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RAIPUR, THURSDAY JUNE 20, 2019; PAGES 12 ₹3



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Published From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR  
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA  
City Vol. 8 Issue 167  
\* Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

## Panel soon for '1 nation, 1 poll' PM lauds parties' views, committee to give feasibility suggestions

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Claiming that "most political parties supported" the "One Nation, One Election" proposal, the Government on Wednesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will constitute a committee to give "time-bound" suggestions on the issue.

"We had invited 40 political parties, out of which presidents of 21 parties participated and 3 other parties sent their opinion on the subjects in writing. Most parties gave their support to One Nation, One Election," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told mediapersons after the meeting.

Interestingly, Rajnath said, "The CPI(M) and the CPI had a difference of opinion but they didn't oppose the idea, just the implementation of it."

However, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury reiterated his party's categorical opposition to the move terming it fundamentally anti-federal and anti-democratic and thus against the Constitution. He dubbed the Government's move as "not practical" and an "artificial move" that would tamper with the constitutional scheme of accountability of the Government to the legislature. Yechury and CPI's D Raja, however, attended the meeting convened to push for Modi's pet proposal.

The Congress, the TMC, the BSP, the SP, the DMK and the TDP were among the par-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs a meeting of the heads of political parties in New Delhi on Wednesday

ties from the Opposition camp who gave the meeting a miss, but National Conference's Farooq Abdullah, PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti and NCP chief Sharad Pawar attended it. The AAP deputed Raghav Chadha for the meeting even as it demanded a vision document on the matter.

The Shiv Sena skipped the meeting owing to its foundation day celebrations but BJP's other allies JD(U) and the SAD were represented by Nitish Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Badal respectively. Odisha Chief Minister and

BJD leader Naveen Patnaik and NPP leader Conrad Sangma too attended the meeting. The TRS was represented by its working president KT Rama Rao. BJP's new working president JP Nadda represented the party in the meeting.

BSP chief Mayawati tweeted saying she would have attended the meeting if it was on electronic voting machines (EVMs). "One Nation, One Election" is not an issue before the country, she said, adding "elections through ballot papers are actually the national issue and our party will continue its

struggle for it."

SP leader Akhilesh Yadav said several parties would not agree to the PM's proposal. "They should focus on the promises they have made to people, we hope they will work more on fulfilling those promises," Akhilesh tweeted. The SP is not opposed to the idea though.

The TMC has demanded a white paper on the issue and cautioned against rushing to the subject without giving adequate thought to it.

The PM later tweeted, "Had a great meeting with

presidents of various political parties. Multiple issues of national importance were discussed. I thank the various leaders for their informed suggestions."

Modi had invited the heads of all political parties which have at least one member either in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha for the meeting to discuss several issues, including the "One Nation, One Election" idea, celebration of 75 years of Independence in 2022 and the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi this year.

## Ex-CEA's GDP claims ignored data: EAC-PM

'Subramanian's miscalculation due to blind trust on pvt monitor, exclusion of agri, services growth'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) on Wednesday rejected the claims of former Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian regarding over-estimation of GDP growth after 2011, saying his analysis ignores data on services and agriculture and shows blind trust in private firm Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

In a paper released by EAC-PM, India's GDP estimation methodology stands at par with its global standing as a major and responsible economy. Primary contributors of the paper are economists Bibek Debroy, Rathin Roy, Surjit Bhalla, Charan Singh, Arvind Virmani.

Last week, the advisory body had said it would issue a point-to-point rebuttal of the Subramanian's research paper.

In a research paper, Subramanian, who stepped down last year, said India's



Ex-CEA Arvind Subramanian

economic growth rate has been overestimated by around 2.5 percentage points between 2011-12 and 2016-17 due to a change in methodology for calculating GDP.

Subramanian's paper titled "India's GDP Mis-estimation: Likelihood, Magnitudes, Mechanisms, and Implications", published at Harvard University, also comes at a time when concerns have been raised in various quarters about the official economic growth numbers.

Subramanian was the CEA in the Finance Ministry for nearly four years from October 2014.

Observing that Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Subramanian seems to have made a "hurried attempt to draw conclusions" about India's

complex economy and its evolution, the paper said he has used 17 high frequency indicators, but ignores the representation of "services sector (60 per cent in GDP) and agriculture sector" (18 per cent of GDP) in the analysis.

The paper notes that Subramanian used 17 indicators to express his skepticism about the growth rates after 2011-12. Majority of the 17 indicators have been taken directly from the CMIE, a private agency that is not a primary source of information but collects it from different sources, it said.

"For anyone who reads Dr Subramanian's paper, it is evident that he trusts CMIE but distrusts CSO (Central Statistics Office)... This blind trust in a private agency (CMIE) and blind distrust in a Government institution that has served India (CSO) appears unwarranted for a neutral academic," it said.

The paper further said the former CEA has overlooked the tax data.

The EAC-PM paper said Subramanian chooses to overlook tax data arguing that "we do not use tax indicators because of the major changes in direct and indirect taxes in the post-2011 period which render the tax-to-GDP relationship different and unstable, and hence make the indicators unreliable proxies for GDP growth".

### CAPSULE

**EVIDENCE LINKS MBS TO KHASHOGGI KILLING: UN**  
Geneva: There is "credible evidence" linking Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a UN expert said on Wednesday, calling for sanctions on the Crown Prince's personal foreign assets. P12

**DEOL GETS EC NOTICE OVER POLL EXPENSES**  
Chandigarh: Film actor and Gurdaspur MP Sunny Deol has been asked by EC to explain his poll expenditure during the recent Lok Sabha elections after it was found to have crossed the statutory limit of ₹70 lakh.

**NO RAIN IN DELHI TO PUSH MERCURY UP FOR 4 DAYS**  
New Delhi: Temperatures are likely to increase in the national Capital and adjoining areas over the next three-four days as chances of rain are slim at present. However, downpour is likely next week.

**ATHAWALE USES HUMOUR TO TAKE DIG AT RAHUL**  
New Delhi: Union Minister and Republican Party of India leader Ramdas Athawale on Wednesday left Prime Minister Narendra Modi, UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi along with other Lok Sabha members in peals of laughter by his witty remarks, some aimed at Rahul.

## Vehicular pollution shoots up ozone levels in Delhi-NCR

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Ozone pollution has escalated in Delhi's air as per the findings of Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

Ozone, the deadly gas, has emerged as a dominant pollutant along with the Particulate Matter (PM) on at least 28 days during the summer this year as compared to only 17 days in 2018 summer, which is much higher than the standards.

Significantly, levels of ozone gas have been measured on a higher side in National Capital Region (NCR).

The analysis has found that among all NCR towns, Faridabad is on top with 80 per cent of days when ozone was exceeding the standards, followed by Ghaziabad with 67 per cent and Gurugram with 21 per cent days.

Interestingly, Noida shows much less impact with only 1 per cent of the days exceeding the standards.

Revealing the research findings, CSE in its report highlighted the places where ozone was measured high.



Marking areas like Siri Fort, Najafgarh, and some areas of NCR — Faridabad, Ghaziabad, CSE mentioned that levels of ozone in these areas have crossed the permissible limit to very high. "The NCR region experienced the biggest spikes," said CSE.

Ozone is not directly emitted from any source, but is formed from reaction between gases in the air under the influence of sunlight and high temperature. "Controlling emissions from vehicles and industry is the solution," said

CSE. The analysis concluded this summer, when the Capital witnessed searing temperatures; average ozone levels exceeded the prescribed standard on 16 per cent of the days overall.

CSE Executive director (research and advocacy) Anumita Roychowdhury said this is a matter of serious concern as ozone is a highly reactive gas and can have immediate adverse effect on those suffering from asthma and respiratory conditions.

## Trump kicks off 2020 re-election bid rally to 'Keep America Great'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump formally launched his 2020 re-election campaign with a jam-packed rally in Florida on Tuesday, urging his supporters to "keep this team in place" for four more years as he vowed to "Keep America Great".

The 73-year-old real estate investor-turned-politician, who became the 45th President of the United States of America in 2017, told a crowd of 20,000 people in Orlando that the economy of the US under him has become "the envy of the world".

Trump said his victory three years ago was a "defining moment in American history" and vowed to maintain his "America First" policy as he touched the hallmarks of his 2016 campaign, hard-line immigration policies and defence spending.

He said that the country has made significant progress during his presidency and all that is at risk if he were to be



defeated in the presidential elections next year.

Unveiling a theme of "Keep America Great", Trump in a speech that lasted 79 minutes exuded confidence of winning the general elections. In his 2016 election campaign, he had popularised the slogan "make america great again".

Addressing his supporters who filled the Orlando's Amway Center, brimming with enthusiasm for the President, Trump said, "We're going to keep on going. We're going to keep on fighting and we're going to keep on winning, winning, winning".

## Dhawan ruled out of WC, Rishabh Pant to replace him

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Indian batsman Shikhar Dhawan was on Wednesday ruled out of the ongoing World Cup matches and was replaced by young wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant, after failing to make enough recovery in a fresh assessment of his thumb fracture.

Dhawan, 33, picked up the injury on his left thumb during the June 9 clash against Australia and was initially ruled out of three games — against Pakistan (June 16), Afghanistan (June 22) and the West Indies (June 27).

"Shikhar Dhawan has fractured the base of his left hand. His hand will remain in cast till mid July which rules him out of the ICC 2019 World Cup," team's administrative manager Sunil Subramaniam told mediapersons.

Rishabh Pant comes in with an accumulated ODI experience of five matches but is considered a trump card owing to his fearless cricketing approach.

## Om Birla picked as LS Speaker unanimously

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

NDA nominee Om Birla was on Wednesday elected Speaker of the Lok Sabha. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Opposition assured him of their wholehearted support in the smooth conduct of proceedings in the House and he himself resolved to be even-handed in his treatment to all the parties irrespective of their numerical strength.

Elected unanimously, Birla received fulsome praise from the Prime Minister who mentioned his social work in Kota, humanitarian initiatives in 2011 Gujarat earthquake and 2013 floods in Uttarakhand. Modi expressed confidence that the new Speaker with his gentle smile would conduct the House in a just manner and be tough even with the Treasury Benches.

Birla was declared elected by pro-tem Speaker Virendra Kumar.

The two-time MP from Rajasthan's Kota-Bundi Lok Sabha constituency, Birla, a surprise pick by the PM, was led to the presiding officer's chair by Modi.

## Streetwise urban lizards outperform rural ones

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shoo them or scare them but there's no escaping from the creepy crawlly lizards. If at times you wonder how despite your best efforts lizards manage to enter into your well-fortified house then you must know that these reptiles are smart enough to adapt to new and ever-changing urban surroundings by learning the tricks necessary to survive.

This is what has been discovered by the researchers after they studied the "survival of the fittest" motto mechanism adopted by lizards, which are closely related to snakes. They found that lizards in the city's suburbs were street-smart, and



learn faster than their rural brethren, to stay safe.

The study has been published in the recent edition of international journal Biology Letters.

The study demonstrates for the first time that suburban lizards have faster learning and reversal learning skills for a key survival-related behaviour, finding safety in unpredictable

environments.

Anuradha Batabyal and Maria Thaker, both from Indian Institute of Science, probed the learning abilities of the Indian rock agama after capturing a few male species from rural and suburban parts of Bengaluru and placed them in an enclosure with a perch in the middle and two identical refuge spots.

## Encephalitis costs litchi ₹100 cr trade

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

With experts holding litchi responsible for aggravating encephalitis deaths in Muzaffarpur, the summer fruit, mainly produced in this Bihar's district, is facing the heat as its industry is estimated to have suffered losses of around ₹80-100 crore.

Price of shahi litchi has gone down by 50 per cent, currently selling around ₹70 a kilogram in the retail market. Several consignments of litchi juice are lying at the ports of US, Australia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), New Zealand and United Kingdom. In fact, people are scared of consuming even packed litchi juice available in the market.

Industry experts believe that thankfully the epidemic has struck at the fag end of the litchi season leading to lesser losses for them.

And as death toll has



increased due to the Acute Encephalitis syndrome (AES) epidemic, the Bihar Government has advised parents against giving the fruit to their children on empty stomachs as Odisha has ordered litchi's lab tests. The Rajasthan Government on its part has

directed officials to remain alert in the State.

Experts believed that litchi contains a toxin which can cause a drop in blood sugar levels if consumed by a malnourished child, leading to death.

3,00,000 metric tonne of litchi were produced on 32,000 hectare in Bihar in 2018. The Ministry has projected 7,10,000 MT production of litchi in its first advance estimate, released last month.

India is the second largest producer of litchi in the world after China. Bacha Prasad

Singh, president of Litchi Growers Association of Bihar, told *The Pioneer* that litchi growers have witnessed nearly 50-60 per cent decline in sale of litchi in the past one week after it was reported that AES has some connection with this sweet and juicy summer fruit.

## SC to hear plea for Central team to treat kids in Bihar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to hear a plea seeking a direction to the Centre to urgently constitute a team of medical experts for the treatment of the children in Bihar's Muzaffarpur, who are suffering from suspected Acute Encephalitis

Syndrome (AES), which has killed 113 children so far on Wednesday.

The plea also sought a direction to the Union Government for providing all necessary medical equipment and other supports for the effective treatment of the children suffering from the epidemic disease.

# Integrated Battle Groups on border near Pak soon

After Pak, same Groups will be deployed along Sino-India borders

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Aiming to move swiftly and deliver the knockout punch, the Indian Army plans to set up Integrated Battle Groups by October this year on the border facing Pakistan. These groups would comprise the combined might of the long range guns, tanks and ground troops and would move in tandem to achieve the desired military objective in the shortest possible time.

Once these Integrated Battle Groups are functional, the Army would then move to have similar combined units in the areas facing China. The first four to five such groups will come up in the Western Command which guards the entire Punjab region and some adjoining parts of Jammu and Rajasthan where tanks can move at a fast pace

given the rather flat terrain.

These groups are part of the overall move to make the Army lean and mean. Army Chief General Bipin Rawat is keen to have these groups start functioning as soon as possible, sources said here on Wednesday. In fact, the top commanders met in New Delhi some days back to review the performance of the IBGs which have already conducted exercises to test their efficacy. The results were found to be satisfactory and easily implementable, they added.

The concept of such groups involve artillery, armour involving tanks and infantry or ground troops, moving together in a synchronised manner and bringing effective fire on the enemy to gain victory in the shortest possible time without giving time to the adversary to regroup. It will do away with the artillery, infantry and armour working in silos and make the Indian Army battle-ready to fight modern day warfare where speed is of the essence, they said.

After reviewing the performance of the proposed groups, the Army top brass gave its nod and the service will now seek final approval by the defence ministry before going ahead with the setting up of these highly mobile groups by October, sources said. The groups will also be aided by attack helicopters to deny the enemy tanks and artillery to time and space to react, they added.

These composite units are likely to be headed by a Major General rank officer and will be equipped to perform offensive and defensive roles. While the offensive action means making quick and effective thrust into the enemy territory stealthily, the defence role will see these units guarding its own territory in case of retaliatory action from across the border. Each unit, both in defensive and offensive formations will have six battalions (one battalion has 1,000 men) trained to fight in a synergised manner and the recent exercises proved them to be effective, they said.

# Whole Bihar in grip of AES: Experts

**ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Muzaffarpur in Bihar may have been hogging headlines for the death of the kids due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES), but experts point out that the disease has been endemic to the entire State with all the districts reporting the cases that are fatal to kids.

Following the analysis of total 4,400 cases of AES reported between 2009 and 2014, with an average of 733 cases per year, a team of researchers in their study also noted that the AES cases start appearing in April and reach a peak in June and then decline.

There is another peak of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) cases in October. The confirmed fatal rate (CFR) of AES and JE ranges from 5 per cent to 35 per cent in Bihar, said the researchers in their study 'Status and trend of acute encephalitis syndrome and Japanese encephalitis in Bihar, India' published in National Medical Journal of India in 2018. There were a total 1309 deaths during the period.

The disease peaks were during the start and end of the Indian summer and monsoon

months for AES and JE, respectively. Districts such as Patna, Jehanabad, Nawada, Gaya and East Champaran reported the maximum number of AES and JE cases with annual incidence rates of 4.7-25.0 and 0.546-1.78 per 100,000 population, respectively," said the study.

The experts have stressed on strengthening the reporting and surveillance mechanism in all the districts of the state. They also called for encouraging reluctant private practitioners in surveillance activities especially for cases of AES. Intense information, education and communication (IEC) activities must be started at the village level to increase participation from the community and to improve the long-term passive surveillance.

The team included Praveen Kumar and PP Sarthi from Centre for Environmental Sciences, Central University of South Bihar, Patna, PM Piusdude from ESIC Medical College, Sanat Nagar, Hyderabad, MP Sharma, State Programme Officer (Malaria), Chief Malaria Office, Patna and VR Keshri from Bihar Technical Support Programme, Care India, Patna. Acute encephalitis syn-

drome (AES) is a multifactorial clinical condition, the most common cause being Japanese encephalitis (JE). JE is a vector-borne viral disease caused by the JE virus of group B arbovirus (Flavivirus) and is transmitted to humans by the Culicine mosquito.

JE affects the central nervous system (CNS), and can

cause serious complications and death. The CFR is high and those who survive may suffer from neurological sequelae such as convulsions, episodic headache, autonomic disturbance, abnormal behaviour, mood disorder, intellectual deficit, paresis, incoordination of movements, jerky limb movements, speech disorder, cranial nerve palsy, gaze

palsy, Parkinsonian features, impaired hearing, etc.

An estimated 25 per cent of affected children die from the disease, and among those who survive, 30 per cent-40 per cent suffer from physical and mental impairment. Children suffer the highest attack rate due to lack of cumulative immunity from natural infections, said the study.

# SC to hear plea seeking formation of team for treatment of kids in Bihar

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to hear a plea seeking a direction to the Centre to urgently constitute a team of medical experts for the treatment of the children in Bihar's Muzaffarpur, who are suffering from suspected Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES), which has claimed more than 100 lives.

A vacation bench of justices Deepak Gupta and Surya Kant agreed to hear the plea next Monday after the petitioner's counsel sought an

urgent listing of the matter.

The plea also sought a direction to the Centre for providing all necessary medical equipment and other supports for the effective treatment of the children suffering from the epidemic disease.

The petition, filed by advocate Manohar Pratap, claimed that he was deeply pained and saddened by the deaths of more than 126 children, mostly in the age group of one to 10 years, in the past week and the figures were rising day by day.

"The deaths of children are a direct result of negligence and inaction on the part of the respective state governments of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Union of India in handling the epidemic situation which arises every year due to outbreak of AES also called Japanese encephalitis," the plea said.

It claimed that thousands of young children were losing their lives yearly from the disease but the governments (state and Centre) had done nothing to prevent its spread. **PTI**

# Simultaneous polls anti-federal, anti-democratic, says CPM

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The CPI(M) on Wednesday told the Prime Minister-chaired all party meet that the idea of 'one nation, one poll' is fundamentally anti-federal and anti-democratic and thus, against the Constitution. Terming the Government's move as "not practical" and "artificial move" CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said in his note distributed in the meeting that holding simultaneous polls would tamper the constitutional scheme of accountability of the Government to the legislature.

"Apart from the technical issues involved in holding simultaneous elections to Parliament and State Assemblies, our Opposition to this is based on the fact that it is fundamentally anti-federal, anti-democratic and strikes at the roots of the parliamentary democratic system, as ordained in the Constitution.

"Article 75(3) states that the collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers is to the House of the People. Similarly, Article 164(1) concerning the Council of Ministers states that it is collectively responsible to the

legislative Assembly of a state," said Yechury.

He said under the Constitution, if a government loses the confidence of the legislature either by being voted out on a no-confidence motion or by losing a vote on a Money Bill, it is bound to resign and if no alternative government can be formed, the House is dissolved and a mid-term election held.

There is no fixity of tenure enshrined in the Constitution either for the Lok Sabha or the state legislatures, the Left leader said, adding that both Article 83(2) and Article 172(1) specify that the term of the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assembly will be for five years, "unless sooner dissolved".

"Any attempt to prolong the life of the Lok Sabha or legislature will not only be unconstitutional, but also, anti-democratic. It is the will of the people through their elected representatives that must prevail," he said.

"We are, therefore, totally opposed to any artificial attempt to bring about simultaneous elections, which can only be done by trampling upon the existing constitutional scheme of parliamentary democracy,".

# SC seeks EC's response on Guj Cong plea against its decision to hold separate bypolls for 2 RS seats

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought a response from the Election Commission by June 24 on a plea of the Gujarat Congress, challenging the poll panel's decision to hold separate bypolls to two Rajya Sabha seats in the State.

