

ACTOR BIKRAM CHATTERJEE BOOKED FOR CULPABLE HOMICIDE **PG3**



'MILITARY READINESS IS BEST DETERRENT, GUARANTEES PEACE' **PG5**



NIGHT-TIME, EARLY MORNING BOMBINGS IN BAGHDAD KILL 31 **PG10**



'MY MISTAKES HAVE TAUGHT ME THE MOST' **PG16**



ALL SIX GRANTED BAIL ON A PERSONAL BOND OF RS 50,000
Ayodhya case: Conspiracy charges framed against Advani, Joshi & Bharti

MPPOST BUREAU

LUCKNOW/NEW DELHI: BJP veterans L K Advani, M M Joshi, Union minister Uma Bharti and nine others will stand trial for criminal conspiracy in the 1992 Babri mosque demolition case, with a special CBI court here on Tuesday framing charges against them.

The trial under the serious criminal conspiracy charge will commence against them after having been dropped by the trial court in 2001. The verdict was upheld by the Allahabad High Court in 2010.

The Supreme Court had ordered restoration of the conspiracy charge against them on April 19.

The charges were framed against Advani (89), Joshi (83), Bharti (58), BJP MP Vinay Katiyar (62), VHP's Vishnu Hari Dalmiya (89) and one-time Hindutva firebrand Sadhvi Ritambhara (53) — all of whom appeared before the court.

All six were granted bail by CBI special judge S K Yadav on a personal bond of Rs 50,000 each after rejecting the CBI's opposition to their bail plea. The court will resume hearing tomorrow.

The accused, who spent nearly three hours in the court, had sought discharge for the offence of criminal conspiracy, which the judge rejected.

The charge of conspiracy is in addition to the existing charges against them for promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion for which they are already facing trial.

“New backward panel will have more powers”

THAAWARCHAND GEHLOT

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CM's growth drive: 18,000 km new rural roads for Bengal

OUR CORRESPONDENT

BARRACKPORE: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced on Tuesday that 18,000 kms of rural roads would be inaugurated across the state on June 12.

All MPs, MLA, Zilla Sabadhipatis and BDOs have been requested to install bricks in their respective areas to mark the beginning of construction of rural roads in West Bengal. This announcement was made by Mamata Banerjee at the administrative review meeting held in Sukanta Sadan at Barrackpore in the North 24 Parganas on Tuesday afternoon.

Of the 18,000 km rural roads, tender processes are on for 4473 kms. In 2016-17, the construction of 2825 kms of roads had been completed. The state government with its own funds will repair and maintain 8,743 km rural roads that had been built 5 years ago, while construction of 1959 kms of roads is also on. After the Centre reduced its distribution of funds, it is now the state government's responsibility to maintain rural roads. Senior officials of Panchayats and rural development department said there would be no compromise in repair work.

While at Barrackpore, Banerjee also announced the Barrackpore Utsadhara Project to maintain Barrackpore's heritage structure. The project would be dedicated to Mangal Pandey the first martyr of the 1857 Sepoy Mutiny. Along with an installation of Amar Shahid Jyoti, the whole area will also be developed as a centre for ecotourism. Banerjee also set up the Barrackpore Development Board with the district magistrate of North 24 Parganas, Antara Acharya as its chairperson. The board will



CM Mamata Banerjee at a meeting in Barrackpore

PIC/MPPOST

also be provided with Rs 5 crore by the state urban development department.

Banerjee spoke on education and health too, assuring that many Madhyamaik schools in the district would be upgraded to higher secondary level. She reiterated that those running private nursing homes and hospitals must remember that, "offering service to the people and selling stone chips and stones is not the same thing." She said that it was unfortunate that some doctors were scared of the West Bengal Clinical Establishments (Registration, Regulation and Transparency) Act. "Why should the doctors be afraid of the Act? The Act has been made to ensure that the patients and their relatives are not harassed by private nursing homes and hospitals." She said

in case of any grievance, relatives of the patients should first discuss with the nursing home authorities to settle the matter and in case they fail to do so, they should approach the Regulatory Commission. "The state government has no intention of intervening in the day to day functioning of private hospitals and nursing homes. The Commission is there to settle the disputes that may crop up between the patients and the nursing home authorities."

Banerjee also urged the MPs to provide Rs 25 lakh to each police station in their constituency from MP LAD to acquire life-saving ambulances. She also urged the MPs to provide funds to upgrade rural crematoria. "The state government will upgrade 1000 rural crematoria and for this the support of the MPs is essential," Banerjee maintained.

The chief minister urged the police to take steps to stop cattle smuggling and initiate stern action against criminals irrespective of their political affiliation. She instructed the police to act against BJP who are trying to instigate communal riots in different areas. Surajit Kar Purakayastha, director general of police said that the police have identified vulnerable areas where there maybe communal tension and appropriate steps will be taken.

Banerjee told Trinamool leaders to give up infighting immediately. She urged Sabyasachi Dutta, Mayor Tapas Chatterjee, Deputy-Mayor and Krishna Chakraborty, Chairperson of Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation, "to stop infighting and work together." Similarly, she asked Paras Dutta and Arjun Singh to "bury the hatchet". She instructed municipal workers and councillors to pull up their socks and work seriously.

HIGHER SECONDARY RESULTS OUT

KOLKATA: West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education published the result of Higher Secondary Examination 2017 on Tuesday in which East Midnapore district recorded the highest pass percentage at 92.87 percent. 7,56,620 candidates



MUMBAI: New one rupee notes with predominantly pink-green on obverse and reverse in combination with other colours will be soon put into circulation.

The notes bearing the rupee symbol have been printed by the Government of India.

At present, one rupee coins are minted. Printing of one rupee notes was discontinued in 1994 but was relaunched in 2015.

"The Reserve Bank of India will soon put into circulation currency notes in one rupee denomination," the central bank said in a statement.

The note will bear signature of

Shaktikanta Das, Secretary in the Ministry of Finance. Rest other currency notes bear the signature of the RBI Governor. The numbering will be in black at right hand bottom portion of the note.

On the reverse side, the year '2017' is mentioned. There is also representation of One Rupee coin with rupee symbol having floral design and the surrounding design consists of the picture of 'Sagar Samrat' the oil exploration platform.

"The colour of One Rupee Currency Note shall be predominantly pink green on obverse and reverse in combination with others," the RBI said. MPOST

New one rupee notes to be in circulation soon

ACHIEVEMENTS OF BENGAL



- Tax exemption on food grains, raw vegetables, fruits, green coconut, fresh and pasteurised milk, chihana, puffed rice, chira, khoi, sindoor, dhoti, sarees, bio-fertilisers, etc
- Proposed 12 per cent tax on processed tea has been reduced to only 5 per cent.
- No tax on doctor fee and diagnostic fee

- FIGHT CONTINUES FOR
 - Tax exemption on newsprint.
 - Raw cashew
 - Footwear less than Rs 500
 - Cinematograph films
 - Books (apart from text books)
 - Bleached hair
 - Electrical energy

- LACK OF PREPAREDNESS
 - Around 40 per cent of suvidha providers didn't start network test.
 - Rules and forms not ready
 - Large, small and medium industries are still struggling for necessary infrastructure like computers and software
 - All GST rules are not yet finalised

sector is against it."

Rolling out GST as it stands today will be a double-burden on the states that are yet to recover from the shocks of demonetisation, said the Bengal finance minister, who was also the chairman of the empowered committee of state finance ministers.

Moreover, Mitra once again voiced his doubt over the preparedness to roll out GST on July 1 with over 40 per cent of the GST suvidha providers yet to test the network from their end.

In a press conference held in Nabanna on Tuesday, Mitra said, as Bengal's representative in the GST council, he had to fight in the three

previous meetings of the council to ensure that tax was not imposed on items of everyday use. As a result of Mitra's staunch opposition, the GST council has decided to exempt tax on food grains, vegetables, fruits, fresh and pasteurised milk, puffed rice, betel leaf, poultry and cattle feed, newspaper, health services, etc.

Clearing the confusion that he had a big say in the imposition of tax on such goods that would leave a deep impact on different industries, Mitra said: "I was made the chairman of the empowered committee on GST of which finance ministers of 29 states and 2 union territories were members. But, Union finance

minister Arun Jaitley is the chairman of the GST Council, where I am just a member. I am fighting under the leadership of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee so that the people of our state don't get unduly harassed."

He said that Bengal had opposed the proposed 12 per cent tax on raw cashew. Similarly, they have proposed 12 percent tax on footwear.

Criticising the move of the Council to impose a tax on books, Partha Chatterjee, the state Parliamentary Affairs minister, said: "It seems that they don't want people to read books." He took a dig at the BJP saying they might want everyone to take up swords instead of a pen.

candidates. "My congratulations and best wishes to all the students who have passed Ucha Madhyamik examination" she tweeted. Hooghly district's Archisman Panigrahi, a student of Hooghly Collegiate School stood first.

Detailed report on P3

All the Students, who have passed the Higher Secondary Examination

Heart-felt Best Wishes and Congratulations

Let the future be filled with success

Mamata Bandyopadhyay

Chief Minister, West Bengal

Department of Information and Cultural Affairs, Government of West Bengal

ICA - 111323/2017

FIVE CUPS OF Coffee daily

MAY KEEP LIVER CANCER AT BAY



Due to its antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and anticarcinogenic properties, coffee is widely believed to possess a range of health benefits, including low rates of chronic liver disease

Drinking about five cups of coffee everyday may halve the risk of developing the most common form of liver cancer, new research has claimed. Researchers from University of Southampton and the University of Edinburgh in the UK found that the more coffee consumed the greater the protection against hepatocellular cancer (HCC).

Drinking one cup more of caffeinated coffee a day was associated with a 20 per cent reduction in the risk of developing HCC, two cups more with a 35 per cent reduction, and up to five cups with a halving of the risk. The protection was found to be the same for both existing coffee-drinkers and those who did not usually drink it, and the more coffee consumed the greater the effect although there was little data available above five cups a day. Decaffeinated coffee was also found to have a beneficial, though less marked, effect, researchers said. The



study, published in the journal BMJ Open, examined the data from 26 observational studies, involving more than 2.25 million participants, to calculate the relative risks of developing HCC for drinking between one and five cups of caffeinated coffee a day.

"Coffee is widely believed to possess a range of health benefits, and these latest findings suggest it could have a significant effect on liver cancer risk," said Oliver Kennedy, from the University of Southampton.

"Our findings are an important development given the increasing evidence of HCC globally and its poor prognosis," said Kennedy. HCC is the second leading cause of cancer death globally due to its poor prognosis and high frequency, especially in China and Southeast Asia. It mostly develops in people who are already suffering from chronic liver disease.

It is estimated that, by 2030, the number of new cases annually will have risen by about 50 per cent to more than 1.2 million. The compound molecules found in coffee possess antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anticarcinogenic and other beneficial properties which scientists believe may explain the lower rates of chronic liver

disease and liver cancer experienced by coffee-drinkers, researchers said. About 2.25 billion cups of coffee are consumed daily worldwide, and increased coffee consumption has already been shown to protect against serious non-cancer chronic liver disease (cirrhosis). "We have shown that coffee reduces cirrhosis and also liver cancer in a dose-dependent manner. Coffee has also been reported to reduce the risk of death from many other causes," said Peter Hayes, from the University of Edinburgh. "Our research adds to the evidence that, in moderation, coffee can be a wonderful natural medicine."



DAY IN DAY OUT

What's on Around Town

MANGO MAGIC

There is nothing as refreshing as delicious ice cream in a scorching Summer. Beat the heat as you relish different flavours of ice cream with a mango of your choice.



WHEN: Ongoing
WHERE: Blooms, Singh Sahib & Empress of China, Lounge AND Bar, Tea Lounge, Eros Hotel, Nehru Place
TIMING: 11 am – 11 pm

STIRRING THURSDAY NIGHTS

Now, every Thursday night will be dedicated to old-school and current beat Hip Hop, melting away your mid-week stress with signature drinks.



Groove to DJ Oma's album packed tunes of old school and current R&B. Lose yourself to evergreen favourites combined with soaring symphonies of the saxophone by the immensely talented Tanya.

WHEN: Ongoing
WHERE: Grappa, Shangri-La's – Eros Hotel
TIMING: 10:30 pm – 12 am

HIDING INSIDE THE LIGHT

Organised by Korean Cultural Centre India (KCCI) and National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), 'Hiding Inside the Light,' a solo exhibition by artist Kim Ho Suk aims to host the auspices of Cultural Exchange Programme between the Republic of India and Republic of Korea. This exhibition attempts to portray Hosuk's journey of exploration of Korea.

WHEN: Ongoing
WHERE: NGMA
TIMING: 11 am – 6:30 pm

MASKS OF INDIA

An alliance of art and culture, 'Mukhosh – masks of India, a folk tradition' will brandish spectrum of traditional masks, reflecting respective cultures from which they permeate. Curated by Neelam Malhotra, the affluent collection is assembled from various cultures, including tribal, spread across the country; masks such as Bhuta Mask, Chhau Mask from Bengal, Wooden Mask from West Bengal, masks from Bastar Tribes, Odisha, Himachal Pradesh, Banaras, Karnataka and Maharashtra are featured. An opulent mask from Nepal too is exhibited.

WHEN: May 27 – June 10
WHERE: Art Konsult, 3-A, Hauz Khas
TIMING: 11 am – 7 pm

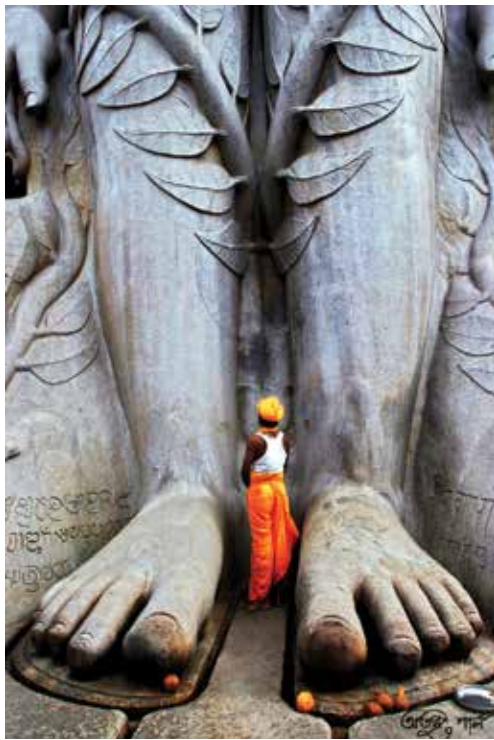
FOR A NOBLE CAUSE



Shyam Sundar Co Jewellers and Rotary Club of Calcutta Old City are joining hands together to support the children suffering from heart disease. To generate funds for this noble cause, a musical and cultural event named 'HRIDAYA' with theme 'Athithi Devo Bhava' was organized on May 28 at Science City auditorium, with enthralling performances by renowned singer and dancers; Aditi Munshi, Imon, Jojo, Subhankar Bhaskar, Rupankar, Aneswa and many more. Funds raised through this event will be used for the treatment of children with heart problem.



THIRD EYE VISUAL ART



The 18th edition of 'Third Eye Visual Art Utsav', phase-II photography, 'phire dekha' was exhibited at Gaganendra Shilpa Pradarshashala (Kolkata Information Centre) by Atanu Paul and members of Third Eye.



Theatrical rendezvous in Kolkata

For the theatre lovers, sixth International Theatre Festival will go on till June 4

MAINAK BANERJEE

Kolkata is bracing for a theatre soiree from May 30 till June 4 in the form of Kalindi Bratya-jon's sixth International Theatre Festival. The Curtain Raiser of the festival took place on the evening of May 29 in the Oxford Book Store, Kolkata. The event was attended by dignitaries of Russia, Japan, Slovenia and Lebanon along with other eminent guests from the city.

The programme was chaired by the State IT Minister and Festival Convener, Bratya Basu in presence of the Russian Consul General, Alexey Idamkin; Consul general of Japan, Yashuhiko Tanaka; Slovenian director, Yonatan Esterkin; Slovenian theatre artiste, Mirjam Drnovsek, and eminent poet Subodh Sarkar.

Alexey Idamkin in his speech expressed great enthusiasm in being able to present Russian theatre for the second successive year in Kolkata. Anton Chekov's story 'And why you are in a tailcoat?' will be presented as a play 'Proposal' on June 4 at 11 am at the Academy of Fine Arts by Moscow Dramatic Theatre. The Consul General of Japan surprised everyone by presenting his speech in Bengali. He was proud to be associated with the culture of Kolkata and its theatre world.

The Slovenian Director Yonatan appreciated ways in which theatre breaks



all barriers by narrating his own experience of how despite being born in Israel he has directed the play, 'The Jewish Dog' in Slovenia focusing on torture of Jews during Nazi rule and how he was presenting it in Kolkata, India. This was followed by the unveiling of festival bro-

chure followed by a book launch. The famous poet cum activist, Subodh Sarkar launched the book, 'Sakkhatkar Sangroho', a compilation of interviews of the playwright, director and actor Bratya Basu taken in the last 16 years.

Subodh described Bratya Basu as one

of the greatest playwrights of this generation. He wished that writings and interviews of Bratya Basu would be translated in other languages as well so that his work reached theatre lovers across countries and abroad. Palash Barman of Kolikata Letterpress, the publishing

house of the book declared that it is the first book of its kind. The event concluded with the speech of Bratya Basu as he quoted Stella Adler to describe how theatre reflects the progression of the society. He referred to theatre as a minority art form universally and emphasised how its growth will continue in its own trajectory.

The festival will showcase eleven different productions of various genres including the children's workshop based production, 'Damurucharit Katha'. In the six days, audience will get to see Bratya Basu in different roles – as a playwright, an actor and as a director.

Kalindi Bratya-jon will also felicitate nine theatre enthusiasts in their effort to promote talent in theatre namely, Pre-mangshu Ray, Shuvodeep Guha, Kaustav Duttgupta, Indudipa Sinha, Niladri Bhattacharya, Supratim Roy, Rudra Prasad Chakraborty, Raja Bhattacharya and Supriyo Chakraborty.

Senior actor, Writa Datta Chakraborty will be delivering the 'Bishnu Basu Memorial Lecture' on June 3.

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HS results declared, Hoogly boy makes it to the top with 99.2%

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education published the result of Higher Secondary Examination 2017 on Tuesday in which the pass percentage in East Midnapore district was recorded as the highest at 92.87 percent. The total number of candidates who had appeared in the examination was pegged at 7,56,620, out of which, the number of the successful candidates is 6,22,435.

Meanwhile, Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi congratulated all the successful candidates as well as their teachers and guardians of this year's Higher Secondary Examination. He also wished them a bright future ahead.

"Those who couldn't succeed in the exam have no occasion to lose heart for this one exam does not determine the entire life. They should remember that success is not far away," the Governor said.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also congratulated the successful candidates. "My congratulations and best wishes to all the students who have passed Uchha Madhyamik examination. Wish all of you a bright future,"



Higher Secondary examinees rejoice after the results were published on Tuesday

PIC/PTI

she tweeted.

Hooghly district's Archisman Panigrahi, a student of Hooghly Collegiate School stood first in the examination securing 99.2 percent.

Hooghly's Mayanka Chattopadhyay, a student of Mahesh Sri Ramkrishna Ashram Vidyalaya (Higher Secondary) stood second securing 98.4 percent along with Upamanyu

Chakrabarty, a student of Narendrapur Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya (residential).

Hooghly's Subham Sinha, a student of Arambagh High School and Surajit Lohar, a student of Bankura Zilla School stood joint third in the merit list securing 97.8 percent.

Manjistha Saha, a student of Bidya Bharati Girls High School in Kolkata

stood sixth in the merit list securing 96.8 percent. Manjistha is the topper among girls.

Adarsh Agarwal from Shree Jain Vidyalaya in Kolkata stood fourth in the merit list securing 97.2 percent. Adarsh obtained highest marks in Kolkata.

"The pass percentage is 84.20 in which 85.15 percent male candidate

and 83.26 percent female candidate passed this year. The pass percentage has increased by 0.55 percent from the last year. The pass percentage of women has also increased by 1 percent from last year," said Mahua Das, president, West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education.

Like Madhyamik examination, the pass percentage of East Midnapore district recorded highest across the state. East Midnapore is followed by West Midnapore (89.61), South 24 Parganas (87.62), Hooghly (87.56), Kolkata (87.37), Howrah (86.27), North 24 Parganas (84.77) and Nadia (84.60).

There are 53 rank holders from first to tenth, among whom, 40 candidates are males while 13 are females.

"Schools can get mark-sheets from the distribution centers. Online review system, scrutiny and spot correction facilities are also available," said president, West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education adding that the council has uploaded a webpage on scholarship for poor students.

Schools across the states were seen crowded with students and their anxious parents to collect the mark-sheets. The toppers on the other hand, received good wishes from their friends, relatives and neighbours.

Love for subjects helped me score, says HS topper

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: His target was set! All he was waiting for was the mid-fielder to pass on the ball to give him the desired impetus to score the goal and take a lead in the game!

No, we aren't discussing football here but about Archisman Panigrahi, whose love for subjects helped him top the Higher Secondary examination; just the boost he needed to pursue his education in science, his childhood love.

Panigrahi wants to pursue a career in physics. On Tuesday, the West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education announced his name as the topper in this year's examination across the state.

"I want to study Physics (Honours) and shape my career accordingly. Though I concentrated on joint entrance curriculum while studying for higher secondary, now I have decided that Physics is the subject that I should pursue," said Archisman, while talking to *Millennium Post*.

The first boy said, solving question papers from test papers helped him a lot. "The future candidates of Higher Secondary should concentrate on solving questions from test papers. It will definitely help them to get good marks in the examination," said the first boy.

Archisman studied for 5-6 hours a day. "I used to study for 5-6 hours a day and attended classes in tuitions. It was not possible for me to study more than 5-6 hours after attending classes in tuitions. But I usually increased the duration of my study on days when there were no tuition classes," he said.

Panigrahi said his love for science subjects helped him to secure good marks. He thoroughly enjoyed the syllabus and his teachers helped him a lot.

"You cannot perform well



Archisman Panigrahi scored 99.2% in the HS examination

in the examination if you do not love your subjects. Love for the subjects and hard work together can bring about success," he added, pausing at times to acknowledge accolades being showered on him by his kith and kin.

Arghya Panigrahi, the proud father of Archisman also believes that love for subject is most important to achieve good marks in the examination.

"I am a teacher. I know how love for subject is important to perform well in the examination. If a hard-working student finds interest in his subjects, then only can he get good marks in the examination," Archisman's father said.

His father also said that he encouraged Archisman to take subjects of his choice. "I taught Archisman till Madhyamik examination. But I never tried to impose my opinion on him and always advised him to take his own decision regarding his study," said his father, who is an associate professor of Jhargram Raj College.

Meanwhile, the teachers of Hooghly Collegiate School are extremely happy with the performance of Archisman. "He is really a humble boy. He is not among those boys who only studied hard. He loved sports and often indulged in singing as well," said a senior teacher of his school.

CM criticises 'outsiders' for stalling power grid construction

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday criticised the Maoists for opposing the construction of a power grid in Bhangar in South 24 Parganas.

She was addressing the administrative review meeting of North 24 Parganas at Sukanta Sadan in Barrackpore on Tuesday afternoon.

Some MLAs, who were present at the administrative meeting, pointed out that there was a problem of voltage fluctuation in some pockets of North 24 Parganas.

A visibly annoyed Banerjee said: "What can I do? The Maoists have misinformed the people about the project and have been joined by BJP, Congress and CPI(M). They do not work and their only business is to spoil projects. Do you want to see clear pictures on your television sets or blurry ones?" she asked.

Without naming the Opposition parties, she said that there are some whose only purpose in life is to create trouble and to ensure that projects are stalled.

The villagers in Bhangar have been opposing the construction of a power grid in the area for the past three months. They have attacked policemen, set their vehicles on fire and blocked the roads to keep them from reaching the villages. The "outsiders" camping in the village told the villagers that there would

be health hazards if the power grid becomes functional and that agriculture would be adversely affected. As a result, the villagers are not allowing high tension cables to pass through their land.

Banerjee had announced that without the consent of the villagers, the construction of the power grid would not be resumed. The power grid would have benefited lakhs of people living in the remote parts of South and North 24 Parganas, including Sunderbans. Meanwhile, Trinamool Congress leaders are meeting the villagers and are trying to coax them to agree to the construction of the power grid.

Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay, state Power minister, said some people have misinformed the villagers about the project. "Development in the Sunderbans will be badly hit if the construction of the power grid is stalled. These are anti-people movements and it is unfortunate that the leaders are drawing a parallel between this movement and the one which had been launched by Mamata Banerjee in Singur in 2008."

Local Trinamool Congress leaders said that outsiders are holding secret meetings with the villagers and are inciting them against the state government. "Their sole purpose is to spread canards against Mamata Banerjee," they maintained.

Bikram booked for culpable homicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Actor Bikram Chatterjee, who was earlier accused of causing death due to negligence has been charged with culpable homicide not amounting to murder in connection with the car accident in which model Sonika Chauhan was killed.

Bikram was driving the ill-fated car in which Sonika was accompanying him. The car met with an accident after it hit against a roadside railing near Lake Mall in the wee hours of April 29.

The police had initiated a case on charges of causing death by negligence under Section 304A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and rash driving, 279 IPC. Sonika's maternal uncle had lodged a complaint



with Tollygunge police station alleging that Bikram was in an inebriated state when he was driving the car and it resulted in the accident and demanded murder charges be slapped on him.

At the same time, forensic experts have also carried out necessary tests and

have given the reports stating that the car was at a speed of something between 95 to 115 km per hour.

After getting the forensic report, the police had approached the Alipore Court and had placed a petition to amend the said section. After receiving the court's permis-

sion, the police amended the charge and booked Bikram on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder under Section 304 IPC.

Under section 304A IPC, the punishment would be imprisonment for a maximum term of two years while it would go up to ten years if he is found guilty on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder under Section 304 IPC.

Moreover, while giving statement to the police, Bikram had claimed that he was not driving the car at a speed above 100 km per hour. He had also stated that he was drunk but in a state to drive the car properly. Now, the forensic report has confirmed that the speed of the car was more than 100 km per hour during the accident.

Birbhum to have ektara-shaped guest house in New Town

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: A 10 cottah piece of land has been allotted to Birbhum Zilla Parishad to set up its guest house in New Town.

The Cabinet sub-committee, in its meeting, has passed the proposal. The building will be shaped like an *ektara*, in tune with the baul tradition of Birbhum.

This is for the first time that a zilla parishad will have such an artistic guest house in and around Kolkata. Almost all the districts have their guest houses in Salt Lake but the buildings do not have any artistic beauty and look just like a normal house. Most of the buildings had been constructed during the Left Front regime.

However, as New Town is coming up as a green township with a sharp sense of aesthetics, the guest house looking like an *ektara* will be a great attraction.

The plot is located close to the Biswa Bangla gate. The Lepcha Board has also been allotted a plot close to the Biswa Bangla gate.

New Town is coming up as a major destination for both residential and commercial activities. Huge commercial complexes been built up in the area, making it a financial destination. With the construction of the second campus of Presidency University, along with the existing private and state universities that have their campuses in New Town, the township is coming up as an educational hub as well.

New Town was planned as a green city and steps have been taken to increase its green cover.

Tall tree nurseries have been set up and over 40,000 saplings were planted in 2016 as a part of the move to convert it into a green city.

This year, state govt targets 500 more ICDS centres in tribal areas

PRITESH BASU

KOLKATA: The state government has set a target of setting up 500 Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) centres in tribal areas across the state.

The state Tribal Development department has taken up a project to set up ICDS centres in areas that are dominated with tribal population. In 2016-17, the state government had set up 396 ICDS centres at different areas and in 2017-18 fiscal, a target has been set to construct 500 similar buildings where ICDS centres will be run. In the current fiscal, the process to start construction work of 190 buildings, where ICDS centres will be run, has already

been started.

It may be mentioned that there was no proper space in tribal areas in the state where ICDS centres could run. In such a situation, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had taken up the project to construct buildings where ICDS centres could be run properly.

All the buildings of the ICDS centres under this project are being constructed following one particular model plan that was passed by the Chief Minister.

Usually, in urban and other parts of the state, ICDS centres are being run in buildings of local clubs from where nutritional foods are given to children and pregnant women.

The Tribal Development

department had identified the locations where setting up of buildings to run ICDS centres was of utmost importance. Moreover, the buildings are having all sorts of facilities including toilets. Cartoons were painted on the interior walls of ICDS centres to give a feel good factor to children.

Such ICDS centres have been constructed in districts including Alipurduar, North and South 24-Parganas. Moreover, integrated tribal development agencies have been started in six districts including South Dinajpur, Bankura, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, East Midnapore and Purulia to ensure proper dissemination of benefits among the tribal populace till the grassroot level.

Webel Technology Limited likely to come out of WBEIDC umbrella



OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Webel Technology Limited (WTL), a government of West Bengal undertaking, is likely to set for a demerger from West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corporation (WBEIDC) Limited.

