

WORLD 5
IRAN SAYS US 'LYING'
ABOUT TALKS OFFER

OPINION 6
FOLLIES OF
ALLOCATION

MONEY 8
CURRENCY IN CIRCULATION
RISES 22% IN MAY 0

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

City Vol. 8 Issue 173
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

RAIPUR, WEDNESDAY JUNE 26, 2019; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



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12 SPORT

Kerala healthiest; UP, Bihar at nadir

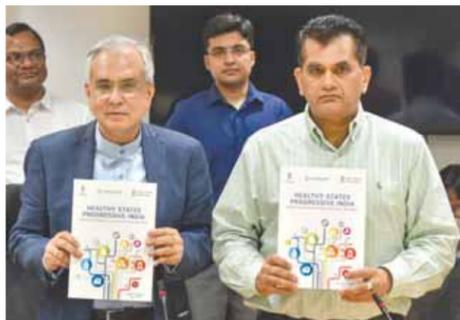
Andhra, Maha too at the top of NITI Aayog health index

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 4

PM raps Cong for family adulation

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Defence, trade on Pompeo-Jaishankar table

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/GANDHINAGAR

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

India is likely to urge the US to supply armed predator drones, naval helicopters, surface to air missiles and attack helicopters to its armed forces. Giving a hint on the issues which will be on the table during his forthcoming talks with Pompeo, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday that India will try to find common ground on trade issues during discussions. Terrorism, Afghanistan, the Indo-Pacific, Iran, trade issues, and growing bilateral defence ties will be the focus of the bilateral discussions on Wednesday. Pompeo will also call on Modi.



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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 4

Disability pension non taxable only if veterans lose job in harness

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Continued on Page 4

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The revocation of citizenship will pave the way for his deportation to India to stand trial in the case. Antigua — among the many tax havens in the Caribbean — has no extradition treaty with India. "His (Choksi) citizenship was processed; he got through but the reality is his citizenship will be revoked and he will be repatriated to India; so there is recourse. It's not a case that we are trying to provide any safe harbour for criminals, for those who are involved in financial crimes," Prime Minister of Antigua Gaston Browne was quoted as saying by the *Antigua Observer* on Monday.

"We have to allow for due process. He has a matter before the court and as we said to the Indian Government, criminals



have fundamental rights, and Choksi has a right to go to court and defend his position. But I can assure you, after he has exhausted all of his legal options, he will be extradited," Browne said.

Choksi, 60, had taken citizenship of Antigua and Barbuda in November, 2017 using Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP) of the twin island nation. He fled India in the first week of January 2018, days before PNB credit fraud scam worth ₹13,400 crore was detected and reported by the bank.

Choksi, promoter of Gitanjali Gems, and his nephew Nirav Modi, who is currently in a London jail, are wanted by the Enforcement

Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for allegedly masterminding the biggest banking fraud of India and laundering the proceeds of the crime.

Under the CIP, a person can take Antigua Barbuda passport on a minimum investment of \$1,00,000 in the NDF investment fund in the island nation.

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

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

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

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

Indigo to resume Bengaluru daily flight

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Private flight operator Indigo will re-commence its daily direct service from Raipur to Bengaluru from July 1. The service was suspended earlier.

As per the flight scheduled released, flight number 6E828 from Bengaluru will fly at 6.55 PM and reach Raipur at 8.45 PM.

The same flight 6E829 will depart Raipur at 9.25 PM and reach Bengaluru at 11.35 PM. This flight is additional to the morning flight. With this flight, the residents of Chhattisgarh will have two daily flights to Bengaluru, one in morning and another one in the evening. As per reports from Raipur, most of these flights remain packed.

DM takes 6-yr-old from jail to school

STAFF REPORTER ■ BILASPUR

Central Jail Bilaspur on Tuesday witnessed a rare emotional moment when a prisoner witnessed that his six-year-old daughter was taken to a school from jail by none other than District Collector himself.

The rare initiative and a fine human gesture of the district collector Dr Sanjay Alang have won hearts of thousands of people in Bilaspur, the second most populous town of the state.

As per reports, Khushi lost her mother when she was just 15-days-old. As her father was a jail inmate, she was staying with him. She was then shifted to women prisoners' cell where she was studying in the play school inside the jail.

Reports say that during inspection of the Central Jail, Alang found the six-year-old



with women jail inmates. During interaction, she expressed desire to go to outside the jail for studying in a good school.

Honouring her wishes, Collector himself took her in

his car to drop her at the school. 'Khushi' was happy as she is now free to cherish her dream.

At the initiative of the Collector, Jain International School has enrolled her in the

school and provided her a hostel room as well. She will have a special caretaker as well. Meanwhile, the school management has also decided to bear the cost of her education and hostel expenses.

SC refuses to interfere in separate Guj RS bypolls

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

The SC, however, granted liberty to the Gujarat Congress to file an "election petition" after the RS polls to the two seats vacated by Amit Shah and Smriti Irani. An election petition is a procedure to call into question the poll results and is filed in the high court concerned.

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

fundamental right here? Contesting an election is merely a statutory right. You will have to go in election petition," the bench told senior advocate Vivek Tankha, who was appearing for petitioner Paresbhhai Dhanani.

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

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

CAPSULE

AAP MLA GETS 3-MONTH JAIL FOR POLL OBSTACLE

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Tuesday sentenced AAP MLA Manoj Kumar to three months in jail for obstructing election process at a polling station in Kalyan Puri area of East Delhi during 2013 Assembly polls.

RAM RAHIM'S PAROLE UNDER PROCESS: DC

Chandigarh: Rape-murder convict Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh's application for parole to tend to his farms is under process with reports being sought from the revenue and police departments, Sirsa Deputy Commissioner said on Tuesday.

SWAMI SATYAMITRANAND GIRI BREATHE HIS LAST

Dehradun: Swami Satyamitrnanand Giri Maharaj, a renowned seer, passed away here on Tuesday. The 87-year-old head of Bharat Mata Janhit Trust was undergoing treatment for some time here.

Opp attacks NDA over 'rising communalism'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

"With all humility and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

J'khand lynching blot on humanity: Rahul

Expresses shock over Govt's silence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Tabrez Ansari was thrashed by a mob for alleged



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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi made the remarks on the side-

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

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

RaGa to meet Cong leaders from poll-bound States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



should be made voluntary/optional for farmers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Though complete data for Kharif 2018 season is not avail-

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

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

The total area insured

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

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

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

DRDO scientist's herbal drug to treat leucoderma soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

on National Technology Day for developing Lukoskin. Presently, the herbal drug is being sold and marketed by Delhi-based AIMIL Pharma Ltd and is getting good response.

Pande said in fact it was only after we got positive results for Lukoskin, we started working on its advanced

version which is formulation of over 18 herbs and is more effective with results delivering in short duration treatment. The remedy has shown promising results in mice as well as in people, said Dr Pande, who presently heads Herbal Medicine Division of DIBER.

He pointed out that while

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

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

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

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

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

The world wide incidence

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Three of the four MPs later met Nadda and Gehlot at the party headquarters and joined the BJP.

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

HC orders police to halt probe into Bhima Mandavi killing

STAFF REPORTER ■ BILASPUR

Chhattisgarh High Court, Bilaspur on Tuesday ordered the state police to stop investigation into Bhima Mandavi killing till further order.

A ruling in this regard was given by the court of Justice Prashant Mishra in a petition filed by the NIA, which sought the stay.

Earlier the district court of Dantewada gave an adverse order to the NIA and had ordered the Chhattisgarh police to continue the probe. The NIA took the matter to the High Court. The court taking cognizance of the NIA



plea ordered the state police to stop the further investigation. Advocate General of Chhattisgarh Satish Chandra Verma informed The Pioneer

that after the NIA probe was ordered by the Central Government, the state police automatically had to stop its probe. But as some docu-

ments were not provided in Dantewada district court, a decision against NIA was given by the lower court. The ruling Congress,

however, had earlier raised objection about the way National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe was ordered by the Union government into the killing of BJP legislator Bhima Mandavi. It claimed that the state government was not taken into confidence while handing over the probe to the NIA.

Notable, Chhattisgarh government had already setup a judicial committee, headed by retired Chief Justice Satish Kumar Agnihotri to probe into the killing of the lone BJP MLA from Bastar, Mandavi. Mandavi was killed in an IED blast at Shyamgiri area of Dantewada on April 9 this year.

Amit Jogi plays politics, refuses voice sample



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Janta Congress Chhattisgarh (J) state president Amit Jogi on Tuesday went to SIT office at Ganj Police station, Raipur in connection with Antargarh Tape case but refrained from stepping inside to give his voice sample.

The SIT asked Amit Jogi to appear before it to provide his voice sample on Tuesday.

Terming the SIT as 'Stupid Investigation Team', Jogi said, "There is a 'Laxman Rekha' before the SIT office. On one side there prevails law of the land while on the other side writ of the state government runs. The SIT did not reply on what ground the voice sample is being sought. I am giving voice sample before media."

He claimed that the SIT on Jheeram

massacre is yet to begin its probe but the SIT on Antargarh CD scam sent the seized pen drive to Hyderabad, Bhopal and Chandigarh labs though reports of two Bhopal and Chandigarh CSFL have found them doctored.

Citing District and sessions court Raipur order, Amit said even after court sought reports from the SIT, it has not yet been submitted.

He demanded that a case under sections 420 (forgery), 468 (Forgery for purpose of cheating) and 471 (Using a genuine forged document or electronic record) of the IPC should be registered against the person involved in making the fake clips.

He demanded that the SIT should make the reports public and submit it before the court, or else he would approach the court for it.

EOW questions SI in connection with illegal phone tapping

RAIPUR: Sub Inspector Rakesh Jat was questioned by sleuths of Economic Offence Wing (EOW) on Tuesday in connection with illegal phone tapping carried out during the erstwhile BJP regime.

Jat was accompanied by his advocated and the statement was recorded on camera. He was questioned for about four hours, sources in the EOW informed.

According to the sources, Jat denied doing anything wrong and said that all his actions were initiated on the directive of his superior officers.

Meanwhile, sources revealed that a few more policemen could be summoned in connection with the case.

Notably, former Director General (Special) Mukesh Gupta and IPS officer Rajnesh Singh were suspended for the alleged illegal call recording.

Rajnesh Singh who had earlier appeared before the EOW had stated that he was not involved in the call recording and it was all done at the behest of Mukesh Gupta. Gupta later claimed that he had all required permissions for recording the calls.

CM to launch makeover of state schools from Marra village

CM studied in the Marra Higher Secondary School which is set to go digital

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Taking a big leap forward, the Marra Higher Secondary School in Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's home constituency Patan will get a digital makeover.

The CM will inaugurate a smart class and smart lab project there in a grand function of state-level Shala Pravesh Utsav on Wednesday.

It would be the first school in the state which would get a major facelift. Gradually the project will be introduced in other schools of the state in several phases.

Official sources informed that on this occasion, the CM will also launch Total Education and Management System (TEAMS) software, which will make the office work of the schools in the state paperless. Attendance, scholarships,



uniform and other paper work would be digitalized so that teachers of schools in the state get ample time to devote to academic activities, sources said. During Shala Pravesh Utsav, the CM would welcome the students of the school by applying 'Tilak' to them and will also eat mid-day meal with them during the day-long stay with them.

The CM will also plant saplings

and would enjoy the sports activities, including Taekwondo and cricket, in the school campus.

Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Gaurav Dwivedi, Durg District Collector Ankit Anand, Superintendent of Police Prakhar Pandey and senior officials of school education department on Tuesday inspected the Marra School and took note of the preparations.

Excise Minister cracks whip on liquor overpricing

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Commercial Tax (Excise) Minister Kawasi Lakhma on Tuesday directed the department officials to take immediate action on receiving complaints about liquor being overpriced in government liquor shops.

Lakhma warned the officials that the complaints of liquor being sold at more than prescribed price would be taken into account and senior officials proven guilty in such cases would be subjected to strict disciplinary action.

The minister was addressing the department officials in the state-level review meeting organized at Excise Building.

In the meeting, Commercial Tax (Excise) Department's Secretary cum Commissioner Niranjana Das, Special Secretary AP Tripathi, Additional

Commissioners PL Verma and RK Mandavi along with Deputy Commissioner of Raipur Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner and District Excise Officers, Assistant Excise Officers and other senior officials of various districts of the state were present.

Lakhma took district-wise detailed information from the officials concerned about the status of liquor shops.

It is noteworthy that presently, the state has 341 country and 313 foreign liquor shops.

