

SERIOUS FIRE IN MALVIYA NAGAR **PG4**

'GOVT PLANNING TO LAY OPTICAL FIBRE CABLES IN BORDER AREAS' **PG7**



RBI SNUBS US PAYMENT COS, WON'T RELAX LOCAL DATA STORAGE RULES **PG12**



'IT ISN'T TROLLING WHEN PEOPLE WITH 1, 2 FOLLOWERS DO IT' **PG16**



Thunderstorms and lightning kill 39 in Bihar, UP, Jharkhand



OUR CORRESPONDENTS

PATNA/ LUCKNOW/ PAKUR/ CHATRA: Thunderstorms struck at several places in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, killing at least 39 people as hutments collapsed and trees fell, officials said on Tuesday. Nineteen of them died in Bihar as high-velocity winds packing speeds of up to 70 km per hour swept across many areas on Monday night, followed by pre-monsoon showers, the weather office here said. According to the disaster management department, 16 out of the 19 deaths in Bihar were reported in four districts situated south of the Ganges.

The adjoining districts of Gaya and Aurangabad reported the maximum number of five deaths each. In Aurangabad, all the deaths were caused by lightning and the victims included two women. In Gaya, collapsed roofs and falling trees killed five people, including two women aged 70 and 45, a 13-year-old girl and a 15-year-old boy. Two girls and a boy were injured in Gaya, the department said. In Uttar Pradesh, 15 people were killed and 10 injured, a senior official said on Tuesday. "While six persons were killed in Unnao in incidents of thunderstorm and lightning last night, three persons died in Raebareilly, and two each in Kanpur, Pilibhit and Gonda districts," UP Relief Commissioner Sanjay Kumar said.

Jawans' hands are not tied if terrorists attack during Ramzan

HOME MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH

In today's paper

CITY	
JUVENILE SHOOT AT CRIMINAL	4
NATION	
SENIOR UP ATS OFFICER ENDS LIFE	6
EDIT	
PARTISAN PERSPECTIVES	8
INTERNATIONAL	
1,000-YR-OLD MUMMY DISCOVERED	10
BUSINESS	
BHEL NET PROFIT UP 11.2%	13
SPORT	
RAFA FINISHES WIN OVER BOLELLI	14

FOR ADVERTISING
kindly contact at 9810195709
or
mpostdelhi@gmail.com

FOR SUBSCRIPTION
kindly contact at 8800854665
or
millenniumpost.circulation@gmail.com

16 LAKH STUDENTS FROM 17,567 SCHOOLS IN INDIA & ABROAD SAT FOR EXAMS AT 4,460 CENTRES

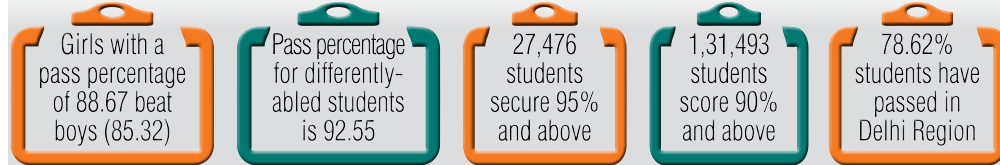
CBSE class 10 results out.. four share top position with 499/ 500

ANUP VERMA & SAYANTAN GHOSH

NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Tuesday declared the results of the class 10 examinations, with four students sharing the top position. Anil Swarup, Secretary of School Education and Literacy with the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development, had on Monday announced that the results would be out by 4 pm on Tuesday. However, the results were announced a little after 1 pm on the official website cbseresults.nic.in.

Prakhar Mittal from DPS Gurgaon, Rimzhim Agarwal from R P Public School, Binjor, Nandini Garg from Scottish International School, Sharni, and Sreelakshmi G from Bhavan's Vidyalaya, Cochin, topped the exam with 499 marks. The overall pass percentage was 86.70, with girls outshining boys by 3.35 percentage points. Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai and Ajmer emerged as top three regions pass percentage-wise, scoring 99.60, 97.37 and 91.86, respectively. The pass percentage for Delhi region was lower than national at 78.62.

A total of 131,493 students crossed the 90 per cent mark, while 27,476 scored more than 95 per



cent out of more than 16 lakh who appeared for the exam. Students from 17,567 schools from across the country and abroad had taken exams at 4,460 centres.

The pass percentage for differently-abled students was 92.55.

The board exams this year were marred by controversy with question paper leaks being reported from Delhi-NCR and Jharkhand. The HRD Ministry had decided against conducting a re-examination of the Class 10 mathematics

paper in the "interest of students". This was the first batch to appear for the Class 10 board examinations after the CBSE decided to junk the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) and reintroduce the board exams.

EVM snags a 'dangerous trend for democracy,' warns Akhilesh

OUR CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW: Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday termed as a "dangerous trend for democracy" EVMs developing snags in "areas having SP and RLD influence" and demanded that all future elections be conducted through paper ballots. "Complaints in large numbers have been received of EVMs and VVPAT developing snags in areas where SP and RLD have good influence during Monday's polling... it seems as if this has been done as part of a design," the SP chief told newsmen here.

The Samajwadi Party president alleged that people in large numbers could not exercise their franchise. "Common people have also lost faith in EVMs...officials did not take the issue seriously...this is a dangerous trend for democracy," he said. The former chief minister said his party had said it earlier too and wants to make a fresh demand that all future elections be conducted through paper ballots.

"This will strengthen democracy...I will ask other political parties, will also write to them, that all should unitedly put forth their views against EVMs... there are many countries which are ahead of India in many things but have faith in paper ballot rather than EVMs for conducting elections," the SP president said.

To a question as to whether any peoples' movement will be launched on this issue, Yadav said first he will talk to all political parties on this issue.



"Earlier when a meeting was convened on the matter, the Congress had not participated in it but they are also in favour of this now...my effort will be to first talk to all and then take decision," he stressed.

To a question, he termed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's road show on the Delhi-Meerut Expressway on May 27 near Kairana as an attempt to influence the by-election. "The prime minister participated in a roadshow and in his speech also talked about quota within quota...we say that if you really want to give quota to backwards and most backwards then you first need to have their numbers counted and only then give them their right and honour as per their population. But, since you only wanted to influence the bypoll, you just made a mention of it (in your speech)," Akhilesh said.

To a question, the SP chief said he will contest the next Lok Sabha election but the seat will be decided by the party. He also paid homage to former prime minister Chaudhary Charan Singh on his death anniversary on Tuesday.

123 polling stations to have re-elections: EC

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday announced re-poll in 73 polling stations in Uttar Pradesh's Kairana, 49 polling stations in Maharashtra's Bhandara-Gondia and one polling station in Nagaland, after VVPAT machines developed snags during Tuesday's Lok Sabha bypolls. The re-poll will be held from 7 am to 6 pm on Wednesday, official sources said.

The EC has ordered the transfer of the Gondia collector for "dereliction of duty", a top official of the poll panel said, adding that the new collector has assumed charge. Notifications for the re-poll have been issued in Lucknow, Kohima and Mumbai. Over 11 per cent of the 10,300 voter-verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) machines across 10 states had developed faults and had to be replaced on Monday.

ISLAMABAD BROKE TRUCE 908 TIMES THIS YEAR, 860 TIMES IN 2017

India, Pakistan DGMOs agree to fully observe 2003 ceasefire pact

NEW DELHI/ ISLAMABAD: The Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan on Tuesday agreed to "fully implement" the ceasefire pact of 2003 in "letter and spirit" forthwith to stop cross border firings in Jammu and Kashmir. The two military commanders reviewed the prevailing situation along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) in J and K during a conversation over the hotline at 6 PM, the Indian Army said. The special hotline contact was initiated by the Pakistani DGMO.

Following the conversation between Indian DGMO Lt Gen Anil Chauhan and Pakistan's Maj Gen



Sahir Shamshad Mirza, the two armies issued identical statements saying both sides agreed to fully implement the 15-year-old ceasefire understanding. "Both the DGMOs agreed to fully implement the Ceasefire Understanding of

2003 in letter and spirit forthwith and to ensure that henceforth the ceasefire will not be violated by both sides," the Indian Army said.

The Pakistan Army, in a statement, said both the DGMOs agreed to undertake sincere measures to improve the existing situation to ensure peace and avoidance of hardships to the civilians along the borders. The LoC has been witnessing increasing hostilities in the last few months.

A total of 908 incidents of ceasefire violations by Pakistan Army were reported till Tuesday in the current year as against 860 incidents during 2017, defence sources in New Delhi said. AGENCIES

PSU bank staff on strike today & tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Banking services are likely to be impacted for the next couple of days as employees of public sector banks (PSBs) have given a two-day nationwide strike from Wednesday to press for a wage revision.

As the meeting called by the Chief Labour Commissioner

for a reconciliation failed on wage revision, all nine constituents of the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) have decided to continue with the strike call, the All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC), an affiliate of UFBU, said in a statement.

AIBOC general secretary D T Franco said that UFBU

leaders had conveyed their grievance, including that there is inordinate delay, an offer of 2 per cent was not in good taste and the practice of wage negotiation for officers up to Scale VII — which has been the practice — has to continue. On the May 5 meeting, IBA offered 2 per cent hike which was rejected by unions calling it unjust. MPOST

TONY FERNANDES AND LOCAL INDIAN PARTNER TATA SONS' MAN R VENKATRAMAN LOBBIED FOR REMOVAL OF 5/20 RULE FOR INTERNATIONAL OPS

CBI books AirAsia CEO for trying to manipulate Govt policies

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The CBI has booked Group CEO of Air Asia Tony Fernandes for allegedly trying to manipulate government policies through corrupt means to get international licence for its Indian venture Air Asia India Limited, officials said on Tuesday. Along with Fernandes, Tharumalingam Kanagalangam also known as Bo Lingam, former Deputy Group CEO of Malaysia-based Air Asia Berhad, and R Venkataramanan, Director Air Asia India Ltd, Bengaluru besides companies Air Asia India Pvt Ltd and Air Asia Berhad have also been named as accused in the case.

The case has been registered under 120-B (criminal conspiracy) under the IPC and sections

13(2) read with 13 (1) (d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The searches took place at five locations in Delhi NCR, Mumbai and Bengaluru, CBI spokesperson R K Gaur said here. The agency has alleged that Venkataramanan was lobbying in the government to secure mandatory approvals, some of them through non-transparent means, including the then Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) clearance, No Objection Certificate and the attempt for removal or modification of 5/20 rule.

It is alleged that to be eligible for international operations, the company was required to have five years of experience and fleet of 20 aircraft as per 5/20 rule. The company is yet to get international flying permit as it currently has only 18 aircraft, they said. Fernandes wanted



AirAsia CEO Tony Fernandes

to fly internationally from the day of getting flying permit granted in May, 2014, it alleged. He and his local Indian partner Tata Sons through their nominee Venkataramanan would lobby in government to get all approvals including FIPB clearance and amend or removal of

existing 5/20 rule for international operations, the FIR has alleged.

The agency has also named Rajendra Dubey, Director of Singapore-based HNR Trading pte Ltd, Sunil Kapur, Chairman Total Food Services, Mumbai and Deepak Talwar, Principal and Founder DTA consulting, New Delhi and the company HNR Trading as alleged lobbyists who used their influence to get 5/20 rule relaxed before General Elections of 2014.

It is alleged that Dubey was instrumental in seeking appointments and facilitating meetings for officials of AAIL with officials in the ministry for getting clearances. The agency has alleged that Kapur in the month of December, 2014 at the coffee shop in the Four Season, Mumbai Hotel along with Bo Lingam handed over a closed packet

containing cash of Rs 50 lakhs to one Sriram, which was given by Bo Lingam to facilitate the removal of the 5/20 rule.

In return the catering contract for the airlines was given to Kapur as a quid pro quo, it has alleged. The FIR has alleged that a secret note was sent on February 27, 2014 to Cabinet to amend rule followed by a supplementary note on March 05, 2014 which was not approved since Election Commission had announced Lok Sabha general elections on March 5, 2014.

It is alleged that next year Air Asia (India) Limited remitted about Rs 12.28 crore to HNR Trading Pte. Ltd. of Dubey for a sham contract on the basis of a bogus agreement on plain papers. This money was allegedly utilised for paying bribe to unknown public servants of and

others for securing permit for international operations through Talwar and Kapur who acted lobbying agents, the FIR said.

Air Asia India Ltd refutes any wrong doing and is co-operating with all regulators and agencies to present the correct facts. In November, 2016 AAIL had initiated criminal charges against its ex-CEO and had also commenced civil proceedings for such irregularities. We hope to bring early resolution to all such issues, Shuva Mandal, Director, Air Asia India Limited said in a statement.

According to the FDI policy between 2013-14, foreign airlines were allowed to own only 49 per cent shares in domestic airlines but effective management control must remain with the Indian partner, the agency said.

IndiGo hikes fares on ATF price rise; others may follow

NEW DELHI: Country's largest airline IndiGo on Tuesday announced levying fuel surcharge of up to Rs 400 per passenger on domestic routes to offset rising oil prices, a move that would increase fares. IndiGo is the first local carrier to announce passing on the burden of spiralling jet fuel prices to the passengers and others may now follow suit.

A sum of Rs 200 would be levied on every ticket on routes having less than 1,000 kilometre distance. The amount would be Rs 400 on routes longer than 1,000 kilometre.

Plan a hassle-free trip to abroad



From picking the right place to travel duration to travel card, there are many things that one needs to keep in mind while planning a foreign vacation, say experts. Below mentioned are few tips suggested by experts to avoid any sort of problem on your trip:

► **Choose what you wish to do:** One of the biggest challenges for planning vacation is what you really want to see and do at the chosen place. You should create your bucket list of things that you would want to do in life so that when you get the opportunity you are ready with the place and not juggling in choosing the right place for your vacation.

► **Choosing the travel duration:** Are you going on a short trip of a few days or a few weeks or traveling long term for more than six months? The longer you travel the less you will spend on average per day. Short trips will always be more expensive.

► **Choosing pocket-friendly travel package:** When you ask friends or trust other websites or blogs, don't trust when they say it is cheap or expensive.



► **Start saving:** Money is the most important element of any travel plans. Whether you are being sponsored by your family or spending your own hard earned money, it is essential to start the saving from the day your tickets are booked.

► **Taking the right credit card:** Getting money abroad can be costly. If you don't feel comfortable running around with big amounts of cash, you will probably get money from an ATM many times during your trips. Every time you pay a fee, sometimes it is a fix fee sometimes a percentage.

► **A proper check on visa and passport:** If you are going to a country where you need a visa, check it early and plan accordingly. Also check that your passport is valid for at least

six months by the time you enter the country.

► **Medication:** Many countries require that you have certain vaccinations before you enter the country. They can be very costly and often have to be covered by you and will not be paid by your health insurance. But, if you are traveling in Europe, North America or Australia you probably won't need any vaccinations.

► **Right flight at right time:** Every time an airline launches a new route they will proba-

bly offer it with crazy prices as a teaser. Check out all the offers around the destination. Sometimes you are lucky and will find a cheap flight.

► **Plan the accommodation:** Are you more a hotel person, a hostel person or like to stay in local apartments? To stay in a place which is unknown for you, it is important that you choose the right accommodation for yourself. If you are a person who likes to socialise more hostel is the best option as here you get lot of travellers sharing their experiences. Also, if you like to feel the local culture of the place then you can go for homestays.

► **Plan the activities:** As mentioned earlier also budget is the key aspect of your trip, so according to it try to find out the cost of the activities which you want to do. Activities can be costly and you should calculate them into your budget.

IAN5

DAY IN DAY OUT What's on Around Town

TREAT TO THE TASTE BUDS

It's time for you to eat to your heart's content with a wide selection of succulent, juicy Kebabs infused perfectly in mouth-watering Biryani in the on-going 'Kebab Biryani Festival'. Also, relish on a scrumptious array of finest blend of flavors ranging from Dum Mutton Seekh Kebab Biryani, Tandoori Prawn Biryani and a lot more.

WHEN: Till May 31

WHERE: Chutney, Bar + Tandoor, The Metropolitan Hotel & Spa

TIMING: 12 pm - 12 am

TALK ABOUT ENVIRONMENT

To mark the World Environment day, India International Centre(IIC) will be organising the sixth edition of the 'Dialogue to Develop a Vision of the Environment of Delhi - 2025'. Speakers for the discussion include P.K. Tripathi, former Chief Secretary of Delhi; Professor Sanghamitra Sheel Acharya, Professor, JNU and others.

WHEN: June 5

WHERE: Conference Room II, IIC

TIMINGS: 6:30 pm onwards

EVENING NATURE BAZAAR

On the occasion of World Environment Day, Dastkar has brought up an exhibition 'The Evening Nature Bazaar' for Delhites - an exhibition concentrating on organic products and foods. Also, the event will be providing craftspeople the exposure and direct interaction with urban customers.

WHEN: June 2 and 3

WHERE: Nature Bazaar, Andheria Modh

TIMINGS: 4 pm - 7:30 pm

Bratyajon's 7th International Theatre Festival off to a flying start

MAINAK BANERJEE

THE MUCH-AWAITED curtain raiser ceremony of the 7th International Theatre Festival, organized by Kalindi Bratyajon, took place at Oxford Book Store, Park Street on May 28.

The brochure of the festival

was officially released in presence of the Consul General of Russia Alexey M. Idamkin, Acting Consul General of Italy Vincenza Bufalo, Italian theatre director Simona Di Maio and the festival Convener, thespian Bratya Basu.

There are four foreign theatre

troupe participating in the prestigious festival this year - Italy, Russia, Egypt, and Tunisia.

The festival will be inaugurated on May 29 by the Minister of Power, West Bengal Sri Sovande Chattopadhyay in the august presence of the Regional Director of ICCR, Kolkata, Gou-

tam De.

The team from Italy will present two non-verbal performances, two sketch and skotch at Academy of Fine Arts on the inaugural day. Theatre lovers of Bengal will get a taste of global theatre in these seven days. The festival will end on June 3.



Are robots an addition to workforce?

MORE THAN 50 PER cent employees believe that robots are an addition to the workforce as they automate repetitive or mundane work that they would otherwise have to do themselves, a survey has found.

The survey showed that workers are actually ready and willing to embrace robot coworkers rather than being worried about job losses.

Nearly 30 per cent of employees cited that machines are more attractive than co-workers because they do not get involved in office politics. On the other hand, 34 per cent employees also agree that robots are more efficient and improve productivity than humans in the workplace.

"Far from workers worrying about their jobs being taken by robots, our study shows that employees are actually very happy to work alongside machines. With all the advantages of robots not getting involved in office politics too, we can expect to see more of this in the future!" Terri Hiskey, Vice President (product mar-

keting, manufacturing) at Epicor Software Corporation, US-based global enterprise software provider, said in a statement.

Further, the survey showed that the industrial workforce is getting older and that only a quarter (23 per cent) of businesses are currently able to attract recruits with the right knowledge. Thus the use of robots can introduce efficiencies where human resource is low.

"With employers struggling to find candidates with the right skills or knowledge for entry-level roles, and with employees struggling to keep up with the pressures of business growth, automating aspects of the workforce offers a new way of building efficiencies into the supply chain, and enabling digital transformation," Hiskey said. However, in order to make the most of the latest innovations in workplace robotics and Artificial Intelligence, businesses need to have the right infrastructure in place to manage data flows effectively, the survey revealed.

IAN5



Prolong the life of outdoor furniture

only guarantees protection against moisture outside but also dries up damp wood within the sealant faster. Even wood stains and water repellents protect wooden furniture and help retain the colour.

► Change the placement of the furniture according to climatic con-

ditions. For instance, if harsh sun rays are directly falling on the furniture, shift it where there is ample shade.

► Most wood outdoor furniture will benefit from a mild scrubbing and rinsing at the start and finish of each season. Many pieces also work

best with an annual sanding and a fresh coat of protectant such as a good outdoor varnish, to prevent drying or cracking.

Maintenance will vary depending on the type of wood. Variations in temperature can cause wood to crack. Help prevent further damage by cleaning with an oil-based soap and a soft-bristled brush, and hose off when complete.

► Use furniture glides to raise the piece slightly off the ground so it doesn't sit in puddles of rainwater.

► Select your furniture keeping in mind the climatic condition and the type of wood. Furniture made of teak would be appropriate. Make sure the furniture doesn't require layers of polish to get the effect or to ensure its durability. The wood must be termite-resistant and dense in nature.

IAN5



Don't let the changing seasons wreak havoc on your outdoor wooden furniture. Invest in furniture covers and paint them new to keep them safe, say experts.

► Invest in furniture covers that are available in various sizes and types to protect it and prolong the lifespan. These covers are made of polyester, vinyl or canvas, and are usually waterproof and UV-resistant. Choose covers that offer complete coverage from the wind, sun and the rain and ones that are easy to use.

► The best way to give your furniture a makeover and also protect it is to paint it. While there are chances

of the furniture losing its original sheen and charm, the paint will keep the pieces looking new. Latex paint offers various levels of protection and is the most common one used for coating outdoor furniture. Apart from offering versatility and durability, the latex seals the wood fibres and protects against water penetration.

► Weather can be unpredictable at times. It is better to take precautionary measures beforehand and keep your outdoor wooden furniture completely protected. Applying water sealant to the furniture will retain the look of the wood and give the furniture adequate protection against rain. The water sealant not

CBSE CLASS 10 TOPPERS TALK ABOUT THEIR SUCCESS STORIES

Calm & composed mindset made us win, says All India topper

PIYUSH OHRIE

GURUGRAM: Even though he knew he had done well, it was a score that this Gurugram's Delhi Public School (DPS) student never expected. Yet, when the marks were finally known at around 1:30 pm, Prakhar Mittal had become one of the four toppers. Moreover, he had topped the examinations in which over 16 lakh students from all over the country had participated. Prakhar missed scoring 500 out of 500 by just one mark. The one mark which he lost was in the French subject.

Despite achieving such a big feat, the 16-year-old was calm and composed in his demeanour. In fact, he mentioned the role of his calm composure to be the main reason for his success in addition to his hard work.

"It was not that I gave most of my time to prepare for my examination. On an average, I used to spend four to five hours in the preparation. The most



Prakhar Mittal, who secured first spot in CBSE's class 10th exams along with Nandini Garg, Rimzhim Aggarwal and Sreelakshmi G, at his residence in Gurugram, on Tuesday

just supported and assisted me in clearing my doubts academically and mentally," said Prakhar Mittal.

"I feel proud of my son. I knew about his capabilities and therefore, I did not apply any pressure on him. Ultimately, his hard work, passion and dedication have triumphed," said Prakhar's mother.

Prakhar has his eyes set in doing something in the field of robotics and digital programming. In 2016, Prakhar participated in a Robotic Olympiad where he won laurels for his innovations. Not only in the field of science but Prakhar also excels in creatively. An avid piano player, singing is one of his main hobbies. He is also a sports lover and plays cricket frequently. To prepare for his future, Prakhar has already begun preparing for engineering examinations. He, however, reiterated that it is not only studies but participation in all-round activities that results in a holistic development of the student.

Will power overcomes the limitations of disability

PIYUSH OHRIE

GURUGRAM: Gurugram celebrated its students who excelled academically by scoring nearly cent per cent marks in the Class 10 board exams. Such was the dominance of the city that not only the top position but even the second and third positions were secured by the students of the city. The most special news, however, came from Anushka Panda who was among the two toppers at all India levels in the specially-abled category. The 14-year-old student who is the student of Suncity school in Gurugram scored 489/500. She shared her position with Sanya Gandhi from Delhi-NCR. Sanya belongs to Ghaziabad.

Anushka suffers from Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), a



genetic disease that robs people of physical strength by affecting the motor nerve cells in the spinal cord, affecting the ability to walk. Being wheelchair-bound did not prevent her from chasing her dreams of becoming a software engineer and made her more resilient. Her resolve was further supported by the education board and her school that provided her with special infrastructure during her preparation for the main examina-



tions. "I am thrilled, my hard work has paid off. It is really a big moment for me. I was really nervous before the results," an elated Anushka said. Just like Anushka, Sanya Gandhi who is 90 per cent emotionally impaired never prevented herself from getting distracted from the limitations. "I want to just emphasise that it is important that you utilise your time well and never let your focus waver," said Sanya.

Amity School students bag top two ranks

RAHUL SINGH

NOIDA: Students of Amity School of Noida bagged the top two ranks in Gautam Buddha Nagar district in Central Board of Secondary Examination's (CBSE) Class 10 result that was declared on Tuesday. Both the students secured the second position in the All-India ranking in the CBSE results.

Anshika Gupta and Anchit Jain have outstandingly secured 498 marks out of 500 marks.

Speaking to the Millennium Post, Anshika Gupta revealed her mantra to success and said that keeping the basics clear and building knowledge about it has helped her a lot.

"For my exams, I used to study for almost 8 hours a day and my prime focus was on to keep the basics clear. Meanwhile, I also read books from different writers so that nothing is missed," said Gupta. She further told us that she has an aim to become a chartered accountant (CA) and take over her father's firm.

Gupta has scored hundred per cent marks in English, Social Science and Science while she scored 99 marks in Hindi and Maths.

While Anchit Jain, who



shared the top position with her, said that the students should focus on time management and be confident during the exams were the only things which made him score these high marks.

"I have never thought about my future and believed in loving all the subjects. My favourite subject is Maths and I keep practising it during vacations also."

"I will be taking up science for my future and would try to replicate this success in my 12th boards too," added Jain.

Jain has scored 100 out of 100 in four out of the five subjects that are English, German, Maths and Science while he missed out to secure cent per cent marks by two marks in Social science.

Girls score better than boys, Kerala girl tops

SAYANTAN GHOSH

NEW DELHI: Girls, with a pass percentage of 88.67, did better than the boys, who registered a pass percentage of 85.32, in the 2018 CBSE Class 10 result, which was released on Tuesday afternoon.

This year, Sreelakshmi G from Cochin became the CBSE Class 10 topper with 99.8 per cent marks. Sreelakshmi is from Bhavan's Varuna Vidyalaya, Ernakulam district.

"One needs to study from Day 1. Never rely on tomorrow and study every day. This was my main motto and this is how I motivated myself throughout the year. My school teachers were very helpful as they taught me everything with patience. I gave regular mock tests during the last days of my board exams," the topper said.

CBSE said that out of 16,24,682 students who appeared for the exams, 3,760 were differently-abled. Out of that, 3,480 were successful in their exams. Out of



that, 21 candidates bagged 95 per cent or more and 135 candidates achieved 90 per cent or more.

Region-wise, Thiruvananthapuram ranked first with 99.60 pass percentage. Chennai and Ajmer stood at 2nd and 3rd with 97.37 and 91.86 pass percentage respectively. A total of four students

topped the CBSE Class 10 Board Exams this year with a score of 499 out of 500. The toppers include Prakhar Mittal, Rimzhim Aggarwal, Nandini Garg and Sreelakshmi G.

To make matters easier, CBSE Class 10 students can get their mark sheets through DigiLocker that is registered

with the Government of India. Students would get their account details on the mobile number that was registered with the board for CBSE Class 10 results 2018. Students can access the locker on digilocker.gov.in.

The locker is also accessible on Android and iOS. Students who have appeared for the CBSE Class 10 exams can now check their results on the official websites cbsereults.nic.in, cbse.nic.in or results.nic.in.

Additionally, CBSE Class 10 students can also access the results via apps and SMS and can view their results on UMANG mobile app, available on Android, iOS and Windows phone. CBSE Class 10 results will also be available on search engine www.bing.com as well as on Google. Not only that, results can also be accessed on Microsoft SMS Organizer app and through IVRS or Interactive Voice Response System on 24300699 for Delhi subscribers and on 011-24300699 for subscribers from other parts of the country.

Govt-run JNVs, KVs perform better than private schools

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Government-run Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas have performed far better than their private counterparts in the CBSE 10th results released on Tuesday. JNVs have got a pass percentage of 97.31 while KVs have got 95.96.

Meanwhile, the independent or private schools affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) have got 89.49 pass percentage. The CBSE 10th Class results have been released on the official websites cbse.nic.in and cbsereults.nic.in.

According to the data released by CBSE, government schools registered with the CBSE have a 63.97 pass

percentage while government-aided schools have 73.46 pass percentage. In CBSE Class 12 results too, Kendriya Vidyalayas gave the best results among different categories of schools affiliated to the CBSE with a pass percentage of 97.78, as opposed to 95.86 last year.

While private schools had the lowest pass percentage with 82.50, the overall pass percentage for Class 12 was 83.01 as against last year's 82.02.

CBSE declared the Class 10th result on Tuesday and out of the total 16,24,682 candidates who appeared for the exam, 86.70 per cent students qualified the exams and Thiruvananthapuram region topped with 99.60 per cent qualified candidates. 1,86,067 students

have got a compartment. This accounts for 11.45 per cent of the total candidates appeared for the CBSE Class 10 exams.

This year, four students topped CBSE Class 10 exams scoring 499 out of 500.

The toppers are Prakhar Mittal from DPS Gurgaon, Rimzhim Aggarwal from RK Public school Bijnor, Nandini Garg from Scottish International school Shamli, and Sreelakshmi G from Bhavan Vidyalaya, Cochin.

Girls have done better than boys by 3.35 percent. Girls have a pass percentage of 88.67 while the boys have 85.32. The total number of candidates who have secured more than 90 per cent and above is 1,31,493. And 27,476 students have secured more than 95 per cent.