One of the highest profit-making subsidiaries of WBEIDC will join the Personnel, Administrative Reforms and e-Governance department, state government sources said. It may be mentioned that

the government earlier had decided to merge seven subsidiaries of WBEIDC under the umbrella of the main company for keeping the profit margin high. The merger is still pending to take place while the decision of the demerger of WTL from WBEIDC has been taken.

"The decision of the merger of seven subsidiaries was taken earlier but the merger will be followed by the demerger of WTL from WBEIDC," a source explained.

There is only one subsidiary which is not making profit among the seven. State Information technology (IT) and Electronics department minister Bratya Basu indicated the merger of subsidiaries on Monday while announcing record turnover of Webel Informatics Limited (WIL), a subsidiary under WBEIDC.

"We'll merge subsidiaries for keeping the profit margin high," the minister said on Monday.

A senior IT department officer said that some subsidiaries are doing good businesses outside Bengal. "A subsidiary is doing Aadhar enrolment in Delhi; some other subsidiaries are engaged in various projects in North-East India - Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya," he said.

However, the minister mentioned, the turnover of Webel Informatics Limited (WIL) in the financial year 2016-17 exceeded Rs 52 crore from a meager turnover of Rs 50,000 in the year 1984-85, which is a growth of more than 1,000 times. "WIL has certainly made history," the minister said.

HIDCO gears up to construct Biswa Bangla Viswavidyalaya in Santiniketan



OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation (HIDCO) will construct the proposed Biswa Bangla Viswavidyalaya in Santiniketan.

The money to set up the university will be provided by the state Higher Education department.

The board of HIDCO met on Tuesday to discuss the matter. The engineers and senior officials of HIDCO, including its chairman Debashis Sen, will

visit the site on June 3, when the state Fisheries minister Chandranath Sinha will also be present.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had announced the plans to set up the Biswa Bangla Viswavidyalaya at the conference of the teachers of different colleges held at Netaji Indoor Stadium on December 7, 2016. Besides the vice-chancellors of different universities, the state Education minister Partha Chatterjee was also present. The Chief Minister visited

the site along with the state Urban Development minister Firhad Hakim and Chandranath Sinha. HIDCO officials were also present during the site selection exercise.

HIDCO will now prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) and calculate the estimated cost of the project. The university will have administrative buildings, academic buildings and a state-of-the-art library with modern facilities. The shape of the buildings will be such that it will com-

bine tradition with modernity. HIDCO will design the university, making it aesthetically pleasing.

The university is coming up near the Gitaitan township which is being built on a 127-acre land. HIDCO will construct the infrastructure that will include water supply lines and power connection up to the boundary walls of the township. It may be mentioned that the state government has prepared a township policy.

There will be individual

plots measuring around four to six cottahs as well as group houses. The individual house owners will be given the sanctioned plan along with the allotment of plots. If the plot owners agree, then HIDCO will help them to construct the structure. There will be a kitchen and a dining hall on the ground floor and bedrooms on the first floor. There will be a small lawn in front of the houses. Landscaping will be done meticulously, keeping in mind the rich culture and heritage of the area.

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TJM/TTL/17/ENG

Bagdogra Airport records all time highest passenger load



OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: On Tuesday, for the first time, the monthly passenger load at Bagdogra Airport has crossed 2 lakh in May 2017. Usually, the passenger load in the month of May remains high. In May 2016, the passenger load was around 1.8 lakh. This year it touched 2 lakh on Tuesday morning and it would be around 2.15 lakh by Wednesday evening.

Rakesh Sahay, Director of Bagdogra Airport, said: "Around 90 per cent of the passenger load is of tourists. Thus, it goes up in the month of May as there are vacations in schools and colleges."

In connection with the increase in the passenger load in the month of May com-

pared to that of the last year's, Sahay said that Dooars has now gained immense popularity as a tourist spot and people from different parts of the country are visiting the place.

At present, 23 flights operate from Bagdogra per day on three days a week while 24 flights operate on the four other days.

"Moreover, at present we have direct flight service from Mumbai and Bangalore. All the flights get 100 percent full now a days. Last year, we didn't have the non-stop flights from Mumbai and Bengaluru. The Bengaluru one is temporary till June 31," he said.

With 2 lakh passenger load, the revenue generation has touched Rs 1 crore in the month of May.

GJM calls for protest against 3-language policy in Hills

AMITAVA BANERJEE

DARJEELING: A cloud of uncertainty looms large with a Gorkha Janmukti Morcha agitation lined up from June 1. This time, the issue is the three language policy including Bengali as one of the subjects mulled by the Bengal government.

The GJM has dubbed this as a forceful imposition of the Bengali language and has lined up an agitation which includes two-day closure of all educational institutes in the Hills; protest marches and display of black flags.

GJM Chief Bimal Gurung held a meeting with heads of Hill schools and colleges; organisations like the Nepali Sahitya Sammelan and representatives of the civil society at the Gorkha Ranga Mancha in Darjeeling on Tuesday.

Addressing the gathering, Gurung gave a clarion call to the Hills to unite against the three language policy. "All political parties including the Hill TMC should join hands with

us to stop this infringement. It is a violation of our fundamental rights. How can a language be forced upon us? It is nothing to do with politics but concerns our community and our language. It is a conspiracy to strangle our community, language and culture. We will not tolerate this. If required, we could call general bands in the future," retorted Gurung.

Announcing the agitation programme, Gurung stated that all educational institutes will remain closed on June 1 and 2 as a mark of protest. "We will take out protest rallies sporting black badges and bands from June 4 to June 8 throughout the Hills. In Darjeeling, regular protest rallies will be taken out from Ghoom to the Collectorate. I will be present in the rallies held in Darjeeling. We will submit memorandums to the District Magistrate. Permission or no permission we will go ahead with the rallies. I ask all to join in these protest rallies," stated Gurung.

He further asked the Hills

along with the Terai and Dooars to display black flags from June 1 as a mark of protest.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is scheduled to visit the Darjeeling Hills from June 4 to June 8. Though no official communication has arrived yet regarding the CM's Hill itinerary, sources state that she will be visiting Mirik on June 4 where she will be announcing developmental programmes.

She will be in Darjeeling till the 8th. On 8th, a Cabinet meeting has been lined up in Darjeeling. The meeting is scheduled to be held at the Raj Bhawan in Darjeeling.

Recently, there has been some flashpoints between Morcha supporters and the police for bringing along school students in protest rallies. With the agitation lined up during the CM's visit, chances of confrontations loom large. Any untoward incident at this point especially with the ongoing tourist onrush will make matters worse.

SSB, Customs seize narcotics worth Rs 2 crore in international market

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: In a major breakthrough, a joint force of SSB and Customs have seized narcotic substances worth Rs nearly 2 crore.

Acting on a tip-off, the forces carried out a raid at Gondojo area and found a person moving suspiciously with a bag in his hand. The members of the 41 battalion of the SSB and the senior officials of the Customs were following the suspect who had fled from the spot leaving the bag in the area after sensing he might be arrested. The joint forces recovered the bag and found narcotics the market value of which would be around Rs 2 crore.

The accused who fled from the spot might have been a part of an international smuggling racket

It was learnt that the accused was carrying the narcotic substance wrapped in a piece of cloth inside a nylon bag. The investigating officials suspect that the accused might have had an intention to smuggle the narcotic substances to North-Eastern states. It is suspected that the accused who fled from the spot might have been a part of an international smuggling racket. A raid is being conducted to nab the culprit. The investigating officers are also trying to know who are the other persons involved in the crime. According to the preliminary investigation, the investigating officers suspect that the accused was assigned to take the bag containing narcotics up to the Indo-Assam border. They are also investigating where from did the accused collect the huge consignment of narcotics. A detailed probe has been initiated in this regard.

Shrutinandan releases Chandana Chakrabarty's debut albums



OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Shrutinandan, a unique centre to train the youth in Indian classical music, a dream project of Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty, celebrated its 20th anniversary by releasing Bidushi Chandana Chakrabarty's debut albums.

The maestro has come up with her debut albums, *Praanoshokha* and *Nuton Kore Gorbo Thakur*. *Nuton Kore Gorbo Thakur* is a Bengali devotional album and *Praanoshokha* is a compilation of Rabindra Sangeet. The music of both the albums was arranged by Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty. The albums were launched by Geetinanandan and priced at Rs 150 each. Chandana Chakrabarty or 'Guruma', as she is affectionately called by her pupils, was the first teacher of Shrutinandan and still continues to teach here. Besides this, she is to an extent the driving force behind each and every pupil's overall development and is the most revered and beloved principal of Shrutinandan. 'Guruji' and 'Guruma', as they are called by the pupils, together conceptualised, developed and built the thoughts and philosophies, which are now known to the rest of the world as Shrutinandan. At the age of 60, Chandana Chakrabarty, a top vocalist, gives musical training to her pupils regularly. Shrutinandan comprises two ancient Indian concepts of life and living; 'Shruti' - the auditory perception of the universe and 'Nandan' - the visual appreciation of the universe. So at Shrutinandan, one doesn't just learn music but also receives guidance in the perception and appreciation of life. Shrutinandan, a dream of Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty, was realised and nurtured by his wife, Vidushi Chandana Chakrabarty.

Over the past two decades, the institution has trained a few hundred students in Indian classical music, giving them a platform to exhibit their talents. Vidushi Kaushiki Chakrabarty, daughter of Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty was trained at Shrutinandan.

PRADIP CHATTERJEE

KOLKATA: The Bengal government will conduct manual counsellings in the final stages of admission in the undergraduate medical courses after the Supreme Court passed an order saying that all the states must conduct the medical counsellings manually so that no seats remain vacant in medical colleges.

The process of online medical counsellings were started from 2013 as a result of which, many of the medical seats were found to have been lying vacant even after the admission procedures concluded.

As per the Supreme Court's recent verdict, the first two counsellings could be conducted online but the final stages of counselling must be conducted manually by the state governments or by the authorities designated by the state government. In the past few years, the Bengal government, like many others, has been conducting all the counsellings online.

The Apex Court has given the verdict after it had observed that many of the undergraduate medical seats often remain vacant after the admission process is concluded.

The order said that the state governments should conduct manual counsellings for allotment of students in

FOR UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL COURSES

Now, manual counsellings in final stages of admissions



REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

the vacant seats. After the completion of counselling, the state governments should determine the number of seats that remain vacant and they must forward a list of students in order of merit, ten times the number of vacant seats to the medical colleges so that in case of a seat lying vacant following a transfer of a candidate, the respective state governments or the designated authorities can fill up the seats.

It may be mentioned that till the last academic year, there were three rounds of counsellings followed by a mop up

counselling. But the counsellings were held online. As there were no manual counsellings, the seats would have been lying vacant after a candidate gets transferred to other college or he/she pursues some other stream. Prior to 2013, all the medical counsellings used to be held manually. Candidates would have appeared physically at a medical college during the medical counselling.

The Supreme Court has observed that it has been noticed over a period of time that when students report to a college after the counselling, they

are refused admission by the colleges on some pretext or the other and it is shown by the colleges as if the students never reported to the college for admission. The Apex Court also maintained that if the demand draft is deposited by the admission or counselling committee, then there would be no scope for colleges to refuse admission to any student.

The students who secure admission in MBBS course should deposit a demand draft in favour of admission or counselling committee as fees payable to various institutions. The admission or counselling committee shall forward the demand draft to the respective institution or college or university.

Dr A K Maity, an expert in the field of medical education in the state said that the undergraduate medical seats in various medical colleges often lay vacant because of the faulty system of conducting online counsellings that fail to fill up the vacant seats. This also leads to a huge loss of various state governments.

Considering the seriousness of the matter, the Supreme Court has passed an order asking the states to conduct the first two counsellings online but the counselling at the final stage of selecting candidates must be conducted manually till all the vacant seats are filled up, Dr Maity maintained.

Two arrested from Salt Lake for running fake job racket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Police arrested two persons, including a woman, on charges of running a fake job racket in Salt Lake on Tuesday. Debarghya Bhattacharya and Debamaya Sanyal, the two accused persons, allegedly took money from several unemployed young people promising them jobs in foreign countries.

Investigators suspected that the duo took around Rs 50 lakh from these unemployed young people, promising them jobs. However, they later refused to meet them. The victims wanted their money back but the accused repeatedly made false promises.

'Debarghya and Debamaya opened an office at Salt Lake's IA Block where they allegedly took money from unemployed young people. They made false promises that they would provide them with jobs'

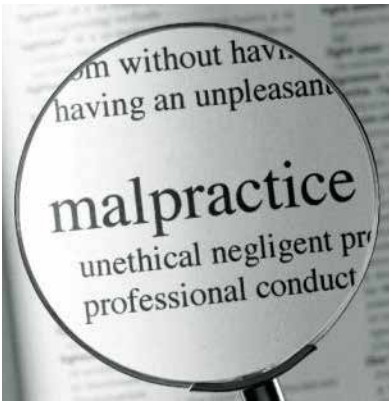
"Debarghya and Debamaya opened an office at Salt Lake's IA Block where they allegedly took money from unemployed young people. They made false promises that they would provide them with jobs in the United States, in some European countries and in China and Dubai," said a police officer. On the basis of the complaint lodged by the victims, police arrested Debarghya and Debamaya, the officer added. Bidhannagar City Police had earlier arrested one Pradip Modak (43) on charges of running a fake job racket last month. The accused person allegedly took money promising to give people jobs in the West Bengal Board of Primary Education. Similar incidents took place earlier as well. "The increasing incidents of fake job rackets are a concern for us. We have started a special investigation," said a police officer.

Two-year-old girl dies, kin stages protest inside hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Family members of a two-year-old girl who died at Dr B C Roy Memorial Hospital staged a protest inside the hospital premises alleging medical negligence.

It was learnt that the victim girl, Swati Sen, a resident of Nandanbagan area of Khanna was brought to the hospital on Monday morning after she complained of respiratory problems. The patient was admitted to the hospital after a thorough check up. The doctors found that that patient was suffering from pneumonia. The family members of the victim received a phone call from the hospital authorities on Monday evening saying that her condition has deteriorated following which, the patient was shifted to the Critical Care Unit (CCU) of the hospital.



The family members alleged that some of them were denied permission to meet the patient later in the evening. They alleged that the hospital authorities did not co-operate with them. At around 11.30

pm, Swati's family members were told that the patient had died. The family members became furious after they were informed about the death. They alleged that they were not properly informed about the reason of her death. They staged a demonstration inside the hospital alleging negligence in treatment which led to a tension in the area on Monday night.

The hospital authorities, however, denied any negligence on their part. They said that the patient's condition was serious when she was brought to the hospital and the condition further deteriorated later.

The family members staged a protest inside the hospital campus demanding action against those who were responsible for the incident. After being informed, the police reached the spot and pacified the mob. The demonstration was later lifted following the intervention of the police.

Around 2,000 attend IDA's anti-tobacco rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: With the World Health Organisation (WHO) announcing "Tobacco, a threat to development", as a theme for 2017, various initiatives were taken by different organisations in the city to spread awareness about the ill effects of consuming tobacco products on World No Tobacco Day on Tuesday.

The West Bengal Chapter of the Indian Dental Association (IDA) along with a private hospital organised a rally in the city as a part of their awareness campaign on how consumption of tobacco in various forms leads to cancer. Around 2,000 people took part in the Walkathon organised on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day. The rally started from the Dr R Ahmed Dental College and Hospital and ended on Rani Rashmani Road.

Biman Bandyopadhyay, Speaker of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, state Power minister Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay, cricketer Manoj Tiwari and other senior officials of the state Health department attended the programme



at Moulali from where the rally started.

According to available data, a single cigarette reduces up to 11 minutes of our lifespan, while a full packet of it cause us to lose three hours forty minutes of our life. Around 137 people are dying in our country every hour due to use of tobacco and tobacco products, while in the world a person dies every six seconds due to these products.

According to a Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) 2010 report, around 36.3 percent of the population in West Bengal use tobacco in some form and lakhs of people die each year due to tobacco-related ailments. The survey says that around 85 percent men and 20 per cent women in India use tobacco in some form.

The World Health Organisation

Fake doctor row: CID quizzes Unani council officials over fake certificate

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Tuesday interrogated two senior officials of the State Council of Unani Medicine in connection with the arrest of fake doctor Naren Pandey. The investigating agency went to the office of the council on Monday and interrogated some of the officials. A CID officer said that the officials of the council were summoned at Bhawani Bhavan after discrepancies were found in their statements during interrogation on Monday.

During Tuesday's interrogation, too, the investigating agency found discrepancies in the statements of the officials.

It may be mentioned that Pandey had claimed during interrogation that he had a Unani certificate that allows him to continue as a medical practitioner. But investigation revealed that the registration number that he had provided to the Belle Vue Clinic to work as a doctor was different than the one he had printed on prescriptions and other documents.



Naren Pandey was arrested from his Entally clinic

During interrogation, the investigating officers asked the officials of the Unani council to reveal that how Pandey had managed to get a certificate to carry on as a medical practitioner.

The officer said that the interrogation on Tuesday continued for hours and if needed they will be summoned for questioning again.

It may be mentioned that the CID

had initiated the a probe after a complaint with the Bidhannagar police station and came to know about the fake certificates of Pandey.

The investigating officer further said that there are some more people who will also be summoned for questioning in this connection. The investigating agency is also looking into the financial aspects. It may be mentioned that Pan-

It may be mentioned that Pandey had claimed during interrogation that he had a Unani certificate that allows him to continue as a medical practitioner

dey had taken a loan of Rs 1 crore from a private bank and they are also probing to ascertain how the money was used.

The investigating officers are trying to find that if any more such fake doctors are still working in the state or not. They have interrogated the officials to know whether there are any more fake doctors who have got fake certificates.

The CID officers are also trying to know that how Pandey had managed to get a certificate of his wife as a BHMS doctor.

‘Military preparedness is best deterrent, guarantees peace’

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: India's military preparedness is the best deterrent, which will guarantee peace in the region, and it must significantly ramp up defence production keeping in mind geo-political dynamics, Defence Minister Arun Jaitley said today.

He said defence PSUs and private sector can have a healthy competition to develop military platforms and weapon systems, asserting that India must not rely heavily on imports.

In an oblique reference to Pakistan, Jaitley said security requirements are dictated by the kind of neighbourhood India has. "Obviously, in view of the peculiar situation from geo-political point of view where we are located, our preparedness is the best deterrent and which is certainly a guarantee for peace as far as our region is concerned," he said.

He was speaking at an event where some of the defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs) were given Raksha Mantri's awards for their performance in 2014-15 and 2015-16.

"No country can indefinitely win wars and battles on the strength of trying to buy and import equipment from outside.

Its security preparedness would be incomplete if it relies only on that," Jaitley

said.

The defence minister referred to the strategic partnership model for involving leading domestic private sector firms along with foreign entities for defence production and said it will encourage defence manufacturing in the country.

Under the strategic partnership model, Government plans to rope in select private firms to build military platforms like submarines and fighter jets in India in partnership with foreign entities.

It aims to create a vibrant defence manufacturing ecosystem in the country through involvement of both the major Indian corporates as well as the MSME sector.

"There is no reason why we cannot become a force to reckon with (in defence production)," he said.

Talking about the economy, Jaitley said it has been logging impressive growth in the last three years.

"Having completed seven decades after Independence, we have now for three years in a row achieved the distinction of being the fastest growing global economy among the major economies. We aspire to evolve from a developing economy to a developed economy," he said.

Jaitley said India must expand its manufacturing sector to create job opportunities on a mass scale.



Defence and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley at the Raksha Mantri's Awards for Excellence presentation ceremony at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, on Tuesday

PTI

Road rage: Lawyer for victim's kin rejects Manipur Bar claim

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: A lawyer who had filed a petition in Supreme Court on behalf of the parents of a youth, allegedly killed in a road rage incident by the son of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh, on Tuesday contradicted the claim of a Manipur lawyer's body that he had 'tarnished' the image of judicial system of the state.

The All Manipur Bar Association had on Monday rejected the allegations that the lawyers in the state had steered clear of a case involving the son of the Chief Minister as they "fear for their lives".

In a statement, advocate Utsav Bains, who appeared in the apex court for victim Irom Roger's mother Irom Chitra Devi, said "the evidence of the refusal to represent in the case by advocates at Manipur High Court have been submitted to the Supreme Court".

Bains said rather than holding a press conference, the lawyers should have helped the victim's mother get justice and added that he has already submitted in the apex court the evidence of refusal by advocates.

He claimed he had evidence to show how lawyers in Manipur refused to represent the family of Roger.

"It's a really a sorry state of affairs. Lawyers join the noble profession and it is our duty to make people, who are in need, get justice. Except in the manner as set out in the Bar Council Rules, lawyers cannot refuse to represent anyone.



"I am just doing my duty as a lawyer, despite there being threat to my life from terrorists. I decided to file an appeal against the order of the sessions judge on behalf of the victim's mother and represent them in the High Court of Manipur at Imphal," Bains said.

Ajay Meetai, son of the chief minister, was awarded a five-year jail term by a sessions court in January this year under Section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of IPC for firing at Roger on March 20, 2011, and killing him.

The road rage incident had occurred after Roger had allegedly not allowed Meetai to overtake him in his SUV which had irked the chief minister's son.

Advocate Kamini Jaiswal, assisted by Bains, had yesterday told the apex court that no one from Manipur had dared to file an appeal in the high court against the five-year jail term awarded to Meetai.

Advocate L Roshmani of the bar association at a press conference here yesterday had

said that the charges made by Bains had "tarnished" the image of the judicial system of Manipur.

"The entire judicial process stands the risk of being jeopardised by such irresponsible and reckless statements. I wish he (Bains) had some evidence to back his allegations.

This matter needs to be dealt with appropriately," Roshmani had said.

The association has claimed to have approached the Bar Council of India urging it to initiate disciplinary action against Bains and threatened to take legal action against him.

Irom Chitra Devi had moved the Supreme Court alleging that they were being threatened and the lawyers in the state have refused to challenge the order of the sessions judge due to the clout of the chief minister.

The apex court had yesterday asked the Centre to consider giving security cover to the parents of Roger, observing that without any reason, no one had the courage to make allegations against the chief minister.

Centre orders fresh security audit of Bodh Gaya temple

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The government has ordered a full security audit of the famous Mahabodhi temple in Bodh Gaya in Bihar, before acceding an armed protection cover of central paramilitary commandos to the World Heritage Site thronged by lakhs of devotees every year.

Officials said the decision to undertake a fresh security audit and survey of the temple complex, including an assessment of the required security manpower, has been directed by the Union home ministry after a high-level meeting was convened in this regard here recently, also attended by officials of the Bihar government.

PTI had reported two weeks back that the Centre is planning to provide an armed security cover to the temple, four years after it was hit by a terror strike.

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), the paramilitary force that guards vital installations of the country like airports and those in the aerospace and nuclear domain, will conduct the audit.

A team of its experts will soon visit the temple, known as the cradle of Buddhism, and undertake the exercise along with authorities of the Bihar police, Gaya administration and the Mahabodhi temple. The report will be submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Shah to go on 3-day Kerala trip as part of 2019 LS poll offensive

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Eyeing the Lok Sabha election in 2019, BJP national president Amit Shah will be on a three-day visit to Kerala from June 2 to 4 to discuss matters relating to party expansion with party workers and other ally parties in the state.

Party sources said that on the first day of his visit Shah will hold a meeting of the party core group in Kochi. Different groups have already been set up for conducting booth level work aiming to strengthen the saffron base in the state.

Notably, the party has deployed general secretaries in different constituencies to avoid political confrontation and intimidation in the state.

Amid all recent political developments, the three-day



visit of BJP president in the state has political significance, experts feel. Reportedly, during his visit, Shah will also review the situation. In Kochi, he will meet alliance parties, BDJS and Kerala Congress (PC Thomas faction).

Earlier, during its state executive meeting, BDJS had demanded for eight Lok Sabha seats, especially Attingal and Pathanamthitta, which BJP is eyeing for the upcoming election in 2019. They also cau-

tioned that if a minimum of six Lok Sabha seats are not provided to them, they will withdraw their support.

On June 3, BJP president will visit Kottayam to attend booth-level interaction and on June 4, Shah will visit Trivandrum to attend a programme to mark three years of BJP-NDA government. During his last day of the visit, he will also interact with intellectuals.

Reportedly, BJP is ready to hold talks with any political outfit that accepts the NDA's policies. Earlier, a central BJP delegation visited the state and submitted its report.

Apart from BJP national president Amit Shah, Union Ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad, Nirmala Sitharaman and Prakash Javadekar will also attend the three anniversary programme in the state.

Soon, UGC to work on plan to make father's name optional on degrees

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The University Grants Commission (UGC) will soon work on a proposal to make father's name on degrees optional after the HRD Ministry in-principle agreed to the suggestion made by Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi.

"We are okay with the idea. Whether the student wants to mention mother's name or

father's name should be his or her choice," Prakash Javadekar said in an interview.

"We like the concept and have no objection to it. The UGC will work on it soon," he added.

Following concerns raised by single mothers, Gandhi had last month written to Javadekar, urging him to change the rule that requires father's name to be mandatory mentioned on a student's degree certificate.

"I have been approached by several women who are separated from their husbands and who face problems getting degree certificates issued for their children without their father's name," Gandhi had said in her letter.

She explained further that breakdown of marriages and separation between husband and wife is now a reality and rules must reflect this.

"Keeping in view the sen-

sitivity of the single/separated mother, we need to make a provision for this purpose by changing rules/guidelines," the letter added.

Last year, at the behest of Maneka, the Ministry of External Affairs had revised its passport application rules and announced that the name of only one parent, and not both, was enough, enabling single parents to apply for passports for their children.

Defence minister's scientific adviser gets 1-year extension

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: G Sathesh Reddy has been given a one-year extension in service as the scientific adviser to the defence minister.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension of his tenure for one-year with effect from June 4, an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) said.

Reddy, a distinguished scientist, was in May 2015



appointed to the post for a fixed two-year term.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley is looking after the charge of the defence ministry, following the appointment of Manohar Parrikar as the Goa chief minister. Reddy is an eminent missile scientist and has made pioneering contribution in navigation and avionics technologies.

He was appointed as the scientific adviser after former Defence Minister Parrikar had decided to split the post of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) chief.

Earlier, the DRDO head used to be the scientific adviser to the defence minister.

ment of Manohar Parrikar as the Goa chief minister. Reddy is an eminent missile scientist and has made pioneering contribution in navigation and avionics technologies.

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Earlier, the DRDO head used to be the scientific adviser to the defence minister.

New backward panel will have more powers, says Thaawarchand Gehlot

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot has said that the new National Commission for Backward Classes will be constituted under Article 338B and will commence functioning as a constitutional authority.

It would also function in the same manner as the National Commission for Scheduled Castes under Article 338 and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes under Article 338A, the minister said, while interacting with mediapersons on three year's achievements of his ministry.

"The new commission



would exercise the function of hearing the complaints/grievances of socially and educationally backward classes. It will have the powers of a Civil Court for this purpose and have the duty of advising the socio-economic development

of the socially and educationally backward classes. It would evaluate the progress of their development, unlike the present commission which does not have this role," Gehlot said.

The minister further added that the ministry has released

scholarships to 3.45 crore students through direct benefit transfer (DBT) providing direct benefit to the students and in the last three years, an amount of Rs 18,000 crore has been released. On the occasion, MoS Social Justice Ramdas Athawale and Secretary G Latha Krishna Rao were also present.

Gehlot also informed that scheme for prevention of alcoholism and substance (drugs) abuse is helping in creating awareness and educating people about the ill-effects of alcoholism and substance abuse on the individual, the family. The ministry is running, 431 drug-de-addiction centres with the active participation of NGOs.

POWERGRID

Enabling High Voltage Economic Growth

Extract of the Statement of Standalone and Consolidated Audited Financial Results for the Year ended 31st March, 2017

S. No.	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated	
		Quarter ended		Year ended		Year ended	
		31.03.2017 (Un-audited)	31.03.2016 (Un-audited)	31.03.2017 (Audited)	31.03.2016 (Audited)	31.03.2017 (Audited)	31.03.2016 (Audited)
1.	Total income from operations (net)	6712.04	5740.51	25716.54	20665.81	25703.91	20652.08
2.	Profit before tax	2341.78	2008.66	9499.83	7540.56	9387.07	7571.59
3.	Profit after tax for the period before Regulatory Deferral Account Balances	1833.45	1573.20	7450.22	5948.55	7380.80	5958.66
4.	Profit for the Period after tax	1916.36	1568.58	7520.15	5948.55	7450.73	5958.61
5.	Total Comprehensive Income comprising net Profit after Tax and Other Comprehensive Income after tax	1980.22	1568.46	7569.98	5936.53	7500.57	5946.67
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital (face value of share : ₹ 10/- each)	5231.59	5231.59	5231.59	5231.59	5231.59	5231.59
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance sheet of previous year			44575.66	38579.64	44633.91	38738.34
8.	Earnings per equity share including movement in Regulatory Deferral Account Balances (₹ Per share of ₹ 10/- each): Basic and Diluted	3.66	3.00	14.37	11.37	14.24	11.39
9.	Earnings per equity share excluding movement in Regulatory Deferral Account Balances (₹ Per share of ₹ 10/- each): Basic and Diluted	3.50	3.01	14.24	11.37	14.11	11.39

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulations 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Annual Financial Results is available on the Investor Relations section of our website <http://powergridindia.com> and under Corporates Section of BSE Limited & National Stock Exchange of India Limited at <http://www.bseindia.com> and <http://www.nseindia.com>.
- (a) In exercise of powers u/s 178 of the Electricity Act 2003, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has notified "CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations 2014" vide order dated 21st February, 2014 for the determination of transmission tariff for the block period 2014-19.
(b) The company has recognised Transmission income during the year as per the following:
(i) ₹ 22065.90 crore (previous year ₹ 12622.90 crore) as per final tariff orders issued by CERC.
(ii) ₹ 2345.76 crore (previous year ₹ 7109.16 crore) in respect of transmission assets for which final tariff orders are yet to be issued as per CERC Tariff Regulations and other orders in similar cases.
- The above financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and have been approved by the Board of Directors in their respective meetings held on 29th May, 2017.
- Figures for the fourth quarter are the balancing figures between audited figures in respect of the full financial year and the published year to date figures upto the third quarter of the financial year.