A vacation bench of justices Deepak Gupta and Surya Kant listed the matter for hearing on June 25, saying the issue required to be heard.

The bench said, "It is not an issue which can be taken up through an election petition and therefore, requires to be heard."

Senior advocate Vivek Tankha, appearing for the Gujarat Congress, said there were judgments of the Delhi High court which were in their favour.

To this, the bench said, "We are not saying anything for now. We need to decide whether it is a casual vacancy or a statutory vacancy. This matter requires hearing."

The petition was filed by Congress MLA from Amreli and Leader of Opposition in the Gujarat Assembly, Pareshbhai Dhanani.

The Rajya Sabha seats fell vacant following the election of BJP chief Amit Shah and Union

minister Smriti Irani to the Lok Sabha from Gandhinagar and Amethi, respectively.

The Election Commission clarified that the 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 has sought a direction to quash and declare the poll panel's order as "unconstitutional, arbitrary, illegal, void ab initio" and said it violated Article 14 of the Constitution.

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

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

In the petition, it is stated that the basic principle, both under the Constitution and Representation of People Act 1951, is that if regular vacancies are existing at the time when

the election is held, it should be held together so that the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote can be applied to those elections.

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

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

The Congress MLA also alleged that the poll panel has "arbitrarily, mala fide, maliciously and under the dictates of the incumbent government" invoked its residuary powers under Article 324 of the Constitution and arbitrarily issued the June 15 press note declaring separate elections for the Council of States, where it stated that the vacancies for by-elections to all Houses, including the Rajya Sabha, are con-

sidered as separate vacancies and separate notifications are issued and separate poll is taken for each of the vacancies although the programme schedule for the by-elections may be common.

The Congress alleged that the action of the Election Commission was completely tainted with arbitrariness, mala fide, partisanship and has 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 also alleged that the BJP, running the government at the Centre, has used the Election Commission's Office for its political propaganda.

The EC on June 15 also cited two Delhi High Court rulings of 1994 and 2009 which had supported the system of holding separate by-polls in the same state under provisions of the Representation of the People Act.

The Congress had demanded that the by-polls 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. **PTI**

# Maratha quota in admission to PG medical courses: SC seeks Maha Govt's reply

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought response from the Maharashtra Government on a plea challenging an order of the Bombay High Court dismissing a petition against 16 per cent quota for Marathas in admission to PG medical and dental courses.

The top court said it will hear on June 24 the plea challenging Maharashtra government's decision to grant Maratha reservation for admissions in PG medical courses.

A bench of justices Deepak Gupta and Surya Kant said it cannot leave the petitioners remedy less as either the high court or the Supreme Court has to adjudicate the issue.

The bench said the petitioners had earlier approached the apex court and were asked to move the high court for the relief.

It noted that in another similar matter related to quota in admissions for economically weaker section, the apex

court said that no other court should entertain this petition.

"Either the high court or the Supreme Court should decide the issue at hand as the petitioners cannot be left remedy less," the bench said.

Senior advocate Shekhar Naphade, appearing for the petitioners, contended that the high court did not consider the matter in view of an apex court's order of June 4, wherein it had restrained any other courts from entertaining any plea related to admission to PG medical courses.

He said that Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) Act which came into force on November 30, 2018, is itself under challenge.

Petitioner Sameer challenged the Bombay High Court order of June 13 by which it had refused to entertain the petition against the Maharashtra government ordinance granting 16 per cent quota to Marathas in admission to PG medical and dental courses. **PTI**

# Would've attended if it was about EVMs: Maya on simultaneous polls

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW**

BSP supremo Mayawati skipped the Prime Minister-convened meeting on 'one nation, one poll' saying that conducting simultaneous national and State elections is an "undemocratic and unconstitutional" idea for a vast country like India and that she would have attended meeting had it been called to address the "national concern" over EVMs.

"One nation, one election" is not an issue before the country. Elections through ballot papers are actually the national issue and our party will continue its struggle for it," she said adding elections in any democ-

cracy can never be a problem nor they should be weighed from the point of view of expenditure and extravagance.

She said the 'one nation, one election' is in fact an attempt and a new drama to divert the attention from burning national issues such as poverty, inflation, unemployment and increase in violence, and is simply an illusion.

The BSP chief alleged that the people's faith in the EVMs had dwindled to a worrisome level. "The stubbornness of conducting elections through electronic voting machines instead of ballot paper is the real threat to the democracy and Constitution of the country," she said.

# Bihar children deaths a nat'l horror story; Centre, State Govts responsible: Congress

**New Delhi:** The Congress on Wednesday described the deaths of children in Bihar due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome as a "national horror story" and demanded accountability from the Centre and the state government.

Addressing a press conference here, party spokesperson Gaurav Gogoi accused the two governments of being "insensitive" and unprepared for tackling such an outbreak.

"It is a national tragedy, it is a national horror story and the perpetrators of this horror story are the Centre and the state government," he said.

"We demand accountability from both the State and the Centre," he said, while attack-

ing Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and his predecessor J P Nadda.

Gogoi said Nadda should concede that promises made by him as health minister have not been fulfilled.

The Congress leader also demanded coordination between the Centre and the state governments to deal with the situation. "What is happening today in Muzaffarpur is a national horror, the national tragedy. The Congress Party prays for the families of 146 children and we cannot either express in words or feel the emotions of those parents who have lost their children," he said.

He said it is a sorry state of affairs and the state govern-

ment in Bihar has been both unprepared and insensitive.

"We can see the insensitivity in the remarks of the State Health Minister, when he is asking for cricket score in the middle of important meeting; we can see the insensitivity in the Chief Minister's (Nitish Kumar) delayed visit to the Hospital and unfortunately this attitude has been replicated by the Central government because we have seen that over the past so many years when either Harsh Vardhan Ji was the Health Minister or J.P. Nadda Ji was the Health Minister, they merely announced on paper, but, there was no action on the ground," he said. **PTI**

# Cong out of power as Nehru, Indira's heirs did not honour yoga: Ramdev

**Mumbai:** Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi performed yoga in private and their heirs did not honour it which is why power has eluded them as those who do yoga are "directly blessed by god", Ramdev Wednesday said.

He also expressed confidence that "big work" will be done on issues such as Article 370 and triple talaq under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Ramdev, who will be attending an International Yoga Day event in Maharashtra's Nanded on June 21, which will be attended by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, was talking to reporters.

Modi is the first prime minister who performs yoga

among people, he said, adding that all central ministers, chief ministers, MPs and MLAs of the BJP perform yoga.

"This has given 'gaurav' (prestige) to it. Isse pehle luke chhupe yog karte the Indira Gandhi ji aur Nehru ji (earlier, prime ministers Indira Gandhi and Nehru performed yoga secretly)," Ramdev said.

"But their (Nehru-Gandhi family's) subsequent generations perhaps did not honour yoga. Is liye unke raj-yog mein bhi thoda sa gaddab ho gaya (chhude political power eluded them)," the yoga guru added.

Those who perform yoga are "directly blessed by god", he said. "I have confidence that under the leadership of Modi

and Amit Shah, big work will be done on Article 370, 35A (which give special status of Jammu and Kashmir), one nation-one-law, one-nation-one-election and triple talaq. Because those who are yogi think well of all," Ramdev added.

Yoga is our "big legacy" and "beyond politics, caste, faith and religions", he said, adding that everybody accepts that yoga is "rashtira dharma (national religion)".

To a question on food adulteration, Ramdev, whose Patanjali group has a big presence in packaged food segment, said regulatory bodies should be more alert and transparent. **PTI**

# DD India to be available in B'desh, South Korea

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

In a boost to India-Bangladesh and India-South Korea cooperation, the Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar on Wednesday announced that Doordarshan (DD) India will now be telecast in Bangladesh and South Korea.

The development came after a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Prasar Bharati and Bangladesh TV (BTV). In return, BTV World, a channel owned by Bangladesh TV, would now be available on DD Free Dish, the state-owned direct-to-home (DTH) free-to-air platform.

The Minister said India had signed an agreement with Bangladesh to telecast state-run DD India in the neighbouring country. A ministry statement

said BTV World would be of special interest to viewers in eastern India.

"We have decided to show BTV World, a channel owned by Bangladesh TV, on the DD Free Dish which will be available for the viewers of Doordarshan in our country. At the same time, DD India would be made available in Bangladesh," Javadekar said.

The Union Minister further said that KBS World, a 24x7 English channel of the South Korean government, would also be available on DD Free Dish.

"We have entered into an agreement with South Korea also, where South Korea will show DD India and we will also allow South Korean KBS channel, it will be available in India. This mutual cooperation with neighbouring countries is very important," he said.

# Army reviews security situation in run-up to Amarnath Yatra

**Jammu:** Days before the start of Amarnath Yatra, the Army's Northern Command's top brass on Wednesday reviewed security arrangements to ensure a safe and secure annual pilgrimage.

General Officer-Commanding-in-Chief, Lt Gen Ranbir Singh also reviewed the Army's operational readiness at various forward posts in Akhnoor and Kashi sectors of Jammu and Kashmir, said a Defence spokesperson.

He visited the forward posts and hinterlands bases in the two sectors along with White Knight Corps Commander, Lt Gen Paramjit Singh, the spokesperson added.

During his visit to forward posts, Lt Gen Ranbir Singh was also briefed about various measures initiated to monitor the intrusion and infiltration bids from across the Line of Control, he said.

The Army commanders also visited the hinterland bases, during which they were apprised of the formation's preparation for the upcoming pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre high holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas, he added.

They were briefed about the measures being taken to ensure safety and security of pilgrims through "superior and aggressive domination of the area" by the troops, he said. **PTI**

The officers appreciated the measures put in place to thwart all possible nefarious designs of anti-national elements, he added.

The 46-day annual Amarnath Yatra is to begin from July 1 on two routes — the traditional Pahalgam track in Anantnag district and shortest Baltal track in Ganderbal district. The pilgrimage will conclude on August 15 coinciding with Raksha Bandhan festival.

"The Army commanders interacted with soldiers and complimented them for their unwavering dedication to duty, selfless devotion and high standard of professionalism," the spokesman said. **PTI**

# TN Minister withdraws defamation case against Stalin, HC dismisses plea

**Chennai:** The Madras High Court on Wednesday dismissed a suit moved by Tamil Nadu Local Administration Minister S P Velumani, seeking to restrain DMK president M K Stalin from levelling allegations of corruption in corporation tenders against him.

When the plea came up for hearing, Velumani's counsel sought permission to withdraw the case.

Allowing the request, Justice R Subramanian dismissed the plea as withdrawn.

In earlier hearings, the court had refused to pass any gag order against Stalin.

Velumani's main charge was that Stalin had made several speeches during his election cam-

paign in Coimbatore Lok Sabha constituency from April 4, alleging that the minister was involved in corruption relating to local body tenders and that an accused in the Pollachi sexual abuse case was closely associated with him.

In his suit, Velumani wanted the court to direct Stalin to pay Rs 1 crore as damages for defaming him and the state's ruling AIADMK through his speeches.

Velumani had submitted that the DMK president was levelling unsubstantiated and false charges against him.

Besides, Stalin had also claimed during the election campaign that an accused in the Pollachi sexual abuse case, 'Bar' Nagaraj, was a close associate of the minister, which was totally false, the suit had said. **PTI**

# Universal PDS system to be implemented from Oct 2

The ruling Congress in its poll manifesto had promised 'food for all'



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress government is going to launch a Universal Public Distribution System in the state from October 2 to fulfill the party's election promise of 'food for all'.

Under the scheme ration card will be issued to each and every family including those Above Poverty Line (APL).

A decision in this regard was taken at a review meeting of the food and civil supplies department held here at Mahanadi Bhawan on Wednesday.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel chaired the meeting presided over by the minister of the department, Mohammad Akbar.

The meeting also contemplated distributing jagery through the PDS so that the cooperative sugar mills running in the state are strengthened. Regarding distribution of

rice it was decided that for a family of one member, 10 kgs of rice will be provided while for two members, 20 kgs and for three to five members 35 kgs of rice will be distributed. In case the members exceed five then 7 kgs per unit will be distributed to them.

In another important decision taken in the meeting, it was decided to renew all the old ration cards. A time bound work plan has been charted out for the preparation of new ration cards and concerned officials are instructed to complete the process till September 30.

It was also contemplated that as the rice production is surplus in the state the excess paddy can be used for production of ethanol which could be used as a fuel.

# Tribals weekly markets get medical unit first time ever, courtesy Baghel

STAFF REPORTER ■ DANTEWADA

A medical team comprising doctors and paramedics organised a health check-up camp at a rural weekly market (Budhwar Bazar) at Dantewada on Wednesday, a day after Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced the scheme to take the health services closer to people.

Ball also started rolling for the immediate implementation of another scheme announced by the CM on Tuesday to provide nutritious food to people living in forest areas.

For implementation of the nutrition scheme, a meeting of sarpanchs, secretaries of the gram panchayats and department officials concerned was held, where necessary guidelines in the context were issued.

It is noteworthy that Chhattisgarh government



has launched pilot projects in Bastar under two new schemes- distribution of nutritious meal and mobile medical facilities in haat-bazaars.

Chief Minister said that malnutrition-level in Bastar Division is the highest in the state. "We are committed to solve this problem. Under the new scheme of

Chhattisgarh government, people will be provided nutritious meals everyday through gram panchayats and women self-help groups," Baghel said.

Initially this project will be started in a selected panchayats and later within a month, implementation of this scheme will be started in other districts of the state.



# 10 booked for illegal plotting in village Temri

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Raipur district revenue department registered a case against 10 people for indulging in illegal plotting in over four acres of land in village Temri on VIP road in capital city, Raipur on Wednesday.

Raipur Sub Divisional Officer Revenue Sandeep Agrawal intimated that complaints were received that under Dharsiwa block, in village Temri illegal plotting was being done. Based on the complaint, notice was issued to all the accused involved in the plotting.

The plotters did not give satisfactory reply within the specified period.

On Wednesday, the revenue team removed the illegal plot



marking and removed the road construction. Agrawal further said a case has been registered against 10 under different provisions of Coloniser Act.

# BJP to stage protest at district headquarters on June 22

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will hold a one-day protest in all the district headquarters on June 22 to highlight the alleged failure of the Congress government in the state.

An announcement in this regard was made by Chhattisgarh BJP state president Vikram Usendi and Leader of Opposition Dharamlal Kaushik while interacting with party's district presidents on Wednesday.

After staging the sit-in-demonstration, a representation addressed to Governor will be



handed over to respective district collector.

The district presidents were also directed to participate in the International Yoga Day scheduled on June 21.

Similarly, the martyrdom of Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee will be observed on June 23. On the day, booth level events will be organised. On the day, district membership in-charge and co-in-charge meeting will be held.

Earlier, BJP working president J. P. Nadda along with national organisation general secretary Ramlal, BJP national membership in-charge Shivraj Singh Chouhan held interaction with all state level leaders through video-conferencing from New Delhi.

The discussion revolved around the membership drive in all the states and the future programmes.

# Naxals kill SP leader in Bijapur

STAFF REPORTER ■ BIJAPUR

A senior Samajwadi Party (SP) leader was abducted and murdered by Naxals in violence-hit Bijapur district under Bastar region, police said on Wednesday.

Santosh Punem, who was also a contractor, was abducted by leftist militants late Tuesday evening from his construction site in Marimalla village where he had gone to supervise some road-related work.

Superintendent of Police Divyang Patel told media persons.

Some local tribals spotted his body lying in a pool of blood at the nearby Marimalla hills on Wednesday morning and then informed the police.

A team of security personnel rushed to the spot, which is located deep inside a forest some 16 km away from the police station.

Punem last year contested the state assembly polls from Bijapur seat as SP candidate.



A special premier show of Chollywood movie 'Has Jhan Pagli Fans Jab' was held here at a multiplex in City Centre mall in Pandri for Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. Baghel and his cabinet colleague Mohammad Akbar are seen in the picture watching the movie.

# Amit Jogi summoned by SIT for giving voice sample

He has been summoned in connection with Antagarh tapes case

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Special Investigation Team (SIT), which is investigating the infamous Antagarh tapes case, has summoned Janta Congress Chhattisgarh (J) president Amit Jogi for giving voice sample to match it with the evidences presented in a pen drive to the investigating team.

He has been called at Cyber Control Room, Ganj Police Station premises for giving the sample on June 25.

Meanwhile, Amit in a written statement termed the notice served to him illegal and malicious. He has asked the SIT to resend the notice



within a week after completing the legal procedures, which according to him were not followed.

"If it is not done so, I will have to approach the court for legal action", he said.

He also termed the notice a 'coercive' action, which had been prohibited by the High Court of Chhattisgarh. "This order of prohibition of coercive action against me was given

in response to my appeal in the court challenging the 'existence' of the SIT to probe into the matter", Amit further added.

Notable, Former Raipur Mayor and Congress leader Kiranmayee Nayak in the infamous Antagarh tapes scandal had registered an FIR against former Chief Minister Ajit Jogi, his son and JCC (J) president Amit Jogi, former PWD Minister Rajesh Munat, ex-Chief Minister Raman Singh's son-in-law Dr Puneet Gupta and former Congress candidate Manturam Pawar. Manturam withdrew nomination in the Antagarh assembly bye-polls in 2015 after allegedly taking bribe.

# Baghel reshuffles in-charge minister of districts

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Wednesday reshuffled in-charge minister of districts.

In the reallocation, ministers were not given responsibilities of their home districts. New districts were assigned to them.

As per reallocation Panchayat and Rural Development, Public Health and Family Welfare Minister TS Singhdeo has been made minister-in-charge of Janjgir-Champa district, Balodabazar-Bhatapara district and Mungeli district.

and Culture Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu has been given the charge of Bilaspur and Gariaband districts while Agriculture and Biodiversity, Water Resource and Parliamentary Works Minister Ravindra Choubey has been given the charge of Raipur and Raigarh districts.

Similarly, School Education, Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development Minister Dr. Premjai Singh Tekam has been assigned the charge of Bastar, Korba and Balod districts.

Transport, Housing and Environment, Food and Forest Minister Mohammad Akbar has been appointed as in-

charge minister of Rajnandgaon and Durg districts.

Commercial Tax (Excise), Commerce and Industry Minister Kawasi Lakhma has been appointed as in-charge minister of Kabeerdham, Dhantari and Mahasamund districts.

Urban Administration and Labour Minister Dr Shivkumar Dahariya has been appointed as in-charge minister of Surguja and Koriya districts.

Women and Child Development, Social Welfare Minister Anila Bhendiya has been appointed as in-charge minister of Bemetara and Jashpur districts.

PHE and Village Industries Minister Guru Rudra Kumar has been appointed as in-charge minister of North Bastar (Kanker), Narayanpur and Kondagaon districts.

Revenue and Calamity Management, Commercial Tax (Registration and Stamp) Minister Jaisingh Agrawal has been appointed as in-charge minister of South Bastar (Dantewada), Bijapur and Sukma districts.

Higher Education, Skill Development, Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Umesh Patel has been appointed as in-charge minister of Balrampur-Ramanujganj and Surajpur districts.

# 'SCI to be made centre of excellence'

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on the occasion of World Sickle Day on Wednesday announced to upgrade Sickle Cell Institute (SCI), Raipur as a centre of excellence.

He also announced opening of a sickle cell probe and counselling centre in each district headquarters and testing of blood samples of school children.

The centre will have blood transfusion, stem cell therapy and hemoglobin therapy like facilities.

Baghel was speaking as chief guest at the event organised jointly by Sickle Cell Institute Chhattisgarh, Raipur and Health and Family Welfare department,



Government of Chhattisgarh at new Circuit House, Civil Lines Raipur.

Chief Minister said for Chhattisgarh, sickle cell is a challenging factor due to its genetic nature as those affected are unaware of it. The life becomes disastrous due to lack of awareness and knowledge of the disease. If identified during childhood, then through adequate manage-

ment, food, life-style and supportive treatment can bring in relief. As there is no cure, all the peoples' blood has to be checked to identify the carriers.

He further said government is ready to provide resources for continuous research to find cure for the disease for which institutes should be established. Health minister

announced that all district sickle cell probe and counselling centres will have all facilities related to the disease. He laid emphasis on creating awareness and knowledge among all. The first is testing of blood of both bridegroom and bride before marriage as both carriers should not marry.

On the occasion, Dr A.T.K. Dabke, Jan Swasthya Sahayog Sansthan Ganiyari-Bilaspur, Senior Citizen Welfare Forum Raipur and WHO Raipur unit were felicitated. Sickle cell affected meritorious students were also felicitated, including those leading normal life for a prolonged period.

Posters, brochures and booklets on the disease were released by dignitaries.