CM Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia visit CBSE Class 12 toppers

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia visited the city's CBSE Class 12 examination toppers on Tuesday.

The chief minister later told reporters that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government was "investing" in children for the "country's future". His government had doubled the budget for the education sector in its first year, the AAP supremo said, adding that it was an "investment, not an expenditure".

CM Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia, who is also the education minister of Delhi, paid a visit to the CBSE Class 12 toppers—Bharti Raghav, Prince Kumar, the son of a DTC bus driver, Prachi Prakash and Chitra Kaushik—at their residences. They also visited an orphanage in Daryaganj to meet Shahnaz, who has topped the exam in the vocational stream.

"In the last few years, there has been a makeover of government schools...the same education is being imparted in private and government schools now...we had increased the education budget from Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 10,000 crore after our government was formed," Kejriwal told reporters. "It is like an



investment, not an expenditure. We are investing in our children. We are investing for the country's future and we are getting to see the results," Kejriwal said, adding that the AAP government is committed to supporting the students. In the CBSE Class 12 examination, Delhi's pass percentage was 89. Girls, with a pass percentage of 93.19, outperformed the boys (84.93) in Delhi region. Last year, the city's pass percentage was 88.37.

According to a government official, Prince Kumar topped the science stream with a 97 per cent score, while Chitra Kaushik, with 95.6 per cent marks, was the topper in the humanities stream. Bharti Raghav and Prachi Prakash jointly topped the commerce

stream. The pass percentage of government-aided schools in Delhi is 82.79 this year as against 80.32 in 2017.

The pass percentage of private schools is 88.35 this year as compared to last year's 84.20.

Sisodia tweeted, "Many congratulations to all students who have passed the Class 10 CBSE Board exams. It was a tough year for all students as Board exams were happening for the first time after 10 years. "Would specially like to congratulate teachers and principals of govt schools, who have worked very hard in improving the pass percentage from the pre-boards (30%), to boards (70%). Great work by the whole Team Education."



Students celebrate after the results of CBSE Class X were announced, in Gurugram on Tuesday

Paper leak case: Delhi Police shares investigation report with CBSE

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Delhi police has sent a report having the gist of the investigation to CBSE about the investigation they have done in the two paper leak cases. Police claimed that the report also contained the names of students who had allegedly received the leaked Class 10 mathematics and Class 12 economics question papers.

According to police, the report mentions the negligence on the part of school authorities and the about the arrests made by the city police in this regard. Last week, the police sent an investigation report to the board mentioning the names of over 60 students, who were quizzed by the Crime Branch while it was probing the case.

Two modules were alleg-

edly involved in leaking the CBSE question papers. Other than the Class 12 economics paper, the Class 10 mathematics paper had also surfaced online before the scheduled examination. One of the modules was busted in Una town of Himachal Pradesh last month and six people, including a woman, were arrested in connection with the leak of the question papers.

Two minor commit suicide, suspected to be depressed after their exam results



OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: A minor boy committed suicide in Kakrola area of Dwarka district. It is being suspected that the reason behind the suicide can be securing less percentage in the Class-10 result. Police claimed that they are verifying the facts. In another case, a girl hanged herself to death due to low percentage of marks in South-West Delhi.

According to police, the deceased lived with his family in Kakrola Mod area and was studying in Class-10. The incident came to light when the police team received a PCR call in the afternoon about the suicide and the victim was rushed to the hospital where he was declared brought dead.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Shibesh Singh stated that before the incident the deceased had checked his board result and then went to the second floor of the house.

"His brother was there who came to the ground floor for some work and when he returned to the floor, he found his brother hanging," said the DCP. He alerted everyone about the incident. The boy is reported to have got 59 per cent marks and was not happy with the result. The deceased's father works in a government office.

In another case, a 15-year-old girl committed suicide by hanging herself to a fan in South West Delhi. Police claimed that after the result she was unhappy with her percentage.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South West) Milind Dumbere stated the girl was studying in Class-10 at Ryan School, on Tuesday, her result was declared and she got 70 per cent marks. She wanted to pursue science but there was no hope due to the low percentage of marks. Her father works with Enforcement Directorate as an enforcement officer.

Kalkaji-Janakpuri corridor opens for public

YOGESH KANT

NEW DELHI: From college students to government officials and businessmen, commuters have started feeling a sigh of relief after the 24.82 Kilometer Magenta line officially opened for the public on Tuesday. Commuters lined up to take a ride, which now connects Botanical Garden in Noida to Janakpuri in West Delhi. Moreover, those commuting between Gurgaon

and Noida can now save 40 minutes with travel time coming down to 50 minutes.

Previously, commuters had to reach Rajiv Chowk station from where they switched trains but now, a direct line means that it would be far more convenient to travel between south and West Delhi as well as between Gurgaon and Noida.

Fifty-year-old Sunil Bhatia, a resident of Noida who works at DLF

tower in Gurugram, said he has travelled on the Delhi Metro ever since it extended to Noida.

"Earlier, I had to take a train from Noida and change it at Mandi house to go to Gurugram. Now, the journey that took 90 minutes can now be completed in just 50 minutes."

He further added that Noida and Faridabad have also come closer and those travelling to Faridabad will be able to change trains at Kalkaji Man-

dir and go directly to Faridabad, saving them a lot of time. "With this line, footfall at Noida's Botanical Garden station is expected to increase three times -- from 30,000 to one lakh passengers daily," said a DMRC official.

He added that once fully operational, the Magenta Line (Botanical Garden-Janakpuri West) will ferry approximately 3.60 lakh commuters every day.

For Aarti Kharbanda, a resident of

Kalkaji, the main attraction of the new line is that she won't have to depend on cabs or her family members to travel to and from the airport.

"I have to travel for work almost weekly and had to depend on either family members or radio cabs to commute. With this line going to the airport and beyond, I can travel not just in the comfort and safety but won't have to depend on anyone," says the 34-year-old chartered accountant.

TAPARIA® AN ISO-9001 CO. GO FOR "TAPARIA" TOOLS AND EXPERIENCE POWER IN YOUR HANDS EVERY INDIVIDUAL NEEDS HAND TOOLS.

"TAPARIA" TOOLS LAST A LIFE TIME. HAND TOOLS ARE AN EXTENSION OF HUMAN HAND. New Delhi Tel.: 011-6557 6796 e-mail: kymsspapencies@gmail.com Visit us at www.tapariatools.com

CM raises coal shortage issue at thermal power plants with PM

Power demand has crossed 6,200 MW and is expected to touch 7,000 MW

ROUSHAN ALI

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday raised with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal the coal shortage at thermal power stations in the NCR. "Dadri I and II, Jhajjar and Badarpur are facing acute coal shortage since last many days and at present, all of them are operating one day ahead basis coal stock not sufficient for even one-day full generation," he said in the letter.

"As per norms, the stock condition is to be maintained for at least 15 days ahead period," he added.

In his letter, Kejriwal, noting that the demand has already crossed 6,200 MW and is expected to touch 7,000 MW, urged them to intervene to resolve this crisis-like situation at the earliest in order to avoid load shedding or any major grid incidence leading to blackouts.

He attributed the coal shortage to the non-availability of transportation rakes with Indian Railways, "due to which the available coals are not getting transported to the NCR thermal stations".

Delhi Chief Minister blamed the non-availability of transportation rakes with Indian Railways for the coal shortage. The available coals are not getting transported to the NCR thermal stations, he has written in his letter.



A zookeeper sprinkles water on an elephant to cool itself on a hot summer afternoon, at New Delhi Zoo, on Tuesday

Earlier, Delhi Power Minister Satyender Jain had written a letter 17 May to Union Coal Minister Piyush Goyal for the shortage. "There is no coal in power plants in the NCR. Dadri I, II, Badarpur, Jhajjar (plants), none of them has stock (coal) for more than one day," Jain said.

"This is a man-made disaster in making. We always had extra power but today there is no extra power. If any problem arises, there will be a blackout," Jain said.

The Minister said the power plants used to have a reserve coal stock for 14 days. In his letter to Goyal, Jain said:

"It has also been gathered that this coal shortage is due to non-availability of transportation rakes/wagons with Indian Railways. Discoms procure maximum power from coal-based thermal power plants like Anta-Auraya, Dadri -1 & 2 Units, Singrauli, Jhajjar, Tanakpur and Uchahar.

Delhi sizzles at 44.4 degree Celsius

NEW DELHI: The national capital continued to sizzle under severe hot conditions with people braving heatwave conditions to do their daily chores as the mercury soared to settle at 44.4 degree Celsius, four notches above the season's average. The minimum temperature settled at 25.9 degree Celsius, a notch below the normal, said a Met department official. The relative humidity level oscillated between 55 and 13 per cent.

The Met office has forecast partly cloudy skies along with the likelihood of very light rain and thundershowers toward the evening and night of Wednesday. "The maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to hover at 41 and 27 degrees," the weatherman said.

In gangwar, juvenile shoots at criminal while being escorted

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The streets of Delhi on Tuesday witnessed a gang war in which a criminal was shot at by the juvenile member of the rival gang when he came out from the Tis Hazari Court. Police claimed that they have apprehended the juvenile.

According to police, one criminal identified as Dinesh Karala from village Karala and a close associate of wanted absconding gangster Jitender alias Gogi was brought to Tis Hazari Court from Rohtak Jail by Haryana Police for his production in an undertrial case under sections 392/411/482 of IPC in Ranhola police station. The incident took place just near the Gate No. 2 of the court premises when Dinesh was sitting in the Haryana police vehicle. He is admitted to the hospital.

"After production in the court, he was escorted back to jail van by Haryana police. When they reached near the jail van parked in Tis Hazari Court complex, suddenly one boy reached near Dinesh Karala and fired upon him with



a country-made pistol, with the intention to eliminate him," said DCP (Special Cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav. Karala sustained the injury on his elbow. The boy ran away from the spot. The police team apprehended the juvenile after a brief chase and with the help of the North District. The pistol used in the incident was also recovered from him.

The police further claimed that the shootout is the outcome of an old rivalry between Jitender Gogi gang and Sunil Tillu gang. Injured Karala is a member of Jitender gang and the juvenile is an active member of Sunil Tillu Gang. "The juvenile was assigned to eliminate Karala by Amit Dabang, an active member of Sunil alias Tillu gang.

Two die, one critically injured in bike accident

NOIDA: Two persons were killed and one was injured after they lost control of their bike and collided into the divider on Delhi-Noida-Delhi highway on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday, said police. They were on their way back from Noida to Delhi.

According to police, the deceased have been identified as Lalmio (24) and Kelvin (21), both natives of Manipur, while their friend Minjonam (19), who was also travelling with them, got critically injured in the incident and has been admitted to the hospital.

Police said that the incident occurred at around 1:15 am when the trio was travelling on the same bike. All of them worked at a private company in sector 18. The vehicle lost balance and collided into the divider when they were on their way back to home in Munerka, Delhi.

"We received a call from the hospital about the incident. The passerby, without making any delay, took the victims to hospital but unfortunately, they were declared brought dead by the doctors. The bodies have been sent for the post-mortem while the one who survived is critical and has been receiving treatment at the hospital," said a senior police officer. **MPOST**

Fake Territorial Army recruitment: More than 40 villagers cheated

ABHAY SINGH

NEW DELHI: The investigators who have been investigating the Fake Territorial Army recruitment claimed that they have found that the gang had duped more than 40 innocent persons coming from the poor economic background.

The Crime Branch of Delhi Police claimed that the gang had used parks nearby Delhi Cantt to conduct fake physical ability tests.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) G Ramgopal Naik told the *Millennium Post* that during the investigation, the police team found that around 40-50 persons were duped by the gang of more

than five lakh rupees and they were from the remote places in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

"Many of the victims came from very poor family and had given money by taking the loan for the fake job," said Naik. They were desperately looking for employment in the Indian Army which was exploited by the three accused identified as Amit Kumar, Suni Kumar and Devender. The racket lured the victims in 2017.

The accused had chosen Bangalore and Delhi for the fake recruitment. Investigator claimed that the in 2017, the accused personally visited different states and targeted poor families by promising them a

job with the Indian Army. One of the accused who was supposed to be an army personnel had conducted the fake physical and medical tests in Delhi Cantt.

"They conducted the test in the parks nearby the Cantt so that they can give the impression to the victims that the test is conducted in army premises," said the police official.

DCP Naik further claimed that the accused did not try to cheat the residents of Delhi-NCR as they suspected that they will get caught. The accused had given the victims fake appointment letters and then switched off their mobile phones when the case came to light.

Lift crashes 11 storeys down in Gurugram, 3 badly injured

NEW DELHI: Three people have been badly injured after a lift they were travelling in crashed 11 storeys in Gurugram.

The incident took place in Regency Park 2 apartments in Gurugram's DLF Phase 4.

The lift had the woman who was residing in the high-rise, her domestic help and her driver. All three have been hospitalized.

The woman will need a knee-replacement surgery, say reports. The lift, according to reports, was in poor condition. More details are still being awaited. **AGENCIES**

Signature Bridge will be ready by October: Arvind Kejriwal

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Construction of the much-awaited Signature Bridge on the Yamuna river will be completed by October this year, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Tuesday. CM Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia inspected the bridge in the morning and witnessed the installation of the final pylon at the site.

The chief minister said that the residents of Delhi have been eagerly waiting for the opening of the city's iconic Signature Bridge. The bridge, once completed, will share the burden of vehicular traffic, currently being borne by the Wazirabad bridge, used to commute to and from Delhi and Ghaziabad.



The bridge will connect the Outer Ring Road on the western bank and with the Wazirabad road on the eastern side of the Yamuna river.

Investigation into Jain's daughter case closes

NEW DELHI: The CBI seems to have closed the investigation into the case against the appointment of Soumya Jain, daughter of health minister Satyendar Jain, as an advisor to the state government on its mohalla clinic project. Sources claimed that during the probe, the top investigating agency in the country did not find any important evidence based on which they can carry out criminal proceedings against the minister's daughter.

Sources added that the investigation officer (IO) did not find enough evidence to suggest that Somya had taken benefits from her appointment. Then, the IO recommended that there was no need to convert the initial enquiry into a

regular case (FIR) after which the decision was taken.

The LG office had earlier recommended a CBI probe in the matter after she was appointed an advisor in the health department. The CBI has registered a preliminary enquiry (PE) in the appointment of Saumya Jain, AAP minister Satyendar Jain's daughter, as an advisor to Delhi government on its Mohalla Clinic project in the year 2017.

The PE included the names of unknown officials from Delhi Government and also the then MD of the health department Tarun Seem. It was also alleged that after seeing the bio-data, Somya had no experience in the health sector as she was an architect. **MPOST**

CITY BRIEFS

FIVE ARRESTED FOR SEXUALLY ASSAULTING WOMAN

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police on Tuesday claimed that they have arrested five persons who were involved in the sexual assault of a 30-year-old woman who was allegedly kidnapped from Gurgaon and then raped by five men at a guest house in south-west Delhi's Vasant Kunj on Monday night. DCP (south-west) Milind Dumbre confirmed the incident and said that they registered a case soon after they received a complaint from the woman. A case under appropriate sections of the IPC has been registered and investigations in the case are ongoing. Police said that the woman, who works at a private firm, told them in her complaint that she had come out of the mall around 11 pm and was looking for an auto when these men approached her and offered to drop her to her destination. She alleged that when she resisted their offer, they dragged her into the car and took her to a guest house where they took turns to rape her for several hours, police said. After raping her, the men left her in a room in the guest house and bolted the door from outside.

16-YEAR-OLD GIRL COMMITS SUICIDE

NEW DELHI: A 16-year-old girl committed suicide after there was an argument with her brother regarding the mobile phone in East Delhi's Madhu Vihar area. Police claimed that they are questioning the family members and relatives of the deceased to know the exact reason behind the incident. Police claimed the deceased lived with her family in Chandra Vihar area and was studying in class 10. The incident came to light on Tuesday after police received a PCR call regarding the suicide.



Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik launched 'Street Safe' Campaign, a nationwide road and ride safety programme at India Gate, New Delhi, on Tuesday in a joint initiative with Ola Cabs. The idea behind the campaign is to create awareness on three key issues—drinking & driving, texting & driving, and over-speeding. Patnaik also felicitated some good Samaritans and police officials who helped women in distress

AAP govt sets target for launching free Wi-Fi facility by March next year

ROUSHAN ALI

NEW DELHI: After the completion of four years of AAP government, Delhiites may get free Wi-Fi facility at public places next year as the public works department has set a target of launching the pilot project on March 31 next year. According to the Delhi government's "outcome budget" under which various departments set the target for executing their schemes and projects, tenders for providing free Wi-Fi facility will be awarded by September this year. Free Wi-Fi at public places across the city was one of AAP key poll promises.

In April 2017, the AAP government had set a March 2018 target for the launch of the

first phase of its ambitious free Wi-Fi project in the national capital but failed. In March this year, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia had said that Wi-Fi project, which was earlier with the information and technology department, has been given to the PWD to "expedite" the work. However, in the "risk factor column" in the outcome budget, the PWD said that in the March 27 meeting this year, the department had intimated that it will not be able to execute Wi-Fi project due to "non-availability of sufficient staff" and "no expertise" in this field.

The department said the expected date for issue of request for proposals (RFP) is June 30. It also said that expected date for "commission-

ing of Wi-Fi hotspots at pilot stage" is March 31, 2019. In its 2018-19 budget, the Delhi government has allocated Rs 100 crore to provide Wi-Fi facility.

As the AAP formed government in Delhi, the project was initially assigned to the Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) of Delhi chaired by the chief minister. In March 2016, the Delhi Dialogue Commission (DDC) had started first free Wi-Fi facility on a three-month pilot basis in Sant Nagar market in North Delhi's Burari. Thereafter, the AAP had promised that over 500 locations across East Delhi would be made high-speed Wi-Fi zones by December 2016, but there was no progress.

KRYOGA can heal the heart, says AIIMS cardiologist

YOGESH KANT

NEW DELHI: In a bid to provide treatment to heart patients without any incision or any cut, cardiologists at All India Institute of Medical Science have customised traditional Yoga into KRYOGA (Cardiac Rehab Yoga) to heal the patients suffering from heart ailments. The experts informed that use of yoga with medicine is quite effective in treating the patients suffering from heart failure.

Experts informed that two years ago, a patient named Sunita, who is a resident of Delhi, started facing breathing problem. Moreover, due to her breathing problems, she was not able to do any work. Gradually, her body started swelling and it became difficult to walk. Later, the doctor diagnosed her with the heart failure. Taking ample care of the patient, doctors at AIIMS prescribed medicines

while instructing her to practise Yoga. With the use of this innovative method, the patient's heart started responding to the treatment and her cardiovascular function improved again to 30 per cent.

Dr Sandeep Seth, Professor, Cardiology Department, AIIMS, said nearly 20 patients are being treated with this innovative method. He also added that the use of yoga with medicine is effective in treating patients with heart failure, therefore, it has been named as "Kryoga" (cardiac rehab yoga).

He further added that after analysing the impact on other patients, the public will be told about the benefits of these yoga positions. Moreover, a mobile application will also be developed on this for the welfare of patients and other people to make his/her heart healthy. "With the help of this application, people will be able to know

about these actions of Yoga. At present, some of the patients are practicing these positions under the supervision of trained Yoga teacher at AIIMS.

Around 2.6 million people across the world are suffering from this disease. Out of this, around one crore patients are in India. That's why it is one of the major health problems in the country. Here too, the mortality rate of the victims is also high, experts revealed. Dr Seth also added that according to a study, around 23 per cent of the patients suffering from the same disorder succumb only in the first year. Medical science has reached a level which can provide the treatment that can reduce the mortality rate from heart ailments. Moreover, with the awareness, such kind of heart ailments can be prevented.

"To rectify the heart disorder, transplant and assistive device (artificial pump)

are available but these procedures are not within the reach of every person. Shockingly, around 50 per cent of the heart patient problems intensify due to improperly prescribed medicines and the remaining 50 per cent of the patients, somehow, avail the appropriate medicines. But in a majority of the cases, patients' body does not cope up with medicine. Although, nearly 90 per cent heart ailments can be cured through medicines only," Dr Seth added.

He further added that nowadays patients are being provided with the medication. Earlier, Yogacharya was asked what kind of yoga can be practised for heart diseases. After this, a few changes in those actions were made so that patients with heart failure can do them easily and make them a part of their lifestyle. It involves meditation, pranayama and breathing exercises.

Serious fire in Malviya Nagar

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: A "serious" category fire was reported from a factory in the Malviya Nagar area. Fire department claimed that there has been no casualty, so far. In another incident, vehicles were gutted when a fire broke out in the case properties of south district. According to the fire officials, they have sent 35 fire tenders at the spot and till now they have not found any casualty and the operation is still on.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Romil Baaniya stated that on May 29 at around 05:00 pm, a PCR call regarding fire near Sant Nirankari School was received at Malviya Nagar police station. On enquiry, it was found that a truck was loaded with rubber sheet at a godown situated at Khirki Extension in Malviya Nagar. Suddenly, the truck caught fire and it spread in the godown. After some time, 25 fire tenders reached the spot and the fire was brought partially under control.

"Efforts are being made to control the fire with the help of fire tenders. The fire is in rubber sheets stored in the godown. No casualty has been reported so far and the nearby area



has been temporarily evacuated for security reasons," said the DCP.

Another PCR call about a fire incident was received at the Saket police station regarding a fire at sector 5 Pushp Vihar Saket. On reaching the spot, it was found that the fire broke out at auto pond sector 5 Pushp Vihar, which houses case property of South district. It was found that many vehicles had caught fire. Eight fire tenders and local police reached the spot and controlled the fire. "No casualties reported. However, a lot of vehicles were damaged in the fire. Further details are being collected and necessary legal action will be initiated in this regard," said the DCP.

Brave constable chases and overpowers armed criminals

NEW DELHI: In an act where he could have paid with his life, a Delhi police constable chased and overpowered two armed men sitting inside an Ola cab which they had hired after parking their stolen motorbike near Nizamuddin. The constable's brave act has led Delhi police to consider an Out of Turn promotion to him.

The incident happened in the intervening night of 27 and 28 May when constable Jagbir was on a patrolling duty in the Hazrat Nizamuddin area. During the patrolling at about 6 am, he was informed by one Khurshid Alam that two boys in a taxi pointed a country made pistol at him and sped away towards Bhogal. The daredevil constable exhibited exemplary courage and chased the taxi knowing that the occupants of the car were carrying the firearm. On reaching Barapula Bridge, he signalled the driver of the taxi to stop. The constable then placed his bike in front



of the car to stop them.

The boys sitting on the rear seat were questioned by the constable. During this time, one person later identified as Abdul Wahab, 23 years, started running and tried to flee. He was chased by the constable without caring for his life and after a hot chase, he was overpowered. "On a cursory search, a country made loaded pistol was recovered. The taxi driver Surjeet Singh also showed courage and overpowered the other person identified as Qamar Nizami. Both the arrested men are from Jamia Nagar," DCP South East, Chinmoy Biswal, said. **MPOST**

Govt's attitude 'dictatorial' towards states, says TDP

GAURAV SAINI

VIJAYAWADA: The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) on Tuesday adopted a new political resolution in which it lambasted the Modi government for its "dictatorial" attitude and vowed to unite regional parties to take on the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

The resolution read: "The Centre is weakening the financial condition of states... The unilateral style of functioning of the Modi government has led to loss of trust of states in the central government. The states feel that the concept of federalism is only on paper."

The "dictatorial" attitude of the Modi government, its "unilateral and anti-people decisions, misuse of central intelligence agencies and regulatory agencies to suppress political opponents have become a matter of grave concern in the Indian polity", it read. "On the occasion of the swearing-in ceremony of H D Kumaraswamy, leaders of various political parties had assembled in Bangalore as a token of solidarity among regional political parties.

"Chandrababu Naidu was a tall leader in this meet and it was a clear indication that regional political parties are going to be a power to reckon with in the 2019 elections as an alternative to national parties to form a government in Delhi," the TDP resolution said.

"We ended the alliance with



the NDA only in the interests of the states... The BJP is resorting to conspiracy to destabilise us. We are not afraid of anyone. Ready to sacrifice everything. "We will not stop until Andhra is given special status and the Polavaram project completed," Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said in his concluding address at Mahanadu, the TDP's three-day annual conclave here.

"The Centre has not been releasing funds for Amravati because it does not want a world-class capital city to come up in Andhra Pradesh. Then why should we pay taxes to the Centre at all?" he asked.

He also rubbished the opposition's criticism that his government was spending all the money at its disposal on developing Amravati, the proposed ultra-modern state

capital, at the cost of other developmental works.

Ratcheting up his attack on the Centre, he said, "In 2014, the unemployment rate was 3.4 per cent and now it is 6.23 per cent. Where is the 'sabka sath sabka vikas' that Modi promised to the people of the country."

He also denounced the Congress for "not doing justice to the people of Andhra and Telangana" at the time of the bifurcation of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh.

"We asked the Congress to do justice to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, but they did not do it. They lost in both the states," he said.

"TDP will bring drastic changes in national politics. Will win all 25 LS seats in 2019 elections, NDA won't come to power," Naidu said.

State Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnu said the Modi government was taking "dangerous steps" against constitutional values and that it would be "dethroned by united regional parties" in the 2019 general elections.

He also said that former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and BJP veteran L K Advani respected the Constitution, but Modi and party chief Amit Shah were "destroying the democratic system" in the country.

"The Modi government's policies are against secularism. The ruling party uses RSS cadres, who have a fascist mentality. It is also spoiling fiscal and political values," he alleged.

"There's no democratic system under the Modi government. We respected Vajpayee and Advani who revered and protected the Constitution. But then came the Modi-Shah duo. They destroyed the entire democratic system," the minister alleged. The Centre is interfering in the working of the 15th Finance Commission, he told reporters.

The Modi government is taking "dangerous steps against constitutional values and the TDP will unite all regional parties to stop it in 2019", Ramakrishnu said.

The BJP government would be "dethroned" by an amalgamation of regional parties, he said, but parried a query on who would be the prime ministerial face if a united front comes into being.

RSS organisation of nationalists, not Pakistan's ISI, says Gadkari

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI: Union minister and senior BJP leader Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday welcomed former President Pranab Mukherjee's decision to accept an invitation to attend an RSS event, saying it is a "good start" and "political touchability" is an outdated concept.

Gadkari, the Lok Sabha MP from Nagpur, also said the RSS was not Pakistan's ISI, but an organisation of nationalists.

Mukherjee has been invited to be the chief guest at the valedictory function of Sangh Shiksha Varg -- a training camp for Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh volunteers -- at its headquarters in Nagpur.

The event is to be held on June 7 and a senior RSS functionary had said yesterday that Mukherjee has accepted the invitation.

"Mukherjee's acceptance of the invitation is a good start. Political touchability is not good," Gadkari told reporters here when asked about reported reservations in the Congress over the former President accepting the RSS invite.

"It is the prerogative of

No comments: Cong on RSS invite to Pranab

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Tuesday refrained from making a comment on former President Pranab Mukherjee accepting an invite from the RSS to be the chief guest at the valedictory function at the RSS headquarters in Nagpur on June 7.

"No comments," was Congress spokesperson Tom Vadakka's response when asked about Mukherjee visiting the RSS headquarters.

He said since the event is yet to happen he would not comment on it and the Congress will formulate its thoughts once the event takes place. "The event has not hap-

pened. I have come to know about it from media reports and am collecting further details. At present I have no comments to offer till the event takes place," he told reporters at the AICC office.

Vadakkan said there is a lot of difference between their ideology and that of the RSS.

Former MP and Delhi Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit said as a Congress leader and minister, Mukherjee has spoken about the RSS and the BJP many times on various issues and dubbed it as "bad" and "worst" outfit, which is "communal" and "anti-national".

MPOST

the organisers to invite someone and it is the prerogative of those invited to accept it or not," he added. Calling political touchability "outdated", Gadkari said, "I believe political touchability in a democracy is not good. We should meet each other, discuss each

others' views. If we don't agree with the views, we should express it." Citing an example, Gadkari said, "When I became BJP national president, I went to the CPM headquarters to seek the blessings of A B Bardhan, who hails from Nagpur and whom I consider an icon."

Shah kicks off BJP's massive mass contact drive

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Launching his party's "contact for support" drive, BJP president Amit Shah on Tuesday met former Army chief Dalbir Singh Suhag and former Lok Sabha secretary-general Subhash Kashyap, and announced that 50 lakh party workers would reach every household to inform people about the Modi government's works.

Shah said he informed Suhag and Kashyap about the government's achievements in the four years of its tenure.

Under the exercise -- 'sampark for samarthan', 4,000 BJP functionaries, from Shah and his chief ministers down to pan-



chayat members, have been asked to contact one lakh people who are well-known names in different fields to share with them the government's works.

Shah drove to their residences for a meeting and later told media that his party's attempt is to reach every household in the country.

"The campaign is aimed at informing people about various government initiatives which have resulted in lifting people's living standards," he said, adding that a lot of work had been done to remove the problems people faced in villages and to help the poor live a better life.

In its fifth year, the govern-

ment will aim to bring about a change in farmers' lives by offering them one-and-a-half times of their input cost for their produce. It will also aim to give Rs 5 lakh health insurance coverage to 50 crore people, he said.

"Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the country's prestige is at its best in the world since its Independence," Shah claimed.

Fifty lakh BJP workers identified for the exercise will reach every household, he said.