For and on behalf of
POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
sd/-
(I. S. Jha)
Chairman & Managing Director

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Registered Office : B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi - 110 016, Ph.: 011-26560122, Fax : 011-26601081
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E-mail id : powergrid@powergrid.co.in, **CIN : L40101DL1989GOI038121**

Visit us at : www.powergridindia.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Members are requested to register/update their E-mail ID with Company/Depository participants/Company's Registrar & Transfer Agent (KARVY) which will be used for sending official documents through e-mail in future.

A 'NAVRATNA' COMPANY

BJD infighting turns ugly; MP Jay Panda hit by stone

OUR CORRESPONDENT

BHUBANESWAR: The infighting in the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) turned ugly on Tuesday when party MP Bajiyant Panda was hit by a stone as his supporters and some partymen pelted stones at one another in Mahanga area.

The incident happened when some partymen hurled stones and eggs at a procession led by Panda after he inaugurated a drinking water project in the area in Kendrapara district, police said.

Panda was seen hit by a stone and he sat down on the ground surrounded by his supporters. Later, police escorted the MP up to a chopper. Soon his supporters pelted stones at the other partymen. Immediate police intervention controlled the situation.

“Forget stones & eggs, they can’t cow me down even if they use bullet. These MPLAD funded projects = 5.2 million litre of drinking water,” Panda tweeted immediately after the incident.

Panda, MP of Kendrapara, had allocated funds for the overhead water tank at Jati-parilo village under Mahanga Assembly segment represented by state’s Health and Family Welfare Minister Pratap Jena.



‘I have been in the party since its inception in 1997. In the first 17 years, we had a policy against hooliganism and infighting. But things have changed in the last three years. The party has become indisciplined,’ rued Panda

While local BJD leaders and minister’s supporters alleged that they were not invited to the inauguration function, Panda rejected the charge and claimed that all the local lead-

ers, including the local MLA, were invited. “Even names of local leaders were written in the plaque,” Panda told reporters.

Panda blamed some “Babus” (officers) for the hoo-

liganism in the ruling BJD and hoped party president Naveen Patnaik would definitely take steps after being aware of the incident.

Panda said, “I have been in the party since its inception in 1997. In the first 17 years, we had a policy against hooliganism and infighting. But things have changed in the last three years.

“When some ‘Babus’ (officers) sitting in AC rooms have started deciding the party activities, it has become a victim of indiscipline. This is not

a good sign.”

Panda, who was recently removed from the post of spokesman of BJD’s parliamentary party, said he had already taken up the matter of indiscipline in the party with the president. “I have raised the issue in BJD’s parliamentary party meeting. I am sure once Naveen Babu gets to know the truth, he will certainly take steps,” Panda told reporters.

BJD spokesman and Rajya Sabha MP P K Deb said, “the incident is an outcome of lack of communication and misunderstanding. The party president will examine the matter.”

BJD Vice-President and minister S N Patro described the incident as a local problem. “It will be sorted out locally.

The district president of the party, local MP and local MLA will resolve the matter.”

Senior BJP leader and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, however, came down on the ruling BJD over the attack on the MP. “There is no democracy in the state,” he said.

Congress leader Suresh Routray said such incidents would be explosive in the coming days as the government and the ruling party were functioning in an arbitrary manner.

Punjab govt, I-T dept launch probe in mining contracts

OUR CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH: The Income Tax Department has started an inquiry into the mining contracts allegedly bagged by four former employees of Punjab minister Rana Gurjit Singh, even as the state government ordered a judicial probe in the matter on Tuesday.

While opposition parties, including the AAP and the Shiromani Akali Dal, demanded sacking of Gurjit Singh, the state irrigation and power minister, pending inquiry in the case, exuded confidence of coming out clean in the probe.

Questions were being raised over the allotment of mining contracts to Amit Bahadur at Saidpur Khurd village in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar for Rs 26.51 crore, Kulvinder Paul Singh at Mehadi-pur in SBS Nagar for Rs 9.21 crore, Gurinder Singh at Rampur Kalan village in Mohali district for Rs 4.11 crore and Balraj Singh at Bairsal village for Rs 10.58 crore.

“An inquiry into the mining contract awarded to four persons whose names have appeared in newspaper reports, has been initiated but it is at preliminary stage now,” an income tax official said.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh also ordered setting up of a judicial commission to probe the allegations of



impropriety against the state irrigation and power minister in the multi-crore sand mining auctions held recently by the state government, an official spokesman said.

The terms of reference for the inquiry commission, formed under the Commission of Inquiry Act, would be notified soon, a statement said.

Rana has offered to resign in order to ensure a free and fair investigation into the matter, however the chief minister asked him to continue till the outcome of the judicial probe, a decision decreed by opposition parties, it said.

The Chief Minister announced his decision to set up the commission after taking suo motu cognisance of media reports accusing the minister of acquiring certain mines in the names of his company’s staff, the statement said.

Rana has denied any links of his company, Rana Sugars Limited, with the auctions and has said his company has no stake, direct or indirect, in the sand mining business.

In a statement issued here, Gurjit Singh welcomed the probe and said he has full faith in the judicial process.

Meanwhile, the opposition AAP held a dharna outside the Punjab Assembly complex on Tuesday demanding immediate sacking of Gurjit Singh.

The AAP legislators held a meeting in the Vidhan Sabha complex and then they tried to march towards the residence of the Chief Minister to stage a dharna there.

However, the police stopped them near the barricades set up just outside the Vidhan Sabha complex and were prevented from marching forward.

Monsoon reaches Kerala two days before schedule

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The southwest monsoon on Tuesday hit Kerala and the Northeast, two days ahead of the scheduled arrival of the crucial seasonal rainfall.

Cyclone Mora, which hit the Bangladesh coast on Tuesday, aided the advance of the monsoon, director general of the India Meteorological Department K J Ramesh said.

The news will bring cheer to farmers, especially from the drought-hit states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. More than 50 per cent of the country’s farmers rely on monsoon for growing their produce.

The normal onset date for the monsoon in Kerala, which marks its official arrival in the country, is June 1. Last year, the monsoon hit Kerala on June 8, seven days after its scheduled onset date.

This year, however, it has arrived two days before its scheduled date.

“Southwest monsoon has



set in over Kerala on Tuesday. It has also advanced to some parts of northeastern states (some parts of Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh),” the IMD said.

Conditions are favourable for further advance of the southwest monsoon into remaining parts of south Arabian Sea, Lakshadweep area and Kerala, some parts of central Arabian Sea, coastal and south interior Karnataka.

It is also likely to advance into some more parts of Tamil Nadu, southwest, west central and east central Bay of Bengal,

most parts of northeast Bay of Bengal and some more parts of northeastern states during the next three-four days.

In its initial forecast, the IMD has predicted a ‘normal’ rainfall, owing to reduction in the likelihood of El-Nino, a phenomenon associated with warming of the Pacific waters.

The IMD will come up with its second forecast for the season in the first week of June.

Along with India, the monsoon also arrived in parts of Bangladesh and Myanmar on Tuesday.

Bharatiya Kisan Sangh to launch stir on June 15

OUR CORRESPONDENT

JODHPUR: The Bharatiya Kisan Sangh will launch an indefinite agitation from June 15 at all divisional headquarters of Rajasthan demanding solution to the long-pending demands of state farmers and starting work on the Mahi project.

The Sangh also submitted a memorandum to the divisional commissioner addressed to the chief minister.

Termining the government “anti-farmer” and “anti-agriculture”, farmer leader Ratan Lal Daga said the government was “responsible” for farmers not getting the right price of their produce.

He said the farmers were not getting even the input cost.

“We have been demanding determination of a suitable price of all the crops since long but the government indifference is leaving the farmers with no alternative but to sell their produce in the market at a very low price,” said Daga.

Cow vigilantism, hate crimes show state in bad light: Raje

OUR CORRESPONDENT

JAIPUR: Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje has admitted that recent crimes, including those by cow vigilantes, against minorities in the state show Rajasthan in a bad light, but stressed that firm action will be taken against those behind the violence.

“The law of the land prevails in Rajasthan, and the government will ensure the culprits are brought to book,” she said.

In April, ‘gau rakshaks’ or cow vigilantes lynched a 55-year-old cattle trader, Pehlu Khan, in Alwar and injured four of his companions. Khan later succumbed to injuries.

A month later, the desert state hit the headlines again when a video showing Sikh men allegedly being thrashed by villagers in Ajmer surfaced. “Rajasthan cannot be singled out. Such incidents are happening across India. But this government will not tolerate such crimes as it shows the state in a bad light,” Raje said.

The chief minister, who is due to complete her term next year, said, “We do not discriminate among people on any lines.

“Though our government did its part, the Kerala government is yet to speak out on the killings of BJP and RSS workers,” said Raje.

The CM said she planned to make development her party’s poll plank for the state Assembly elections.

“These factors will be crucial in ensuring our victory in the polls,” Raje said, adding that the BJP government had “inherited discoms crippled by debts running into crores of rupees from the erstwhile Congress government.”

Siting an example of the coordination between the Centre and Rajasthan, Raje said, “Rajasthan’s road network by 2018 will be of 30,000 km. The state has already constructed 21,000 km of roads since the BJP formed the government in the state.”

Punjab Cabinet okays ‘kurki’ abolition

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab cabinet on Tuesday gave its formal nod to Chief Minister Amarinder Singh’s promise to scrap ‘kurki’, a practice under which mortgaged land is auctioned to recover loans.

The cabinet decision comes in the backdrop of the Chief Minister’s assertions about his commitment to rescue the state’s beleaguered farmers from the burden of debt by waiving off their loans and putting an end to ‘kurki’.

The council of ministers, which met here under the chairmanship of Singh, approved the proposal to abolish section 67-A of the Punjab Cooperative Societies Act 1961, which provides for ‘kurki’ to recover loans as arrears of land revenue, an official spokesman said.

In another move to reform the agriculture sector, the cabinet also okayed the super-session of the existing nominated Market Committees.

As per the cabinet decision, Section 12 of the Punjab Agricultural Produce Market Act, 1961, will be amended to appoint administrators, who shall perform the official duties and exercise powers of the Market Committees for a period of one year or till the nomination of Market Committees.

The meeting also decided to rename the Department of Agriculture as Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

AGENCIES

Centralised police control room to be set up in Panchkula

OUR CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH: A Centralised Police Control Room would start functioning from Panchkula in about a year and police personnel working on the facility will be provided with video wall, GPS, camera, and a wireless system.

The modern PCR would be set up over 2.6 acres, and would take calls from all over the state on ‘Haryana 100 Police Emergency Response System’, and police would promptly take action on the complaints received.

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, while presiding over a review meeting of the police department here yesterday, said that he had given in-principle approval for setting up the Control Room.

“Calls coming from Haryana 100 would be transferred to the dispatcher who would direct these to dedicated police van which would immediately rush to the spot of the happening,” he said, according to an official release here on Tuesday.

Under Haryana 100, dedicated vehicles would be allotted to police personnel and a call centre would be established.

“It would also receive calls for various services such as fire, ambulance, women helpline and intelligence inputs, and despatch these to the service

PCR vans would be set up over 2.6 acres and would take calls from all over the state on ‘Haryana 100 Police Emergency Response System’

concerned,” he said.

The Chief Minister said police personnel working on calls coming at Haryana 100, would be provided with video wall, GPS, camera, cell phone and wireless system, which have not been made available to the police force of any other state.

The police personnel to be appointed under Haryana 100 would be well educated and connected with information technology.

They would be well versed with Haryanvi language and have knowledge of soft skills so that they do not face any problem in receiving calls, the release said.

For making Haryana 100 functional, about 600 vehicles would be purchased besides other software and hardware. A dedicated IPS officer would be appointed, who would be responsible for managing the project.

Video cameras in loco cabins to monitor train drivers

OUR CORRESPONDENT

VARANASI: Aiming at enhancing safety, the Indian Railways will install a new system in locomotives to keep a close vigil on loco pilots during the train operations.

Loco Cab Video and Voice Recording System (LCVR) - consisting of video cameras, microphones and digital video recorder - will also be used for effective post-analysis after train accidents.

Besides LCVR, the Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW), known for developing innovative ways to improve rail operations, has also developed another state-of-the-art system to monitor locomotives in operation across the country.

Remote monitoring and management of locomotive and trains (REMMLOT), is a network-oriented system connecting locos in the field with centralised server-based management system through GSM

network communication and GPS.

REMMLOT system is estimated to cost about Rs 3.2 lakh per loco, provides real-time locomotive health data and location of locomotives, said DLW chief design engineer A K Singh.

Through this system, health or condition of locomotives can be monitored at any place by authorised users.

The LCVR system estimated to cost about Rs 3.5 lakh is being developed at DLW here in close coordination with the Railways’ design wing - Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO).

The video cameras will have facility of day/night vision and along with the microphones, the state-of-the-art system will monitor driver’s activities in the loco cabin closely, Singh said.

DLW has placed orders for supply of 12 loco sets of LCVR which are expected to be fitted

in locomotives by July this year as a pilot project.

There will be a total of six video cameras to monitor the loco pilot and assistant loco pilot in the cabin and in case of any deviation on the part of the drivers, it will be clearly recorded.

While the LCVR will keep drivers alert all the time, it will also ensure effective and tamper-proof video and voice recording of the loco cabin and track view for post-event analysis, Singh said.

The recordings help in investigating the causes of accidents including whether drivers had jumped red signals.

This also becomes a tool for education of the loco pilots to observe and improve their mistakes or weaknesses.

DLW has manufactured 333 diesel locomotives and one electric loco in 2016-17. The plant has a target of producing 315 locos including 25 electric ones in the current fiscal.

2 held for smuggling polythene bags into J&K

JAMMU: Two persons, including a truck driver, were arrested and 13 tonnes of polythene carry bags, which they were allegedly trying to smuggle into Jammu and Kashmir, have been seized in Kathua district, police said on Tuesday. Import of polythene bags, in any form, is banned in the state. Acting on a tip-off, police set up a checkpoint on the national highway near Kalibari in the district and intercepted the truck, police said. Two persons have been arrested while another one is still absconding, cops said, adding a case has been registered and investigation is going on.

NATION BRIEFS

THREE DIE, MORE THAN 100 FALL ILL AFTER CONSUMING PORK AT FEAST

SHILLONG: In a suspected case of food poisoning at least three persons, including a minor, have died and more than 100 others were taken ill after consuming pork at a feast in Meghalaya’s Ri Bhoi district, officials said on Tuesday. Two persons including seven-year-old boy of Nongkya village died last evening at Umsning Community Health Centre (CHC) while another person who was taken ill to Shillong Civil Hospital also died, district officials said. Ri-Bhoi district medical and health officer Bareh P Lamin said hundreds of people of Nongkya village who enjoyed the feast after a church service at the village on Sunday, many villagers were taken to hospitals in Shillong, including NEIGRIHMS. Joint Commissioner of Food Safety S N Sangma said a team of food safety officers were rushed to the village to collect food samples which caused the food poisoning affecting majority of the population at the village.

CYCLONE MORA: ODISHA FISHERMEN ASKED NOT TO VENTURE INTO SEA

BHUBANESWAR: Fishermen were asked not to venture into the sea in Odisha as severe cyclonic storm ‘Mora’ crossed the Bangladesh coast on Tuesday, raising possibility of rains at many places in the state. The system is very likely to continue to move north-northeastwards towards northeastern states and weaken into a cyclonic storm and then into a deep depression. Under its impact, rain and thundershowers are likely to occur at many places in districts of north Odisha and a few places over south Odisha during next 24 hours till Wednesday, it said. Advice for hoisting Distant Warning Signal Number Two (DW-II) at Paradip and Gopalpur ports has been issued, the MeT office said adding fishermen are advised not to venture into sea. The Odisha Government has already alerted the Collectors of Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak and Jaipur districts to remain in a state of preparedness to deal with any situation in view of ‘Mora’.



Union Electronics & IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad during a Ganga Aarti at Haridwar on Tuesday

BUYING OR SELLING PLASTIC BAGS TO ATTRACT UP TO ₹5,000 FINE IN GOA

PANAJI: Come July, those who are buying or selling plastic bags in Goa will have to pay a hefty fine of upto Rs 5,000. The drastic measure was announced by Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar on Tuesday, as part of the government’s efforts to keep clean the coastal state. “The fine won’t be a meagre amount. It will be hefty. It might be upto Rs 5,000 (each time). We might give some relaxation in the beginning in terms of the amount of fine, but we are strictly going to implement the ban,” he said. Parrikar asked people to inculcate the habit of carrying cloth bags instead of plastic.

Modi, Merkel vow to take strong steps against terror

OUR CORRESPONDENT

BERLIN: Warning that terrorism poses a grave threat to future generations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said forces of humanity should come together to combat the menace as India and Germany vowed to take “strong measures” against those who encourage, support and finance it.

India on Tuesday thanked Germany for backing its membership bid in the Nuclear Suppliers Group as the two countries supported each other’s candidature for a permanent seat in a reformed UN Security Council.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Angela Merkel expressed their commitment to “strengthen global non- proliferation efforts,” said a Joint Statement issued after their meeting here.

He made the remarks after over an hour-long wide-ranging talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on a host of key issues like trade, skill development and climate change.

“The pace of development of our relations is fast, direction positive and destination clear. Germany will always find India as powerful, prepared and capable partner,” Modi said at a joint press interaction with Merkel.

After the talks, the two sides signed 12 MOUs/agreements



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Angela Merkel address journalists at a joint Press conference as part of a meeting at the chancellery in Berlin, Germany, on Tuesday

in fields like cyber policy, development initiatives, sustainable urban development, continued development of cluster managers and skill development, digitalisation, railway security and promoting vocational training.

The two sides also issued a joint statement after Modi and Merkel held the fourth India-Germany Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC).

The two leaders underlined their common concern about the threat and global reach of terrorism and extremism while condemning terrorist violence in all its forms and manifestations, the joint statement said.

“They agreed on the need to take strong measures against all those who encourage, support and finance terrorism, provide sanctuary and safe havens that sustain and support terrorist groups and organisations,” it said.

India and Germany hailed their closer collaboration in countering these challenges through regular meetings of the Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism.

They also called for finalisation and adoption of Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, it said.

Making a reference to terrorism, Modi said it was a

big problem that faces future generations and all forces of humanity must come together to fight the menace.

“Both our countries will work together to tackle this problem together and cyber security and intelligence sharing is a very important aspect of this cooperation,” he said.

Modi’s remarks assume significance as they come in the wake of a spate of terror attacks that have struck European countries like Germany, France, the UK and Sweden recently. The latest terror attack to have rocked Europe was at a concert in Manchester where a suicide bomber blew himself

up, killing 22 people.

Modi said a comprehensive review of bilateral relations was undertaken during the talks with Merkel.

“A quantum jump in economic relations can be seen between India and Germany and an outcome-oriented momentum can be seen building,” he said.

“At the last IGC in New Delhi, we had set up a fast-track system for German companies to invest in India and that has shown very good results, especially the Mittelstand (medium enterprises) companies,” Modi told reporters.

On her part, Merkel said India has proved to be a reliable partner and the two sides have been able to deepen cooperation.

Modi also made a call for European Union (EU) unity and said India would play a positive role in enhancing that through Germany.

In a major boost to Merkel, who has been fighting against secessionist tendencies within the economic bloc since the Brexit vote in June last year, the prime minister praised her “strong leadership.”

“EU unity, proactiveness and strong relations with other countries is extremely important for global development. We want the EU to become stronger and India will play a positive role towards that through the medium of Germany,” Modi said.

SC refuses to stay conviction of IPS officer in Bilkis case

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court today refused to stay the conviction of an IPS officer in the sensational 2002 Bilkis Bano case.

A vacation bench of Justices A K Sikri and Deepak Gupta said that there is no urgency for hearing the matter as the convicted officer has already undergone the sentence.

The bench, however, listed the matter for hearing in the second week of July, observing the fine is of Rs 15,000 only.

IPS officer R S Bhagora, currently serving in Gujarat, has been convicted along with four other policemen by the Bombay High Court recently after the trial court had acquitted them. The counsel appearing for Bhagora said if the conviction is not stayed, then he will be terminated from the service as per service rules.

He said the court should grant stay on the conviction.

The Bombay High Court had on May 4 reversed the trial court verdict acquitting Bhagora and others and had upheld the conviction of 11 people (one convict is dead) in the Bilkis Bano gang rape case.

Along with five policemen, two doctors were also convicted by the HC. The High Court bench had said that the seven persons -- doctors and the policemen-- are convicted under sections 218 (not performing their duties) and section 201 (tampering of evidence) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).



IPS officer R S Bhagora, who is currently serving in Gujarat, was convicted along with four other policemen by the Bombay High Court recently after the trial court had acquitted them

A special court had on 21 January, 2008 convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment 11 men for raping Bilkis and murdering seven of her family members in the aftermath of the Godhra riots while acquitting seven persons including the policemen and doctors.

The convicts later approached the Bombay high court challenging their conviction and sought for the trial court’s order to be quashed and set aside. The CBI had also filed an appeal in the high court seeking harsher punishment of death for three of the convicted persons on the ground that they were the main perpetrators of the crime.

According to the prosecution, on 3 March, 2002, Bilkis Bano’s family was attacked by a mob at Randhikpur village near Ahmedabad during the post-Godhra riots and seven members of her family were killed.

Bilkis, who was five months pregnant at the time, was gang raped while six other members of her family managed to escape from the mob. The trial in the case began in Ahmedabad.

However, after Bilkis expressed apprehensions that witnesses could be harmed and the CBI evidence tampered, the Supreme Court transferred the case to Mumbai in August 2004.

Navy ready for any contingency, says Admiral Lanba

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PUNE: Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba on Tuesday said the footprint of the force is increasing in the seas and that it is ready for any contingency.

“Over the years our footprint has been increasing (in Indian Ocean). We have increased our deployment. We have a ship that is permanently stationed in the Gulf of Eden and the ship of the western fleet has just done a foray into Mediterranean and gone all the way into Atlantic,” Lanba told reporters here.

The Navy chief reviewed the passing out parade of the National Defence Academy (NDA) held here this morning. He said ships from the eastern fleet were in Singapore and they carried out an exercise with the Singapore Navy in the South China Sea.

“They are en route to Australia, where they are going to exercise with the Australian Navy. So you see Indian Navy is deployed from the Pacific to the Atlantic and this what we are going to do,” he said.

Asked about increase in presence of Chinese ships in the Indian Ocean and militancy from Pakistan and how the Navy is prepared to tackle another 26/11 like attack, Lanba said, “We are ready for any contingency and whatever decision government takes, we will fulfill our task.”

On modernisation of Indian Navy, he said the Navy has been a pioneer in ‘Make In



India’ initiative.

“Way back in the early 60s, we took a call that we are going to be a ‘builders Navy than buyers Navy’. We built over 200 ships since the early 60s in the Indian shipyards and at the moment we have 41 ships and submarines, all are under construction in defence and private shipyards and new assets are being inducted into the Navy,” he said. “We will have capable and effective Navy which can operate in all the dimensions,” asserted the Navy chief.

Asked about the status of INS Viraat, he said Viraat has been decommissioned and she has been de-stored.

“At the moment, we have not got a concrete proposal of converting her (Viraat) into a museum. We will take a call on what is to be done with her,” he said. Speaking about the integrated command, he said it has been recommended.

“The committee report has been submitted to the government and they are examining it. We are going forward with jointness and integration with a slow and steady step forward,” he said.

Verdict in ‘93 blasts case against Salem, others on June 16

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI: A special court here is likely to deliver judgement in a case against gangsters Abu Salem, Mustafa Dossa and four others for their alleged involvement in the 1993 Mumbai serial bomb blasts on June 16.

The trial against Salem, Dossa and the five others was held separately by a Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA) court as they were earlier absconding.

The earlier set of convicts in the case included Yakub Memon and other members of the Memon family, actor Sanjay Dutt and others. A total of 100 persons were convicted in the case in 2006. Apart from Salem and Dossa, the four other accused are Firoz Khan, Taher Merchant, Riyaz Siddiqui and Abdul Qayyum.

Woman who was sold, tortured in Saudi to return home today

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: A 55-year-old Indian woman, who was allegedly sold and tortured in Saudi Arabia, will return on Wednesday, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said on Tuesday.

“Thanks for bringing this to my notice, Sukhwant Kaur is returning home on 31 May 2017 at 0415 hrs by Flt G9406,” Swaraj tweeted.

The minister’s response came after her attention was drawn to a news report in which Kaur’s husband Kulwant Singh alleged that she had gone to Saudi Arabia on a three-month tourist visa in January, but was sold and tortured there.

According to the report, Kaur, hailing from Jalandhar, was taken to Saudi Arabia by a



Delhi-based agent.

Kulwant said his wife was in contact with him over phone for a week after she landed in Dubai. But a few days later, her phone got switched off and the agent also did not attend his calls.

“On May 7, my wife called me up from a hospital in Hail City of Saudi Arabia. She said the travel agent had sold her

to a local resident and she was forced to work as a slave in his house and was being badly treated and even tortured,” he was quoted as saying in the report.

e-Tender Notice

The West Bengal State Seed Corporation Ltd. (A Govt. of West Bengal Company) 6, Ganesh Chandra Avenue, Kol-13, invites e-Tender from the Authorized Distributors of Bayer Crop Science Ltd. for submission of rate for Supply of Oxadiargyl 80% WP. The e-Tender details are below -

1. **WBSSCL/MD/KOL/NIT-07/2017-18** dated 30.05.2017 for supply of Oxadiargyl 80% WP. Last date of submission of bid on or before 20.06.17, 2:00 P.M.

The e-Tender details are available in website : <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> & www.wbsscl.com.

Sd/-
Managing Director
West Bengal State Seed Corporation Limited

Cong demands judicial inquiry into J’khand lynching incidents

OUR CORRESPONDENT

JAMSHEDPUR: The Congress today demanded a judicial inquiry into the incidents of lynching that had claimed nine lives in Kolhan region of Jharkhand since May 10 last.

Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee (JPCC) president Sukhdeo Bhagat, MLA, also expressed dissatisfaction over the ongoing investigating by the state police.

“The people of the state have lost faith in the government, which miserably failed to act despite a rumour of child lifting doing the rounds since May 10 last, that ultimately claimed nine lives in Kolhan region comprising East and West Singhbhum and Serai-



kela-Kharswan districts,” Bhagat told a press conference.

Bhagat who yesterday met the family members of three persons who were lynched on suspicion of being child lifters at Nagadih in East Singhbhum district on May 18 last, demanded a judicial inquiry into the lynching incidents to “expose the reason” that led to the killing of “innocent persons.”

The JPCC president

claimed that the incidents were pre-planned and had taken place under the patronage of the government.

The Nagadih incident was a blot on the face of the society as it had taken place in the home town of the Chief Minister Raghubar Das and state minister Saryu Roy,” Bhagat said while regretting that the chief minister did not have the time to visit the victims’ families as yet.

Attributing administrative failure as the cause for the lynching incidents, Bhagat said Jharkhand Police Association has claimed that it had apprised the senior officials of the child lifting rumour but no action had been taken, till several lives were lost.

Kerala day care centres to be under CCTV surveillance

OUR CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Seeking to ensure safety of children in daycare centres, Kerala police has made CCTV cameras mandatory in such institutions in three districts.

Thiruvananthapuram Range IG, Manoj Abraham has directed all police station under his range to ensure that CCTV cameras are installed in all day-care centres.

With this order, the cameras would be installed in day care centres in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Pathanamthitta, police sources here said.

WB HIDCO

N.I.Q. No.2 of G.M (E)-III of 2017-2018

Sealed Quotation is invited for **Supplying, fitting, fixing and installation of motorized sliding gate at the entry of Gate No.1 of Eco Park, New Town, Kolkata** having experienced in similar nature of works from any Govt. Organization. Last date of receiving application- 01.06.2017 up to 2.00 P.M. All other information and details may be obtained from the office of the G.M (E)-III, WB HIDCO at HIDCO BHABAN, 35-1111 MAR, New Town, Kolkata.