Lakhma also reviewed the status of revenue collection, in the meeting. He directed the officials to keep strict vigilance on bordering districts of the state to prevent illegal supply of liquor from neighbouring states.

Officials were also directed to take immediate action and arrest the bootleggers.

The Excise Minister said that criminal cases should be filed as per the rules and the illegal liquor suppliers should be subjected to strict action. Complaints received in call centers should also be addressed on a serious note.

Excise Secretary informed the meeting that as per the instructions of the state government, the department is keeping strict vigilance to prevent illegal trade of liquor.

Prior to the review meeting chaired by Lakhma, Excise Commissioner Das convened a meeting of officials and gave necessary guidelines regarding the review meet.

He said that vending or serving of snacks within 50m perimeter of any liquor shop is prohibited. Strict action will be taken if complaints about such activities in liquor shops are found to be true during investigation.



With the onset of Monsoon sewer lines in capital city, which have become garbage dumping ground due to negligence and lack of awareness of citizens, are getting waterlogged.

Kenyan seed-ball technique finds home in C'garh

ANKIT MISHRA ■ RAIPUR

Few years back a video had gone viral on Facebook in which little charcoal balls were being thrown in the open by Kenyan children and people. Those balls actually had seed inside.

The charcoal not only protected the seed but provided initial nutrition to the sapling after it started germinating, thereby ensuring strong growth and better chances of its survival.

Little did anyone know that soon those seed-balls will find its place in Surguja region of Northern Chhattisgarh.

Currently, the seed balls input technique is being tested in Boramdeo



wildlife sanctuary, Barnawapara sanctuary and Jungle Safari.

"In 2018, Dr Daniela a biologist from Kenya had visited Surguja who had

introduced us to the technique, which we found interesting and adopted it,"

said Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF) KK Bisen, while adding the results were quite effective and encouraging, with about 80 per cent success rate.

"This is really a very interesting and cost-effective technique in which, seeds are placed inside a fertile soil/nutrient filled small balls which are then dried and stored. It is then dispersed which starts germinating after receiving first rain showers. The seeds through this technique grow better as compared to traditional sowing method," Dr Lalji Singh Head of Department Forestry Indira Gandhi Agriculture University Raipur said.

According to Dr Singh,

the saplings germinated out of seed balls are much sturdy and healthy as compared to normal seeds.

In Jungle Safari we have prepared 50,000 seeds balls ready to be sprinkled, CCF Bisen said. The department is trying to transfer this technique to the villager. At village level, the raw materials are readily available and only requirement is knowledge of this process, he added.

He assured that if anyone wants to test then, they can take 25 seed-balls. "I am confident that they will get 25 saplings out of those 25 seed balls. The only thing is that those saplings should be protected from grazing and fire," CCF Bisen concluded.

Emergency 'darkest chapter' of India's democracy: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh BJP state president Vikram Usendi on Tuesday on the occasion of 44th anniversary of the Emergency imposed by the Congress government headed by Indira Gandhi termed it as the darkest chapter in the history of Indian democracy.

The BJP president recalled that after the emergency was imposed by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in the country on June 25, 1975 the democratic rights and constitutional protection were put to an end.

It is the duty of those having faith in democracy to tell the new generation about the atrocities committed during the peri-

od, so that such a chapter is never repeated in the country in future.

Usendi said it was second freedom movement in country and after the emergency ended in 1977, a bloodless revolution took place through election. Several people lost their lives and their families are still undergoing the pain so Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) detainees should be given status of freedom fighters, he said.

Attacking the state government for its approach towards the MISA detainees, the BJP president said both Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh governments have once again shown their undemocratic character by withdrawing the facilities extended to them.

No decision taken on Ram Rahim's parole: Khattar

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday said that a decision on the parole application of Dera Sacha Sauda head and rapemurder convict Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh is yet to be taken and would be taken keeping in view the interests of the state.

"Anyone who is entitled for parole can seek one. We cannot stop anyone from seeking parole," the Chief Minister said while responding to the allegations that his State Government is favoring the Dera chief in the parole application.

The Chief Minister was talking to the mediapersons after two INLD MLAs and leaders of JJP joined the BJP.

Ram Rahim, who has sought parole for over a month for farming at his fields in Haryana's Sirsa is currently lodged at Sunaria jail in Rohtak after being convicted in two separate cases of rape and murder.

When asked about who would be responsible in case violence breaks out if the Dera chief is granted parole, the Chief Minister said, "You are trying to draw inference on your own as if any decision has been taken."

"There are legal, administrative and other procedures involved on a parole plea. A parole application is filed before the Jail Superintendent who forwards it to the Deputy Commissioner concerned. Then a report is sought from the Superintendent of police and, in the end, a recommendation is made by the divisional commissioner," Manohar Lal said.

"After receiving the divisional commissioner's recommendation, the government would play its role if needed. If there will be no role of the government, it won't," he added.

On the issue of maintaining law and order situation if Ram Rahim is granted a parole, the Chief Minister said, "Any decision,

which is in the interest of the state, will be taken. So far, we have not taken any decision."

When asked about the time-frame on taking decision on a parole application, he said the parole issue is with the DC-SP level and there is no time frame when the Sirsa SP or DC would submit their report. Things will move forward after a report is submitted, he said, adding that the government would make a point regarding law and order if needed.

The Courts is also keeping an eye on various cases pertaining to the Dera and Ram Rahim regarding the incidents of violence followed the sect chief's conviction in August 2017, Manohar Lal added.

The self-styled godman Ram Rahim was sentenced in August 2017 for 20 years in jail for raping two women. His conviction on August 25, 2017, had led to violence in Panchkula and Sirsa, leaving 41 people dead and more than 260 injured in Panchkula.

SC refuses to interfere in separate Guj RS bypolls

From Page 1

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

"You file an election petition," the bench told Tankha.

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

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

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

Dwivedi told the court that there was no violation of fundamental rights in the matter and the previous judgements

delivered by the apex court as well as high courts of Delhi and Bombay support the poll panel's decision to hold separate polls for Rajya Sabha seats.

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

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

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

The MLA, through his lawyer, had submitted that separate elections for the two Rajya Sabha seats in Gujarat would upset the scheme of pro-

portional representation as mandated under the Representation of People Act.

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

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

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

Disability pension non taxable only if veterans lose job in harness

From Page 1

They also said there were some cases in the past when some personnel misused the exemption scheme to avail the disability pension while nearing retirement. Personnel who suffer 100 per cent disability or up to 50 per cent, they leave the service unable to serve and get lifelong tax-free pension based upon their rank and last salary drawn, officials said.

Disability pension is of two types, war and normal. War disability is 60 per cent of the last salary drawn in case of 100% disability and normal disability is 30 per cent of the last salary drawn in case of 100% disability.

Till now both were not being taxed if the disability is decided by a team of doctors, some service personnel said

adding there are some ambiguities in the CBDT notification. It is not stated from when it would be effective, they said adding it was also not clarified in the order whether pension will be taxed with retrospective or prospective effect.

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

Kerala healthiest; UP, Bihar at nadir

From Page 1

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

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

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

Among the smaller States, Mizoram ranked first in overall performance, while Tripura and Manipur were top two States in terms of incre-

mental performance. Among UTs, Chandigarh ranked top in overall performance, while Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Delhi registered a decline in overall health index scores.

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

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

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

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

Defence, trade on Pompeo-Jaishankar...

From Page 1

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

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

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

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

The official maintained that the US had not officially informed India about any plans in

relation to H1B visas for IT professionals.

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

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER T.D.P.P. WATER RESOURCES DIVISION, JAGDALPUR, BASTAR (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

(FIRST CALL)

System Tender No. : 52174 /NIT No. : 01/TC/19-20, Jagdalpur, Dated : 22.06.2019

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 13.07.2019 at 17:30 Hour.

Name of Work : Construction of Taipadar Stop Dam at village Taipadar, Block - Jagdalpur in District - Bastar.

Probable Amount of Contract : Rs. 45.79 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 29.06.2019, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.

NOTE :- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Executive Engineer

T.D.P.P. Water Resources Division, Jagdalpur, Bastar (C.G.)

G- 71029/3 Ryp/Dtd 25.6.19

Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corp. Ltd. (A Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking)

1st Floor, Udyog Bhavan, Telibandha, Ring Road No.1, Raipur 492006 (C.G.) Tele/Fax: 0771-4057624

Website: www.csidc.in, Email : csidc.cg@nic.in, csidc_raipur@yahoo.com

e-Tender Enquiry No. CSIDC/MKD/2019-20/07 Raipur, Dated: 25/06/2019

Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation Limited, Raipur invites online tenders under Chhattisgarh Govt. Store Purchase Rule 2002 (As Amended) for the following items from the Registered Manufacturers only for the conclusion of rate contracts.

The tenderers are required to refer para 20 of form-5 tender documents under CSIDC form-5 where in the list of essential documents which are to be submitted along with technical Bid Envelope-A is given & also read changes made in general terms & condition as per amendment recently made.

Sl. No.	SPR Annex-I Sr. No.	Item Description	Last date of online submission	EMD (Rs)	Remarks
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
1	48/102	Bicycle Boys and Girls	02/08/2019	25,00,000/-	(1) The EMD in the form of demand draft favoring CSIDC Ltd., Raipur must reach this office physically upto 5.00 PM on last date (as quoted in column "D") of online submission of tender. (2) The tender documents can be downloaded from the portal (website) https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in directly and shall be submitted online only.

NOTE:-
(1) The interested tenderers for online submission of tender may contact [cgeprocurement site https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in](https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) Helpdesk. Operated by Service Provider Agency Mjunction Services Limited. They may reach by using Helpdesk 18004199140 (from 9 AM to 11 PM) (there in press 2 for CG e-Pro) or you can email them at Helpdesk.eproc@cgswan.gov.in
(2) Tenderer may contact to CSIDC in working hours to clear their doubt if any before online submission of the tender.

SAMVAD-21595/3

Managing Director

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LIMITED DEMAND NOTICE

Registered Office: 27 BKG, C 27, G Block, Bandra Kuria Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai-400 051
Branch Office: 5th Floor, Metro Tower, AB Road, Vijay Nagar, Near Mangal City Mall, Indore (M.P.) 452010

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. (KMBL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to KMBL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to KMBL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
Loan A/c No: 541040001721 1. M/s Kamalshree Computer, 1st Floor Aniruddha Parisar Opp. Dr. Vinod Tiwari Lab, Taty Para Chowk, Raipur (CG)- 492001 (Borrower) 2. Mr. Raj Kumar Jain S/o Vijay Kumar Jain, 1st Floor Aniruddha Parisar, Opp. Dr. Vinod Tiwari Lab, Taty Para Chowk, Raipur (CG)- 492001 (Co-Borrower/Guarantor/Proprietor) 3. Ms. Renu Jain, 1st Floor Aniruddha Parisar, Opp. Dr. Vinod Tiwari Lab, Taty Para Chowk, Raipur (CG)- 492001 (Co-Borrower/Guarantor)	Demand Notice Date: 31-05-2019 & Notice sent dated 10-06-2019 NPA Date: 31st March, 2017 Rs. 99,00,084.00 /- (Rs Ninety Nine Lakhs Eighty Four Only)	All that piece and parcel of property bearing Plot No. 8A, 368 sq.ft. Super Built Up Apartment No. LB 5 on Lower Ground of Silver Mall, South Tukoganj, Indore (MP)-452001 Bounded By: East: Apartment No. (SHOP) -LB-6, West: Apartment No. (SHOP) LB -4, North: Passage, South: Passage

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to KMBL as aforesaid, KMBL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of KMBL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Place : Raipur
Date : 26/06/2019

(Authorised Officer)
For Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.

RELIANCE HOME FINANCE LIMITED DEMAND NOTICE

Branch Office: Reliance Home Finance Ltd., 3rd Floor, Simran Tower, Pandri, Opp. LIC Building, Raipur-492004
Corporate & Registered Office: Reliance Centre, 6th Floor, South Wing, Near Prabhat Colony, Santacruz (East), Mumbai - 400055

Whereas the Borrowers/CO-Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from Reliance Home Finance Ltd. We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the Borrowers/CO-Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset on the respective dates mentioned hereunder, in the books of RHF in accordance with the directives relating to asset classification issued by the National Housing Bank, consequent to the Authorised Officer of Reliance Home Finance Ltd. under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued herein Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following Borrowers /CO-Borrowers /Guarantors /Mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices.

The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice same.