The party has launched the 'sampark for samarthan' exercise to mark the government's fourth anniversary, which fell on May 26, as it prepares for the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

HDK to meet farmers over loan waiver

OUR CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU: Under mounting pressure for honouring his pre-poll promise of waiving farm loans of Rs 53,000 crore, Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy has called a meeting of farmers' organisations tomorrow to discuss the issue, officials said on Tuesday.

Kumaraswamy will hold a meeting with representatives of farmers' groups and agriculturists to discuss loan waiver, farmer suicides, and other problems faced by them, officials at the Chief Minister's Office said.

Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara will also attend the meeting, they said, adding Leader of Opposition in the

Assembly B S Yeddyurappa has also been invited.

Kumaraswamy today chaired a meeting of senior officers on the issue that was attended by Chief Secretary K RatnaPrabha, Additional Chief Secretary (Finance) ISN Prasad, Development Commissioner D V Prasad, and Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister M Lakshminarayana.

The chief minister had recently said he was committed to waiving farm loans or else would retire from politics, and asked people not to fall prey to the "BJP's conspiracy".

He had also said he was ready with the guidelines onloan waiver details of which will be disclosed tomorrow.

Seeking to turn the heat on Kumaraswamy, the BJP had appealed to farmers and the public to "voluntarily observe a bandh" across Karnataka yesterday to protest the "failure" of the chief minister to honour his farm loan waiver promise within 24 hours of coming to power, but it had evoked a tepid response.

Kumaraswamy, who had made the promise in the run up to the elections, later sought time, saying since he was heading a coalition government with the Congress he would have to consult the alliance partner before taking a decision.

He had also said he would have to take into account the financial condition of the state before taking the decision.

UP govt inks MoU to fast-track work on Jewar airport

NEW DELHI: The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday signed a pact with Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), Noida and Greater Noida Industrial Development Authorities to monitor and fast-track the work on the much awaited greenfield Jewar International Airport.

The signing of the MoU will kick off the process of land acquisition, officials of the state government said. At present, the public hearing for land acquisition is being monitored by the sub divisional magistrate of Jewar.

The nodal agency, YEIDA, will start the process of preparing the bid document for selecting of the concessioner and the bidding process is likely to commence by July end this year, they said.

The terms of reference for environmental clearance has been given by the environment ministry, they informed.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Uttar Pradesh Civil Aviation Minister Nand Gopal Gupta among others.

We are happy to announce that an MoU has been signed between the stakeholders, YEIDA, Greater Noida Authority and UP government to execute the mega airport.

"The Union Civil Aviation Ministry and the state government are working together continuously under the leadership of Suresh Prabhu to make Jewar a reality," state's Civil Aviation Minister Nand Gopal Gupta said. The airport is expected to have services to 68 destinations by the year 2022-23 including both domestic and international.

Rahul won't be able to win election from Amethi: Irani

SHILLONG: Mocking the Congress's claims of coming back to power, Union Minister Smriti Irani on Tuesday predicted the party's president Rahul Gandhi would not be able to even secure his Lok Sabha constituency in the 2019 general elections.

Irani, who was here to attend the convocation ceremony of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), addressed media persons on the sidelines of the event.

"In Amethi, he (Rahul) lost every Assembly seat, every local election in the past four years. What could be his chances of coming to power at the Centre when he is guaranteed to lose election in his own constituency," the Union Textile Minister said here.

The UPA government left behind a 48-year-old legacy



Union Minister for Textiles Smriti Irani addressing a press conference, in Shillong on Tuesday

of apathy, she said. "This is 48-year-old legacy of apathy of one family versus 48 months of good governance under (Prime Minister) Narendra Modi," Irani claimed. The minister also said that the NDA government, after coming to power, had to handle the scams and cope with the debts incurred by the erstwhile Congress government.

"I would like to remind you

that when we came to power and got the opportunity to serve people, the economic condition of the country was poor. The government had to address the financial challenges in every sector, especially pertaining to the scams and debts of the UPA rule," she said.

The NDA government, on the other hand, ensured that the social needs of the people are met with, under all circumstances, she asserted.

The Congress is "frustrated" as the family, which was at the helm of affairs for the past 60 years, has been losing every election over the last four years, Irani said in an apparent dig at the Gandhi family. "Rahul Gandhi, who did not even open a district collector's office in his constituency, is giving speeches about development," the minister said.

Dalits to take oath in Ambedkar's name: Mewani

NAGPUR: Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mewani on Tuesday said Dalits would take a pledge to not vote for the BJP in upcoming Rajasthan elections under a campaign which will be later extended to Maharashtra.

Addressing a gathering here, the first-time MLA and Dalit leader said the saffron party would "long" for Dalit votes in all upcoming polls but would never get them.

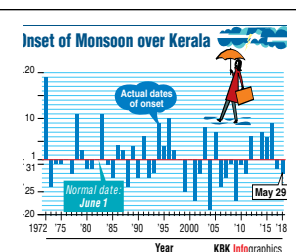
"We will ensure that Dalit votes don't go to the BJP... At least, one lakh dalits will take the oath in name of B R Ambedkar," he said.

Monsoon reaches Kerala... 3 days ahead of normal

DHIRENDRA KUMAR

NEW DELHI: As it was predicted by India Meteorological Department (IMD), the South-West Monsoon arrived in Kerala on Tuesday, three days ahead of its normal arrival date. It's the south-west monsoon that brings over 70 per cent rainfall to India.

The IMD, which had forecast monsoon arrival on May 29, confirmed that the monsoon has hit the Kerala coast. "The monsoon has arrived early, as expected. The next stage forecast for region-wise distribution will be announced



in the next few days or first week of June," an IMD official said.

The conditions are favourable for further advance of the monsoon into some parts of central Arabian Sea, remaining parts of Kerala, parts of coastal

and south interior Karnataka, parts of east-central and north-east Bay of Bengal, and some parts of northeastern states during the next 48 hours, the IMD has said.

The onset of monsoon over the southern state of Kerala marks the commencement of the four-month-long rainy season in the country. June 1 is the official onset date for the arrival of monsoon in the country and it takes more than a month-and-half to cover the entire country. The usual date for the monsoon over Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan, its last post, is July 15.

POWER FINANCE CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of India Undertaking)

URJANIDHI, 1, BARAKHAMBIA LANE, CONNAUGHT PLACE, NEW DELHI.

Website: <http://www.pfcindia.com> CIN L65910DL1986GOI024862

EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF AUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH, 2018

Sl. No.	PARTICULARS	STANDALONE				CONSOLIDATED	
		QUARTER ENDED		YEAR ENDED		YEAR ENDED	
		31.03.2018	31.03.2017	31.03.2018	31.03.2017	31.03.2018	31.03.2017
		(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)
1)	Total Income from Operations	6162.38	5719.45	26414.47	26907.53	26976.18	27481.16
2)	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	1445.59	(2863.23)	8326.95	5109.79	8359.48	5263.69
3)	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	1445.59	(2863.23)	8326.95	5109.79	8359.48	5263.69
4)	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	935.60	(3409.49)	5855.22	2126.39	5844.11	2236.10
5)	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
6)	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value of share is ₹ 10)	2640.08	2640.08	2640.08	2640.08	2640.08	2640.08
7)	"Reserves excluding Revaluation reserves (As per audited balance Sheet as at 31st March)"	-	-	37220.59	33830.13	37561.66	34204.83
8)	Net Worth	-	-	39860.67	36470.21	40201.74	36844.91
9)	Paid up Debt Capital*	-	-	196435.53	190910.67	196839.83	191069.22
10)	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-	-
11)	Debt Equity Ratio	-	-	5.76	5.55	5.73	5.51
12)	Earnings Per Share (EPS) (Face value ₹ 10/- each) (not annualised)						
	(a) Basic EPS (in ₹)	3.55	(12.92)	22.18	8.05	22.14	8.47
	(b) Diluted EPS (in ₹)	3.55	(12.92)	22.18	8.05	22.14	8.47
13)	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
14)	Debt Redemption Reserve	-	-	1726.82	1434.17	1742.88	1448.71

*consists of Bonds / Debentures

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly & annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results is available on the Stock Exchange websites, www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website, www.pfcindia.com.
- Modifications in Significant Accounting Policies during the year having financial impact are as follows:

PARTICULARS	Impact on PBT During [increase/(decrease)]	
	Quarter ended 31.03.2018	Year ended 31.03.2018
Rate of provisioning has been enhanced on standard assets from 0.35% to 0.40% as per RBI Norms.	(18.81)	(114.05)
Rate of provisioning has been enhanced on Restructured Standard Assets ¹ from 4.25% to 5% as per RBI norms.	243.99	(180.79)
Policy regarding provisioning requirement of restructured project loans related to Transmission & Distribution, Renovation & Modernization and Life Extension projects and also the hydro projects in Himalayan region or affected by natural disasters has been aligned in line with RBI restructuring norms.	1.04	(67.83)
Policy has been introduced to amortise the arrangement fee incurred on raising of long term foreign currency borrowings over its tenure.	83.71	120.64
Exchange difference in case of loan from KfW, Germany has been charged off to Statement of Profit and Loss as against earlier policy of transferring it to Interest Differential Fund Account -- KfW.	(0.68)	(1.51)
Total	309.25	(243.54)

¹Balance of Restructured Standard Assets as on 31.03.2018 ₹ 24,104.70 crore (₹ 56,636.36 crore as on 31.12.2017; ₹ 55,440.62 crore as on 31.03.2017)

- For other applicable disclosures as required under Regulation 52(4) of the SEBI (LODR) regulations, 2015, refer detailed format of the financial results filed with the stock exchanges.

PLACE: NEW DELHI
DATE: 25.05.2018

Sd/-
RAJEEV SHARMA
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN - 00973413

FUNDING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Tuticorin violence rocks TN Assembly

CM says police action 'unavoidable', DMK stages walkout

OUR CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI: The violent protests and police firing in Tuticorin that claimed 13 lives rocked the Tamil Nadu assembly on Tuesday with Chief Minister K Palaniswami maintaining that police action was "unavoidable" even as the main opposition DMK staged a walkout over the issue.

On the violent incidents that occurred on May 22 in Tuticorin, Palaniswami said measures like tear gas and baton-charge were used against those who indulged in violence.

"In unavoidable circumstances, police personnel were forced to take action," he said in a report tabled in the House in an apparent reference to the police firings. He appealed to the people of Tuticorin not to succumb to instigations by anyone and cooperate for continuation of peace.

Soon after the question hour, Leader of the Opposition, MK Stalin, attired in black, targeted the government for issuing a government order (GO)

for the closure of the Vedanta group's copper plant in Tuticorin rather than convening the Cabinet and taking a policy decision in this regard.

Calling the issuance of GO an "eye wash," tantamount to signalling the Sterlite management to approach the court, the DMK leader said the move was similar to what was done in 2013 in the issue.

The Tamil Nadu government had on Monday ordered the state Pollution Control Board to seal and "permanently" close the Sterlite Copper plant following last week's protests, over pollution concerns, during which 13 people were killed in police firing.

On Monday, Stalin had said that following a similar closure in 2013, the plant had reopened later.

Blaming the state government for not holding talks with the people and seeking the resignation of Chief Minister K Palaniswami, the DMK working president said his party will boycott the House proceedings till the plant was "permanently



DMP working president MK Stalin, attired in black along with his party MLAs, stages a walkout from the Assembly Chennai on Tuesday

closed."

Later, he led his party colleagues, in staging a walkout, who shouted slogans seeking the resignation of Chief Minister K Palaniswami.

All the DMK members present were dressed in black, which they said was to signify their protest and grief over the firings.

The opposition party declined to toe the government

line that the unit was closed permanently.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister condoled the deaths of 13 persons and tabled a five page report detailing the violence and steps taken by the government in this regard.

Congress legislature party leader K Ramasamy said the probe into the incidents should be done properly or must be transferred to the CBI.

NHRC to send team to probe deaths

NEW DELHI: The National Human Rights Commission on Tuesday decided to send its fact-finding team to probe the deaths of 13 people in police firing during the protests against Vedanta's Sterlite Copper unit in Tamil Nadu's Tuticorin district.

The move comes days after the Delhi High Court had left it to the NHRC to decide on a lawyer's representation for an independent probe into it.

The rights panel had earlier issued notices to Tamil Nadu's chief secretary and the director general of police seeking detailed reports in two weeks, along with the status of those who were being treated for injuries.

"The NHRC today decided to send its own team of officers for making a fact-finding inquiry/investigation into the incident of police firing in Tuticorin district of Tamil Nadu on May 22, causing the death of more than 11 protesters

demanding closure of Sterlite Copper plant," the NHRC said in a statement.

The Commission has asked its director general (investigation) to depute a team headed by an officer not below the rank of senior superintendent of police (SSP) assisted by three more officers of the rank of deputy SP and inspectors from its investigation division, the rights panel said.

"The NHRC team would leave forthwith and examine all the concerned, including family members of the victims and independent witnesses as it deems appropriate and submit a report to the Commission within two weeks," the statement said.

The Commission, in the statement, said it had given this direction after considering the representation made by A Rajarajan, through advocate Sabarish Subramanian, before the Delhi High Court. **MPPOST**

Senior UP ATS officer ends life

OUR CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW: A senior police official of the Uttar Pradesh anti-terrorist squad on Tuesday committed suicide in his office at the ATS headquarters here, police said.

A 1992-batch Provincial Police Services (PPS) officer, Rajesh Sahni was involved in the recent operation in which a suspected Pakistani spy was arrested in Uttar Pradesh, and was credited with solving several high-profile cases.

He used an official weapon to shoot himself in the temple at 12.45 pm, ADG (Law and Order) Anand Kumar said.

Sahni (48) held the rank of additional superintendent of police. He left no suicide note, police said.

"It gives us immense grief to communicate the unfortunate demise of Rajesh Sahni, Additional SP ATS. He was one of the most promising officers of UP police. The reasons for his suicide are still being ascertained. Our prayers are with the family," DGP OP Singh.

Sahni was involved in the recent ATS operation which

led to the arrest of a suspected ISI agent who worked at the home of an Indian diplomat in Pakistan.

Ramesh Singh Kanyal, who was arrested at his home in Didihat area in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district, worked as a cook for the diplomat in Islamabad from 2015-2017 and has confessed to his role in anti-national activities, police said.

Sahni had also led an encounter with the self-radicalised operations head of an ISIS module in Lucknow on March 7, 2017. He was with the NIA for about two years before joining the UP ATS in July 2014.

During his posting as circle officer in the state capital in 2006, Sahni was involved in a dramatic arrest of some people travelling in an SUV.

The driver tried to crush him, and in a bid attempt to save himself the officer jumped on to the bonnet of the car and caught hold of a rod. An hour later, the SUV crashed into the SSP's home in Hazratganj, where some journalists and members of public caught five persons in the vehicle and handed them over to the police.

Banks have given ₹6 lakh cr Mudra loans to 12 crore beneficiaries: PM

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that loans worth Rs 6 lakh crore have been given to 12 crore beneficiaries under the Mudra scheme as he accused the previous governments of tokenism and not enough for small businesses.

Unlike the loan melas organised by previous governments, he said that the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) has helped and encouraged people to tread the unconventional path, fulfil their dreams and generate jobs for others by setting up small businesses.

PMMY was launched by the Prime Minister on April 8, 2015, for providing loans of up to Rs 10 lakh to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises.

Last fiscal, the government extended Rs 2.53 lakh crore credit under the Mudra Yojana, while Rs 5.73 lakh crore has been extended in last 3 years.

Interacting with Mudra beneficiaries from across the

country through a video conference, the Prime Minister said that under the loan melas (fairs), which were organised with great fanfare, loans were provided to selected persons and no one bothered about their repayment.

"Do you know 25-30 years ago there used to be loan melas for political benefit and people who were close to politicians used to get loans with no intention of returning them. There used to be great fan fare but no one bothered to find the end results," he said.

The Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance government did not organise any loan melas or gave space to intermediaries. It trusted the country's youth and women to get loans directly from the banks and start their own small business, the Prime Minister said.

"We trusted small businesses, we trusted business skills of first time entrepreneurs and loans were given under the

Mudra Yojana for setting up their own venture," Modi said.

The government developed the new product 'Mudra' with a view to provide opportunity to poor people and small businesses to obtain loans from banks without any collateral to either start small enterprise or expand the existing ones, he said.

Mudra has created opportunities for self-employment and is acting as job-multiplier, Modi said, adding that as many as 12 crore received Rs 6 lakh crore in loans under the scheme.

"Out of the 12 crore beneficiaries, 28 per cent or 3.25 crore are first-time entrepreneurs," he said in his interaction with beneficiaries of this scheme.

He also said 74 per cent, or 9 crore, borrowers are women while 55 per cent belong to the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backwards Class (OBC) categories -- the historically disadvantaged people in India. **PTI**

Seven killed in bus-truck collision in Telangana

KARIMNAGAR (TELANGANA): Seven people including two women were killed while 14 others were injured when the government bus they were travelling in collided with a truck at Chengera village in the district on Tuesday, police said.

The incident occurred when the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation bus was proceeding to Karimnagar from Warangal, at about 9 am, they said. When the vehicle reached Chengera village, a truck coming from the opposite direction rammmed into it, Karimnagar Rural Assistant Commissioner of Police Usha Rani said.

Six people including two women were killed on the spot, while 15 others including the driver of the truck were shifted to various hospitals in Karimnagar town, she said. The condition of four injured is said to be critical. Efforts are on to ascertain the identity of the deceased, police said. **MPPOST**

Jawans' hands not tied during Ramzan: Rajnath

OUR CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW: Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday made clear that the security forces would act if there were terror attacks during Ramzan, the period during which the Centre has halted anti-militancy operations in Jammu and Kashmir.

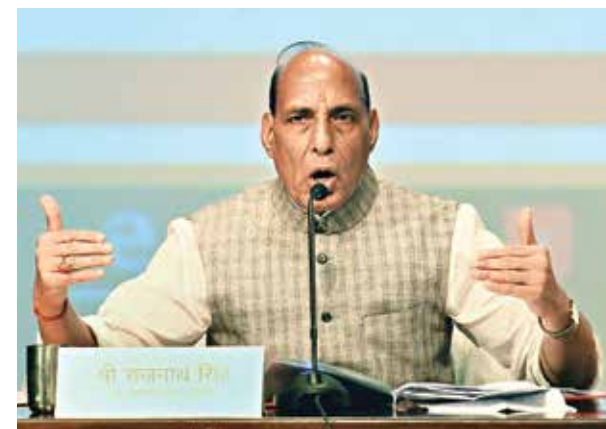
Asked about the continuing violence during the Ramzan ceasefire, Singh said the Centre had only announced a suspension of operations.

"If there is a terrorist attack, the hands of the jawans are not tied, he added.

On his recent comment on the possibility of talks with Pakistan or the separatists for peace in Kashmir, he said the country has no aversion to dialogue.

Singh, who is also an MP from Lucknow, was addressing reporters on the completion of four years of the NDA government.

He said the Centre was trying to bring petroleum prices under control, saying the hikes were the result of increase in international crude oil rates and



Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh addresses a press conference on completion of four years of Narendra Modi's government, at Lok Bhawan, in Lucknow on Tuesday

the rise in the value of the dollar.

"I accept that problems have emerged because of the rise in dollar and crude oil prices, he said at a joint press conference with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The home minister said while 471 terrorists were killed in 2010-13, 619 have been killed in 2014-17.

He said the number of districts affected by Naxalism has

dropped from 76 in 2013 to 58 in 2018.

"Our crime and criminal tracking network and systems (CCTNS) is winning praise from all over the world," he said.

Lauding the para-military forces, he said, "When a jawan attained martyrdom, Rs 50 lakh to Rs 55 lakh used to be given to his family but now we have decided that the amount should not be less than Rs 1 crore."

He said road connectivity was a gift from former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and the effort has been taken forward by Modi.

Singh stressed that none of the ministers in the Modi government faced any corruption charge.

He praised the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh, saying there has been fear among criminal elements since he came to power.

Top court refuses bail to 28-yr-old restaurateur

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to grant bail to Yug Tuli, the co-owner of Mumbai's Mojo's Bistro restaurant and an accused in the December 2017 fire incident there which had claimed 14 lives.

The top court, however, granted liberty to the 28-year-old businessman to file a fresh bail petition before the trial court after three months.

A bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and MM Shantanagoudar heard Tuli's petition challenging the order of Bombay High Court denying him bail on merit and disposed it off.

On the fateful night, a massive fire had swept through two resto-pubs at the Kamala Mills compound in central Mumbai, resulting in the death of 14 people.

At the outset, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi appearing

for Tuli, said no case of criminal negligence has been made out against him as the tragedy occurred due to the "mistake" of the staff at "1 Above", the other restaurant that was gutted in the blaze on the intervening night of December 28-29 last year.

He said that as per the inquiry reports of the police as well as the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the fire was caused by the flying embers emanating from a 'hookah' being served illegally at Mojo's Bistro.

"None of the customers or guests at the restaurant had died in the incident," Rohatgi said, adding that the manager of the restaurant and the hookah supplier have got bail in the case.

Standing counsel Nishant Katneshwar, appearing for Maharashtra government, opposed the bail plea of Tuli and said if he was enlarged on bail, he may try to influence the witnesses.

'Honour killing': Hartal hits normal life in Kottayam dist

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOTTAYAM/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Normal life was affected on Tuesday in Kottayam district following a dawn-to-dusk hartal called by various political parties and Dalit organisations to protest the alleged honour killing of a 23-year-old man.

Shops, markets, and business establishments remained closed in several parts of the district while private bus terminus in various towns were a deserted look in view of the hartal called by parties including the Congress and BJP.

Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) operated its long-distance services from the district.

Kevin P Joseph, a Dalit Christian, was abducted and killed by a gang of criminals allegedly engaged by his fiancée's relatives. His body was found in a river in Kollam district on Monday.

Joseph's fiancée, whose



father is a Christian and mother a Muslim, alleged laxity on the part of police when she approached the Gandhinagar police station near here with a missing complaint.

Former chief minister and Congress working committee member AK Antony said Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan should take responsibility for the alleged lapse on the part of police in dealing with the case.

Leader of the opposition in the state assembly Ramesh Chennithala demanded resignation of Vijayan.

Meanwhile, the body of the man was brought to his native Kumaranellore village amid poi-

gnant scenes. After locals paid their homage, it was taken for burial. Earlier, Joseph's fiancée told reporters in Kottayam that she did not get justice from the police. The police did not move even after she appealed to the Sub Inspector that Joseph's life was in danger and he should be rescued, she claimed.

Bursting into tears, she said she was Joseph's wife and would stay in his residence. Relatives of the deceased man have alleged he was tortured and killed by the gang engaged by his fiancée's brother, two days after they filed a joint application for marriage registration at a sub-registrar office near here.

Munir: Today's Jaish ultra was yesterday's peace votary

SUMIR KAUL

SRINAGAR: Declared a member of the Jaish-e-Mohammed by the National Investigative Agency (NIA) last week, Syed Munir-ul-Hassan Qadiri had walked the tentative path to peace and a better life when he opted out of terrorism and returned to Kashmir from Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir via Nepal with his family seven years ago.

Qadiri, now under arrest and alleged to be involved in a 2016 militant attack on an Army camp in Nagrota, was among the 450 former militants who came back to Kashmir through the Nepal route as part of the former Omar

Abdullah government's surrender policy, officials here said.

But the promise of a better life and rehabilitation remained unfulfilled with the continuous struggle to make ends meet, especially after the PDP-BJP government took over in 2015.

Qadiri, who headed the 'Nepal Returnee Forum', the organisation formed by the former militants who returned to the Valley, had been running from the proverbial pillar to post looking for help for their rehabilitation after the formation of the new government under the late Mufti Mohammed Sayeed as chief minister.

An active member of the People's League who had crossed over to PoK in the early

1990s, Qadiri returned with his wife and three children in 2011.

He was arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir police earlier this month after his name cropped up during an investigation of two youths held in downtown Srinagar.

During his questioning, Qadiri, who is now 45, is alleged to have spoken about his involvement in the 2016 terror attack on an army camp in Nagrota in Jammu in which seven army men, including two officers, were killed.

After this, the National Investigation Agency was given his custody on May 26.

Officials have helped join the dots from 2011, when Qadiri returned under the

Omar Abdullah government's flagship programme, to now.

Qadiri was given a soft loan from Jammu and Kashmir Bank to start life afresh. He used the money to begin a small business of ready-made garments but the massive floods of 2014 washed it all away.

"I will be left with no option but to return to militancy to run my household," a tearful Qadiri had told PTI in an interview in October 2015 as highlighted the plight of those who had returned from Nepal.

The words proved prophetic.

According to an official, Qadiri started working with the Jaish-e-Mohammed ter-

ror group from September 2016 and facilitated the transportation of three terrorists to the army camp in Nagrota in Jammu region in November that year.

"Tall promises were made to us but we don't even have proper clothes to wear. We have been left to beg in order to make our ends meet," Qadiri had said, pointing to the patches on his clothes.

After 2014, Qadiri, who belonged to Lolab in north Kashmir, was thrown out of his parental home and was forced to live in a rented home on the outskirts of Srinagar. His son, a Class 12 student, was working as a daily wage and his children were finding it impossi-

ble to get admission in schools because every institution asked for a transfer certificate.

"Now do you expect me to travel back to Muzaffarabad (in PoK) and get the certificate. Is this the surrender policy?" he had asked.

There were obstacles at every corner, Qadiri had said. Their names, he added, were registered in revenue records but the state government was not issuing ration cards.

Central security agencies have long said that there must be a solution for those who returned from Nepal.

If not, they would be ready fodder for militant groups in the Valley. **PTI**

'Govt planning to lay optical fibre cables in border areas'

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR: Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the Centre is planning to lay optical fibre cables in all border areas to mitigate the connectivity problems faced by defence personnel and the civilian population.

The Union cabinet's sanction for additional funds had come 10 days ago, the minister said.

"We will soon start work on the extension of optical fibre cables in border areas. The Union cabinet had discussed the issue and sanctioned the additional fund only 10 days ago," the minister asserted while speaking of the achievements of the four-year-old Narendra Modi government.

"Soon, all the border areas along the Indo-China border will be connected with OFC, which will greatly improve the mobile and telephone connectivity besides improve radio frequency," she told reporters.

Sitharaman was told during a recent visit to Kibithoo,



the last border village in Anjand district of Arunachal Pradesh, that the people of the area could not access All India Radio due to poor frequency. They could access only Chinese radio frequency and the area had poor mobile network.

Responding to a question on empowerment of women in border areas by recruiting them in defence forces, the minister said women in the country were working as fighter plane pilots and the government was trying to recruit them in other areas too.

"Those women who have not got permanent commission

have approached the court for their rights and the matter is now sub-judice. However, I am considering how to give permanent commission to women in defence forces," she added.

Asked about the government's stand on media reports about mining activities by China near Arunachal territory, Sitharaman said, "I have to get the details of it. I too saw the report in media but I cannot comment based on that at this point of time."

According to the minister, the country had notched up remarkable achievements with the introduction of one rank one pension for defence personnel, the modernization of defence forces and also carried out a surgical strike -- against Pakistan in 2016.

Highlighting the achievements of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre in the last 48 months through a power point presentation, she said India accounts for 55 per cent of new bank accounts globally between 2014 and 2017 accord-

ing to the World Bank Index report.

About 31.52 crore accounts were opened in the country under the Jan Dhan Yojana, proving that the NDA government at the Centre had ensured better life for all, she added.

"Under the Prime Minister's Jeevan Jyoti Beema Yojana around 13.25 crore people in the country were insured and about one crore people subscribed to Atal Pension Yojana," she said.

Under the Direct Bank Transfer scheme, Rs 3,65,996 crore was directly transferred to bank accounts under 431 schemes. The GDP of the country increased by 31 per cent between 2013 and 2017 while global GDP increased by only 14 per cent, she said.

Under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, she added, over 3.6 lakh villages in 17 states were declared open defecation free while 83 per cent sanitation coverage was achieved in 2018, up from 38 per cent in 2014.

The government had also ensured food security for more

than 80 crore people in all the 36 states and union territories of the country as against just 14 states during 2014, she said.

Sitharaman said the government had focused on farmers by introducing programmes like per drop more crop, e markets and containing pilferage of fertilizers.

The government was also harnessing 'yuva shakti' by transforming education. It was overhauling the school education apparatus, creating self-employment avenues and furthering sports and sportsmanship through the Khelo India initiative, she added.

The government, the minister said, had realized India's full potential through women-led development by introducing various programmes and schemes.

The minister also highlighted all the achievements in the social sector, health and infrastructure development besides efforts of the government in eliminating corruption and controlling black money.

PM arrives in Indonesia on the first leg of his three-nation tour

JAKARTA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday arrived here in the Indonesian capital on the first leg of his three-nation tour to East Asia to cement the political, economic and strategic interest of the two friendly maritime neighbours.

"Landed in Jakarta, India and Indonesia are friendly maritime neighbours with deep civilisational links. This visit will further the convergence of our political, economic and strategic interests," Modi tweeted in both Indonesian and English soon after his arrival.

Modi, who is here on his first-ever official visit to Indonesia, will meet President Joko Widodo tomorrow and discuss bilateral cooperation in a broad range of areas, including maritime, trade and investment.

The two leaders would attend some events, including a CEO Business Forum organised by the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and the Industry, and the Confederation of Indian Industry.

