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LAST LONG: TRUMP

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India's interest to rule S-400 deal

On trade tangle, Pompeo says 'great friends are bound to have differences'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
Against the backdrop of Washington objecting to India's ₹50,000 crore deal for procuring S-400 missile systems from Russia, New Delhi on Wednesday made it clear to the US that its ties with Russia are time tested and it will go by its national interest while dealing with other countries.

However, appreciating the growing strategic relationship between India and the US, the two countries agreed to work through contentious issues.

The entire gamut of bilateral relations, including the issue of S-400, terrorism and other matters came up for discussion during talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his visiting US counterpart Michael Pompeo here. Jaishankar conveyed to Pompeo that India will be governed by its national interest on matters like S-400.

In a joint press interaction later, Pompeo said India is an important partner of the US and that the bilateral ties were reaching new heights.

Both the leaders agreed that the even best friends can have differences that need to be worked out. Their talks covered ticklish issues like S-400 deal, purchase of oil from Iran, trade tariffs and the H1B visa. On S-400 deal, Jaishankar said India will be governed by its national interest and Pompeo said, "The US is committed to ensuring that India has the military capabilities it needs to defend its ter-

ritorial integrity." While answering to a question on the issue of sanctions under the US' Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) which may also impact India's procurement of the S-400 systems from Moscow, Jaishankar said India has relationships with several countries.

"We have many relationships... They have a history. We will do what is in our national interest and part of that strategic partnership is the ability of each country to comprehend and appreciate the national interest of the other," Jaishankar said.

Noting that India-US strategic partnership was based on deep and broad convergence, Jaishankar said discussions with Pompeo were held on key issues including energy and trade as well as on the situation in Afghanistan and the India-Pacific region.

On terrorism, Jaishankar said he expressed appreciation for strong support of the Trump Administration. Pompeo, who arrived here on Tuesday night, called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval in the morning and discussed various aspects of the India-US relationship.

The US Secretary of State admitted that his country has a divergence of view with New Delhi on issues such as trade but downplayed it by saying that "great friends are bound to



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during their joint Press conference following a meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

have differences." Both the Ministers said they will explore ways to work through these issues, including the United States' opposition to the \$5-billion defence deal for S-400 air defence systems between India and Russia.

"On some outstanding issues related to trade, I pushed for a constructive and pragmatic view. The real test of our intentions will be our ability to deal with this," said Jaishankar. He also said true "maturity" lies in finding ways and means, something that has not worked out so effectively between the two countries in the recent past.

Let's stand up together for religious freedom: Pompeo

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday called for speaking "strongly" in favour of religious freedom rights and asserted that the world is worse off when they are compromised.

"India is the birthplace of four major world religions. Let's stand up together for religious freedom for all, let's

speak out strongly together in favour of those rights for whenever we do compromise those rights, the world is worse off," Pompeo said in his India policy speech at the India International Centre here.

His remarks assume significance as they come days after the State Department's International Religious Freedom Report.

J'khand lynching pains me, punish mob: Modi

PM says kids death in Bihar 'biggest failure' of the system

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Breaking his silence on Jharkhand lynching incident, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said it has pained him and the guilty must be severely punished. At the same time, he stressed that all kinds of violence in the country, whether in Jharkhand, West Bengal or Kerala, should be treated in the same manner and law should take its course.

Addressing the Rajya Sabha, Modi also spoke on the death of over 130 children this month from Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) or 'brain fever' in Bihar, describing it as a matter of "shame" and the "biggest failure" of seven decades that outbreak of such disease continues to kill even after so many years of Independence.

In his over an hour-long reply to the debate on Motion of Thanks to President's address, Modi launched a blistering attack on the Congress saying it was sheer arrogance of the grand old party which is unable to accept its defeat and continues to question the mandate of the people by doubting



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks in the Rajya Sabha during the Motion of Thanks on President's Address at Parliament in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

EVMs.

Modi, who received flak from the Opposition over his 'silence' on the lynching of a Muslim youth in BJP-ruled Jharkhand, said, "Security of every citizen is our constitutional duty but the entire State should not be insulted for the incident."

"The lynching in Jharkhand has pained me. It has saddened others too. Guilty should get severest punishment but for this the entire State has been pronounced guilty and everyone put in dock, which is not right," he said.

The Prime Minister said some people in the Rajya Sabha are calling Jharkhand a hub of lynching. "Is this fair? Why are they insulting a State. None of us have the right to insult the State of Jharkhand," he said and referred to violence in States ruled by Opposition parties. "All kinds of violence

whether in Jharkhand or West Bengal or Kerala should be treated as same and law should take its course," he said, adding perpetrators of violence should get a lesson that the entire country is one on this issue.

On the death of children in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar where BJP and its ally JD(U) are in power, he said the Centre is extending all help to the State to fight the problem. "In modern times, such a situation is a matter of pain as well as shame for all of us," he said. "This is the biggest failure in last seven decades and we should take it seriously."

Modi, who had targeted the Congress during his reply in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, accused the Opposition party of heaping "insults" on the people of the country by calling their decision to give a thumping majority to the BJP as "a defeat of the country, democracy and farmers."

3 injured in Bhilai Steel Plant accident

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHILAI

At least three employees of ASAIL's flagship unit Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) were injured on Wednesday and rushed to plant's premier hospital with severe burn injuries.

The BSP management has downplayed the incident but added that injured staffers had been well taken care of by a team of doctors.

"Today at about 11.20 am, in Sub-Station 15-A Electrical Supply Feeder was being prepared for the new hydraulic mudgun of Blast Furnace No. 7. While putting the feeder in service position, a flashover occurred resulting in three persons getting burn injuries," a BSP statement informed.

The statement further claimed, "the employees, Pratap Singh Dhruv (45) Junior Officer with 45%, Devendra Kumar Sahu (30), Trainee, HRDC with 30% and

Manoj Kumar Patel (54) Sr Technician with 30% burn injuries have been admitted in the burn unit of JLN Hospital & RC."

The BSP which is located in Durg district, some 30 km from state capital Raipur, has a track record of industrial accidents.

In a latest of such incidents, 12 employees of the BSP were charred to death in October last year when a massive fire broke out at a gas pipeline in the Coke Oven Battery Complex No. 11 during a scheduled regular maintenance.

The incident had prompted the central government to

suspend three senior officials while the Chief Executive Officer of the plant, M Ravi, was 'divested of his duties.'

Cong, Left snub Didi's unity call against BJP

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In the wake of BJP's impressive show in the Lok Sabha polls in the State, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has appealed to arch enemy CPI(M) and the Congress to unite with her against the "communal forces".

The two parties have, however, rejected her proposal saying no one will like to mount a sinking boat.

Apprehending danger from the BJP in days to come, Mamata on Wednesday told the State Assembly about her fear of the saffron party altering the Constitution of India. "Hence there is a need to unite against the communal forces," she said, and went on to explain her points. "I have fear that the BJP may go on to change the Constitution of India and for this purpose I think there is a need for all the Left and secular forces like the CPI(M) and the Congress to join hands and thwart the BJP's advance in Bengal and India."

On her mysterious silence about the Rafael deal which the



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee after paying tribute to legendary poet and writer Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay on his 181st birth anniversary, at the Assembly in Kolkata on Wednesday. PTI

Congress had made a prime election plank, Mamata said she did not have enough evidence so as to raise the issue. She said, "I was silent on Rafael issue because I did not have the documents with me. This does not mean that I opposed the Congress."

About the Left, she said though her party has ideolog-

ical differences with the Marxists, she respects them.

"I have personal respect for many Left leaders who had done a good job for the betterment of the poor. I am aware of their secular credentials. I am ready to work with them and invite them and the Congress to work together

Parties say none will like to mount a sinking boat

with us to stop BJP from advancing further."

Accusing the BJP of running a parallel Government in Bengal for four months by using the Election Commission, Mamata said the saffron outfit had paralysed the administration in the State even after the result of the elections were out.

"They have stoked violence throughout the State," she said adding, "how eight out of 10 people who were murdered after the elections belonged to the Trinamool Congress."

Speaking about the threat of encounter death issued by the BJP leaders of Bengal — when they come to power — Mamata wondered why the police didn't arrest the leaders "speaking like rogues."

Meanwhile, rejecting Mamata's appeal for a united fight against the BJP, CPI(M) central committee member and Left legislative party leader Sujan Chakrabarty said, "Mamata Banerjee is daydreaming about an alliance with the Left which will never mount a sinking boat.

Arvind Kumar new IB chief, Samant Kumar Goel to head RAW

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday appointed senior IPS officers Arvind Kumar and Samant Kumar Goel as the chiefs of Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), respectively.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved their appointments for a fixed two-year tenure, said two separate orders issued by the Department of Personnel and Training.

Kumar will take up the reins of the IB, country's internal intelligence agency, from Rajiv Jain on completion of his extended tenure on June 30. Goel will take charge from Anil Kumar Dhasmana on completion of his extended tenure on Sunday.

Both Jain and Dhasmana, who were appointed for a two-year fixed tenure in 2016, were given six months extension in December last year.

Kumar, 59, a 1984 batch



IPS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre, is at present the special director in the IB and was heading the Jammu & Kashmir desk.

He has been working with the IB since August 1991.

BJP MLA beats civic staffer on demolition drive run-in, arrested

PTI ■ INDORE

BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya's son — and the party's MLA in Madhya Pradesh — was on Wednesday arrested for assaulting a civic body official with a cricket bat, after a heated argument over a demolition drive.

A local court rejected Akash Vijayvargiya's bail plea and he was sent to jail in the evening, an official said.

A video of the assault went viral on social media, after which police filed an FIR against Akash and 10 others.

Akash went about beating up the officer even as media persons surrounded him with cameras and recorded the entire incident.

In-red friend, her lover killed elderly couple: Cops

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The triple murder of an elderly couple and their nursing attendant in South-west Delhi's Vasant Vihar that left Delhiites shocked has been cracked, police claimed.

Preeti Sehrawat (42) and her live-in partner Manoj Bhatt (29) were arrested from a hotel in Gurugram by police on Wednesday. Frustrated with their financial losses, the duo had initially planned to rob elderly couple Vishnu Mathur (78) and Shashi Mathur (75), but ended up killing them and the attendant, Khushbu Nautiyal (24).

The bodies of the elderly couple as well as their attendant were found with their throats slit at their residence in Vasant Apartment on Sunday.

"On June 17, Preeti, a family friend of the elderly couple, visited the Mathurs and stayed

with them overnight to become familiar with the entry and exit points of the house. The same night, she spoke to the daughter of the elderly couple using Khushbu's phone," said Satish Golchha, Special CP (Crime).

The South-west district police, which was tracking the case, had earlier ruled out robbery as a motive behind the murders and had said that the entry was friendly as the house was not ransacked. However, the Crime Branch team, which was also simultaneously working on the case, got a vital clue when they came to know from the daughter of the deceased couple that Preeti had suddenly visited them after many years.

The crime branch also came to know that Preeti was the daughter of one of the colleagues of Shashi.

Police said Preeti used to run a restaurant in Sector 9 in Gurugram. "She had earlier got



Preeti Saharawat and Manoj Bhatt in police custody in Delhi on Wednesday. (Inset) Victim couple. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

married to Nicholas in 2000 but her husband left her in 2005 and settled in Canada. She met Manoj at her birthday

party about three years back and started a live-in relationship with him. Initially the duo started the business of restaur-

ant and suffered huge losses. Then they both started a paying guest house in Sector 38, Gurugram, and again suffered

loss," said Satish.

He said Preeti and her live-in partner visited the area to conduct a final recce on June 21. The next day, around 11.30 pm, Preeti and Manoj reached Vasant Apartment on a motorcycle. Aware of the CCTV cameras, Preeti covered her face with a "dupatta" while her partner covered his face with the helmet, the officer added.

"A police team was deputed to keep track on the movements of Preeti, which revealed that on June 23, she had left her home in Gurugram along with her live-in partner Manoj and checked into a hotel at Gurugram, Sector-31. They both despite having their own home in Gurugram again shifted to another hotel on June 25," said the Special CP, adding that their behavior and randomly changing their hotel created a suspicion.

CAPSULE

KANT GETS TWO-YEAR EXTENSION AS NITI CEO
New Delhi: Amitabh Kant was on Wednesday given a two-year extension as chief executive officer of the Niti Aayog, an official order said.

IAF LOST 33 AIRCRAFT IN CRASHES SINCE 2015
New Delhi: The Indian Air Force lost 33 aircraft, including 19 fighter jets and helicopters, in crashes since 2015, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday.

ORANGE JERSEY: CONG-SP ALLEGE SAFFRONISM
New Delhi/Mumbai: Congress and Samajwadi Party leaders suspected saffron push from the Modi Government behind the orange colour jersey that the Indian cricket team is likely to wear in its World Cup match against England, drawing ridicule from the BJP which dubbed their reaction as "myopic and reactionary".

One poll policy not acceptable: Anand Sharma

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday said in the Rajya Sabha that the idea of "One election, One face, one ideology" and "forced majority" is not acceptable to a diverse country like India and asked the ruling dispensation to refrain from "dividing the country for votes."

The main Opposition party also urged the NDA Government to acknowledge the role played by former Prime Ministers including Jawaharlal Nehru in building a democratic and modern India.

Making this assertion during a debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address, senior Congress leader Anand Sharma also urged the ruling party to desist from politicisation of the armed forces. He also claimed violence against minorities had increased under the present regime and demanded the Government to spell out the steps taken to check this dangerous trend.

He said the President's address lacked imagination and was disappointing as it was far removed from the reality on the ground. Rejecting the idea of 'One nation, One election' mentioned in the President's address, Sharma said, "There is

federal polity in the country, there is diversity. Our experience speaks that when Governments have fallen and alternative ones have not been formed, mid-term elections have been held.

"You cannot have a forced majority, you cannot impose your decision. You cannot take away the rights of States on elections. When Governments fall in States and alternative Governments are not formed, will you impose President's Rule then? This will not happen. I understand your thought. There should be one country, but one election, one face, one name, one ideology is not acceptable to India," Sharma added.

Sharma, who is deputy leader of the Congress in the Upper House, alleged that no Prime Minister has ever fought elections on the victory of armed forces as Modi did. He recalled how Indira Gandhi after the victory of Indian forces in Bangladesh war of Independence said this was the victory of humanity and not hers, for which opposition leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee had lauded her.

"No Prime Minister has fought elections on the victory of armed forces. The Army does not belong to any party, as



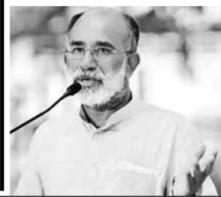
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ANAND SHARMA

Have you seen any Christian being beaten up or any church being burnt (since the BJP came to power)...Never has it been safer for minorities than under Modi
 KJ ALPHONS



their victory is that of the country," Sharma said.

Asking the BJP to recognise the contributions made by previous Governments and Prime Ministers, Sharma said, "Don't think the country started after 2014 and not after 1947 when India achieved independence. Respect and accept India's diversity... The achievements made by India are by its scientists and why do you not recognise them," he asked.

He urged the ruling party not to make a "New India that has seen lynchings" and asked why the issue of lynching did not find a mention in the President's address.

Earlier, participating in the debate BJP leader KJ Alphons

said minorities have never been safer in the country than under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He also said Modi is "more democratic" than anyone before him.

Five years back it was said Christians will be beaten up and churches will be burnt once the BJP comes to power, he said. "Have you seen any Christian being beaten up or any church being burnt (since the BJP came to power)," he asked. "Never has it been safer for minorities than under Modi," he said as some in the opposition jeered, making references to lynching of Muslims in some parts of the country.

Alphons claimed if the Congress wants to live in a

make believe world, history will write it off. "You shall have a new India," he said in an apparent jibe at Leader of the Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad, who in his remarks during the debate, had called for giving back the 'old India' and Modi keeping his 'New India' with himself.

He said instead of whining, the country should be celebrating achievements such as 99.2 per cent of the population now having toilets, 35 crore people getting bank accounts, 7.5 crore getting gas connection, 19 crore getting loan under Mudra scheme, the jump in ease of doing business ranking and India striking at the heart of the enemy.

In his speech on the debate, Veer Singh (BSP) attacked the Government for the unemployment rate climbing to a 45 year high due to "ill-planned" decisions and "wrong policies" such as demonetisation of high value currency notes and implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. Wansuk Syiem (Cong) said the President's address did not have any mention of special package for the North East.

Participating in the debate, Abdul Wahab (IUML) asked how the Government is going to win the trust of the minorities and Dalits when they were being "subjected to atrocities" everyday. He also took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, saying they had invented a new branch of election engineering.

Saroj Pandey (BJP) in her maiden speech hit out at the leader of Ghulam Nabi Azad, saying he has insulted the mandate of the people by saying the Prime Minister won the elections riding on divisive politics whereas the fact remains that the people have voted for change. K Ravindra Kumar (TDP) said the BJP is all out to wipe the Opposition in order to exercise monopoly which was not a healthy sign.

POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN BENGAL

TMC, BJP members exchange heated words

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Members of the TMC and the BJP on Wednesday exchanged heated words in the Lok Sabha after Locket Chatterjee of the BJP raised the issue of political violence in West Bengal even as TMC leader Saugata Roy referred to mob lynching of a youth in Jharkhand and said instead of attacking the West Bengal Government, the BJP should look into the affairs of the state ruled by it.

Raising the matter during the Zero Hour, Roy said it was a "cold-blooded murder" of 24-year-old Tabrez Ansari as police held the youth, who had sustained severe head injuries, in custody for four days.

"BJP members are speaking about West Bengal, but not taking steps on what is happening in Jharkhand and other places. This is an example of religious intolerance and the TMC will continue to protest against mob lynching," Roy said.

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.

Chatterjee who also spoke during the zero hour launched an attack on the West Bengal Government over the law and order situation in the state.

She claimed over 100 BJP workers have been killed in political violence after civic body polls and 15 after the Lok Sabha polls.

When Chatterjee blamed West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for the political violence TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee and other party members countered her vociferously. Geeta Koda of the Congress also raised the issue of mob-lynching in Jharkhand.

Questioning the law and order situation in the State, she said Jharkhand witnessed four cases of mob lynching alone this year.

She also demanded justice for the youth killed in the lynching incident.

Govt suppressing media: Congress in Lok Sabha

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Wednesday accused the Government of using "suppressive" tactics against the media.

He alleged during the Zero Hour that the Government was "undemocratic" and suffered from "megalomania", claiming that it used its advertisement measures to pressure the media.

His remarks drew protests from Treasury Benches.

Speaker Om Birla asked the next member to raise his issue during the Zero Hour, prompting Congress members to protest as Chowdhury wanted to speak further.

Among other issues, Manish Tewari of the Congress asked the Government to make its stand clear on the US decision to withdraw its waiver to import crude oil from Iran, saying it may have a far-reaching impact on India and lead to rise in prices of oil products. Will the Government continue to import oil from Iran or not, he asked.

Surjeet Singh Aujla of the Congress asked the Government to do away with the steep rise in duties on Pakistani products, saying it has led to joblessness in the border area in his constituency in Amritsar as over 5,000 families depended on trade with Pakistan for livelihood.

The duty was hiked after the Pulwama terror attack.

BJP's Nihal Chand targeted the Congress Government



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BJP's Rajiv Pratap Rudy expressed concern over India's poor performance in Olympics and suggested that a parliamentary committee be formed as many members have also been keen sportspersons. He also noted that the next global games are due next year

in Rajasthan over suicide of a farmer in the State. In a video message, the farmer blamed the State Government for his decision.

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been keen sportspersons. He also noted that the next global games are due next year.

BJP's Tapir Gao spoke about several political murders in Arunachal Pradesh.

He said one of the cases was handed over to the NIA but no arrest has been made yet. The Government should ensure action, he said.

Priority is to get permanent membership at UN: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government said on Wednesday that it has accorded highest priority to getting permanent membership at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and is actively engaged in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on UNSC reform.

In a written response to a question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said India is working alongside other reform-oriented countries through its membership in the G-4 Group (India, Japan, Brazil and Germany) and the L-69 Group, a cross-regional grouping of developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America to build support among the UN member states for expansion of the UN Security Council.

"Government of India has accorded highest priority to get-

The Government informed the Lok Sabha that over 6.84 lakh posts were vacant in different departments under it. Of the total sanctioned strength of 38.02 lakh, 31.18 lakh were filled as on March 1, 2018, leaving 6.84 lakh posts vacant, according to a written reply by Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh

The Indian Air Force lost 27 aircraft, including 15 fighter jets and helicopters, in crashes since 2016, Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik said in the Lok Sabha. The quantum of provisional loss in 11 cases of crashes was approximately Rs 524.64 crore



ting permanent membership for India in an expanded United Nations Security Council. A series of initiatives, involving bilateral and multilateral platforms, have been undertaken by the Government in pursuance of this objective. India is actively engaged in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on UNSC reform at the UN," Muraleedharan said.

