



# Common chemicals in shampoos, alcohol may up CANCER RISK

*Exposure to aldehydes, a commonly found chemical in everyday items is found to have a damaging effect on our defence mechanism, which in turn increases cancer risk*



Common chemicals found in everyday items such as furniture, cosmetics, shampoos and alcohol can increase the risk of cancer, a new study led by an Indian-origin scientist warns.

Aldehydes are a class of chemicals made in our own bodies in small quantities but increasingly found everywhere in our environment. Exposure to these chemicals has previously been linked with cancer, but the reasons for the link remain unclear.

Researchers, led by Professor Ashok Venkitaraman from the University of Cambridge in the UK, used genetically-engineered human cells and cells from patients bearing a faulty copy of the breast cancer gene BRCA2 to identify the mechanism by which exposure to aldehydes could promote cancer.

Damage to our DNA, which arises frequently as cells in our bodies divide, can lead to the development of cancers, but our body has its own defence mechanism that helps repair this damage.

However, researchers found that aldehyde exposure breaks down this defence mechanism even in normal healthy cells, but people who have inherited a faulty copy of BRCA2 are particularly sensitive to such damage.

Everyone is born with two copies of most genes. People who inherit a single faulty copy of the BRCA2 gene are susceptible to cancer.

The reason behind this is not fully under-



stood, because their cells should be able to repair DNA using the lower – but still adequate levels of BRCA2 protein made from the remaining, intact copy of the gene.

The new study, published in the journal Cell, shows that aldehydes trigger the degradation of BRCA2 protein in cells.

In people who inherit one faulty copy of the

BRCA2 gene, this effect pushes down BRCA2 protein levels below the amount required for adequate DNA repair, breaking down the normal mechanisms that prevent mutations, which could promote cancer formation.

“Our study shows how chemicals to which we are increasingly exposed in our day-to-day lives may increase the risk of diseases like can-

cer,” said Venkitaraman.

“It also helps to explain why the faulty genes could make some people particularly sensitive to the cancer-causing effects of these chemicals,” he added.

“An important implication of our work is that it may be aldehyde exposure that triggers cancer susceptibility in people who inherit one faulty copy of the BRCA2 gene. This may help us in future to prevent or treat cancer in such people,” he said.

One common potential source of aldehydes is alcohol: our body converts the alcohol that we drink into acetaldehyde, one such chemical.

Ordinarily, this is broken down by a natural enzyme known as acetaldehyde dehydrogenase, but over 500 million people mainly from countries such as Japan, China and Korea inherit a faulty gene, ALDH2, that inactivates this enzyme.

This is why many Asian people develop flushes when they drink, but could mean they are also particularly sensitive to the cancer-promoting effect.

This new research shows that aldehyde accumulation in such people could trigger cancer susceptibility by degrading BRCA2, compromising DNA repair, whether or not they inherit a faulty copy of BRCA2.

An estimated 30-60 per cent of people from Japan, Korea and China carry the faulty ALDH2 and may therefore be at risk from cancer through this new mechanism.

## DAY IN DAY OUT

### What's on Around Town

#### RAMADAN FEAST

This Ramadan, head towards Eros Hotel for the Iftaar meal and enjoy delicacies like Khajoor-e-Khaas, Gulab Sharbat, Gosht Haleem, Seviyan ka Muzaffar and so on. A truly grand platter of culinary offerings awaits you at Singh Sahib and Blooms (Eros) every evening post Sunset at an exclusive price crafted specially for you.

**WHEN:** Till Eid

**WHERE:** Blooms & Singh Sahib, Eros

Hotel, Nehru Place

**TIMING:** After Sunset

#### IFTAR BUFFET

As Ramadan commences, Plaza Premium Lounge is all set to please its guests in this holy month with its delectable range of dishes in the special Iftar Buffet curated by Executive Chef, Ankit Mangla. With a wide array of dishes for the Iftar Buffet including Chicken biryani with raita, Mujaddara Chicken rice, Arabic Al kabsa, Hyderabadi Chicken Biryani, Veg pakora with mint and saunth chutney, Mithi seviyan, Umm-ali, Mango tea cake, you are sure going to ask for more.



**WHEN:** Till June 24

**WHERE:** Plaza Premium Lounge

#### MASKS OF INDIA

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

**WHEN:** May 27 – June 10

**WHERE:** Art Konsult, 3-A, Hauz Khas

**TIMING:** 11 am – 7 pm

#### AN EVENING OF STORYTELLING

Yamini Reddy, daughter and disciple of legendary Kuchipudi exponents Padmabhusans Dr(s) Raaja Radha Reddy will be using Kuchipudi dance to tell stories right from the creation of man, devotion, love and anguish. Kuchipudi is a complete form of storytelling replete with characters, narrators, episodes and dialogues, which gives it the ability to instantly absorb the audiences into its presentation

**WHEN:** June 9

**WHERE:** The Habitat Center Stein auditorium

**TIMING:** 7 pm onwards

## Sleeping late on weekends may up heart disease risk



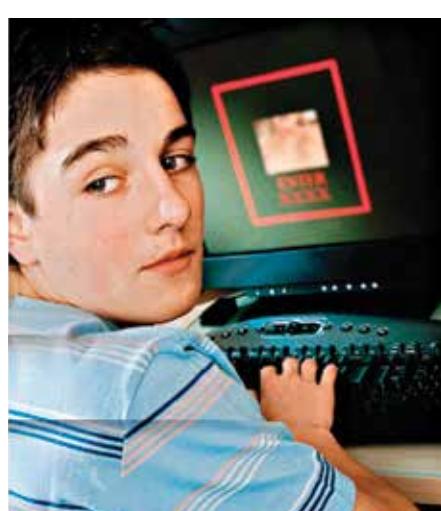
GOING TO BED and waking up later on weekends than on week days may lead to social jet lag which is associated with an increased risk of heart disease, poorer health and worse mood, a new study warns.

According to researchers from the University of Arizona in the US, social jet lag has emerged as an important circadian marker for health outcomes.

Each hour of social jet lag is associated with an 11-per cent increase in the likelihood of heart disease. These effects are independent of sleep duration and insomnia symptoms, which are related to both social jet lag and health.

“These results indicate that sleep regularity, beyond sleep duration alone, plays a significant role in our health,” said lead author Sierra B Forbush, from the University of Arizona.

“This suggests that a regu-



## Kids searching internet for drugs, alcohol more than porn

CHILDREN GLOBALLY now communicate, play and access adult content via internet less than they did a year ago and search for websites with information about drugs, alcohol and tobacco more, a new report said on Monday.

According to Moscow-based cybersecurity firm Kaspersky Lab, children opened communication websites such as social media, messengers or emails in 61 per cent of cases, com-

pared to 67 per cent in the previous 12 months (May 2015 to April 2016).

“Games have fallen to nine per cent from 11 per cent and adult websites now account for 1.2 per cent instead of 1.5 per cent,” the report found.

Meanwhile, visits to pages containing information about drugs, alcohol and tobacco now account for 14 per cent of detections, though the figure was only nine per cent during the

previous reporting period.

Children now only use computers to visit websites that have no mobile app equivalent or that are easier to view on larger screens.

“This may explain why the share of communication websites opened on computers is falling while the proportion of pages with ‘Alcohol, tobacco, narcotics’ content is growing,” said Anna Larkina, Web-content Analysis Expert at Kaspersky Lab.



## KVIC adopts two villages under SMARTGRAM Initiative

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**R**ealising the vision of President Pranab Mukherjee of making villages economically vibrant, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has decided to adopt two out of 100 villages – selected under the SMARTGRAM Initiative of the Rashtrapati Bhawan. The decision was taken few days before a function was held at Daula village in Haryana, where the President laid the foundation stone of a Drivers' Training School and a Secondary School.

Giving this information, KVIC Chairman, Vinai Kumar Saxena said that following the call from the President, that success in SMARTGRAM initiative is possible only when the government, private sector, academic institutions, NGOs and people in the villages come together for the development of villages, the KVIC has made a commitment to the President House, for providing its full co-operation in development of the two villages, i.e. Raisina and Lohtaka – adopted by the commission.

On the advice of the Rashtrapati Bhawan, the KVIC will implement all Khadi and village industries



programs in both the villages, to generate sustainable employment for the villagers there. We have decided to launch our bee-keeping, spinning, weaving and stitching centres in both the villages, where the villagers will be provided

proper training to eke out their livelihood,” he said, adding, “Not only that, we will also implement our small-scale industries’ other various skill-oriented and employment-generating programs like incense stick-making, candle-mak-

ing, pottery and pickle-making. The KVIC will also conduct sensitisation programs for the youths about the Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Program (PMEGP) followed by facilitating loans from different nationalised banks under the PMEGP – to generate 100 percent employment in these villages.”

Vinai Saxena further said that both the villages would be developed as ‘model’ villages. “We will also train the villagers about the biogas plants there, besides distributing Charkhas and looms among the villagers,” he said, adding, “The villagers, particularly the youth appear enthusiastic about KVIC’s programs there.”

Earlier, the Rashtrapati Bhawan secretariat had asked the KVIC to come forward in implementation of its schemes in these villages. “We accepted this proposal whole-heartedly and the President’s Secretariat has appreciated the KVIC as a valued partner in the SMARTGRAM initiative. In an official letter, it has categorically mentioned that active participation of KVIC in both the villages under the initiative will go a long way in realising the vision of the President to make the villages economically developed,” he added.

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## Actor Bikram pleads HC for anticipatory bail



### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**KOLKATA:** In a bid to avoid getting arrested, actor Bikram Chatterjee appealed before the Calcutta high court to grant him anticipatory bail in connection with the incident in which model Sonika Chauhan was killed.

Reddy Majudar, Bikram's counsel, moved before the division Bench of Justice Dipankar Dutta and Justice Debi Prosad Dey seeking anticipatory bail.

According to investigating officers, Bikram moved the High Court apprehending that the police might arrest him any time after section was changed to 304 IPC and he took the step to avoid getting arrested.

It may be recalled that Bikram was questioned by the investigating officers from Tollygunge police station after he was released from the private hospital off EM Bypass where he got admitted after the accident. The police had also questioned some of his friends and co-actors in this connection.