# Honorarium of Panchayati Raj officer bearers hiked in HP

PNS ■ SHIMLA

The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet on Wednesday decided to enhance the honorarium of office bearers of Panchayati Raj Institutions from 1 April, this year.

The Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur decided that Chairperson of Zila Parishad would get honorarium of Rs. 12,000 per month instead of Rs. 11,000, Vice Chairperson Rs. 8,000 instead of 7500 and Member, Zila Parishad Rs. 5,000 in place of Rs. 4500.

Similarly Chairperson, Panchayat Samiti would get Rs. 7,000 per month instead of Rs. 6,500, Vice Chairperson Rs. 5,000 instead of Rs. 4,500 and member of Panchayat Samiti Rs. 4,500 in place of Rs. 4,000. The honorarium of Pradhan Gram Panchayat will be enhanced from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 4,500, that of Up-Pradhan from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 3,000 and members of the Gram Panchayat would get Rs. 250 instead of Rs. 240 per meeting with a maximum of two meetings in a month.

The Cabinet also gave its consent to increase the honorarium of part time workers engaged in Patwar Circles of

the State from Rs. 3000 to Rs. 3500 per month. This decision will benefit 1528 workers. The vacant posts of Part time workers would also be filled.

It gave approval to provide one additional free refill cylinder to the beneficiaries of 'Ujjawala Grihini Suvidha Yojna' launched in the State by merger of Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojna and Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojna benefiting over two lakh families of the State.

The Cabinet decided to provide Rs. 27,000 consolidated per month to Prathmik Sahayk Adhyapaks in order to remove pay anomaly.

The decision has been taken to procure supply and distribute school bags to the students of classes 1st, 3rd, 6th and 9th in the State for the year 2018-19 under Atal School Vardi Yojna. It also decided to provide uniforms to the school students from 1st to 12th standard during current session under Atal Vardi Yojna.

To encourage institutional delivery, the Cabinet decided to enhance the incentive amount to women belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and BPL families to Rs. 1100.

It gave nod to increase the additional honorarium of ASHA workers being given by the State government from Rs. 1250 to Rs. 1500 per month. This would benefit 7964 ASHA workers of the State.

It was decided to continue the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of mango fruit with an enhancement of 50 paise per kg on all varieties of mango during year 2019 to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers.

The Cabinet put its seal on increasing the annual income limit of family from existing Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1,00,000 for availing loan facility up to Rs. 1,50,000 by women through Mahila Vikas Nigam for starting their self employment ventures. This would provide an opportunity to more women to avail loan facility from the Nigam for taking up self employment activities.

The Cabinet decided to provide scholarships amounting to Rs. 10,000 each every year under Mukhya Mantri Bal Uddhar Yojana to 10 boys and 10 girls of child care institutions registered and funded under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children)



Act, 2015 securing top two positions in the merit list (separate for boys and girls) of children of child care institutions in annual examinations of 8th,9th, 10th, 10+1 and 10+2 standards.

To restore self confidence and dignity of victims of child abuse through intensive counselling, financial security, skill upgradation, rehabilitation and livelihood support, the Cabinet gave its nod to start

scheme for rehabilitation support to minor victims of rape, child abuse. Under this scheme, intensive counselling up to six months would be provided to minor as well as to their family members through

professional counsellors. In addition to it, financial assistance of Rs. 7500 per month would also be given to the minor victim till the age of 21 years as a livelihood support measure.

## Pre-monsoon showers unevenly distributed in Punjab, Hry

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Parts of Punjab and Haryana saw uneven distribution of rains during pre-monsoon season between June 1-18, according to data released by the Chandigarh Meteorological Centre.

Some districts in the two states received excess pre-monsoon rains, while many others received scanty showers, the data showed. The total rainfall recorded in the two states, however, was below normal for this period, officials said.

Haryana, as a whole, received 16 mm of rains during the period as against the normal of 20.2 mm, while Punjab recorded 14.9 mm rainfall, against the normal of

**In Haryana, Gurgaon received 3.6 mm of rains during the period as against the normal of 13.8 mm. Panipat received 6.8 mm of rains against 22.1 mm, Yamunanagar received 5.6 mm against 46.1 mm, Faridabad received 5.7 mm against 16.4 mm and Ambala received 16.4 mm rains against 45.1 mm**

## UPGRADATION OF GARHSHANKAR-ANANDPUR SAHIB-NAINA DEVI ROAD

# Punjab Govt to spend ₹25 crore

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

After the central government's refusal of funds for the repair of Anandpur Sahib-Garhshankar and Anandpur Sahib -Naina Devi Road, Punjab Government on Wednesday said it has shouldered the responsibility of providing relief to pilgrims and commuters by sanctioning Rs. 25 crore for the repair of these

roads.

Vijay Inder Singla, PWD Minister Punjab said that before the Lok Sabha elections, the former MP from Anandpur Sahib Constituency, Prem Singh Chandumajra, in a bid to get public mileage, had invited the then Minister for Road Transport & Highways of India, Nitin Gadkari and got a foundation Stone laid in haste without obtaining the required

administrative approvals from Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MORT&H).

As a result, the Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has backed away from providing funds for the repair of Anandpur Sahib-Garhshankar, 16.77km and Anandpur Sahib -Naina Devi ,4.77km stretch of roads.

Singla said these roads are in a bad shape and are a source

of inconvenience to the locals as well as pilgrims besides posing a constant threat to their safety. Heavily loaded tippers carrying weight of even up to 60 tonnes, ply on these roads thereby causing deep distress to the road surface. These roads lead to two very historic places namely Shri Anandpur Sahib and the holy Mata Naina Devi Mandir. Hence, to provide immediate respite to public,

State Government has commenced the process of carrying out the repair work from its own funds, beginning with the floating of tender for the work on June 21, the minister said.

The tenders would be allotted by mid July and the work is likely to begin thereafter. "We will constantly monitor the repair work and ensure its completion within a year", added Singla.

## Doctor's deputation will be cancelled to improve health services in Punjab: Sidhu

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The deputations of the Medical Officers will be cancelled to provide quality health care facilities in the State Government hospitals especially those falling in the border and remote areas, Health and Family Welfare Minister, Punjab, Balbir Singh Sidhu said on Wednesday.

In his first meeting with all civil surgeons of the state, the minister said that the Civil Surgeons should ensure in their respective hospitals that doctors only prescribe medicines available in the government hospitals so that the needy people do not have to buy medicines from private chemists at exorbitant prices.

Sidhu said that to further improve the performance of hospitals and streamlining their functioning, 535 nurses (ANM) have been recruited under the National Health Mission last month and another 114 nurses will be recruited by the last week of June.

The Minister was also apprised by the Civil Surgeons posted in all the Districts regarding vacancies in the medical staff cadre and sought the details of all the vacant posts within a week. In the aftermath of this, the recruitment process of the vacancies in the Health Department

would be initiated.

The Minister while reviewing the health and wellness centres said that these have been established to provide 13 essential health services and up till now, 847 centres have been made functional with 419 Community Health Officers being appointed for the purpose. He also detailed that till August, 2019, a total of 553 Community Health Officers would be appointed at the health and wellness centres and 1800 sub-centres would be turned into wellness centres. He also said that computers would also be provided to the Community Health Officers for on-lining of the details of the patients.

Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Punjab, Satish Chandra brought to the notice of the minister that Punjab and Andhra Pradesh have been adjudged better performing states on the parameters of establishing health and wellness centres.

The Additional Chief Secretary also said that the Civil Surgeons ought to ensure in their respective Districts that the Senior Medical Officers pay a personal visit to the sub-centres so as to effectively implement the services being provided to mothers and children.

## Hry CM reviews progress of his own announcements

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Decks have been cleared for the construction of bridge over Ghaggar River in Sectors 26-27 and 20-21 in Panchkula with Punjab Government according in-principle approval for the construction of this bridge and connective road, falling in their jurisdiction to Haryana.

With the construction of this bridge, the long pending demand of the people of the area would be fulfilled. This was informed in the meeting presided over by Chief Minister Manohar Lal here today to review the progress of Chief Minister's announcements of various departments including Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP), Town and Country Planning, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Medical Education, Women and Child Development, Social Justice and Empowerment and Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes.

It was informed that the matter regarding the construction of this bridge is being taken up in co-ordination with the Punjab Government. A portion of this proposed bridge falls in Punjab.

The Chief Minister also directed the Haryana Shehri



Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal presiding over the meeting to review the progress of Chief Minister announcement of various departments in Chandigarh on Wednesday

Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) to explore the possibilities of construction of a road linking the NH-73 and International Airport in Chandigarh so as to provide direct connectivity to the people of Barwala, Raipur Rani and Naraingarh.

While directing the Administrative Secretaries for the speedy implementation of various development works announced by him, the Chief

Minister said that he would soon convene meetings with MLAs to discuss the pending CM announcements district wise and also to sort out the issues which are causing delay in the implementation of works.

He also directed to submit him the list of 74 pending announcements, 10 of 2014 and 64 of 2015 today itself and commissioned the same by

July 15.

He asked to apprise him about the status of progress on these announcements on daily basis.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister said that with a view to instill the sense of pride among the orphan children, the name of 'Anath Ashram' wherever written in Hindi should be changed to Jagannath Ashram.

He directed that a letter in this regard be sent to all such institutions in the state at the earliest.

While reviewing the announcement for the construction of hostels in districts Jind, Rohtak, Fatehabad, Karnal and Hisar for the stu-

dents belonging to Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, he directed that till the construction of these hostels, alternate arrangements should be made either in any college or university for such students.

He further said that to instill a feeling of Samajik Samrasta (social harmony), 50 per cent seats in these hostels be filled from amongst the students of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes and 10 per cent from (EBP). He also directed to change the name of Tehsil Welfare Officer (TWO) as Tehsil Antyodaya Officer (TAO).

The Chief Minister directed the Medical Education Department to identify one acre land within or outside the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Badsa in district Jhajjar for the construction of a helipad for the convenience of patients and their relatives. It was informed that the work for the construction of Women Nursing Training Institute in village Panhera Khurd in district Faridabad and Nursing College in village Shahad Nagar in district Rewari has been awarded to HSVP.

Manohar Lal was apprized that the registration of Rohnat Freedom Trust has been done and initial funds to the tune of Rs one crore would soon be transferred to the Trust for providing treatment to the people of village Rohnat who are above the age of 60 years. It was also informed that a Shahid Samark on 4 acres of land would be constructed in village Rohnat in district Bhiwani by the Sainik and Ardh Sainik Welfare Department. Estimates amounting to Rs 92.25 lakh have been received for this purpose and construction work would be started soon.

The Chief Minister was also informed that that a veterinary poly clinic would be set up at village Beholi, Thanesar in district Kurukshetra. Apart from this, a Bull Centre would be set up at Lakaria in district Jhajjar as regional centre of Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (LUVAS), Hisar.

Besides transferring land of Lakaria Farm to LUVAS, funds to the tune of Rs 42.75 lakh has also been released to the University for this purpose.

## Build Ram temple by '22, bring population control Bill: Ascetics in VHP meet

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

The Central Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi must pave the way for construction of Ram temple at the lord's birthplace in Ayodhya by 2022. Ascetics attending the meeting of the Kendriya Margdarshak Mandal (KMM) of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) said this on Wednesday. A resolution was also passed by the ascetics to the effect that the union government must bring a bill on population control in the country.

KMM member and host ascetic, Paramanand Saraswati said that PM Narendra Modi must pave way for construction of Ram temple by 2022. A resolution was passed by the ascetics that the union government must bring a bill on population control in the country. Various demands have been raised by the religious fraternity which shall be proposed to the newly formed Modi government, said the VHP members.

The national secretary of VHP, Milind Parande said that in the meeting it was decided that a proposal shall be made to PM Narendra Modi to make Ram temple in Ayodhya as soon as possible. The host ascetic Swami Paramanand Saraswati of Akhand Param Dham in Bhupatwala said that



the Modi government must clear the path for temple construction before 2022.

The VHP members have demanded that the displaced Hindus must be rehabilitated back in their home state of Jammu and Kashmir. Also, under the Kamdhenu scheme, the government must take substantial steps for cow progeny enhancement and conservation. He said that during the two-day meeting discussions shall be held on these main issues.

Expressing concern over the population explosion, the ascetics said that this has also resulted in demographic issues

in some state resulting in imbalance in the country. The government must bring population control bill lest there is imbalance created in the country. Also there should be same election model code of conduct in the entire country and delimitation of Vidhan Sabha seats in hill state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, another meeting of high power committee of VHP was held in Parmarth Ashram under the leadership of Swami Chinmayanand Saraswati. Various Akhanda ascetics and central office bearers of VHP were present in the meeting.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.W.D. KANKER CIRCLE KANKER (C.G.)**

**Short e-Procurement Tender Notice**

Online Tenders are Invited for Construction Of Bldg work ,up to Date 02/07/2019

Sr No.	NIT Tender No.	System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable Amount of Contract	Tender Downloaded upto
01	26	51933	Construction of Higher Secondary School Building at Mulmula Dist kondagaon i/c Ect. Work W/S & S/F etc.	115.06 Lakh	02.07.2019 (1st call)
02	27	51961	Construction of Higher Secondary School Building at Sonabal Dist kondagaon i/c Ect. Work W/S & S/F etc.	115.06 Lakh	02.07.2019 (1st call)
03	28	51962	Construction of Mini Stadium at Girola District kondagaon.	45.83 Lakh	02.07.2019 (1st call)
04	29	51963	Construction of High School Building at Dandvan Instead of Mundatikra, Dist Narayanpur.	57.21 Lakh	02.07.2019 (1st call)
05	30	51964	Construction of One section (K.G.V) High School Building at Naryanpur.	44.16 Lakh	02.07.2019 (1st call)
06	31	51965	Construction of Extension in Labour Room & Renovation in OT at Govt. Hospital Narayanpur.	14.56 Lakh	02.07.2019 (1st call)
07	32	51966	White Washing and Distemping of Govt. Buiding Non Resi. Buiding under P.W.D. (B/R) Sub Dn. Antagarh.	12.00 Lakh	02.07.2019 (1st call)
08	33	51967	White Washing and Distemping of Govt. Buiding Resi. Buiding under P.W.D. (B/R) Sub Dn. Antagarh.	6.00 Lakh	02.07.2019 (1st call)
09	34	51968	Construction of Sub Health Center Building at Dudumbahra. (Balance Work)	12.06 Lakh	02.07.2019 (1st call)
10	35	51969	Renovation of Maternity Operation Theater at K.D. Hospital Kanker.	6.36 Lakh	02.07.2019 (1st call)

**Bid Submission due Date (Online) 02/07/2019**  
**Bid Opening date (Scheduled) 05.07.2019 .....**

All Documents related to Tender are to be submitted by Tenderers online only, failing which the tenderer can not participate in the bidding, for tender details please visit <https://eproc.cgsate.gov.in>

**Superintending Engineer P.W.D. Kanker Circle Kanker**

G- 70835/6 Ryp/Dtd 19.6.19

**BAJAJ ALLIANZ LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED**

Regd office: Bajaj Allianz House, Airport Road, Yerwada, Pune 411006. Tel.: 020 66026777, Fax: 020 66026789

**Public Notice**

Notice is hereby given that the office of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited located at Pandari road, MUNGELI, DIST- BILASPUR-495334, Chattisgarh will be shifted at its new address at khasra 1049, Ground floor, Dindayal upadhayay, ward-22, daupara, Mungeli-495334, Chattisgarh with effect from 31st Aug 2019.

KHASHOGGI MURDER CASE Suspected link of Saudi Crown Prince: UN expert

There is "credible evidence" linking Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a UN expert said Wednesday, calling for sanctions on the prince's personal foreign assets.

Post contributor and critic of Prince Mohammed, was murdered at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2. Riyadh initially said it had no knowledge of his fate. It later blamed the murder inside the consulate on rogue agents.

Iran's defence minister "categorically rejected" on Wednesday accusations that Tehran was behind two tanker attacks in the Gulf of Oman, describing evidence presented by Washington as "unsubstantiated", official news agency IRNA reported.

Iran 'categorically rejects' US tanker attack allegations

Iran's defence minister "categorically rejected" on Wednesday accusations that Tehran was behind two tanker attacks in the Gulf of Oman, describing evidence presented by Washington as "unsubstantiated", official news agency IRNA reported.

Hong Kong lawmakers grill security chief

Members of Hong Kong's Legislature met on Wednesday for the first time since the largest anti-government protest in the city's history, with many opposition lawmakers slamming the pro-Beijing administration's handling of the crisis.

Many pro-democracy members of the Legislative Council wore black and carried white chrysanthemums in tribute to a man who fell to his death while protesting the law. Some placed placards on their desks reading "No China Extradition" and "Withdraw, Withdraw" — referring to the controversial bill.

binding motion of no-confidence in pro-Beijing chief executive Carrie Lam, but it was not tabled before the session was adjourned. The motion was not expected to pass in the body, which is dominated by Lam's camp.

Council president Andrew Leung said there would not be a session on Thursday. It was not immediately clear when the council would meet again.

EUTHANASIA NOW LEGAL IN AUSTRALIAN STATE

Melbourne: Terminally ill Australians can for the first time apply to end their own life, after new laws went into effect in the state of Victoria on Wednesday.

TWO EARTH-LIKE PLANETS DISCOVERED

Berlin: Scientists have discovered two new Earth-like planets around one of the closest stars within our galactic neighbourhood.

38 KILLED IN ATTACKS ON MALI VILLAGES

Bamako: Thirty-eight people were killed and many others wounded in attacks on two ethnic Dogon villages in central Mali, the government said Tuesday, in the latest in a cycle of violence in the volatile Sahel country.

Russia, China block UN from saying N Korea violated sanctions

Russia and China have blocked the UN Security Council committee monitoring sanctions against North Korea from declaring that Pyongyang breached the annual limit for importing refined petroleum products which are key for its economy, two U.N. diplomats said Tuesday.

A Security Council diplomat said North Korea is believed to have obtained 3.5 million barrels of refined petroleum in 2018, seven times the limit. This year, North Korea has already imported more than the limit and is "on pace" to obtain about the same amount as last year through illegal ship-to-ship transfers, the diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly.

500,000-barrel annual limit on refined petroleum products "is critical to maintaining pressure" on North Korea to achieve the denuclearization of the country. Last July, Russia and China blocked a similar request from the U.S. to get the U.N. sanctions committee to publicly accuse North Korea of violating the annual quota.

New Acting US Defence Secy fought in Gulf war

Mark T. Esper, President Donald Trump's pick for new Acting US Defence Secretary, is an Army veteran who fought in the Gulf war and worked as a lobbyist for one of America's biggest military contractors.

Esper is taking over against the backdrop of soaring tensions between the US and Iran which has said it would surpass the uranium-stockpile limit set by its nuclear deal in the next 10 days.

Trump told reporters that he is likely to nominate Esper for the permanent job. Esper, elevated from his job as Army secretary to be Acting Defense Secretary, became the third person to lead the Pentagon under President Trump.

Esper, after graduating from West Point, served in the Army, the Army Reserve and National Guard in some capacity for more than two decades, The New York Times reported.

Dutch to put four on trial over MH17 crash

Dutch prosecutors are to put four people on trial for murder next year over the shooting down of flight MH17 over Ukraine, in which 298 people were killed, relatives said on Wednesday.

"There is a court case on March 9 2020 against four people for murder," Silene Fredriks, whose son and daughter-in-law were killed in the disaster, told reporters.

Russia had no opportunity to take part in it even though it showed initiative from... The very first days of this tragedy, Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

Record 70.8 m people displaced at end of 2018: UN

More than 70 million people were counted last year as displaced from their homes, a record that underestimates the real number of refugees and asylum seekers, the UN said Wednesday.

AXIS BANK Branch Office - Axis Bank Limited, Agri Business Centre - SCF94, Sector-6, Karnal 132001. Corporate Office: 3rd Floor, Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhakar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No, Name of the Legal Heirs of Borrower / Address, Co-Borrower And Guarantor Name / Address, Property Address of Secured Assets, and 1. NPA Date, 2. Date of Demand Notice, 3. Outstanding Amount, 4. Loan Amount.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System) Table with 7 columns: S.No, Name of work with its location, Approx. Cost of work, Earnest Money, Completion period of work, Cost of tender on cash/basis, Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender, Website particulars.