Name of The Borrower / Address	Co-Borrower And Guarantor Name	NPA Date	Date of Demand Notice	Outstanding Amount	Loan Amount	Property Address of Secured Assets
Savita Goel Flat No 304 Pearl Avani Vihar, Dal Dal Seoni, Mova Raipur Chhattisgarh-492001 Also At: Plot No 18 Avani Pride Kh No 498/17, 23, 28 Village Daldal Seoni PC No 109 Raipur-492001	Prakash Kumar Goel Plot No 18 Avani Pride Kh No 498/17, 23, 28 Village Daldal Seoni PC No 109 Raipur-492001	06 th April, 2019	06 th May, 2019	Rs. 29,00,798/- (Twenty Nine Lac Seven Hundred And Ninety Eight Only)	Rs. 30,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Lac Only)	Property Detail:- Plot No 18, Avani Pride Kh No 498/17, 23, 28, P/c No 109, Kushabhau Theatre Ward No 18 Village Daldal Seoni Rm Raipur On The North : House No. 19 On The South : House No. 17. On The East : Road On The West : Boundary Wall of Others House
Chandresh Kumar Patel House No 21 Ward No 29 Kailash Ward near Raipur Naka Shivnath Colony Rajnandgaon - 491441 And Also At: Flat No T-2/201 2nd Floor Building No 02 Tuls Tower Khno72/2 Phno34 Raipur Naka Ward No 12 Mouja Lakholi Ramadhin Marg RNM Rajnandgaon - 491441	Shefal Patel Flat No T-2/201 2nd Floor Building No 02 Tuls Tower Khno72/2 Phno34 Raipur Naka Ward No 12 Mouja Lakholi Ramadhin Marg RNM Rajnandgaon - 491441	12 th April, 2019	29 th May, 2019	Rs. 23,41,059/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lac Forty One Thousand and Fifty Nine only)	Rs. 22,40,000/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lac Forty Thousand and Fifty Only)	Schedule of the Property Flat no T-2/201 Multi stored Residential building no. 02 Tuls tower sheet no -2 plot no /KH no 72/2 Ph no. 50 Balram das ward no. 15 Raipur Naka FCI Road Rajnandgaon being bounded and butted as under:- On the East : Lift Area On The West : Flat No 202 On The North : Open Passage On The South : Open Land

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above Borrowers, CO-Borrowers and/ or their Guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the Borrowers/CO-Borrowers /Guarantors and the Mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules thereunder.

Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

PLACE : Raipur
DATE : 26-06-2019

Sd/-, (Prashant Burman), Authorized Officer, Reliance Home Finance Limited

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai-600031. TEL: +91 44 4564 4000 | FAX: +91 44 4564 4022.

APPENDIX IV [Rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorised officer of the IDFC First Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Home Finance Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 05.10.2018 calling upon the borrower, co-borrowers and guarantors 1. Hussain Saify, 2. Arwa Saify, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.9,73,543.07/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs Seventy Three Thousand Five Hundred Forty Three and Paise Seven Only) as on 01.10.2018 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 21st day of Jun 2019.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the IDFC First Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Home Finance Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited) for an amount Rs.9,73,543.07/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs Seventy Three Thousand Five Hundred Forty Three and Paise Seven Only) and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

All the piece and parcel of the property consisting of Plot KH No. 278/27, P H No. 118/51/71, Ward No. 52, Chandrashekhar Azad Ward, Mouja - Boriyakhurd, Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 492001.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
IDFC First Bank Limited
Place : Raipur. (erstwhile Capital First Home Finance Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)
Loan Account No. : 12702291.

SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED "A MINI RATNA COMPANY"

E-TENDER NOTICE

NIT No: SECL/BSP/CM/le-Tender/332, date 19.06.2019 , Tender ID: 2019_SECL_142074_1, Location of work: Korba Area, Gevra Area, Hasdeo Area, Chirimiri Area, Baikunthpur Area, Bishrampur Area, Bhatgaon Area and Raigarh Area of SECL. Estimated Cost: Rup. 11,17,15,949.40
Description of Work: Hiring of 22 nos. of Ambulances with basic life support with factory fitted A/C on daily rental basis along with drivers for 24 hours deployment basis for different Areas of SECL as per following details: Slice-A: 04 nos. Ambulance, Working Hours- 24 Hours/day, Fuel efficiency- 12 KMs/ Ltr, Average Running 4000 KMS/month/vehicle (+/- 25 %) Slice-B: 18 nos. Ambulance, Working Hours- 24 Hours/ day, Fuel efficiency- 12 KMs/ Ltr, Average Running 7000 KMS/month/vehicle (+/- 25%). Start date & time for submission of bid: 27.06.2019, at 11hrs, End date & time for submission of bid: 12.07.2019, at 17hrs, Date&time for opening of bid: 15.07.2019, at 11hrs. GM(CMC) SECL,Bilaspur

Note :- For details and submission of bid please visit website CPP www.eprocure.gov.in and e-procurement portal of CIL <https://coalindiatenders.gov.in> & www.secl-cil.in. In case of any misprinting/ error, details as per website document will be considered as final.

COAL : PRIME SOURCE OF ENERGY

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, CIRCLE NO-1 RAIPUR (C.G.)

Tender Notice

Contractors, Registered appropriate class in Unified Registration System [e-Registration] invited Online tenders for the following works :-

NIT.No./ System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable amount of contract	Last date of tender Download
5/61918	2 WASHING. COLOUR WASHING & DISTEMPERING OF GOVT. RESIDENTIAL AND NON RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AT SCIENCE COLLAGE SECTION, RAIPUR (C.G.)	Rs. 30.00 Lakh	up to 09.07.2019 17:30 PM
63/52123	S/R, MOW WORKS AND SMALL DEPOSITE WORKS AT CIRCUIT HOUSE SECTION UNDER P.W.D. SUB DIVISION NO.-1. RAIPUR (C.G.)	Rs. 50.00 Lakh	up to 09.07.2019 17:30 PM
64/52124	S/R, MOW WORKS AND SMALL DEPOSITE WORKS AT CIRCUIT HOUSE SECTION (POLICE COLONY CIVIL LINES) UNDER P.W.D. SUB DIVISION NO.-1. RAIPUR (C.G.)	Rs. 30.00 Lakh	up to 09.07.2019 17:30 PM
69/52127	CONSTRUCTION OF SUGAMYA BHARAT YOJNA UNDER LIFT, RAMP AND TOILET AT PT. RAVISHANKAR SHUKLA UNIVERSITY AT RAIPUR	Rs. 50.44 Lakh	up to 09.07.2019 17:30 PM
70/52128	CONSTRUCTION OF TRAUMA TO L2 TRAUMA CARE CENTER AT - DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL RAIPUR (C.G.)	Rs. 87.75 Lakh	up to 09.07.2019 17:30 PM

NOTE :- All eligible/interested contractors are mandated to get enrolled on the e Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Superintending Engineer
P.W.D. Raipur Circle No-1
Raipur (C.G.)
G- 70

GLOBE TROTTER

TRUMP-XI MEET TO HELP BRIDGE DIFFERENCES: FM
Beijing: China's Foreign Ministry says it hopes a meeting later this week between President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping will help build trust and resolve "outstanding issues." Spokesman Geng Shuang gave no details at a daily briefing but there are hopes the planned encounter at the G-20 summit in Japan will help lower the temperature in the trade war between two largest economies.

CHINA BANK STOCKS FALL ON POSSIBLE US ACTION
Beijing: Shares in three large Chinese banks fell on Tuesday after a media report said a US judge had found the banks in contempt for refusing to comply with subpoenas related to a North Korean sanctions violations case. The ruling could prompt the US to bar one of China's largest banks from the US financial system, the *Washington Post* report said.

UNSC URGES 'MAXIMUM RESTRAINT' IN GULF
Washington: The UN Security Council is condemning the latest attacks on oil tankers in the Persian Gulf and urging all parties "to exercise maximum restraint and take measures and actions to reduce escalation and tension." The council says the tanker attacks represent "a serious threat to maritime navigation and energy supply."

FRIDA THE RESCUE DOG RETIRES IN MEXICO
Mexico City: Frida the rescue dog, a Labrador retriever who gained worldwide fame for her heroics after the earthquake that devastated Mexico on September 19, 2017, officially retired from duty Monday. Frida, who adorably sniffed through the rubble in her protective goggles and booties in the hours after the tragedy, was sent into doggy retirement at 10 years old in a ceremony at the canine unit of the Mexican marines. "Our dear Labrador Frida is starting a new era," said Deputy Naval Minister Eduardo Redondo. "Frida stole the heart of all Mexico and thousands more abroad... Her bark always gave hope, and in moments of pain and uncertainty she brought relief."

IRAN SAYS US 'LYING' ABOUT TALKS OFFER

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iran vehemently responded Tuesday to new US sanctions against its leaders, saying they showed Washington was "lying" about an offer of talks and marked the end of diplomacy with the Trump administration, amid an escalating regional standoff.

Washington blacklisted Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and top military chiefs on Monday, saying it would also sanction Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif later in the week.

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

His comments came as US National Security Advisor John Bolton, on a visit to Iran's arch-enemy Israel, said Washington had "held the door open to real negotiations" but that "in response, Iran's silence has been deafening."

Iran and the US broke off



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

Tensions between them have been escalating since US President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew last year from a landmark 2015 nuclear deal with Iran and reimposed sanctions on the Islamic republic. Trump has since moved to choke Iran's economy, blacklisted Iran's Revolutionary Guards as a "terrorist organi-

sation" and nearly launched a military strike in retaliation to Iran downing a US spy drone.

Zarif said the drone had violated Iranian airspace, a claim the US denies. But Russia, a key ally of Tehran, on Tuesday backed Zarif's version of events.

Washington has also blamed Iran for mid-June attacks on two tankers in sensitive Gulf waters, a claim Iran hotly refutes. Trump has said

he is ready to negotiate with Iran "with no preconditions" and that Iran could have a "phenomenal future".

"We do not ask for conflict," he said, adding that depending on Iran's response, sanctions could end tomorrow or "years from now."

Rouhani also mocked the logic of blacklisting the supreme leader, who has few assets and no plans to visit the

US. "To sanction (the supreme leader) for what? Not to travel to America? That's cute," he said. Rouhani noted that there had been chances for talks between the two sides.

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

Iran silence on US talks offer 'deafening': Bolton

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

"The president has held the door open to real negotiations," Bolton told journalists in Jerusalem. "In response, Iran's silence has been deafening," he added.

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

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Speaking alongside the US advisor, Netanyahu said there was "a wider basis for cooperation between the three of us than many believe." Bolton's comments come a day after the United States imposed sanctions on top officials of Israel's archfoe Iran.

The measures against supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and others have led to a "permanent closure of the path to diplomacy" according

to Iran's foreign ministry. Tensions are running high after Iran shot down a US spy drone last week and Trump considered, then cancelled, a retaliatory strike. Bolton said Tehran has carried out "attacks upon American personnel and assets in the Middle East" and accused the Islamic republic of seeking nuclear weapons.

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

Russia accuses US of being 'reckless'

Moscow: Russia accused Washington of being reckless with new sanctions on Iran, saying Moscow stood in solidarity with Tehran. "US authorities should think hard about where this reckless course of action can lead," foreign ministry said in a statement. "It is capable of not only destabilising the Middle East but undermining the entire system of international security," the ministry added.

"There is an impression that Washington is 'burning bridges.'" By introducing sanctions against Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and top military chiefs, Washington is seeking to "punish those who are not going to submit to American diktat," Moscow said.

"Russia stands in complete solidarity with the friendly people of Iran and its Government," the Russian foreign ministry added. **AFP**

Trump warns of 'overwhelming' retaliation to any Iranian attack

Washington: President Donald Trump on Tuesday warned Iran that an attack on US interests would trigger an "overwhelming" response and could bring "obliteration".

Amid rising tensions between Washington and Tehran, Trump tweeted: "Any attack by Iran on anything American will be met with great and overwhelming force. In some areas, overwhelming will mean obliteration."

Iran's leaders only understand "Strength and Power, and the USA is by far the most powerful Military Force in the world", Trump said in the series of tweets.