## Bodies of students who drowned recovered

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**KOLKATA:** Bodies of three school students who drowned in the Damodar river on Sunday were recovered on Monday. The victims, Nayan Goswami, Subhajit Bauri and Subhajit Sur along with three others were taking a bath in Damodar river on Sunday evening when these three friends were suddenly swept away in the current.

Police said that one of three victims was drowning when the other two tried to save him and both of them drowned in the process. The local residents and police administration started a search operation on Sunday night but failed. Divers were engaged by the local administration but the attempt turned futile.

A speed boat was deployed and the disaster management team also swung into action. The search operation continued throughout the night but none could trace the victims who were Class XII students. On Monday morning, the bodies Nayan Goswami and Subhajit Bauri were found floating in the river while the body of Subhajit Sur was later found in the river.

## Irrigation dept takes steps to avoid flood-like situations

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**KOLKATA:** The state Irrigation and Waterways department has taken a slew of measures to avoid even flood-like situations during the forthcoming monsoon.

Rajib Banerjee, the state Irrigation minister, has decided to hold meetings separately with district magistrates of each of the flood-prone districts to take stock of the situation and to know whether any further work needs to be done to ensure that not a single person gets affected if any flood-like situation arises.

On Monday, he held a meeting with District Magistrates of Howrah, Hooghly, North and South 24 Parganas. Soon, he will be going to other districts including Burdwan to assess the situation.

This is the first time when the state Irrigation department is planning to install big screens at five different places on which live video footages of water level in different reservoirs will be shown. At the same time, different data related to those reservoirs will also be made available on the

move to the court to amend the section. The court on May 30 allowed the police to book Bikram on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder under Section 304 IPC for which the punishment would go up to ten years if found guilty.

The police had moved to the court seeking amendment in the section after forensic experts confirmed that the car was at a speed of something in between 95 to 115 km per hour.

Investigating officers felt that Bikram moved the High Court apprehending that the police might arrest him any time after section was changed to 304 IPC and he took the step to avoid getting arrested.

It may be recalled that Bikram was questioned by the investigating officers from Tollygunge police station after he was released from the private hospital off EM Bypass where he got admitted after the accident. The police had also questioned some of his friends and co-actors in this connection.

The final result was published on the official web portal in the form of rank cards, containing all relevant ranks, total score and component scores in paper-I (Mathematics) and paper-II (Physics & Chemistry). The WBJEE was

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**KOLKATA:** West Bengal Joint Entrance Examination (WBJEE) Board on Monday published the results of this year's engineering examination with the students of Central Board of Secondary Examination (CBSE) performing predominantly well outshining other board students.

Debadity Pramanik, a student of Birla High School has ranked first in the engineering examination while Irin Ghosh of DAV Model School in Durgapur came second. Harshit Kedia who is from Kota in Rajasthan has ranked third in the state engineering entrance examination. Soumik Das from Rahara Ramkrishna Mission, Arnab Jana from Adamas School Belghoria, Sagnik Bhattacharya from South Point School, Debmalya Sarkar from Jenkins School in Cooch Behar have ranked 4, 5, 6 and 7 rank respectively. Triptesh Biswas from Kalyani Experimental School stood 8th in the rank list and Utkarsh Jain from Santiniketan and Sayak Chakraborty secured 9th and 10th positions respectively.

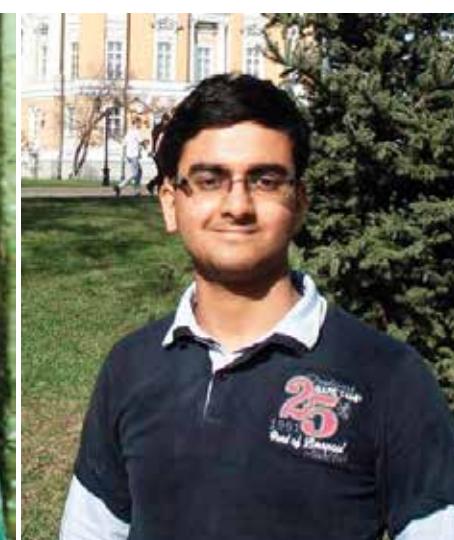
This year's engineering result has been published by the WBJEE Board within 43 days since the conclusion of the examination. Around 1.18 lakh candidates appeared for the engineering examination. It may be mentioned here that the



Irin Ghosh (left) of DAV Model School in Durgapur stood second and Sayak Chakraborty (right) stood 10th

held for undergraduate engineering, pharmacy and technology courses. Rank cards will have the ranks given to the students. Merit Rank List 1 will be applicable for admission to all degree level engineering, technology and architecture courses. Merit Rank List 2 will take into account scores of physics and chemistry and will be applicable for admission to pharmacy course in all the institutions.

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WBJEE Board did not conduct the medical entrance examination as the Centre has been implementing the national level single entrance examination, National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for filling up MBBS seats in various medical colleges.

The counseling for filling up the engineering seats at different engineering colleges would be conducted from 23 centres across the state. Next year, the state joint entrance examination for engineering is likely to take place on April 22.

Among the top ten rank holders, six are from CBSE board. There are around 18.7 percent candidates who have found place among the first

## Sovan releases state environment report 2016

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

and the key issues have been explained with the help of tables, figures and boxes.

PCB has taken up elaborate measures to create awareness about environment among students. Thirty rain water harvesting centres have been set up all over the state. Stress has been given on the use of solar power. Some tribal students from Bhalopahar School in Purulia were given solar lanterns. The office of PCB and PDCL in Salt Lake are also using solar power.

Sovan Chatterjee also stressed the need to create awareness among students about environment. "We cannot see environment but it is controlling our lives and we will have to preserve it by following the right method," he said.

There are write-ups on bio-diversity, water resource, groundwater, wetlands and mineral resource of the state. The report also covers major environmental challenges like climate change, industrial pollution management, solid waste management and urban waste water management.

Biomedical waste management and electronic waste management have been given special emphasis. The major environmental regulations and salient orders of various courts have also been dealt with in a separate chapter.

"School teachers also supported me immensely. I used to solve various problems and this had helped me in obtaining good marks. There is no alternative of relentless self study," Irin said.

Experts in various spheres of environment studies have contributed their articles

and the key issues have been explained with the help of tables, figures and boxes.

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Sovan Chatterjee also stressed the need to create awareness among students about environment. "We cannot see environment but it is controlling our lives and we will have to preserve it by following the right method," he said.

PCB has published a book containing poems on environment and cartoons by Chandi Lahiri to create awareness about environment.

The state environment department is also bringing out another book containing 60 poems on environment and cartoons by three well-known cartoonists on environment among children.

The book will be distributed among the students of all state-run, aided and sponsored schools. The environment minister on Monday released posters on environment at the function.

## Deal with environmental problems with an open mind, says Sovan

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**KOLKATA:** Sovan Chatterjee, state Environment minister on Monday urged environmentalists to deal with any problem with an open mind and come up with solutions keeping in mind the larger interest of people.

"I am ready to all kind of discussions and dialogues but I expect the environmentalists and researchers to address any problem with an open mind," he said. He was speaking at a programme organised by the state Pollution Control Board (PCB) in the auditorium of Power Development Corporation Limited (PDCL) at Salt Lake this morning. The programme was held in connection with the World Environment Day celebration.

Referring to a proposed flyover connecting Eastern Metropolitan bypass with Biswa Bangla Sarani in New Town, he said, around 10 or 12 cottahs of land would be required to construct 146 pillars on the waterbody to give support to the flyover and the state government would create an alternative water body. "East Kolkata



Noted singer and environmental activist Pratul Mukhopadhyay and state Environment minister Sovan Chatterjee water a plant at a programme on Monday

wetland comprises 12,000 hectare and out of that, only 8,000 square feet will be required to install the pillars and the state government will construct an alternative waterbody. The proposed flyover will reduce the time of travelling from Nabanna to Kolkata airport. But some environmentalists without going into the details of the project, have begun criticising it. I am ready for discussions but they should come up with an open mind and try to understand the ground reality," he remarked.

He said the erstwhile state government had declared the East Kolkata wetland as Ramsar site but while taking up the matter with the Centre and Ramsar authorities, they had ignored the ground reality and the present government faced hurdle to set up a water

treatment plant and get a piece of land to set up a new dumping ground. "The former government should have taken into consideration the ground reality before declaring it as Ramsar site," he pointed out.

Referring to his childhood he said: "We took lessons in swimming in ponds and now children are going to the swimming pools set up in various parts in the city." This is development. There will be waterbodies and construction will go hand in hand but keeping the ecological balance intact," he maintained. He said that the state government would not at all carry out any construction by filling up waterbodies.

He said the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) will prepare a comprehensive solid waste management plant for Kolkata at an estimated cost of Rs 3,000 crore and has approached Asian Development bank (ADB) for funds.

PCB on Monday felicitated singer and environmental activist Pratul Mukhopadhyay, Kamal Mukherjee who had planted 10 lakh trees in Bandowan block in Purulia and physician Debiprasad Dua.

## Transport dept launches five modern steel vessels

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**KOLKATA:** The state Transport department on Monday introduced five robust steel vessels to transport people safely across river Hooghly.

The five vessels will be operating between Belur Math to Dakshineswar, Cossipore to Howrah and in Sheoraphuli and Konnagar.

Moreover, a system has been developed using which 333 officials of the department including junior level engineers will keep getting updates on the situation at different reservoirs through SMSs in every 15 minutes. The step has been taken to ensure better communication among the officials and fast execution of the needed task at a moment of emergency. The state Irrigation department has also developed a cell phone app to help people get related information. Since some parts of North Bengal get more affected due to floods, the state Irrigation department has taken all necessary steps. During Monday's meeting, the Irrigation minister has also taken stock of the present preparation to check flood-like situations from the respective District Magistrates.

The Transport minister said: "Five vessels have been flagged off today (Monday) and 30 more will be introduced in phases. The step to build and introduce such robust steel vessels has been taken up to ensure the safety of passengers who travel across the river."

It may be mentioned that Chief Minister Mamata



Mayor Sovan Chatterjee, state Transport minister Suvendu Adhikari and Urban Development minister Firhad Hakim flagged off the vessels from Millennium Park on Monday evening



**'Five vessels have been flagged off today (Monday) and 30 more will be introduced in phases. The step to build and introduce such robust steel vessels has been taken up to ensure the safety of passengers'**

Banerjee had given stress on river safety after the incident at Telenipara in Hooghly where 13 people were killed when a dilapidated jetty collapsed during high tide. She had also announced that Rs 1 lakh will be given to boat

owners to convert semi-mechanised boats to mechanised ones.