General Manager (Engg)-III
WB HIDCO

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED

(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-4, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 091
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113472, cecorpmr@gmail.com, www.wbsecl.in

The Addl. Chief Engineer, Estate Management Deptt. invites e-tenders for the following works:

1. **NIT No.: WBSECL/ACE/EMD/2017-18/e-tender/02** Date: 17.05.2017; **Name of work:** Beautification of Vidut Bhavan campus including laying paver blocks & tiles, painting the boundary wall and other works; **Estimated Value:** Rs. 41,13,324/-; **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 82,300/-; **Tender Cost:** Rs. 3,000/-; 2. **NIT No.: WBSECL/ACE/EMD/2017-18/e-tender/03** Date: 19.05.2017; **Name of work:** Remodelling of 1st floor, B Block at Vidut Bhavan, Salt lake; **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 1,01,44,664/-; **Estimated Value:** Rs. 2,02,895/-; **Tender Cost:** Rs. 4,000/-; 3. **NIT No.: WBSECL/ACE/EMD/2017-18/e-tender/04** Date: 19.05.2017; **Name of work:** Remodelling of 1st floor, D Block at Vidut Bhavan, Salt lake; **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 95,28,950/-; **Estimated Value:** 1,90,580/-; **Tender Cost:** Rs. 3,500/-; 4. **NIT No.: WBSECL/ACE/EMD/2017-18/e-tender/05** Date: 19.05.2017; **Name of work:** Remodelling of 2nd floor, C Block & B Block (part) at Vidut Bhavan, Salt lake; **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 96,84,699/-; **Estimated Value:** Rs. 1,93,995/-; **Tender Cost:** Rs. 3,500/-; **Completion Time (for each NIT):** 06 months. For details, please visit www.wbsecl.in & <https://wbtdenders.gov.in>.

ICA/T 1721(3)2017

WB HIDCO

e-N.I.T. No. 05 of G.M.(E) — I of 2017-2018

Tender is invited for above NIT having experience in similar nature of works from any Govt. Organization. **Last date of submitting application 09.06.2017 up to 3.00 pm.** Detailed may be seen in the websites at wbtdenders.gov.in/nicgep/app & www.wbhidcooldt.com

General Manager (Engg)-I
ICA/T 1725(3)2017

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED

(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-4, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 091
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113472, cecorpmr@gmail.com, www.wbsecl.in

NIT No.: RM/JRO/Civil/e-Tender/17-18/02 Date: 23.05.2017

Tender ID: 2017_WBSED_113077_1 Online percentage rate e-Tender in two parts is invited by the **Regional Manager, Jalpaiguri** for Construction of Boundary Wall, land filling, Control Room Building, Surface Road inside and outside of the Sub-Station, Drain and Cable Trenches for power cable and control cable, pathway inside switchyard, gravel filling in the switchyard area over 8F5 and 1:3:6 cement concrete, construction of switchyard fencing and all equipment foundation at Jalpaiguri Town 33/11 KV Sub-Station under Jalpaiguri Division under R-APDR Scheme. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 59,87,995/-; **Completion Time:** 06 (Six) months. **Documents Download Start Date (online) and Bid Submission Start Date (online):** 30.05.2017. **Documents Download End Date (online) and Bid Submission End Date (online):** 20.06.2017 up to 12.00 hrs. Corrigendum or Addendum, if issued, will be published only on website. The details can be obtained from <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> & www.wbsecl.in

ICA/T 1723(3)2017

ASANSOL DURGAPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Asansol Office: Vivekananda Sarani, (Sen-Ralleigh Road), Near Kalyanpur Housing Road, Asansol - 713305

NIT No.: 35 of 2017-18 dt. 17.05.17

Executive Engineer, ADDA, Asansol invites online percentage rate Tender (Two Bid System in two Parts) from reliable, Civil Contractors for the works which Sl. No., NIT No., Name of the work & Estimated Amount are given respectively, (i) 35 of (2017-18), Construction of Boundary Wall of Borira Quabarthan, Kulti, ID No. 2017_ADDA_112980_1 & Rs. 33,07,074.11; For other details visit our website: www.addaonline.in, www.wbtdenders.gov.in or ADDA office, Asansol.

Sd/-
E.E., ADDA, Asansol

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited

(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Bakreswar Thermal Power Project
P.O. BKTPP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104

Notice Inviting e-Tender

Ref. No.: WBPDCL/Tend-Adv/CC/17-18/33/BKTPP Date: 31.05.2017
NIT No.: WBPDCL/18/109/NIT/E1122/17-18

E-tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, BKTPP, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 02 (two) part bid system for 'Annual Contract for Supply of Round the Clock/Three Shift performance of Errand and other unskilled nature of jobs at both IPH & OPH areas of BKTPP'. **Tender Document Download Start Date:** 05.06.2017 at 11.00 hrs. **Bid Submission End Date:** 30.06.2017 at 18.00 hrs. **Contact Person:** S. Banerjee, Sr. Manager (CC). **Tel. No.:** 8338903786. **E-mail:** cc_bktps@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in>

ICA/T 1731(3)2017

KOLKATA METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

e-NIT No: SE(FAWS)/3T-04/17/207

e-Tenders are invited by the **Superintending Engineer (FAWS) Circle**, W&S Sector, KMDA, 83/1A, Vivekananda Road, 3rd Floor, Kolkata-700006 for the workers : **1. Name of Works :** (a) Sinking of 300x200 mm dia. Deep Tube Well with supply of 200 mm & 300 mm dia PVC pipes & fittings (medium duty) & 200 mm dia. Fiber Glass Strainer at Danshi within Salap GP-I under Bankra FAWS Scheme (Tender No: SE(FAWS)/T-16 of 2017-18); (b) Sinking of 300 x 200 mm dia. Deep Tube Well -do- at Baroaryalta within Salap GP-II -do-; (Tender No: SE(FAWS)/T-17 of 2017-18); (c) Sinking of 300 x 200 mm dia. Deep Tube Well -do- at Salap Majher Battala, -do- & (Tender No: SE(FAWS)/T-18 of 2017-18); (d) Sinking of 300 x 200 mm dia. Deep Tube Well -do- at Gajipara within Salap GP-II under Nibra-Ankurhati FAWS Scheme. (Tender No: SE(FAWS)/T-19 of 2017-18); 2. **Estimated cost:** Rs. 12,38,181.00 each; 3. **Earnest money** Rs.; Rs. 25,000.00 each; 4. **Time of completion:** 1(one) month each; 5. **Last date & time of online-submission of Bids :** 19.06.2017 up to 18.50 Hrs. For details please contact the above office or visit our website.

KMDAT-114/SPAN(3)/17-18
visit website : www.kmdaonline.org / www.wbtdenders.gov.in

HOOGHY RIVER BRIDGE COMMISSIONERS

(A statutory organization under Govt. of West Bengal)
St. Georges Gate Road, Kolkata - 700 021
Ph. No. : 033-2253-4162; Fax No. : 033-2248-5833
E-mail : sr.prjectengr@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (ABRIDGED)

NleT No. HRBC/3T/SR.PE/IV/2017-18 dt. 30.05.2017

Online e-Tender is invited by the Senior Project Engineer-IV, HRBC from eligible bidders for the work as detailed below.

Sl.No.	Name of Work
1	Construction of balance work of a permanent modern bus terminus at G.T. road near ESI hospital with a multi storied commercial complex of (B+G+5) floors along with basement including all civil works, sanitary & plumbing works, electrical works including lift and other ancillary works under Serampore Municipality, Hooghly, West Bengal.

Bid submission closing date (Online) 21.06.2017 at 12.30 P.M. NleT details can be obtained from <https://wbtdenders.gov.in>.

Sd/-
Senior Project Engineer-IV, HRBC

KOLKATA METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Abridge e-NIT No: SE(FAWS)/3T-05/17-18/210

e-Tenders are invited by the **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER FAWS CIRCLE WATER & SANITATION, SECTOR, KMDA** 83/1A, Vivekananda Road, 3rd Floor, Kolkata - 700006 from eligible and resourceful contractors for the works : **Sl. No.; Name of Work;** 1; Sinking of 300x200 mm dia. Deep Tube Well No.-1 with supply of 200 mm & 300 mm dia PVC pipes & fittings (medium duty) & 200 mm dia. Fiber Glass Strainer at Kutubpur Gram, Mouza-Panpurunder Panpur-Keutia G.P. (Tender No: SE(FAWS)/T-20 of 17-18); 2. Same as Sl. 1. No.2 at Bela Sankarpur Gram, Mouza-Rambati under Panpur-Keutia G.P. (Tender No: SE(FAWS)/T-21 of 17-18); 3. Same as Sl. 1. No.3 at Mukundpur Tentultala Gram, Mouza-Mukundapur under Panpur-Keutia G.P. (Tender No. SE(FAWS)/T-22 of 17-18); 4. Same as Sl. 1. No.4 at Gazipara, Mouza-Keutia under Panpur-Keutia G.P. (Tender No. SE(FAWS)/T-23 of 17-18); 5. Same as Sl. 1. No.5 at Sarkar Amtala (Bil Dhar)., Mouza-Keutia under Panpur-Keutia G.P. (Tender No. SE(FAWS)/T-24 of 17-18); **Estimated Amount (Rs.):** 7,80,999/- for each serial; **Earnest Money (Rs.):** 16,000/- for each serial; **Time of Completion:** 1(one) month for each serial; **Last date & time of submission of Bid online is 21.06.2017 up to 18.50 Hrs.** For details please contact the above office or visit our both websites.

KMDAT-121/SPAN(3)/17-18
visit website : www.kmdaonline.org / www.wbtdenders.gov.in

EDITORIAL

Perpetuating conflict

United States President Donald Trump's recent visit to Saudi Arabia has left many officials gushing in the Arabian kingdom. They have called Trump's visit to Riyadh as "historic" while arguing that his meeting with the rulers of the Gulf Cooperation Council was a "landmark event". Washington, however, had decided to tone down the euphoria and merely stated that the visit had "reset" relations between the two nations following a period of strain during former President Barack Obama's tenure. Obama had repeatedly raised concerns about the Saudi kingdom's disastrous human rights record, while on the side offering it a record \$115-billion package for arms, other military equipment and training. Trump, at least, shied away from the hypocrisy of the Obama era by declaring that disagreements on human rights were an impediment to growing trade between the two nations. Another important take away from Trump's visit is a return to Washington's default foreign policy position it has adopted since the late 1970s vis-à-vis Iran. Trump promised the Saudi Arabian establishment and other autocrats, including the King of Bahrain and President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi of Egypt that he would work with them "to isolate Iran". Sidestepping the clear sectarian framework within which the Sunni monarchs of the GCC frame their fraught relationship with Iran (a Shia-dominated nation), Trump embarked on a US-Saudi military cooperation agreement worth \$350 billion over a span of 10 years. The import of "lots of beautiful military equipment" in the words of Trump will only exacerbate the turmoil in the region. "While Saudi Arabia spends countless millions promoting fear of Iran to distract from its global export of Wahhabism — which inspires the extremist ideology of Al Qaeda, the so-called Islamic State and many other terrorist groups wreaking havoc from Karachi to Manchester — Iran has been aiding the victims of extremism in Iraq and Syria," says Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammed Javed Zarif, in a column for the *New York Times*. "By helping to prevent the Islamic State from seizing Baghdad and Damascus, Iran is actively promoting a political solution to the conflicts in both countries." While Iran's humanitarian claims are evidently contestable, their attempts towards framing a political resolution of these conflicts are not. Even for the war-ravaged Yemen, which is in the midst of a conflict between Houthi rebels and Saudi forces, Iran has proposed a four-point peace plan. There is little international pressure on the Saudis to discuss peace. Instead, the United States is behaving like a mercenary, selling their arms and further embroiling the region in conflict, while failing to address the underlying issues that fan violent extremism.

Another provocation

In yet another provocation, Beijing reportedly warned India that it must exercise restraint over building infrastructure in Arunachal Pradesh. Evidently, this assertion comes in the backdrop of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to inaugurate the Dhola Sadiya Bridge in Assam. It is India's longest bridge, spanning 9.2 km across the Lohit River—a tributary of the Brahmaputra—and connects Assam with Arunachal Pradesh. This bridge project will be followed by building a 2,000-km highway in the state at the cost of \$6 billion. "We hope India adopts a cautious and restrained attitude on the issue before the final settlement of the border issue with China to jointly control disputes, safeguard peace and tranquillity in the border areas," the Chinese Foreign Ministry told IANS, an Indian news agency. "China's position on the eastern section of the Sino-Indian border areas is consistent and clear." Reports indicate that the bridge will reduce travel time between Assam and inadequately connected Arunachal Pradesh from six hours to just one hour by shaving 165km off the on-road distance. China has often laid claims to a part of Arunachal Pradesh and calls it South Tibet, even though India has repeatedly asserted its sovereignty over the entire state. Last month, Beijing renamed six places in Arunachal Pradesh and said that doing so was its "lawful right". This blatant provocation was apparently in retaliation to the Dalai Lama's nine-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh earlier this month. China had warned India of "serious measures" after it allowed the Tibetan leader to visit areas that China considers disputed territory. China had said the visit would hurt bilateral ties between the two Asian powers. Tibet has remained a bone of contention between the two Asian countries ever since the Dalai Lama fled China in 1959, culminating in the India's defeat in the 1962 war. The Chinese occupation of Aksai Chin and its claim on Tawang district and now the entire state of Arunachal Pradesh have further complicated matters.

In response to China's provocation last month, New Delhi said that the announcement did not "make an illegal occupation legal". The Chinese tactic here is to issue "legal claims" to delegitimise adversaries. Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India, and Beijing has no business naming territory in another sovereign nation. Democratic elections are held in this state under the Constitution of India. The frontier state belongs to India, and her sovereignty over the area is internationally recognised. Moreover, the state's residents have not shown any inclination to leave India. On the question of Dhola-Sadiya, China has no business questioning India's decision to build infrastructure on her sovereign territory. The bridge project is part of the NDA government's plan to improve the state of connectivity in the Northeast, and to make the region a gateway to Southeast Asia. With the Chinese on its One Belt, One Road sojourn, India has also decided to step up regional trade and connectivity initiatives in its backyard. Admittedly, India is way behind China on this front, and project delays continue to hamper her efforts, but there is a desire on the government's part to step it up. The lack of connectivity in the region has severely hampered development initiatives, and for a state like Arunachal Pradesh which does not have a functional airport, this bridge is a boon and will help connect the state to other parts of the country. With a three-lane carriageway, the bridge is expected to facilitate the process of constructing massive hydropower projects coming up in Arunachal Pradesh. New Delhi has not yet issued any official statement against the Chinese Foreign Ministry's provocations, but considering its past track record, one would assume that it will stand firm. Unlike previous governments, which were cowed down by the scars of the 1962 war, the current ruling dispensation has shown some appetite in taking on Beijing's imposing tactics.

Supporters within and outside the government have claimed that the bridge would also help Indian military troops and artillery get to the China border quickly in times of conflict. This is a misreading of the situation, and strategic experts have argued that one Chinese airstrike could render the bridge unusable in such a situation. If Indian troops need to depend on a bridge to mobilise to the border, then there's something seriously wrong with such an assessment. Moreover, China is light years ahead regarding firming up its border infrastructure and it may not be unduly perturbed by the opening of the Dhola-Sadiya Bridge for this reason. Contextualising the bridge as part of India's larger infrastructure drive in the region that would better protect her border areas makes sense, although its utility as a trade and commerce link in the Northeast makes for a much better argument.



KALYANI SHANKAR

Confidence-building measures need to be taken to assuage the feelings of Kashmiris. It is imperative that the Centre and the State governments should ensure at least there is no escalation of violence. It is crying for a political settlement

Quote martial

Concentrate all your thoughts upon the work at hand. The sun's rays do not burn until brought to a focus

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL



In the line of fire

PINAKI BHATTACHARYA

The USA, with its Obama-like 'pivot' or 'rebalancing' to Asia-Pacific, was an attempt to check the growth of Chinese power. Little did it realise that the depleted but substantial Russian power can stop NATO from expanding with alacrity at the gates of Ukraine

Call for political solution

Using more strong-arm tactics in Kashmir will only push locals towards militants

The situation in Kashmir is getting worse every day with the misguided and frustrated youth taking to streets and pelting stones at the armed forces, which are using force to quell the dissent. Due to continued hostility since the killing of Burhan Wani last July by security forces, militants and youth have started targeting police and security forces. The situation, as some Kashmir experts feel, is worse than in 1990 when the militancy was at its height.

Almost three generations of Kashmiris have now seen militancy, and most of their children had missed their childhood growing up in a state of fear and frustration which is why the Burhan Wanis have sprung up. Today, they are proud to be stone-pelters and even ready to die. Even women and school going children are out on the streets.

Why is this state of affairs? The first is that the first ever PDP-BJP coalition government has not yet settled down though it is almost two and a half years since it came to power. "What's happening now is different (from 1990). It springs from 2014 elections. That election actually didn't satisfy anybody. The BJP was looking at mission 44, and they got 25 seats, PDP was dreaming of 45 seats they got 28 seats. Mufti Sayeed had no option but to tie up with the BJP," said former RAW chief A.S. Daulat in a recent interview. The alliance has just not worked.

Despite all her good intentions, Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti has not been able to deliver so far. She has too many problems within her party and outside. The first is to keep her party united and the second is to make sure that the BJP-PDP combination worked at the ground level. This has not happened because of the inherent contradictions between the two partners and their ideologies.

The Centre, as well as the State, failed to deal with the consequences of the killing



Kashmiri children protesting in Tral

(Representational Image)

of the Burhan Wani on July 7 last year and the discontent is still simmering with more Burhan Wanis springing up. They failed to engage the frustrated youth. The result is that Pakistan is making use of the resentment.

One was hoping that during the winter, the situation would improve due to the heavy snow in the valley but the militant activities had only increased. What should be worrying is that the local militants are growing in number and are willing to take on the security forces. The second is the level of mass interference during the security operations against the militants. Because of these, the task of the security forces is more difficult as they cannot shoot unarmed people indiscriminately. The result is the confrontation between the youth and the security forces. As the separatist leader Geelani notes that "despite (the government) utilising all its resources

and military might during the last 70 years, the issue is there and not an iota of change seems (to have happened) on the ground." He is daring the BJP to hold a referendum.

So what is the solution? The future looks bleak unless there is some out of the box thinking. Former Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General D.S. Hooda had pointed out recently that if the people are not on the side of the government nothing can be done. He merely echoed what Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel said in 1948 that "Some people consider that a Muslim majority area must necessarily belong to Pakistan. They wonder why we are in Kashmir. The answer is plain and straightforward. We are in Kashmir because the people of Kashmir want us to be there."

Secondly, there is a fundamental difference in their approach for a solution. While Mehbooba feels that dialogue

is the only way out, the BJP wants a muscular policy and believes that the violence is only due to Pakistan, ISI, or ISIS and so repression should be intensified. The Centre is not willing to resume dialogue with Pakistan demanding that Pakistan interference should be stopped before that.

Ultimately, as many Kashmir experts believe, the solution is political. "Kashmir is a political issue and needs to be resolved on first priority so that people in the state can live in peace," claims National Conference president Farooq Abdullah. "As long as its resolution is delayed, the situation is bound to deteriorate further instead of getting back on track." The other two stakeholders – the Congress and the National Conference are busy faulting the Centre and the state government.

It is true that it is not easy to find a solution in a day, but the government should

explore available options. The path ahead is not bright. There are many expert committee reports on Kashmir, which needs to be looked again. Back channel negotiations with Pakistan should also be resumed. There should be efforts to involve all stakeholders and political parties. Before all these, confidence-building measures need to be taken to assuage the feelings of the Kashmiris. The Centre seems to think that brutal force of the security forces is the solution while the problem lies elsewhere. It is crying for a political settlement. It is imperative that the Centre and the State governments should ensure at least there is no escalation of violence. Mehbooba needs the unstinted support from the Centre if she has to succeed and adopt a healing touch to assuage the feelings of the hurt youth.

IPA
(The writer is a political analyst. Views are personal.)

GOOD PLANS

There is no doubt that undertaking solar power exploitation will restore the quality of the environment . But this is a step that must be accompanied with complimenting socio-economic developments. While solar energy is an ideal solution to many problems pertaining to environment and economy, it is not feasible for a number of reasons. Though the returns may be remarkable, the setting up of a solar power plant and maintenance of that is no small task. This method of extracting resource is akin to harvesting rain water which is difficult to do on a small scale.

SUYASH PANDA Via email

dear EDITOR

millenniumpost.in

Log on to write letters to the editor or send them to letters.mp@gmail.com You can also send your comments to The Editor, Millennium Post,

Pratap Bhawan, 5 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi 110 002

Dealing with an emerging world order

Should New Delhi reconsider its foreign policy options under stiff challenge?

Vladimir Putin is not a man one can trifle with. He was an apparat of the old KGB that was born out of the NKVD, which in turn was Cheka during the Czarist times. The latter shot first and asked questions later. US President Donald Trump is learning now that if you play footsie with the present leadership of the Russian Federation, you will end up being treated the 'unspeakable' – in polite society i.e. – ways. There was a small lesson that was also taught to the 'special privileged partner' – Narendra Modi's India.

Once the dust had settled after the end of the Cold War and Boris Yeltsin, and his vodka-swiggling buffoonery ended, Putin emerged from the 'deep state' of the former Soviet Union to take hold of the reins of power in Moscow. But, meanwhile, the Indian defence-industrial complex managers had found their new love – Israel. And if the Jews of West Asia were to penetrate a market that promised billions in 'greenbacks', can the USA be far behind?

Result: in just three decades after the Cold War's end, the slow but sure 'operation creep' of the Israel-US camp had displaced Russia from the pole position, as a defence contractor and supplier of India. While the Indian defence procurers complained that the Russians cause time delays and cost overruns, they extolled the virtue of diversifying sources of supply.

The UPA government did that. So did the NDA of Modi. Their new strategic partner, the USA seemed monolithic in many ways even if post-9/11 its unipolar moment appeared to have passed. First, there was China, which overtook them in terms of total gross domestic product and purchasing power parity terms.

The talk had begun early; in the mid-1990s that there could be an axis



Prime Minister Narendra Modi sharing a word with Russian President Vladimir Putin

between India, Russia, Iran and may be China that could break the growing monopolistic influence of the global hegemon. But then Indian Prime Minister, Narasimha Rao, did not have the requisite strength to push the idea through, though it had appealed to his intellect.

Cut to the post-9/11 carnage and the financial meltdown of 2008. Both the events eroded much of the sheen from the US glamour quotient. China wanted to spread its wings and was not willing to listen to its moderniser, Deng Xiaoping. Deng had said 'Bide your time, and hide your strength.' But the present-day China wanted to play the role that was being foisted upon it almost by default. They wanted to reorder the world – shifting focus from the USA and Europe to Asia.

The two post-Cold War European battles after – one of the former Yugoslavia and Georgia – with the NATO seeking to expand its tentacles, Russia was not feeling comfortable being Euro-centric. It realised that it should become what geography has handed it as a deal. Smart geopolitics dictated that it should be a Eurasian power. And,

shorn of ideological predilections barring pure 'realism', yet, there is a 'but' that lurked somewhere.

Cynical as it may sound, the Chinese will overtake the US GDP in real terms in about another five years. Washington's military projection of power is really global: with the country spending more dollars than the combined spending of the next five countries that are resplendently featured in Jane's military yearbook.

The USA, with its Obama-like 'pivot' or 'rebalancing' to Asia-Pacific, was an attempt to check the growth of Chinese power. Little did it realise that the depleted but substantial Russian power can stop the NATO from expanding with alacrity at the gates of Ukraine – and a Crimea for which Moscow has a historic heartburn, besides being too proximate, could always be annexed when the US is in decline.

Now that Euro-American 'world order' which the world had been chafing against – as new powers emerge – is under severe challenge, India is still fiddling at the edges of this emerging order. Sometimes it seems it prefers the blackening family silver of the Euro-

American Ancien Régime for the sake of just the memory of a colonial legacy.

Sometimes it also seems afflicted with what is called Schadenfreude, a sentiment that befits Pakistan, and not India, that too Modi's imagery of a self-confident country now not ashamed to flaunt from a Rs 1 crore business suite to 40-plus new ships that are to join an armada of an emerging power.

In the process, it missed the chance of being a part of the Belt Road Initiative (BRI) which is really about an alternative world order. Moscow quietly did the job just to let the diplomatic corps of South Block know that while the US cannot be a continental saviour of India, but Pakistan while exercising with the Russian Army can be a constantly yapping on the heels of the country in the sub-continent.

Not surprisingly, thus Prime Minister Modi has travelled to Saint Petersburg or the former Leningrad for an annual summit with President Putin. But his next stop after he returns doing the rounds in Europe is a visit to Washington to meet Donald Trump.

Is it worthwhile to visit an American president – who appears isolated even amongst his own. The G-7, which once underwrote the world's resources and made sure that aid to the less developed countries – poor but resource-rich – actually returned to them manifold more like a 'net transfer of resources'.

This G-7 meet became a laughing club seeing the antics of Trump. And he was completely isolated from the rest on the issue of 'Climate change'. So with Pax Americana in its last throes, will it be worthwhile to visit Trump and give him undue importance? Isn't a visit scheduled with the opening of the UN General Assembly in September better? That way one will also know whether Trump is headed to the slammer or not.

(The writer is a senior journalist. Views expressed are strictly personal.)

Intense, more frequent droughts

South India had set the standard regarding water conservation, now a forgotten tradition



South India's transition from a water-surplus region to a drought-prone region coincides with the decline of its traditional system of water harvesting and irrigation. In Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, where the practice of using communal tanks for irrigation was popular, dependency fell from around 40 per cent to 15 and 10 per cent respectively. The change in irrigation practices has led to the mismanagement of community and temple tanks, which have traditionally served as rainwater harvesting structure

This is not the first time water-rich South India is grappling with drought. In fact, certain parts of the southern peninsula, such as northern Karnataka, Telangana and the Rayal seema region of Andhra Pradesh, suffer from drought almost every other year. But a 2016 trend analysis of droughts between 1901 and 2004 by researchers from the Purdue University, the US, and the Indian Institute of Technology at Kanpur and Gandhinagar shows that their occurrence and intensity across the region are on the rise since the 1970s. Droughts have particularly become more intense and frequent after 1990, it states. An analysis by Down To Earth shows that the region has faced six severe droughts between 2004 and 2016. The current drought, which started tightening its grip over some parts of the region in 2014, appears to be the worst of all.

But why is a region that benefits from two monsoons a year and receives a copious amount of rainfall becoming drought-prone? Historically, if one monsoon failed, the subsequent monsoon came to the rescue of the affected region. But this no longer seems to be the case. Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka declared drought in October 2016 soon after the summer monsoon failed to yield the desired rainfall. After the failure of the northeast monsoon, Tamil Nadu joined the list and each of the other states has declared larger areas as drought-affected.

Besides, the increase in frequency of droughts in South India does not match with the performance trends of the northeast monsoon, which accounts for 30-80 per cent of the total rainfall the region receives in a year. A study published in journal Theoretical and Applied Climatology in 2012 shows that winter rains in the peninsular India have increased by 0.4 mm a day per decade between 1979 and 2010.

"Drought is a tricky term," says S Janakaraman, economist, formerly with the Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai. While changing rain patterns is becoming a common phenomenon in a warming world, the prevailing drought in South India is not merely a climatological one. For instance, he explains, Kerala receives more rainfall in a drought year than what Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh receive on a normal monsoon year. Then consider Tamil Nadu. Just six months before the summer rains ditched the state and plunged it into a severe drought, the state had received 52 per cent surplus rainfall. In fact, the 2015 winter rains had caused severe floods in parts of the state, including Chennai that remained inundated for weeks. Where did all the excess water go? "We have not learnt lessons from previous experiences on the need to rethink our uses and demands of water. This drought is one of poor management. Climatic factors are simply exposing it," he adds.



Representational Image

Consider agriculture. River basins and deltaic regions in South India boast of agricultural traditions that span millennia. But of late, there has been a major shift in their crop and irrigation patterns. The Cauvery delta, for instance, has traditionally been known for paddy cultivation. "But in the past 50 years or so, there has been an increase in the number of cropping cycles a year. People have also shifted from traditional varieties that require less water to high-yielding ones. The shift was partly driven by the state government's dependence on the Cauvery delta to procure rice for the Public Distribution System," says S Ranganathan of the Centre for Cauvery Delta Development Studies, a non-profit in Tamil Nadu. Today, irrigation is estimated to consume 93 per cent of the total water available for use in Tamil Nadu; domestic use amounts to just three per cent.

With the advent of tube wells and borewells, irrigation in South India has dramatically shifted from surface water to groundwater. In Karnataka, the number of borewells has increased from 250,000 in 1996 to 850,000 in 2014—an increase of 365 per cent. In Andhra Pradesh, the area irrigated by borewells has expanded 10 times in last two decades. According to the Andhra Pradesh Statistical Yearbook, 2014, groundwater is the main source of irrigation for over 80 per cent of the farmland in the state's drought-prone Anantapur, Chittoor, and Cuddapah districts. Such rampant extraction has not only robbed the region of its groundwater but also resulted in serious geological hazards.