Rajasthan Olive Cultivation Limited (Joint Venture of Govt. of Rajasthan) State Institute of Agriculture Management Campus, Agriculture Research Station, Durgapura, Jaipur-302018 Rajasthan (India) Ph: 91-0141-2554105. Website: www.rajolive.com

Sudan's Army calls for unconditional talks with protesters

Sudan's military council on Wednesday urged opposition leaders to resume negotiations on the transition of power, without preconditions, but the comments could further complicate the already stalled transition process as protest organisers continue their night-time demonstrations demanding civilian rule.

announced a package of conditions to be met before resuming talks, which included the formation of an international commission to investigate the killings of protesters, restored internet services, adherence to previous deals struck before the breakdown in talks and the return of paramilitary troops to their barracks.

from security forces. Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, head of the council, told a gathering of health workers in Khartoum that the council did not have preconditions for returning to the negotiating table with the Forces for Declaration of Freedom and Change, which has represented protesters, so neither should the protesters.

tional legislative body. The protest leaders also called for daily night-time demonstrations and marches on Thursday, saying they feared the military council intended to stay as a dominant power in the transition.

The Executive Engineer-C-3 (DUSIB) Govt. of N.C.T. Delhi invites on behalf of DUSIB online Percentage rate bid on two bid system for the following work. 1. NIT No. 08 /EE C-3/DUSIB/2019-20 (PID No. 7338) Tender I.D 2019\_DUSIB\_174112\_1; Name of work:- Pay and Use Jsc, SH, Construction of Nagar Suvidha Complex (20 Seater) at JJ Basti C-3 Udyog Nagar Near Peeragarhi. Estimated cost:- Rs. 35,63,751.00 Earnest Money:- (In Rs.) 71300, Tender Cost: (In Rs.) 500.00, Time allowed:- 120 days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 02.07.2019 on 15.00 Hours and 15.30 Hours respectively.

PAPER WITH PASSION

## An idea at best

The 'one nation one poll' proposal needs careful deliberation and has to be fully compliant with Constitutional norms



The debate on "one nation, one poll" has been an ongoing one and, on the face of it, the favourable aspects do attract some traction, chief among them being the streamlining of costs and apparatus of conducting the election process itself and stemming the prospect of policy paralysis, with some State or the other due for a mandate every other year. The argument is that with States in India's federal structure going to polls at varied points of time within the Central government's mandated period of governance, no visionary or decisive steps can be taken or implemented as they would be subservient to electoral politics, which in this country tends to be overtly populist in nature. Besides, it would rid the country from being in a continuous poll mode and go in for a performance mode. But it is in the subtext of the Westminster system we have adopted that questions arise about whether a unitary system works best for our federal structure. And in the current political context, whether it threatens the very idea of regionalism itself, considering that in a single election, national issues tend to take centre stage and drown out or at least blur pertinent issues of localised interest, something that regional parties are usually in better command of and base their political relevance and bargaining chips on.

Although many argue that the Indian voter is evolved enough to make a distinction between the larger national interest and his neighbourhood, there is always a possibility that the overarching aura of the former could swamp the judgment call of the voter at the state level, if the prevailing party seeking mandate happens to be of a centrist party. And as the results of the recent Lok Sabha have shown, the centrist surge has helped the ruling NDA regain its footprint in States, where it had been hit badly in the Assembly elections just a few months ago. Besides, with many regional satraps now friendly to it, the NDA thinks it is an idea whose time has come. This is precisely the reason why Prime Minister Narendra Modi has renewed the proposal for "one vote." But the idea is fraught with complexities that need very careful deliberation. This will require a substantive number of Constitutional amendments to the Representation of the People Act 1951, the anti-defection law and others relating to rules of procedure with two-thirds majority in both Houses. Besides, such a move does not factor in mid-term situations where a State government may choose to dissolve itself or fall because of a loss of majority. Would the Governor then not call fresh elections or hold on to a moribund Assembly till the dates of the next round of general elections are announced? What if the Central Government falls before the term of the Assemblies end? Such a move, based on current context, would then go against the grain of democracy and lead to surreptitious absolutist control of federal polity. As it is, though we call ourselves a federal entity, in reality we are a more centralised union of states. The "one nation, one election" formula would further strengthen this idea and, therefore, needs very careful deliberation. Already, the Opposition, primarily the Left and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), has rightfully warned about the implicit idea of a monolithic State that such a move might encourage, fuelling such demands as "one nation, one culture, one language." This clamour for a unitary governance structure and discourse may well become a syndrome than reform. The Trinamool Congress has rightly asked for a White Paper on the subject for transparency of views. Besides, as former Election Commissioner TS Krishnamurthy said, several administrative alignments are needed for simultaneous polls, and that readiness had to be first ascertained without pushing through the proposal just for the heck of it. When the idea was placed before the Law Commission, it, too, had recommended that in order to equalise timelines, two conditions had to be met: First, a 'motion for an early general election must be agreed to by at least two-thirds of all members of the House.' Second, 'a no-confidence motion must be passed by the House and with no alternative government being confirmed within 14 days of passing a confidence motion.' Such compliance is still a tough call. The BJP knows it, too, but wants to tell its voter base that it tried to push a key pledge in its manifesto and keep its election momentum going for the next round of Assembly polls.

## Water woes

Chennai has gone dry and its citizens are parched. Is this India's dystopian future?



Chennai has suffered from a water shortage for several years. As floods in the southern metropolis showed, rampant development and landgrab by politically-connected developers have meant that hundreds of water bodies that recharged the city's aquifers have been concretised. The little that are left are being over-exploited and vacu- umised. However, the latest crisis being suffered in the city, where there is little water going to homes and citizens are rushing to book tankers from neighbouring districts, is far worse.

More importantly, it's a warning for more "zero days" and shines a light on the potential problem that several other Indian cities will face in the future.

Undoubtedly, there is rampant development of urban areas and India finds it difficult to strike a balance as people leave villages for cities and chase comforts of modern civilisation. The problem is not their aspiration but the unplanned and uneven development of urban areas where commercial, industrial and residential zones lie beside each other. Our urban planners have to spend more time in making sustainable layouts for cities and reimagine development dramatically to reduce water wastage, conserve water and recharge aquifers. Most major urban centres — Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune and the list goes on and on — are water-stressed. Borewells are getting deeper and deeper and the water is running out. Besides sewage and water treatment plants are barely able to keep up with the demand. There is no provision for recycling water. Politicians have turned a blind eye to the water tanker mafia, who are unscrupulously draining aquifers everywhere they can find. At the same time, we are growing the wrong crops in the wrong parts of the country thanks to entrenched local politicians, like sugarcane in Latur and the Kaveri catchment area and water-intensive Basmati rice in the plains of Punjab and Haryana. Most of our farming practices are wasteful. So much more careful thought needs to be put into crop management and zoning farms according to the water map. At the same time, while we take so much technology from Israel in the fields of agriculture and water management, we stop short of applying it on a wide scale. There is an argument that the government should not penalise but incentivise but the acute crisis in Chennai is a dark portend of things to come in other cities. There should be penal action taken against those who waste water by using it inefficiently — in cities and in villages, in homes and in factories.

# Laws higher than sutras

While Hong Kongers may escape China's educational scheme to test the monks' and nuns' legal knowledge, it will be difficult for Tibetans, Uyghurs or mainlanders to avoid them



CLAUDE ARPI

Chinese President Xi Jinping is travelling a lot these days; he went to Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meet, then he is visiting North Korea and later Japan. At the same time in Hong Kong, two million people (25 per cent of the population) walked down the streets to reject a law widely believed to have been piloted by Xi. Bill Bishop, author of the *Sinocism Newsletter* analysed: "The Hong Kong protestors succeeded in scuttling the proposed extradition law, at least for the foreseeable future... Regardless, the rebuke of the mainland and its political system by millions of Hong Kongers could not be clearer and the damage to Xi and the party's reunification project that is core to the Great Rejuvenation, is real."

The Chinese leadership is keen not to repeat the Hong Kong fiasco in Tibet. This is one of the reasons why Beijing is promoting Gyaltzen Norbu, its own Panchen Lama, who recently visited Thailand. Back in Beijing, he affirmed "that he was able to deeply appreciate the greatness of the motherland while he was in a foreign country."

The information about his foreign visit came out in the open a month after Norbu's return; he was part of a Buddhist delegation led by Yanjue, the acting president of the Buddhist Association of China. Interestingly, Norbu had attended a Buddhist conference in Hong Kong in 2012 but this was not counted as a foreign visit. In Thailand, he explained that he has the responsibility to adapt Tibetan Buddhism to the socialist society... with Chinese characteristics "to constantly adhere to develop Tibetan Buddhism in the Chinese context, to maximise the positive role of religion and to make due contributions to safeguarding the unification of the motherland and promoting ethnic unity."

But what does "adapting Tibetan Buddhism to the socialist society with Chinese characteristics" mean? An article on a Chinese website run by *Xinhua* gave an answer. All monks in Tibet were recently invited to pass "legal knowledge" examinations "in order to promote the basic and leading role of the rule of law and actively guide the adaptation of religion to the socialist society and enhance the legal knowledge level and the rule of law awareness" among monks and nuns in Tibet.

The website reported that the new programme was jointly organised by the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) justice department, the law office, the communist party's united front work department and the religious bureau. According to the statistics quoted by *Xinhua*, 30,000 members of the Sangha went through the examinations. On which topics were the monks test-



ed? They had to answer questions on the Chinese Constitution, state security laws, anti-terrorism laws, anti-spying laws, environmental protection laws, internet safety laws and regulations on religious affairs matters.

But that is not all. Apart from these topics, the monks and nuns had to demonstrate their great knowledge on the communist party's 19th national congress, Xi's new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the national flag law, the national anthem law, the national security law, the national regional autonomy law and ethnic and religious policies as well as related regulations. This probably included the rules for the reincarnation of "living Buddhas" (how the Dalai Lama will be selected by the party).

Don't ask me where is the Buddha in all this! TAR's "legal" big shots visited the test centres. *Xinhua* cited Lobsang Gyurme, vice chairman of the political consultative conference and Danba, the head of the TAR justice department, who inspected the Ganden Monastery's examination cen-

tre. Gao Yang, deputy secretary and vice chairman of the party committee of the political consultative conference, showed up at the Sera Monastery and Xu Xueguang, deputy director of the People's Congress Standing Committee, went to Drepung. Many other party important cadres participated.

According to *Xinhua*, after the launch of these (compulsory) tests, "the legal literacy and the rule of law awareness of religious faculty members in our region have been further improved." The website affirmed that "national laws are higher than religious canons and obeying these should come before adhering to the [Buddhist] precepts." According to *Xinhua*, the purpose was to create a harmonious and stable social situation for Tibet...

In these circumstances, one understands why students in Hong Kong or in Taipei are a nervous lot. Who wants to join the motherland's legal system? Examinations were organised all over TAR, particularly in Lhasa, Shigatse, in Lhoka (Lhuntsé County), in Nagchu and Shangda

Monastery in Chamdo area. They were conducted in two ways: A Tibetan-Chinese bilingual "open-book" written test and an oral test.

*Xinhua* reported that in order to ensure a smooth and orderly examination process, "three-level patrol groups for districts, cities and counties" were formed. The patrols checked each test centre under their jurisdiction; they were said to have been "deep into the relevant temples to conduct an in-depth and detailed understanding of the examination arrangements and the order of the examination room."

Moral of the story: You better know Comrade Xi's speeches! And guess what? The attendance of the examination was 100 per cent. It was to be an important initiative by party secretary Wu Yingjie for "strengthening the education on the rule of law," said the official website. Is it the reason why Norbu deeply "appreciated" the greatness of the motherland when he was abroad?

The "new" education is not restricted to Tibet. Xi wants to "educate" all classes of Chinese. According to the

Taipei-based *Central News Agency*, the Chinese communist party, which celebrates its 70th anniversary, launched an education campaign called "Remain true to our original aspirations and keep our mission firmly in mind."

The Central Publicity Department called some 500 journalists to retrace the route of 'Long March' and write about the epic journey of the Red Army. The journalists were told that they need to "make a long journey" and in their writings, "profoundly echo how Red Power came into being; how the new China was built." The aim was to educate the masses about the revolution.

On May 20, Xi had inspected Jiangxi Yudu, the starting point of the Long March. It was like "exploring the source of the party's original heart," affirmed Xi. The Hong Kongers may escape these education schemes for the time being but it will be more difficult for the Tibetans, the Uyghurs or even the mainlanders to avoid them.

(The writer is an expert on India-China relations)

## SOUNDBITE

I called him (Prime Minister Modi) the most fascist ruler of the country. It was on record and I stand by it.



Telangana Chief Minister —K Chandrasekhar Rao

If there is anything that I've learnt in the journey of recovery is that you need to be patient, and that there is hope.



Actor —Deepika Padukone

When the legislative and executive wings get swept away from their duties, it is the duty of the judiciary to rise and stand up to protect the Constitutional ethos.



Chief Justice of India —Ranjan Gogoi

The Congress had asked me to cross over before the elections. But I knew which way the wind was blowing.



Union Minister —Ramdas Athawale

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Play constructive role

Sir — The Prime Minister's plea to the Opposition to forget about *paksh* and *vipaksh* and have only *nishpaksh* spirit and work actively in the larger interest of the nation is welcome. His tone was that of reconciliation and warmth and is an assertion that in unity lies the betterment of the nation and its people. The Opposition should take the Prime Minister's statement in the right spirit. That the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies were able to form a majority Government should not make them arrogant or lead them to ignore crucial issues that need to be raised in Parliament.

At the same time, the Opposition should not obstruct or stall proceedings of the House to put the Government on the mat. Good actions and motions must be supported. The growth, development and progress of the country should be of prime importance. Let us hope that the ruling party and the Opposition maintain decorum of the house by upholding the good values of integrity, propriety and sobriety.

M Pradyu Kannur

### Crack the whip on errant officials

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised a corruption-free and accountable administration after he took over for a second term. The Modi Government 2.0 cracked the whip on Income Tax officers last week by retiring as many as 12 Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officers for corruption and misconduct. Now, it has sent several Customs officers packing on a host of charges. All are top-ranking officials. They have been compulsorily sent home under Fundamental Rule 56(j) of Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules. The pension rule largely caters to bribery charges against officers. One particular official was a vocal critic of the Government's Goods and Service Tax (GST), which amounted to insubordination and misconduct. Apparently, one of the officers was abusive of any possible action that could have been taken against him and was totally prepared for the consequences. All rules and regulations governing the compulsory retirement exist in our book but have been seldom acted upon.

The NDA government does not appear to suffer from either the 'influence phenomenon' or the 'kickback syndrome'. Principally, it looks like kicking the back of tainted officials, especially in departments which pro-



vide ample opportunities for incumbent officers to become rich overnight. Evidently, IAS and IPS officers are better insulated than IRS officers in terms of disciplinary action because the role of the State Government is as important as the Centre in governing them. Plenty of officers cosy up to State rulers, thereby using the respective Governments as shields against the Centre. The NDA Government should continue with its zero-tolerance towards corruption and nepotism. NDA 2.0 has taken a step forward from where it should have no reason to backtrack.

Ganapathi Bhat Akola

### Workable solution

Sir — The idea of simultaneous polls is not new. In 1951-52, the first general election to the Lok Sabha was held simultaneously

with elections of all State Assemblies. This practice continued till the general election of 1967, after which it got disrupted due to premature dissolution of some State Assemblies in 1968 and that of the Lok Sabha in

1970. Besides saving huge amount of taxpayers' money spent on holding separate Centre and State elections, simultaneous polls will spare considerable time of security and administrative set-up to do their normal job and

the country will get rid of remaining in poll mode almost throughout the year. If a Government falls midway, a mid-term poll should be held for the rest of the term. The next Lok Sabha election will be held in May 2024. Of course, this time is still not enough to synchronise terms of all Assemblies. At least an idea has been floated. It is time to apply our minds to it.

MC Joshi Lucknow

### Radical measures

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Children of a lesser God" (June 20). While researchers examine the exact cause behind the encephalitis syndrome, it is a sorry state of affairs in Bihar where over 100 children have died due to this disease. It is reflective of the fact that the State's healthcare system is in shambles. The State must take radical measures to improve the health infrastructure.

Somya Via email

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

**FIRST COLUMN**

## Bracing up for uncertain times

As a developing economy, India holds a lot of potential but it needs to take structural steps to make itself more resilient to shocks



**NITHIN AUGUSTINE**

Ever since the great depression hit the world in 1929, a slew of economic crises such as the 1973 oil embargo, the Asian crisis of 1997 and the great recession of 2007-08 followed, challenging the well-established economic theories of respective times. These crises mostly unfolded against the backdrop of a strong belief in free market capitalism, globalisation and increasing deregulation of trade. This, along with the much-hyped 'new economy', was widely, at times mistakenly, believed to be the promoter of growth and prosperity. However, contrary to popular belief, economies across the globe have started showing signs of slowdown due to rising debt burden, high interest rates and trade protectionism.

Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), while cutting the global economic forecast for the year 2019-20, said that the global economy is slowing more than expected and a sharp downturn could require world leaders to coordinate stimulus measures. A recent article in the *Washington Post* titled, 'Economic growth is slowing all around the world' said that builders in the US are erecting fewer single-family homes. German factories are sputtering and in China, retail sales are growing at their slowest pace in 15 years. This, though, aptly captures the current state of the global economy and could in the near term precipitate another economic crisis. Furthermore, the World Bank in its recent report titled, 'Global Economic Prospects — Darkening Skies' indicated that global economic growth is expected to soften from a downwardly revised three per cent in 2018 to 2.9 per cent in 2019.

However, despite the slowdown in global economies, India's growth continued to remain strong and bullish with a rate of 8.2 per cent in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2018-19. Until recently, India retained the tag of the fastest-growing largest economy in the world and briefly overtook France to be the sixth largest economy in the world with a Gross Domestic Product rate of \$2.61 trillion. This does not imply that India is immune from fluctuations in the global economy. Growth issues faced by our country currently can topple growth ambitions. Global economic headwinds, trade war and the growing number of non-performing assets could wreak havoc in the India market. Hence, it is important for any economy, including India, to adopt a sustainable economic model that is resilient and can withstand occasional hiccups in the economy.

India's unique geographic advantage and demographic positioning allow it to compete with the developed economies. Further, it has abundant natural resources, intellectual capital, cheap labour and an enabling policy environment. Joseph Stiglitz, in his 2010 book titled, *Freefall: America, Free Markets, and the Sinking of the World Economy*, says that the great depression coincided with the decline of the US agriculture. Indeed, agricultural prices were falling even before the stock market crash in 1929. Increase in agricultural productivity was so great that a small percentage of the population could produce all the food that the country could consume. The transition from an economy based on agriculture to one where manufacturing predominated was not easy.

The IT revolution earned India a respectable place among the developing economies in the world. But today, 25 years after the IT boom and the liberalisation of the economy, India stands at a historical crossroad wherein it has to choose between building economic resilience or continuing its reliance on the traditional IT services to boost its growth prospects. Paul Krugman, a Nobel Prize-winning economist, during one of his recent India visits remarked that investments in the rural economy and scaling up manufacturing are essential for India to meet the demand for jobs from a dramatic surge in the working age population. The manufacturing sector has been long neglected with much of the activities happening in the small and medium space. With the apparent slowdown in the IT industry and rise in protectionism, the focus must shift to manufacturing and agriculture that can boost growth. Further, reforms in the banking sector, bridging trade deficits and developing the rural economy could script a resounding growth story in the coming years.

The World Bank, in its India biannual publication, 'India Development Update', said that to sustain its growth path, India will need to keep a close eye on several factors to make the country more resilient to shocks: The changing landscape of open trade, reforms in the banking sector, strengthening financial institutions and regulatory supervision of the financial sector. Deepening its structural reforms in areas of health, education and service delivery will be critical for development of human capital required to sustain growth. As a developing economy, India still holds a lot of promise and will continue grow at a steady pace despite many challenges. (The writer is a Communications Professional and an Economics graduate)

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**

**I CAN'T EXPRESS THE PAIN I AM GOING THROUGH. I WANT TO EXPRESS IT WITH YOU, BUT CANNOT, BUT I NEED TO SOLVE PAIN OF PEOPLE OF STATE.**

—KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER  
HD KUMARASWAMY



**THERE IS NO THREAT TO THE KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT. THEY (THE BJP) ARE TRYING DESPERATELY BUT THEY WILL NOT SUCCEED.**

—SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER  
SIDDARAMAIAH

# New way of doing politics

The deft use of political communication — verbal and non-verbal — played a key role in positioning the BJP in the minds of the electorate and contributed in elevating its fortunes to a historic high



**VV SUNDAR**

It is the scale of the Indian elections that baffles the world. Most countries view our democratic electoral exercise with utter disbelief and astonishment. The 2019 Lok Sabha elections were interesting for the fact that political communication in our country seemed to have finally come of age. Among the parties, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) stood out to be the savviest in mastering the image-building and perception management exercise and also gained a decisive edge over its rivals.