Following her direction, the Transport department had taken a slew of measures to ensure safe journey of people travelling across the river.

A committee had framed a Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) following which jetties will be repaired.

Each of the five vessels, which have been introduced on Monday, has a capacity of carrying 250 people at a time and can withstand rough weathers.

Adhikari said: "The vessels have been constructed using modern and updated technology. As many as 30 more such vessels will be introduced to replace the old ones."

## CU, Calcutta Medical College declared no-horn zones

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: The Calcutta Medical College and Hospital and University of Calcutta, College Street campus, have been declared "no horn" zones by the state Environment department.

The department has issued a notification saying that vehicles plying through the areas in the vicinity of the two colleges will not be allowed to blow their horns when in these localities.

The step was taken by the government after some students from CU's College Street campus urged Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during her administrative meeting in Hooghly to stop political gatherings in College Street and the indiscriminate use of microphones as it affects the students adversely. The Chief Minister had responded promptly and asked the administration to take steps

**The department will deploy some of its employees in plain clothes at the designated areas to detect the vehicles who flout the instruction**

in this regard.

On the basis of the Chief Minister's instructions, the state Environment department decided to declare the area a "no horn" zone. The Environment department has already installed an electronic board prohibiting drivers from blowing horns in the area. According to a senior official of the state Environment department, the blowing of horns would not be allowed in important areas of the state, especially in places where hospitals and colleges are situated.



**KMRCL MD Satish Kumar plants saplings with senior officials to observe World Environment Day**

PIC/MPOST

## Six injured, 10 arrested in group clash in Kasba

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: At least six persons were injured in a clash that broke out between CPI(M) and Trinamool Congress supporters in Kasba area on Sunday night.

The incident triggered tension in the area. Police have arrested 10 persons so far for creating trouble in the area. The local residents, however, alleged that members of the rival groups hurled bombs at each other. It has also been alleged that a few rounds of bullet were also fired. Police have, however, ruled out the possibility of a gun battle.

The trouble broke out at Ward number 91 under the Kolkata Municipal Corporation on Sunday night. The local people told the police that some houses were attacked by some group



REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

members. After being informed, the police reached the spot and pacified the mob. They had to resort to lathi-

charge to bring the situation under control.

The local CPI(M) leaders alleged

that Trinamool Congress-backed goons attacked their party workers. They also alleged that police failed to take any steps against the Trinamool Congress men who created the problems. The Trinamool Congress leaders in the area, however, denied the allegation and blamed the CPI(M) activists for creating nuisance in the locality.

Police have not confirmed that the houses were attacked by the group members. Senior police officers reached the spot immediately after the incident. The police arrested around ten persons from the both the group for creating violence in the area. A police picket has been set up to prevent any untoward incidents.

Police are conducting raids to nab the other culprits. A detailed probe has been initiated in this connection.

## HIDCO plants neem saplings in New Town



OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Housing and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HIDCO) along with the officials of other agencies entrusted with the development of New Town and some residents of the area on Monday planted neem trees to mark the World Environment Day.

A K Chandra of PC Chandra Group will donate 1,000 saplings of the neem tree, which will be planted in phases. Sixty such saplings were planted to mark the occasion. Neem products used to produce organic pesticides and fungicides have become globally popular and China is trying to control the market for these products.

Neem products are increasing in popularity among people. With this in view, neem trees were planted on Monday. Senior officials of the Public Health Engineering department (PHE), state Forest department and New Town Kolkata Development Authority (NKDA) were also present on the occasion. It may be mentioned that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had inaugurated Neem Bonan in

Bankura in 2015.

HIDCO will hold an essay competition in Bengali, English and Hindi where any person can participate, regardless of their age. Those taking part in the competition will get three months' time and their write-up will have to be within 1,000 words. Later, a book containing the edited essays of the participants will be published and P C Chandra group will bear the expenses.

HIDCO on Monday announced that it will honour the residents who plant saplings during monsoon and maintain it for one year. The residents will have to send their names along with the status of the trees after a year to HIDCO. It will then give a certificate along with a token prize to the person or groups who have maintained their trees properly for a year.

To celebrate Environment Day, HIDCO has decided to send SMS messages to people to inform them about the events that are being organised in New Town throughout the year. Interested persons will have to register their names by typing "newtown" and send it to 9230060000.

## Police recover kidnapped baby from Bandel Stn

KOLKATA: A baby who had been kidnapped from Jagatdal in North 24 Parganas on Sunday evening was rescued by police within 24 hours. The baby was recovered from Bandel Station in Hooghly on Monday. Anita Devi, who had come to Jagatdal from Rajasthan to visit her parents, met Bijay Kumar, her husband's friend on Saturday. He followed Anita in a toto. When Anita was returning from her aunt's place, Bijay fled with the child while she was distracted. She lodged a complaint with Jagatdal police station. Police tracked Bijay's mobile and asked Anita to assure him that she would fulfill his demands for cash and jewellery. The police arrested him and rescued the baby when he came to collect the ransom at Bandel station.

OUR CORRESPONDENT

## Power minister plants bakul trees to preserve environment

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: The state Power minister, Sobhadeb Chatto-padhyay, planted three bakul trees in the premises of Bidyut Unnayan Bhavan on Monday to mark the World Environment Day.

The three trees have been named Maa, Mati and Manush respectively, dedicating them to the people of Bengal who supported the overall development carried out by the Mamata Banerjee government in the past six years.

Chatto-padhyay said that the reason behind planting bakul trees is that they don't get uprooted even during storms. On Monday morning, Chatto-padhyay also participated in a rally on the World Environment Day from Golpark to Southern Avenue. Hundreds of people from different walks of life also participated in the rally. He also planted several bakul trees in his Rashbehari Assembly constituency.

Samir Banerjee and Swapan Banerjee, eminent social workers working in the field of environment preservation and awareness creation, also

participated in the rally in the morning of the World Environment Day. Several celebrities like actor Rituparna Sengupta also participated in the rally.

In North Howrah, Lakshmi Ratan Shukla, the Youth Services and Sports minister, also participated in a tree planting programme followed by a rally to create awareness among the people of the area. He planted several trees in different pockets of North Howrah.

A portion of North Howrah is an industrial zone and such

a rally would help in building awareness among the people on the necessity of taking steps to check pollution.

Shukla said: "Encouraging people to plant more trees is a step that we all must take as this helps in minimising pollution. Thus, we held a rally in the area to create awareness among the people."

Meanwhile, Haldia Refinery also undertook a tree plantation drive at its site and the World Environment Day flag was unfurled by its executive director, C K Tiwari.

The GJM has launched a series of agitation programmes in the Hills against what they have dubbed as forceful imposition of Bengali language. Education institutes had been shut down for two days with students asked to wear black badges; protest rallies have hit the streets and black flags put up all over the Hills.

Mamata Banerjee addressing a government programme stated: "Bengali is not compulsory in the Hills. It is optional." GJM president Bimal Gurung reacting to this stated: "We will not withdraw our agitation

if they stop our rally or take any action against us we will immediately call an indefinite bandh. Hoteliers, tourists and

businessmen have to remain prepared for this," reiterated Gurung. He even asked all vehicles plying in the Hills to display black flags from Tuesday. "DM, SP and all government officers posted in the Hills have to converse in Nepali else we will shut down offices," threatened Gurung. He said that henceforth the CM would always be greeted with black flags. The tourism industry has already started feeling the pinch of Gurung's repeated threats. While many tourists have already cut short their stay and left, there has been a large number of cancellations also.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee vehemently criticised Gurung's bandh threat. "What will Darjeeling do without tourists? Tourists come from all over India. It is the local people who will suffer. The leaders have strong sources of income," scorned Mamata.

## Docs practicing as allopaths but of different branches under lens

CID sleuths on Monday arrested another fake doctor from Howrah's Bauria who had allegedly been practicing in a chamber for the past seven years with fake certificates

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: West Bengal Medical Council (WBMC) is keeping a tab on Homeopathy, Ayurveda and Unani doctors who were practicing as allopaths in private hospitals.

WBMC President Dr Nirnal Maji on Monday said that a large number of fake doctors are still operating in various private hospitals in the city after obtaining a diploma in Ayurveda, Unani or Homeopathy and action would be taken against them.

Maji said that there are some fake doctors in government hospitals as well and WBMC is registering complaints against such doctors. Altogether, 11 complaints have been lodged with the WBMC among which, three FIRs have been lodged against some fake doctors in government hospitals. WBMC will take action against these persons who are practicing both in private and government-run hospitals without a registration either from the state medical council or the Medical Council of India.

"Many chambers have mushroomed in various parts of the state especially in the districts where people are practicing as an MBBS doctors after getting degrees from various paramedical councils," Maji said.

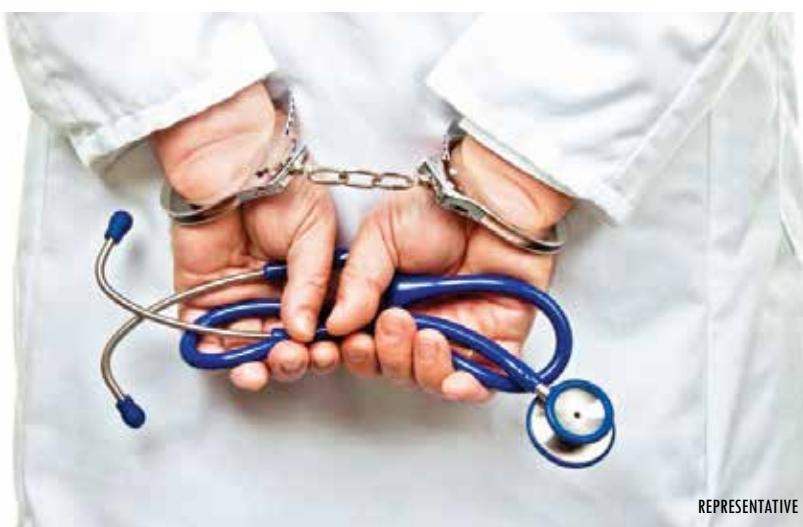
He also added that these doctors do not have a valid registration from the state medical council. They start practicing in various chambers after getting a diploma from various councils that have come up in the state in the past few decades. Many of these doctors have obtained a diploma degree while in reality, they actually studied up to the

level of class VIII-X," Maji said. WBMC has repeatedly written to various private hospitals in the state to furnish the details regarding the doctors, their registration numbers and others but they were reluctant to share these information.