The United States and Iran have been locked in an escalating war of words since last week's downing of a US surveillance drone. Iran says it was in its airspace, which Washington vehemently denies. **Agencies**



IRAN'S LEADERS ONLY UNDERSTAND "STRENGTH AND POWER, AND THE USA IS BY FAR THE MOST POWERFUL MILITARY FORCE IN THE WORLD"
 Donald Trump tweeted

Trump pulled back from plans to retaliate with military strikes on Iranian targets, saying the response — and the collateral damage — would not be "proportionate". **Agencies**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that one unknown dead body of male, Age about 40 years, Height 5'7", Complexion Shallow, Identification Mark A tattoo mark Namely "Roshan" on right hand, Wearing Pink colour shirt and black colour pant was found

dead at Under the Sultanpuri Flyover, Sultanpuri, Delhi on 11.06.19. In this regard a DD No. 19-A dated 11.06.19 has been lodged at PS Raj Park, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this male deceased may be kindly inform to the undersigned.

SHO
 PS: Raj Park, Delhi
 Ph.: 27910070, 27910071

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of Male Age: 50/55 years, Height: 5'8", Face: Round, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Strong, Wearing: Multi colour striped T-Shirt and grey pant was found dead on 09.06.2019 at 06.47 A.M. at Manglupuri Bus Terminal Red Light, Delhi. In this regard a FIR/DD No. 30-A dated 09.06.2019 has been lodged at PS Palam Village, Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO
 P.S. Palam Village, Delhi
 Ph. No.: 011-25365980, 25365981, 25362243,
 DP/6948/SW/19 Mob.: 7065036227

US kicks off Mideast plan, with Palestinians boycotting

AFP ■ MANAMA

After a wait of two and a half years, the US administration is launching its Middle East peace plan on Tuesday — with an economic initiative that the Palestinians are boycotting. For this most unconventional of US presidents, Donald Trump's Middle East peace-making bid is unlike decades of previous US attempts.

There is no talk of land swaps, a Palestinian state or other political issues that have vexed diplomats for decades. The Trump administration says it will get to the political issues later. For now, its plan will open over cocktails and dinner Tuesday evening in Bahrain at an intimate two-day "economic workshop" at a luxury hotel overlooking the Gulf.

Led by Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner, the "Peace to Prosperity" framework dangles the prospect of USD 50 billion of investment in the Palestinian territories and neighbouring Arab countries over 10 years. Listing a slew of projects to develop roads, border crossings, power generation and tourism, the framework sets an optimistic goal of creating one million Palestinian jobs.

But the Palestinian Authority and its rival Hamas have both denounced the initiative, saying it amounts to a bid by the unabashedly pro-Israel Trump to buy them off in return for not enjoying their own state.

Saeb Erekat, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Organization, said that the Trump administration "is insinuating that they know what is best for the Palestinian people" without addressing the underlying issue of Israeli occupation.

"Such inciting campaigns aim at making the people and leadership of Palestine accept the dictations, threats and tyranny of both the US and Israel — and they are doomed to fail," the veteran Palestinian negotiator said in a statement.

Prince Harry, Meghan's new home with Indian connection cost taxpayers millions

Iran says US sanctions rupture 'path to diplomacy'

Tehran: Iran on Tuesday said US sanctions on its leaders represent the "permanent closure" of diplomacy with Washington, after President Donald Trump tightened the screws on a nation he has threatened with "obliteration".

"Imposing fruitless sanctions against Iran's supreme leader and the commander of Iran's diplomacy is the permanent closure of the path to diplomacy with Trump's desperate government," ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said in a tweet.

"Trump's government is destroying all established international mechanisms for keeping global peace and security," he added. **AFP**

London: Prince Harry and his wife Meghan Markle's new home, a 19th century cottage with an Indian connection on Windsor estate, cost the UK taxpayers a whopping 2.4 million pounds in refurbishment, according to annual royal accounts released on Tuesday.

Frogmore Cottage on the grounds of Queen Elizabeth II's Windsor estate was chosen by the royal couple as their family home last year. The couple's new home has an Indian connection as a royal gift to Abdul Karim by Queen Victoria, then Empress of India, as a sign of her affection for her Indian aide and confidant. In 2018, it was a gift from Harry's grandmother, the Queen, to the newly-wed couple who are now settled into the cottage with new-born baby Archie.

According to the latest royal accounts, months of renovation work to turn the property spread over five separate spaces into one single home was paid for by the UK's Sovereign Grant. **PTI**

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that this girl (depicted in the photo) namely: **Sakshi D/o Sh. Ramesh R/o L-398, JJ Colony, Wazirpur, Delhi**, has been missing/kidnapped since 13.04.2019. In this regard FIR No. 179/19 U/s 363 IPC Dated 14.04.2019 has been registered at **PS. Bharat Nagar, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Her physical description is as under:-
Sex: Female, **Age:** 16 years, **Height:** 5'2" ft., **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Dark Brown Kurta and Lagging and Black Slipper in Feet.
 Any person is having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following:-
SHO
P.S. Bharat Nagar, Delhi
Ph. No. - 011-27301200
Mob. No. - 8750870222
Fax No.: 011-24368639
DP/9081/NW/19

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED

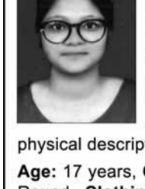


General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Ram Kishan, S/o Keshav Thorath, R/o: Parki Basti, Wengi Khirdi Takli Bhan, PS Shri Rampur, Distt. Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, Age: 37 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Strong, Hair: Black, Mentally Disturb, wearing Pink colour T-Shirt & Black colour Pant and Plastic Chappal**

in feet, has been missing from Yug Hotel, Kaseruwalan, Pahar Ganj, Delhi on 13.06.2019 around 10:30 PM. In this regard a DD No. 53A, dated 15.06.2019 has been registered at **PS. Pahar Ganj, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Pahar Ganj, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23520787, 23524746

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Muskan, D/o Sanjay Gupta, R/o L-73, Mangolpuri, Delhi**, has been missing since Dated 27.05.2019. In this regard a FIR No. 516/19, u/s 363 IPC, Dated 28.05.2019 has been registered at Police Station - Mangolpuri, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age: 17 years, **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Round, **Clothing:** Wearing green colour Top, green colour Legging and ladies Chapple in feet.

Any person is having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27921168, 27922186

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PHE (M&P) DIVISION, HMT, SRINAGAR.

Corrigendum No 2
Subject :- Supply of ISI marked Centrifugally Cast (Spun) Ductile Iron Pipes conforming to IS: 8329/2000, read with upto date amendments for assorted sizes ranging from NB 80mm upto and including NB 1000mm (in class K7) and NB 100mm upto and including NB 600mm (in class K9)
Ref:- This office N.I.T. No.-PHE/M&P/12 of 2019-20/E-TENDER/Dated:-14.06.2019
 Kindly read Clause No: 39 Sub-Clause (h) as under:-

Please Read	Instead of
The third Party inspection marking to be hard stamped/rubber stamping on bell mouth/ socket end of the pipes which should be clearly visible to naked eye.	The third Party inspection marking/ Stamp to be hard stamp on 10 % of the Supplied quantity(every lot of consignment) on bell mouth/ socket end of the pipes And rubber stamping on balance 90% of the quantity supplied which should be clearly visible to naked eye.

All other terms and condition will remain same.
 No.DIPK-NB-1398/19
 Dated: 25-06-2019

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PHE (M&P) Divn. Sgr.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited
Registered Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390007, Gujarat.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Office Number 201-B, 2nd Floor, Road No 1 Plot No -B3, W/1 IT Park, Wagle Industrial Estate, Thane, Maharashtra - 400604

A notice is hereby given that the following borrowers have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notice dated were issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses as provided to the bank by them, that in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Rajeev Kumar, Abhay Khand 1, Hig Flat No 115, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, A/c No:-LBDEL00003000725	Apartment Number 1106, 11th Floor, Tower K, Godrej Summit, Sector 104 Gurgaon	08-May-2019, Rs.10862364/-	30/11/2018
2.	Rachna Jain, Ankit Jain, Renu Jain, 4596/1, Prem Bhawan, II G F, Darya Ganj, Delhi, A/c No:-LBFD800001737608	Villa No.C-7, HRC Horizons Park Side Villas Plot No.201, 120 Ft Shastri Puram Road Vayu Vihar Agra Uttar Pradesh	08-May-2019 Rs.594743/-	30/06/2018
3.	Ashutosh Agarwal, Meenu Agarwal, House No-2628 Second Floor Dif-IV, Gurgaon, Haryana, A/c No:-LBGUR00003118370	Flat No-1001, T-7, 10 Fir Rudra Aquacasa, Plot No Gh-05A Sec-16 Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, Noida	08-May-2019 Rs.2885133/-	31/12/2018
4.	Rashmi Jain, Kamal Jain, House No- 2636, Sector-7-A, Faridabad, Haryana, A/c No:-LBFDB00001107325	Plot No- 322 A, Block-D, DLF Model Town Sector-11 Faridabad Haryana	08-May-2019 Rs.861153/-	31/12/2018
5.	Mahavir Singh Yadav, Vidya Devi, 16-A, Libaspur Gali No-17, Delhi A/c No:-LBDEL00001565148	LIG Flat No-31 Ground Floor, Block No-B-5 Sector-18, Rohini, Delhi	08-May-2019 Rs.606163/-	31/12/2018
6.	Davbrato Mondal, Shantona Mondal, 1958 1st Floor Katra Lachhu Singh, Near Founatin Chandni Chowk, Delhi, A/c No:-LBNOD00001251459	Flat No-1009, 10th Floor, Sector - 5, Plot No-1, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh	08-May-2019 Rs.557365/-	31/12/2018

The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2), failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2) dated mentioned above as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Date: June 26, 2019
Place: Delhi/NCR

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR J&K POWER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER COMMERCIAL & SURVEY WING PDD JAMMU & KASHMIR
 Email : cecnsjmu@gmail.com, Tel:- 0191-2490919

Invitation of Expressions of Interest (Eoi) for leasing out of spare fibres of OPGW on 220 KV Alusteng - Leh Transmission line
 Expressions of Interest (Eoi) is invited from reputed Telecom operators, Telecom infrastructure providers having experience in Telecom network operations and a valid license from competent authority for right of use of optical fibres on lease, for "Commercial Utilization of up to 8 (Eight) pairs of spare fibres of OPGW as laid on 220kV Alusteng-Leh Single Circuit Transmission System on lease basis."

Place of submission of Eoi
 For submission of the Eoi the address is: Chief Engineer, Commercial Survey Wing, Grid Complex Gladni, Narwal, 180006, Jammu. The proposal with all documents duly signed should be submitted in sealed envelope.

Envelopes should be super scribed "EXPRESSON OF INTEREST for "Commercial Utilization of up to 8 (Eight) pairs of spare fibres of OPGW as laid on 220kV Alusteng-Leh Single Circuit Transmission System on lease basis." along with name of the proposer.

Indicative Timetable
 An indicative timetable for the Eoi process is as follows:
Start date for receiving proposal :- 20.06.2019 (12.00 Noon)
Expressions of Interest close :- 15.07.2019 (16.00 Hrs)
Evaluation completion :- 30.07.2019
Notification for tender :- 10.08.2019
Tender float :- 14.08.2019
Tenders close :- 05.09.2019
Contract award :- 10.10.2019
Note: - The complete EOI can be downloaded from the portal <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 20.06.2019 (12:00 Noon IST onwards). The EOI is also available on www.jkpdnet.net, www.emrekashmir.jkpd.net and www.dcpjkd.net.

Sd/- Chief Engineer,
Commercial & Survey wing, JKPD

No.DIPK-NB-1393/19
 Dated : 25-06-2019

PRASAR BHARATI (INDIA'S PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTER) DOORDARSHAN NEWS NEW DELHI

Doordarshan News, New Delhi is looking to engage various categories of media persons for DD India English News Channel on annual contract basis. Details of educational qualifications/ expericncc and the method of Selection is available on www.prasarbhartiati.gov.in or www.ddnews.gov.in.

Interested candidates are required to apply in the prescribed Proforma available at the website.

The last date of submission of application is 12.07.2019.

Sd/-
davp/22532/11/000/1920
Dy. Director (HR)

Report most foul

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



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

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

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

Reset the relationship

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



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

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

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

Follies of allocation

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



RK PACHAURI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUNDBITE

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



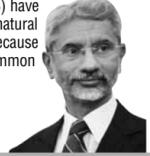
Prime Minister —Narendra Modi

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



Actor —Sonakshi Sinha

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



External Affairs Minister —S Jaishankar

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



Shiromani Akali Dal patron —Parkash Singh Badal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Use water efficiently

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

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

M Pradyu Kannur

Set priorities right

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

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

Justice Gogoi's demands merit attention

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



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

Ganapathi Bhat Akola

Unhealthy practice

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

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

KV Seetharamaiah Hasaan

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

Nimai Charan Swain Bhubaneswar

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Ethiopia's lucky premier

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



GWYNNE DYNER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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

—WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE



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

—UNION MINISTER PRAKASH JAVADEKAR

Articles of seclusion

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



PRASHANT TEWARI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AI can do wonders for aviation

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



MANEESH JAIKRISHNA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



FOREIGN EYE

NOT OK, GOOGLE

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

Currency in circulation rises 22% in May



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Currency notes in circulation stood at ₹21.71 lakh crore at May-end 2019, showing an increase of more than 22 per cent over the pre-demonetisation level.