Prime Minister Modi was accorded a ceremonial welcome on his arrival here.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his arrival at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, in Jakarta, Indonesia on Tuesday

"This is my first visit to Indonesia as Prime Minister. I am looking forward to my discussions with President Widodo on 30 May, as also to our joint interaction with the India-Indonesia CEOs Forum. I will also address the Indian community in Indonesia," Modi said on the eve of his visit.

He said India and Indonesia enjoyed strong and friendly ties and shared deep historical and civilisational linkages.

"Both countries are multi-ethnic, multi-religious, plural and open societies. I am confident that my visit to Indonesia will create greater synergy between Asia's two largest democracies and further elevate our bilateral ties," he said.

He said, on May 31, on his way to Singapore, he will make a brief halt in Malaysia to congratulate the new Malaysian leadership and looks forward to meet Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

India, China agree to start talks on bilateral social security agreement

K J M VARMA

BEIJING: India and China have agreed to start formal negotiations on a bilateral social security agreement aimed at protecting Indian professionals and skilled workers abroad.

The understanding was reached between the two sides during the two-day talks held in Beijing on May 28-29, a press release from Indian Embassy here said.

During the talks, the Indian delegation led by Vinod K Jacob, Joint Secretary (economic diplomacy and states division) of the Ministry of External Affairs, and a Chinese delegation led by Ma Hezu, Deputy Director General,



Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security exchanged views on the social security systems in India and China and their experiences with finalising and signing bilateral social security agreements with other countries.

The two sides carried out detailed and extensive discussions on the next steps which would make up the for-

mal negotiation phase on the social security agreement that is expected to begin next year, it said.

So far, India has signed social security agreements with 18 countries from different parts of the world and is currently engaged in discussions with a number of other countries including Brazil, Russia, South Africa, Mexico, Peru and Thailand, the release said.

The bilateral social security agreements are aimed at protecting the interests of Indian professionals, skilled workers working abroad by providing them benefits like avoidance of double social security contributions and facilitating remittances of accumulated social security contribution.

"This decision of RBI would facilitate only two or three for-

Modi urged to withdraw RBI's cash in transit order

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) diktat regarding arbitrary changes in norms for cash logistics business has not gone down well with private security agencies. The Central Association of Private Security Industry (CAPSI), an apex body of security agencies, has sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention in the matter.

In his letter to the Prime Minister, CAPSI chairman Kunwar Vikram Singh has alleged conspiracy in handing over national cash management to foreign-based or foreign-controlled companies, which would pose a security threat to the country, besides leaving hundreds of employees jobless.

"Imagine a situation if these companies decide to discon-



tinue their operation on any day due to their some undisclosed reasons. What will happen to the nation if cash is not made available to the citizen? It will create unthinkable upheaval in the country," he further said while highlighting the consequences of the RBI order.

Singh also pointed out that the RBI in its last month's notification regarding cash in tran-

sit (CIT) companies involved in replenishment services of ATMs, cash pick-up and cash drop revised norms that companies should have a net worth of Rs100 crore and a fleet size of 300 vehicles to do the business.

"It will force around 60 Indian firms putting their shutters down, which would be a huge set back to the government's Make in India initiative in the sector and leave thousands of workers jobless. Moreover, it would create a monopoly of foreign firms in the business," Singh said while referring the issue.

The CAPSI has also written letters to Union Finance Minister, MSME Ministry and the RBI asking it to immediately withdraw the circular to safeguard nation's interests and also save thousands of people, particularly ex-servicemen, from getting jobless.

Singh also pointed out that the RBI in its last month's notification regarding cash in tran-

'Parrikar will return to Goa by the end of June'

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PANAJI: Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar, who is unwell and undergoing treatment in the US since March 7, will return home by the end of June, state Transport Minister Sudin Dhavalikar Tuesday said.

Dhavalikar, a senior minister, is part of a three-member Cabinet Advisory Committee (CAC) that was formed to run the government in Parrikar's absence. Francis D'Souza of the BJP and Vijay Sardesai of the Goa Forward Party are its other two members.

"The chief minister will be in Goa by the end of June and the current government will complete its tenure of five years under his leadership," Dhavalikar said.

Queen Maxima mesmerises Meerut villagers

SANJAY GUPTA

MEERUT: Queen consort of the Netherlands, Queen Maxima, on her four-day visit to India, on Tuesday, came to Meerut amidst tight security along with the Netherlands embassy officers posted in India, welcomed by hundreds of villagers in the quaint village. People agog with the Queen's visit, threw open a red carpet, to welcome her to a small factory in the by-lanes of the Liasri, manufacturing cricket balls.

Sagar Sports, a small and cottage unit manufacturing cricket balls, owned by Dhiraj Singh of Lisari village, took a small loan from a finance company, headquartered at Gurugram and having office a branch office at Meerut as well, extends business loans to the micro and small enterprise (MSEs). Maxima, who is visiting India in capacity as UN Secretary's General Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development (IFD) and also serves as an honorary chairwoman of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion, is also associated with this finance com-



Queen Maxima of Netherlands being presented a cricket bat as she visits a factory, in Meerut on Tuesday

pany which extended loan to her.

Flanked by her security guards and the local police along with PAC (provincial armed constabulary), Maxima, and spent time with the ball manufacturing workers and learned about the intricacies of ball manufacturing. The cricket ball is still handmade besides the sewing part. The villagers and other galaxy of people present at Lisari were mesmerised by the exuberant personality of Maxima, and as it, she is known

for her outsized fashion, globally, and even admired by the royal watchers. The royalty having no holes-barred mixed with the women of the village and exchanged dialogue through her interpreters, and was also intrigued with the people and surrounding of the village. A lady was heard saying that *aap ke aane se hamarey gaon ka naam duniya mein roshan ho gaya*.

Meerut, pre-dominantly known for the manufacturing of high-class cricket bats, balls, cricket gear and accessories, exported all over the globe to the cricket playing nations, international cricketers every now and then are seen dotting their personal presence at factories here. Nagendra Singh, a professional and stays nearby Liasri, says, "We are all excited and Queen Maxima is the talk of the town. It is seen for the first time that any royalty visiting a cricket factory in Meerut, and at least in my memory, I have not heard of any such visit. The residents of the area were excited with her visit."

One of the officers, who is posted in the Embassy of the Netherlands and did wish to be named, proffers, "Maxima have been an investment banker and hold a degree in economics, the same also earned her an appointment for IFD with UN secretary general as her special advocate. In this appointment she also promotes universal access to credits." She is also scheduled to meet the interim Union finance minister, Piyush Goel, the Niti Aayog representatives and host of other dignitaries in New Delhi and Mumbai.

Aadhaar helps octogenarian in Kerala to reunite with family

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Eighty-year old Bhasi had nothing but some soiled currency notes in his pocket when he was travelling in a state-run transport bus.

The somber-looking man was only repeating that he wanted to get down near a Hanuman temple and could not remember his place or the names of his family members, as he was suffering from memory loss. But, finally the Aadhaar came in handy in helping the old man rejoin his family here on May 26, police said.

"The man was very weak. He was suffering from memory loss and leg swelling. He could not remember anything about his whereabouts," Karmana sub-inspector of police, R S Sreekanth said.

"Luckily, he was an Aadhaar card holder and we could easily trace his address and other details through his fingerprint in no time," he said.

Sitting NGT member moves SC against acting Chairperson's appointment

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: A sitting judicial member of the National Green Tribunal principal bench on Tuesday moved the Supreme Court challenging the appointment of Justice Jawad Rahim as the acting chairperson of the green panel on grounds of supersession.

Judicial Member Justice Raghuvendra Singh Rathore claimed in the apex court that he was the senior-most member of the tribunal while Justice Rahim stood third in the seniority list.

He said it would be against established conventions and practices, either by way of interim arrangement or final, if judicial members who are senior in rank are superseded by a junior judge.

A bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Mohan M. Shantanagoudar directed the matter to be listed after the summer vacation in the second week of July.

Justice Rathore, a former judge of the Rajasthan High

Court, in his application told the top court that he was not heard earlier by it and an order was passed on March 27 by which, as an interim arrangement, Justice Rahim was appointed to discharge the functions of the Chairperson of the NGT till a regular appointment was made by the central government.

He said the top court had directed by its order the issuance of notification for the appointment of an acting chairperson in terms of the seniority indicated in the office order of March 15, 2016 issued by the then Chairperson of NGT.

A notification was issued on April 5 this year by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change authorising Justice Rahim to act as the Chairperson of the NGT with effect from that day until the date a new Chairperson is appointed.

Justice Rathore sought the setting aside of the April 5 notification appointing Justice Rahim as acting chairperson.

He, however, clarified that he had no personal grievance

against Justice Rahim but the question of institutional seniority "must be determined in a fair, transparent and accountable manner" and must follow logically on the basis of the orders of appointment compatible with the provisions of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

His plea filed through advocate Anando Mukherjee also sought an order holding him as the senior-most judicial member of the tribunal and direction to MoEF for passing appropriate orders for appointing him as the acting chairperson of the NGT.

Justice Rathore further sought recalling or modification of the top court's order of March 27, by which Justice Rahim was appointed as acting chairperson of the NGT.

His plea said that facts in correct perspective were not placed before the top court with regard to the dates of appointment of the judicial members and there were a number of judicial members who outranked Justice Rahim in terms of seniority.

Govt orders CID probe into tribal student's suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA: A 17-year-old tribal girl student has committed suicide in Tripura after being allegedly harassed by employees of a hypermarket in the city and her school principal. The state government today ordered a CID probe into it as the incident sparked anger among the people.

The girl had hanged herself from the ceiling in her residence at Bir Mohan Chowdhury Para in West Tripura district, about 23 km from here on May 24, the police said.

Tragically, the girl stood first in the state in the commerce stream of the Class twelve CBSE Examination. The results were declared on May 26, two days after her death.

ED attaches ₹177-cr assets in Rotomac bank fraud case

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday said it has attached assets worth INR 177 crore in connection with its money laundering probe against Kanpur-based Rotomac group in an alleged bank loan fraud of INR 3,695 crore.

The agency said it has issued a provisional order on Monday under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for attachment of properties "owned by Ms Rotomac Global Private Limited and its directors located at Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Dehradun (Uttarakhand), Ahmedabad and Gandhi Nagar (Gujarat) and Mumbai (Maharashtra) valuing INR 177 crore."

It alleged that these assets were the "proceeds of crime" of the illegal act of money laundering.

The ED probe revealed, the agency said in a statement, that Ms Rotomac Global Private Limited "indulged in merchanting trade with limited number of buyers and sellers and it used to receive back the discounted LC (letters of credit) amount from the overseas beneficiary after deduction of 1.5-2 per cent commission by them either directly into the accounts of Rotomac group companies or into the accounts of overseas companies controlled by owner Vikram Kothari."

This discounted LC amount, it said, thereafter has been used by the firm for "other business activities" such as FDR

(fixed deposit receipts), iron ore purchase and investment in real estate.

It said the overall modus operandi to perpetrate this alleged bank fraud was that the accused, in guise of merchanting trade, without having any genuine business transactions defaulted in meeting their payments obligation to the bank by "diverting and siphoning off the funds."

The ED had filed a criminal case under the PMLA in this instance in February, based on a CBI FIR.

The ED-CBI case has been registered against firm director and owner Vikram Kothari, his wife Sadhna Kothari, son Rahul Kothari and unidentified bank officials on a complaint from the Bank of Baroda.

Peace negotiator between Centre, ULFA missing since April 22: Apex court told

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Rebati Phukan, who has been working as a mediator between the Centre and separatist outfit United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) since 1991 to facilitate a peace dialogue, has gone missing since April 22, the Supreme Court was informed on Tuesday.

Phukan's son Kaushik Phukan has approached the top court saying his father has been missing since April 22 and quoted ULFA chief Paresh Baruah as saying that he may be in the custody of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) or Military Intelligence or the National Investigation Agency (NIA) as they



"have a rivalry amongst them". His son has filed a habeas corpus (a writ requiring a person under arrest to be brought before a court) petition before the Supreme Court.

The plea which sought direction to the authorities, including Assam government, to produce Phukan before the court was mentioned before a bench comprising Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Mohan M. Shantanagoudar, which agreed to hear the matter on June 1.

Senior advocate Geeta Luthra, who appeared for Kaushik, mentioned the matter before the bench and said that Rebati Phukan was a "peace negotiator" between the Centre and ULFA in Assam. The petitioner also urged the court that the case be transferred to CBI or any other independent agency or a special investigating team as there was "a loss of faith in the local police" due to its alleged lethargic conduct.

Kaushik has said in his plea that despite the registration of an FIR, no proactive steps have been taken till date by the police to trace his father, who was appointed as a member of the erstwhile People's Consultative Group (PCG) formed by the ULFA in 2005 to mediate between the outfit and the Centre.

"The petitioner's father has also been working directly with the Prime Minister's Office since 1991 for various peace missions between the Centre and ULFA to bring peace in Assam," the plea said, adding that Rebati Phukan had also "worked in association and cooperated" with the IB till 2016 on various missions in India, Myanmar, Bangladesh and China.

EDITORIAL

Closure of Sterlite Copper

On May 22, the police opened fire on a violent mob at Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu that claimed the lives of 13 protesters, who were demanding the closure of Anil Agarwal-owned Vedanta Sterlite Copper, which according to the protesters was causing air and water pollution in the area and affecting the health of the local residents. The mob was also protesting Sterlite Copper's plan to add more capacity by expanding the production unit at Tuticorin. As per reports, the protest has been going on for past three months and on May 22, it simply went out of control as the mob tried to attack the collectorate and set afire the adjoining staff quarters of Sterlite Copper. In view of the large-scale protest and the police firing, the Tamil Nadu government on Monday decided to shut down the copper plant at Tuticorin. It endorsed the directive issued last week by Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board to close the unit citing Constitutional provisions to protect and improve the environment, and in larger public interest. Within an hour of the government order, district officials arrived at the plant to seal the premises. "The decision to close the plant was arrived at upon consideration of the interests and sentiments of the people of Thoothukudi," said Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami in Chennai. "Closure of Sterlite Copper plant is an unfortunate development, especially since, we have operated the plant for over 22 years in most transparent and sustainable way, contributing to Tuticorin and (the) state's socio-economic development. We will study the order and decide on the future course of action," Vedanta Limited said in a statement on Monday.

Sterlite Copper's accounts for a 40 per cent share in India's annual copper production of 10 lakh tonnes and could have a downstream impact on around 800 small and medium units in the electrical sector. Following the Tamil Nadu government's order to shut down Sterlite copper unit permanently, the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Nadu (SIP-COT) cancelled the land allotted to Vedanta Limited for the proposed expansion of Copper Smelter Plant (phase II) in Tuticorin. The shutdown is likely to impact India's copper exports as for Sterlite Copper exports contributed 41 per cent (around 1.6 lakh tonnes) of overall sales for 2016-17. If no new plant is commissioned, India which is witnessing a growth in copper consumption by 6-7 per cent annually is projected to turn into a net importer of the metal by March 2020. The shutting down of the Tuticorin smelter could advance this projection. Currently, the three major players who dominate the Indian Copper industry include Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), a Central government public sector unit with a production capacity of one lakh tonne, Hindalco Industries, and Sterlite Copper are the two private sector companies, which produce 5 lakh tonnes and 4 lakh tonnes of copper annually. Around 40 per cent of the copper produced in India is exported.

The violent protests and police firing in Tuticorin that claimed 13 lives rocked Tamil Nadu Assembly on Monday with Chief Minister K Palaniswami maintaining that police action was "unavoidable" even as the main opposition DMK staged a walkout over the issue. DMK leader and the Leader of the Opposition in Tamil Nadu Assembly, M K Stalin targeted the government for issuing a government order instead of convening the Cabinet and taking a policy decision for the closure of Sterlite Copper. Stalin further said that following a similar closure in 2013, the plant had reopened. Legal experts are of the opinion that the courts may cancel the government order to shut down Sterlite Copper.

The controversy surrounding the public protest against the copper production facility in Tuticorin brings the clash between the industry's efforts to expand and ramp up its production and the local residents' opposition to these efforts on the grounds of cost to the environment in the open. In a large part of the country's industrial region where mining and production facilities are looking to augment and expand their operations, frequent and violent public protests are coming in their way. Last year in March, South Korean steel major Posco scrapped the plan to set up a 12-million-tonne steel plant in Paradip, Odisha, after the land acquisition efforts faced stiff resistance from the local residents. The company wrote to the state government that it wants to surrender the land allotted for the project. This was the second big-ticket foreign direct investment (FDI) project to leave the state after ArcelorMittal scrapped its \$12 billion (Rs 50,000 crore) steel plant over delays and problems in acquiring land and securing iron ore linkages.

Exit Conte, welcome Cottarelli!

Giuseppe Conte exits and Carlo Cottarelli enters as Italy's Prime Minister! Indeed, in what has been seen as a very unusual development, the man who was picked by coalition partners as the Prime Minister-designate was shown the door by Italy's President, Sergio Mattarella. The President would rather have a technocratic or non-political prime minister. And this, after Conte had presented the list of those who were to be prospective members of his Cabinet. President Mattarella and the "prime minister-designate" met to discuss the forming of a government. Conte, a law professor and political novice, was tapped by the country's populist parties last week to lead a new coalition government. Incidentally, the elections were held well over three months back and none of the parties had emerged as the outright runner. That provided the likes of the erstwhile defamed leader Silvio Berlusconi to try his hand as a game maker. That also left enough scope for strange bedfellows to strike a deal. Eventually, they first closed in on someone like Conte who seemed so eager that the curriculum vitae presented by him raised suspicions. But, the seasoned President found out everything. Mattarella first objected to Conte's choice for the Economic Ministry. Conte's candidate, Paolo Savona, was unacceptable because the appointment would have alarmed investors and have dangerous consequences for Italy's outstanding government debt. So, Mattarella met Carlo Cottarelli, former director of fiscal affairs at the International Monetary Fund and nominated him as the country's Prime Minister. Mattarella said the country would be heading for new elections in 2019. "Nobody can say that I have put obstacles to the so-called government of the change," he said, but, "I need to take care of the savings of the Italian people." Novice Conte had emerged as the front-runner as Five Star leader Luigi Di Maio and Matteo Salvini, the League leader, met separately with Mattarella at Quirinal Palace. Negotiations had been underway since the country went to the polls in March. The anti-establishment Five Star Movement (M5S) won the most votes, followed by the right-wing North League. Di Maio and Salvini, the 45-year-old head of the League, had been locked in coalition talks after alliances with mainstream parties did not materialise. Populists have ditched some of their most incendiary campaign vows such as calling for a referendum on whether Italy should abandon the Euro or leave the European Union. Now, they are promising a spending and tax-cutting binge that has rattled investors and could contain the seeds of a new European crisis. A populist government in Rome could make it more difficult for European Union leaders such as French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel to push for further EU political and economic integration.



RAJ LIBERHAN

As we have descended into a post-truth world, media has actually led the way there. Beginning with paid news, particularly in mofussil towns, we have now moved on to fake news and settling down to 'creative news', which, in the currency of today's political idiom, is a 'new normal'

Quote martial

The goal of real healthcare reform must be high-quality, universal coverage in a cost-effective way

BERNIE SANDERS



AMRITANANDA CHAKRAVORTY

The history of Sterlite Copper plant in Thoothukudi is, in fact, the history of blatant non-compliance with the environmental regulations as well as the government undermining its own environmental regime to allow polluting industries like Sterlite to flourish

Partisan perspectives

With a deeply motivated media, fake news, and social media warriors, the presence of an honest filter is the need of the hour

As the saying goes: if you do not read the newspapers, you are uninformed and if you do read them, you are misinformed. This quote is supposedly attributable to Mark Twain, but it looks increasingly as if a truer word was never spoken. At least, in the present times, it is the word that has a credible weight. Television news is actually a lot of personal opinions masquerading as news of the day. It only seeks to affirm one's biases or acquire new ones. Save Cyrus Broacha who tells you upfront that his weekly show is what it says: 'The news that wasn't'. Full marks for stating the truth.

Noam Chomsky is precision excellence in saying, "The smart way to keep people passive is to strictly limit the spectrum of acceptable public opinion, but allow a very lively debate within that spectrum". Political establishments, the world over, are seriously engaged in the business of perception management. Governments of the day have benign and malignant approaches to guide public opinion to believe what is sympathetic to their leadership while the opposition does, what else, but the opposite. Given this binary, the media, as the fourth estate in vibrant democracies, navigate through the noise to present reasonable perspectives. To (re)educate the masses about the good and the bad men and women in politics and society is indeed their noble mission.

Media, somehow, by compulsions of its business was until now an (im)partial player to choose the truth that you should or can know. In reality, its choices are instead driven by the owners, often called barons, and sometimes more truthfully, media-barons, in hushed whispers but never in print. The barons' choices of the truth to be told, keeps varying from time to time, depending upon the colour of the politics they like to see in power. Often, the bigger barons or a syndicate of them, seek to promote the political colours of their liking and curiously enough, do succeed. The hapless voters are hit with partisan views, and even biased surveys to ensure the dominance of perceptions among the public that favour the media's choice of political groups. The fiction of democracy triumphs, once more, in our land of plenty of people. The nightmare of struggle for the basics of living continues for the common man and woman,



With the mushrooming of hateful, violent, fake news, the death knell for media may have been rung (Representational image)

while the elected fortunate engage with the perks of power to payback the select managers of public perception.

As we have descended into a post-truth world, media actually led the way there. Beginning with paid news, particularly in mofussil towns, we have now moved on to fake news and settling down to 'creative news', which, in the currency of today's political idiom, is a 'new normal'. The Cobra Post recently broke the story of news manipulations and if even a small part of it is true, as people who seek access to ease of living, ease of doing business, and equal opportunity, have no real future. Governance as a political goal loses all meaning and celebrations of anniversaries are an illusion, primed to condition the public for the next set of elections.

The danger of creative news assumes big proportions when the issues involve personal reputations. Celebrity names when caught on the wrong side of the law come in for a biased trial by media. Always guilty by virtue of their fame is the often taken line and convincing too. There isn't a TV channel that does not add a couple of layers to an event, either to degrade it or enhance its significance for their political biases. A private dinner becomes a source of conspiracy to topple the duly elected government of the day because of the presence of a remote past foreign affairs minister of our enemy of

all seasons, Pakistan and for all reasons. The whole country is convinced that every one of our problems is rooted in their black hearts. The best part is that an increasing number of literate members of our population believe it.

And, as for social media, less said the better. No rules of conduct apply here and nor is there a compulsion to be loyal to facts. All kinds of narratives are created here. A twitter handle reputedly shared a Mahatma Gandhi quote purporting to exhort Hindus to not resist rape during the partition violence. Such misquotes are running wild only to raise emotive temperatures in our country. Another one, earlier this year, informed that the vice-president's travels abroad cost the exchequer, six times the President's budget. All false, of course. The political groups of all hues have acquired social media managers and obviously are busy pouring scorn on their opponents and poison into the vitals of the body-politic. Way to win friends and influence, voters and facts be damned. This platform has no space for moderates, nor for a voice of reason.

The whole phenomenon of 'fake news' is leading to a fear psychosis among people, to quote Prateek Sinha, who is a founder of Altnews, a web platform dedicated to verifying and debunking the scourge of fake news. Another platform creator, (SM Hoax-

layer), is also combating the same, but one wonders if those who catch fakes are not tempted to spread their own brand. Internet takes you into the world wide web, but one who can navigate the explorer with safety is yet to be created. In a real world, our lives are being wrecked by fakes. We are surrounded by expert fakes and fake experts. From products to human beings to news and opinion pieces. Jose Ortega y Gasset, the Spanish philosopher, said, thus, "In intellectual life, which of its essence requires and presupposes qualification, one can note the progressive triumph of the pseudo-intellectual, unqualified, unqualifiable, and, by their very texture, disqualified." Where as we headed, can be anybody's guess. For sure, we need the much revered AI (artificial intelligence) to give us apps that will distinguish the genuine from the fake. It is the need of the hour.

We have to realise that our democracy is in serious crisis. Politicians are naturally inclined to play with facts and seek emotional connect with the voters, but the fourth estate is the only guarantor of ethical discourse in public space. When their biases become so transparent as now, then we the people, have no choice but to rely on the 'Sixth Sense' instead of the Fourth Estate.

(The views expressed are strictly personal)

FOR BETTER HEALTH

The healthcare policy of the Government of India must be oriented towards easy access to healthcare services in state-run hospitals where the integrity of doctors is beyond question. The Government must strengthen the rural sector healthcare facility so that even the hilly areas and the Sundarban region of WB receive proper medical management and diagnostic facility available at an affordable price under healthcare facility through the biggest component of NHPS Scheme launched recently by the Modi Government.

AMAR NATH BHADRA Via email

dear EDITOR

millenniumpost.in

Log on to write letters to the editor or send them to letter2editor.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

Violent state machinery

The Sterlite plant episode is a clear case of violation of laws. The government must take accountability

Last week, Tamil Nadu witnessed the violent face of state machinery that is often reserved for the disturbed or conflict-ridden areas of North-east, Chhattisgarh and Jammu & Kashmir. On May 22, 2018, 13 protesters were gunned down in cold blood by the Tamil Nadu police, when they were protesting against the Sterlite Copper plant, a unit of Vedanta Limited, at Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, demanding its closure, owing to the plant polluting the entire area. It was on the occasion of the 100th day of peaceful protests that the police grotesquely fired on the peaceful protesters, which left 13 persons dead and more than 65 persons injured.

The local residents had been protesting against the Sterlite Copper plant, for almost a decade, for violating almost all environmental and anti-pollution norms. Its closure has been ordered many times by the Madras High Court, for not following the laws.

Incidents of cancer, throat and eye infections rose considerably in the area, since 1998, when the plant was first set up. The situation became so bad that in 2013, the Supreme Court directed Sterlite Copper to pay Rs 100 crore as fine, for causing vast damage to the water and land resources of the area, owing to a gas leak. Despite strictures from several courts, Sterlite failed to follow either environmental



The police firing on Sterlite protestor has, once again, disclosed the harsh nexus between governments and crony corporates

regulations or norms of bringing down its polluting effluents. In March 2018, reports appeared that the plant was to be expanded, which finally led the local residents to protest again demanding a halt on the expansion, as well the closure of the plant.

After the police killings of the protestors, the Tamil Nadu government has appointed a one person committee under the aegis of Justice Aruna Jagadeesan to conduct an enquiry. Meanwhile, Supreme Court lawyer GS Mani filed a petition in the Apex court for the registration of FIR against the Tuticorin SP and other police officials, and sought a CBI probe into the whole case, as

the police will not be unbiased in the issue. He further sought that the internet services of the area be restored as they had been suspended after the incident. It called the Committee appointed by the Government as an eye-wash and sought a compensation of Rs 10 lakh for the families of the deceased.

At the same time, the Madras High Court has stayed the expansion of the plant, till a mandatory public hearing is conducted. The Court granted the authorities four months to decide the issue. Another petition was filed by a Delhi lawyer for an independent probe into the killings. The Delhi High Court referred the issue to the National Human Rights Com-

mission. The lawyer will have to make a representation before the NHRC on May 29. He had earlier petitioned to the body on May 23, but the Commission took no avail and so he had to move the High Court. The NHRC has taken due cognizance of the matter. Latest reports suggest that the Tamil Nadu Government had ordered the permanent closure of the plant, in light of the outcry against the brutal police firing.

Though many court developments have taken place in the last few days, the issue remains that the regulators have failed to do their job, and the Courts have also not held Sterlite accountable for its violations. The history of Sterlite Copper

plant in Thoothukudi is, in fact, the history of blatant non-compliance with the environmental regulations as well as the government undermining its own environmental regime to allow polluting industries like Sterlite to flourish, in complete negation of the right to clean environment for local residents. It is also evident that companies like Vedanta have shown contempt for both environmental norms as well as court directions and take pride in flouting them openly. And, in the name of 'ease of doing business', the current political regime actually encourages such open violations by first diluting the strict environmental regulations, then by overlooking the companies' egregious actions as well as by making the regulatory authorities toothless.

Unless the government takes environmental concerns seriously and implements the law, instead of diluting it, there is little hope that polluting behemoths like Vedanta will change their practices, or even bother to make an attempt. What can one comment of a state that kills its own people for demanding clean air and clean water, while actively working in favour of business interests? At the same time, protestors at Thoothukudi have shown that land and local environment have to be protected at any cost, sometimes with one's life.

(The author is an Attorney. The views expressed are strictly personal)

Race to 2019

Narendra Modi has had an enviable race so far. Nevertheless, some challenges appear to be cropping up



UJJWAL K CHOWDHURY

Rarely, in recent times, has any world leader had it as smooth as Narendra Modi. He spearheaded his party to four consecutive victories in the states. Not to mention his victorious march to the 7, Lok Kalyan Marg after the 2014 elections and BJP's amazing rally to lap up 21 states under his leadership. Despite some hotly debated policy moves, PM Modi seemed invincible. But, he is not entirely unchallenged anymore, especially after the by-elections and the Karnataka polls!

Now, there exist two distinct possibilities – one, that Modi faces a united opposition comprising of the resurgent Congress and a majority regional parties; second, that he rides a wave of popular sentiment where he is billed as the solitary honest man. At this point though, the first possibility seems stronger and I have ten reasons to believe so.