"In November, we had instructed the private hospitals to provide certain information about the doctors but they failed to do so. We are following

certain procedures under the purview of the WBMC to find out the fake doctors in private hospitals," Maji maintained.

He also said that WBMC is making it mandatory that all the doctors have to mention their registration numbers on their prescriptions and the subject of their study. Those doctors who have not yet registered themselves with the WBMC have been requested



REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

**'There are some fake doctors in government hospitals as well and WBMC is registering complaints against such doctors. Altogether, 11 complaints have been lodged with the WBMC among which, three FIRs have been lodged'**

to do so. The doctors also have to enlist their information relating to their degrees and other credentials with the WBMC in every five years. There are around 76,500 registered medical practitioners in the state, Maji maintained.

He also urged the people to inform to the state medical council through email or letter or report it to the local police station if they find anything suspicious in a doctor. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID), which has been probing the fake doctors' issue, is sharing information relating to various doctors from time to time for cross verification.

The CID also submitted a list 10 suspected fake doctors from North Bengal with the WBMC.

It may be here mentioned that the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Monday arrested another fake doctor from Howrah's Bauria. He had allegedly been practicing in a chamber for the past seven years. Ram Sankar Singh, the accused, had allegedly been practicing with a fake MBBS certificate. The CID arrested the accused after some local residents lodged complaints against the doctor with the police. The accused, however, claimed that he has valid documents. This is the seventh arrest by the CID in this connection so far.

## In minor rejig, IPS officers reshuffled

KOLKATA: In a minor reshuffle in the IPS cadre in Bengal, Vivek Sahay has been made the Additional Director General of Police (Traffic). Sahay, an IPS officer of 1988 batch, was in compulsory waiting and on Monday he was made Additional Director General of Police (Traffic).

The 1990 batch IPS officer Ranbir Kumar, who was the ADG and IGP of the Armed Police has been made ADG and IGP Tele-communication.

Siddh Nath Gupta, ADG and IGP (Establishment) has been given the additional charge of ADG and IGP Operations.



REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

## CU forced to cancel 2nd year Bengali (H) exam after question paper goof-up



OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: The second year BA examination for Bengali Honors under the University of Calcutta has been cancelled following some goof-up in the question paper.

The university authorities had to cancel the examination within an hour of commencement due to some complaints regarding the question paper.

The second year Bengali Honours students were writing their fourth paper. As the examination started, the candidates complained that they had been given the third paper once again and this created confusion among the students.

The students immediately informed the invigilator, saying that they had already written the third paper. The invigilators went through the question paper and informed the matter to the concerned department. University authorities later examined the question paper.

A senior university official said that they were examining if there had been any negligence on the part of any university official or employee. Action will be taken against those who are found guilty in this connection. A probe has been initiated, the official said.

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# CRPF foils terrorist attack on its camp, kills all four ultras

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**SRINAGAR:** Four heavily armed terrorists on Monday tried to storm a CRPF camp in a pre-dawn 'suicide' attack in Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir, but were killed in retaliatory fire by security forces.

The terrorists attempted to enter the camp of the CRPF's 45th battalion at Sumbal in Bandipora at around 4.10 am by opening fire at the sentry post, a police official said.

The terrorist fire was retaliated by the guards while reinforcement from Jammu and Kashmir Police was rushed to the scene of gunbattle, he said.

"Four terrorists were killed in the retaliatory firing and the suicide attack was foiled," the official said.

He said four AK rifles, one underbarrel grenade launcher (UBGL) and substantial quantity of ammunition were recovered from the slain militants.

In Delhi, Home Minister Rajnath Singh said the terrorists had intended a prolonged siege since they were carrying dry ration that could have lasted them several days.

Giving the details of the incident, he said the terrorists, who were prepared to carry out a 'fidayeen' (suicide) attack, were carrying automatic rifles, grenades and incendiary material such as petrol, and had intended a prolonged siege



CRPF jawans stand guard at Lal Chowk, Srinagar, after the terrorists were killed when they tried to storm a CRPF camp in a pre-dawn suicide attack in Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday

to cause extensive damage, he said in a statement. The home minister said the terrorists attempted to enter the camp by cutting the wire fencing and started firing at the sentry post.

The sentries responded with alacrity and returned their fire, he said, noting that the terrorists also lobbed more than two dozen grenades.

Singh said the Central Reserve Police Force personnel, in cooperation with men from an adjoining Jammu and Kashmir Police camp, killed all the four terrorists.

"Their joint efforts have

the home minister said the CRPF and the police personnel showed exemplary courage and valour by thwarting the terrorist attempt. "It is inspiring to see CRPF men staying awake all night and maintaining a tight vigil, and to see the Jammu and Kashmir Police coming to the CRPF's assistance quickly," he said.

Singh congratulated the CRPF, particularly, its 45th battalion, and the J-K Police for their alertness and unmatched courage.

"Their joint efforts have

brought glory to our forces," he said.

The home minister said all brave officers and jawans posted at Sumbal camp "need to be cited for their alertness and unmatched bravery".

Singh made a special mention of the courage displayed by CRPF Commandant Iqbal Ahmad, company commanders Shankarlal Jat and Pankaj Hallu, Guard Commander Pankaj Kumar and constables K Dinesh Raja and Praful Kumar of the Sumbal camp in foiling the attack.

**Reaffirm promise to nurture a better planet: PM on World green day**

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised the need for nurturing a better planet on World Environment Day on Monday.

He also saluted those working towards protecting the environment.

Modi said this year's theme of 'connecting people to nature' was nothing but a way 'getting connected with ourselves'.

"World Environment Day is the right time to reaffirm our commitment to protecting our environment and nurturing a better planet," he tweeted.

"We salute the will & determination of all those individuals & organisations working towards protecting the environment," he added in another tweet.

Last week, after President Donald Trump announced the withdrawal of the US from the Paris climate deal, Modi had said the present generation should not snatch the right of the future generations to a clean and healthy earth.

## Defence ministry working on tie-up with OEMs: Bhamre

OUR CORRESPONDENT



**PANAJI:** The Defence Ministry is working on a concept of strategic partnership with original equipment manufacturers to give a boost to indigenisation of defence related production, Union minister Subhash Bhamre said on Monday.

He said they want world class manufacturers to come to India and establish their units in association with local partners.

"We are working on a concept of strategic partnership with the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) which will be a foreign company. We

have identified four segments for it, including fighter combat aircraft, tanks, submarines and helicopters," Bhamre told reporters in Goa.

The Minister of State for Defence was talking about the achievements of the Narendra Modi-led government in three

years. India looks at foreign defence manufacturers to transfer their technology, work with Indian scientists, people, train them so that in the next few years "our people will start manufacturing in the same segment," he said.

"This was an idea which has been worked on since last few months. The idea was initiated by defence minister Manohar Parrikar. In the months to come we will be able to finalise strategic partnerships under this programme," he said.

On the increasing role of private partners in defence manufacturing, Bhamre

recalled how armed forces were dependent on Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) and defence public sector units which were functioning under protective environment.

The minister, however, said they lacked in research and development (R&D).

"Unfortunately, what we have seen all the years...we accept the contribution by these units (OFB and PSUs), it is not that they have not done anything."

"But what we wanted in last 70 years, R&D to develop in defence sector and then wanted to have a kind of platform so that we can export, but on export scenario there was

no significant growth," he said.

"As far as R&D is concerned, it (growth) was not significant because they (units) worked in protected environment. There was no sense of competition."

"(The competition) comes when defence manufacturing doors are open to private industry. That was lacking," he said. "Though the doors were opened for private players in 2009 in the defence manufacturing sector, there was no level playing field," Bhamre said.

"That is why between 2009 and 2014 we could not see private industry coming to invest in defence manufacturing," he said.

The examination is conducted annually in three stages -- preliminary, main and interview -- to select candidates for the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and Indian Police Service (IPS), among others.

Nandini, an officer of Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise), has topped the examination, the result of which was declared on May 31. She got 1,120 marks (927 in main and 193 in interview) out of the total of 2,025 -- 55.3 per cent. Second rank achiever Anmol Shek Singh Bedi got 1,105 marks (54.56 per cent) and third rank holder Gopalakrishna Ronanki secured 1,101 marks (54.37 per cent), the UPSC said.

## IMD sees no relief from heat wave for next 20 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT



DHIRENDRA KUMAR

**NEW DELHI:** Indian Army's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) Lt Gen A K Bhatt today told his Pakistani counterpart that any attempt by the Pakistan military to resort to unprovoked firings along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir and abet infiltrators would be met with "appropriate retaliatory actions".

In their telephonic conversation, the two army commanders discussed the situation along the Line of Control which has witnessed increasing incidents of ceasefire violations by Pakistan in the last couple of months.

"DGMO Indian Army conveyed his commitment of ensuring peace and tranquillity which is contingent on Pak Army's intentions and actions."

"If Pakistan Army continues to abet infiltrations and cause trans-LoC firings, Indian Army will take appropriate retaliatory actions," the Army said in a statement, sharing details of the conversation between Bhatt and his Pakistani counterpart, Maj Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza.

"The monsoon has arrived in Kerala and has started moving to other destinations, but it will take at least 20 more days to reach areas under the influence of heat waves. Till then, people have to bear it and protect themselves from being affected by it by adopting preventive measures," the IMD chief said.

As the temperature is on the rise, it seems 2017 may prove to be another warmest year following 2016, which was

the second warmest year on record with a temperature of 1.26 degrees C higher than the baseline. The winters of 2017 (January to February) has already been marked as hottest in recorded history with a temperature of 2.95 degrees higher than the baseline.

Raising an alarm over drastic changes in weather patterns, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) in its latest study has noted that the country has been getting warmer continuously, consistently and rapidly.