As per a written reply given by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Rajya Sabha Tuesday, the notes in circulation as on November 4, 2016 were ₹17,74,187 crore, which have now increased to ₹21,71,385 crore as on May 31, 2019.

In a shock decision, the government had decided to demonetise old ₹500/1,000 notes on November 8, 2016.

Sitharaman said the notes in circulation had grown at an

average growth rate of 14.51 per cent year on year wise since October 2014.

"As actual notes in circulation on May 31, 2019 are only 21,713.85 billion, the demonetisation, followed by digitalisation and reduction of cash use in informal economy has succeeded in reducing the notes in circulation by as much as 3,408.68 billion rupees," she said.

The demonetisation, the minister said, was done with a view to eliminate black money, curb fake currency and thereby to create deterrence to funding of terror and left-wing extremism, facilitate transition of India's non-formal economy into a formal economy and to

give boost to digitalisation, among other objectives.

Sitharaman further said that as reported by the RBI, 7,62,072 pieces of counterfeit bank notes were detected in the banking system during 2016-17, 5,22,783 pieces in 2017-18 and 3,17,389 in 2018-19.

Hence, demonetisation resulted in curbing of the counterfeit currency, she added.

The minister further said a significant growth has been observed in digital transactions in the country post demonetisation.

Growth of digital transactions in terms of value has increased to 188.07 lakh crore in September 2018 from 112.27 lakh crore in November 2016.

Govt, RBI closely monitoring rupee exchange rate: Sitharaman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are closely monitoring the rupee exchange rate against the dollar on an on-going basis, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Tuesday.

The rupee has depreciated from ₹60.50 to a dollar in 2013-14 to ₹69.74 to a dollar in April-December of 2018-19, the minister said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

"The Government and Reserve Bank of India are closely monitoring the emerging external position including exchange rate of the rupee on an on-going basis and are calibrating policies or regulations to support robust macroeconomic outcome," she said.

The rupee closed at 69.36 to a dollar on Tuesday.

Inward remittances from Indians residing abroad stood at \$58.31 billion in April-December 2018-19, against \$69.12 billion in the full financial year 2017-18.

It was \$61.29 billion in 2016-17, \$65.59 billion in 2015-16, \$69.81 billion in 2014-15 and \$69.63 billion in 2013-14.

Sitharaman said as per the latest annual report of the home ministry, over ₹15,000 crore and over ₹20,000 crore were received in 2016-17 and 2015-16 under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010. "No reason has been stated for the decline in the foreign contribution in the report".

Sensex surps 312 pts; energy, auto, banking stocks rally

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

While, Yes Bank, Asian Paints, IndusInd Bank, TechM, HUL, TCS, L&T, Hero MotoCorp and HCL Tech fell up to 1.70 per cent.

Markets pared initial losses following India Meteorological Departments (IMD) statement that Indias

annual monsoon rains have covered nearly half of the country, and conditions are favourable for further advancement into the central and western parts this week, said Narendra Solanki, Head Fundamental Research (Investment Services) — AVP Equity Research, Anand Rathi Shares & Stock Brokers.

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

Meanwhile, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended on a negative note. Equity markets in Europe were also trading in the red in early deals.

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

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.36 per cent to \$63.95 per barrel.

Business Corner



NTPC held its 17th Foreign Lenders Meet in Mumbai on Tuesday. The meet was aimed to brief the representatives of the foreign banks and financial institutions about the company's Operational and Financial performance during the financial year 2018-19, growth plans and funding requirements, etc. for the future

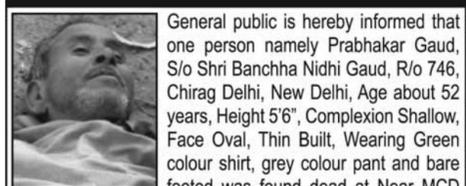


Rakesh Kumar, Chairman, SCOPE and CMD, NLC India Limited made a courtesy call to Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State for Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises and Parliamentary Affairs



Guruprasad Mohapatra, Chairman, Airports Authority of India, inaugurated the Specialized Maintenance Unit (SMU) for in-country repairing of ELDIS Radars in presence of Ambassador of Czech Republic, HE Milan Hovorka on Monday. This Facility will help in reducing Turnaround Time (TAT) of repair of unserviceable modules of the radars, thereby reducing the down time of the important surveillance facility of Indian air space. More than 80% of Indian air space is under the coverage of Radars

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

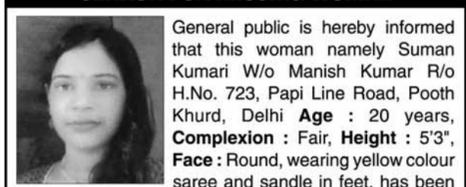


General public is hereby informed that one person namely Prabhakar Gaud, S/o Shri Banchha Nidhi Gaud, R/o 746, Chirag Delhi, New Delhi, Age about 52 years, Height 5'6", Complexion Shallow, Face Oval, Thin Built, Wearing Green colour shirt, grey colour pant and bare footed was found dead at Near MCD Office Millennium Park, Chirag Delhi, New Delhi. In this regard a vide DD No. 69-A dated 16.06.19 has been lodged at PS Malviya Nagar, New Delhi. The dead body has been preserved at AIIIMS mortuary for 24 hours.

Any person having any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly inform the undersigned.

SHO
PS : Malviya Nagar, New Delhi
Ph.: 26691861, 26691862

SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMAN



General public is hereby informed that this woman namely Suman Kumari W/o Manish Kumar R/o H.No. 723, Papi Line Road, Pooth Khurd, Delhi Age : 20 years, Complexion : Fair, Height : 5'3", Face : Round, wearing yellow colour saree and sandal in feet, has been missing since 12.06.2019 from the area of P.S. Bawana, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 53-A dated 14.06.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Bawana, Delhi.

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

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Ph.: 24368639, 27756090

CANCELLATION OF NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No. SSA/CW/KGBV-AUG/2018-19/490/2018/8307 Dated- 24/06/2019

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

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

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Gurdayal S/o Sadhu Lal R/o Village Pijora, District Jahanabad, Bihar has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a FIR No. 803/18, u/s 377/IPC and 6 PCO Act, PS Nihal Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrants of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Gurdayal could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Gurdayal has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person Ganes Gurdayal of FIR No. 803/18, u/s 377/IPC, 6 PCO Act, PS Nihal Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 03.08.2019.

By order
Ms. Vrinda Kumari
Addl. Session Judge-07 (West),
Room No. 216, 2nd, floor,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

GDA proposes to denotify 35 acres of land in Indirapuram

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ghaziabad Development Authority is preparing to denotify 35 acres of land in UGDA Indirapuram. Since GDA no longer requires the land for the purposes it had acquired the land. In order to take action to cancel the notification, the GDA has made preparations for the proposal in the board meeting on June 25. If the proposal is passed then it will be sent to the State Government.

It is also pertinent to note that in the year 2005, GDA issued notification for the acquisition of 92 acres of farmers in Indirapuram in GDA. And the said notification was challenged before the court, due to which GDA has not taken possession of 35 acres of land, neither actual nor symbolic possession of the said land was taken.

Govt likely to use ₹3tn RBI windfall to pay regular bills

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

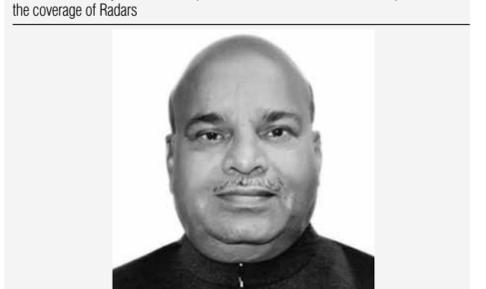
DoT asks BSNL to put all capex on hold, stop tenders

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The telecom department is learnt to have asked state-owned BSNL to put all tenders and purchase order on hold, as the company is facing financial crisis.

The finance department of BSNL issued order in this regard on June 2, directing all its circle head to take prior approval of corporate officer located in Delhi before floating any new tenders for capital expenditure, according to official sources.

"The order issued to circle heads on June 12 says that BSNL is passing through a temporary financial stress and is not in a position to clear the accumulated liabilities," a BSNL official on the condition of anonymity told PTI. He said the BSNL's Finance Department received the direction from finance wing of the DoT to put on hold all capital expenditure.



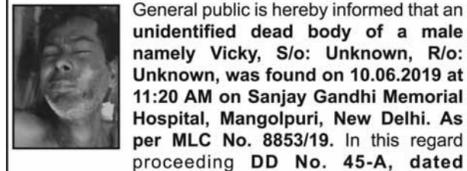
On the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking, Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Thawarchand Gehlot, said "roughly 450,000 people died as a result of drug use in 2015, according to WHO. Of those deaths, 167,750 were directly associated with drug use disorders (mainly overdoses). The rest were indirectly attributable to drug use and included deaths related to HIV and hepatitis C acquired through unsafe injecting practices. Customs, Department of Revenue Intelligence, Narcotics Control Bureau, State Police, Central Paramilitary Forces, State Excise, Forest Department, etc. regulate and check the diversion of substances from licit channels to illicit networks including internet pharmacies."

GOVT SEEKS VIEWS OF STATES ON CROP INSURANCE SCHEME

New Delhi: The Government Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that it has written to states seeking their views on whether the crop insurance scheme should be made voluntary for farmers.

At present, the scheme is compulsory in nature. Responding to a supplementary question, Minister of State for Agriculture Purushottam Ropala said during Question Hour that on Monday, PTI

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male namely Vicky, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, was found on 10.06.2019 at 11:20 AM on Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Mangolpuri, New Delhi. As per MLC No. 8853/19. In this regard proceeding DD No. 45-A, dated 10.06.2019 has been lodged at Police Station, Mangolpuri, New Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Vicky, Age: Approx 50 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, ID Mark: A old Hurt mark on right eye, Wearing: Blue Jeans paint only.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO
Police Station, Mangolpuri, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-27922186, 7065036121

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED BOY



General public is hereby informed that one boy namely Md. Sakeel S/o Md. Wasil R/o Vill. & Post Madarganj, Distt. Arariya, Bihar. Age: 15 yrs., Height: 4'6", Wheatish complexion, Round face & Thin Build. Wearing Yellow colour sweater & jeans pant is kidnapped from Main Bazar, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi on 04.02.2013.

In this regard a case FIR No. 31/13 Dated: 04.02.2013 U/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Paharganj, New Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this kidnapped boy may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

S.H.O.,
P.S., Paharganj, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-23520787, 23524746

Appeal For Identification



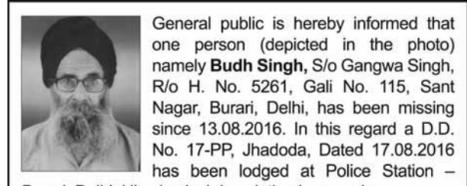
General public is hereby informed that this person Name : Unknown S/o : Unknown, R/o : Unknown, Age : 55-60 Years Approx, Sex : Male, Height : 5 Ft. 6 Inch, Hair : White Long Beard and White Long Hair like Sikh, Wearing : White Colour T-shirt, Red Colour Banyan, White Colour Lower and Blue Colour Underwear, has been found dead on 21.06.2019 at Haidepur Water Treatment Plant, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 08-A Dated 21.06.2019 has been lodged at PS. K.N. Katju Marg, 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
PS. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27571162, 8750870327

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one person (depicted in the photo) namely Budh Singh, S/o Gangwa Singh, R/o H. No. 5261, Gali No. 115, Sant Nagar, Burari, Delhi, has been missing since 13.08.2016. In this regard a D.D. No. 17-PP, Jhadoda, Dated 17.08.2016 has been lodged at Police Station - Burari, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Age: 105 years, Complexion: Sallow, Height: 5'8", Face: Round, Build: Normal, Clothing: Wearing white colour Kurta-Pajama and Pagri.