**Agenda-setting:** Take for instance verbal communications. The BJP's colourful and earthy slogans were an instant hit. They were at their simplistic and comprehensible best. The party managed to pull the rug under the feet of the Opposition with short and punchy coinages like *mahamilawat*, which was used to brand the Opposition parties. This conjoined word summed up the unprincipled and rag-tag coalitions formed by various political parties just before the elections and instantly robbed them of political relevance.

Similarly, *majboor sarkar vs majboot sarkar* was a lethal jibe as compared to the Congress' weary slogan of *ab hoga nyay*. Roughly translated, the Congress slogan meant that justice would be delivered if it came back to power. Oddly enough, the party's strategists did not realise it would automatically trigger a counter question in the minds of the voters: If justice was still pending to be delivered, what did the party do all these years when it was in power for the longest time and capable of changing the system? The Congress campaign appeared to be centred around superficial populist sloganeering coined in splendid isolation devoid of any social connect. On the other hand, the Congress' somewhat catchy *chowkidar chor hai* jibe misfired and it faced national embarrassment for being flippant and more personality than issue-oriented. Slogans formed by other Opposition parties were limp. Regional party leaders, followed the old-style book of political communication. So they found themselves out of breath with the BJP's national campaign blitzkrieg.

Yet another slogan coined by the BJP *kaam ruke na, desh jhuke na* advanced the party's developmental agenda that remained to be achieved and contextualised the national pride as a rallying point.

Instead of offering progressive ideas and providing a constructive alternate developmental framework, the Opposition mounted a bitter and shriller negative campaign with personal level attacks, some of which were unbecoming of their stature and the public office they occupied. Many parties even reduced the electoral campaigns to ugly street-level brawls. Negative campaigns can work when left-handed compliments are delivered to opponents, dripping with sarcasm and humour. Perhaps none in the Opposition had the showmanship to pull it off. Resorting to personal attacks made them appear as a fringe mob pelting stones.

Such messaging and slogans itself achieved half the electoral success for the BJP. So much so that even when its own senior leaders hit their opponents below the belt, it was seen as



avenging barbs and a victim's right to defend himself.

**Bespoke framing:** Besides, verbal communication, the BJP's near total obsession with non-verbal communication was equally fascinating. Public appearances suggest a well thought-out, meticulously crafted, immaculate and bespoke visual styling of its leader. Camera lenses were trained to capture and curate radiating energy and dynamism in the shots. Low angle camera shots and measured distance maintained in the foreground and background around the leader decluttered the frame and provided for just one single focal point.

The penchant was to clear the hoi-polloi from the frame to get singular visuals. Though amusing, such optics manage to build and reinforce a pattern of power and perception. The primacy given to staging, planning and visual framing is both formal, ceremonial, professional and unparalleled. It successfully transmits and conveys non-verbal cues to the masses besides giving a sleek and larger-than-life persona, always in command, at ease and in control. The new-age and savvy political parties are not leaving anything to chance in this hyper-saturated 24x7 media environment which is dictated by the power of visuals and imagery. The Opposition is yet to comprehend this to its fullest. Remarkably, even bitter critics of the BJP were floored with rousing and statesman-like speeches one heard from its leaders. There were eloquent, unscripted words laced with a higher purpose, conveying the big picture to the entire nation in a lucid, uplifting and scintillating manner. Sadly, the Opposition speeches appeared merely transactional and *tutu-mai mai*.

**Media snobbery:** Another humbling feature of this election was the media. The BJP's disdain for the "Lutyens' Delhi" and the "Khan market gang" is well-known. In spite of the relentless and stinging attacks mounted by

**INSTEAD OF OFFERING PROGRESSIVE IDEAS AND PROVIDING A CONSTRUCTIVE ALTERNATE DEVELOPMENTAL FRAMEWORK, THE OPPOSITION MOUNTED A BITTER AND SHRILLER NEGATIVE CAMPAIGN WITH PERSONAL LEVEL ATTACKS. NEGATIVE CAMPAIGNS WORK WHEN LEFT-HANDED COMPLIMENTS ARE DELIVERED TO OPPONENTS, DRIPPING WITH SARCASTIC AND HUMOUR**

a large section of the media, the BJP pulled off the perception battle on its own terms by highlighting its "common man's spokesperson" image.

The election results neutralised and busted egos of self-styled opinion-makers in the national capital, who once bragged to make or break the fortunes of the ruling party by the sheer force of their publishing ink. They have been clearly bypassed and they need to deal with this hard reality. On election results day, the meltdown on the faces of television news anchors and newly-minted YouTube activists was relished by millions of Modi's voters. The loss of credibility, neutrality and fairness of the 'erudite' mainstream media calls for examining if the fourth estate indeed has its ear to the ground. As if the ongoing electoral circus was not enough, the international Press jumped into the ring to lecture the Indian electorate on whom to vote. Notwithstanding the unsolicited advice and unwarranted trespassing into the ongoing sovereign democratic electoral process, 'influential' publications earned another round of egg on their faces after the results for this needless and meddlesome adventurism.

Overall, the BJP's political communication stood out for its highly organised, targeted communication and one-to-one grassroots connect with the voters. Social media lost its novelty but it kept the electorate engaged and entertained till the end. The deft use of political communication — both verbal and non-verbal — played a key role in positioning the BJP in the minds of the electorate and contributed in elevating its fortunes to a historic high. It is never too late for the Opposition to take a leaf or two from this exercise and reset its communications tools to achieve both reach and relevance among the masses.

(The writer is a seasoned communications professional and management consultant based in New Delhi)

# Closer to a future without water

The unprecedented scarcity in Chennai is a result of poor urban planning and the lack of political will in finding radical solutions. Unless we devise sustainable solutions, this precarious crisis can well hold all our metropolises to ransom



**KOTA SRIRAJ**

Chennai is an apt example of all that is wrong with environment in India. The year 2015 saw the city reel under the worst floods experienced by the region. This year, the city is a witness to the worst ever drought in the recent times, prompting the Central Government to take notice and put in emergency measures to tackle the problem. The crisis is quite severe as the city is left with just two per cent of water in local reservoirs. Some rains would have gone a long way towards lifting its collective spirit but they are still elusive.

The rapid fluctuation of water resources for this city is evident as the city has oscillated between plenty to scarcity within a gap of four years.

What is the reason behind these ominous problems? One of the issues is the upstream of Chennai — there is over-exploitation of lake and groundwater resources here as farmers use the unsustainable flood irrigation technique for watering their fields. This in turn adversely impacts ground water tables. This can be avoided with the Tamil Nadu government helping to fund more advanced drip irrigation systems for farmers. This, if implemented on a large scale, can rejuvenate the lakes around the city and the groundwater table as well.

Furthermore, it is high time that the city invests in robust, efficient and sustainable rainwater harvesting systems that not only complement the water table and water bodies but also lend a helping hand in times of scarcity. It is also crucial to find ways to imaginatively re-use wastewater in order to handle and regulate demand pressures. But it is quite clear that the city infrastructure is faced with population overload and this can be mitigated by creating economic opportunities outside of Chennai so that the pressure on the city is reduced. These



measures can prevent Chennai and other Indian cities from continuing their inexorable march towards 'day zero' scenarios for natural resources when the price to be paid will be more than we can afford.

The water shortage has also been compounded due to less rainfall, which has been half its normal quota. The northeast or 'retreating' monsoon, which occurs in November and December, usually accounts for more

than 60 per cent of Chennai's annual rainfall on which the city now pins its earnest hopes. But right now the situation is quite grim as the city has received zero rainfall since March and the recent rise in temperatures has left the city high and dry. Add to this consecutive drought years, which have dried the city lakes and led to drastic drops in water tables.

The four major city reservoirs, with a total capacity of 11.5 thousand

million cubic feet (TMC ft), have only 0.3 TMC ft of water in them. To put things in perspective, even in 2017, when Tamil Nadu experienced the worst drought in 140 years due to the failure of the monsoon, the city reservoirs had 0.7 TMC ft during the beginning of May. Cyclone Fani, which formed over the Bay of Bengal at the end of April, gave some hope to the city. However, the storm changed its course and curved towards Odisha, leaving Chennai high and dry again.

Chennai requires around 850 million litres of water everyday and studies suggest that groundwater extraction here has been highly unsustainable. In the last decade, groundwater levels across the city have dropped by 85 per cent. Moreover, continued uncertainties in monsoon rainfall owing to global warming and other environmental triggers have compounded people's woes. The lakes and reservoirs are drying up more frequently, making the traditional ways of water supply unviable for the future.

In order to arrest the crisis, the Central Government, in tandem with

the State Government, must first focus on alleviating water shortage. Then it must strictly monitor the construction industry to ensure that all new projects are in compliance with water harvesting systems. This must be combined with lake and reservoir conservation mechanisms that help in maintaining critical levels of water throughout the year. The Central Government must also ensure that the citizens have an alternate option to log their protests regarding their woes.

Chennai's state of affairs must not be seen as one-off. This plight can affect any city of India which has not been careful with its resources. The Government plays a pivotal role in ensuring that this chaos does not prevail across the country. The National Green Tribunal must take cognisance of environmental factors that contribute to such circumstances. It must ensure strict action against errant parties who stress and tax the environment and even impose punitive measures. Unless strict measures are taken, results cannot be expected.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



**FOREIGN EYE**



**SHOCKING DEATH**

Real-life events can bear a remarkable symbolic power. The advent of Egypt's first and only democratically elected president in 2012 was one of them. His collapse, in a courtroom "cage" after years of inadequate medical care is another. Morsi played his part in wrecking Egypt's hopes. Nonetheless, his suffering and death stand for the ordeal of tens of thousands of political prisoners, and for the regime's determination to crush opposition. (The Guardian editorial)

# FinMin to prepare fresh proposal for AI sale

**The Govt has already asked Air India to finalise its accounts for 2018-19 by June 30**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry is preparing a fresh proposal for sale of Air India, incorporating issues like crude oil prices and exchange rate volatility, flagged by EY last year on possible reasons of the Government failing to attract bidders for the national carrier.

The Ministry's proposal, to be placed before Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM), will also include option of selling either 100 per cent or 76 per cent government stake in Air India.

The AISAM, which is basically a Group of Ministers, have to be reconstituted as Arun Jaitley and Suresh Prabhu are no longer ministers in the new government. They will be replaced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari is likely to continue in the panel when it is reconstituted.

The Government last year invited bids to sell 76 per cent

stake in Air India, along with transfer of management control. However, it did not attract any bidder. Following that transaction advisor EY prepared a report citing probable reasons that led to failure of the sale process.

The reasons cited include 24 per cent government stake and corresponding rights, high debt, volatile crude oil prices, fluctuations in exchange rate, changes in macro environment, profitability track record of bidders and restriction on bidding by individuals.

An official said that the EY report was discussed at the AISAM meeting in June last year following which it was decided that the Air India sale should be deferred.

During the meeting, which was presided over by the then Finance Minister Jaitley, it was also decided to infuse more funds into the carrier and take steps to lower debt of Air India by selling its subsidiaries and non-core assets.

"We will present a fresh proposal for Air India sale to AISAM. It would include updates on the issues raised when Air India disinvestment failed last year. It would be left to the AISAM to decide whether the Government should go in for 100 per cent or 76 per cent stake sale," an official told PTI.

The Government has already asked Air India to finalise its accounts for 2018-

19 by June 30.

Once the updated accounts are available and AISAM gives a go-ahead for Air India sale, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) and Ministry of Civil Aviation will draft the Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM) giving details of about the company and stipulating conditions for eligibility of bidders.

In 2018, AISAM had earlier decided to sell 76 per cent in Air India and the buyer was required to take over ₹24,000 crore debt of the carrier along with over ₹8,000 crore of liabilities. However, the stake sale failed to attract any bidder when the auction process completed on May 31, 2018. At that time, Air India's total debt burden stood at ₹55,000 crore.

As precursor to the strategic disinvestment of Air India, the Cabinet in February approved setting up of a special purpose vehicle (SPV) — Air India Assets Holding Company — to transfer ₹29,464 crore worth loans of the national carrier and its four subsidiaries.

The official said that the process of transfer of ₹29,464 crore to the SPV is not yet complete.

"The Department of Economic Affairs, Civil Aviation Ministry and the banks are still working out the modalities of debt transfer. The process is likely to take some time," the official added.

# Jet Airways shares dwindle further; tank 18.5%



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Jet Airways further plummeted 18.5 per cent Wednesday after the consortium of bankers took the grounded airline to the NCLT.

The scrip tanked 18.17 per cent to close at ₹33.10 on the BSE. During the day, it dropped 28.18 per cent to hit an all-time low of ₹29.05.

On the NSE, shares of the airline plunged 18.51 per cent to close at ₹33.

This is the 13th consecutive trading day fall for Jet Airways, which has tumbled 78 per cent during this period.

The consortium of 26 bankers led by the State Bank of India Tuesday took the airline to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to recover their dues of over ₹8,500 crore.

Jet Airways, started over 25 years ago, stopped flying on April 17 after it ran out of cash and the unpaid lessors took away most of its 100-odd operational airplanes.

The scrip has also been on back foot following announcement that stock exchanges will impose restrictions on trading in Jet Airways' shares from June 28 as part of preventive surveillance measures to curb excessive volatility, according to a circular issued last week.

# ₹ up 2 paise to 69.68 vs USD ahead of Fed policy decision

PTI ■ MUMBAI



The rupee inched up 2 paise to end at 69.68 against the US dollar Wednesday ahead of the US Fed's interest rate decision.

Hopes of a breakthrough in US-China trade talks and softening crude oil prices supported the local unit, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange (forex) market, the domestic currency opened at 69.57 to a dollar and gained further strength to touch a high of 69.49 during the day.

However, it could not hold on to the gains and finally ended at 69.68, up 2 paise over its previous close.

The rupee had settled at 69.70 against the US dollar Tuesday.

"Global markets would also await the outcome of the ongoing FOMC policy meeting which will conclude on June 19. The central bank is highly expected to come out in dovish note and markets would be highly anticipating any kind of hints on future rate cuts by the central bank," Angel Broking Research Associate Vaqar Khan said. Khan further said the rupee is likely to remain range-bound in the coming days despite marginal increase in global risk appetite.

"The Fed is widely expect-

ed to stand pat on monetary policy this time but open the door for an interest rate cut at the next meeting in July," said V K Sharma, Head PCG and Capital Markets Strategy, HDFC Securities.

Meanwhile, the 10-year government bond yield rose to 6.84 per cent Wednesday.

"The benchmark 10-year sovereign bond yield rose 3 bps to 6.84 per cent after slumping 12 bps on Tuesday to its lowest level since October 2017, amid reports that a panel may recommend transferring one-third of the RBI's surplus reserves to the Government," Sharma added.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets, purchasing shares worth ₹31.73 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.09 per cent to 97.55.

The BSE Sensex ended modestly higher Wednesday after a highly volatile session. After rallying nearly 400 points during the day, the BSE gauge settled 66.40 points, or 0.17 per cent, higher at 39,112.74. The broader NSE Nifty closed almost flat at 11,691.45.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, eased 0.77 per cent to trade at \$61.66 per barrel.

The Financial Benchmark India Private Ltd (FBIL) set the reference rate for the rupee/dollar at 69.8010 and for rupee/euro at 78.4233. The reference rate for rupee/British pound was fixed at 87.4602 and for rupee/100 Japanese yen at 64.47.

# FM reviews state of economy, FSDC discusses budget

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Wednesday reviewed the state of economy at the meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) attended by sectoral regulators, including RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, here.

The meeting also discussed proposals relating to the Budget to be presented by Sitharaman on July 5 in the Lok Sabha, Das told reporters after the meeting.

The RBI Governor further said that the Bimal Jalan com-

mittee, which is looking into the size of capital reserves that the RBI should hold, is likely to submit its final report by June-end.

It was the first meeting of the FSDC after the new government assumed office.

The FSDC is the apex body of sectoral regulators, headed by the finance minister.



# Anti-dumping duty imposed on jute sacking cloths from B'desh

**This will help jute farmers, jute mills of West Bengal**

PTI ■ KOLKATA

India has imposed anti-dumping duty on the import of jute sacking cloths from Bangladesh which will have a positive impact on West Bengal's ailing jute sector.

"Anti-dumping duty on sacking cloth from Bangladesh was our long standing demand to save the Indian jute sector. With active efforts of Union Textile Minister Smriti Irani, this has been achieved," jute industry veteran Sanjay Kajaria said in his reaction.

"It will be applicable for 5 years effective from June 18, 2019," he said.

This will help jute farmers

and the jute mills of West Bengal which are ailing or running in a very low capacity, Kajaria said.

The IJMA had filed an application for initiation of anti-circumvention investigation concerning import of the product exported from Bangladesh. It has requested for extension of the existing anti-dumping duties on the imports, alleging circumvention of the duty.

Countries carry out anti-dumping probe to determine whether their domestic industries have been hurt because of a surge in cheap imports.

Jute sacking accounts for the lion share of the total jute goods. The notification showed anti-dumping duty imposed between \$125.21 and 138.97 per tonne.

Currently, the duty exists on jute yarn, sacking bags and hessian fabric (made from skin of jute plant) and imposed in the range of \$6.3-351.7 per tonne.

# Reforms, transparency must for Belt and Road success: WB

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

China's global Belt and Road Initiative could boost economies and reduce poverty rates in dozens of developing countries, but risks environmental damage, debt and corruption if improvements aren't made, the World Bank said Wednesday.

President Xi Jinping's signature foreign policy aims to reinvent the ancient Silk Road to connect Asia to Europe and Africa through massive investments in maritime, road and rail projects -- with hundreds of billions of dollars in financing from Chinese banks.

Critics, however, say the six-year-old BRI is a plan to boost Beijing's global influence, riddled with opaque deals favouring Chinese companies, and will saddle nations with debt and environmental damage.

The World Bank's "Belt and Road Economics" report said the project has "the potential to substantially improve trade, foreign investment, and living conditions", but only if China and corridor countries make policy reforms to improve transparency, expand trade and mitigate against environmental and corruption risks.

While trade will "increase sharply, if unevenly" for economies along the routes, the "potential gains come with considerable risks", according to Ceyle Pazarbasoglu, a World Bank vice president.

The report estimated that the BRI would boost trade by 2.8 to 9.7 per cent for participating countries and between

1.7 and 6.2 per cent for the world.

However, the study found that around a quarter of those economies already have high debt levels and for some them, "medium-term vulnerability could increase".

The report said large infrastructure projects are "inherently risky", as they can create corruption and failures in public procurement.

This has caused the US, India and some European nations to look at the project with suspicion.

The World Bank study found Chinese firms account for the majority of BRI contracts, although "limited data" was available. According to one estimate, it said more than 60 per cent of Chinese-funded BRI projects are allocated to Chinese companies.

"Little is known about the processes for selecting firms," the World Bank report said. "Moving toward international good practices such as open and transparent public procurement would increase the likelihood that BRI projects are allocated to the firms best placed to implement them."

"Belt and Road Economics" recommended the BRI made information regarding planning, fiscal costs, budgeting and procurement more available to the public to improve the effectiveness of individual infrastructure investments and national development strategies.

"Greater transparency is essential to encourage community involvement and build public trust in investment decisions," the report said.

# Thomas Cook India releases summer report 2019

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Thomas Cook (India) Ltd., an integrated travel and travel related financial services company, has observed a vibrant 22% growth this summer with emergence of significant trends.

Thomas Cook India has witnessed a definitive growth of over 25% with today's cash rich, but time poor generation opting for travel to bond with their families. Parent-Child bonding tours are in high demand resulting in a surge of Thomas Cook India's Adventure Park Holidays, outdoors-adventure, music and culture tourism; sports tourism being a significant driver.

# Govt proposes no registration charges for electric vehicles

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government Wednesday proposed to waive registration charges for electric vehicles to boost adoption of environment-friendly vehicles.

The proposal comes at a time when the country plans high penetration of such vehicles by 2030.

Issuing the draft notification to amend the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), 1989, the road transport and highways ministry said battery-operated vehicles "shall be exempted from the payment of fees for the purpose of issue or renewal of registration certificate and assignment of new registration mark".

The exemption will apply

to all category of vehicles, including two-wheelers.

The ministry has issued the draft notification for amendments in CMVR where the amendments in Rule 81 are proposed for such waiver.

The amendments will be done in exercise of the powers conferred on the central government under various sections of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. Comments from stakeholders have been sought in a month.

"The said draft rules shall be taken into consideration after the expiry of a period of 30 days from the date on which the copies of this notification as published in the Gazette of India, are made available to the public," the draft notification said.

The objections or sugges-

tions that may be received from any person with respect to the said draft rules before the expiry of the aforesaid period will be considered by the central government, it said.