Disillusionment and desertion

BJP's oldest ally, Shiv Sena, recently announced that it will go alone during the next general elections. With the Maharashtra Assembly polls likely during the general elections, BJP is set to lose an ally. The first person to endorse Modi as the PM candidate, outside BJP, was TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu. His recent decision to walk out of NDA and move a no-confidence motion against the government should not be seen in isolation. As every state stands up for its own interests, watch out for the silent BJP allies like Nitish Kumar and Ramvilas Paswan, the political weathercock. The same holds for Punjab's Akali Dal, which has also already expressed discontent. Not to mention that a separation with the Mehbooba Mufti-led Jammu & Kashmir government could just be a question of time given the Valley's volatile political atmosphere.

Consolidation of regional rivals

The coming together of unlikely allies in the Parliament on the issue of special status to Andhra Pradesh, and coming to power of an alliance government led by a smaller regional power JD(S) in Karnataka are symbolic of what might happen when the General Elections are held. If Congress, TDP and YSR Congress can come together or if JD(S) and Congress can come together, so can the other regional forces. The bigger story, though, is the close ties between Dalit-friendly BSP and the Muslim-OBC-friendly SP. While the SP clinched the Gorakhpur and Phulpur constituencies, RLD is set to take a Kairana seat in Uttar Pradesh with SP-BSP support. It is 1989 once again for Indian politics. Back then, the Left and the Right had propped up VP Singh to keep Congress at bay.

State-first sentiment

There is a definite focus on the 'state-first' slogan. The Karnataka Congress showed a Karnataka-first approach which BJP could not counter effectively. State-first sentiments are strong in Bengal's TMC, Telangana TRS, Andhra's TDP and Tamil Nadu's DMK – they all are coming together with their mutually exclusive spheres of influence



With the opposition uniting, the invincible Modi-Shah duo may have some new challenges up their path

against their common national adversary BJP. Every regional leader is now itching to revolt against the BJP. Mamata Banerjee, Chandrasekhar Rao, Mayawati, Akhilesh Yadav, Arvind Kejriwal, Naveen Patnaik and even Uddhav Thackeray are ready to counter the BJP's aggression. The manufactured hurdles for the AAP-led Delhi government, threats of prosecution against Mamata Banerjee's second line of leaders, BJP inspired defection of BJD leaders, crafted political tensions in Kerala and governmental trust deficit in J&K have all led to this anti-Modi stand adopted by the regional parties.

Joblessness and agrarian distress

Coming with the promise of creating two crore new jobs a year that ended in the creation of a paltry 20 lakh jobs, Modi's development plank stands vulnerable. The IT sector, the realty sector and the retail sector are reducing their workforces. The recent farmers' protests across various states including the Kisan Long March have brought agrarian distress to the forefront. The Kisan bodies are preparing for a mega national protest on August 9 with the slogan, 'BJP, Quit India'. The government has failed to give Minimum Support Prices, which are 50 per cent higher than the cost of production or even implement Forest Rights Act for tribal cultivators without land rights, and waive loans with transparency.

Social disharmony

Winning the mandate on a development plank and squandering it for trivial issues like Love Jihad, cow vigilantism, Ghar Wapsi, Padmavati and the likes; the social harmony

index has been compromised. Alongside, attacks on Dalits in various states have led to an increasing disenchantment among the Dalits. With the rise of Dalit icons like Jignesh Mevani, Prakash Ambedkar and others, there is an evident minority-Dalit bonhomie, which will get a further fillip with Mayawati, Akhilesh, and Laloo coming under the same umbrella.

Policy failures and border skirmishes

India, under Modi, has failed to dissuade China from getting entrenched in the Doklam region near Bhutan, failed to win over Nepal after a suicidal economic blockade, failed to raise large-scale investments from abroad in spite of endless trips of the PM (except from Japan) and failed to put a break in Pakistan's violations of the Line of Control leading to a number of Indian soldiers being killed on the border in the last four years. There is now a spate of informal visits to nations like China and Russia resulting in not much.

Crony capitalism

The Indian banking system is gasping for breath with NPAs increasing to eight lakh crores, more than double of what it was when Modi took over. The State Bank posted its last quarter loss of Rs 7,718 crores. Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and many others have shown how vulnerable the banking fundamentals are. Growth has plummeted to 2 per cent after the twin blows of demonetisation and GST and SMEs are facing closures. Although Davos and Moody's ratings created some positivity, there are doubts raised from within World Bank on the efficacy of

such positivism.

Anti-corruption and alienation

Indira Gandhi coined the famous slogan, "They want to defeat Indira, we want to defeat poverty" and came to power. Modi wants to do the Indira act coining the slogan, "They want to defeat Modi, I want to defeat corruption". However, the actual scenario is different. Black money stashed abroad hasn't been brought back, the same amount of cash demonetised has been pumped into the system, the appointment of Lokpal hasn't been made yet, no action has been taken against Robert Vadra and the 2G scam-tainted leaders and CBI is behaving like caged-parrots, as said the Supreme Court. The Rafale deal with a huge price differential from UPA times is another issue on fire. The army has no funds and the sham of an OROP policy has seen that the defence veterans continue with their unabated protests. The intelligentsia is aggrieved too. Nobody forced the government to appoint prehistoric sexist moralists in high posts. No one forced it to treat protesting students as criminals. Nobody made it turn nationalism into a weapon or trample science under superstition. Nobody asked it to force digital transactions on a nation where bank access, data connectivity, and electricity are partial at best. But each of these was done and often hopelessly justified by using a pliant media which is now more a lapdog than the watch-dog it is supposed to be.

BJP's internal challenge

Apart from the Advani-Joshi-Sinha populated BJP Margdarshak Mandal and others like Shatrughan Sinha, several current

Central ministers like Sushma Swaraj and Rajnath Singh are unhappy with the concentration of power in numbered hands. Challenges are also being posed by Yogi Adityanath from within the party, Pravin Togadia from outside the party and Subramanian Swamy somewhere in between against the Modi-Shah dispensation. After the Karnataka debacle, the voices of protests are finding more space within the ruling party.

A resurgent Congress

BJP believed that the Congress is currently ruling in only three states with a young and inexperienced party president in a state of disarray. But Rahul Gandhi, first in Gujarat and now in Karnataka, is showing reasonable maturity and bringing all anti-BJP forces together, whether the three young leaders in Gujarat or JD(S) in the post-poll alliance in Karnataka. Will Congress exhibit this realism going ahead? Will it accept a non-Congress leadership this time to get BJP out of the way and wait for Rahul Gandhi for another day? This remains a million dollar question. But the challenge is mounting upon Modi-Shah for certain.

On the last Dussehra, Modi provided the perfect visual metaphor. He raised a bow to shoot an arrow into the effigy of Ravana, failed twice and then just threw the arrow a lame couple of feet away. A grand set-up for a less than an aspiring end.

(Prof. Ujjwal K Chowdhury is School Head, School of Media, Pearl Academy, Delhi & Mumbai; and former Dean of Media of Symbiosis and Amity Universities. The views expressed are strictly personal)

Countering CAATSA

Despite US sanctions, India should firmly continue dealing with Russia and Iran



PATHIKRIT PAYNE

Management of foreign affairs has been a major hallmark of the Modi Government and there have been some significant benefits for India in the realm of energy security, defence, and FDI. However, recent moves of the US Administration to impose new sanctions on Russia and Iran have posed some challenges for India. The statement of External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj that India only follows UN sanctions and not those imposed unilaterally by any country vindicates that the Modi government is not willing to succumb to the American dictum.

Fresh sanctions imposed by the US Administration on Russia and Iran through CAATSA can impact India's quest for purchasing S-400 air defence systems from Russia, purchase oil from Iran in addition to jeopardising India's strategic investments in Chabahar Port. Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act or CAATSA is self-explanatory in terms of what the US is trying to achieve through it. The punitive actions through these sanctions are not just aimed at Russia or Iran but also against any country which engages with them in their defence and intelligence sector. Further, certain provisions of the bill give the US Government the right to impose punitive sanctions against those companies which aim to collaborate with Russia (or Iran) to develop their energy export infrastructure.

Beneath the veneer of claiming to counter Russia for its Crimea action, one of the prime reasons for the sanctions, it seems, is to significantly dent Russia's commodity, energy and



The US is strategically obstructing the Trans-Siberian gas pipeline that would enhance India-Russia ties (Representational image)

defence exports and facilitate the void, thus created, to be filled in by US companies. Thus, the blatant and most obnoxious economic motives of the US are all too well apparent. The energy-related sanctions have obvious reasons to make India worry. They have come against the backdrop of India and Russia jointly exploring the proposition of building a \$25 billion Trans-Siberian pipeline to ferry gas from Russia to energy deficient India besides plans for Indo-Russian collaboration to develop Iranian oil and gas fields.

While sanctions against Russia by the US and EU, since 2014, did have some impact on the Russian economy; the EU countries were not spared either, given their tremendous dependence on Russian gas to see through harsh winters along with the considerable trade relations they share. Interestingly, such has been the

level of frustration in Europe against unilateral sanctions by the US, and meekly emulated by the EU, that countries like Germany have continued with their exports to Russia while displaying an utter disdain to such irrational sanctions. German exports to Russia were to the tune of \$31.9 billion in 2017 while imports were \$38.7 billion, implying total trade of \$70.6 billion in 2017 between the two. This defiance is primarily because of the fact that Germany's economy has been one of the biggest victims of US-led sanctions on Russia.

US and countries of the EU are also on the verge of another major face-off after additional sanctions were imposed on Russia's energy business recently through CAATSA. It is evident that the American objective was to thwart the prospects of the construction of Nord Stream 2 and Turk Stream pipeline to ferry Russian gas to

West and East European countries. The ulterior motive, as stated earlier, is to find prospects for American shale gas, since the US is now potentially a net exporter of energy. Nevertheless, in spite of the US sanctions, many major European countries have gone ahead with their procurement of Russian gas which has been on the rise. Compared to 180 BCM in 2016 and 194.4 BCM in 2017, Russia's Gazprom may end up exporting an unprecedented 200 BCM of gas to Europe in 2018.

Interestingly, Rosneft's acquisition of Essar Oil in India for \$13 billion signifies that Indians too have now learnt, from Europe, the nuances of dealing with Russia even while ad-hoc American sanctions are operational. This has to be taken forward in every sphere. While India's relation with the US is special and should always be cherished, vested interests cannot be allowed to damage

India's dealings with Russia – be it in the realm of defence or energy. Just as the S-400 air defence systems is critical to India's security needs so are India's pertinent needs to have direct access to Russian gas grid through pipelines. Even though India's defence procurement from the US has increased over the years and, which is appreciable, any deliberate motive to intentionally disrupt Indo-Russian defence deals should be resisted with a firm approach. In a non-aligned world, India does not need to be subservient to anyone.

In the same league, while the rationale behind new sanctions on Iran and USA pulling out of the Iran nuclear deal are contentious issues, nothing apocalyptic has happened suddenly to corner Iran again unless the objective is to provoke it sufficiently to trigger a new phase of conflict in the Middle East and raise oil prices further. India is in talks with Iran to procure six million barrels of oil for its strategic reserves besides major plans for investments in Iran's oil and gas fields. Above all, India's strategic investments in Chabahar Port and the Chabahar-Zahedan-Hajigak railway line are critical to India's relation with Afghanistan and countering Chinese endeavours in the Gwadar Port.

If the US wants India to be a net security provider in the Indian Ocean region, it should make sure that disruptive sanctions imposed by it on certain countries do not hamper India's dealings with them. Understanding India's concerns and resolving them would only help in improving Indo-US ties and not otherwise.

(The views expressed are strictly personal)

While India's relation with the US is special and should always be cherished, vested interests cannot be allowed to damage India's dealings with Russia – be it the realm of defence or energy



tweet RETWEET



SMRITI Z IRANI @smritirani

Interacted with prominent Radio Jockeys of Meghalaya on variety of issues revolving around 4 years of Govt of India. It was delightful to witness an affirmation of transformation that NER has undergone in 48 months from RJs who connect with citizens everyday. #SaafNiyatSahiVikas



NARENDRA MODI @narendramodi

I will be visiting Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore on 29th May- 2nd June. India has a robust strategic partnership with all the three countries. I would be attending a wide range of programmes in these countries.



MAMATA BANERJEE @MamataOfficial

I have come again to the Hills to meet my hill brothers and sisters. This time, it is Kalimpong.



SHEKHAR KAPUR @shekharkapur

Lessons of Life : Giving in and giving up are not the same.

Over 100 killed during 'war on drugs' in Bangladesh

DHAKA: Twelve more alleged drug dealers were killed in overnight raids carried out by the Bangladesh's law enforcement agencies, police said on Tuesday, taking the tally of those killed in the "war on drugs" to 105 since the launch of the nation-wide crackdown on narcotics trade about a fortnight ago.

The deaths of alleged drug dealers by the elite anti-crime unit, the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), and the police has invited criticism from the rights group and foreign diplomats expressed concerns over the "extrajudicial killings".

Twelve people were killed last night by the RAB and police during their clampdown, between last night and this morning, in nine administrative districts, including the



Bangladeshi capital, a police official said.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had on May 15 announced the launch of an aggressive war on drugs to smash the surging trade of Yaba, a cheap pill combining methamphetamine and caffeine.

In most of the cases, bodies of alleged drug traders were found lying on the street or roadside ditches following the raids, with law enforcement agencies claiming that some of the casualties were the result of "internal clashes" of drug peddlers.

On Monday, the interna-

tional affairs sub-committee of the ruling Awami League (AL) briefed about the drive to foreign diplomats, who expressed deep concern over the "extrajudicial killings".

But AL leaders said that the law enforcement agencies were forced to retaliate after being attacked by the alleged drug peddlers. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said that security forces have launched an "all-out war" on drugs and the clampdown would continue until the drug trafficking was eliminated.

Bangladesh does not produce drugs, but in the recent years it had become the destination of "Yaba", a narcotic substance often referred to as "horse drug". The drug smuggled from neighbouring Myanmar is popular among young

people. Doctors say, in the long-term it causes decline of cognitive functions.

The Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) strongly condemned the extrajudicial killings, with its chairman Kazi Rezaul Hoque saying that he plans to formally write to the government expressing grave concerns. "We want to say unequivocally that the criminals, whoever she or he is, must face actions through due legal procedure," he said, echoing demands from other rights watchdogs.

The media has also questioned the sudden launch of a violent anti-drug clampdown after newspaper reports wrote about "Yaba villages" in frontier Teknaf that bordered Myanmar for so many years. AGENCIES

Medical staff who treated Skripals feared pair would not survive

LONDON: Doctors in Britain who treated former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter following their March poisoning in Salisbury have said they initially feared the pair would not recover.

Skripal and his daughter Yulia, who was visiting from Moscow, collapsed on March 4 on a bench in the city in south-western England where the former double agent lived.

London blamed Moscow for using a Soviet-made nerve agent known as novichok on the pair, which Moscow has furiously denied, sparking a diplomatic crisis between Russia and Britain. Stephen Jukes, the intensive care consultant at Salisbury District Hospital, who treated them a week after their admission, said in a BBC interview that once the nerve agent was detected "all the evidence was there that they would not survive".

Jukes revealed the hospital's medical team first suspected



the Skripals were suffering from an opioid overdose, but that the diagnosis soon changed to a nerve agent poisoning.

The doctors interviewed said that all the initial focus was on simply keeping the pair alive. The pair were heavily sedated and given large doses of drugs designed to protect them from the effects of the poison and help re-start their bodies' natural production of a key enzyme.

When a third person involved, police officer Nick

Bailey, was admitted with similar symptoms, medical staff said they feared the situation could be escalating out of control. "There was a real concern as to how big could this get," said Lorna Wilkinson, the director of nursing.

She added that she recalled thinking: "have we just gone from having two index patients [to] having something that actually could become all-consuming and involve many casualties? because we really didn't know at that point." AGENCIES

Pakistan butcher jailed for selling sub-standard meat from India

PESHAWAR: A butcher in Pakistan was on Tuesday sentenced to thirty days in prison by a court for selling sub-standard meat allegedly imported from India.

A court of Deputy Commissioner in northwest Pakistan sentenced the butcher under the Maintenance of Public Order.

The officials of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority had arrested the butcher named Waqas during a raid on his compound and recovered 400 kilogramme of liver meat imported from India.

The butcher used to add artificial colour into liver and hearts of animals to give it a fresh look.

The food authority has confiscated hundreds of kilogramme of substandard meat few days ago from the same locality. AGENCIES

Japan reports suspected N Korea sanctions breach

TOKYO: Japan has reported a suspected sanctions violation by Pyongyang to the UN after spotting an apparent cargo transfer involving a North Korean tanker, the foreign ministry in Tokyo said on Tuesday.

The incident is the fifth time this year Tokyo has reported a cargo transfer by a North Korean vessel, in violation of sanctions over Pyongyang's banned nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

A military patrol plane spied the North Korean-flagged tanker alongside a small vessel of unknown nationality -- but which appeared to be flying what "seemed like" a Chinese flag -- in the East China Sea on the night of May 19, the ministry said in a statement. "The (Japanese) government strongly suspects they were transferring goods, which is banned by UN sanctions," it said. The ministry identified the North Korean tanker as the JI SONG 6, one of the vessels denied international port access by the UN Security Council. Pyongyang is subject to



The (Japanese) government strongly suspects they were transferring goods, which is banned by UN sanctions

a series of UN sanctions, including one prohibiting all member states from facilitating or engaging in ship-to-ship transfers of goods to or from North Korean-flagged vessels. AGENCIES

Report: Students harshly criticise Iran to supreme leader Khamenei

TEHRAN: Iranian media are saying that university students invited to meet Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan harshly criticised the country's direction.

The annual gathering of students typically sees some complaints but at least one speech last night frankly discussed economic troubles Iran faces after President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of the nuclear deal.

The pro-reform Mardomsalari daily quoted student Sahar Mehrabi as saying that "on Tuesday, Iran is facing numerous crises." She mentioned "intensified systematic inequality in social classes, the decline of public trust and an increase in environmental crisis and shantytowns." Direct criticism of Khamenei, whom hard-liners view as second only to God, is rare. AGENCIES

Violence against Afghan women carried out with impunity: UN

KABUL: The United Nations issued a blistering report on Tuesday accusing the Afghan state of violating women's rights by failing to prosecute criminal violence against them, underscoring widespread gender brutality nearly 17 years after the Taliban's fall.

A law protecting women from violence has been in place since 2009, but instead of enforcing it authorities are allowing and sometimes over-seeing informal mediation to resolve criminal cases, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said in the report.

In a country where women are often confined to the home and seen as subordinate to men, access to justice remains "severely inadequate" and promotes impunity for perpetrators, UNAMA added.

The report -- titled "Injustice and Impunity" -- documents the experiences of women who survived violence



and tried to bring criminal complaints against their male attackers in 237 cases across Afghanistan from August 2015 until December 2017.

Of them, 145 were resolved by mediation, the report said, adding that it documented a "consistent pattern" of women being pressured by authorities as well as their families to withdraw their complaints.

The report also examined 280 cases of murder, including many carried out in the name of so-called "honour", in which

women are killed -- often by male relatives -- for bringing what is described as "shame" on the family under an outdated, patriarchal social code.

Only 50 of them -- or 18 per cent -- resulted in the perpetrators being punished under the law.

The landmark 2009 Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) law criminalises child marriage, forced marriage, forced self-immolation, rape and other violence against women.

There is no provision in Afghan law that allows for mediation in such criminal cases. Pressuring a woman to accept mediation therefore "amounted to a direct breach of the EVAW Law, the Penal Code, and constituted a human rights violation on the part of the State," the report said.

"Once mediated, incidents of violence against women are essentially transformed from 'criminal acts' into mere 'family disputes'," Danielle Bell, UNAMA's human rights chief, said.

Women "are encouraged to reconcile with the perpetrator as if no actual crime occurred, or to seek a divorce if the parties cannot reach an agreement. Such outcomes directly contradict the spirit and letter of the EVAW Law."

It also means that once a complaint is made, the risk of seeing the violence repeated is "quite high", Bell said. AGENCIES

Palestinians launch boats from Gaza to protest Israeli blockade



GAZA CITY (Palestinian Territories): Palestinians launched boats from Gaza on Tuesday to protest Israel's blockade, a move likely to further raise tensions after mortar fire from the enclave earlier in the day and weeks of deadly unrest.

One main boat carrying around 20 people accompanied by a group of smaller ones departed from the fishermen's port in Gaza City, AFP journalists reported and organisers said.

There were conflicting statements about whether the boats would seek to break Israel's blockade, which currently allows them to travel 16 km off the coast.

Some organisers said they would only protest, while other participants said they wanted to move past the limit.

It was not clear how Israel's military would respond and it was yet to comment on the protest.

Earlier on Tuesday, Israel's army said some 28 mortar shells were launched toward Israel from the Gaza Strip, with

most intercepted by the country's air defence system and no injuries reported.

One mortar shell exploded near a kindergarten building, a military spokesman said. No children were believed to be there at the time.

It appeared to be the largest such barrage from Gaza targeting Israel since a 2014 war.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged to respond "powerfully" to the mortar fire.

The Gaza Strip has been under Israeli blockade for more than a decade, with Israel saying it is necessary to prevent the Palestinian enclave's militant Hamas rulers from obtaining means to attack.

The boat protest comes after weeks of deadly demonstrations and clashes along the Gaza-Israel border, beginning on March 30. The protests have called for Palestinians who fled or were expelled in the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation to be allowed to return to their former homes now inside Israel. AGENCIES

Gaza militants fire barrage of mortars at southern Israel, claims Army

JERUSALEM: Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip fired a barrage of mortar shells at southern Israel on Tuesday, the army said, causing no injuries but raising tensions in the border area.

A statement from the Israeli army said that "25 mortar shells were launched towards several sites in Israeli territory."

"Most of the launches were intercepted by the IDF's (Israel Defence Forces) Iron Dome aerial defence system," the army said.

Police said that "a number of the mortars landed in open areas inside Israel," with no injuries reported.

Two further mortar shells were fired at Israel from Gaza after the initial barrage, the army said. One mortar shell exploded near a kindergarten building, a military spokesman said. No children were believed



to be there at the time.

It appeared to be the largest projectile barrage from Gaza targeting Israel since a 2014 war. Palestinian security sources said Israeli tanks struck observation points belonging to Hamas and Islamic Jihad near the border. An Israeli military spokesman said he was not aware.

The mortar fire follows deadly mass protests and

clashes that began along the Gaza border on March 30.

The protests have called for Palestinians who fled or were expelled in the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation to be allowed to return to their former homes now inside Israel.

They peaked on May 14, when at least 61 Palestinians were killed as tens of thousands of Gazans protested and clashes erupted on the same day of the

US transfer of its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Demonstrations and clashes have continued at a low level since then. At least 121 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire in the unrest.

Israel says its actions are necessary to defend its borders and accuses Hamas of encouraging thousands of Palestinians to break through the border and attack Israelis.

On Monday, Gaza's health ministry said one Palestinian was killed by tank fire at an observation point. Israel said it had fired at it after two Palestinians attempted to infiltrate the border fence with the "intention of carrying out an attack."

The two were arrested.

There was also machine gun fire from the Gaza Strip toward Israel later Monday, the military said. AGENCIES

Qatar council backs permanent residency law for foreigners

DOHA: Qatar has moved closer to granting permanent residency to foreigners after its senior legislative body approved a draft law, first announced in the wake of the ongoing Gulf crisis.

State media reported the Shura Council agreed on Monday to back a law which would grant residency to expatriates who provide valuable services as well as to the children of Qatari women married to non-Qatari.

"The Advisory (Shura) Council approved a draft law on permanent residency," the Qatar News Agency reported.

Permanent residents would be allowed to have free state education, healthcare and be given the right to own property.

It is thought to be the first such law proposed by one of the energy-rich Gulf states.

It was first announced last August just two months after Qatar was boycotted by neighbouring former allies in a bitter diplomatic dispute.

Like other nations in the region, Qatar relies massively on foreign labour.

Its current population of 2.71 million, a record, is made up of almost 90 per cent non-nationals, many helping the country prepare to host the 2022 World Cup.

There are some 315,000 Qatari nationals.

The residency proposal will now be considered by Qatar's cabinet and Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani before it becomes law. AGENCIES

1,000-year-old mummy discovered in Peru

LONDON: Scientists have discovered an intact mummy in Peru that is believed to have been buried between 1000 and 1200 AD.

A team from the Universite libre de Bruxelles in Belgium completed a nine week-long excavation in Pachacamac, Peru, where they have discovered the mummy in good condition.

The finding confirms Pachacamac's status as a pre-colombian pilgrimage site under the Inca empire.

"The deceased is still wrapped in the enormous funeral bundle that served as a coffin," said Peter Eeckhout, professor at Universite libre de Bruxelles.

"Discoveries like this one are exceptionally scarce, and this mummy is incredibly well preserved. Samples were collected for carbon-14 dating, but

the area in which it was discovered and the type of tomb suggest this individual was buried between 1000 and 1200 AD," Eeckhout said.

The excavation was carried out as a part of the 'Ychsma' project, named after the region's native people, under the supervision of professor Eeckhout.

Three monumental structures were explored during the campaign, including a sanctuary dedicated to the local ancestors.

Under Inca rule, in the late 15th century, it appears to have been transformed into a water and healing temple.

The archaeologists have discovered many offerings left by worshippers, such as Spondylus shells imported from Ecuador; these are associated with the influx of water during El Niño, and they symbolise fertility and



abundance.

Before the Inca settled in the area, the sanctuary included large funerary chambers and numerous mummies, most of which were looted during the Spanish conquest.

Miraculously, though, one of the chambers was found intact during the latest round of excavations: this is the funeral

chamber that held the mummy.

Due to how well it was preserved, the researchers will be able to study it without needing to unwrap the bundle.

They will soon examine the mummy using the latest techniques in medical imaging such as X-ray scans, axial tomography and 3D reconstruction.

This will enable them to determine the individual's position, any pathologies they might have suffered from, but also what offerings might be inside the bundle.

The other structures that were excavated are also related to worship: the first one, an Inca monument intended to host pilgrims and rituals, was built in several phases, each identified with a series of offerings such as seashells and precious objects.

The last structure explored was probably one of the 'chapelets' for foreign pilgrims, referred to by Spanish monk Antonio de la Calancha in his 17th-century description of the site.

There, the excavations also uncovered many 'foundation' offerings, including vases, dogs, and other animals, as well as a platform with a hole in the centre, where an idol was likely

placed.

The complex appears to have been designed around this idol, involved in religious activities with pilgrims.

According to researchers, all these discoveries indicate that Incas made considerable changes to the Pachacamac site, in order to create a large pilgrimage centre on Peru's Pacific coast.

"Deities and their worship played a major part in the life of Pre-Colombian societies," said Eeckhout.

"The Inca understood this very well, and integrated it into how they wielded their power. By promoting empire-wide worship, they contributed to creating a common sense of identity among the many different peoples that made up the empire. Pachacamac is one of the most striking examples of this," he said. AGENCIES

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidyal Bhawan, Block-DJ, Sector-I, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 091
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC115473, ecompront@gmail.com, www.wbsedcl.in

EXTENSION OF TIME
Ref. NIT Nos.: WBSSECL/RE/DDUGJ/SOLAR/2018-19/NIT-09, 10 & 11, Date: 26.04.2018 originally published in this newspaper on 27.04.2018. The schedule of Bid Activities is hereby extended as follows: A. Bid Submission End Date: 04.06.2018 (up to 13.00 hrs.); B. Bid Opening Date (Part-I: Techno-Commercial): 06.06.2018 (at 14.00 hrs.); C. Bid Opening Date (Part-II: Price): Shall be intimated later. All other aspects of the NIT will remain unaltered. Interested Bidders can download the documents from www.wbsedcl.in and <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> ICA-T3484(S)/2018

Trump says Kim aide on way to New York

BEIJING: A top aide to the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un, was on his way to the US on Tuesday, Donald Trump said in a tweet.

Another key aide to Kim arrived in Singapore on Monday night, a Japanese broadcaster said, adding weight to indications a planned summit with Trump will go ahead.

Kim Chang-sun, Kim's de facto chief of staff, flew to Singapore via Beijing, the report by public broadcaster NHK said. South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported that Kim Yong-chol, a former North Korean spy chief and senior official, was headed to the US after stopping over in Beijing.

Trump appeared to confirm that in a tweet on Tuesday morning, sent in the middle of a sequence of complaints about the Russia investigation.

"We have put a great team together for our talks with North Korea," the US president wrote. "Meetings are currently taking place concerning Summit, and more. Kim Young [sic] Chol, the Vice Chairman of North Korea, heading now to



New York. Solid response to my letter, thank you!"

NORTH KOREA-US SUMMIT

Kim Yong-Chol is vice-chairman of the Workers' Party's Central Committee. Trump's reference to a letter was to his cancellation of the summit last Thursday.

A team of US officials including Joe Hagin, the White House deputy chief of staff for operations, left the Yokota airbase in Japan for Singapore on Monday, NHK said. The White House said a "pre-advance" team was travelling to meet North Koreans.

It said Trump and the Japanese prime minister, Shinzo Abe, talked on the phone on Monday and confirmed they would meet before the "expected" US-North Korea summit. Trump and Abe "affirmed the shared imperative of achieving the complete and permanent dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and ballistic missile programmes," the White House said in a statement.

The historic summit was initially scheduled for 12 June but

Trump called it off last week. A day later, he said he had reconsidered and officials from both countries met to work out details.