In Anantapur's Goddummarri village, people have drilled over 40 borewells on a 405 sq

m community land, next to a temple. This is causing the dry riverbed of the Chitravati, barely 500 metres from the temple, to cave in at places. In 2014, the district groundwater officials imposed a ban on new borewells after a 9 m wide, 4.5 m deep sinkhole was formed on the riverbed. "But farmers don't ask for permission before installing borewells, and officials don't stop them fearing suicides," says a former Goddummarri sarpanch who does not wish to be named. In January 2017, Goddummarri residents spotted another large sinkhole on the riverbed. A third large sinkhole and several small sinkholes have appeared in the area since. "The nature of the cavernous limestone structures underlying the riverbed is to collapse when they turn brittle. Droughts coupled with groundwater exploitation seem to have accelerated the process," explains P Purushottam Reddy, deputy director of the Groundwater Department of Anantapur.

Watershed and farming expert L C Nagaraj blames the prevailing drought on the lack of a crop pattern policy for areas dependent on groundwater. In Karnataka, for instance, the endemic biodiversity in interior agriculture zones is systematically under attack from monoculture plantations of trees like eucalyptus.

Somanna, a farmer from Melkote village in Karnataka's Doddaballapur district who owns a borewell, says eucalyptus is a fast growing pulpwood. With good water supply, they can be harvested two years after planting. Many farmers in the region have fallen to the temptation and are replacing agricultural crops with eucalyptus. This is a dangerous

trend because the species is a known water-guzzler and does not allow any other plants to grow in its vicinity. A study by Benagluru-based non-profit Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), finds that eucalyptus plantations across the Nandi Hills are a major reason for the declining water level in the Arkavathy river, which originates in the hills.

According to a report by the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru, all the 44 rivers in Kerala are highly polluted by domestic, agricultural, and industrial waste. There are no effective water treatment facilities in any highly polluting zones. Last year, the Central Pollution Control Board declared all the 15 rivers in Karnataka "highly polluted" and "unfit for human consumption" after it found that untreated sewage and waste from commercial activities were being directly dumped into the rivers. Yet, governments do not seem to get the message of resource management.

While there is no dearth of straws dipping into the common pool, recharge has had few takers. Nagaraj says at least 33 per cent of forest cover is essential for a sustained hydrological cycle. But satellite surveys show that between 1987 and 2013, tree cover in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu has shrunk by about 20 per cent. Loss of tree cover means very little rain-water percolates into the ground. Data available with the state governments show that the groundwater table in Tamil Nadu has lowered by 4.1 metres in the past six decades.

This is surprising, for states in South India are the pioneers of rainwater harvesting. All the five southern states have regulations

in place enforcing rainwater harvesting in urban areas and municipalities. In 2002, (before the creation of Telangana) Andhra Pradesh introduced the Andhra Pradesh Water, Land and Tree Act in 2002 that made rainwater harvesting structures mandatory in all buildings spread over an area not less than 200 sq m. The Act also has penalties for builders who flout the guidelines. In 2003, Tamil Nadu made it mandatory for all new constructions to have rainwater harvesting structures. In 2004, Kerala amended the Kerala Municipality Building Rules, 1999, to introduce rainwater harvesting. In 2009, Karnataka amended the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewage Board to make rainwater harvesting structures mandatory for existing and new buildings.

Yet, there is next to no evidence of implementation or enforcement of these laws by any state other than Tamil Nadu. Even in Tamil Nadu, where groundwater levels have mostly remained stable in a few areas because of rainwater harvesting regulations, there have been reports of lack of maintenance, monitoring and improper installation of the structures. Data on the website too remains to be updated.

Another, rather contrasting, example of mismanagement is the blind chase to achieve targets for construction of farm ponds, a rural rainwater harvesting structure. Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh account for over 40 per cent of the farm ponds constructed in the country in 2016-17. But the quality and method were called into question as the ponds reportedly failed to withstand even a single spell of rain.

Decline of heritage

South India's transition from a water-surplus region to a drought-prone region coincides with the decline of its traditional system of water harvesting and irrigation. While groundwater use in agriculture has increased from 600,000 ha in 1960 to 1.6 million ha in 2013 in the five states, irrigation by tanks has more than halved from 936,000 ha to just 377,000 ha during the period, according to the Union Ministry of Agriculture. In Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, where the practice of using communal tanks for irrigation was popular, dependency fell from around 40 per cent to 15 and 10 per cent respectively. The change in irrigation practices has led to the mismanagement of community and temple tanks, which are abundant in South India and have traditionally served as rainwater harvesting structure.

The drought in South India may be historic but that does not make it any less ominous. The indications are clear, extreme climatic variations are here to stay. It's time governments got their priorities straight—sustainability or chronic scarcity?

(Views expressed are of Down To Earth magazine.)

Right winning by going Left

Modi is creating a Left wing in BJP hued in the deepest shade of saffron

Reporter's Notebook



The Narendra Modi-led BJP continues to grow because it has created new political sentiments. Modi-BJP offers Hindutva with the right dilution. He never apologises for Gujarat, doesn't throw Iftaar parties but takes corrective measures to navigate out of his Hindu hardliner image by propping up issues of development

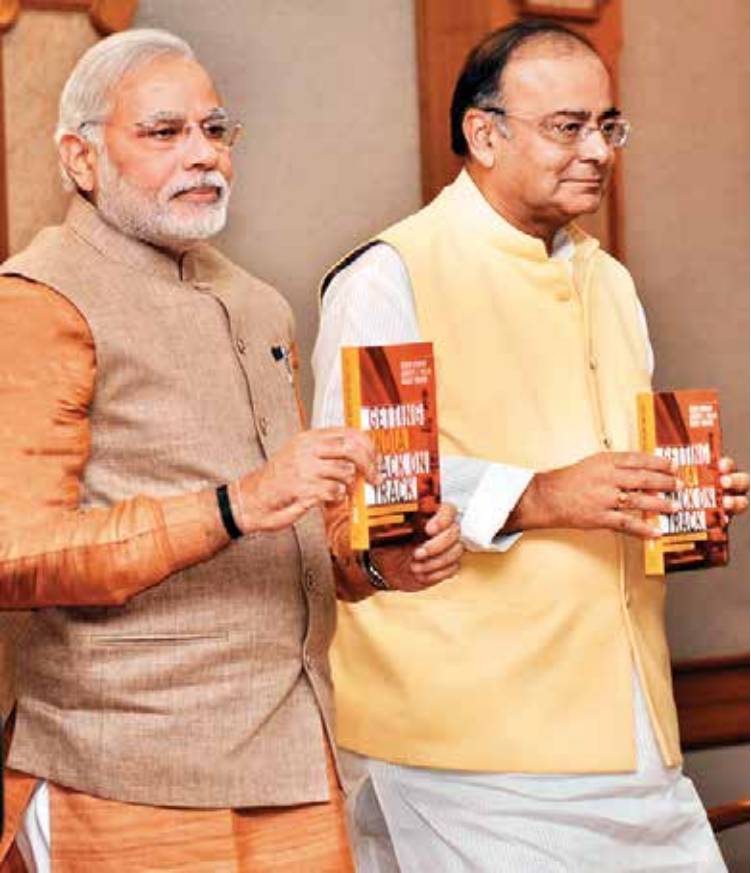
It is seldom that I concur with enunciations of psephologist-turned-politician Yogendra Yadav. However, his comments on the completion of three years in office of Narendra Modi government deserve a partial consideration. He wrote on twitter, "Public mood of Modi@3. Modi critics must accept: he is popular; Modi bhakts must accept: he is yet to deliver."

In fact, even his pocket organisation Lokniti, under the aegis of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, has in its latest findings failed to pinpoint the reasons for "Narendra Modi being on the roll" despite not having allegedly delivered on his promises. There has to be logic behind the conclusion and Yadav cannot let the expression of opinion hide behind the veil of the word limit set by the micro-blogging site.

To be fair, the Lokniti-CSDS does also mention that among 11,373 randomly sampled voters in 19 states nearly seven in every ten voters (69 per cent) were satisfied with the performance of Modi as Prime Minister. This satisfaction rating was found to be higher than the satisfaction ratings recorded for Modi's predecessor Manmohan Singh at the end of the first two years of the UPA I and II governments. When Lokniti-CSDS had conducted similar nationwide Surveys in 2006 and 2011, satisfaction levels with Singh's performance had been lower at 61 per cent and 56 per cent, respectively.

If the findings about the satisfaction with the performance of the Prime Minister were so high, then why is Yadav questioning on delivery. The answer for that is better given by him. However, it would be worthwhile to mention here findings of a survey on the performance of the Ministers in the Modi government piloted by Dr Subodh Kumar for Centre for Reforms, Development & Justice (CRD&J). Kumar like Yadav too is a political scientist teaching at Delhi University.

According to Kumar's findings, check on inflation, crackdown on corruption, and toughening of stand vis-à-vis terrorism and Pakistan have been major factors contributing towards the popularity of the Narendra Modi government. On the inflation front retail inflation was down to 3 per cent in April



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley

while wholesale was at 3.85per cent. The people also seem to be lapping up crackdown on black money including the demonetisation move.

Crackdown by enforcement agencies on 'benami' properties and disproportionate assets of public servants has won much applause. But the failure to bring back cash stashed abroad has continued to give the Opposition a handle to beat the ruling party with. The hard-nosed policy on cross-border terrorism may have faced criticism in intelligence but has enjoyed support of people.

The surgical strikes in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in 2016 and cross-border raids in Myanmar a year earlier to target militant groups helped the ruling party reap rich political harvest in the state elections. The surgical strikes also carried a clear message for the global community on the issue

of terrorism.

But more than these factors, the Narendra Modi-led BJP continues to grow because it has created new political sentiments. A few weeks back, in these very columns, your reporter had mentioned that present BJP rightly perceives that people want a better life, but also realises that it has a core Hindu constituency to address. Thus, Modi-BJP offers Hindutva with the right dilution.

He never apologises for Gujarat, doesn't throw Iftaar parties, doesn't wear an Islamic prayer cap, but at the same time, takes corrective measures to navigate out of his Hindu hardliner image by propping up issues of economic and social developments. When opponents try to grill him, he navigates from one issue to another.

One of the biggest charges brought against Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

when he took office was that he would perpetuate the rule of the corporates. The functioning of his government at the Centre and handing over leadership in states, where the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) has deep roots, to such people as Manohar Lal Khattar in Haryana, Trivendra Singh Rawat in Uttarakhnad, Raghubar Das in Jharkhand, and Yogi Adityanath in Uttar Pradesh, clearly show that the Prime Minister is working towards creating a club of powerful politicians consisting of political non-elite within his own organisation, a kind of a Left wing within the BJP but hued in the deepest shade of saffron.

This has also been reflected in the course correction which his party and government adopted vis-à-vis the economic policies after electoral defeats in the Assembly polls in Bihar and Delhi. The remark made by the Opposition in the first year that Narendra Modi government was a "suit-boot ki sarkar" acted as the mean, median, and mode for the Annual Financial Statement 2016-17, which was presented by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in the Lok Sabha on 29 February 2016. This proved to be a turning point for change in policy perspectives.

Just in case the Finance Minister's nearly two-hour speech did not carry the point deep enough that it was a pro-poor Budget, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a televised detailed reaction soon after had said, "The Budget has focused on development of agriculture, farmers, women, and rural areas." To give Modi government a pro-farmer image, the Budget has sought to even resuscitate UP's MGNREGA programme.

But more importantly, it underlined the focus of attention of government programmes -- agriculture, farmers, women, and rural areas. While Opposition kept ferreting out bogus figures on economic upheaval in rural areas following demonetisation, the Modi-BJP laid firm foundation for its victory in politically significant Uttar Pradesh in these very rural areas.

(Sidharth Mishra is President, Centre for Reforms, Development & Justice and Consulting Editor, Millennium Post. The views expressed are strictly personal.)



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PM @narendramodi keeps boasting of India's youth dividend when reality is large % are unemployable lumpens due to failure of school system



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@AkshayMarathe



Once again AAP shows the way in setting the right discourse: BJP talks cows, AAP talks education!

DALAI LAMA
@DalaiLama



Although bringing about inner change is difficult, it is absolutely worthwhile to try. What is important is to try our best.

British Airways operating full flight schedule

LONDON: British Airways (BA) on Tuesday started operating a full flight schedule after an IT failure saw the airline cancel thousands of flights over the bank holiday weekend, the media reported.

“Our IT systems are now back up and running and we will be operating a full flight schedule at Heathrow and Gatwick,” the airline said early on Tuesday. But it warned it “may take some time” to reunite travellers with their bags, reports the BBC. BA chief executive Alex Cruz blamed a power surge for the disruption which affected 75,000 people.

“There was a power surge and there was a back-up system which did not work at that particular point in time,” Cruz told the BBC. “It was restored



after a few hours in terms of some hardware changes... we will make sure that it doesn't happen again.”

He said the failure affected “all the operating of our systems — baggage, operations, power processing”.

BA is liable to reimburse thousands of passengers for refreshments and hotel expenses, and travel industry

commentators have suggested the cost to the company — part of Europe's largest airline group IAG — could run into tens of millions of pounds.

Shares in IAG, which is listed in both London and Madrid, fell 2.8 percent in Spain on Monday and are expected to fall again in London trading when it reopens after the bank holiday. AGENCIES

Deadly Moscow storm kills 16 and injures nearly 150

MOSCOW: Sixteen people were killed when a severe thunderstorm hit Moscow and the region around the Russian capital on Monday, officials say.

Hundreds of trees were toppled, and about 150 people needed medical help.

It was the deadliest storm in the city for more than 100 years, Russia's *Interfax* news agency reported.

The winds of up to 110 km/h (70 mph) were described by meteorologists as extremely rare for the city, and caused structural damage to buildings.

Electrical cables were reportedly damaged as Moscow was lashed with high winds, hail and torrential rain.

The city's investigative committee said that “hurricane winds” had blown down trees across the city, killing five pedestrians. An elderly man was also killed at a bus stop, it said.

Two people were killed after a tree fell onto their summer house, *Interfax* reported.

On Tuesday, the authorities raised the death toll to 16, saying that 11 people were killed in the capital and five in the Moscow region. Delays had been reported on some metro lines but normal service later resumed. Tourist Frank Davis, from Newfoundland in Canada, was caught in heavy traffic in Moscow as the “dramatic storm” struck. “The sky darkened noticeably and the winds were extremely strong... with debris flying around from all directions,” he told the BBC.

Moscow's Mayor, Sergei Sobyanin tweeted: “My condolences to the friends and family of those killed.” Teams were busy trying to clear fallen trees from the city's streets. AGENCIES

Macron's clean image tested as 2 ministers come under fire



PARIS: Emmanuel Macron won the French presidency partly by projecting a clean image as several of his rivals were enmeshed in legal woes. Now two of Macron's Cabinet members are facing ethical questions of their own.

Junior minister Marielle de Sarnez's name is on a list of 19 European members of parliament subject to a preliminary probe for having employed party operatives as parliamentary aides. Richard Ferrand, who ran Macron's campaign and is now minister for regional development, is facing calls to step down after reports that his partner may have benefited from a real estate transaction with a mutual insurer that Ferrand ran in 2011 before becoming a member of the National Assembly.

While the matters in question may be minor compared with past French political scandals, they come after an election campaign in which public probity played a major role and a week before Macron's government plans to present a “political morality law” that would limit the ability of lawmakers

to work as consultants or hire family members. The revelations come in the midst of campaigning for the June elections for France's parliament, which will determine if Macron has enough of a majority to push through his platform.

For the moment, the government is sticking by Ferrand and Sarnez. “We are talking about practices which are perfectly legal,” government spokesman Christophe Castaner said Tuesday on LCI television when asked about Ferrand. “For me, this isn't a scandal.” Sarnez has said she didn't break any laws and Castaner said the probe appears to have resulted from a “slandorous” list of deputies compiled by the National Front.

The National Front drew up the list of 19 French lawmakers in the European parliament to show that its presidential candidate Marine Le Pen had been unfairly treated, the party's vice-president Florian Philippot said Tuesday on Europe 1 radio. Le Pen, who lost to Macron in the May 7 presidential vote, has been under investigation since December for using European parliament allowances to pay for party work in France. The European Parliament has demanded that Le Pen repay the allowances, which she's refused to do. Sarnez said in a posting on Twitter that she's suing the National Front for slander.

“We don't think these cases are illegal, just as our case wasn't illegal,” Philippot said about the list. “We found many others had the same set-up but the justice system's fire was trained solely on Marine Le Pen. There's a question of equal treatment.” AGENCIES

Night-time, early morning bombings in Baghdad kill 31

BAGHDAD: A massive bombing by the Islamic State group outside a popular ice cream shop in central Baghdad and a rush hour car bomb in another downtown area killed at least 31 people on Tuesday, Iraqi officials said.

The attacks come as IS militants are steadily losing more territory to US-backed Iraqi forces in the battle for Mosul, the country's second-largest city. The Sunni extremists are increasingly turning to insurgency-style terror attacks to detract from their losses.

The night-time attack outside the ice cream parlour in the bustling Karrada neighbourhood killed 17 people and also wounded 32, police and health officials said.

A closed-circuit camera captured the moment of the explosion, the video showing a busy downtown avenue, with cars driving down the street when the blast strikes.

A huge fireball then engulfs a building, forcing the cars to scramble to get away. Other videos of the attack posted on social media show wounded and bloodied people crying for help on the sidewalk outside the ice cream parlour.

In the second attack, an explosives-laden car went off during rush hour near the state-run Public Pension Office in Baghdad's busy Shawa area, killing 14, a police officer said.

At least 37 people were wounded in that attack, he



Deadly car bomb blast outside an ice cream parlour in Karrada district of Baghdad

Iraqi security forces and civilians inspect the site of a deadly bomb attack in Baghdad on Tuesday. Another bomb exploded outside a popular ice cream shop in the Karrada neighborhood of Baghdad just after midnight on Monday, killing and wounding dozens of civilians, hospital and police officials said

AP/PTI

The authenticity of the statements could not be verified but they were posted on a militant website commonly used by extremists.

The attacks came just days into the holy month of Ramadan when Muslims fast during daylight hours. After sundown, families break their fast and Baghdad's restaurants and cafes quickly fill up with people staying up long into the night.

During Ramadan last year, another section of Karrada was hit by massive suicide bombing that killed almost 300 people, the deadliest single attack in the Iraqi capital in 13 years of war.

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The attack was also claimed by IS. Details of how the militants managed to stage the attacks were not immediately clear. After last year's attack, Iraqi authorities stepped up security in Karrada, especially in the area of the bombing.

In the northern city of Mosul, Iraqi troops are pushing IS fighters out of their last strongholds. Iraqi commanders say the offensive, which recently entered its eight month, will mark the end of the IS caliphate in Iraq, but concede the group will likely increase insurgent attacks in the wake of military defeats. AGENCIES

Former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega dies at 83

PANAMA CITY: Former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega, who spied for the United States before his drug trafficking and brutality triggered a US invasion to oust him in 1989, has died aged 83.

President Juan Carlos Varela announced Noriega's death on Twitter late on Monday, and said his passing marked the closing of a chapter in the Central American country's history.

Ruling Panama from 1983 to 1989, Noriega was a long-time collaborator of the Central Intelligence Agency and a useful US ally in a region that was prone to leftist insurgencies.

The invasion ordered by President George HW Bush brought an end to his career of money-laundering and cocaine smuggling, in which he worked with traffickers like Colombian Pablo Escobar. He was initially sentenced in the United States in 1992, but was serving a sen-



tence for murder in Panama when he died.

Noriega was let out of prison under house arrest in January to have an operation to remove a brain tumour. The surgery went ahead in early March, but he suffered a haemorrhage, underwent a second operation, and had been in a coma ever since.

A Panamanian government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Noriega died at around 11 pm local time in a Panama City hospital after his condition suddenly worsened.

President Varela said Noriega's family should have the right to bury the former leader in peace. Most Panamanians had gone to bed by the time the announcement was made close to midnight in the isthmus nation, so local reaction was initially muted.

“We Panamanians must remember the (Noriega) era as something that cannot be repeated in Panama, it was a really painful time for the country because it ended with an invasion,” said Aurelio Barria, a former leader of the Cruzada Civilista, a civil society campaign against the dictatorship.

Born less than a mile from the US-controlled Panama Canal Zone in a tough Panama City neighborhood, Noriega was raised by a family friend. A poor but intelligent youth, his options were limited until a half-brother helped him join the military. AGENCIES

First Japanese to report Hiroshima atomic bomb dies at 86

TOKYO: Yoshie Oka, the first person to raise the alarm outside Hiroshima that the Japanese city had been hit by an atomic bomb, has died aged 86, media and acquaintances said on Tuesday.

Oka was 14 years old on August 6, 1945 and working in Hiroshima as a communications operator at an underground command centre of the Imperial Japanese Army. After the bomb fell, she contacted another military unit in the city of Fukuyama east of Hiroshima, local media including public broadcaster NHK reported. “Hiroshima is almost destroyed,” she said. “We were hit by a new type of bomb.”

Local media said she died of malignant lymphoma on May 19 in hospital in Hiroshima after spending years recounting her experiences of the bombing and its aftermath to visitors and students in the city.

“She was an honest person who called a spade a spade,” said Fumio Kajiya, also an atom bomb survivor who worked with Oka in telling stories of the bombing. AGENCIES



Yoshie Oka

“We have lost another great eyewitness,” Kajiya said. American B-29 bomber Enola Gay dropped its deadly payload, dubbed “Little Boy,” over the city at 8:15 am local time.

It marked the first use of an atomic weapon and ultimately claimed the lives of some 140,000 people. Some died immediately while others succumbed to injuries or radiation-related illnesses weeks, months and years later.

In May last year Barack Obama made a historic visit to Hiroshima, becoming the first serving US president to do so.

Ahead of his visit, Oka reportedly said she wanted him “to firmly see how innocent citizens suffered”. AGENCIES

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male **Age : 35 years, Height : 5'7", Complexion : Fair, wearing black colour pant** only was found dead on 20.05.2017 at Service Road, Hanuman Mandir Flyover, Yamuna Bazar, Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 11-A dated 20.05.2017 has been lodged at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this found person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO : P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi
Tel. No. 011-23968730, 23967889

DP/7569/N/17

MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

Garrison Engineer (I) R&D, Dehradun on behalf of the President of India invites online rate/percentage rate/Lump Sum bids on Single stage two Cover Bid System for the following work:-

1.	Name of Work	MANNING AND OPERATION FOR RECEIVING STATION, DG SET AND WATER SUPPLY ATTEND DAY TO DAY E/M B/R, SEWAGE COMPLAINTS ETC AT FIELD STATION DIBER AULI JOSHIMATH UNDER GE (I) R&D DEHRADUN
2.	Estimated Cost	Rs 18,00 Lakh
3.	Period of completion	11 (Eleven) Months
4.	Tender ID	2017_MES_122404_1

For more detail refer website eprocuremes.gov.in/ eprocure.gov.in

Note:-

- Notice inviting Bid as published in newspapers shall not be form part of Notice of Tender/Bid documents.
- Type of tender (lump sum/ item rate etc) shall be as applicable and bid system shall be specifically mentioned as decided by Accepting Officer.

WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

'Tobacco kills 7 mn a year, wreaks environmental havoc'

GENEVA: Smoking and other tobacco use kills more than seven million people each year, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Tuesday, also warning of the dire environmental impact of tobacco production, distribution and waste.

The UN agency said tougher measures were needed to rein in tobacco use, urging countries to ban smoking in the workplace and indoor public spaces, outlaw marketing of tobacco products and hike cigarette prices. “Tobacco threatens us all,” WHO chief Margaret Chan said in a statement. “Tobacco exacerbates poverty, reduces economic productivity, contributes to poor household food choices, and pollutes indoor air,” she said. In a report released ahead of World No Tobacco Day

on Wednesday, WHO warned that the annual death toll of seven million people had jumped from four million at the turn of the century, making tobacco the world's single biggest cause of preventable death. And the death toll is expected to keep rising, with WHO bracing for more than one billion deaths this century.

“By 2030, more than 80 percent of the deaths will occur in developing countries, which have been increasingly targeted by tobacco companies seeking new markets to circumvent tightening regulation in developed nations.”

Tobacco use also brings an economic cost: WHO estimates that it drains more than \$1.4 trillion (1.3 trillion euros) from households and governments each year

in healthcare expenditures and lost productivity, or nearly two percent of the global gross domestic product. In addition to the health and economic costs linked to smoking, the WHO report for the first time delved into the environmental impact of everything from tobacco production to the cigarette butts and other waste produced by smokers. “From start to finish, the tobacco life cycle is an overwhelmingly polluting and damaging process,” WHO Assistant Director-General Oleg Chestnov said in the report. It detailed how growing tobacco often requires large quantities of fertilisers and pesticides, and it warned that tobacco farming had become the main cause of deforestation in several countries. AGENCIES

Song criticising May becomes chart buster

LONDON: A new song criticising British Prime Minister Theresa May has rocketed up the music charts less than two weeks before the general election which is scheduled to be held on June 8.

“Liar Liar” by Captain Ska was released on Friday and by Monday it has risen to number two on the influential iTunes singles chart. The song features sound bites from May, alongside lyrics including: “She's a liar liar, you can't trust her, no, no, no.” Major music outlets have rejected requests to play it but fans have been snapping up the single regardless.

A version of “Liar Liar” was released in 2010, with a new edition recorded for the 2017



election. A video for the re-released song on YouTube includes statistics on UK poverty levels and references to school and police cuts.

Some radio stations declined to play the song because of laws governing impartiality during the election campaign. However,

Ofcom, the TV and radio regulator, said broadcasters must show impartiality.

May had called for an early general election on June 8 in April. She had said that it is the only way to guarantee political stability in the UK for years after it leaves the European Union. AGENCIES

‘LITTLE MERMAID’ DOUSED IN RED PAINT



Denmark's most famous landmark, "The Little Mermaid", has been doused in red paint by anti-whaling activists. "Denmark defend the whales of the Faroe Islands" was written in English on the ground in front of the sculpture, using the Danish spelling for the country. Whaling close to shore is permitted in the islands, which lie between the mainland and Iceland and are a self-governing part of Denmark. Danish police said they were investigating the incident as vandalism but did not know the identity of those responsible yet. The statue, depicting the little mermaid from Danish author Hans Christian Andersen's tale by the same name, has been damaged several times in the past

AP/PTI

Indian Navy teams join Lanka flood rescue operations as toll touches 193

COLOMBO: Indian Navy diving and medical teams joined rescue efforts of Sri Lankan authorities in flood-hit regions as the death toll in the country's worst torrential rains since 2003 climbed on Tuesday to 193.

The Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said the adverse weather condition had left 112 people injured and nearly 6,00,000 people have been forced from their homes, with thousands suffering structural damage from flood inundation and landslides.

The weather has begun to clear, and many of the more than 1.00,000 people who evacuated over the weekend had returned home to begin clearing debris and mud from their waterlogged homes. More than 80,000 others remained in relief camps as their homes were either destroyed or remain unreachable.

The Indian contingent of more than 300 navy personnel was assisting in the relief, with divers searching the brackish waters and medical teams seeing patients in makeshift tents set up at shelters.

INS Shardul has nearly 200 personnel on board, including specialised rescue, diving and medical teams, as well as a large amount of relief material and Gemini inflatable boats.

INS 'Kirch' was carrying



Image tweeted by @indianarmy

125 personnel. It had diving teams, relief supplies, inflatable gemini boats and a mobile medical team.

A third Indian naval ship arrived today, bringing relief supplies including rice, lentils, sugar, milk and blankets for the displaced.

"Secy to President of SL and SL Navy chief receiving symbolically the relief material on board the 3rd relief and rescue ship INS Jalashwa," the High Commission of India in Colombo tweeted.

Lankan army trucks carried drinking water and food for those affected. Helicopters ferried medicine, relief supplies and inflatable boats to remote areas, while small vessels plied the floodwaters in search of people needing rescue.

Lankan Cabinet spokesman

Rajitha Senaratne said that foreign assistance is continuing to flow in with India, China and Pakistan among the countries sending ship loads of humanitarian aid.

The disaster is described as one of the worst-ever calamities since the 2003 floods.

The official death toll was at 193, with another 94 people listed as missing, the Colombo Gazette reported.

The Met Department in its weather forecast said the cyclonic storm MORA is expected to get weakened when it enters the Bangladesh land and the possibility for heavy rain and strong winds will be reduced by Wednesday. However, under its influence cloudy skies, windy and showery conditions are expected over the country.

AGENCIES

New 'robot priest' gives auto-blessings in German church

BERLIN: A German church has launched a robot 'priest' that beams lights from its hands and gives automated blessings to people.

The unique robot was launched in the historic town of Wittenberg to mark 500 years since German priest Martin Luther published "The Ninety-Five Theses" — a work widely acknowledged to have spread the Protestant Reformation.

The robot, called BlessU-2, was developed by the Evangelical Church in Hesse and Nassau.