Commenting on the development, Chandra Bhushan, who is deputy director general of CSE, said, "The implications of this fundamental fact are serious for the economic, social and ecological well-being of the country. We are experiencing frequent extreme weather events, and our weather is becoming unpredictable. Losses due to extreme weather events are mounting and it is our poor who are suffering the pains of the climate change."

The heat waves have claimed the lives of over 500 across the country, with southern states alone registering about 300 deaths due to heat strokes this year as the temperature has touched above 47 degrees Celsius mark in various states.

The proposed Code on Wages will subsume the Minimum Wages Act of 1948, the Payment of Wages Act of 1936, the Payment of Bonus Act of 1965 and the Equal Remuneration Act of 1976.

## NMCG okays projects worth ₹1,900 crore for building sewage treatment infra

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**MUMBAI:** Fourteen judges were on Monday sworn in as additional judges of the Bombay High Court, taking its strength to 75. The new appointees were sworn in by Chief Justice Manjula Chellur in the presence of all other judges of the High Court.

The 14 new judges include Riyaz Chagla, grandson of M C Chagla, the first permanent Indian Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court after Independence, and five others from the Bar, and eight elevated from the subordinate judiciary.

Of the 14, two are woman judges - Vibha Kankanwadi and Bharti Dangre. The sanctioned strength of judges in the Bombay High Court is 90.

**Of the 14 judges, two are women — Vibha Kankanwadi and Bharti Dangre. The sanctioned strength of judges for Bombay High Court is 90**

Apart from Riyaz Chagla, the new judges are Sunil Kotwal, Arun Upadhye, Mangesh Patil, Arun Dhavale, Prithviraj Chavan, Murlidhar Giratkar and Sopan Gavhane from the district judiciary.

Patil was the HC Registrar General till his elevation.

From the bar, Maharashtra's Advocate General Rohit Deo and public prosecutor Sandeep Shinde were sworn in on Monday.

The NMCG cleared the Rs

'Universal minimum wage for all workers to be reality soon'

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI:** Universal minimum wage for all industries and workers, including those getting monthly pay higher than Rs 18,000, would soon be a reality, according to senior officials. The proposed Code on Wages providing for these "pro-worker provisions" is likely to be placed before the Cabinet this month for approval so that it could be pushed for passage in the forthcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament, they said.

"The ministerial panel on labour issues headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has already approved the Code on Wages. It has already been sent to the law ministry for vetting after which it would be placed before the Cabinet for approval," a source said. The labour ministry is keen to push the bill for passage in the next session of the Parliament expected to begin next month, he said.

The Wage Code Bill seeks to empower the Centre to set a minimum wage across all sectors in the country and states will have to maintain that.

However, states will be able to provide for higher minimum wage in their jurisdiction than fixed by the Central Government. Besides, the minimum wage would be applicable on all classes of workers. At present, it is applicable for scheduled industries or establishments in the law. Similarly, the universal minimum wage would be applicable on all classes of workers irrespective of their pay. At present, the minimum wage rates fixed by the Centre and states are applicable to workers getting up to Rs 18,000 monthly pay.

The proposed Code on Wages will subsume the Minimum Wages Act of 1948, the Payment of Wages Act of 1936, the Payment of Bonus Act of 1965 and the Equal Remuneration Act of 1976.

744-crore projects including a 60-MLD STP and laying of sewerage lines in Pahari zone in Bihar's Patna.

Patna will now have a sewage treatment capacity of 200 MLD once the projects sanctioned are functional.

In Delhi, the authority has approved construction of seven prioritised 94 MLD-capacity STPs in Noida area at a cost of Rs 344.1 crore under 'Maili Se Nirmal Yamuna' project initiated upon the directions of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). Tajpur Khurd (36 MLD), Jaffarpur Kalan (12 MLD), Khera Dabur (5 MLD), Hasanpur (12 MLD), Kakrula (12 MLD), Kair (5 MLD) and Tikri Kalan (12 MLD) are the locations where the project has been approved.

With the approval of these projects, 100 per cent sewage treatment facility will be made available for Haridwar, Rishikesh, Vrindavan, Varanasi, Allahabad and Delhi.

The projects concerned, to be implemented under Centre's 'Namami Gange' programme, were given nod during the third meeting of the NMCG's executive committee, the Union Water Resources Ministry said in a statement.

Among the projects approved include one aimed at intercepting, diverting and treating sewage in Allahabad's Naini, Phaphamau and Jhansi sewerage zones at an estimated cost of Rs 767.59 crore.

"The projects would arrest flowing waste water of 18 drains into Ganga and Yamuna to ensure pollution-free water for bathing at Sangam during Ardh Kumbh mela 2019," the ministry said.

With this, all planned projects in Delhi have been approved," the ministry said.

The NMCG has also sanctioned Rs 61.5 crore for afforestation purpose in five Ganga main stem states - Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

The authority has until now approved projects costing over Rs 4,100 crore during the last three months in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Delhi.



## Yogi Adityanath turns 45... but no celebrations for UP's workaholic CM

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**LUCKNOW:** Yogi Adityanath turned 45 on Monday and for the workaholic Uttar Pradesh chief minister, his birthday on Monday was just like any other day -- one full of engagements -- sans any pomp and show.

After donning the mantle of UP chief minister, it was his first birthday which he chose to spend taking part in the international environment day function in the

state capital in the morning.

He then left for Aligarh to attend several official functions there.

However, it were greetings galore for Adityanath with Prime Minister Narendra Modi heading the list of a galaxy of leaders who wished him on the occasion.

"Birthday greetings to the youthful & dynamic CM of UP, @myogiadityanath Ji. I wish him a long and healthy life," tweeted Modi.

Others who wished him were BJP

president Amit Shah, central ministers Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Venkaiah Naidu, Smriti Irani, Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Ananth Kumar, V K Singh, Suresh Prabhu and Bandaru Dattatreya, chief ministers Chandrababu Naidu, Raman Singh and Vasundhara Raje Scindia, among others.

Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik drove to Adityanath's official residence on Kalidas Marg and presented a bouquet.

An official statement released by the Raj Bhavan said the Governor while

greeting the chief minister hoped the state will reach new heights in development under his leadership.

Though Adityanath does not celebrate his birthday, but since it falls on international environment day, his followers in Gorakhpur have been planting saplings on this day as it is an issue close to his heart.

Keeping the tradition alive, the saffron-clad leader's Hindu Yuva Vahini carried out plantation in Gorakhpur.

"We have asked all HYV activists to plant at least one sapling today and also ensure that it grows into a healthy plant," state unit general secretary P K Mal said.

BJP workers in Gorakhpur, the Lok Sabha constituency he holds five times becomes becoming the chief minister, distributed fruits among patients admitted in Gorakhpur hospital and also donated blood.

They also distributed sweets among themselves to mark the occasion.

## MAHARASHTRA AGRICULTURAL CRISIS

# Cong demands special session on loan waivers

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI: Congress on Monday demanded a special session of Maharashtra Legislature to discuss the ongoing agitation by farmers and to know the BJP-led state government's stand on loan waiver issue.

"The situation prevailing in the state is serious. It was wrong for the chief minister (Devendra Fadnavis) and (MoS agriculture) Sadabhu Khot to announce that the strike (by farmers) was called off when it was still on," Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee chief Ashok Chavan said.

"We demand an immediate special session of the Legislature to discuss this ongoing strike and the government's actual stand on loan waiver and to give justice to farmers," he told reporters here.

Chavan said the chief minister's contention to provide loan waiver to farmers with marginal land holdings will do no good to them as most of the cultivators in suicide-prone Vidarbha and Marathwada regions have land ad-measuring more than five hectares.

"The CM cannot differentiate among farmers. They are in a bad situation and there is a dearth of facilities for them due to consecutive drought for three years. The drought did not choose to affect only marginal farmers," he said.

On Fadnavis' allegations of hooligans resorting to violence in the name of farmers' protests, Chavan said "everybody knows which is the party



Farmers and Jai Jawan Jai Kisan activists spilling milk on a road during a protest as part of the Maharashtra bandh over various demands in Nagpur, Maharashtra, on Monday

## Nashik APMCs remain closed

NASHIK: All 15 Agriculture Produce Market Committees (APMCs) in Nashik district of Maharashtra on Monday remained closed on the fifth day of farmers' state-wide strike.

Nashik is one of the major centres of fruit and vegetable production in the state, and the biggest producer of onion in the country. Speaking at a meeting called here by Kisan Kranti Morcha, which is coordinating the strike, senior agriculture expert Dr Budhaji Mulik said the state government was misleading the farmers and the strike will continue till all demands were met.

Police detained 50 activists of Kisan Kranti Morcha in Nashik.

The activists were allegedly asking vendors to close their shops. NCP leader and chairman of Pimpalgaon Baswanti APMC in the district Dilip Bankar said all 15 APMCs remained closed today. No onion auctions took place at Pimpalgaon and Lasalgaon APMCs, he said. Farmers dumped milk and onions on the road at Dugaon in Chandvad tehsil, reports said.

Officials at the rural police control room said that agitators were detained at many places in the district as they tried to block roads. Farmers in Maharashtra have been on the warpath since June 1 for their demands including waiver of farm loans and lower power tariff.

Nashik and Ahmednagar have become nerve centres of the protest.

that has the maximum number of goons." "During our tenure in government for 10 years, we increased the minimum support price (MSP) for farmers by an average 140-160 per cent, about 14 per cent

increase annually.

The BJP, in the last three years, has increased MSP by a mere 1.5 per cent," he said.

Responding to the chief minister's announcement of bringing in a law during the

forthcoming monsoon session to criminally charge those who buy agricultural produce at a rate lesser than the MSP, Chavan said it is the government's responsibility to buy it at MSP. "This law will only apply

to traders. They will close down their business saying it is unsustainable for them.

Farmers will be left in a lurch if the government does not take responsibility to buy the produce," he said.

# BJP Govt is conspiring to split farmers: Shiv Sena

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI: The Shiv Sena on Monday attacked the Maharashtra government over the farmers' stir, accusing it of creating fissures among them in an attempt to break their unity.

Similar tactics were used to crush the Maratha stir as well in the past, the Sena charged.

"Had the demands of farmers been accepted, they would have showered the CM with flowers. But some people in the government took (Minister of State for Agriculture) Sadabhu Khot with them and tried to break farmers' unity," the Sena said in an editorial in the party mouthpiece 'Saamana'.

