and leader of the BJP in Rajya Sabha Thawarchand Gehlot also met Naidu and submitted a proposal from BJP president Amit Shah, saying the party has no objection to the merger of the TDP Legislature party with the BJP.

Three of the four MPs later met Nadda and Gehlot at the party headquarters and joined the BJP. "I assure them that BJP believes in politics of positivity and inclusiveness," Nadda had told a press conference in the presence of TDP MPs. Their decision to back the BJP will give a boost to the saffron party in the upper house as the ruling National Democratic Alliance does not have a majority there yet.

DRDO scientist's herbal drug to treat leucoderma soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Based on a better understanding of how herbal drug Lukoskin has helped in managing vitiligo, or leucoderma in which skin develops white patches, scientists at DRDO's Pithoragarh lab Defence Institute of Bio-energy Research (DIBER) have now developed a more effective and promising version of the herbal product which was launched in market a few years ago.

"The new version will soon be available for the benefit of patients," said Dr Hemant Pande, senior DRDO scientist who last month won prestigious 'Science Award'

- Anyone can get vitiligo, though the chances increase somewhat if someone else in the family has it.
- Vitiligo occurs in people of all skin colors, but it is most noticeable on black skin. It is not contagious and not life-threatening.
- Skin cells make a pigment called melanin, which gives the skin its color. Scientist say that the skin affected by vitiligo develops when the body forms an antibody against melanin and destroys it.
- Huge stigma associated with vitiligo leaves the person in psychological and emotional stress.

various remedies of vitiligo viz., allopathic, surgical and adjunctive were available, none of them were very effective or without side effects.

"Moreover, these are either costly or single molecule based, with very low level of efficacy and develop side-effects like blister, edema, irritation in the skin with the result most of the patients discontinue the treatment," said Pandey, a recipient of several prestigious awards for his contribution in herbal medicine field. In fact, in 2015, Lukoskin helped him bag Agri-Innovation Award.

"Hence, we focused on the causes of disease (aetiology) and researched out a com-

prehensive formulation for the management of leucoderma from Himalayan herbs by exhaustive scientific studies. We all know while allopathy masks the disease, ayurveda ensures rooting out the disease," said Dr Pandey.

Lukoskin is available in the form of ointment and oral liquid. The ointment has seven herbal ingredients having properties such as skin photo sensitizer, anti-blister, anti-irritation, anti-septic, wound healing and copper supplementing properties while the oral dose has been formulated to check the emergence of new spots, added Dr Nitika Kohli, an Ayurveda expert. The world wide incidence

of leucoderma has been reported 1-2 per cent. In India, its incidence is around 4-5 per cent in some parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat it is very high more than 5-8 per cent.

A team of international dermatologists too after reviewing various studies said in their review 'Herbal Compounds for the Treatment of Vitiligo: A Review' published last year that some herbal compounds may be considered as valid therapeutic tools for the treatment of vitiligo.

Madhubala, Director, DIBER added that the lab has been encouraging scientifically validated herbal drugs to ensure their domestic as well as global acceptance.

Another TMC leader rebels against party

Cut-money crisis deepens in Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

There could be more problems for the ruling Trinamool Congress as a senior party leader and a former State Cabinet Minister has started sounding rebellious.

Madan Mitra, once considered the member of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's kitchen cabinet, has vented his ire against some unspecified party colleagues wondering why he was made "the bali ka bakra (scapegoat)" and asking whether it was wrong on his part to work for the Trinamool Congress.

The incident comes against the backdrop of



Congress and CPI(M) MLAs raise slogans as they walk out to protest against cut money allegedly taken by the Trinamool Congress leaders and workers, at West Bengal Assembly in Kolkata on Tuesday

Trinamool Congress legislators switching over to the BJP in hordes.

A video going viral in a social networking site shows Mitra making some crucial questions as to why he could not get parole when he was in jail in the Sharada chit fund

case whereas other senior leaders like Sudip Banerjee could get the same.

Similarly, the former State Transport Minister asks how "many leaders like Kakoli Ghoshdastidar, Aparupa Poddar, Subhendu Adhikary" who were accused of same

offence could get relief against arrest while he was sent to jail. "Can this be termed as making me a bali ka bakra?" he asks apparently showing his displeasure for his leadership.

The senior TMC leader who very recently contested and lost the Bhatpara Assembly elections to the BJP could not however be contacted.

Meanwhile, the cut-money crisis deepened in Bengal with a large number of lower-rung Trinamool Congress leaders being confronted and gheraoed by the people demanding back the bribe money they paid over the years for various Government services.

Tuesday saw common people detaining TMC leaders in villages of Birbhum, Coochbehar, Armbagh, Hooghly and other places demanding their money back.

In some places the houses of the TMC panchayat members and councilors were stoned by slogan-shouting

crowd forcing the administration to post police pickets in those areas.

Days after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee rebuked party men in a general meeting of TMC councilors for taking "cut money" and directed them to return whatever cash they had extorted from people the crowds seeking back their cut-money continued to swell in the districts and villages.

Incidentally senior State Minister Partho Chatterjee on Friday tended to contradict the Chief Minister claiming 99.99 per cent of his party men were honest and that the BJP was only inciting the people to gherao the TMC representatives in the villages.

People at Khanya village in Birbhum accosted a local TMC leader and got him to own up the responsibility of returning the entire cut money he had taken for helping the people get wages under 100-days' work scheme.

Those imprisoned during Emergency to get pension: Maha CM Fadnavis

Mumbai: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday said those who were imprisoned during the Emergency will be provided pension and a citation.

Speaking in the State Assembly during the Question hour, Fadnavis said "pension was an honour more than money" for those who served jail term during the Emergency.

"Many people refused the pension. But some are still poor who lost jobs after being arrested for no fault of theirs," he noted.

Earlier, Minister of State for Relief and Rehabilitation Madan Yerawar, while responding to a question by NCP member Ajit Pawar, said 3,267 applications for pension were approved so far.

Out of these, 1,179 applications were approved on the basis of the ₹100 stamp paper submitted to prove that the

applicant served a jail term during the Emergency.

Pawar asked how can the pension be given without proof and what was the guarantee that the stamp paper was genuine.

To this, Yerawar said the applications were scrutinised by a committee headed by the district collector concerned and only genuine ones were approved.

"A budget of ₹42 crore was finalised for the pension scheme and out of this, ₹28 crore to ₹29 crore has been disbursed," he said.

BJP member Parag Alavani then said those imprisoned during the Emergency are now senior citizens and finding it difficult to make frequent visits to the collectorate.

"It is not true that the pension can be availed by just submitting an affidavit. There should be a separate cell in the collectorate office to handle

the pension scheme," he demanded.

Subhash Patil (of the Peasants and Workers' Party) said his father and uncle served 18 months in jail during the Emergency and that his family had to face lot of hardships.

"Those who served in jail during the Emergency want honour more than money. It would be good if the pension amount is increased to ₹25,000 and a citation is also given," he said.

However, Fadnavis rejected the demand for an increase in the pension amount, saying, if needed, it would be considered in future. But, he agreed for a citation along with the pension.

As per the Government's decision, those who were imprisoned for a month will be given a monthly pension of ₹5,000 and those jailed for more duration will get ₹10,000 per month. **PTI**

Major terror strike averted with arrest of 4 JMB terrorists

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal has averted a major terror attack because of a timely action taken by the Special Task Force of Kolkata Police which is entrusted with the task of controlling terror activities. Promptly acting on a tip-off, the STF on Tuesday arrested four Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) militants from Howrah and Sealdah stations, sources said.

The police have arrested Md Jiaur Rehman and M Rashid with incriminating documents, mobile phones, laptops and other accessories.

These Bangladeshi nationals, reportedly having ISIS links, were arrested from the Sealdah Railway station where they were waiting for the arrival of some of their contact men. With the arrests, a "grand operation plan has been busted," a senior officer said, adding the mobile phones contained maps and formula to construct fabricate bombs.

The other two persons, Md Rabiul and Sahin Alam, were arrested from Howrah station, sources said. The former was from Birbhum district while the latter belonged to Bangladesh and had crossed over to India. The

two persons lived for some time at Uluberia off Howrah sources said.

They were in touch with some person called Alauddin who was still at large. The terrorists were carrying videos and some jehadi texts that were being used to lure the youth into their organisation. The arrested quartet was produced in the Bankshall Court from where they were remanded to two weeks' police custody.

Senior officers of the STF were interrogating the terror operatives police said adding their main motto was to spread the message of ISIS and JMB and overthrow the

Indian and Bangladesh Governments so as to invoke Sharia laws in these two countries making them a part of the Islamic caliphate.

The police and the NIA had busted a vast network of JMB in 2014 when a bomb accidentally went off at Khagrachari in Burdwan district on October 2 that year.

Subsequent investigations revealed a grand plan to carry out subversive activities in Bangladesh from this side of the border. The JMB was operating from a large number of madrasahs situated in Bibhum, Nadia, Burdwan, Malda and Burdwan sources said.

Govt approves steep penalties for traffic offences

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has approved the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill that proposes hefty penalties for violating traffic norms including Rs 10,000 fine for not giving way to emergency vehicles and an equal penalty for driving despite disqualification, an official source said.

The Bill, which was pending for approval in the Rajya Sabha, lapsed after the term of the 16th Lok Sabha ended.

"The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill. It provides steep penalties for violation of various traffic norms," the source said.

Regarding road safety, stricter provisions have been proposed for offences like juvenile driving, driving without licence, dangerous driving, drunken driving, over-speeding and overloading.

The Bill, approved by the Cabinet Monday, proposes Rs 10,000 fine for not giving way to emergency vehicles and Rs 10,000 for driving despite disqualification. Aggregators violating driving licences will be

fined up to Rs 1 lakh, as per the provisions in the Bill.

The proposals are based on the recommendations of transport ministers from 18 states, which were vetted by the Standing Committee of Parliament.

The Bill includes penalties in the range of Rs 1,000-2,000 for over-speeding.

As per the Bill, driving without insurance will be punishable with Rs 2,000 fine, while driving without helmets will attract Rs 1,000 fine and 3-month suspension of licence.

The provisions also include that guardian/owner will be deemed to be guilty in case of road offence by juveniles while registration of the vehicle will be cancelled.

As per the new provisions "guardian/owner shall be deemed to be guilty and there will be a penalty of Rs 25,000 with three years imprisonment and cancellation of registration of the Motor Vehicle".

Traffic violations would now attract a penalty of Rs 500 in place of Rs 100 earlier, while disobedience of orders of authorities will attract a minimum penalty of Rs 2,000 in place of Rs 500 earlier.



Penalty for unauthorised use of vehicles without licence has been proposed at Rs 5,000 while those driving without licence will have to shell out the same amount and those found driving despite disqualification would be fined Rs 10,000.

Penalty for dangerous driving would be increased to Rs 5,000 from Rs 1,000, while drunken driving under the proposed new law would attract a fine of Rs 10,000.

"If aggregators are found violating licensing conditions, they will be charged a sum of up to Rs 1 lakh" while overloading of vehicles would attract a penalty of Rs 20,000. Those not wearing seat

belts would attract Rs 1,000 fine and those not wearing helmets while driving two-wheelers would be charged a penalty of Rs 1,000 while their licences will be disqualified for three months.

For offences committed by enforcing authorities, the fine has been proposed to be double.

The driving training process has also been strengthened under the proposed law. To help road accident victims, Good Samaritan guidelines have been incorporated in the Bill.

The government will try to introduce the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill in the forthcoming session of Parliament, Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari had earlier said.

The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, which had been passed by the Lok Sabha, was introduced in the Upper House in April 2017 but was referred to a select panel. After taking into account the panel's recommendation, the Bill was re-introduced in the Rajya Sabha but the debate on the bill remained inconclusive.

उपरोक्त पाठ्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित विषयों पर परीक्षा होगी।

अनुसूची क्रमांक / वेकेंडरों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु सीलबन्द निविदाएं दो भागों में दिनांक 10.07.2019 को 17.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। (1) अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या : 16/विभागाख/गो/2019-20 : खण्ड के अधीन परिचालित 132 केबीडी उत्तरांचल-डुमरियागंज के रिवर क्रॉसिंग लोकेशन संख्या 66 से 67 तक स्पेशल डीयर कन्वक्टर की रिस्ट्रिगिंग का कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 1000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 11.07.2019 को 14.00 बजे, निविदा भाग-2 (प्राइज पार्ट) खुलने की तिथि हेतु तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित किया जायेगा, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 118.00 (जीएसटी सहित)। (2) अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या : 17/विभागाख/गो/2019-20 : खण्ड के अधीन परिचालित 132 केबीडी उत्तरांचल-डुमरियागंज के रिवर क्रॉसिंग लोकेशन संख्या 65 से 66 एवं 67 से 68 तक स्पेशल डीयर कन्वक्टर की रिस्ट्रिगिंग का कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 1000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 11.07.2019 को 14.00 बजे, निविदा भाग-2 (प्राइज पार्ट) खुलने की तिथि हेतु तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित किया जायेगा, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹ 118.00 (जीएसटी सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क एवं इंफोर्मेशन ऑडिओवीसी अनिवार्य। विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोण्डा के बैंक खाते में (बैंक का नाम- पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, खाता सं-0181002100120697, IFSC Code-PUNB0018100) R.T.G.S./N.E.F.T. के माध्यम से जमा कराई जानी है तथा बैंक में जमा किये जाने का साक्ष्य यथा योग्य यूटीआर संख्या, खाते का नाम, निर्गतकर्ता बैंक अधिकारी द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित एवं निविदादाता द्वारा प्रिंटर/स्वीकृत पे-इन स्लिप की स्कैन कॉपी, ईमेल के लिए बैंक गारंटी की स्कैन कॉपी, जारीकर्ता बैंक के कन्फर्मेशन लेटर की प्रती ई-टैबल प्रपत्रों के साथ ऑन लाइन अपलोड की जायेगी, अथवा कि स्थिति में निविदादाता द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा को स्वतः निरस्त समझा जायेगा। साथ ही निविदा के भाग-1 में तकनीकी विड (पीन कार्ड, इन्कम्पेटेस रिटर्न, जीएसटीडी पीसीकरण की स्वी-प्रमाणित छायाप्रति एवं तकनीकी अनुभव इत्यादि), संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है। धरोहर राशि/निविदा शुल्क न होने अथवा किसी प्रकार की त्रुटि होने पर निविदा का भाग-2 जिसमें दरें दी जाती हैं, नहीं खोली जायेगी। भाग-2 में दरें एवं वाणिज्यिक नियम व शर्तें होंगी बाह्य। शर्तें कॉपी कार्यालय में जमा करने की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी। निविदा का भाग प्रथम एवं द्वितीय भाग (प्राइज विड दरें एवं शर्तें) दिनांक 10.07.2019 को 17.00 बजे तक www.etender.up.nic.in पर डाउनलोड/अपलोड की जा सकती है। निविदा का प्रथम भाग दिनांक 11.07.2019 को 14.00 बजे एवं भाग-2 (प्राइज पार्ट) निविदा शुल्क एवं धरोहर धनराशि प्राप्ति की पुष्टि होने के पश्चात सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। निविदा खुलने की तिथि पर अवकाश होने की स्थिति में निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस पर निर्धारित समय पर खोली जायेगी। निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताये निविदा/निविदाओं को अस्वीकार/विनाशित करने का अधिकार अहोस्तासिकता के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। धरोहर/निविदा राशि रहित व सशर्त निविदाएं स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउन लोड, अन्य संशोधनों एवं निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में कृपया www.etender.up.nic.in पर लॉग आन करें।

अधिसूची अनिवार्य, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोण्डा संख्या-1143/विभागाख/गो/ई-टैबल/2019-20 निविदा संख्या : 16 एवं 17 दिनांक- 25.06.2019 "राष्ट्रपति में पिछली बराबरी, साधारण बढ्य के स्थान पर एलओडीओ बढ्य का इस्तेमाल करें"

3-DECADE-OLD TERROR CASE Local Kashmir daily editor held

Srinagar: Editor of a local Urdu daily has been arrested here in a nearly three-decade-old terror-related case, officials said on Tuesday.

Ghulam Jeelani Qadri, editor of 'Daily Afaaq', was arrested late Monday night in a case that was registered in 1990 under section three of Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act.

He was arrested on a non-bailable warrant issued by the then chief judicial magistrate on October 15, 1992.

The law under which Qadri has been arrested deals with intention to overawe the Government as by law established or to strike terror in the

people or any section of the people or to alienate any section of the people or to adversely affect the harmony amongst different sections of the people does any act or thing.

He was arrested from his residence in Bargalder area of the city, Qadri's family said.

"It was nearly midnight when police came to arrest Qadri sahib. No reasons were given before taking him away, a police official asked him when is the election," a relative said.

Kashmir Editors' Guild, of which Qadri is a member, has moved court to seek bail. Various journalist bodies,

including the Kashmir Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ), has condemned the midnight arrest of Qadri, alleging it seems the aim of the government's move was to muzzle the voice of local press.

"Qadri was attending his office on daily basis and there was absolutely no need for carrying out a midnight raid at his residence. The working journalists here are wondering about the timing of execution of the warrant which was issued 26 years ago," a spokesman of the KUWJ said.

The KUWJ has demanded Qadri's immediate release and a probe into the midnight arrest of the editor. **PTI**

Over 700 terrorists killed in J-K in last three years: Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

More than 700 terrorists have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir over the last three years, the Home Ministry said on Tuesday. A total of 113 terrorists were killed between January and June 16 this year, 257 were killed in 2018, 213 in 2017 and 150 in 2016, taking the total number of those killed during the period to 733, it said.

As many as 112 civilians have also lost their lives during this period in the state. Of them, 15 had died in 2016, 40 in 2017, 39 in 2018 and 18 between January and June 16, this year. "The government has adopted a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism. Security forces are taking effective and continuous action in countering terrorism. This has resulted in corresponding change in the number of such incidents, including casualties," Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy said in a written reply to Lok Sabha. "Security forces keep a close watch on persons who attempt to provide support to terrorists and initiate action against them," he added.

Reduction in incidents of Naxal violence in country, scenario improving: MHA

Incidents of Naxal violence and its resultant deaths have reduced by 43.4 per cent and 60.4 per cent respectively during the last five years com-

pared to 2009-13, the Home Ministry said on Tuesday. The Left Wing Extremism (LWE) scenario has been consistently improving over the years both in terms of violence and geographical spread, it said.

The number of violent incidents and resultant deaths have reduced by 43.4 per cent and 60.4 per cent respectively during 2014-18 compared to 2009-13, the ministry said. A total of 8,782 cases of Naxal violence were reported during 2009-13 as against 4,969 during 2014-18, a reduction of 43.4 per cent, it said. As many as 3,326 people, including security force personnel, lost their lives in 2009-13 as against 1,321 in 2014-18, a reduction of 60.4 per cent, the ministry said.

A total of 1,400 Naxals have been killed during 2009 and 2018. As many as 310 incidents of Naxal violence have been reported in the first five months of this year across the country in which 88 people were killed. "The Central government has followed a holistic, multi-pronged approach for combating LWE. It supplements the efforts of the state governments with a wide range of measures, including security, development and ensuring rights and entitlements of local communities," Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy said in a written reply.

RS adjourned for 3 hrs as

mark of respect for departed BJP member Madan Lal Saini

The Rajya Sabha has been adjourned for three hours as a mark of respect for departed BJP member Madan Lal Saini, and will reassemble at 2 pm for completing the debate on the motion of thanks, sources said. Saini (75) died on Monday while undergoing treatment at AIIMS in Delhi.

He was diagnosed with infection in lungs and was admitted at a private hospital in Jaipur. On Saturday, he was shifted to Delhi owing to his deteriorating health and was being treated under the Hematology Department at AIIMS.

The decision to adjourn the Upper House till 2 pm was taken this morning at a meeting of leaders of about 15 parties, which was chaired by Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu.

The government is keen that the debate on the motion of thanks to the President's address be completed Tuesday to enable the prime minister reply to the debate before he leaves for Japan for the G20 summit on Wednesday.

Precedents are when sitting member Kalyan Ray of CPI died in 1984, the Rajya Sabha was adjourned for an hour and later took up business. Another reference was given by Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad that when former MoS External Affairs E Ahmed, a Lok Sabha member, died, the budget was presented as scheduled. **PTI**

Bengal teacher beaten for not chanting Jai Shri Ram

PNS ■ KOLKATA

For the first time, Bengal witnessed an ugly communal scene inside a moving local train where a member of a minority community was roughed up by some right wing activities as he refused to chant Jai Shri Ram sources said.

The incident took place on last Thursday when Md Shahrukh Haldar, a school teacher from Canning area, was coming to Kolkata. He was accosted inside a local train between Dhakuria and Park Circus where he was supposed to get down, sources said.

Mom alleges daughter forcibly converted to Christianity

Coimbatore: Alleging that her 22-year old daughter was forcibly converted to Christianity, a Hindu woman on Tuesday petitioned the District Superintendent of Police seeking to restore her, police said.