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Railway Board has notified five centralised employment notifications in 2018-19 for new and future vacancies likely to arise in two years, covering 1,56,138 vacancies, the Minister said.

The Indian Air Force lost 27 aircraft, including 15 fighter jets and helicopters, in crashes since 2016, Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik said in the Lok Sabha.

"Vacancies in Central Government are caused due to retirement, death, promotion, et cetera and the posts falling vacant are required to be filled as per recruitment rules by Ministries, Departments or Organisations concerned," he said.

In another reply, he said the Staff Selection Commission has planned to conduct examinations to fill up the 1,03,266 vacancies reported by various ministries during the years 2019 and 2020.

The number rose sharply in 2018-19 with the IAF losing seven fighter jets, two helicopters and two trainers.

This included the crash of the MiG-21 fighter jet which was being piloted by Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman during a dog-fight with Pakistan Air Force planes on February 27.

On the same day, an Mi-17 helicopter also crashed killing six air force personnel. In 2019-20, so far, an AN-32 transport aircraft crashed in Arunachal Pradesh, killing 13 air force personnel earlier this month.

The quantum of provisional loss in 11 cases of crashes was approximately Rs 524.64 crore, he said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

In 2016-17 fiscal, six IAF fighter jets, two helicopters, one transport aircraft and one trainer crashed. In 2017-18, the air force lost two fighter jets and one trainer aircraft in crashes.

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Lone INLD RS member joins BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ram Kumar Kashyap, the lone Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) MP in the Rajya Sabha, joined the BJP on Wednesday in the presence of party working president JP Nadda.

With this, the BJP's strength in the Rajya Sabha has increased to 76.

Besides Kashyap, two-time former MP from Kannur in Kerala AP Abdullakutty, who

has been in the CPI(M) and the Congress, also joined the BJP on Wednesday.

He was expelled from the CPI(M) in 2009 for praising the then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi.

He then joined the Congress, which recently sacked him for praising Narendra Modi yet again.

On Tuesday, two INLD MLAs Zakir Hussain and Parminder Singh Dhul had also joined the BJP.

Gadkari appeals Qutab Garh villagers to save water, air

PNS ■ QUTAB GARH (NEW DELHI)

Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday said time has come when people can turn the waste into wealth by its proper utilisation.

After kicking off the Sanitation and Water Conservation Drive of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) here, Gadkari said eradicating the demons of poverty, hunger and unemployment will remain a mirage unless the villages are economically, socially and ecologically empowered.

The KVIC has adopted Qutab Garh under its Swachhata Abhiyaan. Besides maintaining the cleanliness of this village, the KVIC officials would also take care of the progress of deepening of ponds work there. Last year, the KVIC had adopted Jagatpur village of Eastern Delhi and cleanliness drive is still in operation there.

Laying stress on the need of proper water management system, he said, "Our country does not have the dearth of water, but we are lagging in managing the water," he said.

"Main aap sabse kheta hoon ki paani ka niyojan seekhiye. Daudne wale paani ko chalayiyen, chalne wale paani ko rokiye aur ruke huye paani ko jameen ke andar jaane dijiye (I request you all to learn the art of planning the water. Force the running water to walk, walking water to slow down and permit the stopped water to go into the earth)," he said.

Appealing the villagers to divert the agricultural yields into power and plastic sector, Gadkari said by selling toilet waste water to power generating companies, the Maharashtra Government had



Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Nitin Gadkari as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, organised by Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), at Village Qutab Garh in Delhi, on Wednesday

so far earned over Rs 2 crore. "One can produce one tonne of bio-CNG by burning five tonnes of parali (crop residues). Very soon five districts of Vidarbha region will be free from diesel," he said.

Applauding KVIC's efforts on Honey Mission Programme, the MSME Minister also appealed the villagers to give up using chemical fertilizers in their fields. "It will be an add-on to both farming and beekeeping," he added.

Minister of State for MSME Pratap Chandra Sarangi also appreciated the innovative efforts taken up by the KVIC in the recent past.

"Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the true conscience-keeper of Gandhian philosophy of self-discipline and self-reliance, unlike the previous governments using Gandhi as their political tool to

taste the fruit of power. That is why, what Khadi has done in last five years is much more than its achievement in 60-odd years before Modiji," he said.

Earlier, KVIC Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena welcomed the dignitaries and appraised them about different Khadi activities, including Honey Mission, Kumhar Sashaktikaran Mission and deepening of village ponds in Qutabgarh. He also said that in the current fiscal, all the State Offices of KVIC had been asked to adopt one village in their respective areas, where sanitation and water conservation drive could turn it into the model ones.

New Delhi MP Meenakshi Lekhi, her Shimla counterpart Suresh Kashyap and MSME secretary AK Panda were also present on this occasion.

Rural kids lack nutrition care: Study

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

With rural men migrating to urban areas for greener pastures leaving women back home to juggle between agricultural and household work, their kids are at the receiving end having left out of entitlements related to nutrition and care, according to a new study.

The lack of attention to women's time as a key factor in child nutrition outcomes is perhaps the main reason for the persistence of poor nutritional outcomes despite economic growth, said Indian-origin scientist Nitya Rao, professor of gender and development in the University of East Anglia's (UEA) School of International Development in Norwich, England in her study.

It notes that longer working hours for women or increased work intensity on agricultural fields can have adverse impact on their own health and, in turn, their ability to care for their children, leading to poor child- and household-level nutrition outcomes.

The study which has been published in the journal Feminist Economics, stressed



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The study which has been published in the journal Feminist Economics, stressed on policies to be context-specific taking into consideration factors such as caste and location in order to improve women's lives and household nutrition and health outcomes in rural India

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In most of rural India, women work as agricultural and family farm labourers, in addition to performing nearly all the childcare and household duties. The study holds importance given that agriculture sector employs 80 per cent of all economically active women in India-- they comprise 33 per



cent of the agriculture labour force and 48 per cent of the self-employed farmers, according to OXFAM 2018.

"Women's agricultural work could potentially have negative outcomes, especially for the young child whose nutrition depends more on the mother's time for breastfeeding and supplementary feeding. The double burden of work and care often leads to a time trade-off between the two," said Professor Rao.

The study examined the intersections of gender with other forms of social identity and inequality.

The research drew on primary data from 12 villages in two districts, Wardha (Maharashtra) and Koraput (Odisha) between 2014-2016. Malnutrition is high in both areas, with near or more than 50 per cent of children underweight.

In Wardha, women harvest cotton manually, but the semi-arid region has reported severe agrarian distress over the past decade. Moreover, the smell of cotton and cotton dust causes headaches and leaves workers

with no appetite or desire to cook or eat, which has implications for the rest of the household.

In Koraput, located in the semi-humid tropics, literacy rates and other human development indicators are low. People in this region work, on an average, close to 13 hours a day — resulting in sleep deprivation especially during the peak agricultural seasons of planting and harvesting.

"We leave for our fields for transplantation early in the morning. There is no time to go to the forest to collect vegetables or greens, and no time to cook. We eat once a day - rice and ambli (sour gruel of rice flour and tamarind)," Professor Rao quotes Koraput participant Kamala Paroja in her study.

"Infrastructural support that can reduce the drudgery and effort/time intensity of tasks, especially cooking, as well as clean energy and drinking water, alongside strengthening child-care services, will help India move toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of reducing hunger and stopping inter-generational nutritional deprivation," she added.

Digitalization is a revolutionary step taken for state schools: Baghel

CM launches drive to give state schools a digital makeover at Marra village where he studied

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Underlining the need to inculcate innovative techniques to impart quality education in government schools of the state, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel launched a project to digitalize classrooms at Marra village, where he had studied.

Speaking at a function organised on this occasion at Marra Higher Secondary School premises, the CM stressed on the need for quality education in government-run schools so that students from the state could sync with the contemporary time and compete at the national level.



He further asserted that a revolution in the school education in the state will be ushered in with the launch of digitalization project at the school in village Marra.

He earlier inaugurated a digital room, Information Technology Laboratory and launched Diksha App at the function in the school. Baghel also announced

that a mini stadium, Nal-Jal Yojana and a passenger waiting shed will be constructed in the village. Citing undergoing 'Suraji Yojana' Narva Garva, Ghurva

Badi in the state, Baghel said it should not be taken as a government work. Instead, a public movement is needed to fulfill the dreams of Suraji Village of Mahatma Gandhi and Vinoba (Bhave), he said. This will strengthen the rural economy and make the villagers prosper, he added.

He further stated that his government is committed to transform villages and making them prosper through Suraji Yojana in coming three years.

The hike in Minimum Support Price of paddy will certainly improve the condition of farming in the state and this is a big step towards making the farmers of the state prosper, he said. Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Gaurav Dwivedi and School Education Minister Dr Prem Sai Singh also addressed the function.

Create student-police committee at police stations: Governor

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Governor Anandiben Patel on Wednesday pitched for creation of a student-police committee in all police stations across the state.

She also suggested that a record of all schools falling under their jurisdiction should be maintained by all police stations.

The Governor issued the directives while carrying out an inspection of Kotwali police station in Raipur.

She opined that police must take care of their image and should make sure that victims coming to police station receive proper treatment and their complaints are



quickly resolved. "Police station staff should visit schools in their limits at least once or twice in a month and inform student about basic rules and laws while encouraging them to follow it. This will increase the mutual understanding between police and citizens," the Governor said. She also suggested that a tour of school students to jail

should be arranged so that they may get first-hand knowledge about punishment and hardships in jail.

During the visit, the Governor was informed about CCTV surveillance. She told police officials to maintain a daily register of incidents recorded by CCTV cameras, which will be of great help for police officers in future.

BJP MP Sao seeks air connectivity for Bilaspur

STAFF REPORTER ■ BILASPUR:

Member of Parliament Arun Sao during zero hour in Lok Sabha on Wednesday sought air connectivity for Bilaspur, his parliamentary constituency.

To make his point, Sao pointed out that Bilaspur is the second largest city of Chhattisgarh and it houses High Court, Headquarters of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), Central University, Railway Zone, NTPC Power plant, apart from other industries in the district.

He added that as per the demand of local residents, the



earlier BJP government in the state had developed Chakarbhata airstrip as airport. But due to some technical reason the work was delayed.

Sao urged to resolve the technical issue and commence the flight services from Bilaspur, which will benefit the people of the region.

BJP flays govt over 'non-release of special allowance for police'

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh BJP on Wednesday accused the state government of demoralizing the police force by not releasing special allowance of policemen deputed in Naxal-infested areas.

BJP national vice president and former chief minister Raman Singh, interacting with media at the party's divisional office, said the previous government headed by him had sanctioned special allowance for those police personnel deputed in Bastar and Rajnagaon's nine police stations. He said the police station areas were earmarked on the basis of three categories—where the movement of Naxalites had been reported, where Naxal incidents had occurred and places susceptible to such

attacks.

It was a morale booster and financial support to those working in inhospitable conditions, he added.

He said the earlier order was functional till March 2011. But after review, the state government should have issued a new order, he said.

No review was done nor was any fresh order issued and the state's Home Minister claimed to have unaware of the issue.

Meanwhile, BJP spokesperson Sachchidanand Upasane said ministers are unable to take decisions, which is putting the police personnel in dilemma on whether they would get the special allowance or not.

The BJP demanded of the state government to release the allowance at the earliest.

Amit Jogi should cooperate with SIT: Tamradhwaj Sahu

Amit refrained from giving voice sample in Antagarh Tapes case

STAFF REPORTER ■ BILASPUR

Minister for Home Affairs Tamradhwaj Sahu on Wednesday reprimanded Janta Congress Chhattisgarh leader Amit Jogi for refusing to give voice sample to Special Investigation Team (SIT), which is investigating the Antagarh Tapes case.

Talking to media persons at Lormi here, Sahu said if Amit was not guilty then why he was avoiding giving the voice sample. He should cooperate with the investigating agency and let the truth come to the fore. The sample would make it crystal clear whether Amit was guilty or not, he said



Notable, Amit on Tuesday went to SIT office at Ganj Police station premises, Raipur in connection with the Antagarh Tape case but refrained from stepping inside to give his voice sample.

He even termed the SIT as 'Stupid Investigation Team' and claimed 'there is a 'Laxman Rekha' before the

SIT office. On one side of it prevails law of the land while on the other side writ of the state government runs".

He further alleged that the SIT did not reply on what ground the voice sample was being sought from him.

"I am not afraid of giving the voice sample and am giving it before the media", he added.



Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in action against former Indian cricketer and coach Anil Kumble at Marra Higher Secondary school ground on Wednesday.

CM prefers lunch with students at his alma mater

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Wednesday shared midday meal with students of government middle school in Marra village (Paatan block) of Durg district.

While having meal with children, sitting on the floor, Chief Minister interacted with them affectionately and asked them about their studies, a government communique said.

Chief Minister asked the children whether the same quality of food is served to them every day, to which the students responded positively, saying that they get rice, lentils, vegetables and pickle every day in midday meal. They are also served 'kheer'



occasionally.

There is a different menu for midday meal for each day of the week. As it was Tuesday, Chief Minister and

students were served rice, arhar dal, aaloo parvar, aaloo chana and kheer.

Yugal Kishore, Pooja, Suruchi Kosle and other children

introduced themselves to Chief Minister and said that they felt great to have lunch with him. School Education

Minister Dr Prem Sai Singh Tekam, MLA Ashish Chhabra, Principal Secretary Education Department Gaurav Dwivedi also had midday meal with students on the occasion. This school in Marra has 170 students.

On the occasion, Chief Minister planted neem sapling in the school campus. Other special guests of the occasion also planted saplings of amla, karanj, jamun, mango and amalant. Children have made a small nursery on school campus, where they grow vegetables and fruits. Commissioner Durg Division Dilip Vasnikar, Headmaster of the Government Middle School, Marra Ganguram Sahu were also present.

Ten policemen suspended over custodial death

STAFF REPORTER ■ SURAJPUR

Ten policemen, including Thana in-charge of Chandoura police station, were suspended after a man committed suicide in police custody, officials said here on Wednesday.

"The deceased, Krishna Sarthi (30), was arrested on Wednesday morning following a complaint of domestic violence lodged by his wife's father," Superintendent of Police (SP) Surajpur GS Jaiswal said.

As per the complaint, Sarthi, a native of neighbouring Balrampur district,

cer said. Sundarmani's father lodged the complaint with Chandoura police and later Sarathi was arrested from Balrampur and brought to the police station at around 7 am, he said. At around 12 noon, police personnel saw Sarathi hanging from the gate of the lockup with the bed sheet given to him, he said. The accused was rushed to a local hospital where doctors declared him dead, he added. "Ten policemen, including the SHO of Chandoura RD Singh, have been suspended over the suicide incident, and further probe is underway," the SP said.

visited his in-laws place Domhat village in Surjapur Tuesday to meet his wife Sundarmani.

After a verbal spat over some issue, he had beaten up his wife and then left for his native place, the police offi-

HP holds roadshow in Dubai to attract investors

HIMACHAL CM JAI RAM THAKUR HAS INVITED ENTREPRENEURS OF UAE TO INVEST IN STATE SAYING THERE WAS IMMENSE INVESTMENT POTENTIAL

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Addressing the 'RoadShow' organised by the State Government in association with the CII Himachal at Dubai, UAE on Tuesday evening, Thakur thanked the participants for joining in big numbers which shows the interest and commitment of people of UAE to invest in India.

In the event hosted by Indian Business and Professional Council (IBPC), the chief minister said that there has been a sea change in India since last few years and Himachal Pradesh has also

strengthened itself in these years. He invited the business and industry fraternity to come forward and explore opportunities to collaborate and invest in Himachal Pradesh.

Briefing the audience about the outstanding sectoral policies being formulated by the State Government, the Chief Minister said that the State Government was providing several incentives to the entrepreneurs to invest in the State in order to facilitate investments across sectors.

He saluted the spirit of people of UAE to excel in whatever they do.



He extended invitation to the people of UAE to join for the Global Investors Meet and invest in Himachal Pradesh and said the State has a vibrant talent pool and educational eco-system with the presence of premier institutes of national repute. The Chief Minister said that Himachal Pradesh is one of the most visited states of the country by the

tourists of domestic as well as foreign and it offers visitors a variety of choices like adventure, wildlife, eco-tourism, heritage, spiritual, monuments, religious, skiing etc.

The State Government was committed to make sustainable tourism as one of the prime engines of growth in the state by establishing it as a leading global sustainable tourism destination, he added.

Ambassador of India to UAE, Navdeep Suri detailed out about healthy and ever growing relationship between UAE and India.

He talked about exceptional personal camaraderie shared by top leaders of both countries. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded highest civilian award of UAE.

PARDON TO FOUR COPS IN 1993 FAKE ENCOUNTER CASE

SAD to approach Governor for recall of order; demands probe by sitting HC judge

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

With the dust of controversy rising over the Governor's pardon to four "killer" cops in 1993 fake encounter case, SAD president Sukhbir Badal on Wednesday held Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh "directly and personally responsible" for the same while accusing him going "out of the way" to secure pardon for the murder convicts.

"Punjab government files clearly proved how Capt Amarinder took an extraordinary personal interest in securing pardon for the killer cops, quite out of character with his normal laid-back approach on every issue of public interest," said Sukhbir while sharing copies of government files with the media.

Stating that Capt Amarinder Singh had also caused untold hurt to the psyche of the Sikh community and betrayed the trust of the people in the elected government, Sukhbir said that documents showed there were no mitigating reasons for the benevolence extended to the cops. "In fact, if the same yardstick is applied uniformly, then all the prisoners of Punjab will be set free," he quipped.

He also asked the Chief Minister to own responsibility for taking this anti-people step and render an immediate apology.

"The Chief Minister took it upon himself to move a file to the Governor seeking approval to write to the Union Home Department for seeking its consent for pardon of the cops. Chief Minister did this when the Additional Chief Secretary (Home) pointed out that pardon could not be given by the State in cases where the investigation had been carried out by central agencies. Following this, the Chief Minister kept following up the case with repeated reminders and finally secured the pardon for the killer cops," Sukhbir said.

₹5 lakh aid for Loktantra Senani in Haryana

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal has announced financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh annually to a Loktantra Senani or his spouse for treatment in private or government hospitals.

Besides, the term 'Emergency Victim' on the identity cards of Loktantra Senanis will be replaced with 'Loktantra Senani.'

The Chief Minister made these announcements while addressing the Loktantra Senanis from across the state at the state-level Loktantra Senani Samman Samaroh organized at Tagore Theatre in Chandigarh where satyagrahis who had struggled during the Emergency imposed in 1975, were

invited for honouring them.

Manohar Lal said, the State Government was providing monthly pension of Rs 10,000 to Loktantra Senanis, who went to jail during the Satyagraha Movement in Emergency. Free bus travel facility is also being provided to Senani and one assistant in the Haryana Roadways buses. Loktantra Senanis were also honored with tamrapatras on January 26, he added.

It was an emotional moment when the Senanis presented the Chief Minister with an abhinandan patra. With his voice choked with emotion, he said, "Today when we are honouring the Loktantra Senani, I do not deserve this honour."

He said that 44 years ago, lakhs of people across the country were put



behind the bars after Emergency was close to 28 years after the country got clamped on June 25, 1975 at 11.45 pm, freedom. People's voice was muffled,

media was censored and eminent persons were put behind the bars, he said.

Recalling an incident, the Chief Minister said he lived then in Ranibagh in Delhi. At that time, we could not say 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'. And, if someone dared do so, he was put in jail and tortured, Manohar Lal said.

Today 'Shubhr Jyotsna' book has been released in which events related to Loktantra Senanis have been captured and highlighted. We should remember such incidents because these are inspirational stories, he added.

The CM added after the Emergency, elections were held in the country and the Janata Party received two-thirds majority. This made the people realize the real power of democracy.

Sports persons flay decision to cut prize money

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The cancellation of an event to honour the sports persons by the Manohar Lal Khattar Government in Haryana has kicked off a major row. After opposition parties lashed out at the BJP led Haryana Government for insulting the sports persons, renowned wrestlers have now hit out at the government for cut in cash reward given to them for winning international medals.

Top wrestlers Sushil Kumar, Bajrang Punia, Yogeshwar Dutt, and Vinesh Phogat on Wednesday slammed the government and termed the decision to cut prize award as "disappointing and discouraging" for the sportspersons.

The State Government was already under severe criticism for cancelling the state level function scheduled to be held on June 24 to honour sportspersons of Haryana. The award function was to be held

on Monday at Panchkula to give away cash prizes worth Rs 90 crore to about 3,000 sportspersons who had won medals in national and international competitions.

Instead of rewarding the sportspersons in public, the State Government had decided to transfer the cash prize directly into their accounts.