It consists of a metal box with a touch screen, two arms on the side, a head with eyes and a digital mouth at the top.

After the robot wishes users a "warm welcome", it asks them if they want to be blessed by a male or female voice.

It then asks the person what blessing they want, after which it makes a mechanical sound as it raises its arms and smiles.

Lights then start to flash in the robot's arms as it says "God bless and protect you" and recites a biblical verse.

After the blessing, the user can take a print of the dictum.

"It is an experiment that is supposed to inspire discussion," Church spokesman Sebastian von Gehren told the *Mirror*.

Von Gehren explained that they decided not to give the robot a typical human appearance.

People who have little in common with the church are particularly attracted to the robot, with many people "now coming every morning and evening," he said.

The robot was met with mixed reaction, with many churchgoers saying that they "cannot imagine a blessing from a machine."

AGENCIES

6 dead as 'Mora' hits B'desh

DHAKA: At least six persons were killed as Cyclone Mora made landfall in Bangladesh today, packing winds of up to 150 kilometres per hour and damaging several houses, with authorities scrambling to evacuate over half a million people from the coastal areas.

In a special bulletin, Bangladesh Meteorological Department said the severe cyclonic storm 'Mora' moved northward over North Bay and started crossing Cox's Bazar-Chittagong coast at 6 am (local time). It is likely to move in a northerly direction further, it said. One of the six persons died of a heart attack during the storm while others were killed by falling trees and houses in Cox's Bazar and Rangamati, local media reported.

Under the cyclone's influence, gusty or squally wind with rain or thunder showers were continuing over North



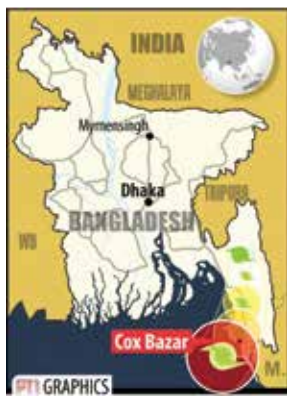
Bay and the coastal districts and maritime ports of Bangladesh, the *Daily Star* reported.

"Wind speed is estimated at 130 kmph in Saint Martins Island and 150 kmph Cox's Bazar port after it hit the area in between 6 am and 7 am," Cox's Bazar Met official AKM Nazmul Haque said.

All flights were suspended to and from Chittagong inter-

national airport and the Cox's Bazar airports.

As many as 300,000 people had been taken to shelters in more than ten districts most vulnerable to the cyclone, Additional Secretary Golam Mostafa, a spokesman for the disaster management ministry's control room, was quoted as saying by *BD News*. "The people were



moved out to at least 400 cyclone shelters or safer places like schools and government offices in the coastal areas," a disaster management ministry spokesman said. There are also fears for the hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees living in makeshift homes after fleeing violence or persecution in neighbouring Myanmar.

At least 2.5 million people

in 10 districts risk falling in the way of the severe cyclonic storm.

The districts at risk were Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Noakhali, Lakshimpur, Feni, Chandpur, Barguna, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barisal and Pirojpur.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was monitoring the situation from Vienna, where she has gone to attend a conference on atomic energy.

"The Prime Minister is maintaining round-the-clock communication with Dhaka on the storm situation. She has ordered all-out preparation to tackle the storm," said Ihsanul Karim, Prime Minister's press secretary. Under the influence of the cyclonic storm, the 'low-lying' areas of the coastal districts and their offshore islands were likely to be inundated by storm surge of 4-5 feet height above normal astronomical tide, the Met office said. AGENCIES

Trump hits out at Germany over trade, NATO; promises change

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump took to Twitter on Tuesday to complain about a US trade deficit with Germany and his belief that the country must pay more for the NATO military alliance.

"We have a MASSIVE trade deficit with Germany, plus they pay FAR LESS than they should on NATO & military," he wrote. "Very bad for US This will change."

The tweet follows a volley of criticism from Germany after the president concluded his first official tour abroad on Sun-

day, returning from Saudi Arabia, Israel, Brussels and then Italy for a G7 summit.

In Berlin on Sunday, Chancellor Angela Merkel warned that the United States and Britain may no longer be completely reliable partners.

"Transatlantic ties are of paramount importance to us... but the current situation gives more reasons for... us to take our destiny in our own hands," Merkel said, stressing that "Europe must become a player active in international affairs."

German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel was blunter yesterday, slamming the US president's "short-sighted" policies that have "weakened the West" and hurt European interests.

During his trip, Trump snubbed pressure from G7 allies to sign up to upholding the 2015 Paris climate accord and berated 23 of NATO's 28 members — including Germany — for "still not paying what they should be paying" toward the funding of the alliance.

AGENCIES

White House Communications Director resigns

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump's Communications Director Mike Dubke has resigned, media reported on Tuesday.

The veteran GOP strategist, who served in the post for three months, tendered his resignation on May 18. He offered to stay through the President's first foreign trip to ensure there was a smooth transition as he exited, the *Washington Post* reported. The daily cited an email to friends by Dubke in which he wrote: "It has been my great honour to serve President Trump and this administration. It has also been my distinct pleasure to work side-by-side, day-by-day with the staff of the communications and press departments."

Dubke is still coming in to work and his last day has not yet been set

Dubke is still coming in to work and his last day has not yet been set. He told Politico that he wanted to go back to Black Rock Group, his communications and public affairs firm. Dubke, who worked closely with White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer, served as a behind-the-scenes player helping manage communications strategy, responses to crises such as the firing of James B Comey as FBI director, as well as rollout plans for policy and other initiatives.

He was previously a Republican strategist who founded Crossroads Media and had long ties to party establishment figures.

AGENCIES

'Jihadist drug' seized for first time

PARIS: French customs officials said on Tuesday that they had intercepted 135 kilograms (300 pounds) of Captagon, dubbed the "jihadists' drug", at Paris's Charles de Gaulle airport this year, a first for France.

Captagon, a type of amphetamine, is one of the most commonly used drugs among fighters in the Syrian war.

"It is the first time that this drug has been seized in France," the customs agency

said in a statement.

Customs officials at Charles de Gaulle discovered 350,000 Captagon pills weighing 70 kilograms on January 4 hidden among industrial moulds exported from Lebanon and apparently heading for the Czech Republic.

An investigation was launched by German and Czech authorities "and it revealed that the real intended destination was Saudi Arabia, by passing through Turkey", the agency said.

Kim Jong Nam murder case moves to Malaysian high court



KUALA LUMPUR: The case of two women charged in Malaysia with killing the estranged half-brother of North Korea's leader was transferred to a higher court on Tuesday, as a defence lawyer complained of not getting all of the documents he had requested.

Indonesian Siti Aishah, 25, and Doan Thi Huong, 28, from Vietnam, face the death penalty if convicted of murdering Kim Jong Nam at Kuala Lumpur airport on February 13. The two women are accused of smearing Kim's face with VX nerve agent, a chemical described by the United Nations as a weapon of mass destruction. Aishah and Huong have told diplomats

from their countries that they were unwitting pawns in what US officials and South Korean intelligence have said was an assassination orchestrated by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Kim Jong Nam had spoken out publicly against his family's dynastic control of the isolated, nuclear-armed nation. Aishah and Huong were charged on March 1 but the Sepang district magistrate court had twice deferred prosecutors' requests for the case to be moved to a higher court pending collection of documents. On Tuesday, the district court judge moved the case to the Shah Alam High Court. No date was given for the first High Court hearing but prosecutor Iskandar Ahmad told reporters the court should notify them "within a month". Aishah and Huong were present for the hearing, their third court appearance, both wearing bullet-proof vests.

Aishah's lawyer, Gooi Soon Seng, told the court the police and prosecution had yet to supply the defence with documents and other evidence needed for the case.

**National Highways Authority of India**
(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Competitive Bidding through e-tendering mode only)
NHAII invites bids from eligible contractors for Construction of Four Lane Flyover/ Grade Separator at km 80.742 [from km 79.780 to km 81.200 (Design Ch. km 0.530 to km 1.950)] of NH-3 at Morena Town to be executed on EPC mode in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
[Last date & time of online submission : 11.07.2017 (up to 1100 Hrs.)]
For details kindly visit website : www.nhai.org or <http://etenders.gov.in>
BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

**NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**
321, 3RD FLOOR, SHAHEED BHAGAT SINGH PLACE, GOLE MARKET, NEW DELHI-110001
e-Procurement Tender Notice
e-Tender ID No.2017_NDMC_130029_1
Name of work: Improvement to N.P. Bengali Girls Sr. Sec. School, Gole Market.
Sub Head: Renovation/Upgradation of Hall in N.P. Bengali Girls Sr. Sec. School Gole Market. **Estimate cost:** ₹13,50,802/-
Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution : 29.05.2017
Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution : 09.06.2017 at 4:00 P.M.
Further details can be seen at www.ndmc.gov.in or <https://www.govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with NICCA is mandatory.
The tender shall be received only through e-procurement procedure and conditions of e-procurement will supercede all normal conditions of the NIT of issue and receipt of tender documents
Executive Engineer (BM-I)

**New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these website for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.
(1) 62/CE/JAL/AO/PE/JAL-IV/2016-17 (2) 65/CE/JAL/AO/PE/JAL-IV/2016-17 (3) 238/CE/JAL/AO/PE/JAL-IV/2016-17 (4) 245/CE/JAL/AO/PE/JAL-IV/2016-17 (5) 283/CE/JAL/AO/PE/JAL-IV/2016-17 (6) 321/CE/JAL/AO/PE/JAL-IV/2016-17 (7) 335/CE/JAL/AO/PE/JAL-IV/2016-17 (8) 359/CE/JAL/AO/PE/JAL-IV/2016-17 (9) 396/CE/JAL/AO/PE/JAL-IV/2016-17 (10) 427/CE/JAL/AO/PE/JAL-IV/2016-17 (11) 450/CE/JAL/AO/PE/JAL-IV/2016-17
Which can be uploaded by date 12/06/2017 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 13/06/2017 at 11.00 AM.
Incharge Tender Cell
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

M/s Dr. Sabharwal's Manufacturing Labs Ltd.				
26/19, East Patel Nagar - New Delhi				
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2017				
Particulars	Note No.	Amount as on 31-03-2017	Amount as on 31-03-2016	
I-EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
1-Shareholder's Funds				
(a) Share Capital	1	8,000,000.00	8,000,000.00	
(b) Reserve and Surplus	2	52,949,059.87	46,732,233.11	
2-Non-Current Liabilities				
(a) Deferred Tax Liabilities (Net)	3			
(b) Long Term Provision	4	3,707,525.00	3,407,525.00	
3-Current Liabilities				
(a) Trade Payables	5	4,225,454.70	2,010,640.79	
(b) Other Current Liabilities	6	1,684,658.68	1,125,148.10	
(c) Short Term Loan & Advances	7	3,279,949.00	3,279,949.00	
TOTAL		73,846,647.25	64,555,496.00	
II-ASSETS				
1-Non-Current Assets				
(a) Fixed Assets				
(i) Tangible Assets	8	4,986,265.34	5,800,984.00	
(b) Non-Current Investment	9	2,622,567.02	3,100.00	
(c) Long Term Loan & Advances	10	2,237,582.13	1,494,201.13	
2-Current Assets				
(a) Inventories	11	6,754,557.00	8,373,921.48	
(b) Trade Receivable	12	18,580,953.54	9,892,847.19	
(c) Cash and Cash Equivalents	13	33,827,766.23	33,779,382.28	
(d) Short Term Loan & Advances	14	3,078,149.93	3,544,253.86	
(e) Deferred Tax Assets (Net)		1,758,006.06	1,656,806.06	
TOTAL		73,846,647.25	64,555,496.00	
Place : New Delhi	For and on behalf of the Board			
Date : 29-05-2017	Sd/- Dr. A.R. Sabharwal (M.D.)			

Russian diplomat complains of White House 'leaks to media'



Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov

MOSCOW: A top Russian diplomat has complained about "the threat of leaks" from the White House to the media, saying it hampers cooperation between Russia and the United States.

Speaking to Russian news agencies on Tuesday, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said: "You don't know what's going to happen tomorrow (Wednesday): maybe you'll see what you discussed with your counterpart on the

pages of *Washington Post* or on *CNN*." Ryabkov did not elaborate, but said the communication with the Trump administration is currently "on the basic level" because he "wouldn't tell my counterparts in Washington what I wouldn't be able to tell you." Ryabkov's comments came several days after top White House adviser Jared Kushner faced allegations that he tried to create back-channel communications with Russia.

AGENCIES

Meghalaya-Myanmar highway project may start next month

MUMBAI: Work on the highway from Meghalaya to Myanmar is likely to start next month as part of the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral pact, Road, Transport, Highways and Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday.

"We will probably start work on Meghalaya to Myanmar project from next month. The cost of the project is Rs 5,000 crore," Gadkari told reporters on Tuesday on the sidelines of a programme here.

India, Thailand and Myanmar are working on a 1,400 km long highway that would link the country with Southeast Asia by land, which would give a boost to trade, business, health, education and tourism among the countries.

Addressing a meet on 'the green ports and oil spill management' here, Gadkari said the government is planning a waterway connectivity up to Myanmar via Bangladesh using Brahmaputra river.

"Waterways are more cost effective than roads and railways and so any goods required to be traded to Myanmar or Bangladesh could be done in a very cost effective manner."

This will finish before 2018," he said. With the Cabinet approving Rs 2,000 crore from a central fund for develop-



ment of water transport, operationalising at least 10 of the 111 national waterways by next year is on top of the government's agenda.

Massive work worth Rs 5,000 crore is already underway on Ganga (1,620 km), with World Bank assistance, which is the National Waterway No 1.

The work includes development of three multi-modal hubs at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, Haldia in West Bengal and Sahebganj in Bihar.

Pitching for environment-friendly initiatives, Gadkari said that the country could be

flooded with electric commercial and passenger vehicles by December as a move to curb dependence on crude oil and cut emissions.

He noted that India needs to encourage electric as well as bio-diesel and ethanol-fuelled vehicles. On concerns on lack of infrastructure for charging electric vehicles, the minister said "the technology is there and if we have more vehicles we will get more charging stations."

Nagpur has earned the distinction of becoming the country's first city with a fleet of 200 electric vehicles, including taxis,

buses, e-rickshaw and autos. Gadkari also suggested that shipping corporations should explore use of liquefied natural gas (LNG) as an alternative source of fuel to save on costs.

The minister also said he would discuss lowering the goods and services tax (GST) rates on hybrid vehicles with the finance ministry. Under the GST rates, hybrid cars, which are considered eco-friendly, are slated to attract a 15 per cent cess over and above peak rate of 28 per cent, same as those of large luxury cars and sports utility vehicles (SUVs). PTI

Cooperation pact with ASEAN likely this year

KOLKATA: The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, involving India, ASEAN and its six free trade agreement (FTA) partners, is expected to be completed this year, an official of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday.

"India is actively engaged in the negotiations for RCEP involving ASEAN and its six FTA partners. It is in the concluding stage," said Anurag Bhushan, joint secretary (ASEAN-multilateral), at an ICC session. The agreement will give India free trade access to the ASEAN partners thereby increasing the country's exports, he added.

Bhushan said that once finalised, it will be the largest regional trading arrangement in the world and the outcome is to be a balanced and comprehensive agreement across the key pillars of goods, services and investments.

The ASEAN bloc is India's fourth largest trading partner accounting for 10.2 per cent of the total trade. PTI

All options open for Air India revival: Raju

NEW DELHI: All possible alternatives are being considered to make Air India viable, the Civil Aviation Ministry said on Tuesday, even as it asserted that the clock cannot be put back on the Indian Airlines merger. Days after Finance Minister Arun Jaitley pitched for Air India's disinvestment, Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju said no option has been closed for the airline.

"NITI Aayog has made recommendations for making Air India strong and viable. All courses of action are being examined. We have not closed any option," Raju told reporters here.

Asserting that the government is proud of Air India, Raju said the ministry would cooperate with the CBI in respect of cases related to alleged irregularities at the airline in the past.

Air India, which is surviving on a Rs 30,000 crore bailout package spread over 10 years announced by the Manmohan Singh government in 2012, is working on ways to improve its financial position.

In 2015-16, the airline posted operational profit of Rs 105 crore on account of low fuel prices and increased passenger numbers. Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha said whatever that would be done for Air India will be in national interest.

"We are considering all possible alternatives (for Air



Days after Finance Minister Arun Jaitley pitched for our national airline's disinvestment, Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju said that no option has been closed for the carrier

India)... We are discussing (what can be) the winning strategy for the airline," Sinha said.

Asked about Air India and Indian Airlines merger that happened in 2007, which is seen as a reason for the problems of the national carrier, Raju said the clock cannot be put back on the deal.

The CBI has decided to probe the controversial merger besides alleged irregularities in purchase and lease of aircraft by the two state-run carriers under the UPA government which caused "huge" losses to the exchequer. The probe agency has registered three FIRs and a preliminary enquiry

(PE) to go into the controversial decisions made by the erstwhile UPA government with regard to the carriers, including surrender of profitable routes to favour private airlines.

The cases have been registered against unidentified officials of Air India, Ministry of Civil Aviation and others under charges of criminal conspiracy, cheating and corruption, CBI spokesperson R K Gaur said on Monday.

The CAG had in 2011 questioned the rationale behind the government's decision to order 111 airplanes for AI and Indian Airlines - 48 from Airbus and 68 from Boeing - for about Rs 70,000 crore in 2006. PTI

Port infra boost: 8 JNPT projects worth ₹1,117 cr launched



MUMBAI: To boost port infrastructure, Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday laid foundation stone of eight connectivity projects worth Rs 1,117.03 crore at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT).

The projects include integrated common rail yard facility at JNPT, construction of coastal berth, and restructuring of yard behind shallow water berth, the Ministry of Shipping said in a release. These projects will enhance connectivity of the hinterland to the port. Port connectivity is among the four pillars of the Ministry of Shipping's flagship Sagarmala programme, the release said.

"Huge investments are expected under the Sagarmala programme, which will lead to better infrastructure and creation of new jobs besides giving a big push to Indian exports," Gadkari said. He said a lot of companies have shown interest in acquiring land for setting up factories in the JNPT SEZ zone, and this in turn will create a demand for skilled manpower.

Gadkari informed that a coordinator will be appointed to look into the requirements

These projects include an integrated common rail yard facility, a coastal berth and the restructuring of the yard behind the shallow water berth

of these new companies and help train the local youth from Raigad and Konkan areas to meet their specific needs.

JNPT chairman Anil Digikarsaid that the Port Trust is focused on creating world-class infrastructure to enable hassle-free trade and contribute to the ease of doing business.

"Efforts aimed at improving the infrastructure at JNPT have already started bearing results as congestion has come down to zero and tonnage handled has reached a record high of 4.5 million TEU for the year ended March 2017," the release quoted him as saying. PTI

Mahindras' Q4 PAT up 20% to ₹725 crore

MUMBAI: Homegrown auto major Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) on Tuesday reported a 19.93 per cent increase in its standalone profit-after-tax (PAT) at Rs 725.16 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2017.

The company had posted a PAT of Rs 604.63 crore during the same period a year ago. Its total income from operations during the fourth quarter rose to Rs 12,319.64 crore, up 4.04 per cent from Rs 11,840.47 crore a year earlier, M&M said in a regulatory filing.

The company's vehicle sales remained flat at 1,30,778 units during the fourth quarter. It sold 46,583 tractor units during the period under review, up 13.3 per cent from the same period a year ago. For the entire fiscal 2016-17, the company posted a standalone net profit of Rs 3,955.65 crore, up 23.43 per cent from Rs 3,204.57 crore in the previous year.

Total income for the last fiscal rose to Rs 48,438.53 crore as compared to Rs 44,488.83 crore in 2015-16. M&M took a hit of Rs 171 crore on account of the Supreme Court's ban on BS-III vehicle sales from April 1.

Commenting on the numbers, the company said the outlook for 2017-18 is much more robust with a favourable domestic and global backdrop.

"Moreover, the ongoing remonetisation process and lagged effect of past rate cuts along with a further reduction in banks' lending rates will aid discretionary consumer spending and growth recovery," it said. PTI

Govt steps up vigil on bitcoin transactions

NEW DELHI: The government is keeping a close watch on companies dealing with bitcoins to ensure that such transactions are not used to collect funds from gullible public.

Bitcoin - a virtual currency whose value has been soaring in international markets in recent months - is yet to be brought under any regulatory framework in India.

The Corporate Affairs Ministry is now keeping a close watch on companies as to whether they are getting into bitcoin transactions.

The ministry, which implements the companies law, has instructed the SFIO, regional directors as well as the Registrar of Companies to gather details about firms involved in bitcoin dealings, according to a recent communication.

The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) comes under the ministry.

The communication was sent earlier this month by the



ministry to Lok Sabha MP and BJP leader Kirit Somaiya who had raised concerns about illegal exchange and trading of bitcoins in the country.

These instructions have been issued to see "if the investors' depositors/ public or stakeholders are being prejudicially affected and/ or such companies are using this mode of investment to lure the gullible public in collecting funds".

In case they come across companies indulging in bit-

coin transactions, the regional directors and Registrar of Companies have been asked to discuss the same in the State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) meetings organised by the Reserve Bank and in the Regional Economic Intelligence Committee (REIC) meetings.

While entities have been dealing with bitcoins, there are concerns over risks associated with such currencies and the possibility of them being used to dupe investors.

Sebi launches online platform for portfolio managers, VC funds

NEW DELHI: Markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday said it has introduced an online platform for portfolio managers and venture capital funds which will make it convenient for them to do business.

The new system would help make it easier for the existing and new market intermediaries to complete their registration and other regulatory filings with Sebi much faster and in a cost-effective way, Sebi said in a statement.

"All applicants desirous of seeking registration as a port-



folio manager are now required to submit their applications on the online system," Sebi said.

Besides, the system provides a comprehensive solution for all the regulatory compliances specified under the Sebi's Portfolio Managers norms.

Further, all Sebi registered venture capital funds are now

required to file their reports and submit applications for any request on the online system.

Earlier this month, Sebi announced a portal for eight categories of market intermediaries - stock brokers, sub-brokers, merchant bankers, underwriters, registrar to an issue and share transfer agents, debenture trustees, bankers to an issue and credit rating agency.

The intermediary portal would be operational for depository participants from May 31, Sebi had said. PTI

Brokers must give risk-based supervision data by today

NEW DELHI: BSE on Tuesday asked brokers to submit risk-based supervision data for the past fiscal (2016-17) by on Wednesday. Brokers who fail to make timely submission will be slapped monetary penalty starting from Rs 10,000. Besides, prolonged non-compliance would result in disablement of trading terminals, BSE said. The submission is to be made only electronically through BSE Electronic Filing System. PTI

Indigo moves NGT against ban on disinfectant fumigation

NEW DELHI: Indigo Airlines has moved the National Green Tribunal against its order banning spray of disinfectants in aircraft while passengers are on board.

The no-frills airline has sought modification of the August 3, 2015 direction to Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to ensure that no disinfectant fumigation is carried out in plane if any person is sitting inside.

It has contended in its plea that there is a spiralling increase in dengue and malaria cases with the onset of monsoons and due to the "blanket" ban they were not able to take any step for protection and safety of passengers.

Noting the submissions, a bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar issued notices to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the DGCA and the original petitioner in the case. The matter



is listed for next hearing on June 2.

Senior advocate Pinaki Misra, appearing for the airline, said June is a critical month as there is a sudden spurt in dengue and malaria cases because weather conditions are conducive for mosquito-breeding.

He told the green panel that the airlines has already received over 900 complaints from different flyers and some of them have even filed cases against the

company in consumer forum.

The lawyer sought modification of the order to the extent that they be allowed to spray the disinfectant only on "need basis" if the situation so demands.

Heeding to the plea of a United States-based neurologist, the NGT had directed the Centre to ensure that no disinfectant fumigation is carried out in aircraft while passengers are on board. PTI

"You are supposed to kill mosquitoes not human beings. You cannot take risk with the health of the people."

"Carry out the disinfectant fumigation prior to loading of passengers or when the aircraft is empty," it had said.

The order had come on the plea filed by Dr Jain Kumar, a neurologist and director of the Primary Stroke Centre at Baylor Hospital in Texas.

Kumar had contended that spraying of pesticides on planes with chemicals like phenothrin, an organo-phosphorus neurotoxin, was injurious to human health as their use carries risk of causing cancer and auto-immune diseases like lupus, Parkinson's disease and memory loss.

According to the petitioner, while all other airlines have stopped spraying of pesticides, this practice is prevalent in all Indian airlines operating internationally. PTI

IIP calculation: CSO likely to collect industrial data online

NEW DELHI: A portal is being planned for online collection of data on industrial production for greater accuracy in assessing the economic activity, Statistics Minister D V Sadananda Gowda said on Tuesday.

On whether the GDP data to be released on Wednesday will be more realistic after factoring in new series of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with change of base year to 2011-12, Gowda said: "Most certainly".

When asked about the impact of new series of IIP and WPI on national accounts data for the January-March quarter as well as the entire financial year, 2016-17, he said: "There is change in all systems of the economy across the country. All our data is collected by latest technology. We are coming up with data with clarity and minimum time lag." At the inauguration of a new office building of National Sample Survey



Office (NSSO), he said the Central Statistics Office is planning to develop a web-based data collection system for IIP, which is compiled on monthly basis to assess the growth of factory output and released with a lag of 6 weeks.

Earlier this month, the new series of IIP and WPI with new base year of 2011-12 was released. The CSO had released the new series of national accounts, revising the base year from 2004-05 to 2011-12 in January, 2015.

Several experts and economists have raised doubts over the accuracy of the GDP numbers because CSO had been

using data inputs from IIP and WPI with 2004-05 base year.

Earlier this year, the CSO came out with two advance estimates of the GDP and pegged the economic growth at 7.1 per cent after factoring in note ban in the later projection.

Chief Statistician T C A Anant, present on the occasion, said: "We had told you that as and when the IIP series is revised, it will be incorporated (in GDP estimates). The benefit of that revision will certainly flow into GDP estimates. The IIP and WPI are used in GDP compilation."

Asked about improvement in terms of numbers, he said: "I have not been given an advance intimation about the numbers. You will see it tomorrow."

Anant also said: "National Sample Survey has begun from April 1, 2017, field work on new survey, which will be collecting new data on employment in the country. This will be a continuous survey." PTI

Fiat to roll out first 'Made in India' Jeep Compass today

MUMBAI: Fiat India Automobiles Pvt Ltd (FIAPL) on Tuesday said it will roll out its first ever, 'Made-in-India' Jeep Compass production vehicle from the assembly line in Ranjangaon near Pune on June 1.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will roll out the first ever 'Made in India' Jeep Compass production vehicle from the assembly line at Ranjangaon on Thursday, a company statement said.

This development comes 23 months after Fadnavis, along with a high level delegation met senior Fiat Chrysler Automobiles officials in June, 2015 at the company's headquarters in Michigan in the US. The delegation discussed FCA's investment strategy in Maharashtra and reaffirmed the state government's interest in strengthening ties with FCA, besides offering full support to the company's manufacturing. PTI

India waiting with open arms for Germany Inc's capital: Modi

BERLIN: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called on "more and more German companies" to invest in India even as the speedy conclusion of an India-EU free trade agreement (FTA) was the focus on the German side.

Highlighting the huge potential that remains untapped in the economic partnership during his inaugural address at the Indo-German Business Summit here, Modi said India will welcome German companies with open arms.

"There are 600 Indo-German joint ventures operating in India, employing 200,000 people. But there is huge potential as Indo-German economic cooperation is below its full potential and to enhance this, we in India are waiting with open arms because we value German partnership a lot," Modi said. The deadlock over FTA between India and the European Union (EU) was also highlighted at the summit, with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and senior business leaders urging the Prime Minister for a speedy conclusion to the FTA.

"There are growing protectionist trends around the world but Germany believes the value chains are so deeply intercon-



nected that we will continue to create fair trading conditions. Within this context, it is important that the FTA makes progress," Merkel said. "Germany will continue to push Brussels to resolve negotiations more speedily and we are committed to implement and put into practise such an agreement. The negotiations have been tough because every country must safeguard its own interests and Germany will ensure that India's concerns are also put on the table," she said. Dr Hubert Lienhard, pres-

ident and CEO of German industry body the Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business (APA), also urged Modi on resolving the agreement to enable investments. "Tension is not good for investment. It is important we join forces in pushing to reopen negotiations, to ensure stable trade relations for the future," he said. The representations came as the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed that India and EU negotiators are to take forward discussions on the agreement at a meeting in July.

The details of this meeting have not been finalised but MEA said the aim was to work towards a speedy resolution of an agreement in light of the Indo-German bilateral trade treaty having expired in March this year. "We are committed and have been engaging on this issue and hope an agreement can be reached as fast as possible," MEA spokesperson told reporters at a briefing following the Fourth Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC) between Modi and Merkel earlier on Tuesday. Stressing that India

refers to the deal as a Broad-based trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA), he said both countries were committed to creating a healthy ecosystem for investments from Germany. "They [Modi and Merkel] also reaffirmed their strong commitment to the EU-India Broad Based Trade and Investment Agreement and their commitment to bring about a resumption of the negotiations at the earliest possible date. "This would, inter alia, allow to establish provisions for the mutual protection of new foreign investments," said the Joint Statement issued by Modi and Merkel after the IGC.