The woman, a resident of nearby Arasur, approached the SP after the local police recently closed her complaint as her daughter during an inquiry told them she had embraced Christianity on her own volition.

According to the petitioner, she noticed her daughter, working in Tiruchirappalli, wearing a chain with a Cross when she had come home last week. When asked about it, she had told her mother that she had converted to Christianity. **PTI**

Govt: Over 84,000 vacancies in Central Armed Police Forces

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Over 84,000 posts out of the sanctioned strength of 9,99,795 are lying vacant in the Central Armed Police Forces, the government said Tuesday, adding "expeditious" steps have been taken to fill them. The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) comprise the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Assam Rifles (AR).

"In a written reply to Lok Sabha, the Home Ministry said vacancies kept arising in the forces due to retirement, voluntary retirement and death," the Centre said. "On an average, 10 per cent of vacancies in different grades arise every year and there exists a well established proce-



dures to fill up these vacancies. Currently, there are 84,037 vacancies," it said.

The government has taken expeditious steps to fill up the vacancies in Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), including the posts created, the Home Ministry said, adding it is a continuous process. In the year 2017, 57,268 vacancies of constable (general duty-GD) for the recruitment cycle 2015-16 were filled through recruitment by Staff Selection Commission

(SSC).

For the recruitment year 2018, 58,373 vacancies of constable (GD) were notified for which computer based written examination was conducted by the SSC. Similarly, in respect of other ranks, 1,094 vacancies of Sub-Inspector (GD) for the year 2018 were reported to SSC and it has since declared the result, the Home Ministry said. For Assistant Commandant (GD), written examination for 466 vacancies for the year 2018 was conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and the result has since been declared, it said. A total of 1,412 candidates have been shortlisted for interview or personality test.

A notification for Assistant Commandant (GD) Exam, 2019 has since been published for filling up of 323 vacancies, the ministry added.

HC allows Nalini to appear in person to argue on plea for leave

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Madras High Court on Tuesday granted permission to Nalini Sriharan, a life convict in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, to appear in person on July 5 and argue on her plea for six months ordinary leave to make arrangements for her daughter's wedding.

A division bench of Justice MM Sundares and Justice M Nirmal Kumar gave her permission to appear in person on July 5 at 2.15 pm to argue her case. Nalini, who has been in prison for over 27 years, wanted the court to direct the superintendent of police, Special Prison for Women in Vellore, to produce her before the court so that she could argue her case for leave as party-in-person.

The court had on June 11 observed that the right of Nalini

RAJIV GANDHI ASSASSINATION

to appear in person to argue on her plea cannot be denied. According to Nalini, a life convict is entitled to one-month leave once in two years and since she had never availed such ordinary leave for more than 27 years, she made a representation to prison authorities on February 25 seeking six-month leave to make arrangement for her daughter's marriage.

Subsequently, Nalini's mother also made a similar representation on March 22. As the authorities failed to consider her representation, she moved the High Court. Nalini was initially sentenced to death for her involvement in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. However, her death sentence

was commuted to life imprisonment by the Tamil Nadu government on April 24, 2000.

She claimed that after commutation of her death sentence, around 3,700 life convicts, who had served 10 years of imprisonment and less, were released by the Tamil Nadu government. "My request to the state for premature release under the 1994 scheme of premature release of life convicts was cleared by the council of ministers and on September 9, 2018, the council advised the governor to release me and other six life convicts in the case. But it has been over six months and the decision of the state is still yet to be implemented," she had submitted.

Mamata says India going through 'super emergency' BJP hits back

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hitting out at the BJP, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said while Tuesday was the anniversary of the Emergency imposed in 1975, the country is going through "super emergency" for the past five years. Emergency was imposed by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on this day in 1975 which was in effect till March 21, 1977. "Today is the anniversary of the Emergency declared in 1975. For the last five years, the country went through a 'Super Emergency'. We must learn our lessons from history and fight to safeguard the democratic institutions in the country," Banerjee tweeted.

Meanwhile, Union minister Prakash Javadekar said on Tuesday that the situation in West Bengal is akin to a "state of emergency" under Mamata

Banerjee's rule, asserting that the BJP believes in democracy and is committed to protect it. Earlier in the day, the West Bengal chief minister hit out at the saffron party, saying while Tuesday was the anniversary of the Emergency imposed in 1975, the country has been going through a "super emergency" for the past five years. Emergency was imposed by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi on this day in 1975 and it was in effect till March 21, 1977. Speaking to reporters outside Parliament, Javadekar said, "The way Mamata is conducting things in West Bengal, is no less than the state of Emergency. She is doing a very bad job at running the state." The Union minister of environment and information and broadcasting said his party and the government are committed to safeguard democracy and will fight for



West Bengal, the way his party works did in 1975.

"The way violence is being promoted is against democracy. The BJP and this government is committed to safeguard democracy and believes in 'sabka saath sabka vikaas'. We saved the country from Emergency in 1975 and now, we will fight in West Bengal too," he said. The BJP won 18 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in Bengal in the recently-concluded parliamentary polls, only four less than the Mamata

Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress's 22. Election to the 294-member state assembly is scheduled to be held in 2021.

In a tweet, Banerjee said, "Today is the anniversary of the #Emergency declared in 1975. For the last five years, the country went through a 'Super Emergency'."

"We must learn our lessons from history and fight to safeguard the democratic institutions in the country," she tweeted. Expressing shock over "some politicians" terming the present scenario as emergency, Javadekar said those who are making such comments were once in the Congress.

"I am shocked that today some politicians are calling the present an emergency. Today there is freedom of press, social media, cable TV revolution is there. Today there is freedom of speech, which was snatched earlier by the Congress. Today the politicians who are calling it an emergency, were in Congress that time.

SC asks Rajeev if his relatives would guarantee return after ED objects

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked Rajeev Saxena, an approver in a money laundering case related to the AgustaWestland chopper scam, if his two relatives are willing to stand surety for him by depositing Rs five crore each for allowing him to travel abroad on medical grounds.

A vacation bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and B R Gavai took note of the objections of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) that Saxena, who has been allowed by trial and high courts to go abroad for treatment for blood cancer and other ailments, has no roots in India and he may not return if permitted to go.

"Your apprehensions may be right or wrong, but are you (government) powerless to get him back," the bench said. "We understand your apprehensions. His (Saxena's) passport is for limited period. If you can suggest other conditions, then they can also be imposed," it said. "No country will say that

CHOPPER SCAM



it is powerless," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the ED, said.

The court asked senior advocate Meenakshi Arora, counsel for Saxena, to apprise it by Wednesday whether the sister and sister-in-law of Saxena are willing to stand surety in the court for him by paying Rs five crore each as guarantee that he would come back for the trial in the case.

At the outset, Mehta assailed the orders of the trial

court and the Delhi High Court allowing Saxena to travel abroad for treatment and said, "he has no roots in India. He has no relatives or properties here and he may not come back."

The treatment for Saxena's ailments was available in India, the law officer said, adding that the approver was not only disclosing his role in the crime, but also revealing the culpability of others in the corruption case. The bench has now

posted the matter for further hearing on Wednesday.

The High Court on June 10 had allowed Saxena to visit the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and Europe from June 25 to July 24 for treatment of blood cancer and other ailments. The trial court had allowed Saxena to visit abroad for a month from June 6 to July 5.

The High Court had given relief to Saxena, noting that he had already been granted bail on medical grounds before being pardoned and made an approver.

The High Court had also said the ED too had not objected to the grant of relief to him. It had also noted that two other accused in the case, Gautam Khaitan and Ritu Khaitan, were allowed to travel abroad.

Saxena, a director of Dubai-based firms UHY Saxena and Matrix Holdings, was one of the accused named in the charge sheet filed by the ED in the Rs 3,600-crore AgustaWestland scam.

HC reserves order on death-row convicts' plea in Pune BPO gang rape and murder case

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday reserved its judgment on petitions filed by two convicts in the 2007 Pune BPO gang rape and murder case seeking stay on the execution of their death warrant. Convicts Purushottam Borate and Pradeep Kokade were to be executed on June 24.

The HC last week, however, said the execution shall not

take place as scheduled until further orders. In their petitions filed last month, the duo sought a stay on the ground that there has been an inordinate delay in deciding their mercy petitions by the Maharashtra Governor and the President, as well as in issuance of the warrants for execution of the death penalty. They also sought for the death penalty to be commuted to life imprisonment. A

division bench headed by Justice BP Dharmadhikari Tuesday reserved judgment after hearing counsels of both the petitioners and the state and union governments. The state government, seeking dismissal of the petitions, said while considering the rights of the convicts, the rights of the victim's family and the collective conscience of the society will also have to be kept in mind. The convicts' petitions

have claimed the "inordinate delay" in executing them violated their fundamental rights. "Excessive and unexplained delay of over four years (1509 days) in execution of the sentence of death causes unnecessary and unavoidable pain, suffering and mental torment that constitutes cruel and unusual punishment violative of Article 21 (Right to Life)," the duo said in the petitions.

Political leaders pay tribute to Rajasthan BJP chief Saini

Jaipur (PTI): Political leaders from across party lines paid floral tribute to BJP state president Madan Lal Saini at the party's state headquarters here on Tuesday. Saini (75) died on Monday while undergoing treatment at AIIMS in Delhi. He was diagnosed with infection in lungs and was admitted at a private hospital in Jaipur. On Saturday, he was shifted to Delhi owing to his deteriorating health and was being treated under the Hematology Department at AIIMS.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Congress state president and deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot, Transport Minister Pratap Singh Khachariawans and other Congress leaders reached the BJP's state headquarters and paid tribute to Saini. A large number of BJP leaders, including former chief minister Vasundhara Raje, deputy Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathore, former state president of the party Ashok Parnami were among those who were also present in the party office.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

KERALA HEALTHIEST...

The report pointed out that while Kerala and Tamil Nadu had "already reached the 2030 SDG (sustainable development goal) target for NMR (neonatal mortality rate)", Maharashtra and Punjab are close to achieving the target, while other States and UTs still need significant improvements to meet SDG targets.

"Among the larger States, the overall health index score of the best performing State is more than two and half times of the overall score of the least performing State," said the report and pointed out that Kerala's score was 74.01, while UP had a score 28.61.

The report added that by and large, the degree of change in incremental scores or improvements from earlier years was greater in smaller UTs and States. But among the larger States, "Haryana, Rajasthan and Jharkhand" were the top three in terms of incremental performance.

Among the smaller States, Mizoram ranked first in overall performance, while Tripura and Manipur were top two States in terms of incremental performance. Among UTs, Chandigarh ranked top in overall performance, while Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Delhi registered a decline in overall health index scores.

Releasing the report, Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar said the Aayog is committed to establishing the Health Index as an annual systematic tool to propel States towards undertaking multi-pronged interventions to bring better health outcomes.

Niti Aayog member Vinod Kumar Paul said the Union Government should spend 2.5 per cent of gross domestic product on health.

"And State Governments should increase their spending on health from an average of 4.7 per cent to 8 per cent of their Budget (net State domestic product) on health," Paul said.

According to the report, the incremental measurement reveals that about one-third of the States have registered a decline in their performance in 2016 as compared to 2015, stressing the need to pursue domain-specific, targeted interventions.

DISABILITY PENSION...

They also said there were some cases in the past when some personnel misused the

exemption scheme to avail the disability pension while nearing retirement. Personnel who suffer 100 per cent disability or up to 50 per cent, they leave the service unable to serve and get lifelong tax-free pension based upon their rank and last salary drawn, officials said.

Disability pension is of two types, war and normal. War disability is 60 per cent of the last salary drawn in case of 100% disability and normal disability is 30 per cent of the last salary drawn in case of 100% disability. Till now both were not being taxed if the disability is decided by a team of doctors, some service personnel said adding there are some ambiguities in the CBDT notification. It is not stated from when it would be effective, they said adding it was also not clarified in the order whether pension will be taxed with retrospective or prospective effect.

The move has raised criticism amongst the armed forces which are already unhappy over several recent measures seen as lowering their status and equivalence compared to their civilian counterparts. One officer termed it as "reinterpreting" of the rules by the Finance Ministry. Taken aback by the latest directive, services personnel, serving and retired, said the disability takes place while fighting for the country and there was never any taxes on disability earlier.

DEFENCE, TRADE...

This will be Pompeo's first visit after the NDA Government returned to power last month and also a few days before Modi and US President Donald Trump are likely to meet on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Osaka, Japan on June 28-29.

The US Foreign Secretary's visit will give a boost to the engagement between the political leaderships of India and the US, the MEA had said last week. The visiting dignitary is likely to deliver a public lecture, addressing the next generation of Indian youth and discuss tricky issues like H1B visas for IT workers and Indian plans for data localisation.

US reservations over India inking ₹50,000 crore deal for Russian S-400 anti-missile systems and 5G telecommunication will also figure prominently. India has already stated it shares long standing strategic ties with Russia and will not back down from the deal and the US is likely maintain in that case it will be dif-

icult for it to offer high technology weapon systems.

"There will be certain issues that will be on the table at all points of time," said the MEA Spokesperson. "Overall direction of the relationship remains very positive," he said, highlighting the fact that bilateral trade had grown over the years to about \$150 billion.

The official maintained that the US had not officially informed India about any plans in relation to H1B visas for IT professionals.

The Iran sanctions are expected to be taken up during the Trump-Modi bilateral, and India's concerns on energy security would be discussed during Pompeo's visit, said officials.

Pompeo and Jaishankar will also plan the next course for future engagements. Both Governments are exploring the possibility of another meeting between Trump and Modi at the UN General Assembly in September this year, and Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will head to Washington for the annual 2+2 summit around the same time.

As regards defence ties, India is eyeing procurement of ten more P-8 I long range maritime reconnaissance aircraft from the US through the foreign military sale (FMS) or Government to Government sale route. This proposed deal is worth over three billion dollars. The Indian Navy already has 12 such aircraft. This may figure in the talks between Pompeo and Jaishankar.

Similarly, India is keen to buy US manufactured 30 Sea Guardian Predator armed drones for the three services. The proposed deal is worth over three billion dollars. The other contracts in the pipeline are 24 naval multi-role MH-60 'Romeo' helicopters (\$2.6 billion) and the National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System-II missile shield over Delhi (\$1 billion) besides six more Apache attack helicopters (\$950 million).

SC REFUSES TO...

A vacation Bench comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna and B R Gavai observed that after the election notification is issued, the court does not intervene in the poll process.

"What is the violation of fundamental right here? Contesting an election is merely a statutory right. You will have to go in election petition," the bench told senior advocate

Vivek Tankha, who was appearing for petitioner Pareshbhai Dhanani.

Dhanani is a Congress MLA and the leader of opposition in the Gujarat Assembly. The two Rajya Sabha seats fell vacant after Shah and Irani got elected to the Lok Sabha from Gujarat's Gandhinagar and Uttar Pradesh's Amethi, respectively.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the Election Commission (EC), raised preliminary objections on the petition filed by Dhanani and said the poll body is empowered under the law to notify bypolls for Rajya Sabha seats separately and moreover, election process cannot be interfered with once the notification is issued.

Tankha told the bench that the issue raised by them in the petition was of seminal importance.

"You file an election petition," the bench told Tankha. The bench, while referring to some previous judgments delivered by the top court on pleas pertaining to Rajya Sabha polls, said that these verdicts were "very clear".

When Tankha said that some of the earlier verdicts were in favour of the petitioner, the bench observed, "We will deal with the preliminary objection (of EC) that this issue cannot be raised after issuance of notification."

The bench said that it would not interfere in or delay the poll process and the petitioner can approach the high court by way of an election petition after conclusion of the election.

Dwivedi told the court that there was no violation of fundamental rights in the matter and the previous judgements delivered by the apex court as well as high courts of Delhi and Bombay support the poll panel's decision to hold separate polls for Rajya Sabha seats.

The Election Commission had earlier clarified that vacancies for bypolls to all Houses, including the Rajya Sabha, are considered "separate vacancies" and separate notifications are issued and separate polls are held, though the schedule can be the same.

In his plea, Dhanani had sought a direction to quash and declare the poll panel's order as "unconstitutional, arbitrary, illegal, void ab initio" and said it violated Article 14 of the Constitution.

He had submitted that the poll panel be directed to hold

simultaneous by-elections and polling for filling of all vacancies in all states, including Gujarat. The MLA, through his lawyer, had submitted that separate elections for the two Rajya Sabha seats in Gujarat would upset the scheme of proportional representation as mandated under the Representation of People Act.

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

In the 182-member House in Gujarat Assembly, the BJP has 100 members and the opposition-led by Congress 75 members, while seven seats are vacant.

The Congress had alleged that the action of the Election Commission was completely tainted with arbitrariness, malafide, partisanship and had been taken in an extremely hasty manner to pre-empt and impede the minority party in the state assembly to elect a member for the Council of States.

It had also alleged that the BJP, running the government at the Centre, has used the Election Commission's Office for its political propaganda.

The EC had on June 15 cited two Delhi High Court rulings of 1994 and 2009 which had supported the system of holding separate bypolls in the same state under provisions of the Representation of the People Act. The Congress had demanded that the bypolls to

the two vacant seats in Gujarat be held together as in case of separate elections, the BJP being the ruling party would have an advantage and win both the seats.

CANCELLATION OF NOTICE INVITING TENDER
No. SSA/CW/KGBV-AUG/2018-19/490/2018/8307 Dated- 24/06/2019
The tender vide No.SSA/CW/KGBV-AUG/2018-19/490/2018/7016 Dated 06.03.2019 was published to carry out the construction of 11 nos. of KGBV buildings in various districts of Assam. Out of mentioned 11 nos. KGBV building, 2 nos. of KGBV Building package no. 11L and 18T against 2 nos. districts namely Dibrugarh (Panitola) and Tinsukia (Itakhuli) are hereby cancelled due to administrative reasons.

Sd/- Mission Director,
SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

North Eastern Railway E-Tender Notice
On behalf of the President of India, acting through Chief Administrative Officer/Con., North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur invites the following E-works Tenders:

E-Tender No.	Name of Work	Approximate Value	Earnest Money
S.N.: I. DYCE-CON-Br- GKP-07-2019 (Two packet system)	Construction of Platforms at Gonda Station, approach road and boundary wall of PWI store at Gonda Kachery and other miscellaneous works in connection with Gonda-Burhwal 3rd Running line project in Lucknow Division of N.E. Railway.	Rs. 11,68,15,817.67	Rs. 7,34,100/-
		Cost of Tender Form : Rs. 10,000/-	Completion Period: 12 (Twelve) Months

• Bid starting date - on 02.07.2019 • Last date of submission of above E-Tender up to 15.00 hrs. on 16.07.2019 • Date of Opening of above E-Tender 15.30 hrs. on 16.07.2019 • Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria, terms & conditions is available on website <https://ireps.gov.in>. • In case any disparity arises between Hindi and English version of tender notice, English version will hold good and will be followed.
Shri Prakash Chand XEN/Con/GD 9794844284
CPR/W-126 Dy. Chief Engineer/Con/Br., N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur
About any Passenger Amenities complaint SMS on Mob. No. 09794845955
Do not cross unmanned level crossing with loud music on a vehicle

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD
E-Tender No. ALD-Sig-43-2019-20 E-Tender Notice Dated: 20.06.2019
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Coordination/North Central Railway/Allahabad, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite E-Tender on prescribed form for the following works up to 12.00 hrs. on 19.07.2019. The details of the Tender is as under:

Tender No. & Name of Work	Approx. Cost of work (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)	Cost of Tender Form (₹)
ALD-Sig-43-2019-20: Sectional Telecom Maintenance Contract in the section of Sr. DSTE/Kanpur.	44,45,628.83	88,900/-	3,000/-

Completion period: 12 Months, Date of opening of tender: 19.07.2019. Availability of tender form: Tender forms shall be available on www.ireps.gov.in 21 days prior to date of opening of the tender. Time, date & place of opening of tender: Tender will be opened through E-tender at office of Divisional Railway Manager, Allahabad on or after pre-determined date 19.07.2019 at 12.30 hours. 85119(R)

E-Tender Notice No.: CM-I/Deluxe Pay & Use Toilet/BOT/SKB/2019 Date: 18.06.2019
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 & Station	Minimum Reserved L/Fee of Contract for 15 years	Minimum Reserved L/Fee of Contract for 01 years	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Form
94/2019: Contract of Deluxe Pay & Use toilets on "Built, Operate and Transfer" (BOT) basis at Shikohabad Railway Station for a concession period of 15 years.	₹ 12,84,947/-	₹ 51,134/-	₹ 5,200/-	₹ 2,360/-

Period of Contract: 15 Years, Time & date for the opening of tender: At 15.00 hrs. on 18.07.2019, Website & Notice where the full detail of tender can be seen: E-tender forms shall be available on www.ireps.gov.in up to 13.00 hrs on 18.07.2019 from the date of opening of the e-tender. The e-tender Notice can also be viewed on Railway's website www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 85119(R)

E-Tender Notice No.: CM-I/Deluxe Pay & Use Toilet/BOT/DER/2019 Date: 18.06.2019
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 & Station	Minimum Reserved L/Fee of Contract for 15 years	Minimum Reserved L/Fee of Contract for 01 years	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Form
97/2019: Contract of Deluxe Pay & Use toilets on "Built, Operate and Transfer" (BOT) basis at Dadr Railway Station for a concession period of 15 years.	₹ 33,74,652/-	₹ 1,34,293/-	₹ 13,500/-	₹ 3,540/-

Period of Contract: 15 Years, Time & date for the opening of tender: At 15.00 hrs. on 18.07.2019, Website & Notice where the full detail of tender can be seen: E-tender forms shall be available on www.ireps.gov.in up to 13.00 hrs on 18.07.2019 from the date of opening of the e-tender. The e-tender Notice can also be viewed on Railway's website www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 85119(R)

RE-TENDER NOTICE Dated -24/06/2019
No.SSA/CW/KGBV-AUG/2018-19/490/2018/8308
The Mission Director, SSA, Assam, invites fresh bids for the following works from registered contractors under A.P.W.D.(Building) Registered Contractor [Class-I (A, B & C)] Assam, having experience of similar nature of work.
Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 25/06/2019(04:30 PM) to 10/07/2019 (2:00 PM)
The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in

Name of Work	Package No	Place	Approx. Value of Work	Time of completion	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	E.M.D. to be drawn in favour of	Tender Cost
AUGMENTATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE (RCC G+1) FOR CLASS IX & X AT EXISTING KASTURBA GANDHI BALIKA VIDYALAYA (KGBV) BUILDING	11L	PANITOLA, DIBRUGARH	Rs.64,22,500.00 Per Site	12 (twelve) months	Rs.1,28,450.00 (for General) Rs.64,225.00 (for reserved Category) [PER SITE]	The Mission Director, SSA, Assam, Guwahati-19	Rs. 300.00 PER SITE
	18T	ITAKHULI, TINSUKIA					

Sd/- Mission Director,
SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Report most foul

The US State Department report on religious intolerance in India is nothing but the pot calling the kettle black



Both India and the United States (US) are among the world's greatest democracies with attendant challenges of accommodating all kinds of human freedoms, socio-cultural, economic and religious. So it is but expected that the US would at least have the maturity to understand the problems arising from a melting pot of different people rather than censure us for being "intolerant." Which is why the *Report on International Religious Freedom 2018*, available on the website of the US State Department, alleging that the

"authorities often failed to prosecute perpetrators of 'cow vigilante' attacks, which included killings, mob violence, and intimidation," is irresponsible, biased, ugly, acerbic and nothing short of a lobbyist rant. Worse, it has lumped our scenario with the same dismissive air as it has passed judgement on Croatia. But perhaps the US would have done well to subject its own record of religious intolerance and hate crimes to the perception of others. For if that is indeed the case, this report would seem nothing short of the pot calling the kettle black.