Now, some of the players have claimed that they got reduced amount in their accounts. Haryana Sports Minister Anil Vij, however, said that there was no cut in prize money and the players can contact the Department concerned in case of any grievances.

Bajrang Punia, the Asian Games 2018 gold medalist on Wednesday criticized the government's decision to curtail the winning amount of the sportsperson, adding that it needs to be re-evaluated.

"When you promise rewards to players, at that time it is not the promise of financial incentives you make to

them, but of standing solidly behind them. If you cannot stand on your promise, then in future what expectation a player can have from you," Punia said in a tweet while attaching news clipping of Rs 3 crore reward money announced for him in the past.

Coming in support of Punia, two-time Olympic medalist Sushil Kumar said players do a lot of hard work and they should be felicitated to set a good example among the budding athletes.

"Haryana sports policy set the benchmark earlier on how to treat the athletes. I would like to say that the government should hold a ceremony to felicitate the athletes," he said.

"We should all stand in solidarity with the national level athlete," he said while reacting to the statement of Punia. Another wrestler Vinesh Phogat was more vocal, asking the Haryana Government to take back their prize money.

"I request the Haryana Government to take back your

money. Don't let the players stand on your political arena and humiliate them," Phogat said in a tweet.

"On one hand our Prime Minister says that country will move ahead if we make progress in sports. And on the other hand is Haryana government which is doing politics in sports and leaving no opportunity to finish the sports," she said in another tweet.

Wrestler Vinesh Phogat had won the 2018 Commonwealth and Asian Games gold in 50 kg.

2012 Olympics bronze medalist Yogeshwar Dutt said the "cut in prize money of players is quite unfortunate". "They should be told the reason behind the prize cut," he tweeted. "Players bring laurels and make the state and country proud and their morale should be increased so that they can win more medals in future," he added.

The assertions of the sportspersons came in the wake of government's revised sports

policy 2018 that says that "in case a sportsperson wins more than one medal during a financial year, he/she will receive full award money for the highest medal and at least 50 per cent of the award money for the second and the subsequent medals".

The sportspersons alleged that the reduced prize money means that the government has failed to fulfill its promises.

Responding to the allegations of the sportspersons, Haryana Sports Minister Anil Vij on Wednesday said that the rewards are given as per the revised sports policy that has been in force.

Vij said, "Haryana gives highest reward money to its players. There has been no cut in prize money."

"The prizes have been given in accordance with our sports policy. We have clearly mentioned in the citation that if any player finds any discrepancy in the prize-money, he/she can approach us," he

said while talking to the mediapersons. About cancellation of the felicitation ceremony, he said that awarding prizes to 3,000 athletes wasn't possible in a day, so the government decided to cancel it and instead transfer the cash award directly into the accounts of sportspersons.

Athletes who have won medals at Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and Asian Para Games during the years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 were to be honoured in the function at Panchkula. The sportspersons of senior and junior categories, who could not be honoured previously due to certain reasons, were also to be honoured at the function. Apart from June 24 event this year, the State Government had last year cancelled another state level function to felicitate the state's Commonwealth Games medal winners following a possibility of boycott by top athletes over a proposed cut in prize money.

Punjab launches drive to curb usage of plastic bags

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To protect environment from hazardous effects of plastic, Punjab Local Government Department has launched an intensive drive against the manufacturing, stocking, distribution, recycle, sale and use of the same across the state.

Local Government Minister Brahm Mohindra said that it was a great environmental concern as well as the main cause of choking of sewers or drains leading to unhygienic conditions all over. He said the Government has launched a massive drive by raids, seizures and heavy penalties on the manufacturers, stockists, distributors, recyclers, sellers and users of plastic.

Mohindra said that the officers of Urban Local Bodies and Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) have been tasked with undertaking the drive. "Raids are to be conducted on wholesalers, transporters and bulk sellers.

Northern States to adopt 3 pronged strategy to curb drug menace

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a fight against menace of drug abuse, northern States and union territory of Chandigarh have decided to conduct special courses for investigating officers besides adopting three pronged strategy including treatment, enforcement and awareness.

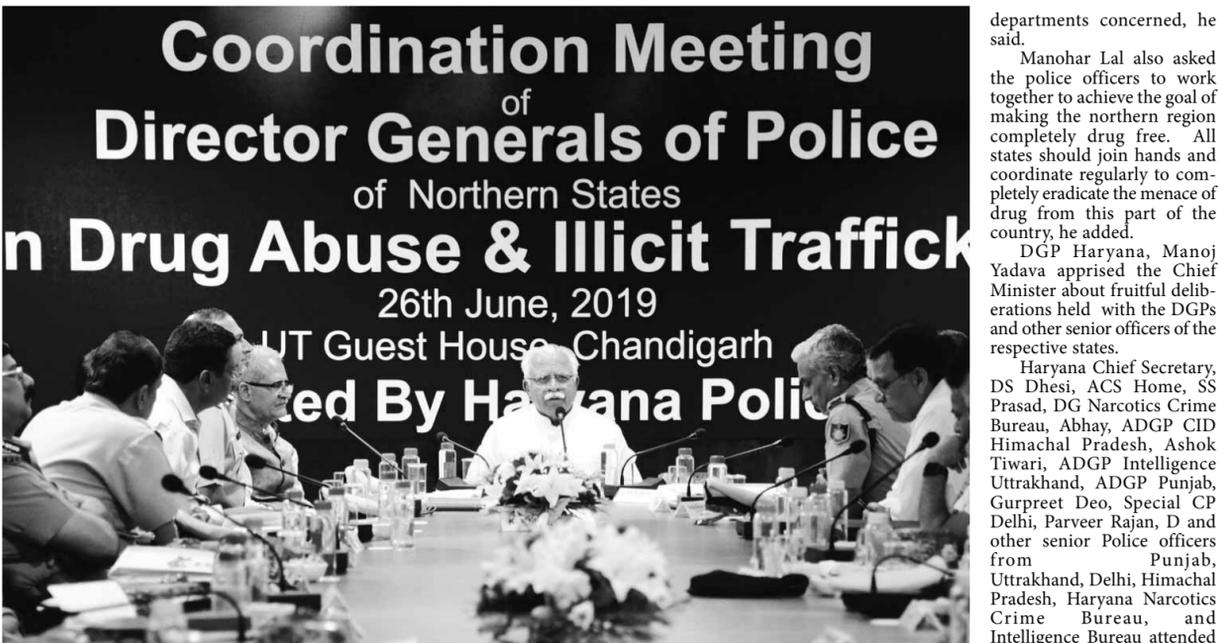
Director Generals of Police (DGPs) and other

senior police officers of northern states of Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and union territory of Chandigarh met here at a co-ordination meeting to discuss challenges of drug abuse and illicit trafficking and strategies to combat the same. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal addressed the concluding session of the co-ordination meeting.

During the meeting, it

was decided to begin eLearning from UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) material for investigating officers, share information about new sources of funding for combating drugs, learning from best practices of other states and focus on TEA: treatment, enforcement and awareness to combat drugs.

The Chief Minister while talking to the mediapersons



said that special training courses would be arranged for investigating officers handling the cases under NDPS Act so as to ensure maximum conviction of culprits in the state.

To make the fight against drugs a success, he said that an inter-state drug secretariat has already been set up at Panchkula for data and information sharing to effectively tackle the issue of drug menace in northern region.

To effectively tackle the issue of drug menace, six northern states and union territory of Chandigarh together decided to adopt e-learning modules of UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to raise the capacity of investigating officers in their respective states so as to completely eradicate drug addiction, he said.

The Chief Minister while expressing concern over the increase in cases of drug abuse said that the situation is alarming in northern part of the country and collective initiative is required to deal with it.

He added that last year, a meeting of Chief Ministers of northern states was also held here to discuss and formulate a joint strategy to fight drugs.

Earlier, the Chief Minister, while addressing the senior police officers urged them to adopt three pronged strategy vip treatment, enforcement and awareness (TEA) which is considered most important to combat the menace of drugs from society.

He said that Health Department should be involved for treatment of addicted persons, Police should increase the enforcement and maximum awareness should be made in the society in coordination with

departments concerned, he said.

Manohar Lal also asked the police officers to work together to achieve the goal of making the northern region completely drug free. All states should join hands and coordinate regularly to completely eradicate the menace of drug from this part of the country, he added.

DGP Haryana, Manoj Yadava apprised the Chief Minister about fruitful deliberations held with the DGPs and other senior officers of the respective states.

Haryana Chief Secretary, DS Dhese, ACS Home, SS Prasad, DG Narcotics Crime Bureau, Abhay, ADGP Punjab, ADGP Intelligence Uttarakhand, ADGP Punjab, Gurpreet Deo, Special CP Delhi, Parveer Rajan, D and other senior Police officers from Punjab, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana Narcotics Crime Bureau, and Intelligence Bureau attended the meeting.

In last year's meeting attended by Chief Minister Manohar Lal, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh, Uttarakhand CM TS Rawat and Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur, it was decided to set up a common central secretariat in Haryana's Panchkula for sharing data and work in coordination to counter the menace of narcotics in north India

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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 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's	Description of property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice / Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sandeep Fande/ Varsha Fande/ 1st Floor Flat No 14 Krishna Nagar Chhattisgarh Raipur 492009/ LBRPR00002728921 & LBRPR00002728912	Flat No 14 Block 3 Krishna Nagar Iii- 14 1st Floor Gudhiyari Kharsa No 596 598 601 612 613 661 665 667 668 669 677 678 679 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 697 698 699 706/1 (Part) P.h. No. 107 Thakkar Bapa Ward No. 9 Tahasil And District Raipur Chhatt Admeasuring An Area Of 675 Sq.ft/ Date Of Possession: 22.06.2019	25.09.2017 Rs. 20,82,686/-	Raipur

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Place : Raipur
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Conflict won't last long: Donald Trump

REUTERS ■ WASHINGTON/GENEVA

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday he was "not talking boots on the ground" should military action be necessary against Iran, and said any conflict would not last long.

Asked if a war was brewing, Trump told Fox Business Network: "I hope we don't but we're in a very strong position if something should happen." "I'm not talking boots on the ground," Trump said. "I'm just saying if something would happen, it wouldn't last very long."

The comments come just days after Trump canceled air strikes minutes before impact, with allies warning that the increase in tensions since the United States pulled out of a nuclear pact with Iran last year could accidentally lead to war.

Iran suggested it was just one day from breaching a threshold in the agreement that limited its stockpile of uranium, a move that would put pressure on European countries that have tried to remain neutral to pick sides.

The fate of the 2015



File photo

nuclear deal, under which Iran agreed to curbs on its nuclear program in return for access to international trade, has been at the heart of the dispute which has escalated and taken on a military dimension in recent weeks.

Washington sharply tightened sanctions last month, aiming to bar all international sales of Iranian oil. It accuses Iran of being behind bomb attacks on ships in the Gulf, which it denies.

Last week, Iran shot down a U.S. drone it said was in its air space, which Washington

Iran unbowed by US insults: supreme leader Khamenei

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday that his country remains unbowed by pressure exerted by the United States and its "insults" against the Islamic republic.

"The Iranian nation seeks dignity, independence and progress; that's why pressures by cruel enemies do not affect Iranians," Khamenei said in a speech to a crowd in Tehran. "The graceful Iranian nation has been accused and insulted by the world's most vicious regime, the US, which is a source of wars, conflicts and plunder," he said, quoted by his office. "The Iranian nation won't give up over such insults," said Khamenei.

Tehran and Washington have engaged in an escalating war of words following Iran's shooting down of a US drone last week. Pressure mounted this week with US President Donald Trump announcing sanctions on Khamenei and other top Iranian officials.

The new measures are the latest against Tehran since Trump last year pulled out of a landmark nuclear accord between Iran and world powers.

Won't surrender to US-led sanctions, says North Korea

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea said Wednesday it won't surrender to US-led sanctions and accused Washington of trying to "bring us to our knees."

The statement is yet another reminder that North Korea keeps mistrust of the US. Though its leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump recently exchanged letters.

Their second summit in Hanoi in February ended without any agreement due to disputes over the extent of sanctions relief North Korea should win in return for a limited denuclearization step.

The North's Foreign Ministry said it "will not hesitate to pull a muscle-flexing trigger in order to defend ourselves" if anyone dares to trample over its sovereignty.

It accused the U.S. Of



File photo

maintaining hostility toward North Korea. It cited recent U.S. Reports on alleged human trafficking and religious crackdowns in North Korea, and comments by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo that some 80-plus percent of the North Korean economy is sanctioned.

Pompeo "let loose a sophistry as if the sanctions are

rendering the bilateral talks possible," said the statement, carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

The statement said all these developments show the "wild dream of the U.S. To bring us to our knees by means of sanctions and pressure has not changed at all but grows even more undisguised."

Lebanese town bans Muslims from buying, renting property

AP ■ BEIRUT

Mohammed Awwad and his fiancée, both Muslims, recently found an affordable apartment for rent online in a town in Lebanon, southeast of Beirut.

The 27-year-old journalist called the number and asked the owner when they could drop by to take a look.

He was stunned by her response: Muslims are not allowed to settle in the town, she said.

The apartment owner apologised to Awwad, saying she wouldn't mind renting to people of any sect but officials in the town of Hadat issued orders years ago that only Christians be allowed to buy and rent property from the town's Christian residents.

Iran 'never seeks war' with US: Rouhani

AFP ■ TEHRAN

President Hassan Rouhani said Iran "never seeks war" with the US, state media reported Wednesday amid a spike in tensions between the two countries.

"Iran has no interest to increase tension in the region and it never seeks war with any country, including (the) US,"

the president said, quoted by state news agency IRNA.

Rouhani was speaking by phone to his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron, as Tehran and Washington engaged in an escalating war of words following Iran shooting down a US drone last week.

"We have always been committed to regional peace and stability and will make

efforts in this respect," the Iranian president told Macron.

US President Donald Trump said he pulled back from retaliatory strikes on Iran at the last minute, rejecting Tehran's claim that the aircraft was in its airspace.

But pressure mounted this week with Trump announcing sanctions on Iran's supreme leader and top officials.

The new measures are the latest against Tehran since Trump pulled out of a landmark nuclear accord between Iran and world powers.

Rouhani blamed the United States for regional tensions Wednesday and said if Washington had stuck to the deal "we would have witnessed positive developments in the region."

Robert Mueller to testify publicly on Russia probe

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

Former US special counsel Robert Mueller is to testify in public about his report into Russian electoral interference, paving the way for a historic television moment in which Democrats will attempt to make the case for President Donald Trump's impeachment before the American people.

The scrupulously tight-lipped Mueller will appear at back-to-back hearings on July 17 of the House Judiciary and Intelligence Committees, which announced Tuesday that the prosecutor had agreed to abide by subpoenas for his testimony.

"Russia attacked our democracy to help Trump win. Trump welcomed and used that



which he complained, without referring to Mueller, of "Presidential Harassment." The Mueller report released in April outlined numerous contacts between Trump's 2016 election campaign and government-linked Russians, as well as evidence that the president tried on several occasions to stymie the investigation.

The Democrats have been split on whether to launch impeachment proceedings against the Republican president but -- fearing that much of the Mueller report's contents -- have been asking major figures in the probe to testify in public on its findings.

But the president has asserted executive privilege to bar cur-

rent and former aides from cooperating with several congressional investigations into his conduct.

Making his only public statement about the high-stakes probe on May 29, Mueller said longstanding Justice Department guidelines prevented him from charging Trump, despite at least 10 possible acts of criminal obstruction by the president.

But not indicting Trump was not equivalent to clearing him, Mueller said, suggesting Congress has both the constitutional powers and the responsibility to pursue the case.

Mueller's testimony comes with both parties focused squarely on next year's presidential election.

WESTERN RAILWAY
VARIOUS WORKS
Sr. No. 01. Tender Notice No. & Date: BCT/19-20/162 dt. 20.06.2019.
Work and location: Udhna-Jaigaon section: Ukai Songhad Depot: Supply of 50 mm size M/Crushed stone ballast in connection with track works on Udhna-Jaigaon section (Qty: 102144 Cum). Approx. cost of work: ₹ 4,71,20,048.64. EMD: ₹ 3,85,600/-
Sr. No. 02. Tender Notice No. & Date: BCT/19-20/163 dt. 20.06.2019.
Work and location: Udhna-Jaigaon section: PALDHI Depot: Supply of 50 mm size M/Crushed stone ballast in connection with track works on Udhna-Jaigaon section (Qty: 72643 Cum). Approx. cost of work: ₹ 5,11,87,689.95. EMD: ₹ 4,05,900/-
Date & Time of submission of both Tenders: On 18.07.2019 at 15.00 hrs.
Date & Time of Opening of both Tenders: On 18.07.2019 at 15.30 hrs.
Regarding detailed tender condition please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered.
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Ex-Hong Kong leader Tsang cleared of misconduct conviction

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Former Hong Kong leader Donald Tsang saw his misconduct conviction quashed by the city's top court on Wednesday, the final twist to one of the financial hub's most high-profile corruption cases.

Tsang was jailed in 2017 after being found guilty of failing to disclose his plans to lease a luxury flat from a major

investor in a broadcaster, which was later granted a licence from the government while he was leader. The 74-year-old, who held the leadership post of chief executive for seven years from 2005, was the most senior city official ever to be convicted in a criminal trial and the highest-ranking one to be put behind bars. But on Wednesday he was exonerated by the Court of Final Appeal which quashed his mis-

conduct in public office conviction, ending a seven-year legal ordeal. Tsang, who was released from jail in January on health grounds, was not present in court for Wednesday's verdict. The unanimous decision overturned two lower court rulings which found that his failure to make a declaration of interest over the flat deserved steep punishment because of the high office he held. The acquittal revolved around improper directions given by the trial judge to the jury over the misconduct charge, given jurors had cleared Tsang of a more serious bribery offence.

Protesters urge discussion of Hong Kong issues at G-20

AP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong activists opposed to contentious extradition legislation on Wednesday called on leaders of the US, the European Union and others to raise the issue with Chinese President Xi Jinping at this week's G-20 summit in Japan.

Beijing has strongly opposed such a development, saying Hong Kong matters are strictly an internal Chinese affair. Groups of protesters gathered outside the U.S. and EU consulates Wednesday morning to deliver petitions stating their requests.

A spokesman said changes to the Chinese territory's legislation could expose citizens of all nationalities to being extradited to China for unfair trials and possible torture, reducing Hong

Kong's judicial independence and the civil liberties it retained after the handover from British rule in 1997.

Activists planned to present petitions at 19 consulates in total and planned further protest actions for Wednesday evening following an expected vote of no-confidence in the local legislature on the administration of Hong Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam. Government supporters have a solid majority in the assembly and the measure is not expected to pass.

Lam's push to pass the extradition bills has prompted hundreds of thousands of people to fill Hong Kong's streets in protest marches, while smaller groups have surrounded government offices, the legislature and police headquarters.



Protesters gather near the US Consulate as they stage a protest in Hong Kong on Wednesday

WESTERN RAILWAY
VARIOUS WORK OF SIDE DRAIN
Executive: DEN(Central)/BCT Tender No: BCT/19-20/167 dt. 25.06.2019. Work and location: Udhna-Jaigaon section: (i) USD - Providing side drain at North side of track at Km USD/2021-2023 and Km GEB/09 to Ukai GEB gate in USD yard under ADEN-Vyara section, (ii) Providing side drain and central drain at Km 3/14 to 4/02 and 36/30 to 37/4 under ADEN-Vyara section (iii) Providing central drain UP & DN Main Line at Km 49-50 at LOTARVA yard under ADEN-Vyara section (iv) Providing side drain at North side of track near DN Main line at Km 58/6 to 58/22 under ADEN-Vyara (v) Repairs to existing side drain and central drain at Km 119/16 to 120/10 and 122/12 to 122/20 under ADEN-Vyara section, (vi) Repairs to side drain and central at Km 136/2 to 136/30 and 141/22 to 142/22 under ADEN-Vyara section. Approx cost of work: Rs. 6,53,83,193.48/- EMD: Rs. 4,76,900/- Date & Time of submission: 22.07.2019 at 15.00hrs. Date & Time of opening: 22.07.2019 at 15.30hrs. For Detailed tender conditions, Please visit www.ireps.gov.in
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

The Executive Engineer, Santirbazar Division, PWD(R&B), Santirbazar, South Tripura invites e-tender against press PNIT No 06/EE/PWD(R&B)/STB/2019-20 dated 17-06-2019
For "Construction of 3 cell R.C.C Box cell culvert (5.00 x 5.00 mtr) clear span each including approach at Ch. 0.70 Km on the road from NH 44 (Betaga) to Basudeb das Para (L0- 36) (L= 4.977Km). Under RIDF-XXIV(2nd Call)."
DNITNo: 51/NIT/SE-III/R/2018-19

With
• Estimated cost: Rs.93,13,871.00
• Earnest Money : Rs.93,139.00
• Time of Completion - 06 (Six) months
"Replacement of existing bailey bridge by RCC Bridge over ThakuraCherra on the road from Jolaibari to Hrishyamukh at Ch. 2.70 Km, sanctioned for implementation under NABARD (RIDF-XX), Job No TP/COM/23/2014-15."
DNIT No : 03/NIT/SE-III/R/2019-20
For more details kindly visit: <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tripura, Sd/ (Er. Tapas Marak) Executive Engineer, Santirbazar Division, PWD(R&B) Santirbazar, South Tripura ICA/C-549/2019-20

Merkel ready to compromise on EU Commission chief

AFP ■ BERLIN

German Chancellor Angela Merkel admitted on Wednesday that she might have to drop her choice for the next leader of the European Commission in a spirit of compromise.