"A divide and rule policy is being used. Leaders who went to 'Varsha' (to hold talks with the CM at his residence) need to answer if any of their demands were met," it said.

Farmers in Maharashtra had launched their stir on June 1 pressing for their various demands, prominent being waiver loans due to crop failures and indebtedness, and guaranteed MSP.

"The CM says 35-40 lakh farmers will be benefited with the loan waiver. But can he answer what about those farmers in Marathwada who have a land holding of more than two



hectares and are dependent on rains?" the Sena questioned.

"The state government has tried to delay its death temporally. First farmers were called to his house (Varsha), were insulted and finally given nothing. The farmers have no trust in the government and hence are continuing their strike," the Sena said.

The Sena said the chief minister got an opportunity to temporarily save his government by creating fissures among the farmers.

After holding talks with leaders of farmers on late Friday night, the Chief Minister had on Saturday announced that his government would waive loans of farmers with small land holdings.

He said 80 per cent of such farmers are in Vidarbha and Marathwada who will benefit by the move.

# Bihar toppers scam: CM Nitish takes up challenge to hold exams fairly

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

PATNA: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday said that his government has taken it as a challenge to conduct future examinations fairly in view of the topper scam for the second consecutive year but it has "miles to go to plug all loopholes".

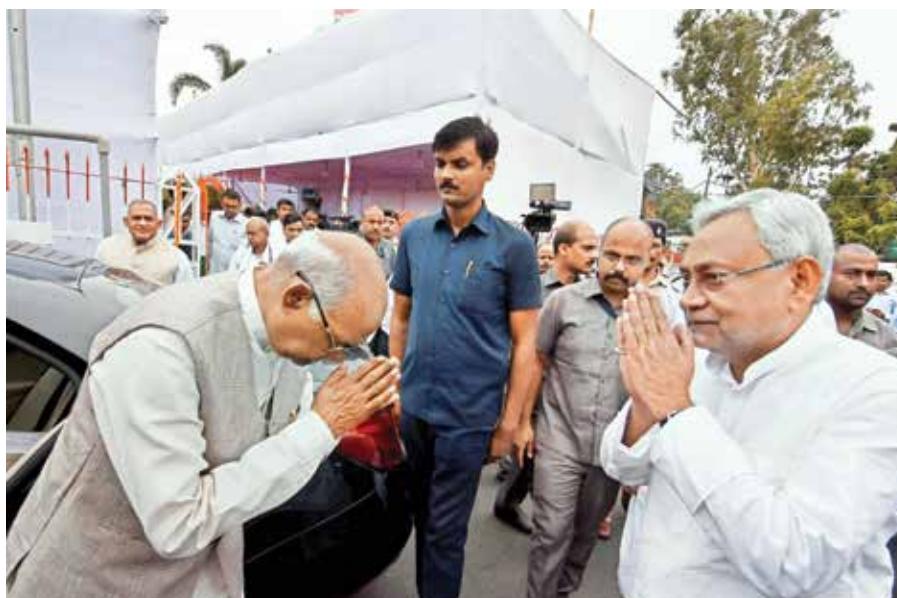
A year after state board Arts topper Ruby Rai was arrested, Patna police on Friday nabbed this year's topper in the stream, Ganesh Kumar, on the charge of appearing for the examination on forged documents.

"We have taken the episode (topper scam for second consecutive year) as a challenge to conduct exams in the future more effectively. We focused on checking question paper leaks and bungling in evaluation process. But wrongdoers find ways somehow," Kumar told reporters here.

"We have miles to go to plug all loopholes and conduct the exam in a free and fair manner. We do not believe in casting a veil on the shortcomings.

"As soon as irregularity regarding the arts topper (Ganesh Kumar) surfaced, I directed officials not to waste time in ordering probe and to lodge an FIR and arrest the wrongdoers involved in the exam racket," he said.

In a re-run of last year's class XII arts topper scam when Ruby Rai had pronounced political science as "prodigal science", which she said, was about cooking, this year's topper Ganesh Kumar struggled to explain the basics of music, one of his subjects.



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Governor Ram Nath Kovind exchange greetings on the occasion of Sampoorna Kranti Divas in Patna on Monday

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# Identify goals to be achieved by 2022, PM directs secys

MPOST BUREAU

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asked top bureaucrats to identify concrete goals to be achieved by 2022, particularly focussing on the development of 100 most backward districts in a mission mode through short time frames.

Modi, while interacting with all the secretaries to the government of India, asked them to rise above the "administrative mechanisms of earlier centuries" and work beyond the "silos" of their respective ministries for the development of the country.

He told them that they had an opportunity to transform the lives of one-sixth of humanity, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

Underlining that institutions must be made "outcome-oriented", the Prime Minister asked the bureaucrats to identify concrete goals to be achieved by 2022, the 75th anniversary of Independence.

He called for a mission mode approach to the 100 most backward districts in India and said specific goals should be set on various parameters in definite short time frames for these districts, the PMO said.

While asking the bureaucrats not to work in silos, Prime Minister Modi said



the some of the best results in the last three years had been achieved when the entire government machinery worked in unison, as a team.

In this regard, he cited examples such as financial inclusion (Jan Dhan Yojana) and universal immunization (Mission Indradhanush), the PMO said.

On 'Swachhta Abhiyan', the prime minister said, "the biggest groundswell of support has come from the people, and that is driving change at the administrative level."

Turning to the planned roll-out of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime from July 1, he said it would mark a "turning point" in the coun-

try's history.

He asked the secretaries to proactively prepare for this transformation, to ensure a smooth transition, the statement said.

The prime minister told the bureaucrats that "the world is looking at India differently today and this is a unique opportunity which should not be missed. Let us build mechanisms to meet global expectations."

Ministers Rajnath Singh, Arun Jaitley, Sushma Swaraj and Nitin Gadkari also addressed the secretaries.

Earlier, the secretaries made some suggestions on various sectors of governance, the PMO said.

## Indian music unites country by breaking social barriers: Modi

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that Indian music, in all its forms, unites the country by breaking social barriers and spreading the message of togetherness.

Stressing that Indian music sets the base for the country's "Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb", he said its majesty, magic and mysticism, positively effects an individual's thoughts.

"Indian music, whether it is classical, folk or filmy, has always worked for unity in the country by breaking all social barriers," Modi said through video conferencing at the fifth International Convention of SPIC MACAY (Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music And Culture Amongst Youth) at IIT Delhi here. It has always spread the message of togetherness by breaking all walls of religion and caste.

Our classical music is the best medium to gain peace and experience calmness, he said.

Emphasising on the relevance of Indian music and its diversity, the prime minister said, "Hindustani music of the north, Carnatic music of the

south, Rabindra Sangeet of Bengal, Jyoti Sangeet of Assam and Sufi music of Jammu and Kashmir, all these musical traditions set the base of our Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb."

"Our diversity is our strength," Modi said, adding students of one state can learn songs in other regional languages.

"Indian music will help us in realising the goal of 'Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat' (One India, Best India)," he said.

Stressing that it is important for the younger generation to know and understand India's rich cultural and musical heritage, the prime minister said these days the youth are less aware about Indian classical music and instruments.

"This is a matter of concern for our country, as no nation can succeed by ignoring its heritage," he said.

"There is one type of music which will make your body move and then there is Indian music which will make your heart dance. Music is art, a livelihood. But, in Indian context, it is spirituality, a way of life," Modi said.

MPOST

Modi said.

According to eyewitnesses, the diesel tank of the bus burst

ROAD RAGE INVOLVING MANIPUR CM'S SON

## State to provide security to victim's kin, SC told

MPOST BUREAU

**NEW DELHI:** The Centre on Monday told the Supreme Court that parents of a youth, who was killed in a road rage in 2011 in Manipur involving the son of Chief Minister Niren Singh, will be provided security by the state government.

The state government also informed the apex court that the parents of victim Irom Roger would be provided round-the-clock security by Manipur Rifles at their residences.

Additional Solicitor General Maninder Singh told the vacation bench of Justice Deepak Gupta that an affidavit has been filed by the state government stating that orders have already been issued to provide round the clock security to Irom Chitra Devi and Irom Lokendra Singh.

The ASG also said that the five allegations, including that the chief minister was abusing his official positions to obstruct the parents from approaching the court, have been found to be false.

The Manipur Chief Secretary in his affidavit said that the allegations levelled that administration was acting in "high-handed and arbitrary manner" was meant "solely to malign"

parents, will also be provided security if he visits Imphal in connection with the case and added that on June 3, an order in this regard was issued by the Inspector General of Police.

In an affidavit filed before the apex court, Manipur Chief Secretary O Nambikshore Singh denied the allegation that at the instance of the chief minister, the administration including police were obstructing the Iroms from approaching the high court to challenge the conviction of Ajay Meetai for lesser offence of culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

Meetai, son of the chief minister, has been awarded a five-year jail term under section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the IPC for firing at Roger on March 20, 2011, and killing him.

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

Advocate Kamini Jaiswal, appearing, for Roger's parents of victim had earlier said that no one from Manipur has dared to file an appeal in the high court against the five-year jail term awarded to Meetai.

Singh said the security per-

sonnel were caught between an IED on one side and firing from the other at the ambush spot, but the members of the SOG retaliated.

Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Asit Kumar Tripathy said the incident took place on Sunday night when the jawans of SOG were returning after a combing operation. The security personnel fires around 300 rounds which forced the Maoists to flee. "They also used grenades," Tripathy said.

Giving details of the incident, police said the last vehicle of the SOG convoy came under heavy attack leading to death of one security personnel on the spot and injuring seven others.

The slain jawan was identified as Laxmikant Jani of Kala-handi district.

MPOST

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MPOST

Transfer racket: Lt Colonel, accomplice sent to judicial custody

MPOST BUREAU

**NEW DELHI:** A special court on Monday sent a Lieutenant Colonel and an alleged middleman to judicial custody till June 17 in connection with a transfer racket at the Army headquarters here in which officers allegedly paid lakhs of rupees to manipulate their postings.

Special CBI Judge Naresh Kumar Malhotra sent Lt Col Ranganathan Suvramani Moni, posted to the personnel division of the Army, and Gaurav Kohli to custody after the Central Bureau of Investigation submitted they were not required for further custodial interrogation. The two were produced before the court after the expiry of their three-day CBI custody.