According to a recent analysis by the Pew Research Center, most American adults (82 per cent) say Muslims are subject to at least some discrimination in the US. A majority (56 per cent) feels Muslims are discriminated against a lot. Among US Muslims themselves, many say they have experienced "specific instances of discrimination, including being treated with suspicion, singled out by airport security or called offensive names," according to a 2017 survey of Muslim Americans. The FBI statistics of 2017 also show hate crimes against Muslims rising by more than 60 per cent. And we are not even talking of racist attacks, which have affected Indians, particularly Sikhs, who continue to be looked upon as some threatening species post 9/11. There has been an increase in anti-Semitic crimes like the desecration of 170 graves in a Jewish Cemetery in Missouri and threats to Jewish culture groups and journalists. This despite the Jews controlling a sizeable economic pie. Clearly, there has been no revision of mindsets despite changed realities. The Southern Poverty Law Center "counted 1,094 bias-related incidents in the month following Trump's November election victory, including 33 against Jews, 108 involving swastikas and 47 White nationalist fliers." Considering all these figures are coming out of the US itself, it is a comment on how Americans view other people who are not like them. And in the process deduce that others are capable of behaviour that they themselves are guilty of. India has a civilisational history embedded in plurality and has been welcoming of the world over millennia. This was even before statute books included the world called "secularism." So castigating a people based on specific incidents and localised contexts, which may not be representative of a whole nation, is quite uncalled for. Of course, the politics behind the circulation of such a report is unmistakable. Perhaps it was a tad mis-timed, considering that the Government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has won the confidence of the people a second time, romping home with a massive majority in the Lok Sabha. Admitted, his first tenure had some embarrassing moments and cases, which were played up to suit an easy narrative. But that's the reason why he has made earning every community's trust, "sabka viswas," his key plank and hopes to be an internationalist. Besides, the US must understand that our constitutional and institutional integrity and independence are bigger than any individual or brand of politics. And there are several cases where the top courts have protected religious freedoms even in the face of majoritarian pressure. The next time the US does a report, it would do well to do a comprehensive research than do activist-style cherry picking. And it must remember that bilateral relations flourish best with shared concerns rather than employing bullying tactics.

Reset the relationship

Indo-US ties have been impacted by Donald Trump's talk on trade yet both nations need each other



US President Donald Trump is not an internationalist. Given half a chance, he would withdraw from the rest of the world, unless there was a nice golf course around. As he begins his re-election campaign, Trump is appealing to nativist American voters and plans to tell them that his tough stance on trade has led to more jobs being created at home. While the primary target of his trade ire has been China, Trump has been an equal opportunity trade war firestarter. He has quarrelled with

the European Union and Japan as well as Canada and Mexico. In his zeal for "fair" trade, he has damaged American military interests and his fascination with towers that bear his name has made him soft on nations he shouldn't privilege over others.

Needless to say, India has also been targeted by the Trump Administration for "unfair" trade practices. Some could argue that India is a blameless collateral victim in Trump's trade war-mongering, but that would require a suspension of belief. The fact is that India still has an extremely protectionist attitude towards its own industries and Trump has a point. In fact, a sensible decision with Trump would have been to have given him a few victories early on, a dramatic reduction on import duties for high-powered motorcycles and cars, as he initially railed against these. May be the boffins at Udyog Bhawan, like their counterparts in Beijing and Brussels, didn't take Trump seriously and thought his pronouncements were just politicking and that the free trade, capitalist instincts of the Republican party would kick in ultimately. However, Trump's victory in 2016 was a clear indication of the rise of nativist, nationalistic forces across the world and his latest tweets about US involvement in the Arabian peninsula are a sign that he would happily withdraw the US protection that has underpinned the global order since World War II. Trump's Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is visiting India with not just a wishlist of trade demands but also areas to expand India-US ties into. However, Pompeo should also assuage Indian authorities. While there should be scope for negotiation on some aspects, it is not India's job to always keep Trump and his cohorts happy. The US threat to reduce H-1B visa quotas for Indians is just a sign of the lengths the US will go to. However, it would be prudent for India to realise that Trump's main battle is with China and it is in the US' best interests to keep India onside. Yes, India should make some concessions on trade and give Trump a victory or two, better still invite him and give him a medal or three and take him to a Bollywood shoot and a round at the Delhi Golf Club. Traditional diplomacy is out of the window now, the Trump era of engagement is very different.

Follies of allocation

It is obvious that spending on education can yield major economic returns. India must invest in this sector as it guarantees an all-round spinoff



RK PACHAURI

Subsidies are often part of public policy but in several cases can be used for helping vested interests and often result in misallocation of resources. A recent report clearly shows the major distortions that exist at the global level in respect of subsidies on fossil fuels. As it happens, these, in the case of the US, turn out to be 10 times more than the expenditure on education.

The recent publication referred to shows that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates that \$5.2 trillion was spent globally on fossil fuel subsidies in 2017. This represents the equivalent of 6.5 per cent of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in that particular year, representing half a trillion increase since 2015, when apparently China was responsible for subsidies of \$1.4 trillion, the US for \$649 billion and Russia for \$551 billion. These apparently were the largest subsidisers of fossil fuels.

What is particularly significant is the fact that in the Paris Agreement on climate change, carbon dioxide emissions were required to go down significantly through the implementation of renewable energy programmes, which are a substitute for fossil fuels. However, with the subsidies in place now, there would be little incentive for renewables to replace fossil energy. The IMF report explains that fossil fuels account for 85 per cent of all global subsidies and that they remain largely attached to policies that are formulated at the domestic level. It also estimates that had nations reduced subsidies in a manner that would create efficient fossil fuel pricing in 2015, this would have lowered carbon emissions by 28 per cent, fossil fuel air pollution deaths by 46 per cent and increased Government revenue by 3.8 per cent of the GDP.

With a new budget being formulated in India, it would be important to look at how perhaps some subsidies, which might have pernicious impacts on the economy and particularly on the disparity of income between rich and poor, could be tapped and utilised for generating resources that essentially lead to a much higher level of human welfare. In the case of the US, the \$649 billion subsidies in 2015 were more than the country's defence budget and happened to be 10 times the federal spending for education. Of course, this becomes even more significant when it is shown that 80 per cent of the US could, in fact, have been powered by renewable energy if the amount spent on fossil fuel subsidies would have been removed and used for investments in renewable sources of energy.

The case of education is particularly relevant because it has been found that education is by far, particularly in a developing country, the most attractive means of investments by which human society could benefit. It was actually way back in the 1960s when a researcher by the name of Nalla



Gounden carried out a detailed study in which it was estimated that net education capital formation during the period 1950-51 to 1960-61 actually provided an extremely attractive form of investment when compared with physical capital. And within the education system itself, it was found that primary education is the most attractive, providing a significantly higher return on capital invested than physical capital itself. The study, therefore, suggested a diversion of resources, which, perhaps, should take into account the levels of return that would be available from different levels of education as well as those for physical capital.

It is difficult to understand and certainly irrational as a form of overall macro policy that when it comes to impacts, for instance, on natural resources and the ecosystem services that human society and other species generally depend on, that we do not regard these as important. Similar concerns are also valid in the case of education policy. It is obvious that education has multiple benefits. It was found, for instance, in a detailed study that a 10 per cent increase in female primary education can be expected to decrease infant mortality by 4.1 deaths per thousand.

It is also significant that in the case of fertility, there is a direct link between the provi-

“ IT IS ALSO SIGNIFICANT THAT IN THE CASE OF FERTILITY, THERE IS A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN THE PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES AND RISING LEVELS OF MATERNAL EDUCATION RESULTING IN BENEFITS, BOTH IN RESPECT OF FERTILITY AS WELL AS INFANT MORTALITY ”

sion of health services and rising levels of maternal education, resulting in benefits both in respect of fertility as well as infant mortality. Studies have found that the influence of parental schooling operates through various medical services and changes in household behaviour as far as health is concerned, such as washing hands and using boiled water for drinking purposes. The study found that returns to investment in women's education far exceed those for men's, particularly for those women who obtain employment. When an addition is made to the health and fertility benefits in terms of externalities, the case for educating girls becomes substantially stronger.

Overall, there are various benefits that have been estimated through a set of detailed empirical studies, which can be attributed to expenditures and the activities related to education. It is obvious that spending on education is an investment with major economic returns. The empirical literature generally counts hundreds of studies that have estimated the economic return to investments in education and human capital formation as very attractive. Nevertheless, this is a subject on which considerable research has to be done in locations that define the context of socio-economic and other characteristics

in any society. The impact of the quality of human capital is also particularly important, quite apart from the quantity which can be measured. This is where major reform in provision of education will be extremely important because mere expenditure by itself will not necessarily result in an improvement in the quality of education that is provided. There are also various empirical studies that show the link of education with economic growth.

Further, as mentioned above, education also reduces infant mortality. Finally, the more educated the parents, particularly the mother, the lower is maternal mortality. The influence of parental education is particularly significant for any generation and the benefits it derives are not only confined to that generation itself, but also previous generations representing the level of education of parents. In a country like India, where education levels have remained pathetically low after seven decades, we need to allocate resources to this sector perhaps far beyond those for other investment options. And, subsidies, which often continue year in and year out, require evaluation both in respect of the social benefits they provide and the opportunity costs they carry.

(The writer is former chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2002-15)

SOUNDBITE

There are some who feel only a few names contributed to the national progress. They only want to hear those few names and ignore the others.



Prime Minister —Narendra Modi

As actors, we know what we sign up for before we get into it. It's part and parcel and you've to deal with people's opinion, criticism.



Actor —Sonakshi Sinha

Both countries (India, US) have their own interests. It is natural to have some conflicts because of that. We will find a common ground using diplomacy.



External Affairs Minister —S Jaishankar

A strong and independent media is one of the reasons why the democratic experiment has succeeded in India while it has floundered in many countries.



Shiromani Akali Dal patron —Parkash Singh Badal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Use water efficiently

Sir — This refers to the article, "A real solution to water woes" (June 25) by Markandey Katju. The water crisis, especially in Chennai, has to be taken as a forewarning. We talk about water management but appear to be doing precious little despite credible scientific data indicating growing water poverty. We have ample means to harness nature's bounty.

Water bodies are used as dump yards, river banks are encroached upon and lake beds become sites for real estate. Proper water conservation techniques, recycling and reuse of water, mandatory installations for water harvesting, water collection in lakes and identifying water bodies can help avoid scarcity to an extent. Governments have to work out a plan.

M Pradyu Kannur

Set priorities right

Sir — This refers to the article, "Some merit in 'one poll' idea" (June 25) by Uttam Gupta. Frankly speaking, 'one nation

one poll' may be an idea whose time may not have come yet. If implemented, it is bound to face insurmountable hurdles. First, many changes into the Constitutional have to be incorporated to bring the idea into practice. The existence of multiple regional parties, stable Governments in different States

Justice Gogoi's demands merit attention

This refers to the editorial, "Longer term for judges" (June 24). Pendency of cases in the higher courts has been a perennial issue for litigants and judges alike. True, even doubling the Bench strength in the Supreme Court and High Courts may not bring respite because of people's tendency to file cases at the drop of a hat. In the absence of alternative dispute redressal mechanisms, the problem becomes all the more exasperating. Disproportionate number of cases are filed on a daily basis. The problem, therefore, is chronic. This does not mean that the Chief Justice of India (CJI) remains a mute spectator to the turn of events. And Justice Ranjan Gogoi has not. He has written three letters to the Prime Minister, talking about the ways to tackle accumulation of cases. Obviously, augmentation of the strength of judges in the top court has been the CJI's primary concern. But he did not stop there. One aspect which many legal luminaries have addressed in the past — hiring of retired Supreme Court and High Court judges to "tenure posts" to dispose of cases — was reiterated by Gogoi. These former judges will bring tremendous amounts



of experience and talent, familiarity with the task at hand and focus on the job with no worries over interference, promotion or transfer. The CJI has advocated for another long-standing demand: Of increasing the retirement age of High Court judges to 65 from the present 62. Judges with rare brilliance and integrity have missed out on showing their mettle due to the age factor. If the Prime Minister and the CJ join hands to espouse the cause of the litigant and make them a reality, so be it.

Ganapathi Bhat Akola

Unhealthy practice

Sir — Stung by the Lok Sabha results, West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief Mamata Banerjee has asked her party leaders to return the "cut money" they extorted from beneficiaries of welfare schemes since 2011. Mamata's *diktat* has opened a Pandora's box. Reportedly, hundreds of people have lined up at the doorstep of municipality and gram panchayat members seeking refund of the amount.

Mamata's order bears testimony to the bribe taken by her party leaders. The concept of not treating the bribe-seekers as criminals seems to be the new normal. Complaints against bribe takers often fall on blind eyes and deaf ears by the concerned authorities. People, therefore, have come to the conclusion that getting the work done is easier by paying bribe than facing the ordeals of rule observation.

KV Seetharamaiah Hasaan

Prime Minister as well as the BJP must not be insouciant or indifferent in fulfilling the electoral promises made during the election campaigns. At the outset, the Government must focus on key areas like jobs, inequality and agriculture.

Nimai Charan Swain Bhubaneswar

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Ethiopia's lucky premier

Abiy Ahmed has done everything he could think for the country and yet, he is in a very precarious position to have survived three deadly attacks



GWYNNE DYER

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is a very lucky man. He has survived three attempts to kill or overthrow him in the past year. Last June, he escaped unhurt in a grenade attack that killed one and wounded scores at a political rally. In October, his office in the capital, Addis Ababa, was surrounded by angry soldiers, who threatened to kill him over low pay, but he talked them down. And recently, he emerged unscathed from an attempted military coup. It was a very serious attempt. In the Capital, Gen Se'are Mekonnen was shot dead by his own bodyguard as was another General who was visiting his home. Abiy had made Se'are the chief of staff of the Ethiopian Army, a controversial appointment, only a year ago.

At the same time, another of Abiy's appointees, Ambachew Mekonnen, the Governor of the key Amhara region, was murdered together with his top advisor in the region's capital, Bahir Dar. It was clearly a quite broad plot but its coordination must have been off. Police are still rounding up suspected plotters and Abiy Ahmed was still Prime Minister on Monday. That is a very good thing because Abiy Ahmed is Ethiopia's best chance of breaking the cycle of tyrannies that has blighted its modern history. It is Africa's second biggest country (102 million people) and one of the world's fastest growing economies but its politics has been cursed.

In the past century, it has gone from a medieval monarchy to rule by foreign fascists (it was conquered by Mussolini's Italy in the 1930s) and then back to an only slightly less medieval tyranny for another 30 years — until a Marxist-led military coup in 1974. The 'Derg' junta murdered the emperor and half a million other Ethiopians — mostly the better educated ones — in a 'Red Terror' that fell short of the Khmer Rouge's 'killing fields' but not by much. Then, after almost two decades, the Soviet Union collapsed, the foreign aid to the Communists stopped and the Reds were overthrown in their turn in 1991. The victor that time was a coalition of ethnic rebel groups, militarised and brutalised by a long guerrilla war against the Derg, who slid quickly into the seats of power and remained there comfortably until last year. The political killings declined but the tyranny they protected did not — until suddenly, last year, they handed the whole mess over to Abiy Ahmed.

They did so because the mess was getting out of hand. Ethiopia is a very complicated country: Four major ethnic groups, all of which have fought each other in the course of the country's long history, and a litter of smaller ethnic groups as well. The country is also divided between a Christian majority and a big Muslim minority. To make matters worse, one of the larger ethnic groups, the Tigrayans, dominated the military and intelligence services and, therefore, the regime as a whole — and there was no shred of democracy anywhere in the system. There were pro forma elections but in the last edition, in 2015, not a single Opposition candidate won a seat in Parliament.

The longer the Tigrayans dominated at the Centre, the more unpopular the federal Government became and in the meanwhile, the country's relentless population growth intensified the land disputes between rival ethnic groups. Since 2015, some three million Ethiopians have become internal refugees, mainly due to struggles over land. So in April 2018, in desperation, the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front handed the prime ministership over to Abiy Ahmed. Abiy is certainly a "child of the Party", which he joined at 15, but he is a reformer who can be all things to all people. His father was Muslim, his mother was Christian. As an Oromo, he comes from the lowest rungs of the Ethiopian ethnic pecking order (no Oromo has ever held such high office before). He is fluent in Afaan Oromo, Amharic, Tigrinya and English. And he is a very modern man. He knew he had to move fast, so he immediately ended the state of Emergency and changed almost all the senior military commanders. He appointed a Cabinet that was half female, plus women as president and as head of the Supreme Court.

He released thousands of political prisoners. He freed the media, made the leader of an Opposition party head of the Electoral Board and put her in charge of organising free elections in 2020. He made peace and re-opened the border with Eritrea after 20 years of hot and cold war. He has done pretty well everything he could think of, and he did it in little over a year. And yet, he is still in a very precarious position. It could not be otherwise. He is trying to free a big, complex, traumatised country from a century of dreadful history, and the odds, of course, are against him. But he's not down yet.

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

FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS, THE NATION WENT THROUGH A SUPER EMERGENCY. WE MUST FIGHT TO SAFEGUARD OUR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS.

—WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER
MAMATA BANERJEE

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



THE WAY MAMATA IS RULING TODAY, SHE IS NOT LESS THAN THE EMERGENCY. SHE IS RUNNING A VERY POOR GOVERNMENT. THERE IS A LOT OF VIOLENCE.

—UNION MINISTER
PRAKASH JAVADEKAR

Articles of seclusion

Both Modi and Shah face their biggest challenge yet of translating the BJP's promise on Articles 370 and 35 A into reality and negotiating anxieties and sensitivities along the way



PRASHANT TEWARI

With a majority Government in the Lok Sabha and a near-majority in the Rajya Sabha, the Narendra Modi-led NDA Government is better placed to correct the historical mistake made when the then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and the then Prime Minister of Jammu & Kashmir Sheikh Abdullah signed the Delhi Pact in 1952.