Reporting to the German parliament on a failed effort last week to name a new top team to reform the bloc in the coming years, Merkel said a fresh summit on Sunday could again prove fruitless.

"Only those put forward by the European Council for the election of the European Commission president can stand and I don't decide on this recommendation alone," she said.

COLLEGE OF ART
GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
(Affiliated to University of Delhi)
20-22, TILAK MARG, NEW DELHI-110 001
Phone Nos.: 23383612, 23387485, 23387571
Website: <http://colart.delhigovt.nic.in>
E-Mail: prcoa.delhi@nic.in
Corrigendum

This is with reference to release of Admission Notice/ Advertisement dated 02 June 2019, published in various newspapers and uploaded Admission prospectus data of BFA and MFA on college website.

It is informed to all applicants that due to the implementation of 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) vide order No. F. DHEI (119) Estt./2018-19/2548-76 dated 17.06.2019, issued by the competent authority, the revised seat matrix of BFA & MFA intake Capacity for Admission 2019-20 is uploaded and applicants may visit or download for their reference from the college website "http://colart.delhigovt.nic.in".

- Hence, the following schedule may please be noted by all applicants.
1. Admission in EWS (Economically Weaker Section) category in MFA (Master of Fine Arts): The date for submission of Application Form by hand has been extended upto Wednesday, 10 July, 2019 4.00pm and by Registered/Speed Post/Courier on or before Thursday, 11 July, 2019 4.00pm, only for applicants belonging to EWS category. Eligibility list of EWS category will be displayed on Friday, 12 July, 2019 4.00pm.
 2. Admission in EWS (Economically Weaker Section) category in BFA (Bachelor of Fine Arts): Application form for BFA along with requisite fees, supporting documents, duly completed, should be submitted by hand, from Wednesday, 10 July, 2019 4.00pm to Wednesday, 24 July, 2019 4.00pm and by Registered/Speed Post/Courier on or before, Friday, 26 July, 2019 4.00 pm, only for applicants belonging to EWS category. Eligibility list of EWS will be displayed on Tuesday, 30 July, 2019 4.00pm.
- NOTE: Entrance Test for applicants of EWS category will be held on Sunday, 04 August, 2019. Result of EWS Category will be declared and uploaded on college website on Tuesday, 13 August, 2019 4.00pm.
- The Applicants are advised to check the college website for all details. No separate intimation/fliers will be sent for the above purpose. Sd/ (Prof. B.S.Chauhan) Officiating Principal

POLICE HEADQUARTERS J&K SRINAGAR
Phone/Fax No.: 0194-2443031/2443032 (Sgr), 0191-2459029/2459255 (JMU) Website : www.jkpolice.gov.in, E-mail : phqj@nic.in
Extension Notice
Due to administrative reasons, the last date for submission of on-line bids & opening of Technical bids against NIT No: 24 of 2019 dated 11.05.2019 floated by this Hqrs for the installation of Inventory Management System is re-scheduled as under:-
1. Last date of receipt of tenders = 04.07.2019 up to 1800 hours.
2. Date of opening of technical bids = 06.07.2019 at 1100 hours.
The other terms and conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.
Sd/- Mubassir Latifi (JKPS) AIG (Provision & Transport), For Director General of Police, J&K - Srinagar
No: DIPK-NB-1402/19 Dated: 26.06.2019

DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS SRINAGAR
Balgarden, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir 190010
E-mail: dposrinagar@jkpolice.gov.in, Tele: 2455047, Fax: 2453897
Subject: Corrigendum
In reference to e-NIT No. 7485 of 2019 dated 17.06.2019 issued under endstt. No. GB/ eTender-2019/7486-92 dated 17.06.2019 regarding procurement of goods. The bid submission closing and opening dates are amended as per the request from various bidders and new schedules of dates is as under:
1. Date of opening of e-NIT :- 25.06.2019
2. Period of downloading of e-tender documents :- 05 days
3. Tender submission start date :- 25.06.2019
4. Tender submission end date :- 01.07.2019
5. Date of opening of Tenders :- 02.07.2019
Other contents of the tender shall remain unchanged. Sd/- [Dr. Muhammad Haseeb Mughal-JKPS] Senior Superintendent of Police, District Srinagar
No: DIPK-NB-1404/19 Dated: 26.06.2019

WESTERN RAILWAY
CONSTRUCTION WORKS
Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction) II, Western Railway, Pratnagar, Vadodara - 390 004, invites e-tender as per the details given below:
e-Tender No.: Dy.CE/C/II/BRC/M/G-DB-SMLA/19. Name of the work: Construction of Station building, platforms, platform wall, water tank staging, approach road, fencing, water supply arrangements, RCC overhead tank, pump house, toilet blocks, water huts, etc. with other ancillary works at Miyagam (B-class) Garpal pura (D-class) & Kandarai (D-class) between MYG-Dabholi section of gauge conversion project between Miyagam-Dabholi-Samalaya. Approximate Cost: ₹ 2,037.87 Lakhs. Availability of online Tender for bidding: From 03.07.2019 at 10.00 hrs. to 17.07.2019 upto 15.00 hrs. Date of opening & time: 17.07.2019 at 15.30 hrs. Regarding detailed tender conditions, please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered.
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WESTERN RAILWAY
VARIOUS TYPE OF WORK
E-Tender No: BFG-43-6-2(ISS)-Tele-WA(R) dt. 24.06.2019. Executive: Sr. DSTE(Co.)/BCT. Name of Work: Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Video Surveillance system in connection with implementation of Integrated Security system (ISS) on Mumbai Suburban Section of Mumbai Division, Western Railway. Approx cost of work: Rs. 36,59,70,329/-. Particular office where E-tender open: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer (South), 2nd Floor, DRM's Office, Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400008. EMD: Rs. 19,79,900/- Time & Date for Bid conference: 09:07:2019 at 10:30hrs. Date & Time of submission: 13.08.2019 at 15:00hrs. Date & Time of opening: 13.08.2019 at 15:30hrs. For Detailed tender conditions, Please visit www.ireps.gov.in
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WESTERN RAILWAY
Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400 008 invites E-tender as per details given as follows.

Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	Work and Location	Approx. Cost of Work in Rs.	EMD in Rs.
1.	BCT/19-20/170 dt. 25.06.2019	Bhayander - Virar Section: Annual Maintenance of drainage system (Sewerage & Storm water) of new colony at Bhayander, Vasai Road, Nallasopara, Virar & relay room, running room, substation etc. under the jurisdiction of SSE(W)BVI for a period of 02 years.	17,70,384.00/-	35,400.00/-
2.	BCT/19-20/171 dt. 25.06.2019	Rehabilitation of Dadar Rly colony-Type-II (54-units), Type (IV) (2-units), Type III (1-units) along with Road, Drainage line, Toilets, Garden, Boundary wall and Providing Dy.CE (Bridge) office, yard master office, store and signal cabin-social welfare centre, underground tank, over head tank and pump room at Dadar Colony, in connection with Rehabilitation of western railway south colony in connection with relocation of infringing structure and proposed new STR in connection with 5 th and 6 th line at Dadar station.	16,74,64,482.77/-	9,87,300/-

Date & Time of Submission : Sr. No. 1: 23.07.2019 at 15.00 hrs., Sr. No. 2: 31.07.2019 at 15.00 hrs., Date & Time of Opening of tender: Sr. No. 1: 23.07.2019 at 15.30 hrs., Sr. No. 2: 31.07.2019 at 15.30 hrs.,
NOTE: Please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details.
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PAPER WITH PASSION

Between the lines

Modi is still playing comparatives in his speeches when the expectation from him is much more post-verdict



Now that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a massive mandate for governance and has successfully reduced the Congress to an existential crisis, he certainly needs to get the bugbear of anti-Congressism off his back. There is no doubt that India has vociferously voted against dynastic entitlement and for deserved empowerment. If he has indeed managed to convince voters of his leadership capabilities, frankly, there is no need for him to justify it again and again. Which is why the takedown of the Congress during his first speech in the 17th Lok Sabha and even in the Rajya Sabha was more like rubbing salt into the Congress' wounds than addressing the people who voted him back and are looking for new directions in stressed times. The Congress is already pummeled. Doing more of the same won't affect it but it could make Modi look obsessive about a party and keeping it relevant as an excuse with his sarcasm and negative projection. Rather, moribund as it is, he should let it collapse under its own weight. Besides, elections are over now. Perhaps it was the anniversary of the Emergency that did it but Modi tore into the Congress leadership for being out on bail while imprisoning others during its own tenures in history. Then he demolished Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's argument that Modi could not diminish the party's "high" stature, saying the party was so "high" that it was cut off from the grassroots and he would rather it stay there while he connected to the people. Then there was the familiar trope of crediting non-family Congressmen whose contribution went unacknowledged — Pranab Mukherjee, Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh — and how the NDA regime had no issue about acknowledging the work of all past Prime Ministers, beginning with Jawaharlal Nehru. In fact, the reference to Nehru stood apart as he has not been charitable to the Congress' dynastic fountainhead through the heat and dust of campaigning but urged lawmakers to learn from his sense of duty to society. Of course, the smart jab at his descendants was unmistakable. And not that the Congress would change its stance on the Triple Talaq Bill in Parliament, but by recalling its position on the Uniform Civil Code and the Shah Bano case, Modi exposed its votebank mentality of minority appeasement than welfare. Knowing full well that the Bill wouldn't get enough support in the Rajya Sabha, Modi wants to show that he tried but was stalled by the Congress. Apportioning blames and competitive comparisons have been a part of our politics but when it comes to Modi and the way he has crafted his journey, the expectations are not sundry. Nobody likes oversold clichés.

Which is why there needed to be more emphasis on his development work. He did touch upon three areas succinctly that need attention. Although "Make in India" was not showcased much during the campaign, it being considered the NDA's Achilles' heel, it was bold of Modi to rescue his pet project and restate its primacy in his development vision. He even linked it to the "collective endeavour to make India a five trillion dollar economy." The country really needed to hear more of his economic blueprint at a time when growth rates are sputtering, there are challenges of boosting investment while giving tax breaks and incentives and there is pressure to be people-friendly immediately after such a massive mandate. Sensing the anxieties about climate change and resources, Modi rightly emphasised that water conservation was everybody's responsibility and though he had created Jal Shakti ministry to manage resources and ensure potable water to all, he implied a mass awareness, even with the help of NGOs. By recalling his days of sitting in protest against the delay in the Sardar Sarovar Dam project and how it helped farmers, Modi clearly hinted that this could be bigger than his Swachh mission and it could well be a populist pitch that would link the poor, the farmers, the underprivileged and privileged together. So far, his commitment to climate change has not matched his performance when it came to relieve for thermal plants and underwhelming renewable energy goals. Besides, though he addressed the "sabka vishwas" plank by expressing grief over the Jharkhand mob lynching, he asked that the State be spared of the "lynching hub" tag and perpetrators identified. Would he have said the same about Bengal?

Exciting at the end

The fear of a rash of dead games in the cricket World Cup's league stage has dissipated with some stunning feats



The problem, some might argue, with mega international sporting events is that quite often they take far too long to come to the 'business end' or the 'sharp end', where the favoured teams all rise to the top and compete with each other. You could avoid watching the first week of a grand slam tennis tournament, even stay away from the World Cup of football until the quarter-finals. Every championship tries to resolve this issue through various means while trying ostensibly to be fair. So in tennis you have the seeding system, where top players avoid each other until the second week. In football, too, groups are chosen to avoid pitting too many top teams against each other. But nothing is perfect. Sometimes a rising star can emerge and take out the top seeds in tennis and in football matches, you often end up with the fabled "group of death" where a favourite can be dumped out in the early rounds.

The International Cricket Council (ICC), therefore, moved back to an earlier format where all the teams in the World Cup play each other once in the league stage. This angered some people because it made cricket a rather insular club of the major test-playing nations, although Scotland did come within a hair's breadth of the tournament. But because the top four teams in One-Day cricket — England, India, New Zealand and Australia in that order — were so far ahead of the rest, everyone expected that other than some marquee marketing games such as India-Pakistan during the league phase, the first few weeks of the ongoing World Cup would be a damp squib after the first 15-off games. But as England's implosion, Pakistan's resurgence, Sri Lanka rediscovering its mojo and Bangladesh finally playing to its potential have slightly upset the apple-cart for the hosts, they highlight that one big thing that every international tournament should be about, unpredictability. Nobody expected Germany to be bundled out in the football World Cup at Russia last year and England was the unquestioned favourite for the cricket version as hosts. But some unexpected losses have shaken things up. However, sports administrators will continue toying with new league formats. While the ICC version is fairer than most, it is rather exclusive and if cricket's popularity is to grow globally, more teams will have to be a part of the tournament. But that will invariably lead to calls of league fixing and what not. The challenges of making a tournament fair will remain but let us enjoy this edition till then for all the surprises it is throwing up.

Iran is no pushover

The nation today is very different from what it was in 1991 or 2003. Societally, militarily, diplomatically and even morally, it is a very strong country



BHOPINDER SINGH

In a speech in January 1991, the then Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had invoked a popular idiomatic expression, exhorting his military and simultaneously warning the US against intervening in his invasion of Kuwait by threatening a "mother of all battles." Hussein had under his command supposedly the world's fourth largest Army with over a million and a half in uniform and reserves — a number larger than the US Army and Marine Corps combined. Iraqi forces were also battle veterans of the decade-long Iran-Iraq war and had displayed complex helicopter-borne assault-like command capability in seizing the Kuwait Emir's palace much before Iraqi armour columns rolled in. However, there were clear chinks in the Iraqi narrative beyond the presidential bravado. The sheer numbers of the Iraqi forces, who were subjected to an unchallenged pummeling of a 30-day air bombardment that broke the country's infrastructure and spirit, are testimony. Ultimately, it took less than 100 hours of ground assault for the complete capitulation, destruction and humiliation of the Iraqi retreat from Kuwait. The Second Gulf War in 2003, entailing a more expanded mandate to oust Hussein, lasted only 21 days before the "end of major combat operations" was announced. However, the strategic aim of "containment" was not achieved in either of the Gulf Wars, yet the mainstream Americans believe in their ability to bulldoze any military opposition in the Middle East.

Today, Iran faces a potential military action from the US following the latest escalation of tensions with the shooting down of a \$130 million worth 'Global Hawk BAM-D' surveillance drone over the Strait of Hormuz. The ratcheting of mutual distrust has been in the making for sometime, with the Iranians and their proxy forces holding sway in the multiple battles in the Iraqi-Syrian swathes, Yemen and Lebanon to even in the Iran-beholden, modern Iraq nation. The sectarian divide in the Middle East is increasingly tilting in favour of the numerically lesser Shia forces, much to the consternation of the US-supported Gulf sheikhdoms and Israel. The decimation of the Islamic State (IS) landmass and its conventional capabilities has shifted the US' focus onto Iran in order to contain what it calls "the leading state sponsor of terror." Towards the same, the US has unilaterally reneged on the path-breaking Iran nuclear deal and reinforced crippling economic sanctions, even though the international community remains a mute spectator despite the global nuclear watchdog organisation, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), giving Iran a clean chit in abiding with the terms of the nuclear deal, which Trump accuses Iran of violating.

But Iran has not undertaken any military intervention as done by the US (all inconclusively) in the last 30 years in the Middle East.



It has simply put a lot more challenges. First, unlike Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen or even Afghanistan — which were deeply divided and polarised societies from within — Iran is relatively homogenous and united in its animus towards the US aggression. Unsurprisingly, the US-led sanctions have had a "catastrophic humanitarian consequence" on the Iranian civil society and has had no support from any of the Iranian Opposition leadership, inside or outside of Iran.

This is starkly a different situation from Hussein's Iraq which had well over 65 per cent of its population composed of persecuted Shias and Kurds, who were happy to see Hussein fall. Likewise, a theoretical US intervention in Syria may just be welcomed by the approximate 90 per cent of the Sunni population, who are ruled by the Shia-Alawite Assad Government.

Similarly, any action against the Shia-Hezbollah forces in Lebanon may be acceptable to other competing stakeholders like the Sunnis, Christians or Druze. Not so in Iran, which has over 90 per cent Shias. Even other minorities like the Kurds, Achomis, Turkmens (barring the Baluch) are also reasonably integrated into the Iranian soci-

WITH 20 PER CENT OF THE GLOBAL OIL TRADED THROUGH THE NARROW STRAIT OF HORMUZ, IRAN COULD POSE UNIMAGINABLE ASYMMETRIC THREATS TO THE US INTERESTS EVEN IF ITS CONSIDERABLE NAVAL FLEET OF AN ESTIMATED 15 SUBMARINES AND ANTI-SHIP SYSTEMS WERE TO BE NEUTRALISED

ety with no major discrimination. This puts a rock solid block of at least 110 million — 85 million in Iran and at least 25 million co-sectarian Shias in the contiguous western border with Iraq — in direct confrontation with the US. This is demographically an impregnable minefield for the US to potentially penetrate and try to hold ground. Thus, physical land occupation of Iranian soil is absolutely ruled out as can be seen from the parallel fate of the American military, in the face of rag-tag militias in Afghanistan. With 20 per cent of the global oil traded through the narrow Strait of Hormuz (24 miles wide at one point), Iran could pose unimaginable asymmetric threats to the US interests even if its considerable naval fleet of an estimated 15 submarines and anti-ship systems were to be neutralised.

Third, as the emotional flag-bearer of Shias globally, Iran commands considerable clout and loyalty via its powerful proxies across the world to inflict severe damage on US' interests that could be thousands of miles away from the principal battleground. Some of these Iran-supported militias have simply out-performed the Saudi-US supported forces and retained the upper hand, even where outnumbered. Even diplomatically

and geopolitically, Iran today is not like Iraq in the previous two Gulf wars ie, internationally isolated, condemned and subjected to multi-lateral sanctions — the recent US moves against Iran have not been met with enthusiasm in the European Union and Donald Trump's unilateralism may not lead to an effective "coalition" against Iran as was the case in 1991 or 2003.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo dashed to Saudi Arabia and the UAE to muster support, who along with Israel remain in the forefront of the very limited anti-Iran sentiment. Unlike the UN-approved sanctions that preceded the US moves in 1991 and 2003, approval of other nations against Iran in the UN Security Council is extremely unlikely. The possible realisation of the cost of misadventure against Iran may have led to the last-minute cancellation of US military operations despite being in "cocked and loaded" status. Perhaps electoral considerations may still lead to a very limited military action, but only that as Iran is no pushover societally, militarily, diplomatically or in the present case, even morally.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry)

SOUNDBITE

I understand your (BJP's) thought. There should be one country, but one election, one face, one name, one ideology is not acceptable.



Congress leader — Anand Sharma

I won't get younger roles because of fashionable clothes. I am glad that God has given me a good body. I am fashion conscious and love to experiment.



Actor — Neena Gupta

The Government has accorded highest priority to getting permanent UNSC membership. It is actively engaged in the inter-governmental negotiations on UNSC reform.



MoS External Affairs — V Muralidharan

What is wrong if I try to discipline my party workers? What is wrong if I ask my party workers to ensure that there is no misuse of Government schemes?



West Bengal CM — Mamata Banerjee

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clean your backyard

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Report most foul" (June 26). It is an irony that the Modi Government's return to power with the *aam aadmi's* overwhelming support almost coincided with the timing of the release of the US State Department's 2018 *Report on International Religious Freedom*, which accused the BJP office-bearers for hate speech. It also criticised the Government for reportedly protecting cow vigilante groups. One wonders that before taking a look at other countries, why doesn't the US ensure equal rights for the Blacks and poor in its own country?

Why do the Whites still consider themselves a supreme race and shoot to kill Indian and their other citizens? Naturally, the ruling BJP has termed the report as being biased against the Government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi but even its own response reeks of double-speak. One has to agree that the BJP has a habit of cherry-picking international reports. Whenever there is a favourable report from any country, media or world organisation, immediately electronic

The danger of one-party rule

The Prime Minister's idea of 'one nation, one poll' is all about structuring the Indian electoral cycle in a way that voting to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies are synchronised. The proposal does merit some careful thought but needs to be discussed and debated threadbare before arriving at a definite decision. As a democratic nation, India remains in election mode almost throughout the year. A lot of time and public money is wasted to conduct the elections. Besides, political *tamashas* that necessitate elections to be held intermittently have become a regular affair now.