Any person is having any information/Clue about this missing person, may inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368639, 24368641

SHO
P.S. Burari, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27616844, 27616234

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



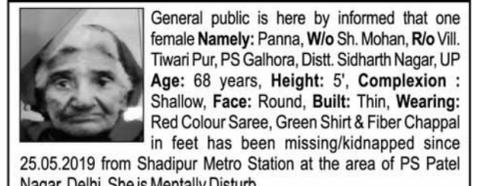
General Public is hereby informed that a boy namely Ankit Pathak S/o Jitender Pathak R/o RZF-82, Near Lucky Garden, Nihar Vihar, Delhi Age-14 years, Height-5'2" Face-Round, Complexion-Fair, Identification- A old Scare mark on left side of face. Wearing: White Colour T-Shirt Black Colour Pant and White Colour Sports Shoes in his feet has been missing/kidnapped since dated 25.05.2019 from the area of P.S Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a vide FIR No. 352/19 u/s 363 IPC Dated 25.05.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this boy please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25946710, 25946700

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE



General public is here by informed that one female namely: Panna, W/o Sh. Mohan, R/o Vill. Tiwari Pur, PS Gailhora, Distt. Sidharth Nagar, UP Age: 68 years, Height: 5', Complexion : Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Red Colour Saree, Green Shirt & Fiber Chappal in feet has been missing/kidnapped since 25.05.2019 from Shadipur Metro Station at the area of PS Patel Nagar, Delhi. She is Mentally Disturb.

In this regard a DD No. 134-A dated 27.05.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi.

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

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

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi
Ph. 011-25872637, 8750870434

Another TMC leader rebels against party

Cut-money crisis deepens in Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

The incident comes against the backdrop of



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

Trinamool Congress legislators switching over to the BJP in hordes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Those imprisoned during Emergency to get pension: Maha CM Fadnavis

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

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

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

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

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

applicant served a jail term during the Emergency.

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

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

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

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

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

the pension scheme," he demanded.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The law under which Qadri has been arrested deals with intention to overawe the Government as by law established or to strike terror in the people or any section of the people or to adversely affect the harmony amongst different sections of the people does any act or thing.

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

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

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

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

—Relative

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

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

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

Major terror strike averted with arrest of 4 JMB terrorists

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

The police have arrested Md Jiaur Rehman and M Rashid with incriminating documents, mobile phones, laptops and other accessories. These Bangladeshi nationals, reportedly having ISIS links, were arrested from the Sealdah Railway station where they were waiting for the arrival of some of their contact men. With the arrests, a "grand operation plan has been busted," a senior officer said, adding the mobile phones contained maps and formula to construct fabricate bombs.

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

lived for sometime at Uluberia off Howrah sources said.

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

Senior officers of the STF were interrogating the terror operatives police said adding their main motto was to spread the message of ISIS and JMB and overthrow the Indian and Bangladesh Governments so as to invoke Sharia laws in these two countries making them a part of the Islamic caliphate.

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

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

Mom alleges daughter forcibly converted to Christianity

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

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

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

Alleged activists of Hindu Samhati, a right wing group, reportedly surrounded the man and asked him to chant Jai Shri Ram which he refused, Haldar's kin said, adding he was badly beaten up and pushed outside the moving train even as it slowed down near Park Circus station.

Haldar received injuries in his left eye and forehead, sources said. A police complaint to this effect had been registered with the Ballygunge GRP.

JD(U) accuses NDPP of poaching its MLA

Kohima: A day after its lone legislator Kaito G Aye joined the ruling Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party in Nagaland, the JD(U) state unit on Tuesday accused the NDPP of poaching its MLA.

JD(U) Nagaland president Senchumo NSN Lotha told a press conference here that "Aye along with some members of the JD(U) were swayed and lured by temporary materialistic gains".

He alleged that though Aye was elected on a JD(U) ticket but his heart and soul was never with the party.

Lotha claimed that Aye may have defected to NDPP but the JD(U) Nagaland unit is totally intact.

"The JD(U) feels relieved for being cleaned of garbage which was stinking and destroying the good odour of the party," the JD(U) state president said, adding that "opportunists and power mongers will always find a hole to perforate their fingers and throw the dirt at others".

Aye along with his supporters and some other leaders joined the NDPP in the presence of Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on Monday. Lotha said the JD(U) Nagaland unit would remain firm and steadfastly work to achieve the party functioning motto of getting Nagaland rid of the 3Cs — Crime, Corruption and Communalism under the sagacious leadership of its national president Nitish Kumar.

The office of Executive Engineer (Maintenance), Maneri Bhali Stage-II, Chinyalisaur (Uttarakashi) invites sealed tenders from interested parties for following work:

NIT - 06/EE (M)/MB-II/19-20: Polyoxy Coating of Cooling Water Pipelines of Unit # 1,2,3,4 at Dharasu Power House M.B - II, Uttarakashi.
NIT - 07/EE (M)/MB-II/19-20: Supply Installation Testing Commissioning of AB Cables at Shaktipuram Colony MB-II, Dharasu Power House, Chinyalisaur.
Approx value of Tender: Rs 930000/-, Rs. 2494000/- (Taxes Extra respectively)
Earnest Money: Rs 280000/-, Rs 750000/- only respectively
Tender Cost: Rs 11800/- only for each tender
Last date of downloading the tender - 18.07.2019
Last date of submitting the tender - 19.07.2019 up to 15:30 Hrs.
Due date for opening the tender - 22.07.2019 at 11:00 and 12:00 Hrs. Respectively

For Eligibility Criteria and full details kindly visit our website "www.uttarakhandjvidyut.com" Bidders are advised to regularly visit our website for tender notice. Tender can only be downloaded from our website & their cost has to be paid at the time of submission.

Executive Engineer (Maintenance)
316 यू.पी.सी. सि/विभा/दिनांक : 26.06.2019
"Save electricity in the interest of Nation"

DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU
Phone No. 0194-2561578 / Fax No. : 0191-2547807 E-mails : sspjammu@jpolice.gov.in

LOOK OUT NOTICE
As reported by SHO P/S Gharota, Jammu applicant namely Anita Devi W/O Ravi Kumar R/O Ranjan, Bhalwal, Jammu reported that her husband has been missing since 22.10.2012, regarding which missing report vide DDR No. 09 has been lodged at P/S Gharota on 06.11.2012. Despite thorough search her whereabouts are still unknown.

As such photograph of missing Ravi Kumar S/O Mohan Lal R/O Ranjan, Bhalwal, Jammu is being published with consent of his legal heirs for the information of Police establishments/public in general and if anybody having any clue related to this whereabouts / present location, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact/Telephone numbers.

Description Roll:-
Name :- Ravi Kumar
S/O :- Mohan Lal
Permanent Address :- R/O Ranjan, Bhalwal Jammu.

Police Station :- Gharota, Jammu
Age :- 35 years
Height :- 5 feet 6 inch
Complexion :- Wheatish
Built :- Normal
Face :- Round
Eyes :- Black
Hairs :- Black
Language Known :- Hindi / Dogri
Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-
1. DPO, Jammu : 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578
2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D : sspjammu@jpolice.gov.in
3. PCR Jammu : 0191-2542000
4. SP City South:- 0191-2433778
5. SP Rural Jammu : 0191-2605949
6. SDPO Akhnoor : 01924-252244
7. P/S Gharota : 0192-2624319
8. Contact No. of Legal Heirs : 84920-82263

No: DIP/J-2874/2019 Dated: 24.06.2019
Sd/- Sr. Superintendent of Police, Jammu

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited
Registered Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodra 390007
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051
Branch Office: ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videcon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext, New Delhi-110055

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Munisha Pathania/ Kultar Singh/ LBDEL00002376946	Flat No. H-602, 6th Floor Parkwood Glade Tower- D Kharar Landran Road Mohali 140301/ June 21, 2019	April 27, 2018 Rs. 39,00,216/-	Del/ncr

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 days Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : 26-06-2019 Place: Delhi/NCR Sd/- Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

CORRIGENDUM

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited
Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodra 390 007
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai 400 051
Branch Office: ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videcon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext, New Delhi-110055

Refer to the advertisement of the Auction Notice published on 21-June-2019 under the Borrower's Name Mr. Sanjiv Kumar, Loan no.-LBDEL00001646273 in The Pioneer (Eng.) in Delhi/ NCR edition. Due to inadvertent mistake in the Dates mentioned as July 16, 2019 to be read as July 19, 2019 and July 15, 2019 to be read as July 18, 2019. And the correct address of the property is Flat no. 1501, 14th floor, tower no. n-05, the close north, nirvana country, sector 50, Gurgaon, Area - 2491 sq.ft. All other contents remain unchanged.
Dated: 26-06-2019 Place : Delhi/ NCR
Sd/- (Authorized Officer) ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to all whosoever is concerned that my client Pawdharo Kunwar W/o Late Shiv Bachan R/o Village Babhnauli, Post Kashila, District-Sivan (p.S.-Ansava) Bihar-841287 presently in Delhi being fed up with disquieting and maltreatment of her grand daughter Priyanka Kumari D/o Shri Shankar Dayal Gupta R/o H. No. 372, Gali No. 14, Sarai Enclave Part-I, Mohan Garden, Uttar Nagar, New Delhi-110059 serve or break up all her relationship with her from this day onwards and hereby disown her from self-earned properties as well as from all other immovable and moveable properties and shall not be responsible for her act. Anybody deals with her shall be doing so at their own risk responsibilities and they shall not have any lawful relationship with my client.
Advhesh Kumar Advocate, A-107, R.G. Complex, D.B. Gupta Road, New Delhi-55, Mob. 9910050625

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that my client Smt. Manju W/o Sh. Dharamvir Singh owner Property bearing no. 1771 (old) 199 (New) area measuring 128 sq. yds. Situated in village Ching Delhi, Tehsil HauzKhas New Delhi vide sale deed dated 01.11.2013, do. No. 5721, in SR0-V/A, Delhi in the property chain Death Certificate of late Mehnga Ram & Late Vishan Devi and Surviving Member Certificate late Mehnga Ram & Late Vishan Devi are not available and to be loan financed by Aavas Financiers Limited, Branch RP Delhi. If any person is having objection right of claim against the said property, contact to undersigned along with supporting documents within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone.
Naveen Kumar Verma, Advocate, F-211, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact: 09958871432

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a female (depicted in the photo), **namely** : Mehmuda W/o Md. Shahid R/o B-425, Jahangir Puri, Delhi has been missing (alongwith her two children namely Arbaz & Arzoo) since 07.06.2019. In this regard a case vide DD No. 36-A dated 11.06.2019 has been lodged at PS Jahangir Puri, Delhi. The description of the missing female and her two children is as under:-

MEHMUDA
Age : 40 year, Height: 5', Complexion : Shallow, Built : Strong, Face : Round, Wearing : Red colour suit- salwar. Arbaz - Age : 9 year, Height: 4', Complexion : Fair, Built : Thin, Face : Round, Arzoo - Age : 7 year, Height: 3', Complexion : Fair, Built : Thin, Face : long

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing female (alongwith her two children), may inform SHO, Jahangir Puri, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>.
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
P.S. Jahangir Puri, SHO, North-West Distt., Delhi Ph. No. 011-27636000, 27631600

DP/0607/INW/19

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <http://fetender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

Sl.No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Amount in Lacs
A	1 56	/GM(R)/SM (WC- 2) 2018-19 Strengthening of road (P/L DBC on Damage Internal road in Sector-17) Noida.	₹46.75
Which can be uploaded by date 02.07.2019 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 03.07.2019 at 11.00 AM			
Sl.No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Amount in Lacs
B	1 61	/GM(R)/SM (WC-3) 2018-19 M/o Building (Repairing & M/o Administrative Block & Teachers Residence in Mahamaya Girls inter college Sector-44) Noida	₹60.57
Which can be uploaded by date 09.07.2019 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 10.07.2019 at 11.00 AM			
General Manager (R) Noida			
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA			

RE-TENDER NOTICE

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

Name of Work	Package No	Place	Approx. Value of Work	Time of completion	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	E.M.D. to be drawn in favour of	Tender Cost
AUGMENTATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE (RCC G+1) FOR CLASS IX & X AT EXISTING KASTURBA GANDHI BALIKA VIDYALAYA (KGBV) BUILDING	11L	PANITOLA, DIBRUGARH	Rs.64,22,500.00 Per Site.	12 (twelve) months	Rs.1,28,450.00 (for General) Rs.64,225.00 (for reserved Category) [PER SITE]	The Mission Director, SSA, Assam, Guwahati-19	Rs. 3000.00 PER SITE
	18T	ITAKHULI, TINSUKIA					

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



naabasta ENGLAND

WE WANT TO MAKE OUR FANS HAPPY. THEY EXPECT A LOT. WE TRY OUR BEST, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE NOT ALWAYS PLAYED WELL — SAMIULLAH SHINWARI

Cornered Pak vs flying Kiwis

Pakistan to battle for survival against New Zealand

UPNEXT



PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Their campaign revived by a win over South Africa, Pakistan will continue their battle of survival when they face an unstoppable New Zealand in a must-win World Cup clash today.