Article 35A of the Constitution protects any laws in Jammu & Kashmir relating to the definition and privileges of permanent residents from being challenged as discriminatory or unconstitutional. As an example of these privileges, Jammu & Kashmir restricts anyone except permanent residents from acquiring immovable property. Article 35A grants the State Legislative Assembly the power to make such a restriction and prevents any challenge against this on the basis that this is inconsistent with the laws that apply to other citizens of India.

Several political and defence analysts attribute the instability in Jammu & Kashmir to India's inability to fully integrate the State into the Union. The challenges towards such integration have historical roots, dating to the circumstances under which the State, led by Maharaja Hari Singh, acceded to India, following Pakistan's attempts to annex the State through force, Pakistan has also pursued the "bleeding cuts" theory, consistently providing support to terrorist and separatist movements in Jammu & Kashmir and extending such support to promote terror in other parts of the country to further its own interests. The third factor is the imposition of Article 370 in the Indian Constitution and the addition of Article 35A, through the provisions of Article 370.

Article 35A was incorporated under Article 370 through a Constitutional order signed by former President Rajendra Prasad in 1954. Sixty-three years after Rajendra Prasad signed the Constitutional order bringing Article 35A into existence, its validity is being questioned because there is a complete change in the political architecture of the State and unrest in the Valley fuelled by the Pakistani establishment in the name of religion since many decades.

A Constitutional order is essentially an expansion of an existing provision that does not need to be voted on, or need the approval of the Parliament. Article 35A was included in the Constitution through a presidential order and not with the Parliament's approval.

What is the relevance of Article 370 to this debate? Prior to accession, the ruler of the princely State of Jammu & Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh, was in total control of all matters of administration and governance except defence, foreign affairs and communication, which came under the British. At the time of independence, Maharaja Hari Singh, albeit under pressure from tribal insurgents, chose to accede to India but agreed to sign the Instrument of Accession as long as the same arrangement was allowed to continue.

In 1949, all princely States were requested to send their representatives to the Constituent Assembly to help draft the Constitution of India. The princely States were also encouraged to set up their own constituent Assemblies. The Jammu & Kashmir Constituent Assembly's



only representation was to incorporate only those provisions in the Indian Constitution that corresponded with the Instrument of Accession. This came to be known as Article 370.

It must be noted, however, that Article 370 was stipulated in the Indian Constitution as a temporary provision. In the 60 years since, Jammu & Kashmir continues to enjoy its special status but its autonomous nature has eroded considerably. Over the years, the Reserve Bank of India and the Supreme Court have extended their jurisdiction to the State. A more recent and relevant example, however, is when India awoke to a brand new taxation system on the midnight of July 1, the State of Jammu & Kashmir stayed out of it. The latter came under a new tax regime a week after the Jammu & Kashmir State Assembly passed a resolution accepting the Goods and Services Tax, which was then formalised with a presidential order passed by the then President Pranab Mukherjee.

Article 35A violates the very concept of equality enshrined in the Constitution of India. Its treatment of non-permanent residents of Jammu & Kashmir is akin to treating its own people as second class citizens. The provisions of Article 35A also violate the principles of gender equality. Section 6 of the Constitution of Jammu & Kashmir, which derives its power from Article 35A, discriminates against women residents of the State, who marry a person from another State. The children from such unions are not entitled to the Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC) or the benefits accruing from it, such as the right to acquire immovable property and a Government job. The same, however, does not apply to the offspring of a male who marries a woman from another State.

Article 35A is in the limelight nowadays. There are two views prevalent in the country — one in its support and the other against it. This matter is sub-judice in the Supreme Court of

India. The Kashmiris feel that scrapping Article 35A would prejudice their identity as a Kashmiri and would disturb their privacy in the State. Farooq Abdullah, National Conference leader, says, "If 35A is abrogated, the revolt is going to be bigger." The other view, comprising the ruling party BJP and its supporters, believes that Article 35A should be scrapped to strengthen the unity and integrity of the nation. Article 35A is a symbol of "Kashmiri colonialism" over the rest of Jammu & Kashmir, they argue.

But there is a growing sentiment to relook at Article 370 and Article 35A. There will be violence instigated in the Kashmir Valley when the nation takes recourse to such action, but that cannot, and must not, deter the State from preserving the right to equality, enshrined in the Constitution. For the good of the people of India and for the residents of Jammu & Kashmir, Article 35A must be repealed forthwith as it will pave the way for the development of the state and its total integration with the union.

The Lok Sabha 2019 verdict, which gave Modi a massive second mandate, and his subsequent decision to allocate the Ministry of Home Affairs to his deputy Amit Shah, have predictably set off apprehensions. After all, Shah has been nothing short of belligerent in voicing his views on Articles 370 and 35A, and how these "special" Constitutional provisions have been an impediment to the progress of the Kashmiri people. The BJP election manifesto, jointly released by Prime Minister Modi and Shah ahead of the blistering poll campaign they crafted together, clearly lays out the party's position and intent: "In the last few years, we have made all necessary efforts to ensure peace in Jammu and Kashmir through decisive actions and a firm policy. We are committed to overcome all obstacles that come in the way of development and provide adequate financial resources to all the regions of the state. We reiterate our position

since the time of the Jan Sangh to the abrogation of Article 370. We are committed to annulling Article 35A of the Constitution of India as the provision is discriminatory against non-permanent residents and women of Jammu and Kashmir. We believe that Article 35A is an obstacle in the development of the state."

Now both Modi and Shah face their biggest challenge yet of translating this promise into reality and negotiating many anxieties and sensitivities along the way. Notably, after Partition, Jammu and Kashmir's prime minister Sheikh Abdullah carved out 30 seats for the Jammu region, 43 seats for Kashmir region and two seats for the Ladakh region. At present, the Assembly has 87 elected seats with Kashmir having 46 seats, Jammu 37 and Ladakh four. The BJP is hoping that since Jammu has more area than Kashmir, it would get more seats under delimitation than Kashmir. According to the 2011 census, the total population of Jammu region was 53,78,538 of which Dogras are the dominant group, comprising 62.55 per cent of the population.

Jammu has 25.93 per cent of the area and 42.89 per cent of the population. Against this, the Kashmir region's population in 2011 was 68,88,475 of which 96.40 per cent was Muslim. Though it has only 15.73 per cent of the state's area, the Kashmir region holds 54.93 per cent of the population. Ladakh has 58.33 per cent of the area and accounts for 2.18 per cent of the population. A mere 2,74,289 people reside in Ladakh, of which 46.40 per cent are Muslims, 12.11 per cent Hindus and 39.67 per cent are Buddhist.

The Modi 2.0 Government would like to correct the regional imbalance based on the area, population and proportionate assembly representation to solve the Kashmir riddle.

(The writer is Editor-in-Chief, *Opinion Express*)

AI can do wonders for aviation

The era of robotics and AI promises to change the way airports will be designed in the future, making for an easier journey. The air transport community can minimise the impact of disruption, improve passenger experience and streamline services



MANEESH JAIKRISHNA

One of the most interesting technological developments that is going to benefit various sectors of the global economy is Artificial Intelligence (AI). It has gained significant interest on the part of global tech giants who understand the potential of AI. Added to this are rapid technological developments in the past decade. For example, we have seen the world's greatest chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov being defeated by IBM's deep blue computer. More recently, Google's DeepMind's 'Go-playing AI' achieved victory of an even more complex game against a Korean grandmaster. This proves the significance of AI in terms of growth and the possibilities it can explore.

Aviation and AI: The future of air transport will be driven by digital transformation. The Asia Pacific is leading in terms of growth of this sector. By 2036, the region is expected to handle over 4.1 billion passengers — more than half of the world's passenger traffic. As per IATA's 20-year air passenger forecast, India stands as one of the top five fastest-growing markets in terms of additional passengers per year, with 322 million new passengers for a total of 442 million.

But with this growth come challenges and stresses on infrastructure and processes. In such a scenario, smart use of technology can help address issues of rising passenger numbers, limited infrastructure and increased complexity. The era of robotics and AI promises to change the way airports will be designed in future, making for an easier journey.

Smarter airports will need information and the required tools. A new era of real-time business intelligence and analytics is beckoning. And this demands a new approach to harness and exploit the massive amount of data at our fingertips. New technologies

promise to help airlines and airports to "look ahead" and to predict future events that threaten to disrupt travel. The aviation industry has been severely affected by disruptions, impacting the passengers, cargo and operations. A recent IATA report showed that the average on-time performance for 26 million flights globally each year stands at 76 per cent. With rising passenger numbers and growth of the aviation industry, there is a risk that even this performance will deteriorate.

Beckoning a new era of business intelligence: AI has the potential to radically change what has really been a set of airport processes that have been manual and have not changed much over the past few decades. It can potentially allow these processes or steps in the journey to be automated using intelligent machines without having to stop to interact with a person first, enabling people to focus on more complex or personal tasks. Today, airports and airlines are seeking more control and predictability over the situation and AI is one of the emerging technologies that offers future strategic and operational benefits. For pas-

senger experience, airlines are investing in digitalisation, especially new technologies such as AI and blockchain. As per our recent study, high on virtual agendas are AI-driven virtual agents and chatbots, with 85 per cent of them using or planning to use AI for services by 2021. This will help deliver a more connected experience for travellers by answering questions and relaying flight status information.

Revolutionising operations: AI embraces the disciplines of machine learning, machine vision, natural language processing and robotics. Embracing the Internet of Things and connecting everything across the industry will produce more data that can be used with AI to create valuable insights and expose new ways of working. Over the next 20 years, the use of digital technology to improve service, operations and efficiency will have profound effects on air transport.

Airports and airlines can harness the potential of advanced machine learning and AI to forecast aircraft arrival times as far out as 24 hours, giving airports the opportunity to manage and mitigate disruption. Singapore's

Changi Airport is an example of how AI can be leveraged to draw valuable insights from masses of historical data accumulated from flights and delays coupled with real-time information to predict flight delays.

At present, human interventions are required to make decisions — from maintenance and crew connections to ground handling and scheduling integrity. In order to improve operational efficiencies, collaboration of human and AI is required. AI will allow humans to identify passenger value and process quick re-bookings of flights of those valued passengers first if their flight has been cancelled. By accelerating historical data value analysis using AI, we can create a list according to priority — at speeds and with levels of accuracy simply impossible by humans. AI will also help ensure better visibility of aircraft turnaround and identify issues before they happen. It can be used in the form of computer or machine vision to monitor all stakeholders.

Smart tech and AI also promise to ensure reduction in the number of bags lost. Using AI, intelligent machines will

enable bags to be autonomously managed from the moment a passenger checks-in to when it arrives at the destination — all without human intervention. For example, in this vision of the future, autonomous loaders can be used to transport bags between the terminal and the aircraft. The data will also provide passengers real-time updates.

View ahead of us: The future for airlines and airports is undoubtedly getting smarter. AI is starting to link the players and the processes across the passenger journey, providing a smart way of managing an increasingly complex ecosystem. By adopting analytics and AI as part of the ecosystem, the air transport community can minimise the impact of disruption on passenger experience, support the customers and even make their services better. AI is taking us one step closer to operational excellence and we can expect the future to see more and more examples of AI starting to make an impact in the information security space alongside analytics.

(The writer is vice president, *India and sub-continent, Eastern and Southern Africa, SITA*)



FOREIGN EYE

NOT OK, GOOGLE

Voice is going to become the chief way that we make our wants known to computers — and when they respond, they will do so with female voices. This detail may seem trivial, but it goes to the heart of the way in which the spread of digital technologies can amplify and extend social prejudice. Companies want them to be used, of course, and this requires making them appear helpful. That's especially necessary when their helpfulness is limited in the real world: Although they are getting better at answering queries outside narrow and canned parameters, they could not easily ever be mistaken for a human being on the basis of their words alone. (The Guardian editorial)

Sensex spurts, Govt likely to use RBI windfall to pay regular bills

energy, auto stocks rally

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex Tuesday rallied about 312 points, driven by energy, auto and banking stocks as monsoon's swift progress revived investor sentiment.

After trading in the red zone for a better part of the session, the BSE gauge pared losses and soared over 350 points, before settling 311.98 points, or 0.80 per cent, higher at 39,434.94. The index hit an intra-day high of 39,490.64 and a low of 38,946.04.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 96.80 points, or 0.83 per cent, to 11,796.45. During the day, the index touched a high of 11,814.40 and a low of 11,651.

RIL was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 2.63 per cent, followed by NTPC, Axis Bank, Tata Steel, PowerGrid, HDFC twins, Bharti Airtel, M&M, ICICI Bank, SBI and Bajaj Finance — gaining up to 2.51 per cent.

While, Yes Bank, Asian Paints, IndusInd Bank, TechM, HUL, TCS, L&T, Hero

MotoCorp and HCL Tech fell up to 1.70 per cent.

Markets pared initial losses following India Meteorological Department's (IMD) statement that India's annual monsoon rains have covered nearly half of the country, and conditions are favourable for further advancement into the central and western parts this week, said Narendra Solanki, Head Fundamental Research (Investment Services) — AVP Equity Research, Anand Rathi Shares & Stock Brokers.

"Positive sentiment further strengthened in the market in afternoon session on back of buying in banking, metals and realty stocks," he added.

Meanwhile, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended on a negative note.

Equity markets in Europe were also trading in the red in early deals.

On the currency front, the Indian rupee was trading flat at 69.36 against the US dollar intra-day.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Bimal Jalan committee report, which is delayed, will lead to transfer of under Rs 3 lakh crore of excess capital from the Reserve Bank to the government, which will most likely use the money for meeting regular expenses, says a report.

The money will come in over three years and is most likely used for regular government spending, Japanese brokerage Nomura said in report Tuesday.

The Bimal Jalan committee on the appropriate economic capital framework for RBI was formed last December, and has sought a third extension to present its report which will now be next month.

"Market expectations suggest Rs 3 lakh crore (will be) distributed staggered over years, though we believe the ultimate transfer will be lower," the brokerage said.

It said there is a 45 per cent probability for the money to be used for regular government spending and only 20 per cent

chance that it will be used for bank recapitalisation.

Recouping state-run banks' capital buffers which have taken a beating due to the dud asset recognition is one of the most talked about uses for the excess RBI capital and is also backed for former chief economic advisor Arvind Subramanian.

Nomura gave a higher, 25 per cent probability for the money to be used for retiring public debt with the RBI, and a 10 per cent probability of no immediate transfer at all.

"The evaluation of 'excess' depends on the choice of stress-testing, and ranges from the RBI being under-capitalised to an excess as high as Rs 4.5 lakh crore," it said, speaking about the ways of computing.

It, however, said those expecting a large fiscal windfall of Rs 3 lakh crore are "at a risk of being disappointed".

Other members of the Jalan panel include Rakesh Mohan, former deputy governor as the vice-chairman, finance secretary Subhash Chandra Garg, deputy gover-

nor NS Vishwanathan, and two RBI board members - Bharat Doshi and Sudhir Mankad.

The panel is entrusted with the task of reviewing the best practices followed by central banks worldwide in making assessment and provisions for risks.

The government and the RBI during the tenure of previous governor Urjit Patel had been at loggerheads over the surplus capital with the central bank, and formation of the panel was among the first

major decision taken by Patel's successor Shaktikanta Das.

The finance ministry was of the view that the buffer of 28 per cent of gross assets maintained by the central bank is well above the global norm of around 14 per cent.

In the past, the issue of the ideal size of the RBI reserves was examined by three committees—V Subrahmanyam in 1997, Usha Thorat in 2004 and YH Malegam in 2013. But none of them called for paring the same from the then existing levels.

'National e-commerce policy within 12 months'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government will come out with a national e-commerce policy within 12 months to facilitate achieving holistic growth of the sector, an official said.

This was informed by commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal in his second marathon meeting with stakeholders, including e-commerce companies, on Monday.

"We will put in place an institutional framework to bring out a national policy on e-commerce within next 12 months," the official said.

The government in February released the draft national e-commerce policy

proposing setting up a legal and technological framework for restrictions on cross-border data flow and also laid out conditions for businesses regarding collection or processing of sensitive data locally and storing it abroad.

Several foreign e-commerce firms have raised concerns over some points in the draft pertaining to data.

An inter-ministerial panel under DPIIT would be formed to address stakeholder grievances on FDI and draft e-commerce policy.

Goyal also said in the meeting that the Press Note 2, which talks about FDI in e-commerce, is clarificatory in nature and the government

has not made any changes in the existing law.

"Companies who participated (in the meeting) agreed with this. They confirmed unequivocally that the Press Note 2 of 2018 on FDI in e-commerce was only clarificatory in nature and did not change the provisions in the FDI policy," the official added.

The minister also stated that India wants to engage with the world on data and e-commerce issues "but there has to be reciprocity," the official said.

Top executives from Flipkart, Amazon, Snapdeal, Paytm, eBay, Makemytrip, Swiggy and others attended the meeting.

The minister will meet again with retail and e-commerce firms to further address their issues.

The e-commerce firms shared sectoral concerns like the ones related with GST, and discounts. Flipkart CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy in a statement said the company appreciates the government's efforts to "engage in a candid, positive and progressive discussions aimed at creating a vibrant e-commerce market and Digital India".

"We look forward to working with the ministry and many other stakeholders to realise this growth dream," he added.

A Walmart spokesperson said the company welcomes the

multiple consultative meetings that Goyal has hosted with business leaders.

The minister has shown an open mind to discuss various issues related to e-commerce so that there is meaningful progress to ensure that everyone benefits from the growing digital economy, promoting a positive investment environment for both international and domestic companies, the spokesperson added.

"E-commerce is an incredible opportunity for India to enable 70 million medium and small Indian businesses to become the bedrock of India's digital economy. Snapdeal welcomes the government's determination to ensure that the

Industry minister Piyush Goyal in the meeting that the Press Note 2, which talks about FDI in e-commerce, is clarificatory in nature and the government has not made any changes in the existing law.

policies governing the sector are followed both in letter and spirit," a Snapdeal spokesperson said.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	11681.00	11814.40	11651.00	11796.45	96.80
WSTEEL	254.40	268.30	252.65	266.00	8.20
BPCCL	379.00	394.60	379.00	392.40	11.55
RELIANCE	1258.90	1298.00	1254.25	1295.40	33.00
AXISBANK	761.25	788.00	756.55	780.10	17.25
TATASTEEL	474.00	493.00	473.95	496.10	9.85
HINDALCO	195.50	203.90	194.50	202.10	3.90
NTPC	136.95	139.70	135.15	138.25	2.65
IOC	152.05	155.00	151.75	154.50	2.45
GRASIM	886.55	906.45	877.05	900.50	13.85
TITAN	1309.00	1320.85	1296.05	1317.00	16.95
POWERGRID	199.00	202.30	199.00	201.50	2.45
M&M	635.00	644.65	635.00	641.65	6.80
VEDL	168.15	171.50	167.00	170.20	1.75
HDFC	2147.90	2176.80	2138.10	2171.00	22.10
SBIN	352.70	357.00	351.25	356.75	3.55
DREDDY	2502.10	2552.45	2488.05	2538.00	24.60
BAJAJ-AUTO	2814.00	2853.95	2786.00	2843.95	27.05
BRITANNIA	2776.00	2818.35	2753.60	2806.75	26.25
GAIL	305.50	310.55	304.25	309.45	2.75
KOTAKBANK	1471.85	1491.25	1467.00	1483.10	12.50
ICICIBANK	4429.00	4540.80	4424.00	4433.05	3.55
MARUTI	6459.00	6590.00	6427.35	6509.00	49.10
BAFINANCE	3545.35	3586.00	3530.35	3572.00	26.65
BHARTIARTL	345.45	352.00	344.55	347.65	2.55
TATAMOTORS	158.00	161.00	156.85	160.35	1.05
COALINDIA	255.00	259.00	254.55	258.10	1.35
ITC	275.05	280.00	274.25	277.65	1.40
ONGC	165.00	168.45	165.50	166.00	0.80
WIPRO	280.00	286.30	281.85	285.20	1.30
SUNPHARMA	382.50	387.50	377.55	384.40	0.95
ULTRACEMCO	4570.00	4627.00	4537.00	4585.20	10.40
HDFCBANK	2418.85	2441.50	2403.00	2422.00	4.00
EICHERMOT	19100.55	19248.90	18831.05	19128.00	29.80
ZEE	336.80	345.40	324.65	341.80	0.45
CIPLA	548.95	554.05	546.55	550.05	0.15
INFY	744.00	750.90	737.30	745.45	-0.05
IBULHSGFIN	611.00	629.90	608.00	619.00	-0.10
HCLTECH	1077.90	1081.10	1060.15	1077.30	-0.60
HEROMOTOCO	2571.00	2603.50	2550.00	2584.70	-1.55
BAJAJFINSV	8350.00	8399.65	8327.00	8336.00	-18.65
ADANIPORV	4040.00	4072.00	4026.05	4050.00	-1.00
TECHM	727.00	728.15	720.00	724.50	-3.75
TCS	2270.00	2274.45	2250.50	2263.00	-12.50
HINDUNILVR	1769.70	1769.70	1745.00	1754.80	-9.65
UPL	933.90	939.80	910.45	931.10	-5.45
ITL	1545.80	1552.00	1521.10	1531.95	-9.05
INDUSINDBK	1455.05	1460.50	1441.55	1451.75	-9.80
ASIANPAINT	1371.00	1372.45	1360.35	1362.00	-14.15
INFRATEL	272.00	272.55	266.00	269.30	-3.50
YESBANK	111.00	112.50	109.10	109.65	-2.30