If a nation engages itself in elections all round the year, one can only imagine how difficult it will be for Governments — both Central and State — to pursue their agenda of governance. The general administration, too, is badly affected. But considering the traditions and conventions in a parliamentary system, will the Modi regime be able to surmount the challenges to make the dream of "one nation, one poll" a reality?

More than the vision of having a radical change in the pattern of elections in the country, it is the prospect of having a "one nation, one party" that is amusing to the public these days. The overwhelming majority with which the BJP won the 2019 Lok Sabha election has in



its wake brought a lot of suppositions and probabilities. With the Modi-Shah juggernaut having had a free run so far, fears that the duo may now attempt the impossible are not misplaced either. Engineering defections in the Opposition ranks, the BJP has virtually threatened the existence of all other political parties in the country. If this trend continues, the BJP, will stand tall amidst the ruins. Does this bode well for a democracy?

Pachu Menon
Margao

Country comes first

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Report most foul" (June 26). All such international reports, articles and any other writings,

and print media advertise it as an achievement of Modi but when there is an adverse remark from any of such organisation, it becomes "clear bias." True, the US report on "religious freedom" is *dadagiri* against us and is a direct

attack on our internal matters. But that is as true as Modi's Kerala election speech where he passed the "where the minority is in the majority" remark.
Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee
Faridabad

which talk ill about India, should be taken with a pinch of salt.

In 2012, when the *Time* magazine dubbed the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as "underachiever", the BJP, which was in the Opposition then, proclaimed that the entire country has been thinking on the same line since long. Present Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad even demanded Singh's resignation.

In 2015, the same magazine published another article titled, "Why Modi Matters." The penned words of the article were soothing to the BJP. But only recently before the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the same magazine called the Prime Minister "India's divider-in-chief."

Whether political parties stand united on sensitive issues within the country or not, they must be on the same page when the foreign media talks ill about our country. At the same time, Governments must be extra careful to not give any chance to the world community to point fingers at us.

N Nagarajan
Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

New threat in our backyard

India and Bangladesh have to make every effort to squelch the Neo-JMB and other such terrorist organisations, especially the IS, which is trying to base its operations in South Asia



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

The arrest of four terrorists of the Neo Jamaat-ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) by a Special Task Force (STF) of Kolkata Police on June 25 once again underlines the organisation's continued activities on Indian soil. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), which had banned the organisation on May 24, 2019, under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act of 1967, had stated in a gazette notification that the outfit was planning to set up permanent bases within 10 kilometres of India's borders with Bangladesh in several districts of West Bengal, Assam and Tripura and that it planned to extend its network in South India to establish a Caliphate in the Indian sub-continent. According to the notification, "The involvement of JMB cadres has been established in the Burdwan bomb blast and Bodh Gaya blast. Assam Police has found involvement of JMB in five cases registered by them and a total of 56 accused belonging to the JMB have been arrested." The MHA also said, "Jamaat-ul Mujahideen was engaged in recruitment and raising funds for terrorist activities, procurement of explosives/chemicals and assembling of IEDs."

The JMB's activities, which had largely remained behind the scenes until then, came into public attention after nine blasts had rocked the pilgrim city of Bodh Gaya on July 7, 2013, injuring a Tibetan monk and a tourist. While the Students' Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) has been held primarily responsible, the MHA's gazette notification indicates that the JMB was also involved. The latter's hand has also been detected in the blasts that occurred on October 23, 2013, while Narendra Modi, then a prime ministerial candidate, was addressing a rally in Patna's Gandhi Maidan. The five persons sentenced to life for involvement in the Bodh Gaya blasts were also suspects in the Patna explosions.

The JMB attracted further notice after a bomb had exploded in a house in West Bengal's Burdwan district on October 2, 2014, killing two people. Investigations revealed what was virtually a Bangladeshi-run arms and explosives network in West Bengal, Assam and Jharkhand. According to the National Investigative Agency's (NIA) chargesheet in the case, submitted in March, 2015, terrorists were using territories in the three States to overthrow Bangladesh's democratic Government and put a hardline Islamic regime in its place.

The organisation's South Indian reach was underlined on June 24, 2019, when the NIA arrested Habeeb Rehman, a suspected JMB militant from Daddaballapur in the outskirts of Bengaluru. He was wanted in connection with the Burdwan and Bodh Gaya blasts. According to the NIA, five other JMB terrorists may be hiding in Daddaballapur.

The organisation's presence has been increasing in India mainly because it has been under tremendous pressure in Bangladesh where Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has zero tolerance for terrorism. According to a paper, *The threat of a revitalised JMB to India's security*, by Nikhil Raj Aggarwal, "Between 2014 and 2017, more than 3,000 militants belonging to terrorist groups JMB and HUJI-B entered India through West Bengal, Assam and Tripura." The pressure has been particularly heavy after the savage terrorist strike on Dhaka's Holey Artisan Bakery in Gulshan, Dhaka, on the night of July 1-2, 2016, which killed 22 people, including 17 foreigners, and in which one of its factions was involved. A number of terrorists have been killed since then including two in a clash with security forces who raided their hideout in Dhaka on April 29, 2019.

While the JMB, which has split into three different factions, is on the run in Bangladesh, complacency is hardly warranted. It has a chequered history. Reportedly established in Bangladesh in April, 1998, it was first noted on May 20, 2002, when, according to *South Asia Terrorism Portal*, eight Islamist terrorists were arrested in Parbatipur in Dinajpur District along with 25 petrol bombs and documents relating to its activities. It had close links with fundamentalist Islamist organisations like the Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh, which had unleashed savage violence in north-western Bangladesh under the guise of combatting extremist communist violence, and the Ahle Haadith Andolan Bangladesh (AHAB), and had supporters and shelters in India almost since the beginning. The Operations Commander of the JMJB, Siddiqui Islam, widely known as "Bangla Bhai" often crossed over to the border districts of West Bengal.

The JMB perpetrated a large number of terrorist attacks in Bangladesh before international pressure compelled that country's Government to ban it along with the JMJB and the AHAB on February 23, 2005. Follow-up action, however, was half-hearted because the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, a partner in the Bangladesh Nationalist Party-led coalition Government headed by Begum Khaleda Zia, and the fountainhead of Islamic terrorism in Bangladesh, sabotaged strong action.

The JMB suffered a major blow on March 30, 2007, when six of its top terrorists, including its "supreme commander" Maulana Abdur Rahman and second-in-command, Bangla Bhai, were executed in Bangladesh. By 2010, it was thought to have been completely eradicated. That, however, was not the case. A section has emerged as Neo-JMB. India and Bangladesh have to make concerted efforts to squelch it and other Islamist terrorist organisations, particularly since the Islamic State, routed in Syria and Iraq, is trying to base its operations in South Asia and has already established contact with a section of the JMB.

(The writer is Consultant Editor, The Pioneer, and an author)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

I REQUEST YOU (PRIME MINISTER MODI) TO KEEP NEW INDIA TO YOURSELF AND GIVE US OUR OLD INDIA WHERE THERE WAS LOVE AND CULTURE.

—CONGRESS LEADER
GHULAM NABI AZAD



I THINK AZAD SAHIB IS HAVING A BLURRED VISION. MAYBE HE IS SEEING EVERYTHING THROUGH POLITICAL SPECTACLES.

—PRIME MINISTER
NARENDRA MODI

Half-baked reforms

Unless we address the core issues, no amount of modern infrastructure will be able to bring in fundamental changes towards the working methodology of the police



KK PAUL

Having gone through media reports about the recent incident at Mukherjee Nagar in North-West Delhi, where some policemen "thrashed" a tempo driver after he allegedly attacked a cop, one is compelled to wonder whether the usual talk of police reforms is yet another oxymoron? Normally, after training, a police officer is supposed to behave with a certain amount of discretion and sensitivity as he may be quite raw and not as experienced and hardened as some of his colleagues.

In the instant case, however, some policemen were reported to have conducted themselves in a very unprofessional manner, drawing adverse comment from all sections of society. This takes us to the quality of training and attitude of police officers who graduate from training schools. It appears that one of the fundamental schisms, which has continued since independence, is whether the police is a service or a force?

The conflict arises from the fact that the society has high expectations and considers the police to be a public service organisation, while the State continues to think of it not only as a service organisation for the society but also as an instrument of its sovereign functions like law and order, public order and internal security. Despite numerous commissions and recommendations, the police organisation has remained as it is. Sometimes it appears strange that despite the police being a State subject and each State having its own set of rules, there is something that binds the police into a homogenous entity as far as the methodology of work and attitude towards the public are concerned.

In this context, the Union Home Ministry's renewed efforts at giving a push to police reforms must be welcomed. To begin with, a country-wide competition to adjudge the best police station was initiated. Police stations competed with each other on the basis of seven parameters, which included among other things, crime prevention, pro-active policing along with public perception and feedback. Some of these have, perhaps, been included for the first time and give impetus to the policemen to take into account the attitude of the public towards the police and policing in general. Topping the Union Home Ministry's list was the Kalu police station in Rajasthan's Bikaner district. The second in rank was Campbell Bay in Nicobar district. Farakka police station in West Bengal's Murshidabad district ranked third. It is to be hoped that such competitions will generate a lot of enthusiasm and bring in the much-needed fresh air into the police stations besides leading to the much-desired course-correction.

Undoubtedly, some of these parameters are extremely important and may even be fundamental to providing good governance to the public. In today's media-driven world, public perception is vital for credibility of any organisation. The police in particular — as even a small incident like the one mentioned — can be stigmatised and spoil years of hard-earned reputation. At the same time, we must



also give a deeper thought to reforms, as despite orders from the Supreme Court, there appears to be an inherent reluctance in implementing them in a meaningful manner.

While the array of police reforms implemented so far — to modernise the communication networks, mobility, IT applications and weaponry among others — has only touched the metropolitan areas and the more fortunate among the district headquarters, large segments of our population continue to be under-policed with the department unable to provide even some of the basics in certain areas. Visible implementation of such infrastructural reforms, even though in a limited manner, besides giving a modern and contemporary look, have resulted in a quantum jump towards efficiency of the police besides leading to a positive perception among the public of being progressive. But unless we address the core issues, no amount of modern infrastructure will be able to bring in fundamental changes towards the working methodology of the police all over the country.

The police and the public enjoy an ambivalent relationship with each other. Even when the police personnel are very friendly — having a positive attitude and police stations with a modern look — people become apprehensive the moment they hear of the police procedures and the courts. Police being integral to the criminal justice system, almost all its actions have to be ultimately placed before the judicial officers, as required by the code of criminal procedure and the various State police rules.

As the number of cases goes up, not only the work load of investigating officers increases, it also adds to delays and pendency in the courts, resulting in an increase in the overall time spent on each case before its final disposal. Such increasing work load and delays deny justice to the people on the one hand and

on the other, it propels the stressed out and overworked police officer towards rudeness and offensive behavior.

In the process, the common man suffers, for justice delayed is justice denied. The Code of Criminal Procedure currently in vogue is basically a document of 1898 vintage. Some amendments have been made from time-to-time but the basic structure remains more or less the same. In fact, most of the aberrations in the working of the police find their origin from this Code.

As such, besides improving and modernising the training and other infrastructural needs as per current and future projections, the real reform will take effect only when such administrative changes are coupled with changes in the requisite police and court procedures. Today, a person is more concerned with the police scriptory work and the court procedures as he may have to make several visits to the police station and later to the courts. Such time-consuming and complicated procedures bring a lot of negativity in the police public relations. Besides, these have almost no bearing on establishment-related reforms of fixity of tenures and the constitution of Security Commissions at the State or national levels. In the current dispensation of procedures, hardly any emphasis has been laid on expediting the delivery of justice to the common man, which in fact should be the top priority.

In order to address all such issues in a comprehensive manner, roughly 20 years ago, the Ministry of Home Affairs had constituted a committee to go into various aspects of the criminal justice system. This committee had submitted a very comprehensive and a meaningful report. The recommendations were not only to expedite the delivery of justice, but also emphasised upon greater involvement of judicial officers at the time of

trial to ascertain the truth.

At present we follow the adversarial system, which no doubt gives a very fair trial. In the inquisitorial system, which is followed in most of the European countries including France and Germany, the supervision of the investigation is done more closely by the judicial officers. It had been recommended that in our prevailing social conditions, an adversarial system with certain good features of inquisitorial system could still be adopted. Changes in the basic approach to investigation were also suggested. An important recommendation was to introduce a provision in the Code where any court shall at any stage of inquiry or trial, would have such powers as to issue directions to the investigating officer to make further investigation or to direct the supervisory officer to take appropriate action for more pointed investigation so as to assist the court in search of truth. Some changes in the nature of the burden of proof beyond reasonable doubt were also suggested. For some reason, this very useful report was shelved after the change of government in 2004.

Ultimately for the benefit of the common man, it would be of utmost importance to deal with the criminals effectively and speedily by expeditious delivery of justice. Accordingly, the police reforms have to be two-tiered. One at the level of the organisation and the establishment besides training and second at the procedural level, entailing a comprehensive review of the code of criminal procedure and state police rules. In the current scenario simply increasing the number of investigators or the number of courts may not suffice as the need of the hour is to introduce comprehensive reforms in the criminal justice system.

(The writer is a retired Delhi Police Commissioner and former Uttarakhand Governor)

Brace up to the new normal

Term it climate change or global warming, the fact is that India and the rest of the world are at the receiving end of natural disasters and extreme weather events. Map sensitive geographical areas and codify a step-by-step action plan



KOTA SRIRAJ

Natural disasters, primarily extreme weather events, triggered the displacement of nearly 17.2 million worldwide in 2018. At 2.678 million, India recorded the maximum number of people displaced — that's more than double the 1.3 million displaced in 2017. About 1.5 million or nearly 54 per cent of the new displacements in India in 2018 were in Kerala, which was hit by the worst floods in a century.

Cyclones Titli and Gaja, which struck Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu respectively in October and November 2018, triggered close to 649,000 displacements. These sad developments are a grim reminder of how a deteriorating environment is

coming full circle and impacting us adversely.

The depth of the issue can be gauged by the fact that natural disasters forced almost 17.2 million people out of their homes across the world in 2018. Ninety four per cent of them left due to weather-related natural calamities — cyclones, floods and drought. About 84 per cent of these affected people were from urban and peri-urban areas. To understand this in a detailed manner, nearly 1,600 disaster events triggered new displacements during 2018. Among weather-related hazards, storms, especially tropical cyclones, were a majority. Geophysical disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions led to 1.1 million new displacements in 2018, up from 758,000 in 2017 — a 45.12 per cent jump.

Displacements associated with disasters affected mainly East Asia and Pacific and South Asia. Both regions are heavily populated and are highly vulnerable to hazards. Sub-Saharan Africa and the Americas were relatively affected lightly but floods and storms still triggered millions of new



displacements. Around 9.6 million new displacements were recorded in East Asia and the Pacific and 3.8 million in South. Sixty per cent of the internal displacements occurred in China, India and the Philippines. In these three countries, 10.3 million were displaced by extreme weather events. Such massive movement of people affects the economy, too. Asia-Pacific's cumulative economic losses due to natural disasters exceeded \$89 billion in 2018 — slightly higher than the 21st century average of \$87 billion.

In just a year, the number of people displaced due to extreme weather events increased by 108 per cent.

Undoubtedly, the displacement burden due to extreme weather events in the country has doubled. India is the 14th most climate-vulnerable country in the world. With 29 per cent increase in deaths from last year due to extreme climate events and the 108 per cent increase in displacements in a year, the burden of displacement and deaths due to such extremes is rising. This year India will be much more prone to cyclones and floods, according to the Inform Risk Index.

Rapid changes in environmental behaviour and weather-related developments have been long expected since anthropogenic interventions

have altered weather patterns and impacted daily lives. India, with diverse climate conditions, is positioned to be deeply affected due to extreme weather events. In fact, a slight change in the rainfall patterns is enough to derail rural economies and send food prices soaring. These conditions have already prompted an exodus in northern Himalayan States where traditional farming families are forced to leave their long-inhabited villages as either drought one year or flood the next year promise to play havoc with their prosperity and personal finances, exposing them to potential poverty if they choose to stay.

On the other hand, untenable agricultural practices have added to the problem. Take the example of Chennai in Tamil Nadu. The State is reeling under yet another extreme weather condition of drought and yet, the farmers in semi-urban and rural areas are still practising the flood irrigation system, which uses a lot of water for relatively low yields of crop productivity. These small yet significant deficiencies are overlooked by the district administration, which in turn

assume forbidding proportions on the state level and cause enormous wastage of precious water resources.

India being the most affected in people displacements due to extreme weather events must take some immediate steps to prevent the situation from getting out of hand. Sensitive geographical areas must first be mapped and this needs to be followed by a step-by-step action plan that builds on past events and the precipitating factors that have played a decisive role in exacerbating the environmental conditions to the extent that the disastrous weather events are triggered. Unless innovative measures are put in place, India cannot escape the penalties of a worsening environment. The world is already experiencing the aftershocks of climate change and India, too, is increasingly finding itself at the receiving end of worsening conditions. How does it overcome the odds and script a turnaround will be crucial. The Government has a pivotal role to play and so does the common man.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



THE REALITY

The Trump administration's grand talk of "the deal of the century" in the Middle East, the launch of its first, economic aspect has been both absurd and pathetic. The Palestinian refusal to attend has meant that Israel is also absent. This is a play missing its stars and half the cast as well; the Arab states involved have sent lower-tier officials. Even its instigator, Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, talked of a workshop rather than a conference; of a vision rather than a plan. (The Guardian editorial)

Data related to payments to be stored only in India: RBI



PTI ■ MUMBAI
The Reserve Bank on Wednesday said all data related to payments must be stored only in India and data processed abroad will have to be brought back to the country within 24 hours.

directive in April 2018 on 'Storage of Payment System Data'. It had advised all system providers to ensure that within a period of six months, the entire data relating to payment systems operated by them is stored in a system only in India.

The FAQs further said there is no bar on processing of payment transactions outside India if so desired by the PSOs.

"However, the data shall be stored only in India after the processing. The complete end-

to-end transaction details should be part of the data," the RBI said.

In case the processing is done abroad, "the data should be deleted from the systems abroad and brought back to India not later than the one business day or 24 hours from payment processing, whichever is earlier."

Last week, the issue of data localisation was raised by several e-commerce firms during their meetings with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

₹ settles 21 paise higher at 69.15 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian rupee on Wednesday advanced by 21 paise to close at 69.15 against the US currency in line with uptrend in domestic equities.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 69.40 a dollar and advanced to a high of 69.07 during the day. It finally settled at 69.15, up 21 paise against its previous close of 69.36.

Forex dealers said a positive sentiment built up ahead of a scheduled meeting at G20 between US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, later this week.

Meanwhile, US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin's comments eased concern over the trade impasse with China to some extent.

Besides, traders said, gains in domestic equities, foreign fund inflows and latest news on monsoon progress also helped in reviving domestic currency market sentiment.

However, rising crude oil prices and strengthening of the US dollar vis-a-vis other major currencies overseas capped the gains for the rupee.

global oil benchmark, rose 1.38 per cent to \$ 65.95 per barrel.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.11 per cent to 96.24.

Meanwhile, Financial Benchmark India Private Ltd (FBIL) set the reference rate for the rupee/dollar at 69.3398 and for rupee/euro at 79.0525. The reference rate for rupee/British pound was fixed at 88.4161 and for rupee/100 Japanese yen at 64.81.

V K Sharma, Head-PCG & Capital Market Strategy, HDFC securities, said, "For last two days, overseas investors have been pouring money in domestic equity and debt markets also helped rupee to remain strong during Wednesday's trade."

"Statement released by US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin saying that 'US-China trade deal is 90 per cent complete', has improved the sentiment in emerging market currencies," he said.

Meanwhile, the 10-year Government bond yield was at 6.93 per cent on Wednesday.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained net buyers in the capital markets, putting in ₹1,157.87 crore Tuesday, provisional data showed.

Sensex builds on gains ahead of F&O expiry; metal, power stocks rally

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex marched higher for the second straight day Wednesday on robust buying in metal, power and financial stocks ahead of June derivatives expiry.

Overcoming a choppy start, the 30-share index finished 157.14 points, or 0.40 per cent, higher at 39,592.08. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty jumped 51.10 points, or 0.43 per cent, to 11,847.55.

Buying interest was seen in metal, power, healthcare, capital goods and financial counters ahead of the expiry of June futures and options (F&O) contracts scheduled for Thursday, traders said.

Sentiment also received a boost after the US administration said a trade deal with China is "about 90 per cent" complete.