At the business summit, the PM's focus was on highlighting India's liberalised FDI regime and growing ease of doing business. Describing GST as the "most historic reform India ever done", he said the trend of reforms is spreading fast to all states.

He highlighted the abolition of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) to "expand the engagement of overseas investors in Indian economy". After his address, Modi left for courtesy call on German President Dr Frank-Walter Steinmeier at Castle Bellevue, his official residence. PTI

India, Germany sign 8 trade, economic pacts

BERLIN: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday sought "outcome-oriented" momentum in Indo-German ties and a "quantum jump" in economic relations, as he held wide-ranging talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on key issues like trade, skill development, cyber security and terrorism.

Following their talks, the two sides signed a joint declaration of intent on cyber politics, development initiatives, sustainable urban development, continued development of cluster managers and skill development, cooperation in the field of digitalisation, cooperation in the field of railway security, promoting vocational training and continued cooperation on an Indo-German centre for sustainability. On her part, Merkel said India has proved to be a reliable partner and the two sides have been able to deepen cooperation.

Talking about the threat of terrorism, Modi said humanitarian forces must unite to combat the menace. PTI

Amul clinches MoU with Isro for fodder acreage estimation

MUMBAI: Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) on Tuesday said it has signed an agreement with ISRO for fodder acreage assessment using satellite observation and space technology.

GCMMF markets its products under the brand name of 'Amul'.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), ISRO will help in identification between food crops and fodder crops at village level and also locate suitable areas of current fallows and cultivable wastelands at village level for green fodder cultivation, GCMMF said in a release.

Amul and Space Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO, had earlier carried out a joint pilot, which found that to assess green fodder availability for dairy livestock at district and village level through remote sensing is feasible, it added.

Fodder acreage estimation would act as a decision making tool for monitoring and planning of fodder development activities by the stakeholders in the dairy sector, it said.

Amul is currently procuring around 150 lakh litres of milk daily from around 35 lakh milk producer members from over 18,500 villages.

The milk producer farmers of Gujarat will get benefit of fodder cultivation by using this technology, it said. "The



Fodder acreage estimation would act as a decision making tool for monitoring and planning of fodder development activities by stakeholders in the dairy sector

development and growth of dairy animals are highly associated with the scope of availability of fodder from cultivable land, forest, pastures and grazing lands, which are crucial input for enhancing milk production and for survival of the bovine population," said GCMMF Managing Director R S Sodhi. PTI

SAIL steels sales turnover by 14% to ₹49,180 crore in FY17

NEW DELHI: The audited financial results of Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) for the financial year 2016-17 (FY17) were taken on record by the Board of Directors here on Tuesday.

Management's continual thrust on gaining operational excellence has led SAIL to remain EBITDA positive for four consecutive quarters, which stood at Rs 671.6 Crore vis-à-vis Rs (-) 2,203 Crore over corresponding period over last year (CPLY) recording an increase of Rs. 2875 Crore.

The Company has narrowed down its losses by around 30% in FY17 and recorded an overall improvement including production, sales and productivity. The Company's sales turnover recorded an improvement of around 14% in FY17 and stood at Rs 49,180 Crore compared to Rs 43,294 Crore over CPLY.

SAIL recorded the best ever sales performance, for any given year, during FY 17



with a growth of 8% over CPLY. The total sales stood at 13.11 Million Tonnes (MT) in FY17 as compared to 12.12 MT in FY16. On the production front as well, the Company recorded a growth of 12% in saleable steel production for FY17 over FY16. The techno-economic parameters showed improvement in FY17 of 3% in Coke rate and 6% in BF productivity over CPLY. The Profit After Tax (PAT) narrowed to Rs (-) 2,833 Crore, an improvement of 20%, over CPLY which stood at Rs (-) 4,021 Crore in FY16.

The unprecedented increase in coal prices during FY17 impacted the numbers and stunted the overall margins. In

FY 17, there was an impact of around Rs 4,300 Crore increase over FY 16 on account of prices of both imported and domestic coal which neutralized the significant improvement in Net Sales Realization (NSR) during FY17 over FY16.

Along with this, the charges for capitalization of assets on account of interest and depreciation have also gone up affecting the margins. Braving these factors, the Company managed to register substantial reductions over CPLY in expenditure on account of manpower by 8% with a total improvement of 2% in the overall cost per tonne.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman, SAIL, Mr. P.K. Singh said, "The Company's uninterrupted efforts to achieve operational excellence has helped us become EBDITA positive for the fourth time in a row. Despite the sharp hike in imported and domestic coal prices, which has also neutralized the NSR gains, we have managed to compress the loss." MPOST

REC powers Q4 net by 14% to ₹1,319 cr



MUMBAI: Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) on Tuesday reported a net profit of Rs 1,319.23 crore on a standalone basis in the fourth quarter ended March 31, up 14 per cent from Rs 1160.03 crore in the same period last year.

Total standalone revenues for the quarter under consideration was marginally lower at Rs 5,978.32 as compared to Rs 6,084.47 in the January-March quarter in 2016.

For the financial year 2016-17, the company reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 6313.37 crore, up 11 per cent from Rs 5,691.42 crore last fiscal. The total consolidated revenues stood at Rs 24,686 crore for the financial year, up 2.3 per cent from Rs 24,129.93 crore

last fiscal.

"The power sector is going through a transformation due to the number of government initiatives to achieve its target of affordable, 24/7 power for all by 2021-22," REC chairman and MD, PV Ramesh said here.

"Demand is growing consistently at an average of 7-10 per cent. The installed capacity is expected to grow to 540 gigawatts from 327 gigawatts currently, which requires a financing of about Rs 10.3 lakh crore in five years."

During the year, REC had sanctioned Rs 83,871 crore of loans and Rs 50,000 crore was in transmission and distribution (T&D) in tune with the government's condition that the biggest bottleneck is in T&D, he said. PTI

PowerGrid profit grows by 26% ₹7,520 cr in FY17

MUMBAI: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a 'Navratna' Company under Ministry of Power, GoI, has posted a net profit of Rs.7,520 crore over a turnover of Rs. 26,581 crore for FY 2016-17, registering a growth of about 25 per cent in Turnover and 26 per cent in Net Profit compared to FY 2015-16, on a standalone basis.

The Company surpassed Rs.25,000 crore Turnover and Rs.7,500 crore Profit After Tax for the first time.

For the fourth quarter of FY2016-17, the Company has posted a net profit of Rs. 1,916 crore, as against a net profit of Rs.1,569 crore registering an increase of 22 per cent with respect to corresponding period of FY 2015-16. The Company has proposed a final dividend of 33.5 per cent in addition to interim dividend of 10.0 per cent (already paid) for the financial year 2016-17.

As at the end of April,



2017, POWERGRID is operating about 139,700 ckt. kms. of transmission lines along with 220 Sub-stations with transformation capacity of more than 292,500 MVA.

With the use of state-of-the-art maintenance techniques, average Availability of transmission system during the year 2016-17 was maintained at 99.79 per cent. During the FY 2016-17, POWERGRID completed a number of important inter-regional transmission lines including +/-800kV HVDC Champa-Kurukshetra line, Angul-Srikakulam line

and Wardha - Nizamabad line. The Company also completed two projects under TBCC.

The Company incurred a capital expenditure to the tune of Rs.24,429 crore during the period, which was highest ever in a year. With the end of FY 2016-17, XII Five Year Plan (2012-17) has also concluded and during this period, POWERGRID has achieved highest ever capital investment of 1,12,664 crore surpassing the target of 1,10,000 crore (originally envisaged 1,00,000 crore at the beginning of the Plan). MPOST

Nestle launches iron-fortified Maggi noodles



NEW DELHI: FMCG major Nestle India on Tuesday launched iron fortified Maggi noodles aimed at iron deficient (anaemic) people in the country.

As per the 2015-16 National Family Health Survey, 53 per cent females and 22.7 per male between 15 and 45 years age group suffer from iron deficiency with an almost equal split across rural and urban India, Nestle said.

The company believes that with 2.5 billion portions of Maggi Masala noodles consumed annually in India, it will have a major impact.

Under "Simply Good", Nestle is supporting home cooks with healthier and tastier choices, by simplifying ingredients, reducing sodium and increasing micro nutrient fortification by 2020.

In India, Nestle has started it with iron fortification, the company said in a statement.

"Nestl India is exploring ways to fortify its mass con-

The company believes that with 2.5 billion portions of Maggi Masala noodles consumed annually in India, the move will have a big impact

sumption products to close the gap and contribute to the larger national objective," it added.

Nestle India Chairman & Managing Director Suresh Narayanan said: "At the forefront of this drive is the commitment to reshape Maggi brand's products to emphasize the use of familiar and common ingredients that people know and use for home cooking, from their own kitchen cupboard."

Presently, Maggi noodles is consumed by nine crore families, which is around 7 million serves a day. PTI

India's online education industry to be \$1.96 billion by 2021: Google study

BENGALURU: Capturing the growing influence of the Internet on the education industry in India, Google and KPMG on Tuesday released a joint report titled: 'Online Education in India: 2021'. The report reveals that the online education industry will grow at a healthy rate of 8x, to become a \$1.96 billion industry by 2021.

The report is based on a comprehensive market research conducted by KPMG, along with a primary research and combined with insights from Google search. The report finds that the paid user base will grow 6X from 1.6 million users in 2016 to 9.6 million users

in 2021. The report revealed that over the last two years, there has been a 2x growth in online searches for education and a 3X growth in searches from a mobile device. Also, 44 per cent of education searches are now coming from beyond the top 6 metros and there has been a 4X growth in education content consumption on YouTube in the last one year.

Highlighting the segment wise growth in the online education space, the report highlights that reskilling and online certification is currently the largest. In 2016, it was valued at \$93 million, and is expected to grow at a CAGR of 38 per cent to reach

463 million by 2021. As per the report, the primary and secondary education category has the largest addressable audience with a student base of around 260 million when compared to the other categories. Owing to this, the primary and secondary supplementary education segment was the second largest category in 2016, and will grow at a CAGR of 60 per cent to reach \$773 million, making it the largest category in 2021.

The test preparation which is a small segment as of today is likely to grow at an impressive CAGR of 64 per cent to become a \$515 million category in 2021. Speaking about the key

findings of the report, Nitin Bawankule, Industry Director, Google India said, "The online education segment is set to become a multi-billion dollar opportunity in India. There are many factors driving this growth including the perceived convenience, increased reach and personalisation offered by online channels. It is also interesting to note, that high growth in education search queries is now coming in from Tier 2 and 3 cities such as Patna, Guwahati, Aligarh and Kota - which points to the opportunities that growing penetration of smartphones and improving quality of internet have opened up." MPOST

CORPORATE KALEIDOSCOPE



A delegation of Confederation of Maharashtra Companies (COMCO) led by its convener Mukul Kumar met the Cabinet Secretary PK Sinha on May 29 evening, to put forth the requests of Officers of Maharashtra Companies to modify certain recommendations of 3rd Pay Revision Committee. The delegation included Sanjay Goel from ONGC, VK Sharma of NTPC and SS Rana of GAIL



To generate fund for early detection and treatment of heart disease, an event named HRIDAYA with theme 'Athithi Devo Bhava' was organised by Shyam Sundar Co Jewellers and Rotary Club of Calcutta on May 28 at Science City auditorium. Singer and dancers including Aditi Munshi, Imon, Jojo, Subhankar Bhaskar, Rupankar, Aneswa, Sudarshan Chakravarty, and Rituparna Sengupta performed for noble cause



BRAZIL GREAT ROBERTO CARLOS EYES COACHING JOB IN AUSTRALIA

NEW DELHI: OSydney, May 30 (AFP) Brazilian football legend Roberto Carlos is keen to coach Australian side South Melbourne, who are pushing to join an expanded domestic A-League. The 44-year-old, famous for his stunning free kicks, held talks in the city on Monday with club officials. "What I've seen here has moved me, the complex and the people," he said.

CHAPECOENSE MOVE TO TOP OF BRAZIL'S SERIE A

RIO DE JANEIRO: Tragedy-hit Associação Chapecoense de Futebol have risen to the top of the standings in Brazil's Serie A football league with a 2-0 home victory over Avai FC. Wellington Paulista and Reinaldo struck goals on Monday for the team from southern Brazil, who were forced to rebuild their squad from scratch.

AC MILAN SIGN DEFENDER MUSACCHIO FROM VILLARREAL

VILLAREAL: Villarreal announced the transfer of defender Mateo Musacchio to AC Milan for around 18 million euros (\$20 million) the player having signed a 4-season contract with the 7-time European football champions. "Villarreal CF and AC Milan have come to an agreement for the transfer of Argentinean defender Mateo Musacchio," the Spanish club said.



AFC Cup: Bagan takes on Abahani; Bengaluru aims for qualification

DHAKA: Mohun Bagan and Dhaka Abahani Limited will lock horns in an inconsequential AFC Cup Group E match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium here on Wednesday.

Both sides are out of the competition and will play for pride. While Bagan are third in the four-team group table with six points from five matches, Dhaka Abahani are rock-bottom having just three points from five outings.

Sanjoy Sen's away side, who lost to Bengaluru FC 0-2 in the Federation Cup final and weeks earlier finished second in the I-League behind surprise winners Aizawl FC, will be without star marksman Haitian Sony Norde who did not travel with the team.

In the previous meeting of the two sides at the Rabindra Sarovar Stadium, Bagan won 3-1 courtesy goals from Balwant Singh, Norde and Jeje Lalpekhlua.

The AFC Cup has never been Bagan's priority and many a times Sen has fielded second string sides in the group league matches.



Mohun Bagan will be without star marksman Sony Norde (centre) who did not travel with the team

"I'm a bit relaxed now. We will try our best to grab three points from the game and the boys are motivated," Sen told reporters in Kolkata before travelling to Dhaka.

Bagan failed to win a sin-

gle trophy this season despite coming close on two occasions. Darryl Duffy, their scottish striker, expressed disappointment.

"I can't forget the goal I missed at Aizawl. That still

pricks me all the time. But Mohun Bagan will remain special to me because this has been the best team I have played so far in India," Duffy said.

"If they want to retain me, I am ready to play. But right now

the future of Indian leagues are in a lot of doubt. We just have to wait and see," Duffy added.

Meanwhile, hot on the heels of their Federation Cup triumph in Cuttack, an upbeat Bengaluru FC will be eyeing qualification to the next round when they take on Maziya Sports & Recreation in a Group E AFC Cup tie at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium. Bengaluru, who beat Mohun Bagan to win their second Federation Cup title, need to win against Maldives' Maziya to have a shot at the round of 16.

Bengaluru became the first Indian team to reach the final of the same competition last time and would be eager to repeat their performance this time around as well.

Maziya are on 12 points already, with Bengaluru on nine, but the advantage Bengaluru have despite their poor goal difference (six scored and six conceded) is that the first differentiating factor will be the head-to-head record between the two teams.

When the two teams met in Male on April 4, a John Johnson winner in injury time had

given Bengaluru a 1-0 away win.

C.K. Vineeth whose double helped Bengaluru win the Fed Cup will be the cynosure of all eyes. The Kerala lad has been in hot form in front of goal and without the likes of skipper Sunil Chhetri and promising youngster Udanta Singh -- both of whom are injured -- a lot of responsibility will lie on the former United SC striker.

Cameron Watson missed the Fed Cup final through suspension, but should return to partner Euguenson Lyngdoh at the centre of midfield.

Coming to the away side, Maziya are the reigning league champions of Maldives, and have lived up to that billing by logging four wins in their first five matches of the AFC Cup group thus far.

They have beaten Mohun Bagan twice. Striker Mohamed Umair has been outstanding throughout the group stages and is a constant threat to opposition defenders.

Maziya just need a draw to qualify as one team makes it to the next round.

Kohli only Indian in top 10 ICC rankings



LONDON: India captain Virat Kohli is the lone cricketer from the country to feature in the top 10 of the ICC Players Rankings for ODIs as he managed to hold on to his third spot in the batsman's chart.

The intense competition in the individual rankings justifies the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy's significance as players from the eight participating teams feature prominently in it and not much separates the top players in the fray.

The top three batsmen South Africa's AB de Villiers (874 rating points), Australian David Warner (871) and Kohli (852) are separated by just 22 points.

Among other Indians to feature in the top 20 of the ICC Players Ranking for ODI batsmen are Rohit Sharma (12th), Mahendra Singh Dhoni (13th) and Shikhar Dhawan, who dropped a place to 15th.

However, there was disappointment for India in the bowlers chart as not a single cricketer from the country features in the top 10 list which is being headed by Kagiso Rabada of South Africa. Left-arm spinner Akshar Patel finds himself at joint 11th spot along with New Zealand's Matt Henry while Amit Mishra (13th) and off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin (joint 18th) are the other two Indian bowlers to feature in the top 20 list.

Only 23 points separate the top three bowlers Rabada (724 points), Imran Tahir (722) and

Mitchell Starc (701).

India, South Africa and England have four batsmen each inside the top 20 with New Zealand (three), Australia and Pakistan (two each) also having significant presence.

Similarly, among bowlers, Bangladesh and England have three each inside the top 20, followed by New Zealand, South Africa and Australia with two each.

In the all-rounders' list led by Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan, there are three players from England in the top 10.

England's series win over South Africa, which helped it gain two points, also reflects the close competition that can be expected in a crisp tournament like the ICC Champions Trophy.

The top five ODI teams are close to each other with South Africa (122), Australia (118), India (117), New Zealand (114) and England (112) all having a lot to play for in the eight-team tournament. For example, Australia and India could overtake South Africa by the next rankings update if they win all their three league matches and South Africa loses all its three matches.

South Africa, Australia, India and New Zealand have all won this prestigious tournament in the past while last time's finalist England will be hoping to do one better in home conditions and with the confidence of the series win over South Africa.

Barcelona confirm Valverde as new head coach

BARCELONA: Catalan football giants FC Barcelona confirmed that former Athletic Club Bilbao head coach Ernesto Valverde has agreed on an initial two season contract as the successor to Luis Enrique, who leaves after nine trophies in three seasons in charge.

The appointment on Monday of the 53-year-old, who also played for Barcelona in the late 1980s, came less than a week after Valverde announced his departure from Athletic where he had spent the past four seasons, reports Xinhua news agency.

"Valverde will be presented



on Thursday as FC Barcelona coach along with his assistant Jon Aspiazu and José Antonio Pozanco who will be the fitness coach," the club posted on

its website.

As well as leading Athletic in two separate spells, Valverde also had a successful term with Barcelona's local rivals, Espan-

yol, as well as with Valencia and Villarreal.

He also coached Greek club, Olympiacos in two successful spells leading the Greek side to three league titles and two cups.

FC Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu commented in the press conference to announce the new coach that "today I have spoken personally with Valverde and he is happy and excited about the challenge of coaching Barcelona".

"Valverde has the ability, the knowledge and the experience. He promotes players from the youth teams and he has a style and a way of working like ours,"

he said.

He has a philosophy of the game that is very Barcelona and he is a hard worker. Also, he is passionate about applying technology to both training and matches."

Valverde is usually popular with his players and likes his side to pressure their rivals high up the pitch and play attractive attacking football.

He is also known for putting faith in young players, although it is also fair to say he has never had to deal with such a high-pressure dressing room as that Barcelona.

RCA poll results to be declared on June 2

JAIPUR: The results of the controversial Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) elections are all set to be announced on June 2.

The polling process was over on Monday but the sealed ballot boxes were kept in the government treasury till the High Court's directive.

Ram Pal Sharma of CP Joshi faction moved to the court and Justice J S Ranka today ordered that the counting and declaration of results will take place on June 2.

The former RCA president Lalit Modi's son Ruchir is fighting against senior Congress leader CP Joshi, who has also been an ex-president, for the top post.

The election was originally scheduled to be held on April 26 but was stalled abruptly on late night of April 22 by RCA Secretary Sumendra Tiwari as it was believed that Joshi faction was in majority.

Rajasthan High Court then ordered RCA to hold the election on May 29.

MCA PUTS OFF SELECTION OF COACH FOR MUMBAI RANJI TEAM

MUMBAI: Mumbai Cricket Association's Cricket Improvement Committee met to choose the coaches for different age group outfits, but put off selection of the candidate to coach its Ranji Trophy team by a few days. The candidates in the running to take over the mantle of the coach of Mumbai's Ranji outfit are former Test batsman Praveen Amre, who has performed the job earlier, and former India stumper Sameer Dighe, a new entrant to the job, according to the source.

Housing Board Haryana, Sec-23, Faridabad PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of General public that H.No. 594/EWS, H.B.C., Sec-18, Faridabad was transferred in the name of Smt. Maya Devi W/o Kamal Yadav R/o H.No. 594/EWS, H.B.C., Sec-18, Faridabad vide Letter no. 11189, Dt. 25/07/1989. As per documents submitted the transferee Smt. Maya Devi W/o Kamal Yadav R/o H.No. 594/EWS, H.B.C., Sec-18, Faridabad of the above mentioned House has expired on dated 20.05.2012. Now Kamal Yadav S/o Jyoti Yadav and Manohar Yadav S/o Kamal Yadav R/o H.No. 594/EWS, H.B.C., Sec-18, Faridabad has submitted the documents for the transfer of the allotment of the above mentioned house in his/her name. Now, it is informed to all public in general that in case any body has objection against the above mentioned transfer of allotment of H.No. 594/EWS, H.B.C., Sec-18, Faridabad, in the name of Kamal Yadav S/o Jyoti Yadav and Manohar Yadav S/o Kamal Yadav he/she can file the his/her objection within 30 days from the publication of the notice, after that necessary action for the transfer of the above mentioned house will be taken by this office as per rules and no any objection will be entertained after 30 days from the date of the publication of this notice.

Estates Manager- Housing Board Haryana, Sec-03, Faridabad

नीलामी सूचना कार्यालय नगर निगम सोनीपत।

सर्वसाधारण व सभी सम्बन्धित को इस नीलामी सूचना के माध्यम से सूचित किया जाता है, कि नगर निगम सोनीपत अपनी सीमा में शामिल गाँवों में स्थित निगम की कृषि योग्य भूमि को खुरी बोली द्वारा दो वर्ष के लिए पट्टे पर देना चाहता है। पट्टे पर दी जाने वाली भूमि की खुरी बोली निम्न कार्यक्रम अनुसार निर्धारित तिथि, समय व स्थान पर की जायेगी। इसलिये सभी इच्छुक व्यक्ति निश्चित तिथि, समय व स्थान पर आकर बोली में भाग ले सकते हैं, बोलीदाता को बोली देने से पूर्व 5 एकड़ तक भूमि के प्लॉट/खूबे के लिये 10,000/- रु० तथा 5 एकड़ से अधिक भूमि के प्लॉट/खूबे के लिये 20,000/- रु० धरोहर राशि मौके पर जमा करवानी होगी। पट्टे पर दी जाने वाली भूमि की बोली निम्न शर्तों व कार्यक्रम अनुसार कराई जायेगी:-

क्र०	गांव का नाम	पट्टे पर दी जाने वाली भूमि का कुल खम्बा (कमाल- मरली)	बोली की तिथि	बोली समय	बोली के लिए निश्चित स्थान
1.	सुरखल	419-2, 243-12	30.05.2017	प्रातः 10:00 बजे	कार्यालय नगर निगम, सोनीपत
2.	जौशी चौहान	170-16	30.05.2017	प्रातः 11:30 बजे	कार्यालय नगर निगम, सोनीपत
3.	नांगल खुर्द	358-8	30.05.2017	दोपहर 12:30 बजे	कार्यालय नगर निगम, सोनीपत
4.	जाट जौशी	170-16	30.05.2017	दोपहर 2:00 बजे	कार्यालय नगर निगम, सोनीपत
5.	जगदीशपुर	99-10	30.05.2017	दोपहर 3:30 बजे	कार्यालय नगर निगम, सोनीपत
6.	रेवली	143-4	30.05.2017	दोपहर 4:30 बजे	कार्यालय नगर निगम, सोनीपत

बोली के लिये मुख्य नियम व शर्तें:-

- सफल बोलीदाता को पट्टे की पूर्ण राशि उसी दिन 50 प्रतिशत राशि नगर निगम कोष में व शेष राशि 7 दिन में जमा करवानी होगी। राशि जमा ना करवाने की सूरा में बोलीदाता द्वारा दी गई धरोहर राशि जब्त ली जायेगी।
- बोली दो वर्ष के लिये पट्टे पर दी जायेगी।
- पट्टे को इस भूमि को किसी अन्य व्यक्ति को सबलेट/स्थानान्तरित करने का कोई हक नही होगा।
- पट्टेदार द्वारा इस भूमि से द्यूबेल/कुस/मिट्टी खन या अन्य से उखाने से कोई अधिकार नही होगा।
- आयुक्त नगर निगम सोनीपत को बिना कारण बताए बोली खूब करने व किसी भी शर्त में बोली से पूर्व संशोधन करने का पूर्ण अधिकार होगा।
- पट्टेदार, पट्टा खूबे में केवल कशत कर सकता। इसके अन्दर खुदाई/ मकान का निर्माण नही कर सकता।
- भूमि का पट्टा मिन्न-2 आकार के भूखण्ड/ प्लाट बनाकर दिया जायेगा। जिसकी जानकारी नीलामी से 2 दिन पहले कार्यालय के सूचना पट्टे पर देखी जा सकती है।
- सफल पट्टेदार को नियम व शर्त के सम्बन्ध में नगर-निगम सोनीपत के साथ इकरानामा करना होगा।
- बोली से सम्बन्धित नियम व शर्त किसी भी कार्यविदेस को नगर निगम कार्यालय में देखी जा सकती है।
- अन्य शर्तें मौके पर बोली शुरू होने से पहले सुनाई जायेगी।

PRDH-Advt.No:-1078/11/4916/1718/50544
Dated: 30.05.2017

आयुक्त नगर निगम सोनीपत।

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one Man namely Kuldeep Kumar S/o Sh. Jageshwar Prasad R/o F-77, Vijay Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi has been missing since 18-04-2017. In this regard a missing report vide DD No. 36-A dated 18-04-2017, has been registered at P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. The description of missing man is as under:-

Name: Kuldeep Kumar, S/o: Sh. Jageshwar Prasad, Age: 31 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Wearing: White shirt and Blue Jeans and Leather shoes in his feet.

If any one having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

website: http://cbi.nic.in
E-Mail ID: cbc@cbi.gov.in
Fax No.: 011-24368639
Ph. Nos.: 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/554/RD/17

SHO,
P.S.: Vijay Vihar, Delhi
Tel.: 011-27052771, 27052772
(M) 8750870329

MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that this man, named Ankush Khali, S/o Prem Sagar Khali, R/o H.No. 104, Khasra No. 27, Agarwal Estate, Shahbad Ext., Delhi has been missing/kidnapped in the area of P.S. KNK Marg, Delhi since 16.05.16. In this regard, a DD No. 32-A, Dated 17.05.16 had been lodged at P.S. KNK Marg, Delhi.

Investigation has been carried out but despite best efforts, the person could not be traced.

The description of the missing/kidnapped man is as under: Name: Ankush Khali, Age: 39 yrs, Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'7", Face: Round, Wearing: Blue pant, shirt and black shoes.

If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnapped man, then please inform P.S. KNK Marg, Delhi.

email: cbc@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO,
P.S. KNK Marg, Delhi
Ph. No.: 011-27571171, 27571162

DP/559/RD/17

Woods blames medications for arrest on DUI charge

MIAMI: Tiger Woods attributed an "unexpected reaction" to prescription medicine for his arrest on a DUI charge that landed him in a Florida jail for nearly four hours.

Woods, the 14-time major champion who had back surgery five weeks ago, was arrested on suspicion of DUI at about 3 am on Monday and taken to Palm Beach County jail. He was released on his own recognizance.

An arrest report might be available on Tuesday, Jupiter Police spokeswoman Kristin Rightler said.

"I understand the severity of what I did and I take full responsibility for my actions," Woods said in a statement Monday evening.

"I want the public to know that alcohol was not involved. What happened was an unexpected reaction to prescribed medications. I didn't realize the mix of medications had affected me so strongly," Woods apologised to his family, friends and fans and said, "I expect more from myself, too."

"I will do everything in my power to ensure this never happens again," he said.

Woods, whose 79 victories rank No. 2 on the PGA Tour's



An image provided by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office on Monday. Tiger Woods has been arrested for DUI.

career list, has not competed for nearly four months. He is out for the rest of the season while he recovers from fusion surgery performed April 20 in Texas.

In an update posted on his website, he said the surgery provided instant relief from pain and that he hasn't "felt this good in years."

Police said Woods was arrested on Military Trail, a six-lane road, south of Indian Creek Parkway. Woods did not say in his statement where he had been or what he was doing at that hour. Jail records show that the 41-year-old was booked into jail at 7:18 am and released at 10:50 am. The jail released a booking photo of

Woods in a white T-shirt.

Rightler, the police spokeswoman, said she did not have details about the circumstances leading to Woods' arrest, nor did she have any information about whether the arrest involved drugs or alcohol.