BSE 500

SCRIP	Open	High	Low	LTP	IDBI
RPOWER	4.69	4.69	3.95	4.01	34.50
JPASSOCIAT	2.95	3.00	2.86	2.96	36.75
JETAIRWAYS	69.00	77.00	67.05	73.60	271.60
SUZLON	4.99	5.30	4.54	5.19	447.75
YESBANK	111.00	112.50	109.10	110.05	445.75
DHFL	79.40	80.65	74.50	75.40	438.00
IBULHSGFIN	613.50	629.70	608.00	621.75	441.45
EMAMILTD	272.00	300.95	271.75	290.80	229.50
RELCAPITAL	67.80	69.65	63.30	64.50	244.60
POJWELLER	49.80	51.80	46.90	47.45	1340.00
RELIANCE	1262.00	1297.80	1254.35	1295.80	1310.10
ICICIGI	1180.00	1180.00	1081.35	1102.10	1324.30
ZEE	337.50	345.35	325.00	343.00	404.45
INFY	742.50	750.85	737.25	748.05	414.95
RELINFRA	56.90	57.00	50.35	51.90	99.15
ITC	275.70	279.95	274.45	278.25	102.30
BSJLAJLEQ	28.05	29.40	27.30	28.25	111.20
TATASTEEL	479.50	499.65	474.15	497.60	112.00
SPICEJET	122.45	127.45	121.50	125.20	111.60
TORNPOWER	241.00	279.90	241.00	272.05	112.00
POL	1979.95	1979.95	1861.80	1887.00	112.00
UPL	158.40	160.90	156.80	160.50	111.60
SARTRANSFIN	930.00	939.75	910.85	935.60	111.60
SBIN	353.25	356.90	351.25	356.50	111.60
NTPC	136.50	139.70	135.65	138.90	111.60
INDIACEM	94.80	107.10	94.20	105.50	111.60
AXISBANK	763.00	783.00	757.00	781.85	111.60
MARUTI	6460.00	6540.00	6433.20	6521.50	111.60
M&M	635.00	644.25	635.00	642.00	111.60
GRAPHITE	339.90	343.00	334.10	336.65	111.60
MINDMARK	470.05	470.05	457.75	457.75	111.60
LTC	1545.00	1551.60	1522.00	1535.05	111.60
HDFCAMC	1944.00	1971.00	1922.65	1938.00	111.60
ICICIBANK	429.60	434.50	424.80	433.65	111.60
PFCE	131.50	135.05	130.90	134.25	111.60
HEG	1380.00	1445.00	1376.35	1413.15	111.60
JIJIVAN	285.70	296.50	277.45	288.75	111.60
IFCI	8.25	9.53	8.05	9.39	111.60
HDFCBANK	2424.00	2441.00	2403.40	2428.65	111.60
ESCORTS	552.00	552.00	524.10	543.60	111.60
HDFCLIFE	439.45	442.00	436.30	437.80	111.60
TCS	2277.00	2277.00	2250.90	2266.75	111.60
BANKBARODA	118.75	120.35	117.10	119.95	111.60
RECLTD	155.85	162.30	155.85	160.90	111.60
JINDALSTEL	137.00	144.15	137.00	143.10	111.60
TITAN	1306.90	1320.80	1296.30	1318.20	111.60
BEML	821.00	859.00	815.00	858.25	111.60
HINDUNILVR	1779.50	1779.50	1746.00	1756.35	111.60
VEDL	169.00	171.35	166.75	170.35	111.60
KOTAKBANK	1471.00	1491.20	1467.80	1480.85	111.60
GAIL	306.75	310.40	304.40	309.65	111.60
WSTEEL	255.50	267.70	252.30	265.65	111.60
IRB	99.80	99.80	92.50	97.20	111.60
ASHOKLEY	85.90	89.80	85.15	85.75	111.60
IBREALEST	113.30	116.55	112.55	113.95	111.60
SUNPHARMA	384.00	387.20	377.70	384.20	111.60
MOTHERSUMI	119.00	120.25	115.00	119.50	111.60
JUSTDIAL	762.00	774.30	745.30	764.50	111.60

US 'lying' about talks offer: Rouhani

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said Tuesday that new US sanctions against senior Iranian officials including top diplomat Mohammad Javad Zarif showed Washington is "lying" about an offer to negotiate.

"At the same time as you call for negotiations you seek to sanction the foreign minister? It's obvious that you're lying," Rouhani said in a meeting with ministers broadcast live on TV. His comments came after US National Security Advisor John Bolton said Washington had "held the door open to real negotiations" but that "in response, Iran's silence has been deafening".

Rouhani also questioned the logic of blacklisting supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and said it showed that Washington is "confused." "The leader's assets are a Hosseiniye (Shiite place of worship) and a simple house. Our leaders are not like other countries' leaders who have billions in an account abroad so



Iran President Hassan Rouhani speaks in a meeting with the Health Ministry officials in Tehran on Tuesday. Iran on Tuesday sharply criticized new US sanctions targeting the Islamic Republic's supreme leader and other top officials, saying the measures spell the "permanent closure" for diplomacy between the two nations

you can sanction it, seize it or block it," Rouhani said. "To sanction him for what? Not to travel to America? That's cute."

Trump imposed new sanctions Monday against Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali

Khamenei and top military chiefs, further raising the stakes in an escalating regional standoff.

The US Treasury said it would also blacklist Iran's Foreign Minister Zarif and eight top commanders from

Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

Iran and the US broke off diplomatic relations in 1980 over the hostage crisis at the US embassy in Tehran following Iran's Islamic revolution.

The latest tensions come a year after Trump unilaterally

withdrew from a multilateral pact with Iran over its nuclear programme.

Rouhani noted that there had been chances for talks with the US.

Zarif met several times former US secretary of state Rex Tillerson before Washington unilaterally withdrew from the nuclear deal in May 2018 and reimposed sanctions on Iran.

Zarif, a political moderate was a key architect of the deal under which Iran agreed to curb its nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief.

But both he and Rouhani have accused Washington of waging an "economic war" on Iran since pulling out of the accord. Tehran has threatened to scale down some of its commitments under the deal unless the remaining international parties — the Britain, China, France, Russia and Germany — help it circumvent US sanctions, particularly through vital oil exports.

"This White House is mentally disabled and doesn't know what to do," Rouhani said.

Bolton says Iran silence on US talks offer 'deafening'

AFP ■ JERUSALEM

US National Security Advisor John Bolton on Tuesday described as "deafening" Iran's apparent silence on an offer to negotiate with Washington.

"The president has held the door open to real negotiations," Bolton told journalists in Jerusalem.

"In response, Iran's silence has been deafening," he added.

Bolton is in Jerusalem for what Israel described as unprecedented talks with his Russian and Israeli counterparts, along with meeting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Speaking alongside the US advisor, Netanyahu said there was "a wider basis for cooperation between the three of us than many believe."

Bolton's comments come a day after the United States imposed sanctions on top officials of Israel's archfoe Iran.

The measures against



supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and others have led to a "permanent closure of the path to diplomacy" according to Iran's foreign ministry.

Tensions are running high after Iran shot down a US spy drone last week and Trump considered, then cancelled, a retaliatory strike.

Bolton said Tehran has carried out "attacks upon

American personnel and assets in the Middle East" and accused the Islamic republic of seeking nuclear weapons.

Tehran denies it is seeking nuclear weapons and says its programme is for civilian use only.

But more than a year after Washington pulled out of a landmark deal between Tehran and world powers, which sought to limit Iran's nuclear activities, Bolton said the US remains open to negotiations.

"All that Iran needs to do is to walk through that open door," he said.

Iran's president said Washington's decision to impose sanctions on its top diplomat and other senior officials proved the US was "lying" about talks.

"At the same time as you call for negotiations you seek to sanction the foreign minister? It's obvious that you're lying," President Hassan Rouhani said in a meeting with ministers broadcast live on TV.

India-Pak clash over Nizam of Hyderabad funds in UK

PTI ■ LONDON

A decades-old legal dispute between India and Pakistan over around 35 million pounds belonging to the Nizam of Hyderabad at the time of Partition in 1947 and deposited in a London bank account has reached an important stage in the UK High Court.

The Nizam's descendants, Prince Mukarram Jah — the titular eighth Nizam of Hyderabad — and his younger brother Muffakham Jah, have joined hands with the Indian government in the legal battle against the Pakistan government over the funds lying with NatWest Bank plc in London.

The dispute revolves around 1,007,940 pounds and nine shillings

that were transferred in 1948 from the then Nizam of Hyderabad to the high commissioner in Britain of the newly-formed Pakistan.

That amount has since grown into millions as the Nizam's ancestors, supported by India, claim it belongs to them and Pakistan counter-claims that it is rightfully theirs.

"His Exalted Highness Nizam VIII and his younger brother have waited decades to receive what their grandfather gifted them. Pakistan has blocked access for 70 years and we hope the recent trial will mean a final resolution at last," said Paul Hewitt, partner at Withers law firm, which is representing the Nizam's ancestors, now in their 80s, in the Royal Courts of Justice in

London. The two-week trial, presided over by Justice Marcus Smith, has been presented with arguments from both sides in the case listed as — The High Commissioner for Pakistan in the United Kingdom versus seven others, including the Nizam's ancestors, the Union of India and President of India.

The judgment in the case is expected in an estimated six-weeks' time.

The judge has been asked to determine the "central question" of who exactly is the "beneficial" owner of the funds belonging to the late Nizam Osman Ali Khan.

The Nizam, who faced the quandary of joining Pakistan or staying with India at the time of the funds transfer back in 1948, had later report-

edly sought the return of the funds.

NatWest Bank has since held on to the funds deposited into the London bank account of then Pakistan High Commissioner Habib Ibrahim Rahimtoola in safekeeping until its rightful legal owner is established.

The lawyers arguing for the Nizam's descendants, based in Turkey, have disputed Pakistan's claim over the funds as alleged assistance to Hyderabad in its attempts at the time of "self-defence against Indian aggression", by arranging the supply and transportation of arms.

The case has been through several stages of legal wrangles in the UK over the years, with some resolution expected in the coming months.

Next British PM to be named on July 23: Conservative Party

AFP ■ LONDON

The winner of the contest to replace Theresa May as leader of Britain's ruling Conservatives and prime minister will be announced on July 23, the ruling party said Tuesday.

Former foreign minister Boris Johnson is the favourite in the race, battling Britain's current top diplomat, Jeremy Hunt.

The two candidates were chosen from a field of 10 by the Conservative party's 313

MPs, and are now seeking to woo an estimated 160,000 party members who will make the final choice.

Postal ballots will be sent out between July 6 and 8, and the deadline for returning them has been set at 5:00 pm (local time) on July 22.

"The announcement of the next leader of the Conservative party will be made on Tuesday 23 July. This process has been agreed with both candidates," the statement said.

Once a successor is con-

firmed, May would be expected to visit Queen Elizabeth II to formally tender her resignation as premier.

Her replacement would then make his own visit to Buckingham Palace to be confirmed in office.

The Conservatives do not have a majority in parliament's lower House of Commons, but govern through an alliance with Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

May announced her res-

ignation last month after failing to get her Brexit deal through parliament, faced with opposition from both Conservative MPs and the DUP. It is possible that the main opposition Labour party calls an immediate vote of confidence in the new prime minister, to force them to prove they have the support to govern.

This would have to happen by July 25 when parliament breaks for its summer holiday, or wait until MPs return on September 3.

Amnesty raises fresh fears of executions in SL

AFP ■ COLOMBO

Amnesty International raised on Tuesday fresh concerns that Sri Lanka may soon end a 42-year moratorium on capital punishment and hang 13 men convicted of drug offences.

The London-based rights group said it was "alarmed" over media reports of preparations to resume hangings although the country still does not have a qualified hangman. "Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena must immediately halt his plans to resume executions for at least 13 prisoners convicted of drug-related crimes," Amnesty said in a statement.

Sirisena in February announced he would carry out the first executions in 42 years within less than two months, but he is yet to sign any death warrant, officials said.

He said this was in response to spiralling narcotics-related crime inspired by President Rodrigo Duterte in the Philippines. The president has also appealed to human rights organisations not to pressure him on his decision.

Criminals in Sri Lanka are regularly handed death sentences for murder, rape and drug-related crimes but since 1976 their punishments have been commuted to life imprisonment.

Russian, North American astronauts return to earth

AFP ■ DZHEKAZGAN

The first crew to blast off to the International Space Station following a launch accident that deepened doubts over Russia's space programme returned to earth safely on Tuesday.

NASA astronaut Anne McClain, veteran cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko of Roscosmos, and Canadian Space Agency record-holder David Saint-Jacques emerged from the space craft to applause from support crews, after touching down near the Kazakh city of Dzhezkazgan.

Live footage from the landing site broadcast on NASA television showed the three sitting in chairs smiling as they were attended to by staff ahead of a journey back to Moscow for Kononenko and Houston for McClain and Saint-Jacques.

Arriving at 0247 GMT to warm conditions, Kononenko joked that he was "happy to see any kind of weather" after coming back from space.

The trio's launch on December 3 was the first after a Soyuz rocket carrying Russia's Aleksey Ovchinin and US astronaut Nick Hague failed in



Russian traditional wooden Matryoshka dolls depicting US astronaut Anne McClain, Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko and Canadian Space Agency astronaut David Saint-Jacques are seen at a press conference hall in an airport of Karaganda in Kazakhstan on Tuesday. A Soyuz space capsule with US astronaut Anne McClain, Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko and CSA astronaut David Saint-Jacques, returning from a mission to the International Space Station landed safely on Tuesday on the steppes of Kazakhstan

October just minutes after blast-off, forcing the pair to make an emergency landing. They escaped unharmed but the failed launch was the first such incident in Russia's post-Soviet history and a new setback for the country's once proud space industry.

McClain, Kononenko and Saint-Jacques had been optimistic ahead of their successful launch and remained upbeat throughout their time aboard the orbital lab which is seen as a rare example of cooperation between Russia and the West.

Urgent need for intern'l probe on Khashoggi killing: Fiancee

AFP ■ GENEVA

The Turkish fiancee of murdered Saudi journalist and dissident Jamal Khashoggi on Tuesday appealed for an international investigation into his "premeditated" killing amid evidence of high-level Saudi involvement.

Khashoggi, a Washington Post contributor and US resident, was killed last October by Saudi agents while at Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul to obtain paperwork ahead of his wedding to Hatice Cengiz.

"There is an urgent need for an international investigation of this murder," Cengiz said at an event on the sidelines of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, speaking through a translator.

Her comments came after the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Agnes Callamard, released a damning report that found "credible evidence" linking Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to the killing. The independent rights expert, who does not

speak for the United Nations but reports her findings to it, called on UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to initiate an international criminal investigation into the case. "I don't think the world can afford to turn a blind eye or to turn the page on a killing such as that of Mr. Khashoggi," Callamard, who also took part in Tuesday's event, said.

Riyadh initially said it had no knowledge of Khashoggi's fate, but later blamed the murder on rogue agents, and Saudi prosecutors have absolved the crown prince of responsibility.

But Callamard's report said probes by Saudi Arabia and Turkey "failed to meet international standards regarding the investigation into unlawful deaths." The report said there was evidence of the crime scene being "thoroughly, even forensically, cleaned" by the Saudis, in what "may amount to obstructing justice." "The investigation that is run in Saudi Arabia is not legitimate," Cengiz said, hailing Callamard's report as "significant" and helped avoid the case being "swept under the carpet".

Critics hit out at millions spent on Harry and Meghan's home

AFP ■ LONDON

Prince Harry and his wife Meghan's new home in Windsor cost 2.4 million pounds (USD 3.05 million) of taxpayers' money to renovate, royal accounts showed Tuesday, prompting criticism from anti-monarchy campaigners. Queen Elizabeth II's grandson and his wife moved into Frogmore Cottage on the Windsor Castle estate before the birth of their son Archie on May 6.

The residence, west of London, had been split into five separate homes but was turned back into one property in a six-month refurbishment ahead of their move-in.

"The property had not been the subject of work for some years and had already been earmarked for renovation," said Michael Stevens, who runs the monarchy's accounts. "The building was

returned to a single residence and outdated infrastructure was replaced to guarantee the long-term future of the property.

"All fixtures and fittings were paid for by their royal highnesses," added Stevens, whose title is Keeper of the Privy Purse.

The cost was revealed as the British monarchy published its accounts for the last financial year.

The monarchy is paid for using a slice of the profits from the land it owns, the rest of which go to the government.

The monarchy's official expenditure in the financial year 2018-2019 was 67 million pounds, including souping up the 1801-built Frogmore Cottage - an increase of almost 20 million pounds on the previous financial year.

The renovation and rise in overall spending provoked condemnation from cam-

paigners who want to abolish the monarchy.

"This year's increases are outrageous at a time of widespread spending cuts," Graham Smith, from the Republic campaign group, told The Sun newspaper. "If even one school or hospital is facing cuts, we cannot justify spending a penny on the royals."

Under a deal dating back to 1760, profits from the Crown Estate — the monarch's hereditary land and property portfolio — are surrendered to the Treasury, which in return funds the monarchy's running costs through the sovereign grant.

The grant is not income for the royals but pays for the monarchy's household staff, property maintenance, official travel, housekeeping and hospitality.

The grant amounts to 15 per cent of the Crown Estate profits.



For 10 years starting last year, there is an additional 10 percent to cover the reserving of Buckingham Palace, Queen Elizabeth's official residence in London.

The sovereign grant for 2018-2019 was 82.2 million pounds — up from 76.1 million pounds the previous year.

The 82.2 million pounds comprised of a 49.3 million core grant plus a further 32.9 million pounds for the Buckingham Palace reserving, replacing old wiring, water pipes and boilers, some of which has not been done since the 1950s.

"The 10-year reserving programme presents a unique opportunity for innovation and investment in one of the world's most prestigious and iconic historical buildings, thereby preserving it for future generations," said Stevens.

"The work is sequenced so as to enable the palace to

remain occupied and fully operational and the Queen's programme to continue to be delivered without interruption." The figures out Tuesday showed the royals spent 23.2 million pounds on wages for the equivalent of 463 full-time staff.

They splashed 2.3 million pounds on official hospitality and housekeeping, including 1.7 million pounds on food and drink for around 160,000 guests.

Cleaning and laundry came to 600,000 pounds, while the wine and spirits bill was 400,000 pounds, with wine being held in stock to age.

The royal family carried out more than 3,200 official engagements in Britain and around the world in the financial year to April.

US President Donald Trump's state visit will be included in next year's accounts.

Secure your future



QUOTE OF THE DAY
Look at the sky. We are not alone. The whole universe is friendly to us and conspires only to give the best to those who dream and work
— Dr APJ Abdul Kalam

HOTEL MANAGEMENT

The Lakshya Bhartee Institute of International Hotel Management invites applicants for undergraduate programmes and postgraduates programmes in Hotel Management.

Duration: For BSc — three years; For MSc — two years.

Eligibility: For BSc programme candidates must have passed Class XII from a recognised central/state board or from a recognised university. Selection will be based on the personal interview. For MSc programme candidates must have completed their graduation from a recognised university. Selection will be based on the personal interview.

How to apply: Log on to www.lbihm.com.

Last date to apply: July 6, 2019.

DENTAL SURGERY PROG
Manav Rachna International Institute of



Research and Studies (MRI-IRS) invites applications for admissions to its Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) programme

Duration: Four years which includes 240 teaching days in each academic year, plus one year rotating internship in MRDC.

Eligibility: Based on merit in NEET 2019.

How to apply: Register at www.mcc.nic.in, through candidate log in, submit choice for BDS course and select participating institution (College Code 487 – Manav Rachna Dental College).

One can achieve great heights with the evolving finance industry, says MAHESH SHUKLA

It's a no brainer that the finance sector is the holy grail of a nation's economic performance and standard of living. The industry that directly or indirectly espouses the population and businesses to fulfil their respective goals is also the one which contributes the lion's share to the total GDP of the economy. The financial services industry stands upright as the backbone of India's robust economy with a projected growth rate of 8.5 per cent.

The new entrants into the market such as commercial banks, insurance companies, mutual funds, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), and FinTech startups are destined to accelerate the stable growth rate of the Indian finance sector. Notable, there are around 11,522 NBFCs that are registered with Reserve Bank of India (RBI), 2,050 FinTech startups spanning across digital payments, lending, wealth-tech, personal finance and many others, and more are underway. The mobile wallet industry is also expected to grow at CAGR rate of 150 per cent to touch the \$4.4 billion mark in the next four years. And, the government of India and RBI are joining the forces with the private sector to strengthen the financial services industry with policy-reforms, tech innovation, and pro-industry measures.