Besides, domestic investors are hoping for positive news on the US-India trade front in the backdrop of US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo holding talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, traders added.

President Donald Trump are scheduled to meet on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan, later this week.

The progress of monsoon

and a strengthening rupee added to the buying momentum.

Vedanta was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, spurring 4.40 per cent. PowerGrid, Sun Pharma, Yes Bank, Tata Steel, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank and Bajaj Auto too ended up to 4.12 per cent higher.

On the other hand, Infosys, IndusInd Bank, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, Maruti, TCS and HDFC were among the top losers, shedding up to 1.12 per cent.

"Indian market bounced higher led by pharma and banking sector due to positive view for Q1 FY20 result given a low base and improvement in business outlook. Metals also inched higher due to ease in trade war tensions.

"Expectation over Budget and Q1 FY20 (results) will control the trend of the market," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Sectorally, BSE metal, power, utilities, basic materials, realty, healthcare, bankex and finance ended up to 2.88 per cent higher.

IT, teck, telecom and



FMCG shed up to 0.65 per cent.

The broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices outperformed the benchmarks, rising up to 0.85 per cent.

On the currency front, the Indian rupee appreciated 22 paise to 69.13 against the US dollar intra-day.

On a net basis, foreign institutional investors bought equities worth ₹1,157.87 crore Tuesday, and domestic institutional investors purchased shares to the tune of ₹377.22 crore, provisional data available with stock exchanges showed.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 1.17 per cent to \$65.03 per barrel.

Globally, while bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended on a mixed note, equity markets in Europe were trading in the green in early deals.

G20 nations imposed 20 new trade-restrictive measures in last 8 months: WTO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The G20 countries have imposed as many as 20 new trade-restrictive measures such as high customs duties and import bans between October 2018 and May this year, according to a WTO report.



G20 members include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Japan, Russia, the UK, the US, among others.

"In terms of numbers, G20 economies implemented 20 new trade-restrictive measures between mid-October 2018 and mid-May 2019, including tariff increases, import bans and new customs procedures for exports," the report said.

WTO's 21st Monitoring Report on trade measures of the bloc was issued on June 24 and comes days ahead of the G20 summit in Japan.

These measures impact both exports and imports of the member countries including India.

CAPSI ties up with Assocham to promote star ratings for private security agencies

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Association of Private Security Industry (CAPSI) said Wednesday that it has partnered with the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham) to establish collaborative relations between the two bodies for the propagation of the 'Security sTar Agencies Rating' (STAR) scheme.

The scheme aims to standardise private security agencies based on internationally accepted ISO standards. The STAR scheme was launched on February 8 in Mumbai during the Special Standards Conclave organised by the Ministry of Commerce.

CAPSI Chairman Kunwar Vikram Singh said in a statement, "The 'Security sTar Agencies Rating' (STAR) scheme has been conceptualised by CAPSI with the help and support of the Quality Council of India (QCI), the country's apex quality facilitation and national accreditation body."

RBI panel on MSME suggests ₹15,000-cr fund to support industry

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The U K Sinha Committee, set up by the RBI on micro, small and medium enterprises, has recommended a financial support of ₹15,000 crore to the MSME sector, which contributes significantly to employment generation and has as a hefty share of over 40 per cent in exports.

The contribution of the sector in the economy is currently constrained due to several challenges affecting growth in the sector, said the report submitted by the nine-member committee to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Tuesday.

The committee recommended setting up of a government-sponsored 'fund of funds' (FoF) of ₹10,000 crore to support the venture capital and private equity firms investing in the MSME sector that will support crowd funding from venture capital and private equity firms, which focus on investing in the MSME segment on modified

terms sheets developed by SIDBI.

"This would encourage innovation in term sheets and product structures," the committee said in its recommendations.

The panel also recommended that a ₹5,000-crore distressed asset fund be structured to assist units in clusters where a change in external environment, such as a ban on plastics or dumping, has led to a large number of MSMEs becoming non-performing assets (NPAs).

This fund could operate on the lines of the Textile Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUF), which has been in existence for many years. This would be of significant size which makes equity investments that help unlock debt or help revive sick units, it said.

The committee also recommended introduction of voluntary certification of MSMEs that comply with prescribed internal governance standards.

Lowering GST on automobiles would help the economy: Anand Mahindra

New Delhi: Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra Wednesday said lowering GST on automobiles would help the economy, stating that the auto industry has a huge multiplier effect on small companies and employment.

In a tweet, Mahindra echoed calls from the auto industry to reduce goods and services tax (GST) on vehicles amid a prolonged sales slump, with passenger vehicle sales recording the steepest decline in nearly 18 years in May when it dropped by over 20 per cent.

"What we're all searching for is the 'Mt. Mandara' which can start the 'Manthan' of the economy & get it spinning faster. I'm biased, of course, but the auto industry is one such 'Mandara'. It has a huge multiplier effect on small companies & on employment. Lowering GST would help," he said.

Earlier this month, the Society of Automobile Industry (SIAM) had sought reduction of GST on all vehicles to 18 per cent from the current rate of 28 per cent in the upcoming Budget, third-largest employer in the country.

India's trade agreements pushing import of cheap paper into country: IPMA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Government's policy of extending preferential tariff treatment to paper and paperboard under the free trade agreements (FTAs) has led to large quantities of paper being imported in the country at significantly lower costs to the dis-

advantage of domestic industry. In its pre-budget submission, Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA) has stated that both under India-ASEAN FTA and India-Korea CEPA, basic customs duty on paper and paperboard has been progressively reduced, and currently stands at 0%.

Business Corner



Over 150 employees of Healthians donated blood at a recent blood donation camp organised as part of World Blood Donor Day at its Office in Gurgaon



Pond's launched #SeeWhatHappens campaign with the aim of bringing the issue of inner voices into the spotlight

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Sakshi, D/o Sh. Praveen R/o D-63 j Colony Khanpur, New Delhi** has been missing since 24.05.2019. In this regard a case **DD No. 110A, dated 27.05.19, has been registered at P.S. Ned Sarai, New Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing female is as under:

Name: Sakshi, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** 22 years, **Height:** 5'1", **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Medium, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Yellow colour suit, sky blue colour payjami with black colour shoes in her feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing girl, kindly inform the SHO/ Ned Sarai, New Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph : 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Ned Sarai, New Delhi.
Ph. No.: 011-2955159, 08750870835

DP/5508/SD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a man namely **Pankaj Kumar Singh S/o Sh. Nawal Kisor Singh, R/o HN-A, 32 Flat No-7, Surrender Appt. Asola Village, New Delhi** has been missing since 09.05.2019 from the area of P.S. Maidan Garhi, New Delhi. In this regard a report vide **GD No. 34A dated 16.05.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Maidan Garhi, New Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing man but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing man is as under:

Name: Pankaj Kumar Singh, **Gender:** Male, **Age:** 36 years, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Fat

If anyone has any information regarding this missing man, kindly inform SHO/ Maidan Garhi, New Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Maidan Garhi, New Delhi
Ph. No.: 08750870825

DP/5490/SD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a boy namely **Atul Dubey @ Sameer, S/o Upender Dubey R/o H.No.-B-63, Hari Enclave, Kirari Suleman Nagar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 06.06.2019 from the area of P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 255/19 dated 08.06.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped boy but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped boy is as under:

Name: Atul Dubey @ Sameer, **Gender:** Male, **Age:** 15 years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Green colour T-Shirt, Grey colour Half Pant and Hawai Slippers in Feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped boy, kindly inform SHO/ Aman Vihar, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph : 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi
Ph. No.: 011-23014046, 23015218

DP/3007/RD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Sangeeta @ Aarti, D/o Raj Kumar, R/o: B-35, Rajeev Nagar, Begumpur, Delhi** **Age:** 18 years 5 Months, **Height:** 5'4", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Oval, **Wearing:** Yellow Colour Top & Blue Colour Jeans, has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Begumpur, since 07.06.2019. In this regard a **DD No. 21-A, dated 09.06.2019 has been registered at P.S. Begumpur, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

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

SHO
P.S. Begumpur, Delhi
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Ph.: 011-27581118, 27581128

DP/3009/RD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely :** Kumkum D/o Vinod Kumar R/o H.No. S-253/61, Gulack Wali Masjid, Corner Market, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi has been missing since 17.12.2018 from her house. In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 432/18 u/s 363 IPC dated 18.12.2018** has been registered at P.S. Malviya Nagar, New Delhi. Her physical description is as under :-

Age : 15½ years, **Height:** 5'1", **Complexion :** Shallow, **Built :** Normal, **Hair :** Black, **Eyes :** Black, **Wearing :** Checkdar shirt and brown colour salwar and shoes in feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Malviya Nagar, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>.

SHO
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639

P.S. Malviya Nagar, Delhi
South Distt. Delhi
Ph. No. 011-26691861, 26691862

DP/5511/SD/19

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. P.c.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Pawan, S/o Ram Chander, R/o H.No. 265/5, Gali No. 5, Bhag Kare Khan, Kishan Ganj, S. Rohila, Delhi** is involved in case **FIR No. 85/19 u/s 363 IPC, at P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Pawan** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Pawan** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant) . Processing U/s 82 Cr. P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Pawan, FIR No. 85/19 u/s 363 IPC, at P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi** is required to appear in this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **31.07.2019**.

By Order
Ms. Pooja Aggarwal
MM, Rohini Courts,
Room No. 112, Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/9054/NW/19-(Court Matter). Room No. 112, Rohini Courts, Delhi

UJVN LIMITED

(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)

H.O. : "UJVN" (Maharaja Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun - 248006)
Telephones : 0135-2735509, 2735509, Fax No. : 0135-2735507
CIN No. : U40101UR2001SGC292886, Website : www.uttarakhandjaldiyut.com

Tender Notice

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

NIT - 06/EE (M)/MB-II/19-20: Polypropylene Coating of Cooling Water Pipelines of Unit # 1,2,3,4 at Dharasu Power House M.B. - II, Uttarkashi.

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 28000/-, Rs 75000/- only respectively

Tender Cost: Rs 1180/- 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.uttarakhandjaldiyut.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.वी.एन. लि./डि.वा./दे.रा. - 25.06.2019

"Save electricity in the interest of Nation"

MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one person, **Namely:** Shashi Ranjan Prasad, **R/o:** H. No. 2702/31, Asthal Mandir, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi, has been missing since 31.05.2019 from the area of PS Neb Sarai, New Delhi. In this regard, a **Case Vide DD No. 78A, Dated 31.05.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi.** Investigations has been carried out but despite best efforts, the person could not be traced. The description of the missing person is as under:

Namely: Shashi Ranjan Prasad, **R/o:** H. No. 2702/31, Asthal Mandir, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi, **Age:** 66 years, **Height:** 5'5" Feet, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** White Colour Kurta Payjama and Chappal in his feet. If anyone has any information about the missing boy, then please inform P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi.

SHO
email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi
DP/5515/SD/19. Ph. 011-29551326, 29551597, 8750870825

Assam publishes addl NRC draft

Excludes 1,02,462 names

IANS ■ GUWAHATI

The Assam Government has issued an additional 1,02,462 people ineligible to be included in the National Register of Citizens (NRC), which is being updated in the State under the Supreme Court's monitoring.

The Assam Government on Wednesday published an additional draft exclusion list of the NRC comprising the names of 1,02,462 persons, who were included in the draft NRC published on July 30, 2018, but have been subsequently found ineligible due to different reasons. According to a statement issued by the State coordinator of NRC, the additional draft exclusion list was published as per the provisions contained in Clause 5 of the Schedule of The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.

"The persons whose names figured in the additional draft exclusion list published today include those who were found to be DF (declared foreigner), DV (doubtful voter) or PPT (persons with cases pending at



foreigners tribunals) or their descendants, as applicable, discovered after the publication of the draft NRC," said a senior official of the NRC authority.

"Persons who were found to be ineligible while appearing as witness in hearings held for disposal of claims and objections, persons who were found to be ineligible during the process of verification carried out by the Local Registrar of Citizen Registration (LRCR) under the provisions of Clause 4(3) after the publication of the complete draft NRC on July 30, 2018, were also included in the list," the official said.

He said the additional draft exclusion list didn't contain the results of claimants and objects appearing for hearings held for disposal of claims and objections, which were held recently.

Dhinakaran's outfit in crisis as party strongman dissents

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) formed by VK Sasikala, the former aide to late J Jayalalithaa, and her nephew TTV Dhinakaran is in a State of crisis as Thanga Tamilselvan, the propaganda secretary of the outfit finding himself as a persona non grata in the party.

Tamilselvan, who was the public face of the faction headed by Dhinakaran and Sasikala, has been removed from the posts he held in AMMK following the former's outbursts against Dhinakaran. Though Dhinakaran has not issued any statements till Wednesday evening, sources close to him told *The Pioneer* that Tamilselvan is as good as axed from the party.

"He described Dhinakaran as a mean and petty-minded person. What else we should tell you about a person who uses such language against our party leader?" asked an AMMK functionary on conditions of anonymity.

But CR Saraswathi, spokesperson, AMMK said Thanga Tamilselvan has himself paved the way for his ouster from the party. "I don't think he would come back to the party



as he was holding discussions with leaders of other parties. His career with the AMMK is over," said Saraswathi.

The AMMK which was formed by Dhinakaran following the easing out of the Mannargudi clam from the AIADMK, has been facing crisis after crisis following the setback suffered by it in the recent elections. The party which was expected to take away a major chunk of the AIADMK votes had to content with just 5.2 per cent votes which has put a question mark on the future of the outfit.

Thanga Tamilhelvan has been welcomed to AIADMK, his mother organisation by senior minister D Jayakumar. It is widely believed that he may make a come back to the AIADMK as immediately after

the announcement of the General Election results he had said that though the DMK-Congress alliance had won the election in Tamil Nadu, it was not a vote for the DMK. "People felt that it would be ideal if they vote for the DMK-led alliance in the parliament election. That was all," he had said.

He also reminded the media recently that he was not after power or position. "I was the one who resigned from Andippatti assembly constituency in 2001 to facilitate the election of Amma (Jayalalithaa) and I reminded content with doing campaign works for her," said Tamilselvan.

It was Tamilselvan who led the 18 AIADMK MLAs to the then Governor of Tamil Nadu stating that they were withdrawing support to the Edappadi Palaniswamy government which led to the disqualification of all the MLAs including himself. Though he had contested to the Lok Sabha from Theni, he was defeated by AIADMK's Raveendrakumar, son of Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam. Tamil Nadu is in for another bout of political drama as the State would see biennial election to six Rajya Sabha seats from the State on July 18.

Amit Shah holds high-level meet in J&K ahead of Yatra

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, accompanied by a high-level delegation of Government officials, chaired a high-level security review meeting ahead of Amarnath yatra, during his two-day long maiden visit to Srinagar on Wednesday.

The State Government was represented by Governor Satya Pal Malik, his adviser incharge Home Affairs K Vijay Kumar, state Chief Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam, Northern Command Army Commander Lt-Gen Ranbir Singh, DGP Dilbagh Singh and divisional commissioners from the Kashmir & Jammu divisions.

Union Home secretary Rajiv Gauba and top brass of the central/state intelligence agencies also remained present during the meeting. Earlier, Governor defied convention and arrived at the Srinagar airport to personally accord warm welcome to the Union Home Minister.

Though no bandh/hartal call was given by any separatist or militant outfit on account of visit of Union Home Minister, tight security arrangements remained in place in different parts of Srinagar. High alert was also sounded in the region



Union Home Minister Amit Shah chairs a meeting to review the security arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra, in Srinagar, on Wednesday

to prevent any terrorist strike on security personnel.

According to official sources, "the home minister was briefed about the overall security situation in the state, especially in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack in which 44 CRPF personnel had sacrificed their lives".

Senior security officials had prepared comprehensive power point presentations and briefed Home Minister about ongoing anti-terrorist operations leading to elimination of top commanders since January 2019. Over 120 terrorists have been killed by the security forces this year in different operations.

Shah was also briefed about

the steps taken for ensuring smooth and safe conduct of the annual Amarnath Yatra, which is due to commence on July 1. Union Home Minister, is learnt to have instructed senior officials to ensure safety of Amarnath bound pilgrims especially during their movement along the National Highway and in and around base/transit camps setup at several places during the yatra period.

Adequate paramilitary troops have been deployed on area domination and patrol duties to guard the entire yatra route from Lakhampur (in Jammu region) to base camps in Pahalgam and Baltal in Kashmir region.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(O/o CE/TS, B-1, Shakti Vihar, Patiala)
 Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001
 Phone No. 0175-2301537, Fax No. 0175-2220143,
 Email: - addlsecell2@gmail.com
 Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
 Website: www.pspcl.in

Online Tenders are invited for the supply of the following material as per tender specification No. 187/2019 of PSPCL:-

Item No.	Description	Qty.	Enquiry No./Year	Last date & time for downloading of tenders	Last date & time for bid submission	Date & time of opening of bids
1.	15 KV NCTs of assorted ratios	202	1877/2019	11-07-19 11.30 A.M.	12-07-19 11.00 A.M.	12-07-19 11.30 A.M.

EMD: 79,030/-
 Minimum EMD 19,758/-
 Detailed Bill and specification may be down-loaded from PSPCL e-tendering website <https://pspcil.abcprocure.com>
 It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, No CORRIGENDUM will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on PSPCL website www.pspcl.in and www.pspcl.abcprocure.com

By: CE/ Sub-Station Design, PSPCL, Patiala
 C-250/19
 DPR/25JUN/C5949 Dt. 25-06-2019 Contact No. 96461-22185

Modi Govt spent ₹5,909 cr on ads in its 1st term: RTI

Incurs max of ₹2,172 cr on radio spots, spends ₹2,109 cr on display ads, ₹612 cr on outdoor publicity

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

With a penchant for reaching out to its achievements to the people in a big way, the BJP-led NDA Government has incurred an expenditure of staggering Rs 5,909.39 crore on various types of advertisements during its first term in office from 2014-15 to 2018-19, according to reply to an RTI query.

Responding to a query by RTI activist Anil Galgali, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting's wing Bureau of

Outreach and Communication has — in its reply dated June 16, 2019 — stated that the Narendra Modi Government incurred Rs 5,909,39,5100 for publicising its policies and achievements through advertisements in print media, electronic media and outdoor media between 2014-15 and 2018-19.

Interestingly, the Government spent a maximum of Rs 2,172.07 crore on radio spots between 2014-15 and 2018-19, while it incurred an expenditure of Rs 2,109.30

□ The reply furnished to RTI activist Anil Galgali shows that the Modi Government spent ₹979 crore in 2014-15, ₹1,162 crore in 2015-16, ₹1,258 crore in 2016-17, ₹1,313 in 2017-18, ₹1,195 in 2018-19 and the total figure in all these five fiscal year stood at ₹5,909.39 crore

□ The I & B Ministry has furnished the reply showing all the expenditure in four heads such as Plan, Non-plan, Client Department and Advance Department. Interestingly, a maximum expenditure has been incurred on the head of the Client department

crore on display classification during the five year period. The Government spent Rs 612.18 crore on outdoor publicity during the period.

The reply furnished to

Galgali shows that the Modi Government spent Rs 979 crore in 2014-15, Rs 1162 crore in 2015-16, Rs 1258 crore in 2016-17, Rs 1313 in 2017-18, Rs 1195 in 2018-19 and the

total figure in all these five fiscal year stood at Rs 5909.39 crore.

The I & B Ministry has furnished the reply showing all the expenditure in four heads such

as Plan, Non-plan, Client Department and Advance Department.

Interestingly, a maximum expenditure has been incurred on the head of the Client department.

"After several concerns were raised against the lavish expenditure incurred by the NDA Government to glorify Prime Minister Narendra Modi's image, it put a break and therefore in the last year of its dispensation, it spent relatively less money on advertisements," Galgali said.

NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
 ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT
 VIDYUT BHAWAN, DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM ROAD, NEW DELHI-110011

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Name of Work: Purchase of Energy Efficient LED Street Light fittings of 120 Watt ±2%.

Estimated Cost : ₹6,77,480/-

Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution : 25.06.2019

Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution : 03.07.2019 at 03:00 PM

Further details can be seen at www.ndmc.gov.in or <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with e-tendering system Government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory.