Last year, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said a blueprint has been drawn to boost production of electric vehicles in the country and take their share to 15 per cent of total automobiles in the next five years.

It is time India should think to promote green vehicles and curb pollution, Gadkari said.

Earlier to promote electric vehicles in India, the government had approved green licence plates bearing numbers in white fonts for private e-vehicles and yellow for taxis.

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male Age : Approx. 25-30 years, Height : About 5'6", Identification : a tattoo of "Rahul" written on right hand, wearing blue colour jeans, was found dead on 17.06.2019 in Haiderpur Water Treatment Plant, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 16-A dated 17.06.2019 has been lodged at P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone numbers.

SHO - P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi  
Tel. No. 011-27571162, 27571171

### NORTHERN RAILWAY QUOTATION NOTICE

File No. 23AC/393/Cycle-Scoter/MUT/2016

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager / Chg., Northern Railway, New Delhi invites sealed Quotations for the allotment of Cycle-Scoter-Car-Bus-Truck-Tempo parking at Meerut Cantt Railway Station (MUT) as per New Parking Policy issued by HQ office letter no. 120-MC-Parking-Policy-2015 dated 18.11.2016 for the period of 3 (three) months, detail is as under:-

S N	Railway Station	Station Ctg	Type of pkg.	Pkg. area (in Sq mtrs)	*Reserve Price for three months (In Rs.)	EMD@2% of Total Contract Value (In Rs.)
1	Meerut Cantt (MUT)	"A"	Cycle-Scoter-Car-Bus-Truck-Tempo	1187.39	3,92,837	7,900

\* Applicable Taxes will be extra.

In addition to above Reserve price, GST as applicable on date (presently @ 18% and TCS @ 2% or as applicable over the license fees has to be paid by parking contractor.

Date and Time for submission of Quotation: - Up to 15:00 Hrs. on 26.06.2019 to be open immediately.

For more information and obtaining Quotation forms, interested bidders may contact to the office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Coaching, DRM Office, State Entry Road New Delhi From 19.06.2019 to 25.06.2019 in any working days between 10:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs and on 26.06.2019 up to 13:00 hrs. The draft submitted for Earnest Money deposit: should be in favour of "Senior Divisional Finance Manager New Delhi" and have been prepared from the bidders own bank account and in case found otherwise/ false, Railway Administration shall be at liberty to initiate any action, including termination as deemed fit at a later date also.

Relevant information is also available on the official Web site of Railways i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in 1945/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### Appeal For Identification

General public is hereby informed that this person Name : Unknown S/o : Unknown, R/o : Unknown, Age : 60 Years, Sex : Male, Height : 5 Ft. 7 Inch, Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Oval, Built : Thin, Wearing : Nude, has been found in unconscious condition on 09.06.2019 Near MCD Office, Karol Bagh, Delhi, he was admitted in Lady Hardinge Medical College, during treatment Dr. declared him dead on 12.06.2019 and his dead body preserved in Lady Hardinge Medical College's Mortuary House. In this regard a DD No. 65-A Dated 09.06.2019 has been lodged at PS. Prasad Nagar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO DP/6374/CD/19. PS. Prasad Nagar, Delhi Ph: 011-25725652, 8750870432

### AXIS BANK

Axis Bank Limited, Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, 1-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301

Controlling office: Axis House, Bombay Dyeing Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai- 400025.

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(f) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 24-07-2019 at 12.00 p.m. at Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, 1-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301 for recovery of Rs.17,02,166/- due as on 22-08-2016 along with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred up to the date of actual payment and/or realization due to the secured creditor from Mr. Devendra Par Singh. The reserve price will be Rs.28,25,708/- and the earnest money deposit will be Rs.2,82,571/- Last Date, Time And Venue For Submission Of Bids With Sealed Offer/ Tender With EMD on 23-07-2019 at the above mentioned address.

Account Number	Location / Details of the Immovable Property/Secured Assets possessed and put for sale
Home Loan - PHR012800335239	A Residential Flat Having Super area 1244.59 Sq.Ft. (i.e 115.56 Sq.Mtr) and built up area 995.50 Sq. Ft. (i.e 92.45 Sq. Mtrs) bearing Flat No CO20203 on 2nd Floor (Without roof rights) in Building C-02 situated in Group Housing Project namely "Ecoony Greens" being part of Residential Township Crescent Park C situated at Village Shapur Barnhata, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh along with usage right of one open parking space.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the secured creditor's website i.e. https://www.axisbank.com/auaction-notices/

Date : 20-06-2019, Place: Noida, UP Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.

### SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a male namely Washiuddin, S/o: Late Zakiuddin, R/o: H.No. 2086, Katra Chotte Lal, Ganjmeer Khan, Delhi has been missing since 03.06.2019 at about 2:00 PM from the area of P.S Chandni Mahal, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 80-A, dated 07.06.2019 has been registered at P.S. Chandni Mahal. The description of missing male is as under:

Name: Washiuddin, Age: 24 Years, Height: 6'0", Face: Oval, Complexion: Fair, Built: Medium, Wearing: Black T-Shirt - Pant and Chappal in feet.

If anyone has any information about this missing male please inform P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi.

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cbc@cbi.gov.in  
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO  
Police Station, Chandni Mahal, Delhi  
DP/6360/CD/19 Ph: 011-23279338, 23271751, 23263967

### SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Ravita, D/o Ramchander R/o Village- Manipur, Post Office- Thekmabazar, P.S Barda, District- Azamgarh, U.P has been missing since 26.05.2018. In this regard a case FIR No. 236/19 U/S 363 IPC, dated 03.05.19, has been registered at P.S. Jahangir Puri, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing girl is as under:

Name: Ravita, Gender: Female, Age: 17 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Medium, Face: Round, Wearing: Blue colour kurta with green salwar and pink slippers in feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing girl, kindly inform the SHO/ Jahangir Puri, Delhi.

E-mail : cbc@cbi.gov.in  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 SHO  
Fax : 011-24368639 P.S. Jahangir Puri, Delhi  
DP/9007/NW/19 Ph. No.: 011-27636000, 27631600

### Appeal For Identification

General public is hereby informed that this person Name : Unknown S/o : Unknown, R/o : Unknown, Age : 60 Years, Sex : Male, Height : 5 Ft. 7 Inch, Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Oval, Built : Thin, Wearing : Nude, has been found in unconscious condition on 09.06.2019 Near MCD Office, Karol Bagh, Delhi, he was admitted in Lady Hardinge Medical College, during treatment Dr. declared him dead on 12.06.2019 and his dead body preserved in Lady Hardinge Medical College's Mortuary House. In this regard a DD No. 65-A Dated 09.06.2019 has been lodged at PS. Prasad Nagar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO DP/6374/CD/19. PS. Prasad Nagar, Delhi Ph: 011-25725652, 8750870432

# Overground workers of Hizbul Mujahideen arrested in Shopian



Representational image

**Srinagar:** Security forces have arrested five overground workers of proscribed terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen in Jammu & Kashmir's Shopian district, police said Wednesday. "Based on specific input, police arrested five associates of terrorists from Shopian district," an official spokesman said. He said on IED, which the militants were planning to use against security forces, was recovered at the instance of arrested persons.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Aqib Nazir Rathar, Amir Majeed Wani, Sameer Ahmed Bhat, Faisal Farooq Ahanger and Rayees Ahmed Ganai, the official said. "During questioning of the arrested persons, it was revealed that terrorists of proscribed outfit HM, along with above stated associates, were planning to target police and security forces by planting an IED in the area," he said. **PTI**

# Being punished for speaking truth: Suspended K'taka Congress MLA

**Bengaluru:** Senior Karnataka legislator R Roshan Baig, who was suspended by the Congress on Tuesday for attacking its State leadership, Wednesday said he was a "disciplined soldier of the party" and was being punished for speaking the truth. Asserting that his comments against state Congress leaders were the opinion of the party workers, he said he was in the Indian National Congress headed by Rahul Gandhi and "not in the Siddu (Siddaramaiah) Congress". "Last night, I got the information that I have been suspended from the party...Is it a crime to speak the truth? What I have said is the truth," Baig said. Speaking to reporters here, he said he had not criticised Gandhi and that he continued to be a "disciplined soldier of the party". "My criticism of state leaders is true. Is speaking the truth a crime?" said Baig, who was suspended on Tuesday night with immediate effect, citing "anti-party" activities. Hitting out at Karnataka Congress leaders for the party's dismal show in the Lok Sabha polls, Baig had recently held Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Siddaramaiah's "arrogance" and KPCC president Dinesh Gundu Rao's "immaturity" responsible for the "flop show". He had also called Congress general secretary K C Venugopal a "buffoon". Baig had dropped hints of quitting the party and appealed to Muslims to "compromise" with the situation on the BJP-led NDA returning to power at the Centre. The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) had issued a show-cause notice to the MLA for his conduct, to which he had not responded. Noting that Gandhi had offered to resign as the All India Congress Committee (AICC) president, taking responsibility for the poll defeat, Baig said, "When we criticise here in the state for the party

winning only one seat in the Lok Sabha polls, action is being taken." "What I have said about a few of our state leaders is the opinion of thousands of our karyakartas," he said. Baig, a seven-time MLA and a former Karnataka minister, has been unhappy with the state Congress leadership over not being included in the coalition cabinet headed by Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy. The senior leader said he felt "sorry" for Gandhi and alleged that the Lok Sabha poll campaign in Karnataka was run in such a way that "we were not involved and there was no political management". "...I have not criticised Rahul Gandhi. He is the Indian National Congress president. I am in the Indian National Congress, not in the Siddu Congress. "I am a disciplined soldier of the Indian National Congress and was upset about the state of the party in Karnataka," he said. **PTI**

# Centre should bring legislation to protect faith of Sabarimala devotees: Kerala Govt

**Thiruvananthapuram:** The CPI(M)-led LDF Government in Kerala on Wednesday demanded that the Centre bring a legislation to protect the faith of Lord Ayyappa's devotees visiting the hill shrine in Sabarimala, which was ordered by the Supreme Court last year to open its doors to women of all age groups. The state government's demand comes in the backdrop of Kollam MP N K Premachandran moving a private members bill in the Lok Sabha against women's entry into the Lord Ayyappa temple. "The bill is likely to come up this week in the Lok Sabha. "The Sabarimala issue will be coming up before the central government as a private bill. Everybody knows the fate of the private bills..." Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran told reporters here. To ensure that such a situation does not arise, the BJP state leadership should prevail on

# After decades, citizenship for 19 Pak migrants in Rajasthan

**Barmer:** Nineteen Pakistani migrants living in Rajasthan's Barmer for the past several decades were granted Indian citizenship on Wednesday, an official said. Certificates of Indian citizenship were handed out to them at an event held at the district collectorate. The state government has granted Indian citizenship to 19 Pak migrants who have been living in Barmer district for more than a decade, District Collector Himanshu Gupta said. He, along with Additional District Collector Rakesh Kumar Sharma, handed out the certificates to the migrants. Expressing their happiness, the migrants said getting Indian citizenship after years of wait is a dream come true. The decision to grant citizenship to these 19 migrants living in Pali and five in Jalore was announced by the Rajasthan government on Tuesday. **PTI**



Representational image

# Highest number of malnutrition deaths in last 5 years: Khadse

**Mumbai:** In a rebuke for the Government led by his own party, senior BJP leader Eknath Khadse claimed on Wednesday that Maharashtra has witnessed the highest number of malnutrition deaths in the last five years. He was speaking during a discussion in the Legislative Assembly on ashram-shalas (residential schools for tribal children) run or aided by the Tribal Development Department. A code prescribing mandatory facilities at these schools was prepared eight months ago but its copies were yet to be made available and therefore it could not be implemented, the BJP leader alleged. The code also prescribes how much salary the security guard employed at ashram schools should get. Guards get ₹5,000 per month for round-the-clock duty at present, and their duty hours should be curtailed, he said. Tribal Development Minister Ashok Uike said the decision on pay scale of security guards would be taken soon. Khadse said decisions taken by the Government are not implemented immediately. **PTI**

# 15 dead, 36 injured in 2 road accidents in UP

**Sambhal/Fatehpur:** At least 15 people lost their lives and 36 others sustained injuries in two separate accidents in the State, police said on Wednesday. Seven people were killed and 25 injured when a bus collided with a truck in Fatehpur on Wednesday morning, they said. Additional Superintendent of Police Pooja Yadav said the accident took place at the Bilari-Kaunh Modh under the Chaandpur police station area. "In the collision of a private bus with a truck, at least seven persons lost their lives, while 25 others sustained injuries. The injured have been hospitalised for treatment," Yadav said, adding that the identity of the victims is being ascertained. Police officials suspect that the toll might go up. The bus was going from Fatehpur to Jahanabad when the accident occurred. In another accident that took



Representational image

place late Tuesday night, at least eight people were killed and 11 others injured when their vehicle collided with a mini-goods carrier on the Moradabad-Agra National Highway in Sambhal, the officials said. Superintendent of Police (Sambhal) Yamuna Prasad said on Wednesday that the victims were returning home after attending a wedding when the accident took place near Lehrawan village in the district. The injured were hospitalised and the bodies sent for postmortem, the SP added. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the loss of lives and conveyed his condolence to the family members of the bereaved, a statement issued by the UP Government in Lucknow said. The Chief Minister has directed officials to ensure that the injured persons get adequate treatment, it added. **PTI**

# Can't dub person terrorist on mere use of word jihad: Maha court

**Mumbai:** A person cannot be branded as a terrorist merely for using the word "jihad", a Maharashtra court observed while acquitting three accused of terror charges. The Akola-based court of special judge A S Jadhav made the observation while hearing a case against the three persons accused under the stringent the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), the Arms Act and the Bombay Police Act. Abdul Razzaque (24), Shobek Khan (24) and Salim Malik (26) were booked under various Indian Penal Code sections, including 307 (attempt to murder) and 332 (voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty), following an attack on policemen outside a mosque in Pusad area of Akola on September 25, 2015, on the occasion of Eid uz Zohra, over beef ban in the state. According to the prosecution, Razzaque arrived at the mosque, took out a knife and stabbed two policemen on duty and said before the attack that because of the beef ban, he would kill the cops. The Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) claimed they accused were part of a conspiracy to influence Muslim youths to join terrorist organisations. Jadhav observed, "It appears that accused Razzaque exhibited his anger by violence against the government and some Hindu organisations for ban on cow slaughter." "No doubt he used the word 'jihad'. But, it was adventurous to jump to the conclusion that only for using the word 'jihad' he should be branded as a terrorist," he said. According to dictionary, the word 'jihad' literally means "struggle", he pointed out. "Jihad is an Arabic word which literally means striving or struggling... Therefore merely the use of word 'jihad' by the accused would not be proper to brand him as a terrorist," the judge said. **PTI**

# Union Minister's son sent to police custody in attempt to murder case

**Narsinghpur (MP):** A local court on Wednesday sent Union Minister Prahlad Patel's 26-year-old son Prabal Patel, who was arrested in an attempt to murder case, to police custody for a day. Prabal Patel was among seven persons arrested in connection with an attack on a group of persons at Goteagaon town on Monday night that left five people injured. Efforts have been intensified to nab the minister's nephew, Monu, and four others also wanted in connection with the case, police said. Judicial Magistrate Ajay Singh sent Prabal to a one-day police custody on Wednesday. Six other accused were remanded in judicial custody till July 1. Prabal Patel, a resident of Kisani Mohalla in Goteagaon, has been named as the main accused in the case, police officials added. Prahlad Patel, the BJP MP from Damoh, was recently inducted in the Union cabinet as the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism. Monu Patel (27), who is at large, is the son of Prahlad Patel's younger brother Jalam Singh Patel, a former Madhya Pradesh minister and sitting BJP MLA from Narsinghpur. As per the complaint, Himanshu Rathore and Rahul Rajput were returning home after attending a marriage ceremony when they were allegedly intercepted and abused by Prabal Patel and his associates. They were taken to Monu Patel's office and beaten up, the complainants alleged. Later, the accused took the duo to the residence of one Shivam Rai, where they beat up Shivam, his father Ishwar Rai and his friend Mayank. Gunshots were also fired and one of the bullets hit Rathore, injuring him in the hand, the complaint said. Police are yet to find out what led to the attacks, the officials said. The accused were booked under IPC sections 307 (attempt to murder) and 365 (kidnapping with intent to wrongfully confine a person), they added. **PTI**

# Local who spotted Sheena's skeleton deposes in court

**Mumbai:** A local who first spotted the remains of Sheena Bora in a Raigad jungle in 2012 deposed before the trial court here on Wednesday. Sheena (24) was allegedly killed by her mother and media executive Indrani Mukerjea with the help of others in April 2012 and the body was burnt in a jungle in neighbouring Raigad district. As per the prosecution, Ganesh Dhene had spotted a skeleton at Gagode village in Pen teshil of Raigad days after the murder. Dhene is a 'police patil' who are appointed in villages where there is no police station. Their job is to keep police informed about happenings in the area. Sheena's murder came to light in 2015 following the arrest of Indrani Mukerjea's driver Shyamvar Rai. Then it was established that the skeleton found in the Raigad jungle in 2012 was of Sheena, the biological daughter of Indrani, born from a previous relationship. During his testimony before CBI judge J C Jagdale, Dhene said he was collecting mangoes when he spotted a burnt skeleton. **PTI**

# Maharashtra refinery project to be 'revived' in Raigad

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**  
Five months after the BJP-led Maharashtra Government agreed to shift the Nanar oil refinery project out of eco-sensitive Ratnagiri district in coastal Konkan region, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday announced that the controversial refinery project would now be located in the neighbouring Raigad district. In a written reply to a query raised in the Assembly during the ongoing monsoon session of the State Legislature, Fadnavis said that his government would locate the Nanar Refinery project in Raigad district instead of Ratnagiri district, following opposition to the project from the local villagers and various political parties. "There is no opposition to the refinery project from the people in Raigad district. The people from 40 villages have not shown any resistance to the acquisition of the land for the project," the Chief Minister said. It may be recalled that as part of the seat-sharing agreement for the Lok Sabha polls arrived at between the ruling BJP and its alliance partner Shiv Sena on February 18 this year, the Devendra Fadnavis government had accepted the Sena's demand to shift the Nanar project out of Ratnagiri project. The shifting of Nanar project was one of the Sena's demands for entering into seat-sharing pact with the ruling BJP for the LS polls. The Shiv Sena has been opposing the location of Nanar oil refinery project in Ratnagiri district right from day one. So much so that Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray had on June 27, 2018 refused to Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan who wanted to call on the former to allay the former's fears about the contentious Nanar oil refinery project. On his part, Pradhan had said: "This is a very ambitious project for India, especially Maharashtra. We are with an open mind discussing all the issues with stakeholders and will continue to do so. I will personally go and explain the project to Uddhav Thackeray. There are some genuine concerns. Our companies will try and address those concerns. Fundamentally there is no opposition. There are concerns of farmers which will be listened to and addressed". The Sena had registered its first protest against the Nanar project on April 12, a day after an Indian consortium comprising Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Saudi Arabian Oil Co (Saudi Aramco) for setting an oil refinery and petroleum products complex at Nanar in Rajapur taluka of Ratnagiri district.

# Payal Tadvi case: Bail hearing of accused to proceed without video recording

**Mumbai:** The special court hearing the bail pleas of the three accused in the Dr Payal Tadvi suicide case on Wednesday said proceedings will not be video recorded in the absence of necessary facilities. The court had ordered video recording of the bail proceedings earlier under the provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. But the prosecution submitted that police were unable to make necessary arrangements, and sought some time. Defence lawyer Abad Ponda pointed out that as per the law, recording was required only during the main trial. Advocate Gunratan Sadavarte, appearing for the victim's family, claimed that the state government and the police were "not serious" when it came to atrocities against scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Judge P B Jadhav noted in his order that though the SC/ST Act was amended and video recording of all the proceedings was made mandatory two years ago, infrastructure was yet to be made available. It was the state government's responsibility, he said. The court had directed the police to make the arrangements but "police machinery has its own difficulties", Jadhav said. "Bail proceedings are required to be decided expeditiously. Therefore this court has no option but to proceed without video recording," he said. The bail pleas will be heard on Friday. Tadvi, 26, a second-year postgraduate medical student attached to BYL Nair Hospital, allegedly committed suicide in her hostel room on May 22. Her family alleged that three of her seniors — Hema Ahuja, Bhakti Meher and Ankita Khandelwal — ragged her and hurled casteist abuses at her, forcing Tadvi to take her life. **PTI**

**ICICI Bank Limited**

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Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai-400051.  
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan, New Delhi -110055.

**PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**  
[See proviso to rule 8 (6)]  
**Notice for sale of immovable properties**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) /Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured assets with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding (In ₹)	Reserve Price (In ₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (In ₹)	Date of Property Inspection and Time	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)
1.	Mr. Sanjeev Sabharwal (Borrower) Shashi Sabharwal (Co-Borrower) - LBNOD00001584400	Flat No. A-0312, 3rd Floor Cabana, Tower No.-A, Sector -5, Vaibhav Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, Area- 670 Sq. Ft	Rs. 41, 04, 476/- as on June13, 2019.	Rs. 25,00, 000/-	Rs. 2,50, 000/-	July 04, 2019, From 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM	July 12, 2019, At 12:00 Noon

The online auction will take place on the website of auction agency Shiram Automall India Ltd. (URL Link - "https://eauctions.samil.in"). The Mortgagors/ Noticee are given last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till July 11, 2019, before 5:00 P.M failing which, this/these secured assets will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with aforesaid earnest money deposit (as referred in column No. (F) in a sealed envelope superscribed "offer for purchase of property" so as to reach at ICICI Bank Limited, 2nd Floor Videocon Tower, Block E-1, Jhandewalan Extension, Rani Jhansi Road, Delhi-110055 or our marketing agents Shiram Automall India Ltd having their office at 2nd Floor, Best Sky Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi - 110034 on or before July 11, 2019 before 5:00 P.M. The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. EMD DD / PO should be from a Nationalised /Scheduled Bank favouring "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact on mobile no. 8657549734/ 9650193259 of ICICI Bank Limited or 9910453434 of Shiram Automall India Ltd. The tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank/e-auction vendor official and registered before the cut off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any reasons thereof. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit ICICI Bank Ltd website at <https://www.icicibank.com/notice-board/properties-for-sale/properties.page?>

Sd/-  
Authorised Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited.

Date : June 20, 2019  
Place : Delhi/NCR

**राजस्थान राज्य पथ परिवहन निगम, मुख्यालय**  
परिवहन मार्ग, जयपुर

**बिड सूचना संख्या 03/2019-20**

निगम के विनियमित निगम कार्य हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सा.नि.वि. राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदको एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ढाक एवं दूर संचार/तेल एवं इन्धन विभाग में पंजीकृत संवेदको से, जो राजस्थान सरकार के नियमानुसार सक्षम श्रेणी एवं उम्मेदवारों को, से निर्धारित प्रथम में ई-टेंडरिंग प्रक्रिया द्वारा ऑन लाइन बिड आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत	बु.बी.एन. संख्या
1	केन्द्रीय कार्यशाला जोधपुर में सड़क निर्माण कार्य	47.60 लाख	RTC1920WSOB00063
2	केन्द्रीय कार्यशाला जोधपुर में विद्युत्करण का कार्य	14.50 लाख	RTC1920WSOB00064
3	आगरा कार्यशाला जोधपुर में पवन निर्माण कार्य	97.00 लाख	RTC1920WSOB00065
4	आगरा कार्यशाला जोधपुर में सड़क निर्माण कार्य	44.00 लाख	RTC1920WSOB00066
5	आगरा कार्यशाला जोधपुर में विद्युत्करण का कार्य	09.00 लाख	RTC1920WSOB00067

बिड से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाईट <http://transport.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrtc/>, <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> या <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर देख जा सकता है।  
Ad. No. : 20/2019-20  
राज. संवेद.सं/767/2019-2020

कार्यकारी प्रबन्धक (निर्माण)



# nacaste ENGLAND

INJURIES ARE PART AND PARCEL NOBODY HAS CONTROL ON IT. THIS IS A GOOD INDIAN TEAM AND THEY WILL MAKE IT TO THE SEMIS AND WE WILL SEE WHAT HAPPENS — SOURAV GANGULY

## CRICKETCRADLE

TODAY LIVE



Australia vs Bangladesh

3:00 pm IST

VENUE: Trent Bridge, Nottingham

## Virushka outing



Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli was spotted spending some quality time together in London

Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma has joined her husband and Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli ahead of India's clash against Afghanistan on Saturday in the ongoing World Cup in England and Wales. The couple was spotted in London earlier this week with a Kohli fan page posting about the outing on social media. "Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma on the Old Bond Street in London today. I love Anushka's new haircut," the image was posted on Tuesday on Instagram. Anushka has been accompanying Virat in earlier tours and was seen cheering and supporting her husband and the team. She was also there with the team when India toured Australia and England last year. Earlier, the BCCI had not allowed the wives and family members to travel with the cricketers for the first 20 days of ongoing World Cup, which included India's much-anticipated clash against Pakistan. However, it seems the board has now changed its stance and is allowing the family members of the players to travel with the team.

## Role of Inzy now?

Following Pakistan's dismal performance in the ongoing World Cup so far, the country's former skipper Intikhab Alam has questioned the presence of chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq in England and said it was the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) mistake to allow him to stay in England at its expense. "Once the selection committee has selected the team, the captain and coach take over to select the playing 11 and decide on the tour matters," Intikhab told the Dawn. "So what is the role of Inzamam-ul-Haq there and why has the PCB allowed him to go on official visit and interfere," he questioned. Meanwhile, the Pakistan Cricket Board will carry out a "robust review and analysis" of the performances of the national team and its support staff, including head coach Mickey Arthur, in the past three years after the World Cup. The PCB Board of Governors which met in Lahore on Wednesday also agreed the team's performance in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 to date has been below expectation. Pakistan has won just one match in its five games in the World Cup so far. The PCB said in a statement that the Board of Governors had a discussion on the Pakistan team's recent performance across all formats.

## Faith in team: PCB

Even as fans, critics and former players continue to lash out at the national team's performances in the ongoing World Cup, the Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Ehsan Mani has assured captain Sarfaraz Ahmed of the board's full support. A PCB spokesman confirmed that Mani had called up Sarfaraz on Tuesday and spoken to him about the team and remaining matches of the World Cup. "The Chairman assured Sarfaraz that the board and nation is behind the team and they should try to focus on the matches ahead and give their best," said the spokesperson. Mani apparently told Sarfaraz that the nation has faith in the team despite the defeats and wanted the players to bounce back strongly in remaining matches. A reliable source from the Government said that PM Imran Khan, is unhappy that despite his advice the team chose to field first against India.

AGENCIES

PRELIMINARY STAGE								
	Pos	Team	P	W	L	N/R	Net RR	Pts
+	1	ENG	5	4	1	0	+1.862	8
	2	AUS	5	4	1	0	+0.812	8
	3	NZ	4	3	1	0	+2.163	7
	4	IND	4	3	1	0	+1.029	7
	5	B'DESH	5	1	2	2	-0.270	5
	6	SL	5	1	2	2	-1.778	4
	7	WI	5	1	3	1	+0.272	3
	8	RSA	5	1	3	1	-0.208	3
	9	PAK	5	1	3	1	-1.933	3
	10	AFG	5	0	5	0	-2.089	0

# Dhawan out of World Cup

## Bhuvi hopes alive even as Shami trains consistently

PNS ■ HAMPSHIRE BOWL (SOUTHAMPTON)

The big bad news is that opener Shikhar Dhawan has been ruled out of the entire tournament due to a metacarpal fracture in the left hand.

"Several specialist opinions have revealed that Shikhar Dhawan has sustained a fracture at the base of his first metacarpal of the left hand. His hand will remain in a cast till mid-July which rules him out of the rest of the ICC World Cup 2019," team manager Sunil Subramaniam announced at a Press conference at Hampshire Bowl on Wednesday.

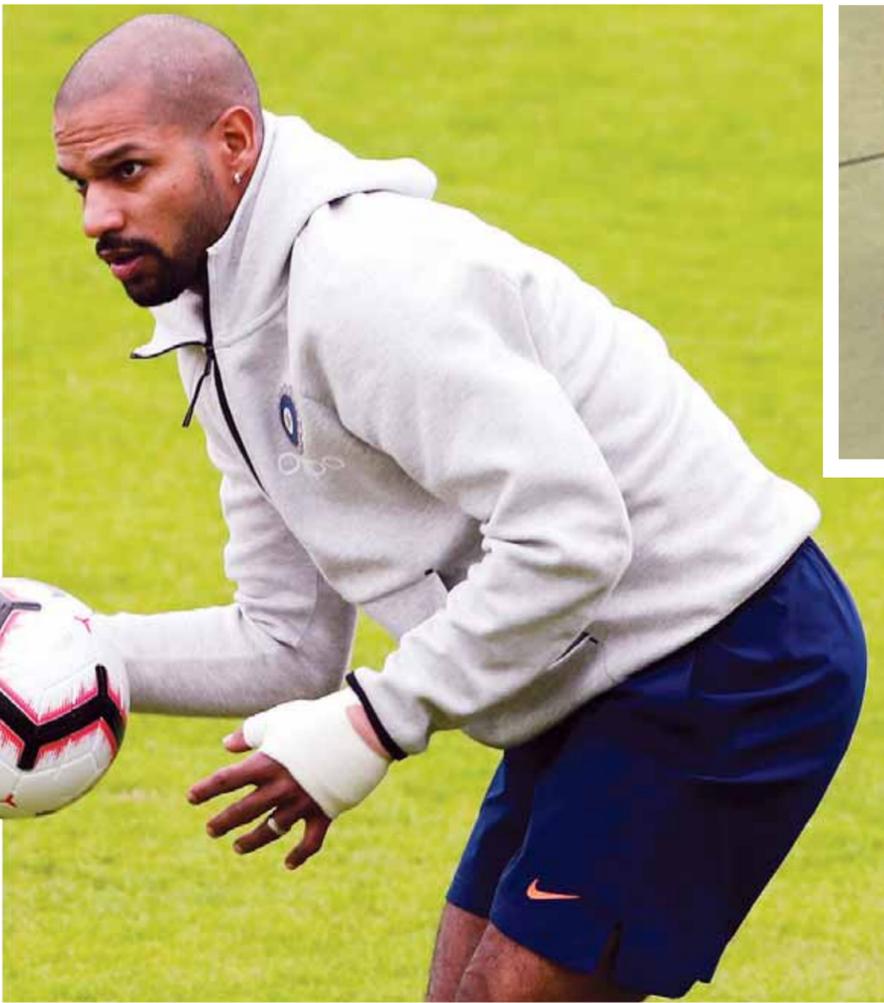
He said the Team India management has "written to the ICC's technical committee seeking a replacement and Rishabh Pant will be the person covering Dhawan."

After being left out of the 15, Pant had been flown in last week and had joined the team to train in Manchester where India played against Pakistan and won by 89 runs.

Dhawan, however, was seen playing football with the team at nets just before the announcement was made and seemed to be relaxed and reconciled to his fate. He had just made a return to form after a wishy-washy inaugural against South Africa in the opening game. He scored a scintillating 127 runs in the second game against Australia at The Oval where a Pat Cummins rising delivery hit his hand and did him in. The player, known to have a high pain tolerance level, continued to play 20 more overs after his fracture and mid-field first aid.

After the match, assistant coach Sanjay Bangar had said the team would not like to lose a fiery opener like Dhawan and had decided to wait for two weeks before taking a final decision with follow-up scans. Dhawan attended all practice sessions, taking jogs of the stadium and playing football with the boys on most occasions.

India's mega opening worries were, however, settled down by KL Rahul who has since been promoted up the



Shikhar Dhawan holds a football during India's training session at Hampshire Bowl in Southampton on Wednesday

order from No 4. He made a solid 57 against Pakistan in his newly accorded position. He contributed to a record 136-run opening partnership with Rohit Sharma. Rahul's form and determination at the top of the order would have Pant waiting in the wings for now

**I feel emotional to announce that I will no longer be a part of CWC19. Unfortunately, the thumb won't recover on time. But the show must go on. I'm grateful for all the love & support from my team mates, cricket lovers & our entire nation. Jai Hind! — Dhawan's video tweet to fans**



Hamstring stress has Bhuvneshwar Kumar on a walk around the Hampshire Bowl as his team mates practice on Wednesday

Pioneer Photo

and give Kohli a little less angst about Shikhar's absence. Though Team India's strength and conditioning coach Shanker Basu said later in the day that fitness was the newest and most potent tool of the current Indian squad, and that the Indian team has the becoming record of the lowest injury rate despite playing double the amount of cricket that other teams, Kohli and the management have their concern caps on for Bhuvneshwar Kumar who sustained a "hamstring stiffness" during the match against Pakistan. He had to leave the field without completing his over and the ball was given to Vijay Shankar who took Imam Ul Haq's wicket in his very first delivery of the World Cup.

Bhuvneshwar has been ruled out for at least two matches, maybe three, which means against Afghanistan, West Indies and England. At nets on Wednesday, the pace bowler took three rounds of the field along with the support staff, not jogging but walking.

Mohammed Shami, meanwhile, bowled consistently during training to Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul and Virat Kohli. "Bhuvi is a huge concern but Shami is fit and raring to go," Kohli had said at Manchester after packing off Pakistan.

# Fitness, new tool for Team India

PNS ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Fitness, training and nutrition are the three tools with which Team India has turned into an athletic unit with minimal injuries despite playing constant cricket through the year. The bowlers are bowling quicker, they are all fit and the fielding has been optimal, not to mention the players carrying their blades for long innings without much fatigue.

"Fitness has become a lifestyle with this new Indian team. Training, sleep-wake cycle and nutrition are the three hallmarks of a professional athlete and everybody is down and running in that direction. It is not an Army drill type of thing. They do their own personal stuff, they know their bodies very well. We all function very differently from the inside. So one man's food can be another man's poison," said the team's strength and conditioning coach Shanker Basu.

He, however, said that it was a major challenge to get the boys back into working condition after the IPL.

"Jokingly we would talk about IPL as the Mount Everest. Then we come to base camp and then we hit Kilimanjaro. During IPL, the boys start sleeping very late, 2 am, sometimes 3. To get them back to sleeping early, back to a training regime was a challenge. We had only eight days for that. But, in the past four years, the boys have started quickly understanding the value of sleep-wake cycle, good nutrition programme, supplement, training, strength work and conditioning. We try to educate them about the human body has a particular sleep-wake cycle. During IPL, whether you like it or not, the boys take a beating. This World Cup preparation was very critical," he said.

So the team took to technology and introduced several gadgets to monitor the players' fitness quotient. First came the dexa scan which generally measures bone density but the team doctor used it to ascertain each player's fat percentage. "The moment you have a number in your hand, it brings a healthy complexion in the team. Healthy eating habits is



Virat Kohli, right, and Rohit Sharma bat in the nets during a training session ahead of their match against Afghanistan at the Hampshire Bowl

the only way to bring down the fat percentage. So, everybody started doing that like fish takes to water. Everybody started eating better. Once they did that they lost the extra fat and they all started moving well," Basu explained.

The biggest achievement, however, was that the Indian team having the lowest number of injuries even though it plays double the amount of cricket than other any other team in the world. The boys are keen on eating the right stuff. "To cut a long story short, we have cut on junk big time and this has made this team as good as an athletic team. We don't need to tell them to do that. All we did was a dexa scan and subsequently a DNA test that gives you what sort of a person are you whether you are gluten intolerant or you are lactose intolerant etc. So they are all aware and making informed decisions based on their report cards," Basu added.

"During season, especially the journey started in 2015 what we are

**Fitness has become a lifestyle with this new Indian team. Training, sleep-wake cycle and nutrition are the three hallmarks of a professional athlete and everybody is down and running in that direction**

seeing today is the culmination of efforts in the last few years. The brand of training and the culture is fantastic

Talking about the makeover in the camp where fast bowlers are concerned, Basu was all praise for their self-applied brakes. "The management wanted a fast bowling unit

which was good and could go on and on. In the last year, the proof of the pudding has been seen in the results. Bumrah, Bhuvi, Umesh Yadav — all of them have started bowling much quicker. The reason for that is consistent work with a few lifestyle modifications with regards to nutrition and the way we train. We got the GPS last year. It gives you data of immense value. Based on that we started understanding our training methodology a lot more and based on that we started preparing a schedule. All this has helped us in our fast bowlers bowling 145 clicks consistently, even in Test matches. This did not happen overnight," Basu pointed out.

The team made it a point in 2015 that they would train consistently. Just like batting, bowling and fielding, they planned to work on fitness seriously. "The captain and the coach wanted to use fitness as a vehicle and I was there to augment that," Basu said.

# Here comes Shami 2.0

PNS ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Boost is the secret of pacer Mohammed Shami's energy. Not the drink, but the boost that came from his personal problems and a series of failed fitness tests. So much so that his strength and conditioning coach Shanker Basu calls it a blessing in disguise.

"Shami failing the fitness test was a blessing in disguise. After that, we was a changed man, so determined. He is blessed with some amazing gene. We all know about intermittent fasting. He doesn't even know what it is, but he does it on his own. His fat percentage in three years has remained exactly the same. He is a piece of work," he said.

Shami has long been struggling with marital discord and divorce issues but his main failing had been his aversion to fitness training. "He used to be the last one to get into the bus," Basu said. Which makes the bowler's present makeover a big achievement.

"The best part is he has changed his entire training regime. Now training is part of his lifestyle which never used to be so. But after his personal setback and failing the fitness test he is a changed man. This is the 2.0 version of Mohammed Shami," a proud Basu said.

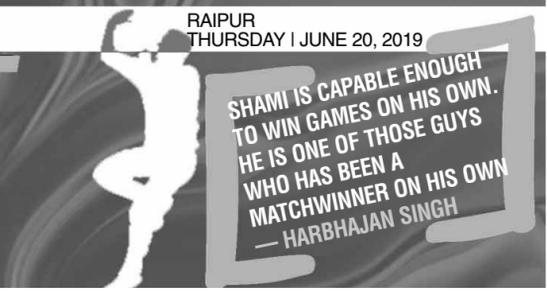
Indeed, one look at the way he was bowling at nets on Wednesday, and you would know this right-arm-fast-medium quick has changed since 2015 when he took 77 or the 80 wickets at hand. The intervening years brought in fat, a failed marriage, a public spat, hovering ban and a lazy fitness drive. But bowling to Rohit Sharma and then Virat Kohli, in the absence of hamstrung Bhuvneshwar Kumar, he did not look one bit rusted.



Mohammed Shami bowls during nets



# Narrative ENGLAND



SHAMI IS CAPABLE ENOUGH TO WIN GAMES ON HIS OWN. HE IS ONE OF THOSE GUYS WHO HAS BEEN A MATCHWINNER ON HIS OWN — HARBHAJAN SINGH

# Eoinic sixathon



England's captain Eoin Morgan bats during the World Cup match between England and Afghanistan at Old Trafford in Manchester AP

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Even Eoin Morgan was shocked by his record-breaking innings against Afghanistan but claims his England teammates still won't be impressed.

Morgan blasted an incredible 17 sixes — the most in ODI history — as part of a game-changing knock of 148 at Old Trafford, breaking the previous record of 16 jointly-held by master-blasters AB de Villiers, Chris Gayle and Rohit Sharma.

It paced England to a score of 397/6 — their highest at an ICC Men's World Cup — and they eventually recorded a 150-run triumph to return to the top of the table.

Morgan brought up his century off 57 balls, although that was 11 slower than Jos Buttler's England record of 46 deliveries against Pakistan in 2015 — meaning the skipper doesn't have complete ownership of bragging rights.

"I think I'm probably just becoming a target for the guys in the changing room to take down," joked Morgan. "The hundred I scored is considered a slow one in our changing room — guys talk about it all the time. So it's a tough school!"

"Never have I ever thought I could play a knock like that but I'm delighted that I have."

"It's weird. It's very strange to have that sixes record. It's something, along with the innings, I never thought I'd do. It's a nice place to be."

"The last four years, I've probably played the best in my career but that hasn't involved a 50 or 60-ball hundred."

"I thought I would have it in the locker somewhere but it's never happened, so I sort of gave up on it a little bit."

"When I came to the crease, it was a 50/50 shout whether myself or Jos [Buttler] went in and that probably helped because after I faced a few balls, I had no choice."

"I had to start taking risks because of him coming in next and then after I got dropped [on 28], it was a matter of just keep going. It was one of those days."

“NEVER HAVE I EVER THOUGHT I COULD PLAY A KNOCK LIKE THAT BUT I'M DELIGHTED THAT I HAVE. IT'S WEIRD. IT'S VERY STRANGE TO HAVE THAT SIXES RECORD. IT'S SOMETHING, ALONG WITH THE INNINGS, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D DO. IT'S A NICE PLACE TO BE”

Morgan's innings was even more remarkable given the fact he struggled with back spasms during the last game against West Indies and had to face a late fitness test in order to play against Afghanistan.