With such sweeping reforms, there is one thing sure to come—the far-flung wave of job creation for youths

and millennials in India. Where the jobs for financial analysts, accountants, investor relations manager, and commercial bankers are and will be on the rise, the demands for financial analytics professionals, data compliance and managers, International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) professionals, and many others will grow manifold.

Offshoots of digital disruption

The financial institutions and organisations are using new-age technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, and machine learning (ML) for fraud detection, anti-money laundering strategies, and manage portfolios. With these intelligent tech solutions, the companies, providing financial support to the underserved population through the digital channels, personalise their services as per the clients' needs, improve pricing, billing, and underwriting process, and predict the risks and threats. But, as these financial companies go data-driven for increased profitability and growth, the need for talents with tech skills and expertise is urgent.

In Mumbai, Bengaluru, Delhi/NCR, and Chennai, the jobs for financial software developers, analytics professionals, data engineers, and technology consultants in dedicated analytics and AI CoEs are raging high. The students of finance and banking should develop quantitative and technical skills along with business ac-

ORGANISATIONS ARE USING NEWAGE TECHNOLOGIES LIKE AI, BLOCKCHAIN, AND MACHINE LEARNING FOR FRAUD DETECTION, ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING STRATEGIES AND MANAGING PORTFOLIOS

men that would enable them to bagging the salary package of nearly 13 lakhs. The salary for an entry-level financial analytics or tech professionals revolves around 6-7 lakhs.

Rise with the revival of microfinance industry

The credit rating agency, ICRA, reports that that Indian microfinance

industry is going under a speedy recovery after the liquidity storm of the last year. The growth rate is estimated to be of 20-22 per cent this year with the burgeoning of NBFCs and FinTech lending startups, which signals high career prospects in the industry. Some top players perform exceptionally well in even in the volatile market conditions, while many fail to achieve their goals in the early three or four years. The reason behind the success of NBFCs and FinTechs is the strong underwriting and risk assessment system. With the recent traumatic funding crisis in the industry, it has become essential for NBFCs to augment risks management strategies.

And this is the reason why the Reserve Bank of India asked NBFCs whose assets size is over ₹5000 crore to appoint chief risk officers (CROs) and improve their risk management practices. And here comes another job role into the mainstream-CRO. Those who are looking to build a lasting career in finance, the best option is to become CRO, a senior official in the organisational hierarchy of the NBFCs and whose sole responsibility and duty is strategising risk management practices, predicting and mitigating the risks. For this, the candidates must have professional qualifications and expertise in both finance and risk management. The compensation package of CROs would range from ₹7-11 lakhs.

Opening doors to women professionals

Indian finance and investment industry has started embracing gender diversity, but still has miles to walk because today, men largely dominate the leadership roles. The times are changing as women continue to make their mark in the male-dominated industries. The gender gap in the finance industry is definitely a challenge, but since the time Boston Consulting Group, global management consulting firm, revealed the companies with diverse teams report better financial performance, the companies are more open to women professionals.

They can build a career in investment banking, corporate finance, portfolio management, and risk management and fill the C-suite positions in the finance companies. Their typical day will revolve around strategy-making, financial planning, risk analysis and others, the responsibilities that are growth drivers. Else, they can go for tech roles in FinTech space where the phenomenon of job proliferation is sky high. Or entrepreneurship will be the perfect choice for them with tech innovation. After all, the finance sector holds enough potential for women from diverse educational backgrounds. Whatever be the choice, the decision should be made in early adulthood to make finance a lasting career.

The writer is Founder, PayMe India

Roadmap for success

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With women occupying top executive spots like Indra Nooyi, Shikha Sharma and Vinita Bali, more and more organisations are relying on greater women employee strength. One such organisation is Bongchie that gives credit to the company's success to its strength of 750 women employees.

Why women employees?

The work procedure proceeds manually, employees make the rolling papers right from scratch in the factory. The women have proved that they are hard working and are more efficient than men.

Employee engagement

Being an employer and receiving amazing results in the organisation, there comes the duty of returning the hard-work back to the employees. The company understands the subject of employee retention and is therefore planning out a huge deal of employee engagement activities and benefits.

Extra activities

With fitness the new mantra for most, there are yoga and zumba classes for their employees for two hours every Saturday. Fitness activities are being arranged especially keeping the women employees in

mind. The goal is to engage them into healthy activities.

Flexible timings

The work timings are from 10 am to 6 pm. However, the company is flexible enough to ignore the late comers.

Safety measures

Keeping in mind that he has the maximum strength of women employees, the employees have the provision of calling the superior directly if there seem to be any issues or issue regarding security.

Prize and performance

Top five performers in the company receive prizes. Rewards and prizes have made the employees more productive as it gives them a goal to achieve and also plays a big hand in making them goal oriented.

Fun and entertainment

In order to avoid the boredom from working hours at the office, there are installed speakers which have been arranged for the employees. They have the flexibility to operate and use it at any time of the hour.

Challenges & development

Employees are given out certain challenging tasks once-twice a month to increase their potency in strategy making or problem-solving skills. The tasks are given out to improve their self-learning skills and increase their scope of growth.



Humber College offers full and partial renewable tuition grants for new international UG students beginning classes in January and September of each year.

Eligibility: Bachelor's Degree opportunities are available to students coming directly from high school/secondary school studies, who are non-transfer holders (haven't attended college or university, or studied in Humber's EAP programme), and are unlimited in quantity. The studentships are awarded to learn any of the subjects offered by the university. Applications will be considered based on academics, community involvement, referee/reference letters and statement of interest.

International candidates are eligible to apply for these endowments. Applications will be considered based on academics, community involvement, referee/reference letters and statement of interest.

Language requirement: Applicants demonstrate their English language proficiency ensures they are prepared for the rigors of the academic curriculum and able to successfully complete any workplace components of the programme (such as co-op placements).

How to apply: The application instructions and forms will be included with your acceptance package which you will receive once you have been

accepted for admissions. Therefore, you must first apply for admissions before you can apply for the opportunity.

Application deadline: September 27, 2019

Rhodes The studentships are awarded for pursuing full-time PG studies at the University of Oxford, UK.

Eligibility: Indian students can apply. You must have reached your 18th birthday and not have passed your 24th birthday on October 1 in the year of application. Must have completed a Bachelor's degree before coming up to Oxford.

English language requirements: You must have a sufficiently high standard of English to meet the English language proficiency requirements (at the Higher Level listed) of the University of Oxford. IELTS Academic: Minimum: 6.5 (standard score), TOEFL iBT: 100 (standard score).

Evidence of academic record/transcript (complete or in progress) of an undergraduate degree and any postgraduate study. CV of principal activities. Personal statement or essay (including, crucially, a clear statement of what the applicant wishes to study at Oxford and why). Evidence of age / birth certificate / passport. Photograph and List of referees who can attest in confidential references to the character and intellect of the applicant, including academic, personal, extra-curricular and leadership achievements.

Application deadline: July 31, 2019

STUDY CENTRES

The role of purchase manager is important in an organisation. The manager is responsible for buying different material — stationary to materials used for manufacturing. A purchase manager should have a bachelor's degree in Business Management or administration. For advanced positions an MBA is required. The job of a purchase manager varied based on the organisation. Purchase managers can find opportunities in public as well as the private sector. Salary depends upon individual skill, qualification, experience, nature of job, location and nature of the employer. A few institutes to study are:

- **Kochin Academy Of Research and Education, Ernakulam. Course:** Advanced Diploma in Material Management
- **Indian Institute of Materials Management, Chennai. Course:** Graduate Diploma in Materials Management
- **Indian Institute of Materials Management, New Delhi. Course:** Graduate Diploma in Materials Management
- **National Institute of Logistics and Material Management, Udaipur. Course:** MBA Material Management
- **Institute of Engineering and Rural Technology, Allahabad. Course:** MBA Material Management
- **Indian Institute of Materials Management, Navi Mumbai. Course:** MBA Material Mgt



MARKET RESEARCH & DATA COLLECTION AT THE SMARTTREE

Location: Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹1,000 per week
Link: internshala.com/i/1073006
Application deadline: July 4, 2019

MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS (PR) AT ANHAD FILMS

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹7,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/1073007
Application deadline: July 4, 2019

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT PUNE GAS

Location: Delhi, Pune, Jaipur, Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹12,500 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/1073008
Application deadline: July 1, 2019

DIGITAL MARKETING AT BLUEOCEAN HEALTHCARE

Location: Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/1073009
Application deadline: July 2, 2019

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AT PSA CAKES

Location: Delhi, Gurugram, Pune, Mumbai, Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/1073010
Application deadline: July 2, 2019

CONTENT WRITING AT AMHAR PUBLISHINGS

Location: Delhi, Gurugram, Pune, Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/1073011
Application deadline: July 2, 2019

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT HEADWAY

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹5,500-₹11,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/1073012
Application deadline: July 4, 2019

No room for fake news

Taking a dig at winners in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections who had made an issue of so-called rigged Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), former Chief Election Commissioner N Gopalaswami observed that these critics had fallen silent now and praised the Janata Janardhan (supreme public mandate) for their victory.

Speaking on Indian Elections and Enduring Myths at the SRM Institute of Science and Technology on June 22, Gopalaswami remarked in lighter vein spiced with sarcasm that leaders who contested from two constituencies, winning one seat and losing the other, should now ponder which EVMs in which booths were tampered with. SRMIST founder chancellor and MP, Dr TR Paarivendhar said the lecture was the first in a series planned by the institution to spark public debates on burning issues.

The veteran bureaucrat who had supervised the 15th Lok Sabha elections flayed the rampant fake news relating to the EVMs over the years even though they were 'stand alone machines' not connected to any online system. This fake news had created one of the biggest myths of Indian democracy that EVMs were tamperable



and could be meddled with. He recalled that Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amrinder Singh had challenged the use of EVMs in the state's high court in 2002 but trials failed to prove his charge and he had fallen silent after he won. In 1982 one contestant had challenged EVMs in the Kerala high court but the court did not agree. He said BJP spokesperson GVL Narasimha Rao in a book in 2009 had faulted the EVMs for the party's defeat and Dr Subramaniam Swamy had cited US experts to claim that EVMs could not be tampered. Later a US expert at a gathering in Chennai had emphatically said that stand alone machines could not be tampered with.

Ragging free campus

On a day that over 5000 freshers were inducted in different courses at the SRM Institute of Science and Technology, parents from different parts of the country were assured that there was no ragging on the campus and their wards were quite safe to pursue their academic studies without worry.

Although SRMIST is ragging-free, it has been decided to form an anti-ragging committee as a confidence building measure, the Registrar Prof N Sethuraman told the aspiring students and their parents at the freshers' induction programme held at the TP Ganesan

Auditorium, believed to be one of the largest of its kind in Asia. The initial reference to the retrograde practice of ragging was made by SRMIST Vice Chancellor Prof Sandeep Sancheti who spoke among other things about the do's and don'ts for students while welcoming them. He pointedly said they should not indulge in ragging or abuse of substances reported from some colleges. He also had advice for parents saying they should keep a vigil on their wards as well and adopt a friendly attitude of understanding problems that may be faced by their sons or daughters

during their initial years on the campus.

Emphasising that there was a significant 7 per cent investment in R & D in SRMIST, he urged students to make full use of state-of-the-art facilities for research at SRMIST to experiment and innovate as their objective should be to go beyond their standard curriculum to emerge as entrepreneurs and trail blazers. While 75 per cent attendance was necessary to qualify for examinations, he advised freshers to aim for 100 per cent attendance to derive the full benefit of knowledge and guidance from their teachers.

Devils relive summer of '83

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

They remember most of the things, may forget a few just like senior citizens tend to but then comes June 25 and they are all back in that Lord's balcony.

They are 'Kapil's Devils', who brought a nation to a standstill on a Saturday night, which remained young forever.

Thirty six summers have gone by and Kapil Dev's toothy grin with the Prudential Cup remains the most defining moment in Indian cricket. It refuses to fade away. On TV, one gets to watch it every four years. On YouTube, one can indulge in repeat telecast in a loop.

If that balmy evening in Lord's wouldn't have been there, India can't be sure if it would have had that 'starry starry' April night at Wankhede 28 summers later.

A Sunil Gavaskar was needed for a Sachin Tendulkar, without a Kapil Dev, there possibly wouldn't have been a Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Krishnamachari Srikkanth possibly was a mini prototype of a player called Virender Sehwag. A generation took to cricket and made it their passion because of that batch.

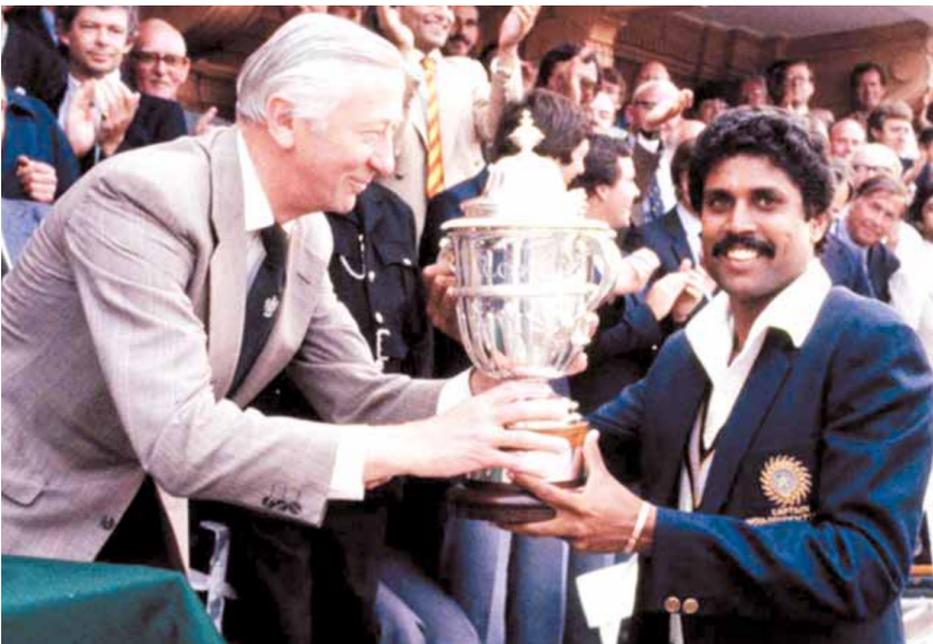
Not to forget, the buzz around the current lot which is also looking good for a Lord's fairytale.

The industry called Indian cricket exists because of the '83 squad.

Kapil recently, in a web show, said he doesn't remember a lot of things that happened during the World Cup, quite possible for a 60-year-old, who has had too many heady achievements in his illustrious career.

But certainly not for Madan Lal, who says that it remains in his muscle memory.

"How can I forget the biggest achievement of my cricket career? It's in my muscle memory," Lal, who got Vivian Richards' wicket, said.



Kapil Dev lifts the Prudential Cup '83 after India beat West Indies by 43 runs in the final played at Lord's on 25th June 1983

Cricket World Cup/Twitter

"You remember so many things. Kapil's knock at Tunbridge Wells, beating West Indies in the first World Cup, Kirti's (Azad) shooter to Ian Botham, getting better of Australia at Chelmsford and then the final," recalled Lal.

On a recent show on an OTT platform VIU, Srikkanth recalled how he had planned for an extended honeymoon in the US as they were pretty sure that India won't qualify for the semi-finals.

"I was 23, newly married and my wife was only 18. We had got married two months back and were planning a honeymoon in the States. We had in fact booked Air India tickets worth ₹10,000 from London to New York," Srikkanth said.

The batch of 2011 got ₹2 crore each for winning the World Cup from a rich BCCI but the batch of 1983 was not so lucky.

"Lata Mangeshkar did a concert for us at the National Stadium and from the proceeds, we were given ₹1 lakh each. Trust me, I didn't even have my own house, let alone have a car. I used to have a motorbike at that time playing for India for nine years then," he laughed.

But 1983 did give them that identity which they have been able to cash in on. "Yes, today I am an expert on a national channel and it helps. But yes, our

Theatre of dreams

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Ravi Shastri on Tuesday recalled the memorable win over the West Indies on the opening day of the 1983 World Cup at the Old Trafford stadium here, an unexpected result that gave them the "belief" of going all the way.

And India did go all the way as they beat the mighty West Indies again, in the final, to lift their maiden World Cup trophy 36 years ago.

"It has all begun here (at Old Trafford) in the summer of 1983. India played on the opening day against the West Indies, a team that had never been beaten in World Cup history. This was the meeting point and India beat the West Indies on this very ground. Plenty has changed here since then," Shastri told bcci.tv, referring to the complete makeover the stadium has undergone. India had won the game against the

West Indies on June 9, 1983 after posting 262 for eight in 60 overs, with Yashpal Sharma scoring 89 off 120 balls. The Indian bowlers then put up a brilliant showing to dismiss the West Indies for 228, with Roger Binny and Shastri taking three wickets each.

"Behind the ground are the railway tracks and I will never forget that. When the game got tight Joel Garner hit one right into the railway tracks. I for one will never forget that the game because I took the last wicket.

"That (win) started it all. It gave us the belief that we could beat any side, once we had beat the West Indies. There was no stopping us. Good to be back here. 1983 is what changed the face of Indian cricket," Shastri, now the India head coach, added.

Two weeks later, India beat the West Indies again to be crowned world champions for the first time.

success meant a lot and then the next generation reaped rewards which makes me happy," said Lal, who had also been a former chief coach and selector of the national side.

"Malcolm (Marshall) ke saath toh mera ek deal tha. Woh aa ke hi mujhe ek bounce deta tha (I had a deal with Malcolm Marshall. He would come and bowl a lethal bounce)." Yashpal Sharma couldn't stop laughing as he regaled a handful of scribes at the Feroz Shah Kotla during a domestic game.

For Sunil Valson, it was an endless wait and he became an eternal eighth standard quiz question: "Who was the cricketer who didn't play a single game during the 1983 World Cup?" No marks

for guessing who that was.

"Kapil, Madan and Roger were bowling so well that I knew it was difficult to get a chance. In fact one game against West Indies at the Oval, I could have played but the manner in which Roger sprinted at the fitness test, I could only sit and watch. But no regrets," Valson had recalled in a recent interaction.

Just like those family WhatsApp groups, the batch of '83, also has a group although they won't say who the group admin is. Everyone sends each other messages and recall that glorious evening.

It was their story and they might have grown old but the story remains timeless. It's an epic and now a soon-to-be-released Bollywood movie too.

OTHER SPORTS



Edinson Cavani celebrates with Luis Suarez after scoring against Chile during Copa America Group C match

Cavani's header ends Chile's unbeaten run

AFP ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

Japan and Ecuador were left heartbroken as their 1-1 draw in Belo Horizonte on Monday saw them miss out on the Copa America quarter-finals, with Paraguay qualifying instead.

Uruguay, meanwhile, topped Group C as Edinson Cavani's goal eight minutes from time gave them a 1-0 win over champions Chile, who also qualify, at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium.

Japan and Ecuador faced a must win match in their bid to reach the knock-out stages as one of the two best third-placed finishers.

Peru had already secured their spot from Group A while Paraguay, in Group B, were left sweating on Monday's result having finished their campaign on Sunday with two points from three games.

Shoya Nakajima gave Japan the lead on 15 minutes with a goal validated by VAR, but 10 minutes from half time, Angel Mena equalized for Ecuador.

Japan substitute Daizen Maeda was put clean through late on but saw his effort saved by goalkeeper Alexander Dominguez.

offside after consulting VAR. It meant Japan missed out on goal difference while Ecuador came up a point short.

Paraguay will play hosts Brazil in the first quarter-final on Thursday in Porto Alegre.

Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu had recalled 18-year-old Kubo but it was Nakajima who proved the Blue Samurai's most potent weapon, at one point trying to chip Ecuador's goalkeeper from halfway.

He and Ecuador's Enner Valencia both fired early shots over before Nakajima gave Japan a 15th minute lead with a shot from outside the box.

It was originally disallowed but then validated following a VAR review. Japan's Eiji Kawashima saved a shot from Valencia but Ecuador were level on 35 minutes after the veteran goalkeeper failed to hold a Robert Arboleda effort, allowing Angel Mena to tuck home the rebound.

Almost immediately, new Real Madrid signing Kubo came to life and forced a save out of Dominguez.

Maeda had a chance to win it in the dying moments when put through by Kubo but couldn't beat Dominguez.

And Kubo, nicknamed the "Japanese Messi" saw his hopes of becoming the nation's hero dashed by VAR.

CONTROVERSIAL JARA

In Rio, Chile knew they needed only a draw to keep hold of top spot in Group C and avoid Colombia — the only team with a perfect group stage record — in the quarter-finals.