When Kim Chang-sun was asked by a reporter at Beijing airport if he was flying to Singapore for talks with the US, he said he was "going there to play", according to footage from Nippon Television Network.

On Saturday, Kim Jong-un and South Korean president Moon Jae-in at the border village of Panmunjom, during which they agreed the North Korea-US summit must be held a surprise meeting South Korean officials have said Moon may travel to Singapore during the meeting, but that his attendance is dependent on preliminary meetings between the US and North Korea.

On Sunday, the state department said US and North Korean officials had met at Panmunjom. Sung Kim, a former US ambassador to South Korea and current ambassador to the Philippines, led the American delegation, a US official told Reuters. AGENCIES

Sushma Swaraj's remarks on Modi's Janakpur reception unfortunate: Nepal

KATHMANDU: Nepal today termed as "unfortunate" the remarks of External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj that Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed lakhs of "Indians" during a civic reception in his honour in Nepal's Janakpur recently.

Addressing a press conference on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the NDA government in New Delhi, Swaraj yesterday said Modi is the first prime minister of the country who has from America's Madison Square to Janakpur (in Nepal) addressed lakhs of Indians and reached out to them.

Hours later, she apologised for her remarks.

In a statement today, Nepal's Foreign Ministry spokesperson said the reference made about the public participation at the civic felicitation programme held in honour of Prime Minister Modi in Janakpur on May 11 was "unfortunate." "It has come to the notice of the Government of Nepal that she has publicly admitted her mistake and apologised for the same. The Government of Nepal sincerely thanks all those who raised concerns over this issue," the spokesperson said. AGENCIES

3 dead in suspected 'terror' shooting in Belgian city

BRUSSELS: A gunman shot dead three people, two of them policemen, in the eastern Belgian city of Liege today before being killed by elite officers, prosecutors told AFP.

The shooting occurred around 10:30 am (0830 GMT) near a high school on a major artery in the city, which lies some 90 kilometres east of Brussels.

But the attacker's motive was not immediately clear, with Catherine Collignon, spokeswoman for the Liege prosecutors office, telling AFP: "We don't know anything yet." Media reports said the gunman shot dead two police officers at a cafe before fleeing to the Lycée Waha school, where he took a cleaning lady hostage.

The gunman was shot dead by an elite police unit, prosecutors said.

Belgian Interior Minister Jan Jambon said Belgium's Federal Crisis Centre was monitoring the situation.



"Our thoughts are with the victims of this horrible act. We are in the process of establishing an overview of exactly what happened," Jambon wrote on Twitter.

The crisis centre said a security cordon had been set up around the area and urged people to stay away.

Belgium has been on high alert since the smashing of a terror cell in the town of Verriers in January 2015 that was planning an attack on police.

The Verriers cell also had links to Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the mastermind of the November 2015 Islamic State attacks on Paris that killed 130 people.

Belgium further raised its terror alert level after the Paris attack, and placed the capital Brussels on lockdown for a week.

Belgium was then hit by its own IS suicide attacks on Brussels airport and a metro station which killed 32 people. AGENCIES

Syria chairing world disarmament body 'a travesty': US

GENEVA: The US ambassador to the UN in Geneva said today it was "a travesty" that Syria would head the Conference on Disarmament, leaving briefly when the Syrian representative took the floor.

"Syria's presence here is a travesty. This regime has committed countless crimes against its own people through the use of chemical weapons, and it is just unacceptable for them to be leading this body," Robert Wood told AFP just before the session began.

"They don't have the moral authority or the credibility to preside over this body, and we are going to make very clear during their four-week presidency that we find it abhorrent," he added. Syria yesterday took over the rotating presidency of Conference on Disarmament (CD), according to a decades-old practice among the body's 65 members following the alphabetical order of country names in English.

During the first open session of Syria's presidency today, the United States led a number of diplomats in protest.

Wood briefly left the room when Syria's ambassador Husam Edin Aala opened the session, before returning to voice Washington's displeasure from the floor. "Today marks a sad and shameful day in the history of this body," he told the assembly. AGENCIES

American freed from Venezuelan jail returns home

SALT LAKE CITY (US): Nearly two years after a trip to meet the woman he loved turned into an imprisonment in a Venezuelan jail, an exhausted but grateful Utah man has arrived home with his wife.

Josh Holt arrived at the Salt Lake City airport to a tearful, cheering crowd holding signs in his favourite colour, green, with messages such as: "We never gave up."

His grandmother draped an American flag around his shoulders as he exchanged long hugs with person after person while the crowd sang "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Holt spoke briefly to thank everyone who helped him and his wife, Thamara Caleno, get released from jail but said they were exhausted, feeling like they'd gotten "maybe four hours of sleep in four days." Standing nearby were his parents, celebrating a homecoming they'd worked tirelessly to bring about.

Laurie and Jason Holt woke at 4:30 am last Saturday to a phone call they had been anxiously anticipating for two years. Their son, Josh Holt, now 26, travelled to Caracas in June 2016 to marry a fellow Mormon he had met online while looking to improve his Spanish. The two were waiting for Caleno's US visa when they were arrested at her family's apartment in a government housing complex.

Josh Holt and his Ven-



zuelan wife were locked in a Caracas jail alongside some of the country's most-hardened criminals and President Nicolas Maduro's top opponents for what the US government argued were bogus charges of stockpiling weapons.

The Salt Lake City parents had been through the emotional rollercoaster of believing their son would be released only to watch mediation efforts unravel at the last minute on at least three occasions. So they braced for another disappointment after an Associated Press reporter informed the couple Friday that Senator Bob Corker, the powerful chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, had popped up unexpectedly in Caracas to push for Holt's freedom. But then they got the fateful call from Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch's office.

"They called us at 4:30 am and said, 'You need to be on the plane. Josh is coming home,'" said Laurie Holt, recalling how

their long ordeal.

"He's not the same Josh that left," said Laurie Holt.

"He just doesn't quite have that sparkle back yet in his eyes. He'll come back, I know he will. We just have to give him time." His Salt Lake City welcoming committee included Caleno's daughter from a previous relationship, 7-year-old Nathalia Carrasco, who has been living at Laurie Holt's home since February. Caleno's other daughter, Marian, travelled with the couple from Caracas.

Laurie Holt said she thinks Maduro fearing retaliation from the US decided to finally act after her son appeared in a clandestinely-shot video from jail on the eve of this month's presidential election railing against the Venezuelan government, saying his life had been threatened in a prison riot.

After communications between the US senators' offices and the Venezuelan government, "I think his heart was softened," Laurie Holt said of Maduro. Maduro never publicly mentioned Holt's imprisonment even as it became a major irritant in relations between the already-hostile governments.

Laurie Holt said her son is in good health but lost weight, suffered a number of bronchial problems in prison and has a rotten tooth that needed checking out. Caleno has more serious pain issues on one side of her body. Experts in treating people who have been held in captivity have debriefed the couple so that they can begin dealing with the emotions from

US search firm says to end MH370 hunt in 'coming days'

KUALA LUMPUR: A private hunt for Flight MH370 will end in the coming days, a search firm said today, about four years after the plane's disappearance sparked one of the world's greatest aviation mysteries.

The Malaysia Airlines jet vanished in March 2014 with 239 people -- mostly from China -- on board, en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

No sign of the plane was found in a 120,000-sq km sea search zone and the Australian-led hunt, the largest in aviation history, was suspended in Janu-

ary last year.

After pressure from families, the former Malaysian government struck a deal with US exploration firm Ocean Infinity to restart the search in January on the condition it would only be paid if the Boeing 777 or its black boxes were found.

The firm stood to make up to USD 70 million if successful but did not find any sign of the airliner despite scouring the seabed with some of the world's most high-tech search equipment. The hunt was officially meant to end late April but was extended. However,

the new government of Mahathir Mohamad, which came to power after a shock election win this month, announced last week the search was set to end.

Texas-based Ocean Infinity said in a statement today that "its current search for the wreckage of... Flight MH370 is shortly coming to an end."

A spokesman added the hunt would end in the coming days, without giving a precise date. The new hunt was in an area of about 25,000 sq km in the southern Indian Ocean, north of the previous search zone. AGENCIES

Scepticism as France convenes Libya peace conference

PARIS: Rival Libyan leaders vying for influence in the fractured and war-scarred country meet in Paris today for a major peace conference seen as a risky French-backed push for a political settlement in the country.

Many analysts are sceptical that the initiative to invite four senior figures representing Libya's factions, as well as neighbouring countries and regional powers, can lead to significant progress. Years of mediation by the United Nations, as well as former colonial power Italy, have failed to bring stability to the north African nation which descended into chaos after the ousting of dictator Moamer Kadhafi in 2011.

The main focus of the meet-



ing will be on trying to agree a political roadmap committing all parties to hold parliamentary and presidential elections before the end of the year -- an approach not favoured by everyone. "I believe that elections are a big risk in a country armed like Libya," Federica Saini Fasanotti,

an analyst with the Washington-based Brookings Institution, told AFP. There are also disagreements over whether a vote on a new constitution, or elections for the presidency and parliament, should come first.

"While the Italians, Turkish, Qataris and to a large extent the

Americans believe the constitution comes before elections, on the other side, the French, Egyptians and Emiratis want elections first," Mohamed Eljarh, from the Libya Outlook consulting firm told AFP.

Also, despite French efforts to convene all of the leading players in the oil-rich country, militias in and around the city of Misrata have boycotted proceedings, leaving western Libya under-represented at the talks.

The Libyan invitees include Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj, head of the UN-backed unity government in Tripoli, and 75-year-old military strongman Khalifa Haftar, whose rival Libyan National Army dominates the country's east. AGENCIES

Ivanka Trump's China trademarks raise ethical issues: Group

SHANGHAI: Ivanka Trump was granted five business trademarks in China earlier in May, just days before her father suddenly scrapped a US technology ban imposed on Chinese telecom firm ZTE, according to government documents.

The trademark approvals were dated May 7, a week before President Donald Trump extended an olive branch on ZTE in his trade tussle with China. Chinese government documents revealing the trademarks were first publicised by Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW). The US watchdog said the approvals, and other Trump family business connections to China, "raised potential ethics issues". An additional trademark received "first trial" approval on May 6, according to CREW. AGENCIES

French family of rescued boy thanks hero Malian 'Spiderman'

PARIS: The family of the young boy saved by "Spiderman" Mamoudou Gassama in a daring rescue that won him global acclaim and a promise of French citizenship has thanked the Malian youth for his quick thinking.

Gassama, 22, scaled four storeys of an apartment bloc in France on Saturday to rescue the four-year-old who was spotted dangling from a balcony.

Today French authorities began the first steps towards making him a citizen in rec-

ognition of his bravery.

The boy's father, who had been living alone with him in Paris, had left him alone to go out to the shops and then remained on the street to play Pokemon Go, according to French investigators.

The boy's mother learned the news of the rescue on Reunion Island -- the French Indian Ocean territory where she and the father were born and where she still lives.

Reacting to Gassama's intervention on Antenne Reunion



radio late Monday, the woman, who was not identified, said: "We can only thank him and

thank heaven he was so reactive." She said French police phoned her to tell her the news.

"Then I saw video on the internet. But I should not have watched it because you know it's your son in the video." Just half an hour earlier she had spoken to both father and son in a video call, she said.

"Things could have turned out much worse so I am relieved," she said, adding that she was impatient to be reunited with her son and husband.

The boy's paternal grandmother, who also lives in Reunion, told RMC radio Tuesday that she was "very moved"

by the images of the rescue and sent "huge thanks" to Gassama.

"He's really a hero," she said. "He did not stand by and watch, he saved my little sweet pea." Gassama, who had been living in France illegally since September 2017, arriving via the Mediterranean migrant route, told President Emmanuel Macron on Monday that he "did not think twice" before springing into action.

The video of his rescue has been viewed millions of times online.

On Tuesday, he was to visit a fire station after being offered a job with the fire service.

The child's mother, who had planned on moving to Paris in June along with the couple's second child, aged one, is due to travel on France on Tuesday, the BFM news channel reported.

The father, who was arrested on charges of neglecting his parental duties, was released from custody and reunited with his son on Monday under the supervision of social services. AGENCIES

DECLARATION
I, Nandielbam Nilmohon Singha S/o N. Nilmoni Singha R/o Village-Binnakandi-I, PO-Binnakandi Ghat P.S.-Lakhipur District-Cachar, Assam, declare that my name N. Nilmohon Singha, my spouse's name N. Nomita Devi & my son's name entered in N. Nishan Singha have been wrongly mastered in my service record, instead my actual & correct name Nandielbam Nilmohon Singha, my spouse's actual & correct name Nandielbam Nomita Devi & my son's actual & correct name Nandielbam Nishan Singha.

RBI snubs US payment cos, won't relax local data storage rules

NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank of India is standing firm on a directive to compel global payment firms to store customer data in India, resisting calls from US companies to dilute an order they say would cost them millions of dollars.

The payment companies are worried India's data onshoring move could set a precedent and nudge other major governments to implement similar rules at a time when there is heightened scrutiny on how companies globally handle their customers' data.

The industry's tussle with the RBI also comes as Prime Minister Narendra Modi aggressively pushes digital and cashless modes of payment that leave an electronic trail as part of a campaign to crack down on the black economy.

While Modi's administration is working on a separate data protection law, foreign companies were caught off guard in April by the RBI's one-page directive that said all payments data should within six months be stored only in the country for "unfettered supervisory access".

The RBI said storing data locally would help "ensure better monitoring".

A joint lobbying effort by American Express Co, Mastercard Inc and Visa Inc to dilute or reverse the directive has failed to shift the central bank's position, with the RBI telling the firms in a meeting this month to com-



ply, not complain, sources with direct knowledge told Reuters.

The RBI declined to comment, but a government source with direct knowledge confirmed the central bank was "unlikely to back down on its plans".

The card companies are nervous that the move will disrupt their investment plans, as millions of dollars are diverted from other projects in a scramble to open local data centres within six months.

"There is a feeling of helplessness and we will have to comply," said a source with direct knowledge of the meetings.

The RBI's insistence that payments data be stored "only in India" would hamper global fraud detection and the companies should be allowed to keep a back-up, the sources said.

The government source disagreed.

"The suggestion that you need a disaster management back-up centre overseas just does not cut it," said the source, who declined to be identified. "This is not a small island nation that would get entirely crippled by a single natural disaster."

Mastercard said it was working with the industry to engage the RBI "to understand their need for access to domestic data and work towards a solution that meets the regulatory requirements" in line with global norms.

Visa declined to comment, while American Express did not respond to a request for comment.

The move would not impact local players such as Softbank Group-backed Indian digital payments firm Paytm, as well as homegrown card payment network RuPay, which competes with the likes of Visa and

Mastercard, as they already store their data in India. The industry says India's proposed data storage rules would be among the world's most restrictive.

China also tightened cyber regulation in the past year, formalising new rules that require firms to store data locally. None of the global payment card companies, however, operate in the Chinese domestic market yet.

Countries such as Russia and Indonesia also have an onshore data storage requirement, but they do not restrict companies from transfer of transactions data offshore as well, according to lobby group US-India Business Council (USIBC), which counts the three US card companies among its members.

Global payment firms currently store and process Indian transactions outside the country and a major concern to the industry is a clause in the RBI's order that asks for data to be stored "only in India", two sources said.

That, according to the industry, would restrict the transfer of data needed to effectively detect and analyse global fraud patterns, and make India more vulnerable to financial crime.

In a letter dated May 3, seen by Reuters, the USIBC pressed the RBI for a "reversal or an indefinite stay" of its directive, which it said would make India's payments ecosystem more prone to cyber-attacks.

It also urged the RBI to

remove any restriction on transferring the data outside India and specify the time period for which the data needed to be stored locally.

An industry executive at a U.S. payments firm said while the RBI was likely to soon issue clarifications to address some of their concerns, but it would not change the notification's implementation date.

In an earnings call last month, Visa CEO Alfred Kelly Jr. referred to the RBI's six-month deadline as a "tough timeframe".

The directive comes as more people in India are switching to plastic money, partly driven by the Modi's decision to replace high-value currency notes in November 2016, since when the government has aggressively discouraged cash transactions.

In March, Indians clocked transactions worth \$52 billion using their 900 million credit and debit cards, nearly double the amount recorded in November 2016, data from the RBI showed.

But fraud is a concern too. The RBI recorded 57,411 cases of card fraud totalling \$43 million in the three years to December 2017, according to a Right to Information response seen by Reuters.

The RBI in April said the payment ecosystem in India had "expanded considerably", making it necessary to ensure "the safety and security" of data.

India's maiden Gas Trading Hub to be functional before Dec: PNGRB

HYDERABAD: The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) expects the proposed gas trading hub to be functional by the end of the calendar year and Crisil has been appointed to assist the regulator and the government in framing rules for the exchange.

"We have engaged Crisil for advising us in setting up Gas Trading Hub. They will advise us on framing regulations. The time line given to them is 18 weeks from May 11," Satpal Garg member of the PNGRB said.

Crisil is a global rating and research agency.

"There will many things required from the Government side also. The Government and we, both of us want the gas trading hub to come into existence in the current calendar year 2018 itself," he said.

Garg was speaking on the sidelines of a roadshow for 9th round of the city gas distribution (CGD) bidding.

According to him the Hub will work in the lines of Power Exchange which determines the price based on supply and demand and market forces.

"This can be a physical or virtual trading hub. It will be an electronic trading hub. The location will depend on where the major pipelines are connected."

"The major pipelines are currently connected in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh. It will be any one of these places," he said when asked about the probable



The Gas Trading Hub will work in the lines of Power Exchange which determines the price based on supply, demand and market forces

location for the Hub.

Currently, the central government fixes the price of the bulk of domestically produced natural gas.

The rate, arrived at using price prevalent in gas-surplus nations of US, Canada, UK, and Russia, is \$3.06 per million British thermal unit for six month period beginning April 1. In comparison, the cost of imported LNG into India is around \$7.5.

On the current round of CGD bidding, he said it covers 86 geographical locations for selling CNG and piped cooking gas in 174 districts in 22 states and union territories and likely to attract an investment of Rs 70,000 crore. In addition to Hyderabad, the current bidding covers 20 districts of Telangana,

he said.

On the infrastructure part, he said there is about 16,000 km of pipeline existing and operating and another 12,000 km pipeline is under construction.

The PNGRB focusses on increasing the sale of natural gas in the overall energy basket from 6.2 per cent to 15 per cent as mandated by the government, the official added.

Responding to a query, he said the regulator will review the performance of the companies which were awarded contracts in the earlier biddings.

"The PNGRB would review their performances in terms of meeting deadlines and accordingly levy penalty for those who do not meet deadlines," he said.

Sudha Balakrishnan appointed first CFO of Reserve Bank

MUMBAI: NSDL Vice-President Sudha Balakrishnan has been appointed as the first chief financial officer (CFO) of the Reserve Bank, as part of the organisational change brought in by Governor Urjit Patel, banking sources said.

Balakrishnan, a chartered accountant, will hold the rank of executive director.

While inviting applications for the newly created post in May last year, Reserve Bank of India had said that the CFO will be responsible for reporting of financial information of the central bank, establishing accounting policies and ensuring compliance with regulations.

The CFO, it had said, will also be entrusted with communicating RBIs expected and actual financial performance and overseeing its budget processes.

Till now, the central bank did not have a dedicated official handling the finance function, and the tasks were being carried out internally.

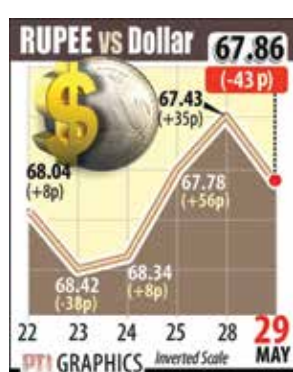
₹ breaks 3-day rising streak, plunges 43p to 67.86 against \$

MUMBAI: After a short-lived recovery, the rupee on Tuesday once again turned shaky and lost ground against the US currency, falling by a steep 43 paise to end at 67.86 due to heavy month-end dollar demand from importers. Forex market sentiment turned bearish after tracking losses in most Asian and emerging market currencies, also impacted by political developments in Italy.

Deepening political crisis in Italy, the euro zone's third biggest economy, provoked selling of Italian assets and the euro that was reminiscent of the euro zone debt crisis of 2010-2012.

A sharp sell-off in domestic stock market also largely led to weaker rupee sentiment.

However, suspected currency market intervention by the Reserve Bank of India stemmed the rupee's fall. The rupee had touched a two-week high on Monday. The Indian



currency was given some reprieve after plunging to a fresh 18-month low of 68.42 last week, staging an impressive recovery fuelled by a sudden crash in global crude prices. It had appreciated by a whopping 1.47 per cent in the last three trading sessions. Similarly, fresh bouts of selling was seen on bond market with the benchmark 10-year yield rising to 7.76 per cent.

States owe power generation companies ₹32,024 cr till February 2018: Govt portal

NEW DELHI: As many as 10 states including Maharashtra, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana have been named "worst" in terms of clearing dues of power generation companies by state-owned discoms, as per government portal Praapti.

Other four states in this list are Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Uttarakhand. The portal showed that these states' power discoms delayed payments to generation companies by at least 240 days or more till February this year.

According to Praapti and mobile application launched by Power Minister R K Singh on Tuesday, total cumulative outstanding of power generation companies from all states was Rs 32,024 crore in February 2018.

Total outstanding of power generation companies from discoms stood at Rs 30,617 crore whereas the payment of Rs 2,809 crore was made during the month. The power generators raised the bill of Rs 4,216



During the month of February, the maximum outstanding of ₹13,446 crore was pending towards independent power producers followed by NTPC at ₹8,454 crore and DVC at ₹2,275 crore

crore during February. While launching Praapti, Singh said that outstanding dues to power generation companies particularly that of independent power producers have been a concern and this initiative would bring transparency in this. Singh also suggested that instead of getting billing

and payment data from generation companies, the onus of providing payment data should be on discoms to improve the efficiency of this initiative.

This alteration in the portal as well as app would be done in the next one week, an official said assuring that the data is not being provided on real time

basis because there is minimum payment lag of 30 days after raising invoice for sale of power.

As many as 61 discoms and 21 power generation companies are participating in this initiative.

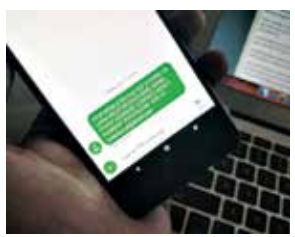
During the month of February, the maximum outstanding of Rs 13,446 crore was pending towards independent power producers followed by NTPC at Rs 8,454 crore and DVC at Rs 2,275 crore.

Among the worst performing states, Maharashtra had an outstanding of Rs 3,434 crore followed by Delhi Rs 2,757 crore, Jammu and Kashmir Rs 2,665 crore, Rajasthan Rs 1,146 crore, Punjab Rs 1,015 crore, Haryana Rs 1,071 crore, Punjab Rs 1,015 crore, Meghalaya Rs 273 crore, Assam Rs 248 crore and Arunachal Pradesh Rs 16 crore.

A senior official said the participation in this initiative is voluntary and certain generation companies have not provided billing and payment data for the past six months.

Trai proposes use of blockchain tech to curb pesky calls, SMS

NEW DELHI: Telecom regulator Trai on Tuesday issued new draft norms to curb pesky calls and SMSes by using blockchain technology to ensure that telemarketing messages are sent only to those who have subscribed to them, and that too by authorized entities.



"Blockchain will ensure two things — non-repudiation and confidentiality. Only those authorised to access details will be able to access subscriber details and only when they need to deliver service... Trai will become first organisation to implement this kind of regulation," Trai Chairman RS Sharma told reporters.

The Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations 2018 draft will be open for public comment till June 11.

The new technology based norms will record all communication between subscribers and entities, capturing customer consent for information and authorised telemarketing agencies.

Trai Secretary SK Gupta said: "It is learnt that many telemarketing firms get registered with telecom companies to obtain subscriber details. The new system will give access to only authorised agencies at the time they need to deliver service and details of only those

Blockchain will ensure non-repudiation and confidentiality. Only authorised will be able to get subscriber details

subscribers who have agreed to receive the message.

"The digital record will show entire communication between entries involved." The draft proposes to check misuse of repeated unsolicited calls being made even to those subscribers who have given consent.

"A subscriber may have given consent for a service but that consent is liable to be misused. Under the proposed regulation. The subscriber will be able to revoke consent given to entities whenever he or she desires through Trai app and other mechanism that will be provided under the regulation," Gupta said.

Fertiliser cos to get subsidy for customised products via DBT

NEW DELHI: Fertiliser firms will have to buy from retailers the products like urea and DAP for manufacturing crop-specific soil nutrients in order to avail subsidy from the government under the current DBT system.

This interim arrangement has been made for the next six months following a court order on a petition filed by some fertiliser makers seeking subsidy on mixed/customised products under the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

The government has introduced DBT in fertiliser sector from April under which subsidy

is given to companies only after the product is sold to farmers at retail point through the point of sale (PoS) machines.

Fertiliser manufacturers were able to get the subsidy on main products like urea, potash and DAP, but could not avail the incentive on sale of mixed fertilisers, forcing them to knock the door of the court.

On the court's direction, the fertiliser ministry has now notified an interim solution for sale of subsidised fertilisers to mixed/customised fertiliser manufacturing units under DBT system. As per the laid



procedure, the state agriculture department will approve a quantity of subsidised fertilisers required to be purchased by each licenced mixed/customised fertiliser makers. The companies, which have got the quantity approved in writing by

the state, will buy from a retailer using authorised Aadhar number of any of its employees.

Retailers will sell that specified quantity and type of fertilizer through PoS machines using authorised employee's Aadhar number.

Retailers have been asked to retain the copy of two authorisation letters — one by the state government for quantity approved and second the fertiliser maker authorising employee to buy the fertiliser. Both retailers and mixed fertiliser makers have been asked to maintain a separate register for

purchase, production and sale of the final product.

These registers will be periodically checked once in every three months by the state agriculture department "This interim arrangement would be valid for a period of six months with effect from May 23, 2018. A long-term procedure would be notified by the department in due course," the notification added.

The government provides subsidy to the tune of Rs 70,000 crore annually. It is promoting customised fertilisers to ensure balance use of soil nutrients.

India, China to drive global tea demand and production over next decade

NEW DELHI: India and China will drive global tea production and consumption over the next decade, UN body FAO on Tuesday said while stressing on the need to take urgent measures to tackle adverse impact of climate change.

World black tea output is estimated to increase to 4.4 million tonnes by 2027 from 3.33 million tonnes in 2017, while green tea production is projected to increase to 3.6 million tonnes from 1.77 million tonnes in the said period, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said in its latest report.

The annual production of green tea is projected to grow much faster by 7.5 per cent over the next decade when compared with black tea at only 2.2 per cent, it added.

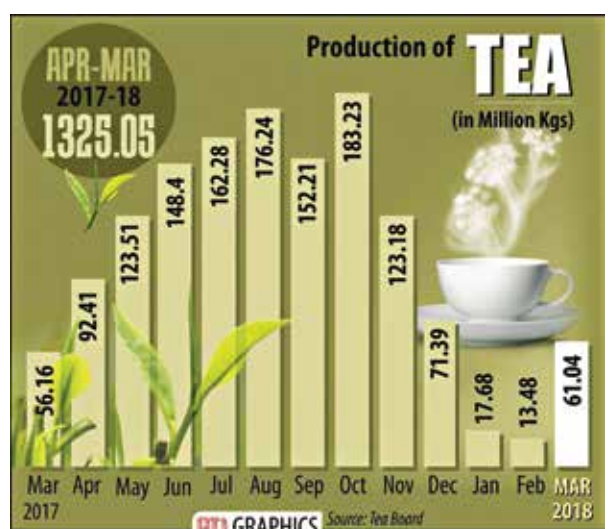
According to the report, global consumption of black tea is estimated to increase to 4.16 million tonnes in 2027 from 3.29 million tonnes in 2017.

"Global tea consumption and production are projected to keep rising over the next decade, driven by robust demand in developing and emerging countries," the FAO said.

This will create new rural income opportunities and improve food security in tea-producing countries, it said.

Black tea production in India, the world's second largest producer, is projected to rise to 1.61 million tonnes in the next decade from 1.26 million tonnes in 2017.

Green tea output in China, the world's largest producer, is



estimated to increase to 3.31 million tonnes in 2027 from 1.52 million tonnes in 2017.

On impact of climate change, the UN body warned that "tea production is highly

sensitive to changes in growing conditions. Tea can only be produced in narrowly defined agro-ecological conditions and, hence, in a very limited number of countries, many of which will be heavily impacted by climate change."

"Changes in temperature and rainfall patterns, with more floods and droughts, are already affecting yields, tea product quality and prices, lowering incomes and threatening rural livelihoods," it said, adding that these climate changes are expected to intensify, calling for urgent adaptation measures.

In parallel, there is a growing recognition of the need to contribute to climate change mitigation, by reducing carbon emissions from tea production and processing, it suggested.

The FAO further urged tea-producing countries to integrate climate change challenges, both on the adaptation and mitigation front, into their national tea development strategies.

On consumption, the UN body said it has grown rapidly in China, India and other emerging economies, driven by a combination of higher incomes and efforts to diversify production to include speciality items such as herbal teas, fruit fusions and flavoured gourmet teas.

Tea consumption has also benefited from increased awareness about the beverage's anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and weight loss effects. Such health and well-being benefits are seen as the key drivers of future consumption growth, it added.