His agent at Excel Sports, Mark Steinberg, did not respond to a voicemail from The Associated Press seeking comment. PGA Tour spokesman Ty Votaw said the tour would have no comment.

Woods said in his statement that he fully cooperated with law enforcement and thanked Jupiter Police and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office for being professional.

Notah Begay, a roommate of Woods when they played at Stanford, was empathetic. Begay was arrested for aggravated drunken driving in 2000 when he ran into a car outside a bar in New Mexico.

He was sentenced to 364 days in jail, with all but seven days suspended.

"It's embarrassing for Tiger, something that you can't go back and change," Begay said on Golf Channel from the NCAA men's golf championship in Sugar Grove, Illinois, where he was working for the network.

Five Indians move into round two Asian Juniors

PUNE: India's Megh Bhargav Patel, Akansha Bhan, Rhea Verma, Vaidehi Chaudhari and under 16 national champion Tanisha Kashyap moved into the singles second round at the HCL Asian Junior Tennis Championship for boys and girls here on Tuesday. Gujarat's Megh Bhargav Patel, ranked 516, created a ripple by ousting higher-ranked Chinese rival Tao Mu 2-6 6-4 6-4 in a match lasting 2 hours and 30 minutes to make it to the second round of boys' singles. In the girls' event, third seed Akansha Bhan faced a few anxious moments in the first set and then settled down to eliminate Xiaoxi Zhao of China 7-6(4) 6-4, 200th-ranked Vaidehi Chaudhari, seeded seventh, trounced Ayu Sugiyama of Japan 6-0 6-0 and no. 8 seed Rhea Verma overcame a fighting Jiho Shin of Korea, a qualifier, before winning 6-3 7-6(5). Tanisha Kashyap continued her form from the last week to get past Shrivalli Rashmika Bhamidipaty 7-5 6-2 in an All-Indian tussle to make it to the round of 16. Eight Indian girls and six Indian boys will be seen in action in the round of sixteen to be played on Wednesday at MSLTA school of tennis.

Wenger will stay at Arsenal, to sign 2-yr extension

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger has agreed a new two-year contract, extending his 21-year reign at the club.

Wenger and club owner Stan Kroenke met on Monday to determine the Frenchman's future, with the decision relayed to directors at a Tuesday board meeting.

Arsenal are planning to make an official announcement on Wednesday.

The Gunners were fifth in the Premier League this season, the first time they have finished outside the top four since the Frenchman joined in 1996.

They finished 18 points behind champions Chelsea, but beat the Blues 2-1 to win the FA Cup at Wembley on Saturday.

Wenger's contract was set to finish at the end of the current campaign. Wenger led the Gunners to three Premier League titles and four FA Cups in his first nine seasons in charge.

In 2003-04, he became the first manager since 1888-89 to lead a team through an entire top-flight season unbeaten.

But after winning the 2005 FA Cup, they had to wait another nine years - or 3,283 days - for their next silverware. It came as they beat Hull City to win the 2014 FA Cup, before winning the trophy again the following year. Some Gunners fans turned on the 67-year-old Frenchman as a result of their league performances and they lost 10-2 on aggregate to Bayern Munich in the Champions League last 16 in March. They finished the league season with five successive victories, but it was not enough to carry them above Liverpool to take the fourth and final Champions League spot. Wenger told BBC's Football Focus on Saturday the criticism he has faced this season is "a disgrace" he will "never forget".

AGENCIES

Borussia Dortmund, coach Thomas Tuchel part ways

BERLIN: Head coach Thomas Tuchel and Borussia Dortmund are getting divorced one year before the current contract expires in 2018, the eight-time German football champions announced on Tuesday. Swiss Lucien Favre will most likely take over from the 43-year-old. It is up to the 59-year-old Favre to guide the 2013 Champions League runners-up back to the top echelon of European football and to be a serious rival to Germany's number one, Bayern Munich, reports Xinhua news agency. The relationship between the country's most talented squad and the coach, whose character is described as something between a genius

FRENCH OPEN Murray, Wawrinka and Kyrgios sail to second round



Andy Murray

PARIS: After briefly losing his way, top seed Andy Murray battled his way past Andrej Kuznetsov to take his place in round two of the French Open, winning 6-4, 4-6, 6-2, 6-0.

It was not a perfect start by the world No.1, who began the match strongly only to go walkabout about in the second set, but he finished the match with real momentum, visibly growing in belief and authority. After an indifferent build-up to Roland Garros, Murray can look forward to a second round encounter with Slovakia's Martin Klizan with improved confidence.

Third seed Stan Wawrinka on Tuesday defeated Slovakian Jozef Kovalik to advance to the second round of the French Open here. The World No. 3 tennis star finished the game 6-2, 7-6 (6), 6-3 in one hour and 57 minutes, reports Efe. The Swiss star, winner of the clay court in Paris in 2015, is set to face Ukrainian Alexandr Dolgopopolov, who earlier on Tuesday eliminated Argentina's Carlos Berlocq.

Argentine Juan Martin del Potro did not lose his nerve on his return to the French

Open, four years after his last appearance in the Paris Grand Slam, and won in his debut against compatriot Guido Pella on Tuesday. Del Potro, seeded 29th, needed only one hour and 49 minutes to win the match, 6-2, 6-1, 6-4, reports Efe.

The Argentine has demonstrated the progress of his game from the beginning of the season, reaching the quarter-finals in Rome, where he conceded to Serbian Novak Djokovic, World No. 2. Del Potro, who reached the semi-finals of the Roland Garros in 2009, the same year he scored his only Grand Slam in New York, is currently playing on the clay court in Paris for the seventh time, after he was away for four years due to wrist problems.

His next opponent will be the winner of the clash between Spaniard Nicolas Almagro and Cypriot Marcos Baghdatis.

Nick Kyrgios also kept his combustible nature in check to reach the French Open second round on Tuesday.

The 18th seeded Australian downed German veteran Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3.

AGENCIES

India maul Bangladesh by 240 runs in warm-up game

LONDON: A supremely assertive India on Tuesday humiliated Bangladesh by 240 runs in a warm-up game and geared up for the ICC Champions Trophy in an emphatic fashion, sounding a warning for arch-rivals Pakistan. Playing in their second warm-up match, defending champions made short work of their sub-continental neighbour bowling them out for 84 in 23.5 overs at the Oval after piling up a commanding 324 for 7. An all-win record in warm-up games is the ideal preparation ahead of the marquee clash on June 4. It was an all-round performance with some solid batting backed up by hostile opening spell from Umesh Yadav (3/16 in 5 overs) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (3/13 in 5 overs). Among batsmen, Dinesh Karthik made a strong case for a middle-order slot with a stylish 94 off 77 balls. Shikhar Dhawan (60) got runs under his belt against a quality Bangladesh attack comprising Mustafizur Rahaman (1/53), Rubel Hossain (3/50) and Taskin Ahmed



(0/45). Hardik Pandya showed his utility as an all-rounder with an equally impactful unbeaten 80 off 54 balls, which was laced with six boundaries and four huge sixes in the arc between mid-wicket and long-on.

When their turn to bat came, Bangladesh surrendered meekly in the face of some outstanding

bowling by the Indian pacers.

The pace duo of Umesh and Bhuvneshwar posed tough questions by relentlessly bowling just outside the off-stump. Yadav, who can also hit the deck hard, bowled a lethal first spell, tormenting the clueless Bangladeshi batsmen. While India put themselves in a strong position

by notching up 324, the match was as good as over when the Men in Blue reduced Bangladesh to 22 for six in only the eighth over of the innings.

Yadav provided the first breakthrough when he had Soumya Sarkar, slashing away from the body, caught behind with one that swung away.

Three balls later, Bangladesh were 11 for two as Yadav went through the meek defence of Sabbir Rahman. And they lost their third wicket too, without disturbing the scoreboard, when Imrul Kayes' mistimed pull off a Bhuvneshwar short delivery was taken by Yadav at mid-on.

Bangladesh went from bad to worse when Bhuvneshwar bounced out Shakib. Bhuvneshwar then induced an edge from Mahmudullah to leave his team reeling at 21 for five in the seventh over, Karthik completing a good one-handed catch on that occasion. Things deteriorated further as Yadav came back to send back Mosaddek Hossain with a terrific away going delivery.

Brief Scores:
India vs Bangladesh warm-up:
India: 324/7 (Dinesh Karthik 94, Hardik Pandya 80, Shikhar Dhawan 60; Shikhar Dhawan 3/13).

Bangladesh: 84 (Mehedi Hasan 24, Rubel Hossain 3/50).

AGENCIES

IFA SENDS LETTER TO AIFF, ASKS FOR ANOTHER MEETING

KOLKATA: The Indian Football Association (IFA), the state's parent football body, has written to the All India Football Federation (AIFF) urging another round of meetings with two city clubs ahead of the June 7 meeting at the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) headquarters in Kuala Lumpur involving all stakeholders. A top source in the know confirmed that IFA secretary Utpal Ganguli had written to AIFF president Praful Patel for another round of discussions regarding East Bengal and Mohun Bagan's participation in the Indian Super League (ISL) before the roadmap of Indian football is put on the table by AFC in two weeks' time. "The letter has been sent in line with the meeting we had with both the clubs recently. I am still awaiting a reply from Patel," Ganguli said here on Tuesday. "I cannot give our content of the letter but I have written in detail whatever was discussed in the meeting here a few days back and expressed our concerns," he added. Patel, it was reported, would not be attending the meeting in Kuala Lumpur and AIFF general secretary Kushal Das and I-League CEO Sunando Dhar would instead represent the AIFF. In the last meeting held last Saturday, 18 office bearers each from the two rival clubs joined hands to up the ante against Football Sports Development Ltd (FSDL), the organisers of the ISL and the AIFF threatening to disrupt the cash-rich event if their 3-point demand was not met. The city outfits are also likely to skip the June 7 meeting of all stakeholders.

AGENCIES

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a girl dead body
Name: Unknown, **S/o** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** Approx. 12-18 years, **Height:** 152 cm, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Gender :** Female, **Wearing:** Badami Colour Baniyan and Black Colour underwear was found dead at Munak Canal Water Channel Gate, Wazirabad Pipeline, Badli, Delhi on 14.05.2017 at 07:35 pm. In this regard, a **FIR/DD No. 26-A dated 14.05.2017** has been lodged at PS Samaipur Badli, Delhi.

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

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

SHO
P.S., Samaipur Badli, Delhi
Ph. : 011-27854757

DP/618/RD/17

Tributes pour in on Dalmiya's 77th birth anniversary

KOLKATA: The hallowed Eden Gardens on Tuesday remembered its former boss Jagmohan Dalmiya on his 77th birth anniversary with tributes pouring in for the former BCCI president who died two years ago.

A blazer, tie and accreditation card were put on display at the Eden while the Cricket Association of Bengal said the working committee has decided to erect his bust inside the stadium in Dalmiya's memory.

Paying glowing tribute, former CAB official Biswarup Dey said: "We have unveiled Dalmiya's blazer, tie and IPL which he wore during his final term as the BCCI president in 2015.

"The future generation will keep remembering him."

Dalmiya's son Avishek, who is the CAB joint secretary said the blazer has a special significance.

"He wore this blazer for the first time when he became the BCCI president in 2015. After that he used the blazer for few times to attend some BCCI meetings," Avishek said thanking everyone.

AGENCIES

millenniumpost CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Sumeet Butalia S/o Shri B. S. Butalia, R/o D-21, Ground Floor, Jung Pura Extension, New Delhi-110014 declare that date of birth of my daughter namely Gursimran Butalia is 07.12.1999. That I Implead Kaur with the name of my daughter. I have changed my daughter name from Gursimran Butalia to Gursimran Kaur Butalia for all future purposes.

I, Sonu Malhotra W/o Shri Sanjay Suri, R/o Flat No. 149, Pocket 6, Site 3 Phase-I Nasirpur 1A Dwarka, New Delhi-110045 have changed my name from Sonu Malhotra to Soniya Suri for all future purposes.

I, Dharmendra Kaushal S/o Shri Varendra Kaushal, R/o PP-66, Subramani Bharti Marg, New Delhi-110003 have changed my name from Dharmendra Kaushal to Dharmendra Kaushal for all future purposes.

AGENCIES

TENDER NOTICE

No. 3128-29 Date 24.05.2017

e-Tenders are invited on behalf of Governor of Haryana for the works mentioned below from firms of repute / such contractors, who are having a valid certificate of enlistment issued by a competent officer of Haryana Public Health Engineering Department duly renewed upto date (on which tenders are to be opened upto DNIT Cost) through two bid system i.e. Technical Bid and Financial Bid:-

Birdhana- Estimate for Construction of Boundary wall of water works Birdhana Tehsil & Distt. Jhajjar (C.M. Announcement Code No. 17888 dt. 14.12.2016). "Construction of Boundary wall, filter media washing platform, Raising of parapet of existing filter beds, Const. of Bleaching powder hodie and all other works contingent thereto" Amount Rs. 11.70 Lacs

KHATIWAS - Construction of 1 No. Additional S/S tank at water works in village Khatiwass Tehsil & Distt. Jhajjar (C.M. announcement Code No. 17888 dt. 14.12.2016). "Const. of 1 No. S/S tank of size 200' x 127.50' x 6' , Pipe line at head works and all other works contingent thereto". Amount Rs. 27.55 Lacs

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Approx. value (In Rs. lacs)	EMD Amount	Tender Document & eService Fees	Start Date & Time of Bid Preparation & Submission	Expiry Date & Time of Bid Preparation & Submission
1	44214	11.70	23400	1000+1000 = 2000	25.05.2017 15:00	08.06.2017 17:00
1	44215	27.55	55100	2500+1000 = 3500	25.05.2017 15:00	08.06.2017 17:00

The Bidders can download the tender documents from the Portal: <https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in>.

The Bidders shall have to pay for the Tender documents, EMD Fees & eService Fee of Rs.1000/- online by using the service of secure electronic payment gateway. The secure electronic payments gateway is an online interface between contractors and online payment authorization networks.

The Payment for Tender Document Fee and eService Fee can be made by eligible bidders/ contractors online directly through Debit Cards & Internet Banking Accounts. The Payment for EMD can be made online directly through RTGS / NEFT and the bidder would remit the funds at least T + 1 day (Transaction + One working day) in advance to the last day and make the payment via RTGS / NEFT to the beneficiary account number as mentioned in the challan. The Bidders can submit their tender documents (Online) as per the dates mentioned in the key dates:-

KEY DATES				
Sr. No.	Department Stage	Bidder's Stage	Start date and time	Expiry date and time
1	-	Tender Document Download and Bid Preparation & Submission	25.05.2017 13:00	10.06.2017 17:00
2	Technical Opening	-	10.06.2017 19:00	13.06.2017 17:00
3	Short listing of Technical bids & Opening of Financial Bid	-	10.06.2017 19:00	13.06.2017 17:00

PRDH-Advt. No:-1082/11/2042/1718/50572 Executive Engineer
Dated: 30/05/20-17 Public Health Engineering-I Jhajar

AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED ON 31.03.2017. (Rs. In Lacs.)				
Dr. Sabharwal's Mfg. Labs. Ltd. 26/19 East Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008	3 MONTHS ENDED 31-03-2017 (AUDITED)	3 MONTHS ENDED 31-03-2016 (AUDITED)	YEAR ENDED 31-03-2017 (AUDITED)	YEAR ENDED 31-03-2016 (AUDITED)
Part-1	Particulars			
1.	a) Net Sales/Income from Operations	210.33	163.21	507.59
	b) Other Operating Income	5.93	25.61	32.34
	Total Income from Operation	216.26	188.82	539.93
2.	Expenditures			
	(a) (-) Increase+Decrease in Stock in trade and work in progress	12.00	5.86	2.07
	(b) Consumption of Raw Materials	85.86	71.35	245.78
	(c) Purchase for Traded Goods	1.22	1.79	94.77
	(d) Employees Cost	31.66	27.38	88.23
	(e) Depreciation	2.08	7.58	9.43
	(f) Other Expenditure	64.96	42.42	140.32
	Total Expenses	197.78	156.18	495.30
3.	Profit from Operations before Other Income/Interest (1-2)	18.48	32.64	44.63
4.	Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Profit before interest (3+4)	18.48	32.64	44.63
6.	Interest	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Profit after interest (5-6)	18.48	32.64	44.63
8.	Exceptional Items	0.00	58.26	24.64
9.	Profit (+)/Loss (-) before tax (7+8)	18.48	90.90	69.27
10.	Tax Expense	0.00	16.00	8.00
11.	Address Adjusted on a/c Deferred Tax Liability	0.00	1.80	1.80
12.	Net Profit/(+)/Loss(-) after tax (9-10)	18.48	73.10	62.19
13.	Extra Ordinary Items (Net of Tax Expenses Rs..)	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Proposed Dividend & Tax on Dividend	0.00	9.63	9.63
15.	Net Profit (+) / Loss (-) for the period (11-12)	18.48	83.47	52.56
16.	Paid up Equity share capital (Face Value Rs.10)	80.00	80.00	80.00
17.	Reserves excluding Revaluation Reserves	254.22	254.22	529.49
18.	Earning per share (EPS)			
	a) Basic and diluted	2.31	7.93	7.77
19.	A PARTICULARS OF SHAREHOLDING			
1.	Public share holding			
	-Number of Shares	200000	200000	200000
	-Percentage of Share Holding	25.00%	25.00%	25.00%
2.	Promoters and Promoter group Shareholding			
a)	Pledged / Encumbered			
	-Number of shares	NIL	NIL	NIL
	-Percentage of share	NIL	NIL	NIL
b)	Non-encumbered			
	-Number of shares	600000	600000	600000
	-Percentage of shares (as a % of the total Shareholding of Promoter and group)	75%	75%	75%
	-Percentage of shares (as a % of the total Share Capital of the company)			
B. INVESTORS COMPLAINTS				
Pending at the beginning of the Quarter : NIL, Receive During the Quarter : NIL, Disposed off During the Quarter : NIL, Remaining Unresolved at the end of the Quarter : NIL				
Notes : The above statement was considered and taken on records in the Board Meeting held on 29.05.2017 For and on behalf of the Board Date : 29-05-2017 Sd/- Dr. A.R. Sabharwal (M.D.)				

Premium Merchants Limited

Regd. Office: A - 1, Maharani Bagh, New Delhi - 110 065
CIN: L51909DL1985PLC021077, Tel: +91 11 26830014
Email Id: premiummerchants123@gmail.com, website:www.pmltd.com

Extract of Audited Financial Results for the quarter and year ended on 31st March , 2017					
(Rs. in lakhs)					
	Quarter Ended on			Year Ended on	
	31.03.2017 (Audited)	31.03.2016 (Unaudited)	31.03.2016 (Audited)	31.03.2017 (Audited)	31.03.2016 (Audited)
1	Total Income from operations	5.66	32.92	8.59	52.44
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and /or Extra-ordinary items)	5.53	32.42	7.81	49.42
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	5.53	32.42	7.81	49.42
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(2.78)	31.17	6.71	36.11
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]*	-	-	-	-
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value Rs. 10 each)	99.80	99.80	99.80	99.80
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the audited Balance Sheet of accounting Years 2015-16 and 2016-17	-	-	-	520.26
8	Earning Per Share (Rs) (Face Value Rs. 10)				
1	Basic	(0.28)	3.12	0.68	3.62
2	Diluted	(0.28)	3.12	0.68	3.62

* Not applicable as the Company is not covered under IND AS for the reporting period.

Notes:
1) The above is an extract of the detailed format of audited results filed with the stock exchange under regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing obligation and Disclosure Requirement) Regulation, 2015. The full format of the Audited results are available on company's website www.pmltd.com and on the website of the Stock Exchange www.mse.in.
2) The detailed audited results and this extract were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of directors in their meeting held on 30.05.2017.

By order of the Board
For Premium Merchants Limited
sd/-
Balbir Singh
Director
DIN:00027438

Place: New Delhi
Date : 30.05.2017

‘My mistakes have taught me the most’

With Dangal breaking all the records in China by earning Rs 1000 crore since its release, Aamir, reminiscing his past mistakes, is looking ahead with his new film, Thugs of Hindostan



NEW DELHI: Superstar Aamir Khan has been rewriting the rules of box office hits for more than a decade now but the actor – often referred to as ‘Mr Perfectionist’ because of his well-planned career moves – attributes his success to early failures. Aamir says that while his creative involvement has always been the same, he did go through a learning curve. The actor, 52, has not had a flop since his *Mela* days in 2000 and while *Mangal Pandey* was not a grand success, it managed to recover its costs. His hit-list has blockbusters like *Lagaan*,

Dil Chahta Hai, *Rang De Basanti*, *Taare Zameen Par*, *Ghajini*, *3 Idiots*, *Dhoom 3*, *PK* and *Dangal*. “It is now 27 years that I have been acting and very early in my career, I went through a phase that was a huge learning experience for me. The level of input that I have been putting has been the same right through but I made mistakes.”

“So, what I am today is not just the result of my successes but also because of my failures. They taught me the most. That’s why I have been able to build my career the way I have,” Aamir said in an interview over the phone from Malta where he will start shooting for his new film *Thugs of Hindostan* from June 5.

Aamir is reteaming with his *Dhoom 3* director Vijay Krishna Acharya and co-star Katrina Kaif for the Yash Raj project that also has his *Dangal* co-actor Fatima Sana Sheikh. But it is working with megastar Amitabh Bachchan for the first time that he is most excited about.

“It is an exciting script and above all, it is the first opportunity that I got to work with Mr Bachchan. I have always been a huge fan. It is really a

great moment for me that I am finally getting to share the screen space with him.” His film *Dangal* is doing exceptionally well in China after a golden run at the Indian box office. The actor, who is perhaps the most popular Indian face in the country, is surprised with the way film has broken collection records there by earning Rs 1000 crore since its release on May 5. The actor says it is hard for him to understand why he has connected so well with the people there. He first realised he had an audience in China when *3 Idiots* did surprisingly good business at the box office.

“Why an actor connects to an audience is difficult to articulate. It is a very intangible thing, you cannot really pin it down. But I would like to believe that it is my films and my good work that has connected me to the people whether it is India or anywhere else in the world.” China has a successful homegrown film industry and has emerged as an influential player in the global entertainment market. Hollywood has been wooing the country for a while now.

However, it is only recently that Indian film industry has woken up to its potential through releases and collaboration deals. As a producer and director, Aamir feels China has shown the way when it comes to taking the entertainment business forward and hopes the Indian government also promotes “popular art and culture” in a big way.

“The Chinese government has encouraged local cinema in a big way. They have about 45,000 screens whereas, in India, we barely have 8000 screens for all languages. It is really something that we need to learn from them. The Indian government should do the best it can to promote popular art and culture. It needs to be exported. We need more theatres. I think that will really help the Indian film industry.”



Sanjay Dutt quits film due to its ‘adult comedy’

MUMBAI: Actor Sanjay Dutt has pulled out of *Total Dhamaal* due to unavailability of dates as well as his issue with the film’s adult comedy, says a source. The actor, who completed shooting for *Bhoomi* earlier this year after his incarceration in Yerwada Jail for illegal possession of arms, has his dates locked till the end of 2018.

He has films like *Torbaaz*, *Saheb, Biwi Aur Gangster 3* and a collaborative project with actor-filmmaker Ajay Devgn. Sanjay, who played a crucial role in *Dhamaal* and *Double Dhamaal*, has decided to quit Indra Kumar’s *Dhamaal* franchise. The third instalment, *Total Dhamaal*, was expected to roll out this year, but the fact

that Sanjay is unavailable has caused the film some delay. A source close to the development stated that Sanjay’s busy schedule and already locked dates is not the only reason why he won’t be doing the film.

“Besides the issue of unavailability of dates, Sanjay was not okay with the film’s adult comedy. He doesn’t want his children to see him in a film that has innuendo-laden jokes or crass humour,” the source stated. Sanjay has three children – daughters Trishala and Iqra, and son Shahrana. Also starring Aditi Rao Hydari and Sidhant Gupta, *Bhoomi* is a revenge drama that centers on the relationship between a father and daughter. IANS



Neil Patrick Harris gushes over husband on his 42nd birthday

LOS ANGELES: Actor Neil Patrick Harris decided to shower his love for husband David Burtka through a love-filled *Instagram* post as his partner of three years turned 42. The ‘How I Met Your Mother’ star shared an adorable family picture on his photo-video sharing website account and opened about how much he love his husband.

“Happy Birthday, David. You’re the most glorious husband/father/person I’ve ever had the pleasure of knowing,” the 43-year-old actor wrote. “My love and appreciation for you is immeasurable. May this be your best year yet! xoxo @dbelicious.”



The photo captured Burtka gazing down at his candlelit birthday cake as the couple’s two children Harper Grace and Gideon Scott, both six sat beside their father, waiting for him to make a wish. PTI

Jolie talks to her late mother in mind



LOS ANGELES: Actor Angelina Jolie, who is in the midst of a divorce from actor Brad Pitt, says she “would give anything” to have her late mother Marcheline Bertrand by her side during this time. Jolie says she talks to her in her mind.

Jolie announced her split from Pitt in September 2016. She says now it is difficult for her to navigate life without her mother, who passed away in 2007 from cancer at the age of 56, reports *dailymail.co.uk*.

“I would give anything for her to be with me at this time. I’ve needed her,” Jolie told *Elle France* magazine. “I talk to her often in my mind and try to think what she might say and how she might guide me,” she added.

Jolie is sad that her mother missed out on being a grandmother to her six children – Maddox, Pax, Zahara, Shiloh and twins Knox and Vivienne.

“She would have thrived as a grandmother. I know how much she would have contributed to their lives and I am sad they will miss out on that,” she said. IANS



Manisha Koirala is back with intense transformation in Dear Maya

OUR CORRESPONDENT

The talented lady and beauty of Bollywood Manisha Koirala is finally turning herself back in industry after a long gap. Actor, who gave power packed performances in several movies of the 90s, is all set to give a comeback on silver screen with the film *Dear Maya*.

To promote her movie, Manisha was in Delhi along with the CEO of Wave Cinemas, Rahul Mitta, Director Sunaina Bhatnagar, Producer Sandeep Leyzell, Shobhna Yadav, and actor Shreya Chaudhary. When asked about her comeback and experience of shooting the film, Manisha stated, “I don’t know if I had any difficulty after my comeback instead, I felt more focused on my career and work. This movie is entertaining and carry a good message. The role was challenging for me, yes, but when you work with a good director, they make your work easy. So I feel great to be a part of the movie.”



As per the Filmmaker and CEO of Wave Cinemas, Rahul Mitta, “It is a beautiful movie, I am feeling happy and proud to present this movie. I hope everyone will enjoy *Dear Maya*, as much we enjoyed while working and shooting for the same.”

A directorial venture of Sunaina Bhatnagar, who have assisted well-known director of B’town, Imtiaz Ali in *Jab*

We Met, *Love Aajkal* and *Rockstar*, *Dear Maya* stars Manisha Koirala in lead role, along with Mahida Imam, Shreya Chaudhry, Rohit Saraf, Irawati Harshe and Sahil Shroff.

It is a drama film which revolves around the story of two teenage girls Anna and Ira, who pranks with a local woman Maya as a secret admirer and keeps on writing her letters. The prank takes a serious twist when Maya goes missing. *Dear Maya* is slated to release on June 2.



Cindy thanks husband for ‘putting up’ with her

LOS ANGELES: Supermodel Cindy Crawford can’t thank her husband enough for putting up with her as the two celebrated their 19th wedding anniversary. The iconic supermodel took to *Instagram*, where she posted a photo of her and her husband, Rande Gerber, embracing in a room filled with mirror balls and silver tinsel. “Cheers to 19 years with this guy! Happy anniversary! So blessed to have you as my husband. Thanks for putting up with me @RandeGerber,” Crawford, 51, wrote in the caption.

Gerber, 55, also shared a black-and-white throwback photo from their wedding nearly two decades ago. “I knew when we ended up in the pool at our wedding. Happy Anniversary @cindy-crawford,” he wrote. The couple, who tied the knot in the Bahamas in 1998, share two children together—17-year-old son Presley and daughter, Kaia, 15. PTI



Zac’s grandparents enjoy Baywatch movie date

LOS ANGELES: Zac Efron’s grandparents showered love on their famous grandson as they arrived in a cinema hall here to watch the actor’s new movie *Baywatch*.

The proud grandparents, who were dressed in some pretty rad prints, were all smiles when they sauntered out to see the action comedy at the Regal Old Mill Stadium 16 & IMAX in Bend, Oregon on the film’s opening weekend, reported *E! Online*.

Along with an adorable picture of the cute pair on *Instagram*, the 29-year-old actor wrote, “This just makes everything even more awesome. Love you grandma and grandpa. I love you guys! Can’t wait to talk u after the movie.”

The film, which is based on the campy ‘90s TV



drama of the same name, follows Lifeguard Mitch Buchannon (Dwayne Johnson) and a brash new recruit (Efron) as the duo uncover a criminal plot that threatens the future of the beach. It also stars Priyanka Chopra, Kelly Rohrbach and Alexandra Daddario. PTI