Chile, playing with greater urgency, were on top for the first 20 minutes with Alexis Sanchez lashing an early shot over the bar and Uruguay goalkeeper Fernando Muslera saving from Charles Aranguiz and Eduardo Vargas.

Uruguay found their feet, though, and Suarez pounced on a defensive mistake to nip around goalkeeper Gabriel Arias, but he was forced wide and the chance was snuffed out.

From the resulting corner Diego Godin headed over from three yards out.

Uruguay looked dangerous from set pieces and Martin Caceres bundled wide after Cavani's flick-on.

At the other end, Jose Gimenez headed the ball off his own line from Paulo Diaz's header. For a team with nothing to lose, Uruguay had shown little urgency but they took the lead with a moment of quality.

Just six minutes after coming on Jonathan Rodriguez chipped the ball into the box and Cavani planted an unstoppable header into the corner, securing top spot in Group C and a quarter-final date with Peru in Salvador.

USA, Sweden reach WWC quarters



Sweden players run to their goalkeeper celebrating at the end of Women's World Cup round of 16 match between against Canada

AFP ■ PARIS

Megan Rapinoe scored two penalties as defending champions the United States beat Spain on Monday to set up a mouth-watering quarter-final against hosts France at the women's World Cup, with Sweden joining them in the last eight.

On another day in the limelight for VAR, Sweden's goalkeeper Hedvig Lindahl made a brilliant second-half penalty save as her country edged out Canada 1-0 in Paris, meaning they advance to a similarly enticing tie against Germany.

The showdown between the holders and the hosts had seemed inevitable from the moment the draw was made back in December, but after France laboured to beat Brazil in extra time on Sunday, the

USA did not find the going easy against Spain in Reims. Rapinoe's first penalty gave Jill Ellis's team an early lead after Tobin Heath was brought down in the box by Maria Leon.

However, Jennifer Hermoso pounced to equalise moments later after Becky Sauerbrunn had been caught in possession, and Spain held their own after that against the World Cup favourites.

They were undone, though, by another penalty awarded for what looked a very slight touch on Rose Lavelle from Virginia Torrecilla.

The penalty was confirmed after a VAR check and Rapinoe smashed the ball into the same corner with 15 minutes left to give the USA the tightest of wins and line up the French.

In Paris, more than 38,000 fans saw Sweden edge out fifth-

ranked Canada 1-0 at the Parc des Princes thanks to a solitary second-half goal scored by Stina Blackstenius, superbly set up by Kosovare Asllani.

Sweden then held on for the victory thanks to Lindahl, who dived to her right to keep out Janine Beckie's 69th-minute penalty awarded after a VAR review showed Asllani had stopped a Desiree Scott shot with her arm.

That was the 22nd penalty awarded at this World Cup, equalling the total tally from the 2015 tournament and underlining the influence of Video Assistant Referees, although VAR later intervened to overturn a spot-kick awarded to Sweden.

Sweden will face Germany on Saturday in a repeat of the Gold medal match at the 2016 Olympics, which the Germans won 2-1.

Neymar closer to Barca move

AFP ■ MADRID

Neymar is ready to cut his salary by 12 million euros to leave Paris Saint-Germain as part of a "verbal agreement" reached between the Brazilian and Barcelona, according to reports in the Spanish press.

PSG are yet to sanction the sale of their star striker, who they paid a world record 222 million euros to sign from Barca only two years ago.

But Neymar is reportedly eager to return to Spain and Barcelona are prepared to take him back, with Spanish sports newspaper Diario Sport claiming a five-year contract has been agreed.

The newspaper says the terms include Neymar reducing his salary from around 36 million euros at PSG to the 24 million euros he received at Barca in 2017, while also dropping his 26-million euro court case against the Catalan club.

Neymar claims he was due the amount before leaving as a loyalty bonus.

Barcelona sports newspaper Mundo Deportivo has reported Neymar will also have to make a public apology to the club's fans for the manner of his departure. The 27-year-old had spent four years at Camp Nou,



Neymar Jr in a file picture

Neymar/Twitter

winning the Champions League in 2015 and two La Liga titles. He had formed a brilliant attacking trio alongside Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez.

Any return for Neymar would likely require Barca to raise funds through sales. Antoine Griezmann is expected to join from Atletico Madrid for 120 million euros while Frenkie de Jong has already signed for 75 million euros from Ajax.



Wimbledon seeding disrespects world rankings

AFP ■ MADRID

Rafael Nadal has complained about Wimbledon's seeding system after the Spaniard was placed at number three, behind Roger Federer, for next week's grand slam in London.

The other three major tournaments all match their seeding to the official world rankings but Wimbledon uses its own formula to dictate the order, combining ranking points with form in grass-court competitions.

It means Nadal will be seeded three and Federer two at the All England Club this year, despite their positions being the reverse in the rankings list.

"Wimbledon is the only tournament of the year that does it like this," Nadal told Spanish television channel Movistar on Monday night.

"Obviously it would be better to be two than three but if they think I have to be three I will accept three and fight to win the matches I have to win.

"Having said that, the only thing that doesn't seem right about this issue is that it is only Wimbledon that does it. If they all did it, it would seem more correct.

"It's not only about my particular case. There have been many occasions when players have played well all year on all surfaces but Wimbledon does not respect the ranking they have earned.

"And for this reason they get more complicated draws."

Nadal is yet to play an official match on grass this year while Federer warmed up for Wimbledon last week by winning his 10th title at the grass-court tournament in Halle.

Federer and top seed Novak Djokovic will be at opposite ends of the Wimbledon draw, separated until the final, but Nadal is guaranteed to have either Federer or Djokovic in his half, and could meet them in the semis.

"For me personally, it means if I am three, to get to the final, Djokovic or Federer will be in my half," Nadal added.

"But that can only happen in the semi-finals and to get there I have to win five matches. Today I'm far away," Nadal claimed his 18th major title earlier this month by winning the French Open for a record-extending 12th time. He now sits behind only Federer's 20 grand slam triumphs in the all-time list of male champions.

CRICKETCRADLE

TODAY LIVE

STAR SPORTS

New Zealand vs Pakistan
3:00 pm IST
VENUE: Edgbaston, Birmingham

Australia first to reach semis

... as Kangaroos outclass hosts by 64 runs

Lara hospitalised

Brian Lara was on Tuesday admitted to a hospital in Mumbai after complaining of chest pain but is doing 'fine and will be discharged soon'. The 50-year-old from Trinidad was admitted to the Global Hospital in Parel. No official word has come out yet on his condition but a source close to the player said there was no major cause of concern. "He had an angioplasty (a procedure to open narrowed or blocked blood vessels that supply blood to the heart) done two years back and today was a regular check-up as there is always a fear of heart pain. He is fine now and will be discharged soon," the source told PTI. The hospital authorities were tight-lipped about why Lara was admitted and refused to divulge any details. "As a policy, we respect our patients and their right to privacy. Till the time the patient doesn't give us consent, we cannot divulge anything about him. Please respect his privacy. At this point, we cannot say anything," Dr Jigna Shrotriya, the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital, said in a brief statement issued in the evening.

Tweet angst

Sachin Tendulkar had made his displeasure known over MS Dhoni's slow batting during India's World Cup game against Afghanistan. Tendulkar had said that the stumper should have shown more positive intent during his time at the crease. Tendulkar's views though haven't gone down well with Dhoni's ardent fans and they have taken to social media to make their disappointment known. An ardent Dhoni fan hit back not only at Sachin, but also his son Arjun Tendulkar and said: "@msdhoni is the King of cricket!! Sachin played only for self and trying to fit in his looser son in team India now. Height of nepotism! (sic)." "#MSD one slow innings and everybody is baying for his blood...unfair on @sachin_rt to come out in public criticising Dhoni. Dear Great Batsman...the WK batsman has won many more matches for India than u did!! (sic)," expressed another fan and went on to add: "Atleast #MSD is much more a team player than the great @sachin_rt...the little master always had a selfish intent when he came out to bat!! 100 tons and everything is good but one can count on their fingers as to how many matches India won/test matches saved coz #Sachin (sic)."



Aron Finch celebrates after completing his hundred AP

AFF ■ LONDON

It was reminiscent of the Australian swagger of yore as Aaron Finch's pacers bossed arch-rivals England on their way to the World Cup semifinals with a 64-run victory here on Tuesday.

While Australia became the first team to reach the semifinals of the showpiece, England's defeat, their second straight following the stunning reverse to Sri Lanka, made their path to the last four way tougher than it was not less than a week ago.

Captain Finch rose to the occasion with his second century of the tournament before England rallied to stop Australia at 285 for seven in their blockbuster showdown.

In reply, England found the left-arm pace duo of Jason Behrendorff (5/43) and Mitchell Starc (4/44) too hot to handle, capitulating to 221 all out in 44.4 overs. Ben Stokes waged a lonely battle for his 89 off 115 balls.

England were off to the worst possible start, losing James Vince in only the second ball of the innings. Bigger blows awaited the hosts as the Lord's saw in disbelief the quick departure of the in-from Joe Root followed by skipper Eoin Morgan.

At 26 for three in the sixth over, England were staring down the barrel against a side that is historically known to raise its game on the biggest stage, more so when the stakes are high.

England were pushed further down the abyss when Jonny Bairstow was dismissed by Jason Behrendorff, making it 53 for four in the 14th over.

With a 71-run partnership for the fifth wicket, Stokes and Jos Buttler somewhat rescued the innings, but the wicket-keeper-batsman got out after making 25 off 27 balls.

The match was as good as over when Starc bowled Stokes with one of the tournament's finest yorkers to leave the home team reeling at 177 for six. Earlier, comfortably placed



Australia's Jason Behrendorff, second right, and Australia's Mitchell Starc second left shake hands after the end of the Cricket World Cup match between England and Australia at Lord's cricket ground in London on Tuesday

at 185 for three in the 36th over, Australia were headed for a 300-plus total, but lost the plot due to England's fine comeback and lack of discretion on part of most of the batsmen that followed Finch and David Warner (53).

Sent into bat after Morgan called it right at the toss, Australia were given another fine start by their in-from openers, who took them to 123 in the

23rd over, when leading scorer Warner got out.

Dropped on 15, Finch (100) went on to make his 15th ODI century, off 115 balls, but got out in the very next ball to leave the responsibility of finishing the innings in style on Steve Smith's shoulders.

Smith (38) batted positively until he was sent back by Chris Woakes, while Alex Carey smashed 38 off 27 balls, but the

defending champions seemed to have lost the plot with the wickets of Glenn Maxwell and Marcus Stoinis.

Maxwell hit Jofra Archer for a four before sending his thunderbolt over long on and into the crowd for a six. But Maxwell did not last long, and Australia were 228 for five, when Stoinis was run out in the 42nd over due to the combined efforts of Jonny Bairstow, Adi Rashid and Jos Buttler. This was after Warner and Finch shared another 100-plus stand for the first-wicket. It was the pair's fifth successive partnership of 50 or more at the tournament, a World Cup record.

Finch found the fence 11 times during his 116-ball knock and cleared it twice, with Moeen Ali being at the receiving end on both occasions.

HIGHEST OPENING STANDS FOR AUS AGAINST ENG

RUNS	PARTNERS	VENUE	DATE
163	Aaron Finch/David Warner	Melbourne	12-01-2014
123	Aaron Finch/David Warner	Lord's	25-06-2019
118*	Adam Gilchrist/Matthew Hayden	Sydney	23-01-2003
110	Brad Haddin/Shane Watson	Melbourne	16-01-2011
109	Geoff R Marsh/Dirk Wellham	Sydney	22-01-1987

Cric-tips for Jr Bangar

It's not everyday that a youngster gets tips from India's bowling coach but then Aryan Bangar is not just any youngster. Son of batting coach Sanjay Bangar, Aryan was watched by Team India's bowling coach Bharat Arun after the national side's optional practice session here on Tuesday. The 18-year-old Aryan is the elder son of Sanjay Bangar and is currently here to play junior county games for Leicestershire. Primarily a left-handed top-order batsman, Aryan also bowls left-arm spin and once Virat Kohli and Co. had finished their session, the youngster was summoned to bowl. Arun and fielding coach R Sridhar had a close look as he bowled for more than 20 minutes. He bowled a few classical left-armers' deliveries that spun away (for right handers) after pitching. Arun also gave him some tips after the session while Senior Bangar watched from a distance.

1 billion & counting

The World Cup 2019 is on track to shatter previous digital and TV records and become one of the world's biggest ever sports events — having already delivered over 1 billion video views across digital content on ICC's platforms and social media channels. In addition, TV figures have seen India alone amass a viewership of 342 million during the first fortnight of the tournament even before the much anticipated fixture between India and Pakistan. Hotstar, ICC's official digital licensee in India, delivered a record 15.6 million peak concurrent live viewers for the India v Pakistan match a record for an international cricket fixture across formats. The nail-biting India-Afghanistan fixture at Southampton also delivered similar peak number of concurrent live viewers for the platform. Agencies

Bhuvi returns to train at nets

PNS ■ MANCHESTER

Team India returned to training under rain and indoor nets at Manchester on Wednesday, the highlight being the recuperating Bhuvneshwar Kumar coming back to practice at nets.

The drill was supposed to be a full-team event but was turned into optional nets due to the constant drizzle soaking up the outfield at Manchester. The team had returned to training after a two-day well-earned break and winning a tense match against Afghanistan in Southampton.

Kumar had suffered a hamstring stiffness mid-field in the match against Pakistan at Manchester and had to leave the field four balls into his over with Vijay Shankar completing the task, to earn a first-ball wicket in his World Cup debut.

Bhuvneshwar, who had been restricted to slow walking the field and light exercise drills by team physio Patrick Farhartin the run-up to the match against Afghanistan, bowled at the nets for around half-an-hour as Virat Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja and Vijay Shankar took throw downs in paral-



Bhuvneshwar Kumar, left, speaks to team physiotherapist Patrick Farhartin during an indoor training session ahead of their match against West Indies at Old Trafford in Manchester on Tuesday AP

Kumar had suffered a hamstring stiffness mid-field in the match against Pakistan at Manchester and had to leave the field four balls into his over with Vijay Shankar completing the task

lel nets. He kept his run-up mostly small, increasing it only once in a while that too not to full stride and under the watchful eyes of Farhart.

India is scheduled to play its sixth match of the tournament against West Indies but Mohammed Shami who had replaced the injured Kumar for the Afghanistan match has since cemented his prospects in the playing 11 with a last-over hat-trick which turned the tide of the game and overall four wickets.

It now remains to be seen whether Kumar would be back for the West Indies game though it looks unlikely for now with Shami in full flow and the skipper Virat Kohli suggesting after the match against Pakistan that Kumar

would take at least two maybe three matches to recover completely from his injury.

India's next match after the one at Manchester is against England in Edgbaston, Birmingham, and a more serious look at Kumar's return would be taken only then by the team management.

Meanwhile, a full-drill nets had to be bifurcated into an optional indoor session due to rain with Kohli, Jadeja, Shankar and Kumar turning up for the session. Kohli, who batted for close to 45 minutes to throw-downs by the support staff and the balling machine as coach Ravi Shastri looked over. Kohli's full-throated shots came in as a decibel warning for the West Indies who play India tomorrow despite being all but out of contention for the semi-final.

Shankar, practised at length some outside off-stump deliveries from the machine, missing many of them even as Jadeja who has so far not got a game except as a substitute for first Shikhar Dhawan and then Kumar, swung his bat with elan with some square cuts and uppish straight drives over the head of the bowler.

It's Manchester, they do things differently here

PNS ■ MANCHESTER

The quaint Old Trafford pub on the road leading up to the cricket ground here sports a brave stand: "Open only on match days." You try and book a table for yourself for the England-Australia cricket match and a sense of disbelief engulfs the booking agent at the other end. "Madam, when we say match day we mean only football!"

Cricket is second to many sports in England, the game's mother country, but nowhere more pronounced is this fall from grace than in football bastions like Manchester where a ticket to visit the famous

Manchester United Football Stadium, the real "Old Trafford" as they consider it, goes up to 50 pounds for a two-hour walk through.

The city itself, named Mamucium for having been built on a mound, well, resembling a pair of mammary glands, boasts of many firsts and ups a constant middle finger at any claimants otherwise, be it sport, industry or cyber inventions, not to mention its eventful journey from Mancunian to Manchester 2 to Manchester 3 & 4, in what locals call four avatars of a perennial pioneer.

There are many crimes in Manchester which have been



Vijay Shankar, Dinesh Karthik and Yuzvendra Chahal pose for photo during Manchester United football team home ground Old Trafford MUFC/Twitter

doable down the ages, like drugs and gang violence, for instance. But the one that has been completely undoable is asking for a Liverpool jersey at any of their sports merchandise shop. The Liverpool-Manchester rivalry dates back to 1884 water canal and is not just about football.

The two cities, just 35 miles apart, have been slogging it out for premiership in everything from politics to transport to sports, with Manchester having an edge but also having to share its glory with Liverpool on logistics.

Manchester split the atom for the world and is the birthplace of the first computer,

thanks to Alan Turing, a harangued scientist who committed suicide after being discovered as a homosexual and preferred to take libido downer injections over jail.

His body was found in the kitchen with a bitten apple next to him, apparently laced with cyanide, giving wind to talk of Steve Jobs giving him homage through the flagship symbol even though England itself gave the man his pride back only in the 21st century apologising for his persecution despite him being the man who cut the big war short by several years through his decoding abilities.

TURN TO PAGE 3



nacabaste ENGLAND

WE WANT TO MAKE OUR FANS HAPPY. THEY EXPECT A LOT. WE TRY OUR BEST. BUT UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE NOT ALWAYS PLAYED WELL. — SAMIULLAH SHINWARI

Cornered Pak vs flying Kiwis

Pakistan to battle for survival against New Zealand

UPNEXT



PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Their campaign revived by a win over South Africa, Pakistan will continue their battle for survival when they face an unstoppable New Zealand in a must-win World Cup clash today.

Pakistan faced severe criticism after their loss to arch-rivals India but their 49-run win over South Africa breathed life into their campaign but the road ahead is a tough one.

With just two wins and three losses, Pakistan are at the seventh spot with five points in six games.

Sarfraz Ahmed and his men will now not only have to win the remaining three matches, starting with New Zealand, but also hope that the results in other matches favour them to salvage any hopes of a semifinal berth.

While pacer Mohammad Amir has been their biggest star, claiming 15 wickets to top the list, none of the other bowlers have backed him, which has affected their campaign.

Their batting line-up too lacked spark before left-handed batsman Haris Sohail, who was dropped after the opening game, made a strong comeback with a 59-ball 89 to help Pakistan post a challenging 308 for 7 against South Africa.

Shadab Khan and Wahab Riaz also chipped in with three wickets in their last game after Amir once again delivered, accounting for two scalps.

While the batting and bowling units delivered against the Proteas, fielding is an area of concern for Pakistan and Sarfraz too admitted that the team will need to pull up its socks.

"We have to work harder on fielding. Again we dropped so many catches (against South Africa), some straightforward and some half-chances. All three matches now are very crucial and we have to sort it out," Sarfraz had said after the match.

New Zealand, on the other hand, have been invincible so far and currently hold the top position in the points table.

The Black Caps, led by inspiration



New Zealand pacer Trent Boult plays with the ball during team's practice session

ICC/Twitter

skipper Kane Williamson, have been on a roll ever since they steamrolled Sri Lanka in their opening match.

But no team is unbeatable and New Zealand looked vulnerable against South Africa and the West Indies but it was skipper Williamson's twin hundreds which helped them seal the wins.

Williamson, who also anchored the side against Afghanistan, is their highest scorer in the tournament so far. Ross Taylor too has been among the runs but opens Colin Munro and Martin Guptill

are yet to click.

Their bowling unit, which includes Trent Boult and Lockie Ferguson, too has been in good form, while New Zealand also have two destructive all-rounders in Jimmy Neesham and Colin de Grandhomme in their ranks.

The only aspect that they seem to be struggling is delivering their quota of overs within the stipulated time and Williamson could be handed a suspension if the over-rate is slow in one more match.



Pak bowling coach Azhar Mahmood shares fun moment with players during practice session

ICC/Twitter

HEAD TO HEAD

	Played	Pak	NZ	Tied/NR
Matches	106	54	48	1/3
Day matches	66	32	31	1/2
In World Cup	8	6	2	-
Last 5 matches	5	1	3	1

HIGHEST TOTALS

Pakistan	364-7 in 50 overs at Sharjah	14-12-2014
New Zealand	369-5 in 50 overs at Napier	03-02-2015

PERFORMANCE IN WC

Team	P	W	L	T	N/R	Success%
Pak	84	53	30	-	1	63.69
NZ	76	42	32	-	2	56.57

FAISEL FEATURES

SQUADS

Pakistan: Sarfraz Ahmed (captain), Fakhar Zaman, Imam ul Haq, Babar Azam, Haris Sohail, Hasan Ali, Shahab Khan, Mohammed Hafeez, Mohammed Hasnain, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Wahab Riaz, Mohammed Amir, Shoaib Malik, Imad Wasim, Asif Ali.