BHEL net profit up 112% to ₹457 crore in March quarter

NEW DELHI: State-owned power equipment maker BHEL posted more than doubling of its standalone net profit to Rs 457.12 crore for the March quarter of last fiscal on higher revenues.

Its net profit was Rs 215.55 crore for the January-March quarter of the preceding fiscal, 2016-17, BHEL said in a statement.

The total income of the company was Rs 10,341.58 crore in the fourth quarter of 2017-18, slightly down from Rs 10,476.28 crore a year ago. The turnover (sales) for the quarter was Rs 9,833 crore as against Rs 9,479 crore in the last year.

The company's standalone net profit for the entire fiscal, 2017-18 was Rs 806.60 crore, up from Rs 495.86 in the previous fiscal. The turnover was Rs 27,850 crore, as against Rs 27,740 crore in the previous year.

It said the turnover for 2017-18 would have been higher by Rs 488 crore totalling to Rs 28,338 crore, a jump of 2.2 per cent over the previous year, considering the duties and taxes on bought-out items and Civil Turnover which were forming part of the turnover in

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. Q4 2017-18 (in ₹ Crores)			
	2017	2018	YoY Growth %
Op Revenue	10249	10144	-0.98
Income	10476	10342	-1.25
Expenditure	10208	9202	-9.78
PBT	269	1140	323.42
Net Profit	216	457	112.09
EPS (in ₹)	0.59	1.25	110.34



CMD Atul Sobti

the pre-GST regime. An interim equity dividend of 40 per cent has been paid for 2017-18, on the enhanced equity following a bonus issue earlier in the year, maintaining the track-record of paying dividends uninterrupted since 1976-77.

In addition, the company has recommended a final dividend of 51 per cent, subject to the approval of shareholders. With this, the total dividend for the year 2017-18 would stand at 91 per cent, on the enhanced equity. This will be the highest dividend in last four years.

Talking to PTI, BHEL Chairman and Managing Director Atul Sobti said: "Prudent strategies of garnering higher market share in a shrunken and highly competitive business environment

enabled the BHEL to book orders worth Rs 40,932 crore in 2017-18. Significantly, this is a quantum jump of 74 per cent over 2016-17."

The orders in last fiscal comprise of Rs 33,342 crore in the Power segment and Rs 7,590 Crore in the industry and overseas segments combined.

BHEL has ended 2017-18 with a total order book of over Rs 1,18,000 crore the highest in the last five years.

Sobti said, "Focus on increased localisation of super-critical technology, higher technology depth, and design optimization enabled the company to enhance its competitiveness and strengthen its leadership in the power plant and associated equipment segment of the Indian utility

market." All the orders for new thermal units are on Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis and have been won outbidding Indian and multinational equipment suppliers under International Competitive Bidding (ICB), he said.

In the nuclear segment, the BHEL secured an order for the supply of Steam Generator package (4 SGs) for 2x700 MWe Gorakhpur Haryana Anu Vidyut Pariyojana (GHAVP) Units-1&2 through Domestic Competitive Bidding (DCB).

"The enhanced thrust on enlarging non-coal business has resulted in an upsurge with order inflows from the industry sector business segment at the highest level in the last six years. This includes highest ever orders won in transportation, defence, aerospace and water business resulting from our unflinching focus on increasing non-coal business."

In the transportation segment, the company has bagged orders for thirty 3-phase IGBT-based WAG-9H Electric Locomotives from the Railway Board after a gap of over one decade.

In the defence and aerospace segment, orders have been secured for 76/62 mm Super Rapid Gun Mount (SRGM), the most distinctive armament on Indian Naval warships, from the Indian Navy and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. Prestigious orders have also been received for 24 sets of pressure vessel parts from LPSO ISRO and heat exchanger for LCA Tejas Programme from HAL.

The company has entered into a technology collaboration agreement with Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd., Japan for the manufacture of stainless steel coaches and bogies for Metro Rail.

As part of its diversification strategy, BHEL has also entered into a Technology Transfer Agreement with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for the manufacture of space-grade Lithium-ion cells of various capacities utilising the technology developed by ISRO at its Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).

This transfer of technology will enable BHEL to manufacture Lithium-ion cells, in-house, for ISRO and other suitable applications. PTI

Coal India Ltd Q4 profit drops 52% to ₹1,295 cr

NEW DELHI: Coal India Ltd, the country's largest miner, on Tuesday posted 52.3 per cent dip in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,295.30 crore for the fourth quarter of last fiscal ended March 31, on higher employee cost.

It had reported profit of Rs 2,718.8 crore in the January-March quarter of the preceding fiscal 2016-17, the state-owned company said in a BSE filing.

The company's income increased to Rs 28,909.3 crore, over Rs 26,633.89 crore.

The consolidated expenses of the company during March quarter were at Rs 27,757.10 crore, as against Rs 22,352.70 crore.

"Post applicability of Goods and Services Tax (GST)...revenue from operations are disclosed net of GST. Accordingly, the revenue from operations and total expenses for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2018 are not comparable with the corresponding previous periods presented in the results," the filing said.

The company's employee benefits expense in the quarter under review were at Rs 16,653.86 crore, as against Rs 9,240.67 crore, the filing said.

The consolidated gross sales of the PSU during the quarter was at Rs 37,494.6 crore, registering an increase of 5.8

Coal India Ltd. Q4 2017-18 (in ₹ Crores)			
	2017	2018	YoY Growth %
Op Revenue	24851.5	26909.2	8.49
Income	26633.9	28909.3	8.26
Expenditure	22352.8	27757.2	24.38
PBT	4281.1	1152.1	-73.28
Net Profit	2718.8	1295.3	-52.36
EPS (in ₹)	4.38	2.09	-52.28

land losers want nothing but employment. Despite this, MCL (Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd) pays compensation of Rs 16 lakh in lieu of employment, but villagers demand employment," he said.

Jha had served as the chairman of CIL's most profitable subsidiary, MCL.

He further said that manpower with Coal India is three to four times that of an Australian mine, owing to the large demand for employment.

Moreover, CIL also invests in infrastructure development for its neighbourhood areas to fulfil the demand for water, health and education needs of locals around the mines, so that all stakeholders get a share of profit from the miner, Jha said.

The top CIL official said the mining major is striving to bring down the cost of production to a "bare minimum", but added that he would require some time to prepare a road-map towards these goals without compromising on social factors.

Jha said he had already approved opening of price bids for ERP implementation, which was delayed for quite a few months.

He also asserted that no power plant will suffer due to shortage of coal. PTI

BPCL Q4 standalone net up 45% to ₹2,673 crore

NEW DELHI: State-run Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) on Tuesday said its standalone net profit increased 45 per cent to Rs 2,673.64 crore for the quarter ended March 2018.

This is against a net profit of Rs 1,841.68 crore in the year-ago period, BPCL said in a BSE filing.

The company's total income on standalone basis was up 15.3 per cent to Rs 76,899.89 crore for the quarter under review as against Rs 66,685.61 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

BPCL said its consolidated net profit has grown by 2.99 per cent to Rs 9,791.91 crore in 2017-18, while total income rose higher by 14.4 per cent to Rs 2,81,095.42 crore as compared to the previous fiscal.



BPCL gas station.

The company's board has recommended a final dividend of Rs 7 per equity share for the financial year ended March 31, 2018.

Meanwhile, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) on Tuesday said it has appointed K Sivakumar as its chief financial officer.

"...K Sivakumar has been appointed as the chief financial officer with effect from May 29, 2018," BPCL said in a BSE filing. PTI

Sebi begins probe into technical glitches at MCX, NSE's NOW

NEW DELHI: Markets regulator Sebi has begun initial probe into technical problem with MCX's trading system and "disruption" in NSE's web-based tool NOW, senior officials said.

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) on May 24 witnessed a "disruption" in its web-based tool NOW, which allows traders to use their own software and hardware for trading on the bourse.

Besides, MCX on May 25 observed a technical problem with its trading system.

The Sebi has sought a report from both the exchanges that have suffered technical glitches and disruptions last week, the officials said. PTI

Average khadi industries products export grow by 133.28% after 2014

NEW DELHI: Output always speaks of intention! And, that seems to have happened with Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in the last two-three years. From the proverbial snail's speed in all streams, it has suddenly got a rabbit's momentum - right from the moment Prime Minister Narendra Modi realized it latent potential.

Sample these figures: The average export of Khadi and village industries products went to Rs 2014.75 crore with a huge growth of 133.28 per cent. Similarly, the village industries products average sales by departmental sales outlets - which were only Rs 13.67 crore during 2004-14 - jumped to Rs 31.20 crore, with a significant growth of 128.24 per cent. For KVIC Chairman



Vinai Kumar Saxena, credit of this outcome goes to the present government. "It was the vision of Prime Minister that this untapped sector has now become one of the best performers. He, not only appealed the people to buy Khadi and village industries products, rather he led from the front to create a craze for 'Make in India' among youths," he said. MPOST

Power Grid Q4 net up 4.6% to ₹2,004 crore

NEW DELHI: State-run Power Grid Corporation on Tuesday said its standalone net profit rose by 4.6 per cent to Rs 2,004.68 crore in the quarter ended March 2018 mainly on account of higher revenues.

The company's standalone net profit stood at Rs 1,916.36 crore in the quarter ended March 2017, a Power Grid statement said.

According to the statement, total income of the company increased to Rs 8,098.93 crore in the fourth quarter from Rs 7,049.69 crore a year ago.

The company's consolidated net profit also increased to Rs 8,198.31 crore in 2017-18 as compared to Rs 7,450.73 crore in the previous financial year. Total consolidated



income of the company stood at Rs 30,430.54 crore in 2017-18 from Rs 26,282.96 crore in the previous fiscal. The company's board on Tuesday also recommended a final dividend of Rs 2.80 per share (of face value Rs 10 each). During the year, the company has paid an interim dividend of Rs 2.45 per share (of face value of Rs 10 each) for 2017-18. The total dividend (including interim dividend) for 2017-18 is Rs 5.25 per share. PTI

SGX barred by court from launching India product: NSE

NEW DELHI: The National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Tuesday said the Bombay High Court has barred SGX from launching any India derivative contracts and directed settlement of the matter through arbitration to which the Singapore bourse has agreed.

The court on Tuesday heard the matter with regard to a dispute between the NSE and the Singapore Exchange (SGX) over the latter's plan to launch Nifty-based products beginning this June.

"The petition was heard by the Bombay High Court on May 29, 2018 when the Bombay High Court reaffirmed the injunction granted on May 21, 2018 and after hearing both parties, ordered that SGX will not launch new derivatives contracts as per its circular dated April 11, 2018," the NSE said in a statement. PTI

NMDC Q4 profit up to ₹1,106 crore

NEW DELHI: State-owned miner NMDC on Tuesday reported an over two-fold rise in its standalone profit at Rs 1,105.8 crore for the March 2018 quarter. The company had posted a standalone profit of Rs 511.8 crore in the year-ago period, NMDC said.

Its income increased to Rs 4,053.1 crore, over Rs 3,006.21 crore in the January-March quarter of FY17, the statement said. However, total expenses of the company increased to Rs 2,059.8 crore, over Rs 1,976 crore in the year-ago period.

NMDC is country's single largest iron ore producer, presently producing about 30 million tonnes of iron ore from 3 fully mechanised mines, according to its website. The Company's production of iron ore during the fourth quarter is 11.35 million tonnes (MT) registering an increase of 9 per cent over the corresponding period last year (CPLY) while



CMD N Baijendra Kumar

sales of iron ore was 10.54 MT which is about 8 per cent more than that of the CPLY.

Congratulating all the employees and Board Members CMD N Baijendra Kumar said that their inspired efforts during NMDC's Diamond Jubilee Year would infuse a level of confidence among stakeholders and he also emphasised on NMDC's belief in triple bottom line principle of people, planet and profit through deliberate inclusion of public interest into its corporate decision making. MPOST

MMTC posts Q4 net profit of ₹12.82 crore

NEW DELHI: State-owned MMTC Limited on Tuesday reported a standalone net profit of Rs 12.82 crore for the quarter ended March 2018.

The company had posted a net loss of Rs 20.82 crore in the same period of the last fiscal, MMTC said in a BSE filing.

Total income for January-March 2018 period stood at Rs 3,110.71 crore, higher than the Rs 2,545.37 crore in the corresponding period of the last fiscal, it added. For the full 2017-18 fiscal, MMTC posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 37.52 crore compared to a net loss of Rs 29.76 crore in the previous fiscal.

Total income, on consolidated basis, stood at Rs 16,496.67 crore in 2017-18, up from Rs 11,871.83 crore in the previous financial year. The company's board has recommended a dividend of Re 0.30 per share for year ended March 31, 2018. PTI

Alcatel 3V launched in India exclusively on Flipkart for ₹9,999

NEW DELHI: China-based TCL Communication, which sells Alcatel devices in India, launched its latest smartphone "Alcatel 3V" that comes with a "FullView" display.

Priced at Rs 9,999, the 6-inch device with an aspect ratio 18:9 is available exclusively on Flipkart.

"With its latest technology and exquisite new features, 'Alactel 3V' has all the features that customers look for from a premium brand," said Praveen Valecha, Regional Director India, TCL Communications.

The device sports 16MP + 5 MP dual rear camera and an 8MP front camera with flash. It has 3GB RAM and 32GB of internal storage that can be expanded up to 128GB, along with the latest operating system, Android 8.0 Oreo edition. The device also comes with



Alcatel 3V smartphone.

"Face Unlock" feature. Jio users purchasing "Alcatel 3V" can get instant cash back of Rs 3,700-Rs 2,200.

The company said it is evaluating setting up local assembly of Alcatel smartphones in India. "We are in discussions with various players. We are looking at starting with semi-knocked down (SKD) assembly by September and will expand accordingly," TCL Communications Regional Director India Praveen Valecha said. MPOST

Telangana tops in farmers friendly agriculture reforms

HYDERABAD: A visionary and a farmer him self, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao successfully rolled out over 50 incentives and sops that have gone a long way in making agriculture - in predominantly arid regions (without irrigation canals and agri motor run bore well farming) of Telangana.

Within a short period of 4 years Rao has transformed the agriculture in Telangana into a profitable avocation and farmers have found in him a savior from suicides, cheating by dalals for their market produce, crop insurance, and crop subsidy.

"As a farmer myself, I know their pains, suffering and hurdles in farming and hence the government stand farmers

backbone from sowing tofain marketing of agriculture produce," says Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao.

The farmer friendly measures like 24x7 free power, farm loan waiver and the latest Rythu bandhu - farmer investment support scheme of Rs 4000 per acre for per crops a year amounting Rs 8000/- per acre directly into their accounts through cheques have catapulted Telangana as a top farmer friendly state in the country.

Very recently as per the NITI Aayog's Agriculture Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index' Telangana is ranked among the top 10 most farmer friendly states in the country, Telangana with 54.3% weightage occupied the 9th



position in the country in the realm of reforms for agricultural markets, land, forestry on private land, felling and transit of trees.

Salient features of the agriculture policy of the government were Waiving off crop

enhancing per capita income with advanced agricultural techniques

Telangana is first state in the country to provide 26 per cent of its annual budget to Agriculture and Rs 3,728 crore in 2018-19 for free power for agriculture and Rs 20,820.08 crore for agriculture and allied sectors, rural development, an increase of Rs 7,179 crore increased. Annually Rs 37,968 crores being allocated for Agriculture which resulted in a record level 101.29 lakh metric tons of agricultural produce as against 100 lakh tones in 2017-18

The farmers welfare promoted by the Telangana govt with over 60 sops is unique in every aspect and covered the farmer in all respects - agri-

culture operations, compensation for suicides, children's education, wedding, loan debts, insurance, women empowerment in villages, power to village homes and farming, digital solutions at door steps, health care and finally pensions after retirement.

"Telangana farmer has suffered a lot since centuries. The Telangana government is striving to fulfill the cherished hope of every Telangana farmer for liberation from bondage of debts, social inequalities and capacity building for pursuing agriculture operations," says the dynamic chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao who is the brain child for a massive dose of agricultural reforms and sops to the farmers. MPOST

Power Secretary A K Bhalla, and NTPC CMD Gurdeep Singh flagged off the India's largest Dump Truck 280 tonne Hitachi with combination of 36 Cubic Metre Leibherr Shovel at NTPC Pakri Barwadhih in Jharkhand



National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an organisation which has been on the forefront in digital payments, is proud to present the National Payments Excellence Awards 2017, the highest recognition in the industry to acknowledge exceptional performance in payments system



FIGO PARTS WAYS WITH PREMIER FUTSAL

NEW DELHI: Luis Figo has terminated his collaboration with Premier Futsal, asserting that the tournament has turned out to be a complete failure. Figo, the president of Premier Futsal, has been involved with the multi-city tournament since its first edition in 2016. "I would like to announce that I am no longer the Honorary president of Premier Futsal, having ceased my relationship with Premier Futsal Management (P) Limited," Figo said.

PKL AUCTION: 422 PLAYERS TO GO UNDER HAMMER

MUMBAI: A total of 422 players will be going under the hammer when the two-day auctions for the sixth edition of the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) gets underway. Of the total players, 58 are from 14 different nations while 87 players come from the league's Future Kabaddi Heroes Programme (FKH), a nationwide talent scouting programme held in 18 cities.

ANAND DRAWS WITH ARONIAN IN OPENER

STAVANGER: Viswanathan Anand was caught off-guard by Levon Aronian of Armenia as he conceded an easy draw in the first round of Altibox Norway chess tournament here. Coming to the first round after a fine performance in the preceding blitz tournament where he tied for second spot, Anand could do little as Aronian came up with an unusual move order in the Anti-Berlin as black and the game ended without any drama.



Injured Salah travels to Spain for treatment ahead of World Cup

CAIRO: Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah will head to Spain for treatment of a shoulder injury sustained during the UEFA Champions League final against Real Madrid in the Ukrainian capital, said Egyptian Football Association.



The Egyptian star was injured in the 25th minute of Real Madrid's 3-1 win at NSC Olimpiyskiy Stadium after his tangle with the Whites' defender Sergio Ramos, forcing Salah, who has scored 44 goals for Liverpool this season, to leave the pitch in tears, reports Efe.

Salah started his rehabilitation programme on Sunday, promising his fans he will play at the 2018 FIFA World Cup that kicks off on June 14. "It was a very tough night, but I'm a fighter. Despite the odds, I'm confident that I'll be in Russia to make you all proud. Your love and support will give me the strength

"Hany Abo Rida (EFA president) has decided to travel to Spain on Wednesday with Egypt's national team doctor Mohamed Abo al-Ela to meet with Salah and Liverpool's medical team," EFA said in a state-

ment. Salah started his rehabilitation programme on Sunday, promising his fans he will play at the 2018 FIFA World Cup that kicks off on June 14. "It was a very tough night, but I'm a fighter. Despite the odds, I'm confident that I'll be in Russia to make you all proud. Your love and support will give me the strength

Rafa finishes 2-day win over Bolelli, Sharapova marks Paris comeback

PARIS: Rafael Nadal racked up his 80th win at Roland Garros on Tuesday as the 10-time champion defeated Italian lucky loser Simone Bolelli 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (9) to reach the second round.

World number one Nadal had been two sets up but 0-3 down in the third when rain caused the tie to be suspended late Monday.

He quickly levelled at 3-3 on Tuesday and saved four break points in the eighth game before saving four set points.

Nadal eventually claimed the match on a third match point when Bolelli dumped a forehand into the net.

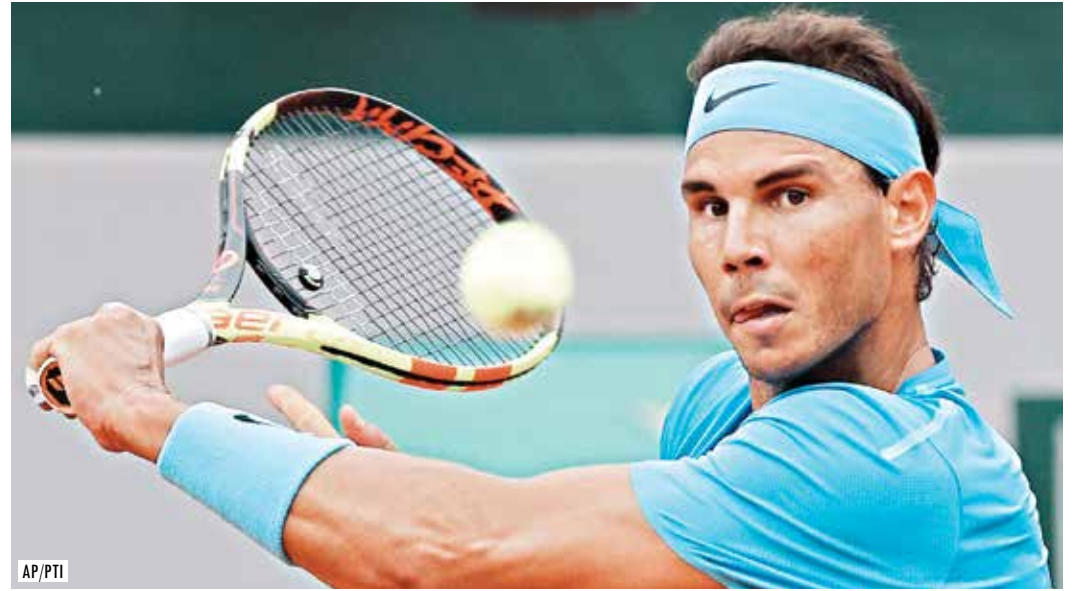
The top seeded Nadal, bidding for an 11th title in Paris and his 17th major, next faces Argentina's Guido Pella for a place in the last-32.

Meanwhile in the women's section, two-time champion Maria Sharapova survived a serious scare to claim a 6-1, 4-6, 6-3 victory over Dutch qualifier Richel Hogenkamp in her first French Open match since 2015 on Tuesday.

The Russian was controversially not given a wildcard by organisers for the tournament last year, which took place shortly after her return from a doping suspension.

Sharapova, the 28th seed, will face Croatia's Donna Vekic in the second round.

The five-time Grand Slam winner is only seeded at Roland Garros courtesy of a semi-final run in Rome earlier this month which dragged her back into the top 30 for the first time



AP/PTI

since her ban. The 31-year-old took just 24 minutes to win the first set of a match which was delayed from Monday due to thunderstorms, but threw away a 3-1 lead in the second as world number 133 Hogenkamp forced a decider.

Sharapova was staring down the barrel of falling at first hurdle in a Grand Slam tournament for the first time since the 2010 Australian Open when trailing 3-0 in the third, but the former world number one dug deep and reeled off six straight games to edge into round two.

Croatian Marin Cilic, third-seeded, on Tuesday beat Australia's James Duckworth 6-3, 7-5, 7-6 (7-4)

to advance to the second round of the French Open.

Cilic, the 2014 US Open champion, blasted 47 winners including 13 aces during the match, which lasted two hours and 13 minutes, reported Efe. The Croatian world No. 4 is set to play Poland's Hubert Hurkacz, who beat the US' Tenny Sandgren 6-2, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Meanwhile, Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff managed to overcome Evgeny Donskoy of Russia 6-1, 6-3, 6-0 in just one hour and 20 minutes.

Struff's opponent in the second round is to be the winner of the match between US player Steve Johnson and France's Adrian

Mannarino.

It's a big day at the French Open as Serena Williams makes her comeback on Day 3 of the clay-court Grand Slam following the birth of her daughter in September.

Serena hasn't played in a major since winning her 23rd Grand Slam title at the 2017 Australian Open and a big question mark is hanging over her current form.

Spain's Garbine Muguruza, third seeded, prevailed on Tuesday over Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova 7-6 (7-0), 6-2 in the first round of the French Open, after the match was suspended for around half an hour due to rain.

AGENCIES

IFM IMPEX GLOBAL LTD.
H.No. 48, Hasanpur, I.P. Extension Delhi East Delhi DL 110092
Email Id: ifmimpex@gmail.com, Website: www.ifmimpex.com,
Tel. No. 011-27672349 CIN: L51909DL1986PLC025457

Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
	31.03.2018 (Audited)	31.03.2017 (Audited)	31.03.2018 (Audited)	31.03.2017 (Audited)
1. Total Income from Operations	16.85	2.66	18.76	10.26
2. Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	6.20	-0.74	3.99	-4.85
3. Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary item)	3.85	-0.74	1.64	-4.85
4. Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	3.97	-0.74	1.76	-4.85
5. Total comprehensive income for the period (comprising profit/loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)	3.97	-0.74	1.76	-4.85
6. Paid up Equity share capital (Face value of Rs.10/- share each)	300.56	300.56	300.56	300.56
7. Reserves Excluding revaluation reserves (as per balance sheet of previous year)	-172.04	-173.80	-172.04	-173.80
8. Earning Per Share (E.P.S.) Basic & Diluted, before and after Extraordinary Items (Not Annualised)	0.13	-0.02	0.06	-0.16

Note: - 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly unaudited financial results filed with the stock exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Annual Financial Results are available on the Company's Website at a link at www.ifmimpex.com or on the website of BSE Ltd., MSEI Ltd.

Place : New Delhi
Date : 29.05.2018

For & on behalf of the Board of Directors
IFM IMPEX GLOBAL LTD.
Sd/-
O.P. Yadav (Mg. Director)
DIN : 01607006

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a boy namely **Akash Chander**, S/O Sh. Parkash Chander, R/O H.No. 430, Gali No. 1, Budh Bazar, Mundka, Delhi. The boy has been missing since 12.03.2018 from the area of P.S. Mundka.

In this regard FIR NO. 106/18 u/s 363 IPC, dated 15.03.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Mundka, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing boy but no clue has come to light so far.

Akash Chander

The description of the missing boy is as under:
Name: Akash Chander, Age: 14 Year, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Fair, Face: Oval, ID Mark: Scar mark on Right side Forehead, Wearing: Blue Baniyan, Black Pant and Black Hawal Chappal.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing boy, kindly inform SHO/ P.S. Mundka, Delhi.

Email: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
Ph.: 8586932309, 8586932308 P.S. Mundka, Delhi
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph. No. 07065036126
DP/842/OD/18 08586932312

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body Name: Deepak, S/o Unknown, R/o: Jahangir Puri, Delhi, Age: 22 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Shallow, Gender: Male, Face: Oval, Built: Thin, Hair: Black, ID Mark: Tattoo Mark "D" on Right Hand, Wearing: White & Blue Shirt and Black Pant was found dead in the area of P.S. Jahangir Puri, Delhi on 24.05.2018 at 10:50 am. In this regard, FIR/DD No. 19A dated 24.05.2018 has been lodged at PS Jahangir Puri, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this male but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this male may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S., Jahangir Puri, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27631600, 8750870229
DP/7885/NW/18

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that this person (depicted in the photo) namely: **Sidharth Mohan**, S/o Uni Chand Mohan, R/o H.No. 19-E, Railway Quarter, Mahawat Khan Road, Delhi, has been missing/kidnapped from Bal Bhawan, IP Estate since 04.05.2018. In this regard DD No. 55A Dated 02.05.2018 has been lodged at PS I.P. Estate, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far. His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, Age: 26 years, Height: 5'11" ft., Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Mentally disturb, Wearing: Orange color T-shirt, sky blue Pajama and black slipper in feet.
Any person is having information or clue about this missing/ kidnapped person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Ph. No.- 011-23370928, 23378474
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mob. No. - 8750870426
Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/5476/CD/18

PORSCH CAPITAL MARKET LIMITED
Regd. Office - K H - 810, 2ND FLOOR MAHIPAL PUR EXTENSION (NEAR MARUTI WORK SHOP) NEW DELHI - 110037
CIN : L65993DL1992PLC048483
Tel: 011 - 65912028
Email ID : porche_capital@yahoo.in; website: www.porchecapital.com
(Standalone Result for the quarter and year ended on 31.03.2018)

Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
	31-03-2018 (Audited)	31-12-2017 (UnAudited)	31-03-2017 (Audited)	31-03-2017 (Audited)
Total income from operations (net)	14.68	7.07	8.14	41.73
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax	1.91	0.09	0.16	2.39
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (Extraordinary Items)	1.30	0.09	-1.06	1.78
Paid Up Share Capital	1,895.03	1,895.03	1,895.03	1,895.03
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet, as at 31 st March 2018)			7.16	
Earnings Per Share (of Rs.10/- each)				
Basic	0.007	0.000	(0.006)	0.009
Diluted	0.007	0.000	(0.006)	0.009

Note:
1. The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on 28/05/2018.
2. The Company has adopted Indian Accounting Standards ("Ind AS") from April 1, 2017. Further, the Company has restated the results of the previous periods / year under Ind AS.
3. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/ Year and/or Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites (www.mseil.in) and on the Company's website (www.porchecapital.com).

By order of the Board
PORSCH CAPITAL MARKET LIMITED
Sd/-
DIWAKAR JOSHI
Director

Place : New Delhi
Date : 28th May, 2018

VKJ INFRADEVELOPERS LIMITED
CIN : L45400DL2010PLC200014
Regd. Office : M-161/B, Ground Floor, Kalka Bhawan, Commercial Centre, Gautam Nagar Road, Yusuf Sarai, South Delhi DL - 110049
EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED ON 31ST MARCH, 2018 (Amount in Lacs)

Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
	31-03-2018 (Audited)	31-12-2017 (UnAudited)	31-03-2017 (Audited)	31-03-2017 (Audited)
Total income from operations (net/operations) (net)	09.09	67.66	299.87	318.91
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax, exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	1.98	0.59	1.25	5.91
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	1.98	0.59	1.25	5.91
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	0.38	0.59	-0.22	4.36
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)	0.38	0.59	-0.22	4.36
Paid Up Share Capital	2379.96	1,784.98	1,784.98	2,379.96
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet, as at 31 st March, 2018)			823.31	818.45
Earnings Per Share (of Rs.1/- each) (Not annualised)	0.000	0.000	-0.000	0.002
Diluted				

Note:
The above is an extract of the detailed format of Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website (www.vkjinfra.com).