Tender ID No. 2019_NDMC_174941_1 Executive Engineer (E) S-II

To be The Global Benchmark for a Capital City

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a boy (depicted in the photo), **Name: Samir Anish Ansari S/o Anish Ansari R/o R-564, J.J. Colony, Raghuraj Nagar, Delhi** has been missing since 15.06.2019 from his house. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 193/19 dated 16.06.2019 has been registered at PS Khyala, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

SAMIR ANISH ANSARI
 Age: 14 Years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Face: Round, Wearing: Badami colour kurta & pajama and red colour chappal in feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing boy, may inform SHO, Khyala, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Khyala, Delhi West Distt., Delhi DP/8304/WD/19 Ph. No. 011-28335686, 28335696

GURU GOBIND SINGH INDRAPRASTHA UNIVERSITY
 (Established by the Govt. of NCT of Delhi)
 Sector-16 C, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110 078
 Website: www.ipu.ac.in

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

The Executive Engineer, University Works Division, GGSIPU, Sector 16 C, Dwarka invites on behalf of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University online item rate tenders for following work(s):

Name of Work : A/A GGSIPU University, Dwarka Campus, New Delhi
Sub Head : Drinking Water arrangement at GGSIPU Dwarka Campus
NIT No. : 08/EE/UWD/Elect/2019-20
Estimated Cost : Rs. 23,36,886/-, Time of completion : 30 days
EMD : Rs 46,738/-

The tender forms and other details can be obtained from website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> and www.ipu.ac.in. Last date of submission of bids is 02/07/2019. EE/UWD

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Name: Ishika, D/o: Data Ram @ Ajay, R/o: B-262, J.J. Colony, Sawada, Delhi, Age: 05 Years, Height: 2'10", Face: Long, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Pink Frock** has been missing since 22.04.2018 from the area of P.S. Kanjhawala. In this regard FIR No. 192/10 dated 21.05.2019 has been lodged at PS. Kanjhawala, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform the undersigned.

ISHIKA SHO
 E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi
 Fax: 011-29551597 DP/2998/RD/19 Ph: 011-25951486, 25951485

MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one person, **Name: Deepak, S/o: Sh. Chini, R/o: N17C/312, JJ Colony, Wazirpur, Delhi**, has been missing since 16.04.2019. In this regard, a report vide DD No. 34-A, Dated 02.05.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Bharat Nagar, Delhi. Investigations have been carried out but despite best efforts, the person could not be traced. The description of the missing person is as under:



Deepak
 Name: Deepak, S/o: Sh. Chini, Address: N17C/312, JJ Colony, Wazirpur, Delhi, Age: 30 years, Height: 5' Feet, Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Built: Medium, Hair: Black, Wearing: Grey Auto Uniform and Chappal in feet. If anyone has any information about the missing person, then please inform P.S. Bharat Nagar, Delhi

email: cic@cbi.gov.in S.H.O
 Fax: No.011-24368639 Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Bharat Nagar, Delhi DP/9036/NW/19 Ph: 011-27301800, 27801400

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. CSTE/P/SW, DIVISIONAL RAILWAY MANAGER OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, ROOM No. 203, State Entry Road, New Delhi - 110055 for & on behalf of "President of India" invites online OPEN E-tender in single packet system from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the under noted work:

1	Name of work	Provision of OFC & associated equipments in ASR-ATT, ASR-PAX, PAX-KEMK, ASR-DBNK, BAT-QDN, BEAS-GWSD & GWSB-TTO Sections of FZR Division.
2	Approximate cost of the work	Rs. 6,91,21,590.43 (Six Crores Ninety One Lakh Twenty One Thousand Five Hundred Ninety and Forty Three only).
3	Cost of tender form	Nil.
4	Address from where tender document can be downloaded.	Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in from 27.06.2019 from 11:00 hrs.
5	Earnest money	Rs. 4,95,600.00 (Four Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Six Hundred only).
6	Completion period	11 (Eleven) months.
7	Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender	Tender to be submitted online on Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in from 08.07.2019 up to 11:00 hrs of 22.07.2019.
8	Date of tender opening	22.07.2019 at 11:30 hrs.
9	Detailed Tender Notice	Available at Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in .

No. 172-SIG/SI/WN/RT-187 Dated : 26.06.2019 2050/19
 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

GPS, sensors to check pilferage of water



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

A water war in Tamil Nadu has spilled out to the streets with the ruling AIADMK and the Opposition DMK blaming each other for the present scarcity, water has become the most precious commodity in the State. For the first time in the history of Tamil Nadu, authorities have been forced to take pre-

Gold cheaper than water in Chennai: RS member on TN water crisis

New Delhi: As Tamil Nadu reels under severe water shortage, a Rajya Sabha member on Wednesday highlighted the plight of the people saying "gold is cheaper than water" in State capital Chennai.

During a short duration debate in the Upper House on water crisis in the country, TK Rangarajan of the CPM said Chennai is the first Indian city "to have gone dry" with the Central Water Commission reporting a rainfall deficit of 41 per cent in Tamil Nadu till June 13 this year.

"Most of the Chennai population today depends on water tankers, municipal supply and private supply for drinking water. A tank of private water costs more than one gram of gold. Now gold is cheaper in Chennai than water. This is the truth," Rangarajan said. PTI



Women push a cart containing vessels filled with water from a tanker following an acute water shortage, in Chennai, on Wednesday

cautions while transporting drinking water for supplying in Madurai Municipal Corporation limits.

Water lorries and tractors operated by the Madurai Municipal Corporation are being installed with GPS devices and sensors to prevent pilferage and illegal sale by lorry drivers. According to S Visakan, commissioner, Madurai Municipal Corporation, 34 tankers and 25 tractors have been pressed into service to supply 5.4 million litres per day water within the Corporation limits to meet the water scarcity.

"This is the first time any city corporation has equipped every water carrier it operates with GPS based devices. Our control room will receive an alert if any water carrier deviates from the path. The sensors attached to them would make use of the water pressure to furnish the quantity. This will help

the officials to keep check on the quantity of water being distributed to specific locations," said Visakan. Corporation authorities also disclosed that the GPS devices would help them to find out the time the lorries and tractors spend at each distribution spot.

The drought like situation has taken a heavy toll on the school attendance of girl students in the State which may derail the Prime Minister's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana. Many girl students studying in classes 8 to 10 are being used by their parents to fetch water for the households. Dharsini (9) and Priya (11) staying at Vysarpadi area are forced by their mothers to walk 2 km to fetch water from the Metro Water Dispensing Units. Priya, a class 8 student, said that since her father leaves home for

work early in the morning, she has to help her mother in carrying water from the dispensing spot. "I go to school only in alternate days. I have company as many girls in the area are compelled to skip classes," said Priya.

There are reports from the Vysarpadi suburb that instances of jaundice have seen a jump as a fall out of the supply of contaminated water. While government officials are tight lipped about the report, residents said cases of water-borne diseases are in the increase. The State government is yet to come out with an action programme to counter the emergency situation except the statements by some of the ministers that there was no water scarcity as it has been made out by the Opposition and the media.

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NIT No.	Brief Work Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BY/19-20/RB/MD/32	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF 11KV SWITCHGEAR PANELS	2,65,00,000	5,30,000	11.07.2019, 14:30 HRS	11.07.2019, 15:00 HRS

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naabaste ENGLAND

MAHMUDULLAH HAS SUSTAINED A LOW GRADE CALF INJURY. WE WILL MONITOR HIS PROGRESS OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS WITH REGARDS TO HIS AVAILABILITY FOR THE NEXT WORLD CUP MATCH
—THIHAN CHANDRAMOHAN

CRICKETCRADLE

TODAY LIVE
STAR SPORTS
West Indies vs India
3:00 pm IST
VENUE: Old Trafford, Manchester



Mohammad Amir's fan holds a poster to show her love and support for the Pakistani bowler during Pakistan-New Zealand game at Edgbaston in Birmingham on Wednesday. ICC/Twitter

Ganguly supports MS

Former Indian skipper Sourav Ganguly has come in support of veteran wicketkeeper-batsman MS Dhoni who had to face criticism for his slow knock against Afghanistan in India's World Cup game in Southampton. However, Ganguly feels that his performance against Afghanistan was a one-off situation and he will prove that he is a great asset to the Indian team in the remaining matches of the tournament. "At the end of the day, MSD is a very good batsman and he will definitely prove that in this year's World Cup 2019 as well despite his sticky form against Afghanistan. It's just one match," Ganguly was quoted as saying by DNA.

Fit and fine

Brian Lara was on Wednesday discharged from a hospital here in Mumbai, declared "fit and fine" a day after he complained of chest pain. The 50-year old from Trinidad, considered one of the greatest batsmen to have played the game, was admitted to the Global Hospital in Parel after complaining of chest pain during a gym workout session. "He (Lara) has been discharged at 12:20 from the hospital," a source told PTI. "He is fit and fine," he added without divulging any further details. In a late evening message on Tuesday, Lara had allayed concerns over his health. "I may have just extended myself in the gym this morning. I was getting a pain in my chest and I just thought that it was best to see a doctor," he had said.

Remembering Malcolm

He arrived as a raw talent, became a world beater, made friends for life and suddenly left them with moistened eyes and a void that they have never been able to fill. That's Malcolm Marshall for you. He is forever embedded in the soul of Hampshire cricket and in the memory of those who saw him run in from the ridge at the Old Northlands Road ground. The imposing new stadium which is off city limits became operational in the early 2000 and probably doesn't give an idea what the 'Bajan' meant for the club for whom he took 1000 wickets in the Championship. "Malcolm and I were very close and it was wonderful. He was the best friend I had in cricket," said Mark Nicholas, now a renowned commentator and back then Marshall's captain at the Hampshire county. Nicholas sported an indulgent smile as he termed a young Marshall "splendidly naive". In a space of four to five years, he became the best fast bowler of his time with every skill in his armoury. "He began by bowling sort of awesomely fast with a whippy action. He then developed his skills. Once he had perfected the outswinger, he moved to perfect the inswinger. By about 1984-85, he had about everything - stamina, pace, control, movement, fantastic bowling brain." "He had deep knowledge, almost frenzied in his investigations for opposition players, he shared with us. He was the best ally that a captain could dream of. It's always good for a skipper if the fast bowler is on your side," Nicholas recalls. Agencies

PRELIMINARY STAGE							
Pos	Team	P	W	L	N/R	Net RR	Pts
1	AUS(O)	7	6	1	0	+0.906	12
2	NZ	6	5	0	1	+1.306	11
3	IND	5	4	0	1	+0.809	9
4	ENG	7	4	3	0	+1.051	8
5	SL	6	2	2	2	-1.119	6
6	B'DESH	6	2	3	1	-0.407	5
7	PAK	6	2	3	1	-1.265	5
8	WI	6	1	4	1	-0.190	3
9	RSA	7	1	5	1	-0.324	3
10	AFG	6	0	6	0	-1.712	0

Self-belief meets self-doubt

Men in Blue look to cement semis berth as Windies play for pride

PNS ■ MANCHESTER

It will be, by and large, a for-the-record match at Manchester today with India bidding to cement their semi-final positioning and the West Indies trying to take one back home.

The Caribbeans have already lost a lot in the tournament besides defeats to Australia, England, Bangladesh and New Zealand on a trot, not to mention one wasted game against South Africa as rain called day.

They have 3 point from six games and have lost the fire power of big-hitter Andre Russell who is out of the tournament with a knee injury which they fervently hoped would heal; their prime striker Chris Gayle has been comparatively windless, unable to kick up a storm with his run-getting abilities and their outage from the Cup despite a brilliant warm-up run (they defeated New Zealand) has dented their morale and the famous Caribbean magic they are traditionally rated for.

India is in red hot form and unbeaten, having won all their outings, four so far if you discount the washed away match against New Zealand. Directly contravening this, the Windies have lost all they have played for so far since after thrashing Pakistan in their tournament opener and would be meeting India to proverbially play for pride or whatever is left of it in this competition.

In another manner of speaking, self-belief will meet self-doubt but since it is cricket, gloriously uncertain underdogs can emerge triumphant, a feat one almost saw in the clash against Afghanistan where the famed Indian batting line-up was stymied and the bigger team won only on a late burst by its pacers feeding on Afghan inexperience.

West Indies would be looking at that closely to draw some strength for themselves. Also, Chris Gayle is known to tear into the scene when there is nothing much to play for, so this one could be the one for the road back home for him and consequently the Windies.

Over the ifs and buts, over all the speculation, fact is that India have so far played professionally sound, convincing cricket, hiding their middle order niggles and the impactful loss of Shikhar Dhawan to injury on the arm of their bowlers.

Kohli's team work chant has been at play even though the talk of a struggling Mahendra Singh Dhoni, more so after the Afghanistan match, has found momentum, what with the great Sachin Tendulkar talking about his disappointment with the Dhoni-Jadhav partnership against Afghanistan on a talk show.



Bhuvneshwar Kumar, right, watches fellow bowler Mohammed Shami bowl during a training session ahead of India's World Cup match against West Indies at Old Trafford in Manchester. AP



Rohit Sharma bats in the nets during a training session. AP

HEAD TO HEAD

	Played	WI	Ind	Tied/NR
Matches	126	62	59	2/3
Day matches	93	53	37	-/3
In World Cup	8	3	5	-
Last 5 matches	5	1	3	1/-

HIGHEST TOTALS

India	418-5 in 50 overs at Indore	08-12-2011
West Indies	333-8 in 45 overs at Jamshedpur	07-12-1983

PERFORMANCE IN WC

Team	P	W	L	T	N/R	Success%
India	79	50	27	1	1	63.92
West Indies	77	42	33	-	2	55.84

FAISEL FEATURES

Bhuvi over Shami

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar on Wednesday picked pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar over fellow speedster Mohammed Shami, who took a sensational last over hat-trick against Afghanistan, when an unbeaten India take on West Indies in their World Cup game at Manchester today.

The Master Blaster picked 'Bhuvi', as pacer is commonly known, for his sheer ability to trouble swashbuckling West Indies batsman Chris Gayle.

"It's a great news for India that Bhuvneshwar Kumar is fit. I have seen his body language which showed that he is really confident," Tendulkar told Star Sports.

Kumar (29) had sustained an injury against Pakistan and missed the game against Afghanistan, which India won by 11 runs on June 22.

Shami (29), who was drafted in the team in place of Kumar, took a hat-trick in the 50th over of

Afghanistan's innings, becoming just the second Indian, after pacer Chetan Sharma, to achieve the feat in a World Cup match.

"For the upcoming match between India and West Indies, if I had to choose between Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Mohammed Shami, I would definitely pick Bhuvneshwar Kumar."

"The only reason being, Bhuvneshwar Kumar can bowl to Chris Gayle at the outer angle and that is what makes Chris Gayle uncomfortable."

"I still remember how uncomfortable Chris Gayle was when Bhuvneshwar Kumar was bowling at him in the last Test I played," added Tendulkar, who holds numerous records to his name.

The 46-year-old batting legend played his last of 200th Test, a world record, at Mumbai in 2013.

"I know it will be a little unfortunate for Mohammed Shami but I believe for this game, Bhuvneshwar Kumar should be picked," Tendulkar signed off.

Dhoni, who is playing his last World Cup, has not been among the runs right from the start. Trying to pace up the scoreboard, he went in a flash against Pakistan and failed to energise against South Africa and Australia earlier in the tournament. Dhoni being crucial for middle order momentum tends to come under quick scrutiny. He did not take the optional nets at Manchester on Wednesday.

Like its middle order performance, it is also crucial for India to win against the West Indies this Friday, to not just put a seal on their semi-final qualification, but more importantly get the spot they want in the knockout match on the basis of run-rate and number of wins.

Among the unbeaten teams, India figures alongside New Zealand, vying for the top slot in the semi-finals where the No 1 team plays No 4.

'All preped to face Carib challenge'

■ MANCHESTER

How do you look at this match to ensure a big score?

If you look at our first three games, we put up some really big scores. And Afghanistan match, the wicket was a little sticky; it was tricky to bat under those circumstances. But I think it's a question of adapting, understanding these conditions and adapting to that.

How will we prepare for bowling and prepare our batsmen for the left-arm fast bowlers in absence of our own, or even in the practise bowls?

We have Khalil with us as our net bowler. And also we have a throw-down specialist who is particularly a left-hander. So I think we have enough practise of the left-arm bowling as of now.

What about the evolution of Hardik Pandya? Kedar was not even used. What he has added to his arsenal as a bowler in ODI cricket?

Over a period time it was a big challenge for him to bowl those 10 overs, and he realised that to be able to bowl those 10 overs I need to develop a certain armory in my bowling. And that's what he's worked on. He's worked on his slow balls, his slow bounces also, and also he's worked on perfecting his bounces. So all these put together have given him the confidence to go through those 10 overs. **Does the fact that England lost yesterday take the pressure off you?** We're not thinking of those



Mohammed Shami, center, and Jasprit Bumrah, right, prepare to bowl as they stand with Indian bowling coach Bharat Arun during a training session. AP

matches. We're looking ahead and looking at the matches that we're going to play. And we are absolutely focused on the next game.

Is that a matter of concern of the middle order kind of going into a shell?

Not really. I think according to the situation and the condition

of the wicket, we were able to successfully defend the total that we put up. And had we probably lost a wicket at that stage, then things would have turned out differently. So I don't think it's too much of a concern for us right now.

Does the head coach or the skipper or the coaching staff

port staff, the batting coach, the head coach — Ravi Shastri has a constant dialogue with all the coaches. I can't really get into the brass tacks of what we discuss, but yes if I have to answer your question, there is a constant dialogue for us to improve. **You had said that Bhuvneshwar Kumar was the first choice pacer ahead of Shami. Now with Shami coming in and doing well and Bhuvneshwar injured, does that change? And how is he now in terms of fitness?** Bhuvneshwar's injury is not of any great concern. It is just a niggle, which we didn't want to take a chance. And it was also an opportunity for us to plug Shami into the games. But the fact he's done exceptionally well all goes well for us; it's an embarrassment of riches. And we would take a call as per the conditions, but Bhuvi has done exceptionally well, so I think it's a pretty good headache to have. **What's the message that you're giving your bowlers?** Here in the World Cup where every match we're playing a different team. For the bowlers to do well, they need to be aware of the batsmen's strength and their shortcomings. So I think what they really focus on, they have enough breaks between the games, and as you rightly said the workloads have also been managed. What they really work on is the mindset and the strength and weaknesses of the opponents. **Both fast bowlers and spin-**

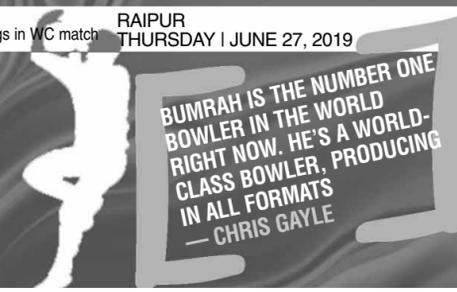
ners have done well. How have you managed the spinners and the fast bowlers simultaneously?

If you don't do the role of a coach, you should be adept with the skill of spin and fast bowling. It's about understanding both that gives you the best chance to manage them. As for the spinners, again, as I answered the earlier question, the more you're aware and the more you understand what you're capable of doing, these two factors would ensure that you have the best platform for you to perform. **How do you look at the West Indies batting challenge?** They're an outstanding side and they play real positive cricket. We are aware of the challenges that exist in this game. And I think our plans are pretty much in place and we are up for the challenge. **WI has the likes of Chris Gayle and Brathwaite. Do you have to change your approach at all against a such a positive batting lineup?** Yes, of course. It's a big challenge for the bowlers too — especially when they come after you. But whenever batsmen come after you, if you're willing to look at it deeply, there is a chance for it — in it for the bowlers, and I think that's what the bowlers would be looking to do.

Courtesy — © ICC Business Corporation FZ LLC 2019
Jason Holder's Press conference on Page 2



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BUMRAH IS THE NUMBER ONE BOWLER IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW. HE'S A WORLD-CLASS BOWLER, PRODUCING IN ALL FORMATS
— CHRIS GAYLE

'I am there with greats'



Chris Gayle bats in the nets during a training session ahead of their match against India at Old Trafford in Manchester

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Chris Gayle's swagger is unmatched and the 'Universe Boss' shows no modesty or pretension when asked where he sees himself among the pantheons of greats in West Indies cricket.

"I'm definitely up there. I'm definitely up there with the greats without a doubt," Gayle, who came for an inter-action after a request from the travelling Indian media contingent, answered it in two straight sentences.

Gayle, who was supposed to retire after the World Cup, has reversed his original decision and will hang his boots after playing a home series against India, a country where he enjoys manic fan following.

"Like I say, I enjoy each and every moment of West Indies, playing for West Indies. Like I said, it's still not the end. I still have a few games to go. Maybe another series to go who knows we'll see what happens," said the soon-to-be 40 Jamaican.

Gayle has had a roller-coaster ride in the last two decades for West Indies cricket when the performance of the assortment of islands reached an all-time nadir.

"But like I say, it's been a lot of ups and downs. I have got to say I really enjoy each and every moment. But we share some quality moments with some quality players as well," he said when asked to reflect back on his career in which he has scored more than 18,000 international runs.

He took a trip down the memory lane having started way back in 1999.

"I started my career with the likes of Courtney Walsh, Curtly Ambrose, you watch them on TV and you realise they're in the dressing room, it's just a bunch of guys. And Brian Lara, the first captain as well, Carl Hooper. So it's some quality moments when you look back on it," he fondly recollected.