New Zealand: Kane Williamson (captain), Martin Guptill, Matt Henry, Tom Latham, Colin Munro, Jimmy Neesham, Henry Nicholls, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, Trent Boult, Colin de Grandhomme, Lockie Ferguson, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor, Tom Blundell.

XFACTOR

- Black Caps' pace attack
- Sarfraz Ahmed's leadership
- Imam-ul-Haq and Fakhar Zaman's opening stand
- Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor's middle order batting
- Mohammed Amir, Wahab Riaz's opening spell
- Colin de Grandhomme's all-round performance

MEN WHO MATTER

MOHAMMAD AMIR (PAKISTAN)

The left-arm pacer is delivering big time on the promise he showed when he arrived on the international scene a decade ago, as a 17-year-old. Amir in this tournament has been more incisive than he has in years. His battle against Williamson should be a mouth-watering one.



KANE WILLIAMSON (NEW ZEALAND)

Williamson never ceases to amaze with his sponge-like ability to absorb pressure. Along with his unquestionable class, Williamson brings fantastic temperament, just the kind of which is required to succeed in a high-stakes environment, such as the World Cup.



Courtesy: © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 18

'Jeet karo repeat' Kane can, we can

IAN S ■ BIRMINGHAM

Former Pakistan speedster Wasim Akram has advised Sarfraz Ahmed not to tinker with the winning combination and go with an unchanged playing XI against New Zealand in their crucial World Cup match to be played on Wednesday at Edgbaston.

Pakistan kept their hopes of making it to the semi-finals of the ongoing tournament alive after registering a comfortable 49-run victory over South Africa on Sunday, thus knocking them out of the competition.

He also hoped for a repeat of 1992's show when Pakistan had defeated the Black Caps — who were also unbeaten till that match — by seven wickets in their crucial World Cup game played at the AMI Stadium in Christchurch.

"They were unbeaten in 1992 too before playing against us and we won the game, they're unbeaten again and I hope we repeat the show, but boys will have to give their best," Wasim told Pakistan's Geo TV. "There's no need to change the winning combination," he added.

However, Akram wants Pakistan to improve their field-



Wasim Akram appeals for lbw during 1992 World Cup final

AP/File Photo

ing, especially their catching which has been very poor so far in the tournament.

Pakistan have dropped as many as 14 catches in the six games they have played so far. "We have dropped 14 catches in the tournament. We are top on the list of teams dropping most catches in the World Cup which isn't a good sign," Akram said. "This isn't something new, but we need to overcome this problem," he added.

The former captain also added that Babar Azam needs to start converting his fifties into hundreds if he wants to

become a world-class batsman.

Azam has scored two half-centuries in the World Cup so far, which came against England and South Africa, but was subsequently dismissed for 63 and 69 respectively. He also scored 48 against arch-rivals India before being clean bowled by spinner Kuldeep Yadav.

"The openers did well, Babar did well, but Babar needs to convert his fifties into hundreds," said Akram while speaking of the Proteas game.

■ BIRMINGHAM

Forget skipper Kane Williamson for a second — New Zealand's unbeaten start to the Cricket World Cup has been a true team effort with everyone stepping up to the plate.

That's the view of Black Caps all-rounder Mitchell Santner as the Black Caps look to continue their impressive start to this year's competition against Pakistan in Edgbaston on Wednesday.

Boasting the highest batting average in the World Cup 2019 to date — a staggering 186.50 — after match winning knocks against both West Indies and South Africa, skipper Williamson has rightly been lauded for his wonderfully assured performances over the past month.

But with only one side — the WI — having scored over 250 against New Zealand so far, and the likes of Lockie Ferguson and Trent Boult excelling with the ball, Santner believes the Black Caps' success so far is as much a triumph of collective skill.

"We've had a couple of tight games, which I guess the key so far is other people have been stepping up, and I guess that's what you want to do as a team," he said. "You want everyone to step up at different times throughout the tournament, and I think that's what we've found so far."

"We haven't relied on a few guys to do the bulk of the work, but in saying that, being on the winning side of those tight encounters give the whole squad confidence. "So that's nice, obviously, going into each game, that you know you've got confidence. "The team, other people are standing up at different times, and you can back everyone to do a job rather than just relying on a couple of key players."

"You look at our side as a whole, we're quite a scrappy side, and we pride ourselves on winning those little moments, like I guess we have been, and saying that, we could have been on the other end of a couple of those games."

Opponents Pakistan head into Wednesday's game in Birmingham still well in the hunt for a semi-



M Santner in action

ICC/Twitter

final berth after victory over South Africa at Lord's on Sunday.

Key to the Men in Green's success resurgence has been Mohammad Amir's potent use of the new ball, with the seamer currently sitting close to the top of the bowling standings.

And with pre-tournament England another their victims over the past

month, Santner believes Pakistan's threat cannot be taken lightly. "I think they're very dangerous. Obviously, they've had a pretty good record over here," he added. "They won the Champions Trophy a couple of years ago, and they've come off a pretty good win against South Africa. "We've played Pakistan a lot recently. We're aware of their strengths, and I think Wahab back into their team is very good for them."

"Amir is bowling very well as well. Their bowling attack on the whole is very good. We can't take them lightly, and we'll have to prepare accordingly. I guess we've seen early in this tournament they've taken down big sides."

"They took down England and took down South Africa the other day. When they're hot, they're really hot. We have to, obviously, find ways of trying to cool them down when they're like that. We're playing pretty good cricket as well, so I think we're in for a pretty good match tomorrow."

Courtesy: © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2019

coachSpeak

AZHAR MAHMOOD, PAK



How do you see today's match?

They're (NZ) definitely a very strong side. They won all of their games. So we know they're a strong side. If we can do our discipline right, like we did last game — batting, bowling, and fielding. Our ground fielding was really good, but unfortunately we dropped a lot of catches. If we do our discipline right, we can beat any side.

Where do you think NZ is most vulnerable?

They are a quality side. They've got a match spinner on their side. So with the ball, you know, it's crucial for us to take a wicket with the new ball. And when we bat, we need to get runs up front. So our top three is the most important for us. If we do our basics right, it's just about us, not about them. We need to do our things right.

Would you use spinners more than fast bowlers?

We haven't seen the pitch yet. We play two spinners anyway, and in our side, Haris can bowl as well and Hafeez. So we've got almost four spinners on the side. We'll see the pitch and assess the condition, and then we can use one thing against New Zealand. Change of pace is crucial.

As the bowling coach, what do you think has gone wrong with Hasan Ali.

Everyone in cricket, whether you're a batsman or a bowler, you have bad form. He's having a bad form. So he's low on his confidence. He has self-doubt in his ability. So he's running in, and he's working hard on and off the field. You can see that. But it's just a matter of getting two, three wickets, and he'll be back.

Same thing happened to Ahmed, you know. After Champions Trophy, Ahmed was struggling, but he was bowling well. Now you see that he's having a good time. It's the same thing happened to Hasan Ali as well.

What do you make of the pitch out there at the moment?

We played in this ground before in Champions Trophy. So we know the condition really well. We'll find out today how the pitch look like. Maybe it's like the game played here was a slightly drier pitch. Let's see under cover.

Courtesy: © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2018

Feather in the cap

Birmingham: New Zealand opener Martin Guptill will aim to add another feather to his cap when he comes to bat against Pakistan in their World Cup fixture to be played today.



Guptill needs 58 more runs to become the second Kiwi player after former skipper Stephen Fleming to score 1,000 World Cup runs. So far, the right-handed batsman has amassed 942 runs in 22 World Cup innings. The 32-year-old will become the 20th batsman overall to score 1,000 runs in World Cups.

Fleming scored 1,075 runs in 33 innings he played in World Cups for the Black Caps. Legendary Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar holds the record for scoring the maximum number of runs in World Cups. He scored 2,278 runs in 44 World Cup innings.

Guptill also holds the record for scoring the highest score in a World Cup. He had played an outstanding innings of 237 against the West Indies in the 2015 edition of the World Cup. New Zealand, with 11 points from six games, will aim to seal their semi-final spot when they take on Pakistan at Edgbaston.

Self-destruct mode

London: Pakistan head coach Mickey Arthur has claimed that he was feeling so low and disappointed after his team's loss to India in the ongoing World Cup that he wanted to "commit suicide".

On June 16 at the Old Trafford in Manchester, Pakistan had to face an embarrassing 89-run loss (D/L method) against arch-rivals India. This was their seventh loss against the Men in Blue in all the editions of the World Cups.

The entire team, including skipper Sarfraz Ahmed and the team management, had drawn a lot of flak from former cricketers and fans on social media.

However, Pakistan came back strongly to keep their hopes alive of making it to the semi-finals as they registered a convincing 49-run victory over South Africa, knocking the Faf du Plessis-led team out of the competition.

"Last Sunday I wanted to commit suicide," Arthur said at the post-match press conference after the Proteas game at the Lord's on Sunday. "But it was, you know, it's only one performance."

"It happens so quick. You lose a game; you lose another game; it's a World Cup; media scrutiny; public expectation, and then you almost go into sort of survival mode. We've all been there," he added.

He had also said guys in the team were "burnt" last week post their defeat to Virat Kohli's men.

— IANS



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SSACEIF brings more opportunities for China, South Asian countries

South and Southeast Asia commodity expo features more than 3,300 enterprises from across China and the world

The 2019 South and Southeast Asia Commodity Expo and Investment Fair (SSACEIF) is expected to create an effective platform for regional cooperation which opened on June 12 in Kunming, capital city of the Southwest China's Yunnan province.

Chen Hao, Party secretary of Yunnan, said the expo is an important step for achieving the consensus reached at the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held in Beijing in April between Yunnan province and its neighboring regions in South and Southeast Asia.

He said Yunnan is an important part of the BRI, standing at the core of several regional cooperation programs between China and neighboring countries in Southeast Asia and South Asia.

He said Yunnan has been actively engaged in the BRI by building close business links with the neighboring countries.

He noted the aim of the event is to improve the economies and people's lives in the regions through trade and investment, better connectivity and more frequent exchanges.

"We should make good use of the complementary advantages of all countries in hopes of contributing to sustainable growth in the region," Chen said.

Representatives from more than 3,300 enterprises in 74 countries and regions, China's 20 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, as well as deputies of international organizations have attended the expo.

Among those enterprises, nearly half are from overseas, including 20



The 2019 South and Southeast Asia Commodity Expo and Investment Fair launched in Kunming city, Yunnan province, on June 12, 2019

Photo by YDPG

companies on the Fortune Global 500 list.

Exhibitors from a variety of industries and regions are displaying their products, technologies, solutions and services in 17 exhibition halls with a total area of 170,000 square meters.

In addition to commodities from various countries and regions, the latest information and digital technologies development in Yunnan are also on display. The advancements have made the expo a "smart" event.

A 5G experience zone and a digital economy demonstration zone at the Kunming Dianchi International Convention and Exhibition Center, the main venue of the fair, are showing the latest achievements of the related industries in Yunnan.

The zone offers highly interactive experiences to visitors as they watch ultrahigh definition 5G displays for the live broadcast of the event's various activities, touch and operate all the cutting-edge

displays like robots, artificial intelligence and virtual reality equipment.

The Yunnan digital economy demonstration zone shows how people can access government services, tourism information and e-commerce on a smartphone.

The zone also features a smart home area, where visitors can feel the convenience brought by 5G and other cutting-edge technologies like TVs, door locks, heaters and refrigerators that can be operated through their smartphones.

In addition to the latest information and communication technologies, environmental friendly industries are also being highlighted at the expo.

There is a green energy exhibition hall showcasing the latest developments in the industry, new products and technologies. The digital and smart technologies that can contribute to improving the industry's operating efficiency are another

highlight.

A forest ecology exhibition hall forms part of the green concept of the expo. It shows how forests can be explored and effectively protected with the development of industries such as tourism, edible fungi and herb cultivation, as well as the domestication of wild animals to reduce poaching.

Another exhibition centering on the green concept is the display of organic farming produce, to meet people's demand for healthy food.

With the theme of "A better gateway and powerhouse for shared development and prosperity", the expo is composed of 14 events. Events include the 2019 China-South Asia and Southeast Asia Arts Week; the second China-South Asia Cooperation Forum; the third China-Southeast Asia Business Forum and a signing ceremony for trade and investment projects.

The expo's organizing committee predicts 600 billion yuan (\$86.76 billion)

worth of projects will be signed at the event.

Organizers said the South and Southeast Asia Commodity Expo and Investment Fair will not be limited to a week's time. There will be permanent shows in Kunming for companies and commodities from China, Southeast Asia and South Asia.

In addition, there will be online exhibitions for specialty commodities from Yunnan's neighboring regions.

Yunnan is a hub of the ancient southern Silk Road because of its easy access to the rest of China and the South and Southeast Asia regions. The province is now playing an important role in the BRI with improved connectivity and strengthened economic and cultural cooperation with neighboring regions. It has developed a comprehensive transport network consisting of highways, railways, air routes and waterways to neighboring countries.

Abridged by YDPG

Asian pavilions packed with business deals

At the 2019 South and Southeast Asia Commodity Expo and Investment Fair in Kunming, Yunnan province, South Asia Pavilion was set up and packed with business deals.

"My business revenue during the 7-day investment fair in Kunming is equal to that in a month in Nepal," said Pema Dhoj, a Nepalese exhibitor in the South Asian Pavilion.

Actually, Pema is just one of the hundreds of South Asian exhibitors who have joined the annual Yunnan fairs these years for the sound business environment and huge market potential in the province.

Pema has been to China for 26 times, and now his products have presence at the Chinese online mar-

ket of Alibaba. "In Nepal, I own a factory and run a web porter. And I have confidence in the Chinese market," he said.

At the Indian exhibition area, staff members with Federation of India Export Organizations were busy with greeting and talking with buyers. This year, 125 SMEs from New Delhi, Kolkata and Dehradun joined the fair. "This trade fair is a good opportunity for Indian companies and business associations. At the trade fair, our products are exposed to Chinese consumers and exhibitors from other countries."

Indian businessman Subhash has been engaged in international exhibitions for ten years, and he said the trade fair is a good place to meet business partners in the region.

By Liu Yanqin



Taiji, Yoga deepen China-India friendship

Before Yu Songsong started to learn yoga, he knew little about India, where the practice originated.

Having spent the last six years learning yoga disciplines, he is enamored by the yoga culture and eager to travel to India.

In 2013, Yu from a rural area in Guizhou fell ill ahead of an examination to enter university. He ended up studying marketing at a local college of finance not far from his home.

"I don't like marketing at all, and I was suffering from an emotional disorder, almost depression. I received medical treatment but did not get my mind and body right," said the 25-year-old who is pursuing a master's degree in the China-India yoga college in Yunnan Minzu University

in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province.

"It was yoga that turned me around. I was no longer lost. I've found a direction for my life," Yu said.

He started to practice yoga when he was a freshman and became a vegetarian. "The physical and mental practices relieved me of psychological distress," he said.

Yu participated in a national fitness yoga competition and studied hard for an admission test to enter the master's program in the yoga college.

Through yoga, Yu is deepening a comparative study in the philosophies of China and India, two great civilizations in Asia.

"In the class, we discuss and compare the traditional

Chinese theory that 'man is an integral part of nature' and the Indian idea that 'the Buddhist and I are one.' Through this, we explore the similarities that underlie the culture and civilizations of the two countries," he said.

Yu is learning from his Indian teacher Yatendra Dutt Amoli, and his teacher is studying Taiji from Chinese masters and students after class.

"I'm trying to teach them Indian culture from the Chinese way of looking at nature and values," Amoli said.

"Both Chinese and Indian civilizations were born by nature, and we always try to find ways to connect human beings with mountains, rivers, forests and lakes in the class," Amoli said.

For example, Taiji and yoga stress the elemental nature of the being and their performances reflect the balance between the elements of human being with nature, he said.

In Amoli's opinion, though the ways to practice Taiji and yoga may differ, the fundamentals are similar.

"In this sense, the two practices from the world's ancient civilizations value human life in the same way. This is the best medium for us to communicate with each other as we share the same levels of understanding," he said.

As an ancient Chinese martial art, Taiji can establish a good base for yoga meditation and enhance one's awareness level, which will be helpful

for yoga, Amoli said.

At the beginning of 2018, two sub-centers of the China-India Taiji college of Yunnan Minzu University were established in India and have trained about 1,000 Indians.

"Taiji and yoga provide two different platforms to pursue spiritual sublimation and a sound body and mind," said Yu Xinli, director of the international cooperation and exchange office of Yunnan Minzu University.

"But many Chinese and Indian youths still know little about each other," he said.

"They consider yoga and Taiji merely as two physical exercises rather than two cultures, so we need to do more to deepen mutual learning and friendship," he said.

By Xinhua

EXCHANGES

The 3rd Lancang-Mekong College Students Goodwill Games deepen friendship



The 3rd Lancang-Mekong River Goodwill Games and the 5th South and Southeast Asian University Students Cultural and Sports Exchange Week was successfully held at the Kunming University of Science and Technology.

The event lasted for 10 days and included men's soccer, men's volleyball and women's volleyball sports competitions, as well as cultural exchanges. More than 400 teachers and students from 20 universities coming from China, India, Laos, Bangladesh, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, Myanmar and Pakistan participated.

After 10 days of competition, the Vietnam Taiyuan Communication and Information Technology University team took first place in the men's soccer, with Kunming University of Science and Technology International College in second place; In the men's volleyball, Kunming University of Science and Technology won first place while the Royal Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand took second; In the women's volleyball, Yunnan Normal University won first place and Kunming University of Science and Technology took second.

According to reports, the Lancang-Mekong River University Goodwill Games and the South and Southeast Asian University Students Cultural Sports Kunming Exchange Week aimed to take college sports competitions as a link to build a platform for exchanges and friendship between young students from all over the world.

The event also helps to promote universities in Yunnan to the South and Southeast Asian countries, as well as enhance friendship and strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation.

(Comprehensive report)

CULTURE

South and Southeast Asian Film Festival Screening in Kunming

The 2019 China-South and Southeast Asian Art Week (Art week) was held in Kunming last week.

The Art Week highlights the achievements of literature and art in Yunnan and participating countries, and builds a platform for the exchange of literature and art between Yunnan and South and Southeast Asian countries.

The Art Week actively spreading the outstanding traditional culture of Yunnan,

and making China and South and Southeast Asian countries more intimate and friendly, so as to help promote comprehensive cooperation and development between China and South and Southeast Asia.

The 2019 South and Southeast Asian Film Festival is an important part of the Art Week. It invites about 100 guests relating to film management, production and distribution organizations, as well as industry experts,

scholars and entertainers to attend the event.

The South and Southeast Asian Film Exchange and Cooperation Forum, film project promotion and copyright cooperation activities were held successively. And, simultaneously, the Chinese and foreign guests took part in the opening film of the Indian film "Kaabil" and have a in depth communications after watching the movie.

By Hou Tingting

YUNNAN TODAY

Yunnan digital museum platform set online

The Yunnan digital museum platform was officially launched on May 18, the same day with the international museum day.

In the future, the public can experience the platform through the "Travel in Yunnan" App and "Travel in Yunnan" official WeChat account.

The digital museum platform combines Tencent's artificial intelligence, big data,

cloud computing, and Internet of Things to provide visitors with a new and intelligent experience.

Visitors can purchase tickets online before reaching to the museum and know the highlights and exhibitions of the museum in advance. During the transportation time, visitors can experience map navigation, voice explanations, and live broadcasts online. In the

pavilion area, visitors can get relevant introductions by scanning the exhibits with mobile phones. After the whole tour, visitors can participate in interactive reviews.

It is said that the digital museum platform currently integrates information from 110 museums and will integrate more resources in the future.

By Li Hengqiang

COOPERATION

Indian masters encourage Yunnan yoga lovers



At the "2019 China Yunnan-India Cultural Week and 2019 Kunming China-India Yoga Conference", two yoga masters from India caught the attention of the people. One is S Sridaharan, a principal of the KYM Yoga Academy in India and a member of the Management Committee of the National Yoga Institute of Morayjid, New Delhi. Another is V Srinivasan, executive director of the KYM Yoga Academy in India, an expert in yoga therapy

and yoga philosophy, and now travel to all over the world to teach yoga.

S Sridaharan said that this is his second visit to Kunming. The environment and air in Kunming are very good. The altitude and climate of Kunming are very helpful for practicing yoga. The convening of the yoga conference brought many opportunities to Kunming and expanded the influence and vitality of the city. For teachers, the most eager thing is to spread

the knowledge of yoga, so they are ready to come to Kunming to teach.

V Srinivasan said that India and China are both countries with a long history and tradition. There are Tai Chi in China and Yoga in India. They can communicate and integrate with each other. In India, there is a city of yoga called Rishikesh. With the development of the yoga in Kunming, Kunming can also become a yoga city like Rishikesh.

By Li Yuechun