Kohli, meanwhile, moved a bail plea submitting that since he was not required for a further probe, he should be released on bail.

The court will hear the application on June 9.

During the proceedings, Public prosecutor Amit Kumar told the court the CBI had taken the voice samples of the two and conducted searches at the premises of some others in relation to the case.

Meanwhile, Dholia is to get its nurse.

"The minister called me on Sunday and the necessary action (for hiring an ANM) is being taken," the CMHO, Dr Devendra, said on Monday.

Meghwal made news last year when he rode a bicycle to Parliament after the Delhi government implemented its odd-even traffic scheme.

Local leader Ramgopal Suthar said the area had such poor connectivity that peo-

## 24 charred to death, 14 suffer burns as UP bus catches fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**BAREILLY (UP):** At least 24 passengers were charred to death and 14 suffered burns when a state-run bus burst into flames after crashing into a lorry on the national highway here early Monday.

The Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation bus, carrying 41 passengers from Delhi, was on its way to Gonda in eastern Uttar Pradesh when the accident took place near Bada bypass on NH 24, over 250 km from the national capital. The bodies were so badly charred that doctors found it difficult to determine the gender of the victims. DNA tests would be conducted to identify the victims.

"Around 5.45 AM, we received 22 bodies from the accident site. The bodies are charred beyond recognition. It is difficult to even determine the gender of the people," said Dr Shailesh Ranjan of the Bareilly district hospital.

The number of male and female passengers who died in the accident would be clear only after the post-mortem, Chief Medical Officer, Bareilly, Dr Vijay Yadav, said.

"The death toll has risen to 24. Besides, 14 others are suffering from serious burn injuries," senior Uttar Pradesh minister Rajesh Agarwal told reporters here.

Initially the number of those injured was placed at 15, but the name of one more passenger was added to the list taking the number to 16, of whom two died during treatment.

Three passengers escaped with minor injuries.

Senior Superintendent of Police Jogendra Kumar said, "The accident involving a bus of UPSRTC and a truck occurred between 1.00 AM and 1.30 AM," he said.

Kumar said six critically injured passengers have been hospitalised.

According to eyewitnesses, the diesel tank of the bus burst



The passenger bus caught fire after colliding with a truck on National Highway 24 at Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh

25 BT-5337), which was coming from Shahjehanpur, was later arrested.

"The truck driver Saqeeb has been arrested. The truck has been impounded and legal proceedings are underway," UP Police spokesperson said in Lucknow, adding a case has been registered under various sections of IPC.

"The truck and the bus both caught fire after the collision. Fire engines reached as soon as possible but the flames were so high that it took us a lot of effort to actually douse the flames and reach inside," said senior police officer SK Bhagat.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the loss of lives and sanctioned Rs 2 lakh each to the kin of those killed. He also announced Rs 50,000 for each of those injured.

Adityanath announced financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh each to the kin of the deceased, Rs 50,000 to the seriously injured and Rs 25,000 for those who got minor injuries.

The driver of the truck (UP-

## Hyderabad gets machines to end manual scavenging

for the government," Rao said, adding that he would see to it that manual scavenging ceases to exist in state.

HMWS&SB, in association with the DICCI, (Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry) induced the 70 mini jetting machines at a cost of Rs 20 crore and the machines were handed over to the 'scavenging labour turned entrepreneurs'.

"It is an initiative conceptualised to transform manual scavenging entrepreneurs. This move enables the elimination of manual scavenging and convert labour into an entrepreneur," DICCI Founder Milind Kamble said.

AGENCIES

**PHULBANI (Odisha):** One security official was killed and seven others were injured when Maoists ambushed a convoy of Special Operation Group (SOG) in Baliguda area of Kandhamal district, police said on Monday. CM Naveen Patnaik condemned the attack and called it "cowardly".

"Condemn cowardly attack on security personnel in Kandhamal. DGP @odisha, police is on the spot. Sacrifice of our jawans will not go in vain," Patnaik tweeted. "Our boys are on high morale and have given a befitting reply to the Maoists."

The standard operation procedure (SOP) was followed when the jawans returned after a combing operation on Sunday night.

"The ultras fired at the convoy of the SOG, an elite anti-naxal force in the state, late Sunday night when they were returning after conducting an anti-Maoist operation in a forest ghat road near Khammanhol, Inspector General of Police (Southern Range) Amitabh Thakur said.

Singh said the security per-

sonnel were caught between an IED on one side and firing from the other at the ambush spot, but the members of the SOG retaliated.

Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Asit Kumar Tripathy said the incident took place on Sunday night when the jawans of SOG were returning after a combing operation. The security personnel fires around 300 rounds which forced the Maoists to flee. "They also used grenades," Tripathy said.

Giving details of the incident, police said the last vehicle of the SOG convoy came under heavy attack leading to death of one security personnel on the spot and injuring seven others.

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MPOST

Transfer racket: Lt Colonel, accomplice sent to judicial custody

MPOST BUREAU

**KMDA KOLKATA METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

e-NIT No: 05/SE(N)SD & SWM/KMDA of 2017-2018

**SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, NORTH CIRCLE, SD&SWM SECTOR, KMDA Block-A**, 5th Floor, Unnayan Bhavan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091 invites online tender from reliable, resourceful, bona fide and experienced firms/individual contractors/joint ventures/consortium for the work.

**Estimated Amount (Rs.):** Earnest Money (Rs.); **Time of Completion:** 1. Laying of under ground combind sewer with double layer corrugated HDPE pipe at 25 Christopher Road under KIT Housing scheme.; 64,79,787/-; 1,29,596/-; 90 days. **Last date & time of request of application on 14.06.2017 up to 6.50 p.m. for details please contact the above office or visit our both the websites.**

KMDA/T-130/SPAN(3)/17-18

visit website : [www.kmdaonline.org](http://www.kmdaonline.org) or [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in)

e-NIT No: 05/SE(N)SD & SWM/KMDA of

## [ EDITORIAL ]

## London struck by terror, again

Merely days after the horrific bombing in Manchester, the United Kingdom witnessed its third terror attack since March on Saturday, when a non-descript van swerved off the road and mowed down pedestrians on London Bridge. A total of seven people were killed and 48 injured. Soon after this horrific episode, the van drove to the Borough Market in London, a popular tourist destination, and three armed men stepped out of the vehicle. As per eyewitness accounts, these assailants began attacking pedestrians with knives. One was reportedly seen charging towards a bar packed with people. Before these assailants could inflict any further harm, armed personnel from the London Metropolitan Police responded quickly to the scene and gunned them down. The attack took place merely five days before parliamentary elections in the United Kingdom on June 8. British Prime Minister Theresa May, however, reassured voters that elections would go ahead as per schedule. "It is time to say enough is enough," she expressed in a televised statement. "We cannot and must not pretend that things can continue as they are." There were calls for tougher counter-terror measures that could include longer jail sentences for certain offences and more stringent cyberspace regulations, even though the British government has aggressively monitored Muslims it believes could orchestrate attacks. In fact, a leading UK news publication reported earlier this year that British intelligence is actively surveilling 23,000 potential jihadis. Her opponent in the elections and leader of the Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, meanwhile, responded that the UK needs to have "some difficult conversations" with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, saying they have "funded and fuelled extremist ideology". "We have to get serious about cutting off the funding to these terror networks, including ISIS here and in the Middle East," Corbyn said. There are two aspects of the attack that this editorial would like to address—the London police's quick response, and the hypocrisy of Western governments in dealing with the threat of Islamist extremism.

Reports indicate that it took the London Metropolitan Police just eight minutes from the start of the London Bridge attack to neutralise the three terrorists. By any measure, this is a reflection of the great speed and effectiveness with which the police responded to a live terror attack and ended the atrocity before it escalated any further. Their success on Saturday was down to learning from similar terror-related incidents in the past, rigorous training and the necessary resources. London is no stranger to terrorist attacks, from the IRA-orchestrated bombing in 1993 to the 7/7 bombings in 2005. However, what has changed since then is the nature of terror attacks. Counter-terror experts marked the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks (2008) and Paris attacks in December 2015 as seminal events in establishing a new template for such future acts of barbarism. In the age of increased cyber surveillance, it is tough for terrorists to pull off a 9/11-style of attack. Instead, small units of mobile, yet heavily armed and motivated attackers are unleashed on vulnerable public spaces with the aim of killing as many people as possible while causing chaos and mayhem in these areas. For security professionals, this is a nightmarish scenario. Fortunately, for London, its police have spent years preparing for such an incident ever since the Mumbai terror attacks in 2008. There was also an element of luck too as Saturday's assailants reportedly did not carry any firearms with them. Nonetheless, the skills they had acquired over the years did serve them well in responding quickly to this act of terror. Security professionals contend that the London police undertook several anti-terror exercises simulating terror attacks. One such simulation involved a scenario in which armed individuals unleash terror on a shopping mall. In these exercises, the emphasis was on responding to the terror threat as fast as possible without actually taking into cognizance their own safety or even tending to injured civilians. Speed is of the essence. Finally, of course, it's also about the resources to take on such security threats. There is an apparent escalation in the deployment of armed police officers, allied with ammunition and vehicles, following Saturday's events. Once known for its unarmed police, the city of London is now on lockdown. Despite all these measures, there remains a strong element of chance and surprise associated with such attacks that the police cannot entirely legislate for. "The terrorism situation in the UK is clearly in flux. At the moment, the only pattern when it comes to terrorist attacks is that there is no pattern. Last night's London attack appears to be in some ways a combination of the Westminster attack and the Lee Rigby murder. It differs greatly from the style of the May 22 Manchester attack. Nonetheless, members of the police will continue to prepare to deal with worst-case scenarios based on previous attacks that, undoubtedly, they hope will never materialise," wrote Steve Hewitt, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of History, University of Birmingham, in a recent column for *The Conversation*. On expected lines, the Islamic State has claimed responsibility for Saturday's attack. "A detachment of Islamic State fighters executed yesterday's London attack," said a statement posted on the militant group's Amaq media agency website. It is no secret that the Saudi Kingdom, backed by the supply of American arms, has played a pivotal role in aiding the surge of extremist Sunni ideologies and terror modules across the region, extending all the way to the Indian subcontinent. In 2014, WikiLeaks released a 2014 email from Hillary Clinton, acknowledging that US-backed regimes in Saudi Arabia and Qatar have supported transnational terror groups like the Islamic State. "We need to use our diplomatic and more traditional intelligence assets to bring pressure on the governments of Qatar and Saudi Arabia, which are providing clandestine financial and logistic support to ISIL and other radical Sunni groups in the region," the document states, ignoring the fact that Washington played a pivotal role in spawning the creation of ISIS. In fact, in another leaked email, Clinton also admits that "the Saudis have exported more extreme ideology than any other place on earth over the course of the last 30 years." It is imperative to note that when it comes to hobnobbing with the Saudi regime, both Republicans and Democrats are equal offenders, as recent WikiLeaks disclosures suggest. Closer to home, the Arabian kingdom is also a primary source of funds for Islamist militant groups like the Afghan Taliban and Lashkar-e-Taiba. Nonetheless, both the British and American establishment continues to sell arms and buy oil from the Saudi kingdom, allowing it to further fuel atrocities in war-torn nations like Yemen. In fact, reports indicate that the British government is suppressing an inquiry commissioned by May's predecessor, David Cameron, looking into the foreign funding of extremist Islamist groups. Given that the British government just signed £3.5 billion (US\$4.51 billion) worth of arms export licenses to Saudi Arabia, the suppression of the report's findings is nothing short of a scandal. "While Saudi Arabia spends countless millions promoting fear of Iran to distract from its global export of Wahabism—which inspires the extremist ideology of Al Qaeda, the so-called Islamic State and many other terrorist groups wreaking havoc from Karachi to Manchester—Iran has been aiding the victims of extremism in Iraq and Syria," says Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, in a column for *The New York Times*. It's time the British government acknowledged this fact, reconfigures its relationship with dictatorial regimes supporting extremist ideologies and groups to get to the heart of the matter. More surveillance will mean nothing without and requisite follow-up measures on foreign policy.