Pakistan faced severe criticism after their loss to arch-rivals India but their 49-run win over South Africa breathed life into their campaign but the road ahead is a tough one.

With just two wins and three losses, Pakistan are at the seventh spot with five points in six games.

Sarfraz Ahmed and his men will now not only have to win the remaining three matches, starting with New Zealand, but also hope that the results in other matches favour them to salvage any hopes of a semifinal berth.

While pacer Mohammad Amir has been their biggest star, claiming 15 wickets to top the list, none of the other bowlers have backed him, which has affected their campaign.

Their batting line-up too lacked spark before left-handed batsman Haris Sohail, who was dropped after the opening game, made a strong comeback with a 59-ball 89 to help Pakistan post a challenging 308 for 7 against South Africa.

Shadab Khan and Wahab Riaz also chipped in with three wickets in their last game after Amir once again delivered, accounting for two scalps.

While the batting and bowling units delivered against the Proteas, fielding is an area of concern for Pakistan and Sarfraz too admitted that the team will need to pull up its socks.

"We have to work harder on fielding. Again we dropped so many catches (against South Africa), some straightforward and some half-chances. All three matches now are very crucial and we have to sort it out," Sarfraz had said after the match.

New Zealand, on the other hand, have been invincible so far and currently hold the top position in the points table.

The Black Caps, led by inspiration



New Zealand pacer Trent Boult plays with the ball during team's practice session

ICC/Twitter

skipper Kane Williamson, have been on a roll ever since they steamrolled Sri Lanka in their opening match.

But no team is unbeatable and New Zealand looked vulnerable against South Africa and the West Indies but it was skipper Williamson's twin hundreds which helped them seal the wins.

Williamson, who also anchored the side against Afghanistan, is their highest scorer in the tournament so far. Ross Taylor too has been among the runs but opens Colin Munro and Martin Guptill

are yet to click.

Their bowling unit, which includes Trent Boult and Lockie Ferguson, too has been in good form, while New Zealand also have two destructive all-rounders in Jimmy Neesham and Colin de Grandhomme in their ranks.

The only aspect that they seem to be struggling is delivering their quota of overs within the stipulated time and Williamson could be handed a suspension if the over-rate is slow in one more match.



Pak bowling coach Azhar Mahmood shares fun moment with players during practice session

ICC/Twitter

HEAD TO HEAD

	Played	Pak	NZ	Tied/NR
Matches	106	54	48	1/3
Day matches	66	32	31	1/2
In World Cup	8	6	2	-
Last 5 matches	5	1	3	1

HIGHEST TOTALS

Pakistan	364-7 in 50 overs at Sharjah	14-12-2014
New Zealand	369-5 in 50 overs at Napier	03-02-2015

PERFORMANCE IN WC

Team	P	W	L	T	N/R	Success%
Pak	84	53	30	-	1	63.69
NZ	76	42	32	-	2	56.57

FAISEL FEATURES

SQUADS

Pakistan: Sarfraz Ahmed (captain), Fakhar Zaman, Imam ul Haq, Babar Azam, Haris Sohail, Hasan Ali, Shahadab Khan, Mohammed Hafeez, Mohammed Hasnain, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Wahab Riaz, Mohammed Amir, Shoaib Malik, Imad Wasim, Asif Ali.
New Zealand: Kane Williamson (captain), Martin Guptill, Matt Henry, Tom Latham, Colin Munro, Jimmy Neesham, Henry Nicholls, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, Trent Boult, Colin de Grandhomme, Lockie Ferguson, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor, Tom Blundell.

XFACTOR

- Black Caps' pace attack
- Sarfraz Ahmed's leadership
- Imam-ul-Haq and Fakhar Zaman's opening stand
- Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor's middle order batting
- Mohammed Amir, Wahab Riaz's opening spell
- Colin de Grandhomme's all-round performance

MEN WHO MATTER

MOHAMMAD AMIR (PAKISTAN)

The left-arm pacer is delivering big time on the promise he showed when he arrived on the international scene a decade ago, as a 17-year-old. Amir in this tournament has been more incisive than he has in years. His battle against Williamson should be a mouth-watering one.



KANE WILLIAMSON (NEW ZEALAND)

Williamson never ceases to amaze with his sponge-like ability to absorb pressure. Along with his unquestionable class, Williamson brings fantastic temperament, just the kind of which is required to succeed in a high-stakes environment, such as the World Cup.



Courtesy: © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2018

'Jeet karo repeat' Kane can, we can

IAN S ■ BIRMINGHAM

Former Pakistan speedster Wasim Akram has advised Sarfraz Ahmed not to tinker with the winning combination and go with an unchanged playing XI against New Zealand in their crucial World Cup match to be played on Wednesday at Edgbaston.

Pakistan kept their hopes of making it to the semi-finals of the ongoing tournament alive after registering a comfortable 49-run victory over South Africa on Sunday, thus knocking them out of the competition.

He also hoped for a repeat of 1992's show when Pakistan had defeated the Black Caps — who were also unbeaten till that match — by seven wickets in their crucial World Cup game played at the AMI Stadium in Christchurch.

"They were unbeaten in 1992 too before playing against us and we won the game, they're unbeaten again and I hope we repeat the show, but boys will have to give their best," Wasim told Pakistan's Geo TV. "There's no need to change the winning combination," he added.

However, Akram wants Pakistan to improve their field-



Wasim Akram appeals for lbw during 1992 World Cup final

AP/File Photo

ing, especially their catching which has been very poor so far in the tournament.

Pakistan have dropped as many as 14 catches in the six games they have played so far. "We have dropped 14 catches in the tournament. We are top on the list of teams dropping most catches in the World Cup which isn't a good sign," Akram said.

"This isn't something new, but we need to overcome this problem," he added.

The former captain also added that Babar Azam needs to start converting his fifties into hundreds if he wants to

become a world-class batsman.

Azam has scored two half-centuries in the World Cup so far, which came against England and South Africa, but was subsequently dismissed for 63 and 69 respectively. He also scored 48 against arch-rivals India before being clean bowled by spinner Kuldeep Yadav.

"The openers did well, Babar did well, but Babar needs to convert his fifties into hundreds," said Akram while speaking of the Proteas game.

■ BIRMINGHAM

Forget skipper Kane Williamson for a second — New Zealand's unbeaten start to the Cricket World Cup has been a true team effort with everyone stepping up to the plate.

That's the view of Black Caps all-rounder Mitchell Santner as the Black Caps look to continue their impressive start to this year's competition against Pakistan in Edgbaston on Wednesday.

Boasting the highest batting average in the World Cup 2019 to date — a staggering 186.50 — after match winning knocks against both West Indies and South Africa, skipper Williamson has rightly been lauded for his wonderfully assured performances over the past month.

But with only one side — the WI — having scored over 250 against New Zealand so far, and the likes of Lockie Ferguson and Trent Boult excelling with the ball, Santner believes the Black Caps' success so far is as much a triumph of collective skill.

"We've had a couple of tight games, which I guess the key so far is other people have been stepping up, and I guess that's what you want to do as a team," he said. "You want everyone to step up at different times throughout the tournament, and I think that's what we've done so far."

"We haven't relied on a few guys to do the bulk of the work, but in saying that, being on the winning side of those tight encounters give the whole squad confidence. "So that's nice, obviously, going into each game, that you know you've got confidence. "The team, other people are standing up at different times, and you can back everyone to do a job rather than just relying on a couple of key players."

"You look at our side as a whole, we're quite a scrappy side, and we pride ourselves on winning those little moments, like I guess we have been, and saying that, we could have been on the other end of a couple of those games."

Opponents Pakistan head into Wednesday's game in Birmingham still well in the hunt for a semi-



M Santner in action

ICC/Twitter

final berth after victory over South Africa at Lord's on Sunday.

Key to the Men in Green's success resurgence has been Mohammad Amir's potent use of the new ball, with the seamer currently sitting close to the top of the bowling standings.

And with pre-tournament England another their victims over the past

month, Santner believes Pakistan's threat cannot be taken lightly. "I think they're very dangerous. Obviously, they've had a pretty good record over here," he added.

"They won the Champions Trophy a couple of years ago, and they've come off a pretty good win against South Africa."

"We've played Pakistan a lot recently. We're aware of their strengths, and I think Wahab back into their team is very good for them."

"Amir is bowling very well as well. Their bowling attack on the whole is very good. We can't take them lightly, and we'll have to prepare accordingly. I guess we've seen early in this tournament they've taken down big sides."

"They took down South Africa the other day. When they're hot, they're really hot. We have to, obviously, find ways of trying to cool them down when they're like that. We're playing pretty good cricket as well, so I think we're in for a pretty good match tomorrow."

Courtesy: © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2019

coachSpeak

AZHAR MAHMOOD, PAK



■ How do you see today's match?

They're (NZ) definitely a very strong side. They won all of their games. So we know they're a strong side. If we can do our discipline right, like we did last game — batting, bowling, and fielding. Our ground fielding was really good, but unfortunately we dropped a lot of catches. If we do our discipline right, we can beat any side.

■ Where do you think NZ is most vulnerable?

They are a quality side. They've got a match spinner on their side. So with the ball, you know, it's crucial for us to take a wicket with the new ball. And when we bat, we need to get runs up front. So our top three is the most important for us. If we do our basics right, it's just about us, not about them. We need to do our things right.

■ Would you use spinners more than fast bowlers?

We haven't seen the pitch yet. We play two spinners anyway, and in our side, Haris can bowl as well and Hafeez. So we've got almost four spinners on the side. We'll see the pitch and assess the condition, and then we can use one thing against New Zealand. Change of pace is crucial.

■ As the bowling coach, what do you think has gone wrong with Hasan Ali.

Everyone in cricket, whether you're a batsman or a bowler, you have bad form. He's having a bad form. So he's low on his confidence. He has self-doubt in his ability. So he's running in, and he's working hard on and off the field. You can see that. But it's just a matter of getting two, three wickets, and he'll be back.

Same thing happened to Ahmed, you know. After Champions Trophy, Ahmed was struggling, but he was bowling well. Now you see that he's having a good time. It's same thing happened to Hasan Ali as well.

■ What do you make of the pitch out there at the moment?

We played in this ground before in Champions Trophy. So we know the condition really well. We'll find out today how the pitch look like. Maybe it's like the game played here was a slightly drier pitch. Let's see under cover.

Courtesy: © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2018

Feather in the cap

Birmingham: New Zealand opener Martin Guptill will aim to add another feather to his cap when he comes to bat against Pakistan in their World Cup fixture to be played today.



Guptill needs 58 more runs to become the second Kiwi player after former skipper Stephen Fleming to score 1,000 World Cup runs. So far, the right-handed batsman has amassed 942 runs in 22 World Cup innings. The 32-year-old will become the 20th batsman overall to score 1,000 runs in World Cups.

Fleming scored 1,075 runs in 33 innings he played in World Cups for the Black Caps. Legendary Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar holds the record for scoring the maximum number of runs in World Cups. He scored 2,278 runs in 44 World Cup innings.

Guptill also holds the record for scoring the highest score in a World Cup. He had played an outstanding innings of 237 against the West Indies in the 2015 edition of the World Cup. New Zealand, with 11 points from six games, will aim to seal their semi-final spot when they take on Pakistan at Edgbaston.

Self-destruct mode

London: Pakistan head coach Mickey Arthur has claimed that he was feeling so low and disappointed after his team's loss to India in the ongoing World Cup that he wanted to "commit suicide".

On June 16 at the Old Trafford in Manchester, Pakistan had to face an embarrassing 89-run loss (D/L method) against arch-rivals India. This was their seventh loss against the Men in Blue in all the editions of the World Cups.

The entire team, including skipper Sarfraz Ahmed and the team management, had drawn a lot of flak from former cricketers and fans on social media.

However, Pakistan came back strongly to keep their hopes alive of making it to the semi-finals as they registered a convincing 49-run victory over South Africa, knocking the Faf du Plessis-led team out of the competition.