That certainly didn't hinder him at the crease and once England had set an intimidating total, the bowlers clinically finished the job to secure an emphatic victory.

And among the excitement surrounding batting records, Morgan was quick to praise his pace attack — headlined by Jofra Archer taking 3/52 and Mark Wood an impressive 2/40 from ten overs.

"They were very good on a wicket that didn't offer a great deal," added Morgan. "It had good bounce and turned a bit for the spinners but seam movement or swing — it had none."

"So when guys execute hitting a good length and using their bounce well, it is satisfying because it's very hard to do."

"When the ball doesn't move around, it obviously means your pace is important and all three guys' [Wood, Archer and Chris Woakes] pace looked good."



Jos Buttler checks Hashmatullah Shahidi after he was hit on head by Mark Wood's bouncer ICC/Twitter

# 'No regrets'

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

England fast bowler Mark Wood said he had no regrets about persisting with short-pitched deliveries after hitting Afghanistan batsman Hashmatullah Shahidi with a bouncer.

Shahidi had made 24 when he took his eye off a 90 mile-per-hour (145 kilometres-per-hour) delivery from the Durham quick that thudded into the side of his helmet at Old Trafford on Tuesday and saw him hit the turf immediately after the impact.

But instead of retiring hurt, the 24-year-old donned a new helmet and carried on to top-score for Afghanistan, with 76 in a lopsided 150-run loss.

Wood, while concerned enough to check on Shahidi's condition, had no regrets about testing him and the other Afghanistan batsmen with more short-pitched deliveries.

"Well, I was concerned when I first hit him, obviously," said Wood.

"It was a bit of a bad blow and then it's out of my hands really. You have to let the medical staff do their thing. I checked he was all right himself, said 'are you OK?'. Then I was back in the game mode."

"Morgy (England skipper Eoin Morgan) wanted me to fire another few down. If that's what the captain wants, you listen to orders," the 29-year-old Durham quick added.

"Once you know he (the batsman) is all right, it's game time again."

Told he had split Hashmatullah's helmet, Wood grinned: "I'm bowling them quite fast... For a change!" Wood and fellow England fast

bowler Jofra Archer shared five wickets against Afghanistan as they continued an effective partnership that has helped take the hosts to the top of the 10-team World Cup table.

"I thought, collectively, we bowled really well," said Wood.

"It was difficult at times because I didn't feel the Afghanistan batsmen were coming at us and we had to try to mix it up, get them to play a few shots."

"It was nice to try something different and get a few wickets." England's victory over basement side Afghanistan was set up by an extraordinary innings from Morgan who, defying a back problem, hit a one-day international record 17 sixes in his blistering 148.

"It was amazing, amazing," said Wood.

"I was delighted for him. Coming off his back injury scare and stuff, and not knowing how he would play or feel, I was just astounded by how well he played out there."

"A lot of the bowlers tend to sit in the back of the dressing room and try and relax but even I came out and watched that because it was great to see on such a big occasion."

Under Morgan's captaincy, England have risen to the top of the ODI rankings since their woeful first-round exit at the 2015 World Cup.

"I know we've played like this for four years now, and there's been some remarkable things," said Wood.

"But to do it in a World Cup game speaks volumes about how Eoin wants the team to play and the values we've kept going throughout those four years."

# Blame game



Phil Simmons @Coachsim13

I am in the middle of a World Cup and trying to get our team to perform to the level we expect but at the end of the World Cup I will tell the Afghanistan people about the part that Mr Dawlat Ahmadzai had to play in our preparation and his part in the dismissal of #AsgharAfghan

M. Ibrahim Momand @IbrahimReporter · 19h Dawlat Ahmadzai former fast bowler & chief selector of @ACBofficials believes that it is all the fault of the coaching staff led by @Coachsim13 that they couldn't prepare Afghanistan team for @cricketworldcup. #CWC19 #AfghanAtalan #AFGv...

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Dejected Afghanistan coach Phil Simmons on Wednesday hinted that chief selector Dawlat Ahmadzai had a role in shock removal of Asghar Afghan from captaincy days before the World Cup.

Lying at the bottom of the table after losing all of their five matches so far, a blame game has started with Ahmadzai holding the Simmons-led coaching set-up responsible for Afghanistan's below-par show in the ongoing World Cup.

"I am in the middle of a World Cup and trying to get our team to perform to the level we expect but at the end of the World Cup I will tell the Afghanistan people about the part that Mr Dawlat Ahmadzai had to play in our preparation and his part in the dismissal of #AsgharAfghan," Simmons

tweeted. Simmons was reacting to a tweet by an Afghanistan journalist where he wrote that Ahmadzai believes the poor show of the national team was because of lack of preparation on the part of the coaching staff.

In a surprising move, Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) named Gulbadin Naib as the limited-overs captain, replacing experienced Asghar Afghan.

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Afghanistan captain Gulbadin Naib admitted Eoin Morgan's destructive innings was the best he has ever seen after his side slipped to defeat against England at Old Trafford.

England skipper Morgan blasted a mesmerising 148 off 71 balls, including 17 sixes — a world record number of maximums for an ODI.

Afghanistan's star spinner Rashid Khan struggled with final figures of 0/110 but Gulbadin was keen to absolve Rashid of any blame and conceded that a drop of Morgan in the deep on 28 was the pivotal moment in the match.

"From the start of the game, the boys did well for 30 overs but after that, England smashed every ball," said Gulbadin.

"We dropped Morgan on 28, so if we didn't then maybe they don't get that score. Maybe we lost from there."

"I'm not disappointed by Rashid — he's one of the best spinners, a star player in the world. This happens to any player, not just Rashid."

"It wasn't his day but that's cricket — sometimes you do well, sometimes it's like this. I'm happy with him,

# Dropped catch & match



Gulbadin Naib, left, and teammate Najibullah Zadran, center, attempt to run-out Eoin Morgan AP

“FROM THE START OF THE GAME, BOYS DID WELL FOR 30 OVERS BUT AFTER THAT, ENG SMASHED EVERY BALL. WE DROPPED MORGAN ON 28, SO IF WE DIDN'T THEN MAYBE THEY DON'T GET THAT SCORE. MAYBE WE LOST FROM THERE”

it's not a big deal. Inshallah he will become stronger from this.

"But you have to give credit to England and Morgan especially for his batting. He showed his class and I have never seen this kind of batting before."

While England climbed back to the top of the table, Afghanistan are still bottom of the pile with five defeats from five games.

However, for the first time in this tournament they completed 50 overs with the bat — making 247/8 as Hashmatullah Shahidi led the way with an impressive 76 from 100 balls.

It was a battling performance and Gulbadin claims his side showed enough fight in defeat to leave him feeling good about the upcoming matches.

"We take a lot of positives from this — I thought we did well in every department," he added. "We missed one catch off Morgan and we lost from there."

"After 30 overs, the score wasn't too bad, so we take a lot of things from here — we are improving day by day in each department."

"It was definitely a good thing for the team that we batted 50 overs as well — that is a positive sign."



Hashmatullah Shahidi leaves the field after being dismissed for 76 AP

# For mom

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Afghanistan's Hashmatullah Shahidi said his desire not to worry his mother was the main reason he got back up after being felled by a Mark Wood bouncer in a World Cup match against England.

Shahidi had made 24 when he took his eye off a 90 mph delivery from the fast bowler that thudded into the side of his helmet and saw him hit the turf immediately after the sickening impact.

It seemed the 24-year-old was about to retire but, donning a new helmet, Shahidi carried on to top-score

for Afghanistan with 76 in an otherwise lopsided 150-run loss.

"I got up early because of my mum," Shahidi told reporters after Afghanistan's fifth defeat in as many matches this tournament.

"I lost my father last year so I didn't want her to hurt. My whole family was watching, even my big brother was here in the ground watching. I didn't want them to be worried for me," added Shahidi, with the President of Afghanistan, Ashraf Ghani, also in attendance at Old Trafford.

But the fact he was allowed to ignore med-

ical advice is bound to raise questions about how the International Cricket Council are dealing with head injuries at this World Cup.

"The ICC doctors came to me, and our physios, and my helmet was broken in the middle," Shahidi recalled.

"They just told me just, 'let's go'. I told them I can't leave my team-mate at that moment. My team needed me. I carried on."

"After the match I went to the ICC doctor and talked to them. They took care of me and said it will be fine, Inshallah (god willing)."

# EXPENSIVE RASHID

Tuesday's match was tough on Afghanistan bowling star Rashid Khan, who conceded the second-most expensive figures in one-day international history with a return of 0-110 in nine overs.

Yet things might have been different for the star leg-spinner had not England captain Eoin Morgan — who hit a record 17 sixes in a match-winning 148 — been dropped off

Rashid on 28 when Dawlat Zadran made a mess of a catch at deep midwicket.

"It happens, for any player, so not only Rashid," said Afghanistan captain Gulbadin Naib. "Everyone knows how good Rashid is."

"I think today was not his day, but it's cricket, so sometimes you do well, sometimes this kind of stuff."

Meanwhile, Morgan insisted England did not have a plan to target Rashid. "It certainly wasn't deliberate," he said.

"We don't go into any game with any preconceived ideas."

"But like all good players, you probably learn the most about yourself when your backs are against the wall."



# nacabaste ENGLAND

WE NEED TO MAKE 241 ENOUGH. WE KNOW IT'S NOT A 300 WICKET. IF YOU GET 250-260 THEN YOU CAN DEFEND THAT AND THAT'S WHAT WE SET OUT TO DO — RASSIE VAN DER DUSSEN



South Africa's batsman Aiden Markram, left watches teammate Hashim Amla raises his bat after reaching fifty

# Kiwis on roll

## Ferguson leads attack as Black Caps restrict Proteas for 241-6 in rain-hit game

IANS ■ BIRMINGHAM

Rassie van der Dussen gave South Africa something to bowl at as the Proteas struggled to 241 for six against tight bowling from New Zealand while battling for a win they need to keep their fading World Cup hopes alive.

After a soggy outfield delayed Wednesday's start at Edgbaston and reduced the match to 49 overs per side, Black Caps captain Kane Williamson won the toss and chose to field, hoping to take advantage of bowler-friendly conditions.

Hashim Amla made a sluggish 55 off 83 balls but Van der Dussen's 67 not out came at better than a run-a-ball.

"It's a bit of a sticky wicket, there has been a lot of rain around here in the last two weeks," said Van der Dussen during the innings break.

"We need to make 241 enough. We know it's not a 300 wicket. If you get 250-260 then you can defend that and that's what we set out to do.

"Our backs are against the wall so we have to come through," he added after New Zealand's bowlers kept the scoring rate to below five an over.

New Zealand, the 2015 losing finalists, were on top early when Trent Boult demolished Quinton de Kock's stumps, sending him back to the pavilion for just five.

Amla and skipper Faf du Plessis helped the Proteas recover to 59-1 in the 14th over.

But Lockie Ferguson then produced an impressive yorker to bowl Du Plessis for 23 immediately after a testing bouncer.

### FASTEST 8000 RUNS IN ODIS

Batsman	M	I	Time
Virat Kohli (India)	183	175	8 years & 301 days
Hashim Amla (South Africa)	179	176	11 years & 102 days
Abraham de Villiers (South Africa)	190	182	10 years & 205 days
Sourav Ganguly (India)	208	200	10 years & 302 days
Rohit Sharma (India)	206	200	11 years & 263 days

Faisal Features



Proteas skipper Faf du Plessis, left, looks on as New Zealand's bowler Lockie Ferguson reacts after bowling him out for 23 runs

Amla and Aiden Markram put on 52 for the third wicket before veteran opener Amla was bowled by left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner. During his innings, Amla

became the fourth South African player to reach 8,000 runs in one-day internationals. He is the second-fastest player (176 innings) from any side to reach the milestone after

India's Virat Kohli (175 innings). Markram was caught by Colin Munro off Colin de Grandhomme for 38 and David Miller went for 36 before a late flourish from Van der Dussen

### SCOREBOARD

South Africa	
Quinton de Kock	b Boult 5
Hashim Amla	b Santner 55
Faf du Plessis	b Lockie Ferguson 23
Aiden Markram	c Munro b de Grandhomme 38
Rassie van der Dussen	not out 67
David Miller	c Boult b Lockie Ferguson 36
Phehlukwayo	c Williamson b Ferguson 0
Chris Morris	not out 6
Extras	(b 0, lb 7, w 4, nb 0, p 0) 11
Total	(6 wickets, 49 Ov) 241
Fall of wickets: 9-1 (Quinton de Kock, 1.5), 59-2 (Faf du Plessis, 13.6), 111-3 (Hashim Amla, 27.4), 136-4 (Aiden Markram, 32.3), 208-5 (David Miller, 44.5), 218-6 (Andile Phehlukwayo, 46.3)	
Bowling	
Matt Henr	10-2-34-0
Trent Boult	10-0-63-1
Lockie Ferguson	10-0-59-3
Colin de Grandhomme	10-0-33-1
Mitchell Santner	9-0-45-1

gave the scoreboard a look of respectability.

South Africa, who brought in fast bowler Lungi Ngidi for Beuran Hendricks, must win this match if they are to stand a realistic chance of reaching the semi-finals after finally recording their first victory of the tournament, against minnows Afghanistan on Saturday.

Despite that nine-wicket win, Du Plessis's side are still languishing in eighth spot in the 10-team table after five games, with the top four qualifying for next month's semis.

After Wednesday's game they will face Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia.

New Zealand are flying high and a fourth win would lift them to the top of the table ahead of matches against West Indies, Pakistan, Australia and hosts England.

## OTHER SPORTS

AFP ■ VALENCIENNES

Marta secured her place among the legends of football after the Brazilian became the World Cup's all-time leading scorer in the 1-0 win against Italy in Valenciennes.

"This record doesn't belong to me, it belongs to all of us," said the 33-year-old after crashing home a penalty with 16 minutes left to score her 17th World Cup goal on Tuesday.

"I share it with anyone fighting for more equality."

Brazil set up a knockout stage clash with either hosts France or Germany after the 74th-minute strike moved Marta one goal ahead of the German Miroslav Klose in the record books.

"Do you think he'll change his mind about retiring and play at the next World Cup?" Marta joked.

Brazil finished third on goal difference in Group C behind Italy and Australia — who beat Jamaica 4-1 — after all three ended level on six points.

Marta wasn't fazed by the possibility of facing France, who topped Group A with a perfect nine points after scraping past Nigeria on Monday.

"To play against the host nation would be a privilege. The stadium would be full of fans singing," she said. "I love playing in front of a big

# Record breaker Marta



Marta, right, celebrates with Thaisa after scoring her side's first goal

crowd whether it's supporting me or is against me. I just want there to be fans who are watching us."

Marta is widely considered the greatest player in the history of the women's game and was hailed by her teammates as an inspiration for others wanting to take up the male-dominated sport.

"She is like an icon for us and I think every year she is breaking records and that's not just important for us but for all of women's football. I'm so happy she is Brazilian," said centre-back Monica.

Former defender Tamires added: "We have a lot of young players coming up and I hope they look to her and how she plays, what makes her so special and so incredible and follow her."

The Matildas will play Norway in Nice in the last 16 on Saturday.

England need a point against Japan on Wednesday to ensure they top Group D and avoid a potential last-16 clash with European champions the Netherlands.

Topping the group would, however, also put them on the same side of the draw as both France and potentially the World Cup holders USA.



Yeferson Soteldo, 18, embraces Dani Alves after a Copa America Group A match at the Arena Fonte Nova in Salvador

# VAR denies Samba party

AFP ■ SALVADOR

Brazil were held to a 0-0 draw against Venezuela in the Copa America as a late strike from Philippe Coutinho was disallowed after a controversial VAR decision.

Coutinho thought he had fired Brazil into the quarter-finals in the 87th minute when he bundled home a finish from Everton Soares' driving run down the left wing at Salvador's Arena Fonte Nova on Tuesday.

But for the second time in the match, Chilean referee Julio Bascunan ruled out the Brazilian goal after being alerted to an infringement by the video assistant referee.

The goal appeared to have been disallowed due to a touch by Liverpool striker Roberto Firmino, although it was not clear that Firmino had been offside as the ball grazed him on the way into the net.

Brazil left the field to boos but remain top of Group A with four points from two games, and one game to play.

Venezuela have two points from two games and will fancy their chances of advancing with their final game coming against Bolivia, who suffered their second straight defeat earlier on Tuesday in a 3-1 loss to Peru.

Brazil, who had made

hard work of beating Bolivia in their opener, once again struggled to find a creative spark against well-organized opponents.

Firmino was kept quiet by Venezuela's defense with Jordan Osorio and Mikel Villanueva neutralizing the Liverpool striker.

The tale of the first half lay in the statistics from the opening 45 minutes, with Brazil recording only one shot on target despite enjoying 75 percent possession.

In fact, the best chance of the half fell to Venezuela, when Salomon Rondon headed Yangel Herrera's cross just inches wide with Alisson beaten.

### FIRMINO DENIED

Firmino did get the ball in the Venezuela net in the 38th minute but the goal was disallowed after Bascunan ruled Villanueva had been fouled in the build-up.

Brazil left the field to loud boos and whistling, and manager Tite wasted no time in making a change at half-time, bringing on Manchester City's Gabriel Jesus for Richarlison.

Jesus made an instant impact looking lively down the left flank and curling a shot just wide of the post on 57 minutes.

Moments later Jesus

looked to have fired Brazil into the lead.

Once again the striker advanced menacingly on the Venezuela penalty area and unleashed a fierce low shot.

The ball deflected off Villanueva into the path of Firmino, who then squared for Jesus who continued his run.

The striker took a touch and buried his finish as the home fans erupted. But the festive atmosphere fell flat as the goal was referred to VAR, who promptly chalked the score off after ruling Firmino had been offside when he collected the ricochet.

A deflated Brazil took several minutes to regroup but grew increasingly desperate as valuable minutes ticked away and Venezuela held firm.

Jesus went close again in the 76th minute when Dani Alves whipped a cross into the six-yard box.

But again Venezuela's defense was rock-solid, with Jesus bundled off the ball and unable to get a shot away.

Coutinho looked to have broken the deadlock three minutes from time, but VAR's intervention rescued a precious point for Venezuela.

Fernandinho almost snatched victory with a header in the 10th minute of time added on, but his effort rolled just wide of the post.

# Moreno replaces Enrique as Spain boss

AFP ■ MADRID

Luis Enrique has stepped down from his post as coach of the Spanish national team.

The confirmation came at a press conference on Wednesday evening, attended by Spanish FA president Luis Rubiales and sporting director José Francisco Molina.

It was announced that Enrique will make way and will be replaced in the role by Roberto Moreno.

Moreno has presided over the last three games in the absence of Enrique, who did not take his place in the dugout to attend an unspecified personal matter.

That has now resulted in the former Barcelona boss stepping away from his position, after Rubiales sought assurances on his future.

Moreno was the choice of the players to continue as coach, having impressed during his three games in charge, which all ended in victories.

Enrique stands down after less than a year in charge of La Roja, having taken over in the wake of their ill-fated World Cup campaign.

In total, the 49-year-old presided



Luis Enrique in a file picture 433/Twitter

over seven games, winning five and losing two.

Spain sacked Julen Lopetegui on the eve of last year's World Cup after he agreed a deal with Real Madrid, before Luis Enrique came in for Fernando Hierro following an underwhelming tournament in Russia.

The three-time European champions finished second behind England in their Nations League group but have since won their opening four Euro 2020 qualifiers.

# Hummels completes BVB return

AFP ■ MUNICH

Veteran defender Mats Hummels will hope to reboot his career at former club Borussia Dortmund next season after finding himself surplus to requirements with both Bayern Munich and Germany.

Hummels, 30, was dropped from the national team set-up earlier this year and has now become the latest senior player to fall victim to Bayern's major rejuvenation programme ahead of next season.

A World Cup winner in 2014, Hummels won his sixth Bundesliga title in May, but will now make what will widely be seen as a step down with his 38 million euro (\$43.6m) move from back to former side Dortmund.

Despite impressive performances for both club and country, Hummels' career has been blown off course in the last six months by the winds of change sweeping



Mats Hummels speaks during his official presentation BVB/Twitter

through German football.

And despite playing a crucial role in Bayern's double win last month, Hummels has now fallen prey to the same rejuvenation drive in Munich.

Having bid an emotional farewell to club icons Arjen Robben and Frank Ribery last month, Bayern are now looking to complete the transition to a younger generation as they launch what president Uli Hoeness

has called "the biggest investment programme in our history".

Hoeness has already advised Boateng to "find a new club", while Hummels now appears to have jumped before he was pushed.

The 30-year-old returns to Dortmund, where he spent eight successful years from 2008 to 2016 before joining Bayern for 35 million euros.