"I'll have to analyse it and give you full details, a better exclusive interview on that

It's not the end

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Dashing West Indies batsman Chris Gayle will retire from international cricket after the home ODI and Test series against India scheduled in August-September, revising his earlier plan to call it quits after the ongoing World Cup.

Among the high profile players in the last two decades, Gayle will follow the in footsteps of Steve Waugh (2004) and Jacques Kallis (2013), who announced their international retirement after playing against India.

It is expected that Gayle will play his final international game, a Test against India, at his home ground Kingston in Jamaica starting August 30.

The 39-year-old had last month stated that he would retire after the World Cup but speaking to the media on the eve of the game against India here, the left-hander said he has had a change of mind.

"It's still not the end. I still have a few games to go. May be another series to go, as well. Who knows, we will see what happens," Gayle said when asked about his career which was supposed to end after the World Cup.

When he was asked a specific questions on his plans post World Cup, he did spill the beans.

"My plans after World Cup? I may play a Test match against India and then I will definitely play the ODIs against India. I won't play the T20s for sure. That's my plan after the World Cup," Gayle said.

West Indies media manager Philip Spooner later confirmed that the assignment against India

will be Gayle's last in national colours.

"Yes, Chris will play his last series against India," Spooner said.

It has been learnt that Gayle's participation in the India series was necessary keeping the commercial aspects in mind as it is scheduled right after the World Cup.

Also a Test match in Jamaica and good friend and former IPL teammate Virat Kohli in the opposition ranks will be seen as a fitting farewell for cricket's greatest modern day entertainers.

India's tour of West Indies comprises three T20 Internationals, three ODIs followed by a couple of Test matches.

There will be two T20 games in Florida on August 3 and 4, followed by a third in Guyana.

GAYLE, WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO RETIRE AFTER THE WORLD CUP, HAS REVERSED HIS ORIGINAL DECISION AND WILL HANG HIS BOOTS AFTER PLAYING A HOME SERIES AGAINST INDIA, A COUNTRY WHERE HE ENJOYS MANIC FAN FOLLOWING

particular moment, and then you can take it further," he laughed.

"But like I said I could not have had a better career as a player representing the West Indies," he added.

Call it irony, his limited overs jersey number is 333, which again is his highest Test score. The two triple centuries were absolute highs along with a double hundred in the 2015 ODI World Cup.

"Two triple centuries in Test cricket. Those two will definitely be on top. A double century in the World Cup as well. But there's a lot more to actually talk about. But if I get into detail it will be a long list, to be honest with you. But I'll stick with those for now," Gayle said.

As he prepares to bid adieu in the next couple of months, Gayle finds Nicholas Pooran as a "savage youngster" who could potentially be a 'mini Universe Boss'.

"Mini-universe boss, that's a serious name. Nicholas Pooran is going to

be a savage youngster, trust me on that one. I must commend Pooran's work ethic. It's fantastic for a youngster to actually just come into the team. And he's going to be a world record breaker," he didn't say but declared.

He sees a future leader in Shai Hope.

"And Shai Hope as well. Definitely, he will have a big part to play in West Indies cricket. He's a guy who actually may be a future captain as well."

Gayle is confident that with the likes of Pooran, Hope and Shimron Hetmyer in the ranks, the future is bright for West Indies.

"Definitely, the future is bright for West Indies cricket, without a doubt. The likes of Nicholas Pooran and Hetmyer, his name has been calling in all forms of the game so far, for these guys to actually believe and build on start. Trust me, it will be much, much better for them within their career going forward," said Gayle.

Time to fight

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

West Indies captain Jason Holder says he is proud of his players but wants them to put everything together in a "perfect" World Cup performance against India.

The two-time champions opened their campaign with a convincing victory against Pakistan but have not won since and, barring an unlikely sequence of results, will be heading home after the group phase.

Batsmen Shai Hope, Shimron

Hetmyer, Nicholas Pooran and Carlos Brathwaite have shown glimpses of what they can offer but have failed to win games for the team.

Brathwaite hit his maiden one-day international century in West Indies' ultimately fruitless chase of a target of 292 against New Zealand on Saturday.

Holder urged his team to show fight on Thursday against Virat Kohli's unbeaten side, who look certain to reach the semi-finals.

"We've shown glimpses here and there of what we can produce. And as a



West Indies' captain Jason Holder, center, and teammates attend a training session

side we just haven't brought it together collectively more often than not," Holder said at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

"And it hurt us in games before. So tomorrow (Thursday) is another opportunity for us to bring it all together and play a perfect game."

The West Indies' World Cup hopes were hit by injuries to Evin Lewis and Andre Russell, who has been replaced by Sunil Ambris in the squad, but Holder said the batsmen should step up despite the problems.

"Injuries have definitely plagued us. But I've been proud of them so far. I think for them it's just a matter for them to grasp batting on the international circuit," said Holder.

"And I think Shai has done a reasonable job so far. Hetmyer (Hetmyer) has shown

glimpses of brilliance, as well as Nicholas. It's up to them to take it deeper. They've got to be the rock and soul for our team."

"And they've got to set up games and learn to close them out. And a guy who has done that over the tournament is (New Zealand captain) Kane Williamson."

West Indies are languishing in eighth spot in the 10-team table with just three points as the group stage nears its conclusion.

"In terms of the squad, I think everybody's upbeat for the occasion. Playing India is always a big game for West Indies, and we're looking forward to it," said Holder.

"First we need to finish the campaign as best as we can. And our objective is to win all three games."

Shakib's game out of this world

TIGERTALK



By ABDUR RAZZAK Bangladesh spinner

It's amazing what Shakib Al Hasan is doing, it's just unbelievable batting.

Shakib has improved a lot because he was dropped in the Indian Premier League and had to practise really hard.

Importantly, he knew what needed to improve — and he did it.

As well as being a fantastic all-rounder, Shakib also has the potential to be one of the best batsmen in the world.

When he started, he was a batting all-rounder, but after that he steadily started to improve his bowling as well.

His partnership with Mushfiqur Rahim has been particularly strong in this ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

A good understanding is really important when building partnerships, and they've been playing for

such a long time together that they now know each other inside-out.

Both are fighters, mentally strong and also smart cricketers too. It's a partnership that works well.

It was obviously a wonderful performance by the team against Afghanistan, but especially Shakib.

The boys want to play in the semi-finals and to do that there is no other option than to win games like this.

Watching the game, and indeed other matches in the competition, it's clear to see some similarities between this Afghanistan team and Bangladesh when they were starting out.

Like us, their strong point is spin, while the level of performance is also similar to Bangladesh from the past.

Everyone was saying before the game that Afghanistan had superior



Shakib Al Hasan celebrates with Liton Das after completing his five-wicket haul

SHAKIB HAS IMPROVED A LOT BECAUSE HE WAS DROPPED IN THE INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE AND HAD TO PRACTISE REALLY HARD. HE KNEW WHAT NEEDED TO IMPROVE - AND HE DID IT

bowlers to us, but I didn't particularly agree.

In truth, I was expecting a performance like this from the Bangladeshi spinners. Everyone knows that if the pitch is turning, Shakib and Mehidy are dangerous, and so it proved.

Bangladesh play Asian rivals India and Pakistan next, but I have to say no cricketer thinks about facing their neighbours in any different way to normal; they're just another opponent.

India have been a very good in the World Cup so far and came into the competition as one of the favourites.

Everyone is talking about them, but that creates an opportunity for our players. I'm sure they'll be up for the challenge.

Bangladesh can definitely take some lessons from Afghanistan's performance against India where

they ran them close, but everyone has different ways of playing.

On that day, Afghanistan's bowling and fielding was amazing, but if we bat well and focus on our strengths, we can do well too.

It depends on the wicket and the situation on the day but you have to play what is in front of you.

India's batting line-up is so strong that Bangladesh will have to be at their very best with the ball if they want to stand a chance of winning.

That said, I believe they can do it.

The team is playing really well at this moment. I still think that it will be very difficult to qualify for the semi-finals, but they've created a great chance for themselves.

nacaste ENGLAND

WE ARE NOT GOING TO TAKE A BACKWARD STEP AND, AS I'VE SAID, THIS IS OUR WORLD CUP AND WE ARE GOING TO GO ABOUT IT HOW WE WANT TO — BEN STOKES



Neesham takes NZ to 237-6

Kiwi all-rounder's unbeaten 97 leads Black Caps recovery after Shaheen's early strike

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Jimmy Neesham and Colin de Grandhomme hit fighting half-centuries as New Zealand posted 237 for six after Shaheen Shah Afridi's three-wicket burst left them in a perilous position against Pakistan on Wednesday.

Neesham finished with a career-best one-day international score of 97 not out, hitting a six off the final ball, while De Grandhomme scored 64 to give their unbeaten team side a defensible total at Edgbaston.

The pair, who came together at 83-5, added 132 for the sixth wicket, repairing the damage after a collapse following Kane Williamson's decision to bat in overcast conditions in Birmingham.

Teenager Shaheen, who finished with figures of 3-28 in his 10 overs, wrecked the New Zealand top order, taking three wickets in 20 balls as Pakistan looked for a crucial victory following their win against South Africa.

Neesham, whose previous highest ODI score was 74, hit five fours and three sixes in his sixth ODI fifty and was ably supported by De Grandhomme.

Despite New Zealand's fight-back, Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur said he was confident his side could win the match and stay in the hunt for a semi-final place.

"Shaheen Afridi is only 19, we've got to understand that. Today he was outstanding, he asked a lot of questions," he said.

"Jimmy Neesham and Colin de



Colin de Grandhomme congratulates Jimmy Neesham after the duo put on 100 run stand for 6th wicket against Pakistan. ICC/Twitter

Grandhomme played well. I thought we kept them at bay pretty well. I think there's always going to be a partnership, it's that sort of wicket, but they showed us how to play on the wicket. I'm backing us to chase that total."

New Zealand were wobbling badly when the in-form Williamson

was dismissed by leg-spinner Shadab Khan, who enticed the captain into giving an edge to wicketkeeper Sarfaraz Ahmed when he was on 41.

Williamson, who had scored centuries in each of his previous innings, put on 37 for the fifth wicket with Neesham after New Zealand had slipped to 46-4.

Mohammad Amir was first to strike, bowling Martin Guptill with the New Zealand score on five before Shaheen had opener Colin Munro (12) caught by Haris Sohail in the slips.

Ross Taylor edged a Shaheen delivery to Sarfaraz and Tom Latham departed in similar fashion.

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND	
Martin Guptill	b Amir 5
Colin Munro	c Sohail b Shaheen 12
Williamson	c Sarfaraz b Shadab 41
Ross Taylor	c Sarfaraz b Shaheen 3
Tom Latham	c Sarfaraz b Shaheen 1
Grandhomme	run out (Amir/Sarfaraz) 64
James Neesham	not out 97
Mitchell Santner	not out 5
Extras	(b 2, lb 3, w 4, nb 0, p 0) 9
Total	(6 wks, 50 Ov) 237
Fall of wickets: 5-1 (Martin Guptill, 1.1), 24-2 (Colin Munro, 6.2), 38-3 (Ross Taylor, 8.6), 46-4 (Tom Latham, 12.3), 83-5 (Kane Williamson, 26.2), 215-6 (Colin de Grandhomme, 47.4)	
Bowling	
Mohammad Hafeez	7-0-22-0
Mohammad Amir	10-0-67-1
Shaheen Afridi	10-3-28-3
Imad Wasim	3-0-17-0
Shadab Khan	10-0-43-1
Wahab Riaz	10-0-55-0

Overnight rain delayed the start by an hour but the umpires decided the match would remain at 50 overs per side.

New Zealand, who are second in the 10-team table with 11 points, kept the same team for the fifth match in a row.

Pakistan, who are seventh, with five points, also kept faith with the team that beat South Africa at Lord's on Sunday.

If New Zealand win they will join title-holders Australia in the semi-finals.

'It hurts but we're helpless'



Sarfaraz Ahmed in a file picture. AP

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed says incidents like the one in which he was compared to a "pig" by a fan are hurtful but there is nothing he can do to prevent them and can only plead for civility in criticism.

Pakistani fans have severely criticised the national team after its 89-run loss to arch-rivals India in a World Cup encounter in Manchester.

In a recent video that went viral on social media, Sarfaraz, walking in a mall in England with his son, was stopped by a fan, who

asked him why he looked like a fat pig. The fan eventually apologised for his conduct after drawing flak from all corners for targeting the player during a private moment.

"I can't say anything on this. It's not in our hands to control what people say about us. Winning and losing is part of the game and it's not that we are the first team to have lost a match; previous teams also have faced defeats," Sarfaraz said.

Pakistan have kept alive their semifinal hopes with the win over South Africa in London.

"Had earlier teams faced the kind of criticism that we are facing, they would have realised how much these things hurt us. Now, there is social media. People write, comment and say whatever they like. These incidents affect the psychology of the players," he added.

Sarfaraz is not the only Pakistani cricketer to have expressed his displeasure over abusive criticism. Senior all-rounder Shoaib Malik and pacer Mohammed Amir too had urged the fans not to indulge in personal attacks.

"While criticising, one must not abuse. Criticise us on our cricket but don't get abusive with us," Sarfaraz said.

OTHER SPORTS

Oranje fever



Lieke Martens, center, celebrates after scoring Netherlands' second goal from the penalty spot against Japan. AP

AFP ■ RENNES

A last-minute Lieke Martens penalty took the Netherlands through to the women's World Cup quarter-finals as they joined Italy in the last eight, confirming Europe's supremacy at the tournament and ending Asian interest already.

The Dutch on Tuesday scraped past Japan 2-1 to set up a quarter-final on Saturday in Valenciennes against the Italians, who had beaten China 2-0 earlier in the day thanks to goals from Valentina Giacinti and Aurora Galli.

Those results mean seven of the eight quarter-finalists in France are European, with holders and favourites the United States the sole exception. There had never previously been more than five European sides in the last eight of a women's World Cup.

Such an early exit is particularly painful for Japan, who won the World Cup in 2011 and were beaten finalists four years ago in Canada.

Barcelona star Martens converted a 90th-minute spot-kick awarded after a Vivianne Miedema shot had struck the arm of captain Saki Kumagai in the box.

The European champions, who lost by the same scoreline to Japan at the same last-16 stage in 2015, are through to the quarter-finals for the first time.

"It is history that we have made. We are really proud about that but we are not done yet here. We are really looking forward to the next game and we hope we can surprise more," said Martens.

She had given the Netherlands a 17th-minute lead with a superb backheel flick into the net from a Sherida Spitse corner, but Japan equalised just prior to half-time when Mana Iwabuchi supplied Yui Hasegawa to fire high into the net.

Japan had hit the post before that through Yuika Sugawara, and Hina Sugita smashed a shot off the underside of the crossbar during a second half in which Japan

were superior. Extra time was looming when the Honduran referee penalised Kumagai, who could do nothing to get out of the way of a shot that was nevertheless heading towards the target.

Japan will now look ahead to the Olympics in Tokyo next year after joining Thailand, South Korea, Australia and China in being eliminated.

It is the first time that no Asian representatives have made it to the last eight at the women's World Cup, with 1999 runners-up China going out after a 2-0 defeat at the hands of Italy in Montpellier.

A 15th-minute tap in from Giacinti and substitute Galli's fierce drive three minutes after the break saw Milena Bertolini's side see off a committed Chinese team and match Italy's best run in the competition back in 1991.

"Today wasn't a display of beautiful football but the girls gave everything and we were clinical," Bertolini told TV station Rai. "To reach the quarter-finals is hugely satisfying."

AFP ■ LONDON

Spanish midfielder David Silva has confirmed he will leave Manchester City at the end of next season when his contract expires.

Silva is one of City's most decorated players of all-time having won four Premier League titles, two FA Cups and four League Cups since joining from Valencia in 2010.

He scored his 71st goal in 396 appearances so far for the English champions in the FA Cup final last month as City completed a first ever domestic treble in English football.

However, the 33-year-old believes completing a decade in Manchester is the perfect time to step away.

"This is the last one," Silva told reporters in his native Gran Canaria. "Ten years for me is enough. It's the perfect time for me."

"Initially, City were talking

10 years later

David Silva to leave Manchester City at the end of 2019-20 season

about two years, but I decided to sign another one, so I finished at 10 years.

"It completes the cycle. It's a nice round figure. I can never see myself playing against City for another team. So 10 years — that's it."

Silva missed chunks of City's title-winning 2017/18 season to return to Spain where his pre-mature born son Mateo was being treated in hospital.

Mateo has since recovered and was in attendance for City's first home game of this season in August, when Silva scored in a 6-1 rout of Huddersfield.

However, Silva has previously spoken of his desire to return to Spain for family rea-

sons when his City career comes to an end.

Meanwhile in another report, Bayern Munich will consider a move for Barcelona winger Ousmane Dembele if they fail to sign Leroy Sane from Manchester City, *Bild* newspaper reported on Wednesday.

With veteran wingers Arjen Robben and Franck Ribery leaving the club, Bayern had targeted Germany international Sane as they look to bolster their attack ahead of next season.

"If the Sane transfer fails, Bayern also have Ousmane Dembele on their list," wrote *Bild*.



David Silva in a file picture. Man City/Twitter

Can Federer defy age to lift 9th title?

AFP ■ PARIS

Twenty years after his debut, Roger Federer will take aim at a ninth Wimbledon title and a place in history as the oldest man to capture a Grand Slam singles crown.

Federer, who turns 38 in August, is already the oldest player to win the Wimbledon men's title in the modern era, a feat achieved in 2017 when he was 35.

Australia's Ken Rosewall was only just past 37 when he won the 1972 Australian Open, an age barrier Federer hopes to smash when Wimbledon starts Monday.

"I love being around here. It's a good vibe. I have great memories. My heroes all won here," said 20-time major winner Federer.

"Every time I come back here, I try to be like them." However, despite his lifetime affection for the All England Club, the tussle to add to his London silverware has become increasingly fraught.

His eighth and most recent Wimbledon title came off a straight-sets demolition of an injury-hit and tearful Marin Cilic in the 2017 final.

Federer was a force of nature that year, not dropping a set in the entire fortnight as title rivals fell by the wayside.

Novak Djokovic retired with an elbow injury in the last-eight against Tomas Berdych while Rafael Nadal was stunned by



Roger Federer poses for photo after arriving for Wimbledon Championship. AP

Gilles Muller 15-13 in the final set of his last-16 engagement.

Federer's seventh Wimbledon title had come five years earlier with a final win over Andy Murray.

His first six arrived in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2009.

But 2017 aside, recent trips to London have proved disap-

pointing for the Swiss star whose first experience of Wimbledon was an opening-round loss to Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic in 1999.

In 2013, he was shocked in the second round by Ukrainian serve-and-volleying journeyman Sergiy Stakhovsky.

The next two seasons saw runners-up finishes to Djokovic

Ramkumar bows out of Qualifiers

PTI ■ LONDON

India's Ramkumar Ramanathan yet again failed to crack a Grand Slam main draw, losing the second round of the men's singles qualifying event at the Wimbledon championships to Poland's Kamil Majchrzak.

The unseeded Indian lost 6-7 (5), 3-6 to 11th seed and world number 111 in one hour and 19 minutes.

Ramkumar, who possesses a big serve and a lethal

inside out forehand, did not get a single breakpoint in the match while his opponent converted two of the seven chances.

The 24-year-old from Chennai, ranked 154, has been trying to qualify for the main draw of a Grand Slam since 2015 but has not succeeded so far.

The closest he came to make the main draw was in 2018 when he reached the third and final qualifying round at the Australian Open.

while the 2016 campaign ended with a five-set loss in the semi-finals, blown away by the heavy artillery of Milos Raonic.

Last year was particularly painful for Federer, beaten by Kevin Anderson in the quarter-finals in a 13-11 final set.

"The losses hurt more, that you don't want to be on the loser's side. It motivates me to do extremely well here because I don't want to sit here and explain my loss."

"That's the worst feeling you can have as a tennis player," he said in the aftermath of that loss to the giant South African in a tie where he held match points in the fourth set.

Despite that shattering loss 12 months ago, Federer will still go into this year's Wimbledon as one of the favourites alongside four-time champion Djokovic.

Having seen Nadal win a 12th Roland Garros to move within two majors of Federer's record 20 for the first time, the Swiss headed to Halle where he won a 10th title at the grass court event.

"To win 10 times in one place is a very special moment in my career," said Federer who now has 102 career titles, just seven off the all-time record held by Jimmy Connors.

It also made him the oldest tour-level champion since 43-year-old Rosewall won at Hong Kong in 1977.

"Every time I've won in Halle, I went on to play really well at Wimbledon," added Federer.

"It's never a guarantee of course, but I've been on the Tour for long enough to know what it means."