"Last Sunday I wanted to commit suicide," Arthur said at the post-match press conference after the Proteas game at the Lord's on Sunday. "But it was, you know, it's only one performance."

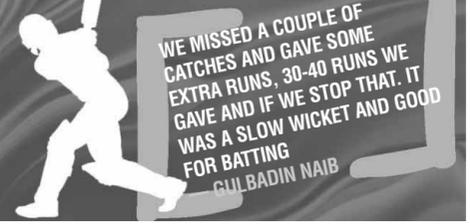
"It happens so quick. You lose a game; you lose another game; it's a World Cup; media scrutiny; public expectation, and then you almost go into sort of survival mode. We've all been there," he added.

He had also said guys in the team were "burnt" last week post their defeat to Virat Kohli's men.

— IANS



nacabaste ENGLAND



Shades of Mancunians

PNS ■ MANCHESTER

Liverpool guys, however, are totally disdainful of anything their brother city has ever achieved. Manchester at worst is responsible for Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Bill Gates, is their chant.

But this one is about Manchester, not Liverpool. Mancunians, however, are passionate beings, taking pride in their revolutions, their music, place in world politics as also their propensity to make the unheard-of meet, like being the harbinger of capitalism and yet being the place where the Communist manifesto was written by Karl Marx and Engels.

The Chartist movement, the Anti-Porn Law League, the Free Trade Movement, the Co-Operative Movement, the Suffragette Movement (the movement for right to vote for women), and, please do believe me, vegetarianism too! The place where the first vegetarian cookbook was published and a vegetarian society founded.

Manchester fiercely prides itself as being the world's city of firsts. From hosting the world's first professional football league in 1888, to the first passenger railway train which ironically took its inaugural journey from Manchester to Liverpool if you please! This was the first time someone could go and buy a ticket and travel for the pleasure of it rather than just transporting goods.

At one point, 80 per cent of the cotton-based goods that showed up in the world were synonymous with Manchester and even today, the golden ball decorating the summit of their Townhall is a cotton ball and not a football as you would have thought.

To this day, in Australia and New Zealand, you get the Manchester departments in stores selling cottonalia despite most of the cotton mills and warehouses now being turned into clubs, housing and secret gems of the largely underground musical gigs. No wonder then, in Czech language, the word Manchester translates into cowdroy trousers! There are 36 cities named Manchester in the world, but none as prominent as this one which came into being in 78 AD.

The industrialisation peaked in 1913 and it was during the World War II when most of the warehouses were bombed triggering a decline to non-existence in 1968 by when just 15 mills were left in surrounding areas. Manchester, in that sense, brought the Industrial Revolution's other facet to the world too, it being called the Shock of the 19th Century, the de-industrialisation.

Today, the red brick buildings are a source of tours and vintage landscape, but these were largely warehouses where the cotton came and sat before being spun into textiles and shipped worldwide. Initially, and much to the chagrin of the Mancunians, everything had to come to them via, ahem, the Liverpool ship canal! And when the city built its own, it was the biggest and first middle finger it could show to Liverpool. People didn't have to go via Liverpool any more, they could come directly to Manchester and save themselves the despair of being obliged to this city's biggest rival.

Today, the rivalry brews as strong and locals tell you when Liverpool meets the Reds on home ground, the acoustics far exceed the decibel levels of an India-Pakistan cricket match in any part of the world. The Manchester United stadium has a 75000-strong stand capacity and tickets for this event are sold seasons before. This intense rivalry can only be compared to a more recent one fuelling the hyper pods against Manchester City, the other local club which has recently been giving a run for their fans. Thankfully for cricket, football is on a summer break, giving the World Cup some of its moment in the city.

Manchester's economic success was



Manchester United attacking midfielder Jesse Lingard tries to go past Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker during Premier League match at Old Trafford stadium in Manchester on 24th February 2019. The match ended in a goalless draw

Premier League/Twitter



built by unsung slaves and working-class Mancunians who were primarily Irish or Italians, exploited much like slaves. They lived in highly unhygienic conditions with contaminated drinking water, leaving them with two choices. One, risk drinking the water and fatal water-borne diseases like typhoid and cholera. Two, switch to alcohol. So that's how you explain the great Irish zen for the liquid diet of the heady kind!

The world's first trade union meeting took place on the famous Princess Street in the 19th century. Today, the street hosts another becoming icon buster: The

Midlands Hotel which contributes significantly in Manchester's other precious tag of being the city where two become one, where the twain meet - like Capitalism and Communism, like anti-and-pro homosexuality laws, like isolation of women from politics to inclusivity.

For this generation, it is the hotel which hosted the first and very secret date of their football legend David Beckham and then Spice Girl Victoria. This is also the building which Hitler took to heart, asking its troops to save it from all the bombing. The shadow of the other dreary and

MANCHESTER FIERCELY PRIDES ITSELF AS BEING THE WORLD'S CITY OF FIRSTS. FROM HOSTING THE WORLD'S FIRST PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE IN 1888, TO THE FIRST PASSENGER RAILWAY TRAIN WHICH IRONICALLY TOOK ITS INAUGURAL JOURNEY FROM MANCHESTER TO LIVERPOOL IF YOU PLEASE! THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME SOMEONE COULD GO AND BUY A TICKET AND TRAVEL FOR THE PLEASURE OF IT RATHER THAN JUST TRANSPORTING GOODS

empty buildings around this majestic hotel, not to mention the high percentage of joblessness, depression and angst of de-industrialisation, gave birth to a lot of pathbreaking cultural activities which today's Manchester signifies with, like its music. Its yuppie 21st century construction, however, dents some of the shine of a proud Mancunian, by having become non-inclusive, corporate and largely unaffordable!

But an illegal and strong rave culture ridden with drugs, alcohol and joblessness besieged the youth. In 1976, came the symbolic arrival of Punk in the UK through Manchester's doors of course when the Sex Pistols premiered songs like "never mind the waltz" at the Free Trade Hall. But did you know that despite the highly publicised event wherein the band was brought in from London, how many people attended it? Just 40, the same number as the ones earmarked for billion-pound bunker that was built in the early 20th century with a fully functional bar, a tunnel to escape and food amenities for six months in case the A-bomb exploded, which never did and by the time the Cold War brought in the more powerful and destructive H-bomb, the bunker was shown up as too ancient to cut any kind of damage.

Back to music, Manchester boasts of an unending list of bands like The Stone Roses, Joy Division, New Order, Blue Mondays, The Fall, The Doves, Charlatans, The Smiths, Oasis, Take Date, signifying much

of present Manchester. This is where the transition from Manchester 3 to Manchester 4, from Mamucium to Manchester to Madchester started, the city never losing its identity or pride:

As famously said: "Despite the decades of decline, despite the wet weather, despite 11 years of Margaret Thatcher, despite the drugs and the gangs and the garbage in the street, Manchester still feels alive and this is an achievement for however long as it lasts. Manchester survives through small acts of defiance because in and around the ruins of an empire, the kids are alive and dancing!"

The thing about Manchester is, Mancunians believe it all comes from here, a city that thinks tables are for dancing, a people who pride in their sarcasm, its shops and its attitude and a generation who now keeps banging on its football teams, the Reds and the Blues, Manchester United and the lesser Manchester City.

On a more global front, Manchester changed the world's politics: From vegetarianism to feminism to trade unionism to communism, every upstart notion that ever-got ideas above its station, every snotty street-fighter of a radical philosophy, was fostered brawling in Manchester's streets, mills, pubs, churches and debating halls. Well said, Stuart Maconie because, indeed, this is Manchester, they do things here differently!

Learning curve for the team

FirstSlip



By MIRWAIS ASHRAF Afghan all-rounder

This ICC Men's Cricket World Cup has been tough for Afghanistan but they'll take every lesson learned and come back stronger in the future.

There have been some tough moments but I'm still really excited for the future of cricket in the country, we know the interest is huge and we have the players.

We must remember that these are very tough sides and they were never going to be easy for Afghanistan to beat, so the expectation from the nation going into those games was not too high.

Nevertheless, they have done themselves proud with many of their performances, especially that match against India when we got so close. I think it's important to say that this is a big honour for Afghanistan just to compete at this ICC Men's Cricket World Cup

Afghanistan have just two games left now and we want to try and finish on a high against Pakistan and West Indies, we know how to beat both those teams so there's no reason to believe we can't again.

Whatever happens, though, this has been a very good experience for Afghanistan and the team would have learnt a lot from it, so I'm feeling very positive about the future.

I do think it has shown that Afghanistan need to arrange to play more games against the top nations to get that experience - that will be invaluable as we look towards 2023 in India where the conditions will suit our game.

I think if we can get more experience against those top teams and in different conditions around the world, then you will see a big improvement in Afghanistan in four



Rashid Khan poses for photo with Afghan teammate during Afghanistan team practice session

ICC/Twitter

If we can get more experience against top teams and in different conditions around the world, then you will see a big improvement in Afghanistan in four years' time

years' time. The first thing to improve is our fielding - that's where we often fall short when you compare the team to the best sides in the world, teams like England, India and Australia.

We saw the difference it made in the match with India. That game will live long in the memory and hopefully will inspire the players and give belief. To lose by 11 runs to the second best side in the world proves how far we've come and why this journey is just beginning.

We know we've got world-class bowlers in the likes of Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Rashid Khan and Mohammad Nabi but batting is still an area where we need work. In one-day cricket you need to confident your team can score 300 runs regularly.

Devils relive summer of 83

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

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

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

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

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

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

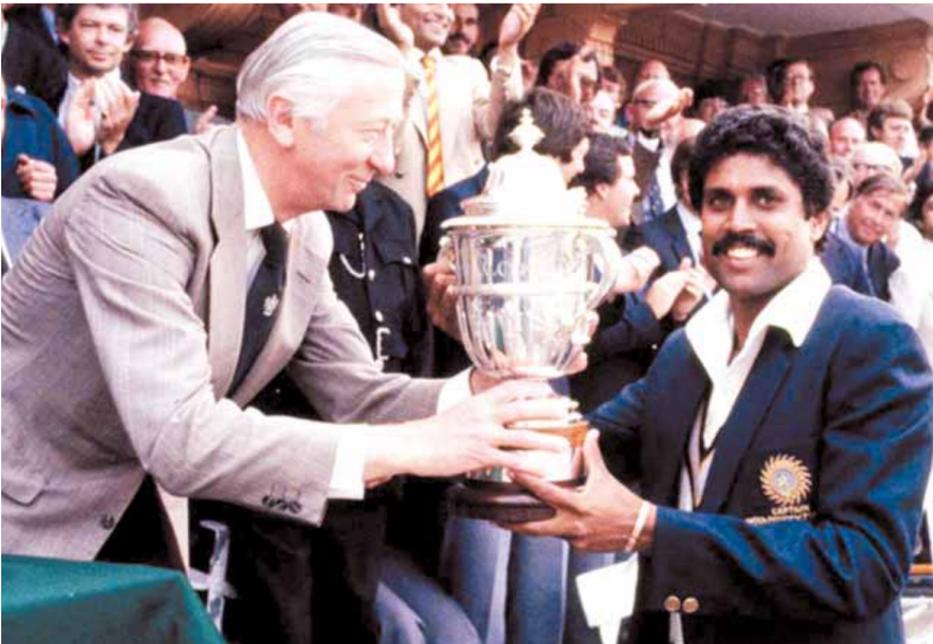
Not to forget, the buzz around the current lot which is also looking good for a Lord's fairytale.

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

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

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

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



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

Cricket World Cup/Twitter

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

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

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

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

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

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

Theatre of dreams

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

for guessing who that was.

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

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

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

OTHER SPORTS



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

USA, Sweden reach WWC quarters



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

Cavani's header ends Chile's unbeaten run

AFP ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

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

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

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

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

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

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

Deep into stoppage time teenage sensation Takefusa Kubo had the ball in the net but a dramatic winner was ruled out for

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONTROVERSIAL JARA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AFP ■ PARIS

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

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

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

USA did not find the going easy against Spain in Reims.

Rapinoe's first penalty gave Jill Ellis's team an early lead after Tobin Heath was brought down in the box by Maria Leon.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Neymar closer to Barca move

AFP ■ MADRID

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

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

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

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

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

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



Neymar Jr in a file picture

Neymar/Twitter

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

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



Wimbledon seeding disrespects world rankings

AFP ■ MADRID

Rafael Nadal

has complained about Wimbledon's seeding system

after the Spaniard was placed at number three, behind Roger Federer, for next week's grand slam in London.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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