By order of the Board
VKJ INFRADEVELOPERS LIMITED
Sd/-
(AGUSTEEN KACHHAP)
Director

Place : Delhi
Date : 28th May, 2018

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED (See Section 82 Cr.Pc.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused persons (1) Raja Hasan @ Ansh, S/o Shri Babu Khan, (2) Vakila, S/o Sorajat, both R/o Village Sirsi, PS Nabocsa, District Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh have committed the offence in case E-FIR No. 1953/18 U/S 379/411/34 IPC PS Mongolpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused (1) Raja Hasan @ Ansh, (2) Vakila can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused (1) Raja Hasan @ Ansh, (2) Vakila have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused persons (1) Raja Hasan @ Ansh, (2) Vakila of case E-FIR No. 1953/18 U/S 379/411/34 IPC PS Mongolpuri, Delhi are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on 11.07.18.

By Order
Shri Rakesh Kumar-II
Metropolitan Magistrate (North-West)
Room No. 105, Rohini Court, Delhi
DP/907/OD/18

FC GOA ROPE IN WINGER IMRAN KHAN

PANAJI: ISL franchise FC Goa on Tuesday announced the signing of 23-year-old Manipuri winger Imran Khan from Fateh Hyderabad FC. He was named the Manipuri Player of the Year in 2015-2016 and has represented 2018 I-League runners-up Neroca FC. Imran is a pacey midfielder, capable of playing anywhere on the left side or in an attacking position, a release said.

AGENCIES

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Aunj Shrivastav S/o Sh. Parmod Shrivastav R/o D-372, Swaroop Nagar, Delhi or B-241, Tulsiyani Charmwood Residency Lukarganj Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under **FIR No. 196/16 u/s 406 IPC** has been registered at **RS. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Aunj Shrivastav** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Aunj Shrivastav** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Aunj Shrivastav of FIR No. 196/16 u/s 406 IPC** has been registered at **RS. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on **02.07.2018**.

By order
Ms. Sadhika Jalan MM, Room No.320, Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/7835/NW/18

SAI CAPITAL LIMITED
Regd. Office: G-25, GROUND FLOOR, RASVILAS SALCON D-1, SAKET DISTRICT CENTRE, SAKET, NEW DELHI, SOUTH DELHI - 110017
(CIN: L74899DL1995PLC069787), E mail: sai@vsnl.com or cs@saicapital.co.in
EXTRACT OF DETAILED STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER / YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 (Rs. in Lacs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	3 Months ended		Preceding 3 Months ended		Corresponding 3 Months ended in the previous year		Year ended 31st March, 2018	Year ended 31st March, 2017
		31st March, 2018	31st March, 2018	31st December, 2017	31st December, 2017	31st March, 2017	31st March, 2017		
		Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited		
1.	Total income from operations	-4.95	-22.58	-14.05	-25.51	-11.14			
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	-11.01	-30.98	-21.54	-48.80	-25.37			
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	-11.99	-31.34	-21.54	-51.10	-25.37			
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	-11.99	-31.34	-21.54	-51.10	-25.37			
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising profit/loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)	-11.99	-31.34	-21.54	-51.10	-25.37			
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital (face value of Rs. 10/- each)	287.93	287.93	287.93	287.93	287.93			
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-314.25	-314.25	-263.15	-314.25	-263.15			
8.	Earning Per Share (of Rs. 10/- Each) (Not Annualised) (for continuing operations)-Basic & Diluted								
	Basic	-0.42	-1.09	-0.75	-1.77	-0.88			
	Diluted	-0.42	-1.09	-0.75	-1.77	-0.88			

Note:- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Stand Alone Audited Financial Results of the Company for the 4th Quarter and Year ended 31st March, 2018, as filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the above Quarterly and Yearly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com and on the website of the Company (www.saicapital.co.in)

Place: New Delhi
Date: 29.05.2018

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
Niraj Singh
Chairman & Managing Director

Rashid, Mujeeb star in spin-heavy Afghan squad

NEW DELHI: World's premier T20 bowler Rashid Khan will headline a four-pronged spin attack in the 15-strong Afghanistan squad announced on Tuesday for the historic one-off Test against India in Bengaluru, starting June 14.

Apart from IPL sensations Rashid and young Mujeeb ur Rahman, the other two spinners are chinaman Zahir Khan and left-arm orthodox Amir Hamza Hotak in the Ashgar Stanikzai-led squad.

Rashid and Mujeeb had made the entire world sit up and take notice of their talent in the shortest format, but the duo is set to face a different battle of attrition with the red SG Test in their hands. Between them, they have played only four first-class games (all four played by Rashid while 17-year-old Mujeeb is yet to play a longer format encounter). The batting will primarily depend on skipper Stanikzai, flamboyant opener Mohammed Shahzad and batting all-rounder Mohammed Nabi.

In all, the squad has a collective experience of 205 first-class games, which makes it 13.6 four-day games per player. Only four players have an experience of 20 plus first-class matches. Nabi, who has the experience of playing for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the past two IPL seasons, is the most capped first-class player with 32 games. He is followed by skipper Stanikzai with 23 games, pacer Wafadar (22 games) and Shahzad 20 games. Afghanistan will miss their experienced seamer Dawlat Zadran out with an injury and the pace department will be handled by Yamin Ahmadzai Wafadar and Sayed Ahmed Shirzad.

Banned Warner, Bancroft sign up for Northern Territory competition

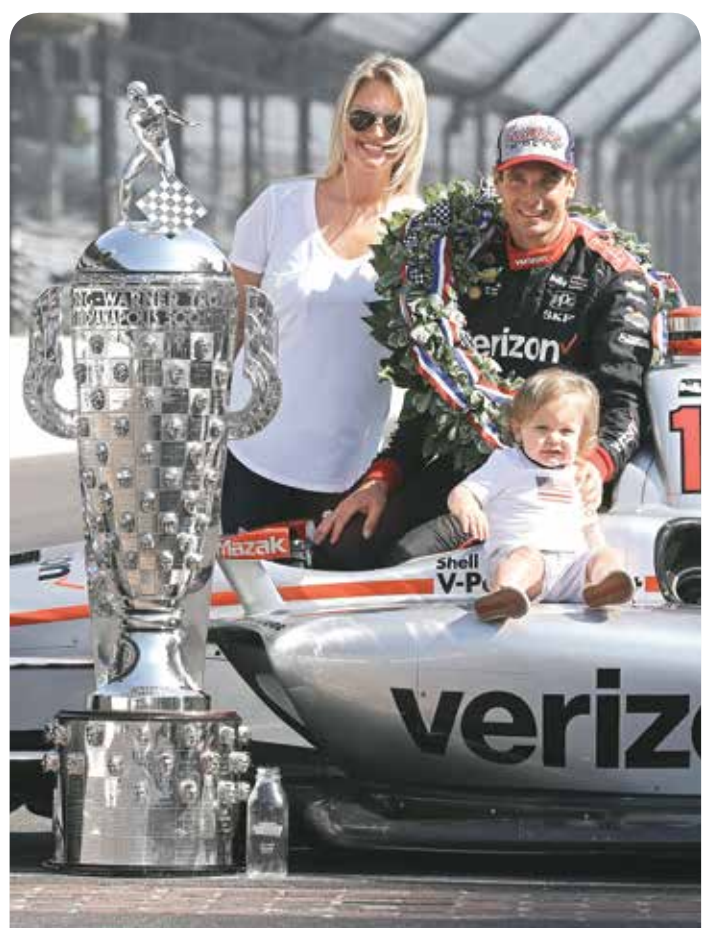
MELBOURNE: Australia batsmen David Warner and Cameron Bancroft have signed up for a limited-overs tournament in Northern Territory in July as they look to return to cricket in the wake of the ball-tampering scandal which saw them banned from the national team.

Former Australia vice-captain Warner was confirmed for two one-day matches on July 21-22, while Bancroft would be available for the whole tournament, NT Cricket said. The pair will be covering their own costs to play, NT Cricket CEO Joel Morrison told local media.

"There's no payment to any players in our competition. These two players are coming up here, looking after their own flights and accommodation," NT Cricket chief executive Joel Morrison told Australian Associated Press. "We don't lose sight of the fact that they're up here because of the events in Cape Town. They made a big error in judgment and ultimately paid the price. They've also demonstrated a willingness to learn from their mistakes and move forward. We're more than happy to support them on that journey. It's great they can start it now, as opposed to waiting for summer."

Along with former Australia captain Steve Smith, Warner is serving a year-long ban, while his former Test opening partner Bancroft is serving nine months for his part in the Cape Town scandal in March, which sullied the national team's reputation and caused a major sponsor to withdraw support. The bans issued by Cricket Australia preclude the trio from playing at international and state levels, along with the domestic 'Big Bash' Twenty20 tournament, but they are allowed to play in local third-tier club competitions and T20 tournaments overseas.

ONE FOR THE FRAME



Indianapolis 500 champion Will Power of Australia poses with his wife, Liz, and son, Beau, with the Borg-Warner Trophy during the traditional winner's photo session on the start/finish line at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway AP/PTI

Toss to remain in Tests, tougher sanctions for poor behaviour, ball tampering

MUMBAI: Toss will remain the fundamental starting point of a Test match as the Anil Kumble-led Cricket Committee of the ICC on Tuesday decided against abolishing the spin of coin in the game's traditional format, calling it an "integral part of the narrative".

Led by the former India captain, the committee made a slew of recommendations with regards to poor player behaviour, and urged the world cricket's governing body to take tough measures and restore the "culture of respect" among competing teams and its players. It also called for greater sanctions for indulging in ball tampering.

However, one of the primary points of discussion was whether to do away with the toss (visiting team getting right to choose) in order to minimise the home advantage during Test matches. "The committee discussed whether the toss should be automatically awarded to the visiting team but felt that it was an integral part of Test cricket which forms part of the narrative of the game," the ICC stated in a release.

However, the committee, comprising former captains such as Mike Gatting, Mahela Jayawardene, current international coach Mike Hesson (New Zealand) and former Australia opener and match referee David Boon, agreed that host nations should prepare quality pitches. "Acknowledging that the preparation of Test pitches that could provide a risk to the competitiveness of the ICC World Test Championship, the Committee urged Members to continue to focus on the delivery of pitches that provide a better balance between bat and ball in line with ICC regulations."

I've got faith in Argentina in World Cup: Messi

BUENOS AIRES: The captain of the Argentine national football team, Lionel Messi, said despite the "faith" he has in his squad, they must go into the Russia World Cup with a "calm" attitude and not take victory for granted because he doesn't feel that they are "the best" in the tourney this time around.

"We have players with a lot of ability, with a lot of experience, but we have to go calmly. Also, we can't send the message that we're going to emerge world champions because we're the best, because in reality it's not like that," Messi admitted during a television interview, reports Efe.

Messi said that it's more important "to go game by game" and focus on winning their first encounter with Iceland on June 16.

Although a few years ago,



"nobody expected" that Iceland would be a dangerous rival, Messi acknowledged that now the team is able to "mess up any-

one," as it showed during the last European Cup and during the island squad's qualification matches when they emerged tied with Croatia for leadership in their group.

"It's really important to start out winning because of the calmness it would give you afterwards to face the other teams, because it's not an easy group," said Messi.

He said that Argentina will have to go into the later matches — against Croatia on June 21 and Nigeria on the 26th — with the same attitude.

"Being sincere and fair about it, there are many teams, or not many but some, who are better than us.

"We have to be realistic and, with a humble attitude, we're going to go out seeking that dream" of winning the title, he said.

Yuki crashes out of French Open, Bopanna advances

PARIS: Yuki Bhambri's maiden appearance at the French Open ended with a first round defeat even as Rohan Bopanna began his men's doubles campaign with an easy win along with French partner Edouard Roger-Vasselin, here on Tuesday.

Yuki lost his opening men's singles match 4-6 4-6 1-6 to Belgium's Ruben Bemelmans in straight sets. It was second clash between Yuki, ranked 93, and the Belgian, who is placed 110 on the

ranking chart.

Yuki had got the better of Bemelmans at the ATP Delhi Open semifinals in 2015.

With his defeat India's challenge ended in the men's singles.

Prajesh Gunneswaran had made it to the main draw as a lucky loser but he could not compete as he had confirmed his participation at a Challenger event in Italy after losing his final qualifying round and had left Paris.

The player has to be present at the venue to sign in and must have not committed to play in any other event to be eligible for entry into main draw.

Bopanna, who won his maiden Grand Slam title here last year in mixed doubles with Canadian Gabriela Dabrowski, and Roger-Vasselin, seeded 13th, knocked out the American team of Taylor Fritz and Frances Tiafoe 6-3 6-1 in just 63 minutes.

Sterling defends gun tattoo following criticism



Sterling took to Instagram to defend himself, insisting the tattoo has a "deeper meaning"

with the England team at St George's Park ahead of next month's World Cup in Russia with the tattoo of a rifle clearly visible on his right leg.

Founder of campaign group Mothers Against Guns, Lucy Cope, whose son was shot dead outside a London nightclub in July 2002, said: "This tattoo is disgusting. Raheem should hang his head in shame. It's totally unacceptable.

"We demand he has the tattoo lasered off or covered up with a different tattoo. If he refuses he should be dropped from the England team."

Sterling, who is part of Gareth Southgate's 23-man squad who begin their World Cup campaign in Volgograd against Tunisia on June 18, again took to Instagram to defend himself, insisting the tattoo has a "deeper meaning."

"When I was 2 my father died from being gunned down to death I made a promise to myself I would never touch a gun in my life time, I shoot with my right foot so it has a deeper meaning N (and it is) still unfinished," the 23-year-old wrote.

New Russian Olympic chief pledges to 'restore trust'

MOSCOW: The new head of the Russian Olympic Committee, former fencer Stanislav Pozdnyakov, pledged Tuesday to take "concrete steps" to "restore trust" in doping-tainted Russian sport.

"Restoring trust in our sport depends on concrete steps. All events will take place under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee," Pozdnyakov said.

"We will pay the closest attention to restoring trust in our sport. The participation of our team in its entirety in the Olympic Games is among our priorities," added Pozdnyakov, who won five Olympic medals in fencing. Russia was banned from participating in the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics earlier this year over what international authorities believed to be a state-sponsored cheating programme. In a statement ahead of the vote, President Vladimir Putin called for sports officials to restore Moscow's place in international sport.

"It is important to ensure the restoration of our position in the international sports movement, to actively participate in the work of international federations and to continue working on improving the effectiveness of anti-doping systems," Putin said in a statement.

Portugal: World Cup victory a difficult mission for Ronaldo

LISBON: Portugal head to Russia as European champions after their unlikely Euro 2016 triumph in France. There is little doubt that captain and talisman Cristiano Ronaldo is eager for his team to follow in the footsteps of neighbours Spain by winning two consecutive major tournaments.

However, fulfilling a lifetime's ambition by winning the World Cup may prove a step too far for the five-time World Player of the Year and his teammates, reports Xinhua news agency.

Topping their World Cup qualifying group on goal difference ahead of Switzerland, Portugal booked their ticket to Russia thanks in no small measure to Ronaldo and his 15 goals.

The European champions bounced back from an opening round defeat to Switzerland by winning their remaining nine fixtures. Ronaldo apart, however, Portugal's squad looks a little short on quality in comparison to favourites Brazil, Germany and Spain.

2018 marks Portugal's seventh appearance at the World Cup and their fifth in a row. Their best performance came on their debut in 1966, when they finished third after losing to hosts England in the semi-finals. They also reached the semis in 2006, losing to France. Meanwhile, they went out in the group stage in both 2002 and 2014, and lost to Spain in the round of 16 in 2010.

But after the euphoria of winning Euro 2016, even the most ardent aficionado of A Selecao das Quinas would admit that their victory was largely unexpected and was achieved in a pragmatic, attritional style uncomfortably similar to that of Greece at Euro 2004. Portugal's success in recent years has been in large part due to coach Fernando Santos, who oversaw a significant turnaround in form after replacing Paulo Bento following an embarrassing home defeat against Albania in a Euro 2016 qualifier. Santos subsequently led Portugal to the Euro 2016 title and has lost only once in 29 competitive internationals.

and lost to Spain in the round of 16 in 2010.

But after the euphoria of winning Euro 2016, even the most ardent aficionado of A Selecao das Quinas would admit that their victory was largely unexpected and was achieved in a pragmatic, attritional style uncomfortably similar to that of Greece at Euro 2004. Portugal's success in recent years has been in large part due to coach Fernando Santos, who oversaw a significant turnaround in form after replacing Paulo Bento following an embarrassing home defeat against Albania in a Euro 2016 qualifier. Santos subsequently led Portugal to the Euro 2016 title and has lost only once in 29 competitive internationals.

and lost to Spain in the round of 16 in 2010.

But after the euphoria of winning Euro 2016, even the most ardent aficionado of A Selecao das Quinas would admit that their victory was largely unexpected and was achieved in a pragmatic, attritional style uncomfortably similar to that of Greece at Euro 2004. Portugal's success in recent years has been in large part due to coach Fernando Santos, who oversaw a significant turnaround in form after replacing Paulo Bento following an embarrassing home defeat against Albania in a Euro 2016 qualifier. Santos subsequently led Portugal to the Euro 2016 title and has lost only once in 29 competitive internationals.

millenniumpost CLASSIFIEDS

LOST & FOUND

I, Suraj Negi S/o Mr. H.C.S. Negi R/o 14/838 Lodhi Colony New Delhi that my Original Marksheet 10th Class Roll No 8197715 issued by CBSE passing year 2010-12 has been actually lost. If anybody find please contact 9999876004.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.W.D. KANKER CIRCLE KANKER (C.G.) e-Procurement Short-time Tender Notice

Online tenders are invited for Construction Of Road work, up to Date 13/06/2018

Sr No	NIT No.	Tender No.	Name of work	Probable Amount of Contract.	Tender Downloaded upto
1	70	36590	Construction of Madanar main Road to Marapara Road Length = 2.50 km with 03 nos culverts.	150.67 Lakh	13.06.2018 (2 nd Call)
02	71	36592	Construction of Maragaon to Kohrapara Road Length = 1.00 km.	64.46 Lakh	13.06.2018 (2 nd Call)

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

(Note:- CONTRACTOR SUBMIT THE CERTIFICATE REGARDING MACHINERIES & PLANTS AS PER ANNEXURE-G — 7(d) . (S.No. 01 to 02)

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

G 52064/5

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown Age: About 30-35 years, Height: 5' 7", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Grey Colour Pant-Shirt, who was found dead near Metro Pillar No.420, Tagore Garden, Rajouri Garden, Delhi on 30.04.2018. In this regard a case DD No. 38-A, dated 30.04.2018 has been registered at P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.**

Sd/- SHO
P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi
DP/7556/WD/18 Tel No. 011- 25453990, 25448885

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unknown dead body was found in front of **A-Block, DD Maket, Durga Dairy, P.S. Mahendra Park, Delhi. Dated 23.05.2018 at 1:28 PM. In this regard a FIR No. 17-A Dated 23.05.2018, has been lodged at P.S. Mahendra Park, Delhi.**

The Description of the dead body is given as under: **Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Sex: Male, Hair: Black & White, Age: 50-52 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Fair.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local Police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone having any information about this dead person, please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Mahendra Park, Delhi
Ph: 011-27632501, 08750870228

DP/7880/NW/18

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Ajit @ Bhutto S/o Rampal R/o 251, MCD Colony, Samaipur Badli, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence of **FIR No. 64/12 u/s 452/326/509 IPC** has been registered at **PS Samaipur Badli, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ajit @ Bhutto** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ajit @ Bhutto** has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Ajit @ Bhutto** accused of **FIR No. 64/12 u/s 452/326/509 IPC** has been registered at **PS Samaipur Badli, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court answer said complaint on or before **30.06.2018**.

By Order
Ms. Riya Guha, MM,
Mahila Court-2, Room No. 104, 1st Floor
(North Dist.), Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/1752/RD/18

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P. C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused (1) **Surender Mohan Dhunna S/o Sh. Hans Raj Dhunna (2) Sudarshan Kumar Dhunna S/o Surender Mohan Dhunna R/o H. No. E-138, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi** has committed the offence under **FIR No. 546/17, u/s 420/468/471/120B IPC**, has been registered at **P.S. K. N. Katju Marg, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said (1) **Surender Mohan Dhunna S/o Sh. Hans Raj Dhunna (2) Sudarshan Kumar Dhunna S/o Surender Mohan Dhunna** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said (1) **Surender Mohan Dhunna S/o Sh. Hans Raj Dhunna (2) Sudarshan Kumar Dhunna S/o Surender Mohan Dhunna** has absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) **Surender Mohan Dhunna S/o Sh. Hans Raj Dhunna (2) Sudarshan Kumar Dhunna S/o Surender Mohan Dhunna** accused of **FIR No. 546/17** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **02.07.2018**.

By order
Ms. Kadambari Awasthi,
Metropolitan Magistrate
Room No. 110, 1st Floor,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/1711/RD/18-
(Court Matter)

VITAL COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED
CIN : L74899DL1995PLC065076
Regd. Office : 3G, Gopala Tower, 11th Floor, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008
EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED ON 31ST MARCH, 2018 (Amount in Lacs)

Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
	31-03-2018 (Audited)	31-12-2017 (UnAudited)	31-03-2017 (Audited)	31-03-2017 (Audited)
Total income from operations (net/operations) (net)	-	-	-	-
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax, exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	-3.76	-0.97	-0.80	-6.81
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	-3.76	-0.97	-0.80	-6.81
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	-3.99	-0.97	-1.10	-7.04
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	-3.99	-0.97	-1.10	-7.04
Paid Up Share Capital	3797	3797	3797	3797
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet as at 31 st March, 2018)	-	-	224.03	231.08
Earnings Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) (not annualized)	(0.011)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.02)
Diluted :	(0.011)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.01)

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com on the Company's website (www.vitalcommunications.com)

By order of the Board
VITAL COMMUNICATION LIMITED
Sd/-
ROOP SINGH
DIRECTOR

Place: Delhi
Date: 28th May, 2018

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED (See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Raju, S/o Shri Baichan, R/o Pawan Rana Ka Makan, Khasra No. 75, Bag Wali Gali, Harizan Basti Siraspur, Delhi** has committed the offence in case **FIR No. 302/13 U/S 33 Delhi Police Act PS Samaipur Badli, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Raju** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Raju** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Raju** of **FIR No. 302/13 U/S 33 Delhi Police Act PS Samaipur Badli, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **30.06.18**.

By Order
Ms. Neha Gupta Singh
Metropolitan Magistrate North District
Room No. 319, 3rd Floor, Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/1802/RD/18

ALBA POLYMERS LIMITED
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS GOWRI POLYMERS LTD)
CIN : L74899DL1995PLC066652
Regd. Office : 303, 11th Floor, Plot No. 13-A, Veer Savarkar Complex, Veer Savarkar Block, Shakarpur, Delhi-110052
EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED ON 31ST MARCH, 2018 (Amount in Lacs)

Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
	31-03-2018 (Audited)	31-12-2017 (UnAudited)	31-03-2017 (Audited)	31-03-2017 (Audited)
Total income from operations (net/operations) (net)	27.64	7.16	31.04	96.94
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax, exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	2.22	1.08	0.94	6.44
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	2.22	1.08	0.94	6.44
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	0.63	1.08	0.34	4.86
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	0.63	1.08	0.34	4.86
Paid Up Share Capital	1,471.28	1,471.28	1,471.28	1,471.28
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet as at 31 st March, 2018)	-	-	(26.47)	(31.33)
Earnings Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) (not annualized)	0.004	0.01	0.00	0.03
Diluted :	0.004	0.01	0.00	0.03

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites www.mse.in and www.cse-india.com and on the Company's website (www.gowripolymers.com)

By Order of the Board
ALBA POLYMERS LIMITED
Sd/-
ARUN KUMAR DEY
DIRECTOR

Place : Delhi
Date : 28th May, 2018

'It isn't trolling

when people with 1, 2 followers do it



The trailer of *Race 3*, the third installment in the thriller franchise, was trolled on *Twitter* after its release

Superstar Salman Khan's upcoming film *Race 3* has already become a 'meme favourite', but the actor is not bothered by it as he does not consider people with "one or two" followers ranting against the movie as "trolling". The trailer of *Race 3*, the third installment in the thriller franchise, was trolled on *Twitter* after its release two weeks ago, with many memes being made on the film and its dialogues. At the launch of the new season of 'Dus Ka Dum', when a reporter asked about the trolling of *Race 3*, Salman shot back, "Are you trolling it?" When the reporter said "a lot of people are" the actor said, "Those guys with one or two followers? That's trolling? Who's controlling that trolling, you know? No? How sad.

When guys with one, two, three, four followers troll, it isn't trolling." The actor had also given in to the meme phenomenon by mouthing the Daisy Shah dialogue from the film, "Our business is our business, none of your business", in a short

Salman feels, like the trailer of his movie, *Selfish* – a yet to be released song will also be trolled

video. Salman, 52, subtly referred to the trolling of his recently released song, 'Selfish' "It hasn't been released. It will be released soon and get trolled".



Alan Rickman was 'frustrated' with Severus Snape

LOS ANGELES: The personal letters of Alan Rickman have revealed that the late actor was "frustrated" by one of his most iconic roles, Severus Snape, in the *Harry Potter* movies. The revelation was made in the letters that were released for an auction. The archive was a personal collection of papers and letters that span Rickman's 40-year-long career as an actor, reported *Deadline*. In one particular letter, director David Heyman wrote to him, "Thank you for making HP2 (*Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*) a success. I know, at times, you are frustrated



but please know that you are an integral part of the films. And you are brilliant." A note written by the actor while working on 2009's *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* suggests he was unhappy about the lack of attention given to his character. In the note titled "Inside Snape's Head," Rickman wrote, "It's as if David Yates (director) has decided that this is not important in the scheme of things i.e teen audience appeal." The archive, has been valued at 950,000 pounds and includes letters from the Prince Charles, Bill Clinton and Tony Blair.

Harry Potter's Matthew Lewis marries girlfriend

LOS ANGELES: *Harry Potter* actor Matthew Lewis has tied the knot with girlfriend Angela Jones in Italy. The actor shared the news on *Twitter* and joked that the nuptials kept him away from seeing one of his favourite bands live. "Not only did I miss @ArcticMonkeys in LA but they were performing in Italy at the same time we were there and my wife made me get married instead. Fuming," Lewis wrote alongside a photo of the two from their wedding. He later posted the same picture on *Instagram* with the American and UK flag emojis as the caption. The two first met in January 2016 at a celebration at the Wizarding World of *Harry Potter*. They started dating in July 2016. Lewis, who made his acting debut with *Harry Potter* franchise as Neville Longbottom when he was only 12 has gone on to land roles in *Me Before You* and Amazon's newest series, 'Ripper Street'.

“She’s American, so we’ve got quite a lot of things to discuss about, said Lewis”



'Unconventional can also be commercial'

MUMBAI: Alia Bhatt has had a good box office run with most of her films and the actor says it has made her more confident about her choices. She has mixed her critically acclaimed turns in *Highway*, *Udta Punjab* and *Raazi* with mainstream films like *2 States* and *Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania*. Alia says she always looks for a relatability factor in her films.

"Unconventional can also be conventional and commercial if it connects with people. It is essential somewhere to maintain that balance. I was hoping this film (*Raazi*) strikes a balance and I am happy it did. It also makes me believe in the choices that I make as an actor," Alia said.

The actor says there will always be struggle no matter where one starts from.

"My struggles will always be there. It is harder when you have expectations. My struggle is with myself, to outdo and out perform myself, to do something new and different. Just because things are working out for me as an actor in the film industry doesn't mean I don't struggle to make it work," Alia added. "As an actor you are never confident but you are always hopeful about it (success of film). I am grateful to the audience for the love. It gives me confidence to pick up more films like this in future," she said about the film's success.

Being a black man, I didn't want to play an oppressor: Jordan

Michael B Jordan almost said no to HBO's adaptation of Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, because being a black man he was hesitant to play an "oppressor". The film depicts a future dystopia that aims to eradicate history by destroying books and condemning anyone who tries to preserve them. Jordan's character, Guy Montag, is a young fireman who abandons book burning in an effort to restore humanity.

“I wasn't interested in playing an authoritative figure owing to what's going on in the world with my community”

"I wasn't interested in playing an authoritative figure. With what's going on in the world with police and my community, being a black man, I didn't want to play somebody who's an oppressor. I just didn't want that in my head. It's just something that I wasn't interested in doing," Jordan said.

The actor said that expanding on the themes of the story changed his mind. "After sitting down with the director Ramin (Bahrani) and knowing Michael Shannon was going to be a part of it he's an incredible actor and understanding the vision and themes and messages he wanted to send through the movie, I was like, 'Okay,'" he added. The 31-year-old actor also took the role so that his mom could see one of his characters actually get to win.