NANTOO  
BANERJEE

**Modi's call for global cooperation on terrorism, climate control, and freedom of navigation for peace was seen as an honest effort. It won the heart of all the European leaders he met. They also appreciated the logic put forward by the Indian Prime Minister as a win-win situation for everyone wanting to 'make in India'**

Quote martial

If we destroy human rights and rule of law in the response to terrorism, they have won

JOICHI ITO

**Improving hydrologic and air quality information systems is essential to manage the critical food-water-energy nexus in a warming world. This will need integrated observations and predictions, which can be carried out through a Regional Earth System Prediction framework**

## Diplomacy in difficult times

## Modi's four-nation Europe tour best timed

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's four-nation Europe tour that ended on June 3 couldn't have possibly been timed better. A series of global events — from deadly terrorist attacks in the UK and Afghanistan, and President Donald Trump's decision to pull the United States out of the Paris climate agreement — coinciding with the Prime Minister's diplomatic mission only strengthened his resolve seeking stronger bilateral and multilateral cooperation on security, economy, and environment protection. Almost toeing Modi's meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin, last week, was Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang, seeking to push China and the European Union closer. It was in a week during which a Europe-US rift on the Paris deal and other issues, including NATO funding by members, seemed to widen. Both Modi and Li Keqiang pledged their full commitment to the Paris agreement. Nearly 200 countries agreed to the 2015 Paris deal to curb climate-changing emissions. After President Trump's announcement last week, the US joined a very rarified club outside the climate agreement with just two other members, Syria and Nicaragua.

Both Modi and Li Keqiang were committed to the reduction of carbon footprint in their respective countries to save the global environment and the future generation. This is despite the fact China is the world's biggest producer and guzzler of environment-damaging fossil fuel. The combined raw coal production from China's designated large coal companies with annual turnover of at least 20 million yuan (about \$2.9 million) stood at 3.36 billion tonnes in 2016, according to its National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). On the contrary, India, the world's third-largest coal producer, mined less than 650 million tonnes of raw coal, last year. India is going for battery operated cars in a big way to cut consumption of petroleum, its biggest item of import. The USA, the world's largest CO2 emitter accounting for almost 28 per cent of the global emission, mined around 980 million short tons of coal in 2016, down from its peak level of 1.72 billion short tons in 2008.

While Modi's climate commitment was highly appreciated by both Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron, European leaders seem to remain concerned about China's hegemonic ambitions in Asia and other parts of the world — for example, build-



Russian President Vladimir Putin shakes hands with Prime Minister Narendra Modi prior their talks at St. Petersburg

ing 'New Silk Road', claim over South China Sea, its massive strategic investment in south and south-east Asia and almost muted response to North Korea's aggressive ballistic missile programme.

Modi's call for global cooperation on terrorism, climate control, and freedom of navigation for peace was seen as an honest effort. It won the heart of all the European leaders he met. They also appreciated the logic put forward by the Indian Prime Minister as a win-win situation for everyone wanting to 'make in India'. European leaders took note of the fact the foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into India in 2016 jumped 18 per cent to a record \$46.4 billion, at a time when global FDI inflows fell by an overall 13 per cent. Narendra Modi-Angela Merkel meet inked 18 MoUs, fast track German investments, German loan assistance of over one billion euros for India's solar projects in the next five years besides an existing assistance of over one billion Euros for India's Green Energy Corridor.

Finally, Prime Minister Modi's frank interactions with Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin proved to be a great success. It took place at a time when a few misgivings seemed to brew up about Russian assistance to Pakistan. Russia's "trust-based" ties with India will not be diluted by Moscow's grow-

ing relations with Pakistan and others, asserted President Vladimir Putin.

He described Russia's ties with India as something 'very special'. Putin said there is no other country in the world that Russia has "deep cooperation" in delicate areas such as missiles. No matter from where a terror threat comes, it is unacceptable, and Russia will always support India in the fight against terror, Putin said adding that Russia does not have any close military relations with Pakistan. Russia is respectful toward all Indian interests, said Putin.

The formal and informal talks between the two heads of states sought to enhance the special relationship to the next level. Modi was the guest of honour at this year's three-day Saint Petersburg Economic Forum -- Russia's answer to Davos -- where Putin explained how Russia had turned the page on a brutal recession caused by low oil prices and sanctions over Ukraine. India and Russia signed St Petersburg Declaration for enhanced ties across the board. Modi said 70 years of India-Russia relations had seen remarkable cooperation and convergence on the main issues. Modi said the 18th annual India-Russia summit was very productive, adding new vigour to India-Russia relations. On record, India and Russia signed an agreement for setting up of Units 5 and 6 of Kudankulam Nuclear

Power Plant in Tamil Nadu. At the CEOs Forum, President Putin said Russia would continue to increase investments in India.

Admittedly, it is entirely to the credit of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) that Modi's visit to Germany, France, Spain, and Russia came at such a crucial time when global diplomacy is put under severe test amidst grave concern over growing terrorism and the future of the Paris climate accord. In the end, India emerged in Europe as a trusted partner to fight the evils and strengthen the global peace and economic stability. Sadly though, the terrible terrorist attacks in Kabul's diplomatic enclave and at Manchester musical concert took place around the time of the Prime Minister's Europe visit. However, these events further stressed the need for a more meaningful co-operation among powerful nations to fight terrorism and terrorist groups, operating out of multiple epicentres from Mindanao to Pakistan, Afghanistan and parts of middle-east. India has consistently been combating terrorism exported mostly from Jihadist groups in Pakistan. India's concern was well appreciated by the heads of four nations Modi interacted with. IPA

*(The views expressed are strictly personal.)*

dear EDITOR

millenniumpost.in

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

## BETTER ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS

*The rate of increase in crime against women is so dismal that it has virtually desensitised people to the horrendousness of it. One unfortunate and infamous incident (December 2012) may have caused immense public outrage but it did nothing of lasting consequence. An incident of crime against women is nothing more than a news report. Pointless discussions over why others are not treated as seriously as Nirbhaya will do nothing to help matters. What we need terribly is not just laws, but serious deterrent laws against crime against women and sensitisation to it.*

KIRAN SACHDEV Via email

## A necessary requirement

Integrating weather reporting in India is the big challenge, explains Raghu Murtugudde

**A**s the advent of the 2017 summer monsoon over mainland South Asia showed once again, Indian meteorologists have become highly accurate in their forecasts. Gone are those Jerome K. Jerome days when you left your umbrella at home if the Meteorological Department predicted rain. Now the weather office can even anticipate a relatively unpredictable phenomenon such as a dust storm in the north Indian summer. It may not be as useful for forecasts more than a week in advance, but it's far better than before.

Farmers all over India -- especially those who do not have irrigation facilities -- are now using the agricultural meteorology (Agrimet) service of the India Meteorological Department, and they can get crucial information such as rainfall forecast over the next week through text messages on their phones.

There is a lot that can and should be done to extend the scope of these weather predictions to large-scale hydrological predictions, both short- and long-term so that farmers and administrators can plan for the more frequent and more severe floods and droughts that are occurring in South Asia because of climate change.

Information about water flow in rivers is now available through a water resources information system (WRIS), but that has severe limitations due to regulatory issues -- there is no information available to the public about real-time water flow in trans-boundary rivers, thanks to an outdated law. This means there is no real-time water flow information available in the public domain from the three largest river basins in the country -- those of the Indus, Ganga, and Brahmaputra. This affects preparations to face floods.



Representational image

When it comes to drought preparedness, the situation is similar -- the information available is better than before but not good enough. The Central Water Commission now puts out in the public domain the water storage status of the 91 largest reservoirs in India and updates this information every week. This list still leaves out far too many water bodies that are crucial in determining if a region will have a drought.

The other crucial information needed to know if there will be a drought is the status of groundwater, but the latest status available on the website of the Central Ground Water Board is dated March 31, 2011. India is a country where over half the irrigation is from groundwater. It is the world's largest groundwater user.

There is another shortcoming -- India does not have enough monitoring stations to map the air pollution

over the country. Most of the monitoring stations are scattered over a few large cities, though satellites show the most polluted zones to be in and around industrial townships and highways. Improving this observation system is crucial because air pollution -- in particular through aerosols -- affects local and regional weather patterns.

Improving these hydrologic and air quality information systems is essential to manage the critical food-water-energy nexus in a warming world. This will need integrated observations and predictions, which can be carried out through a Regional Earth System Prediction (RESP) framework. RESP treats the land, ocean, atmosphere, ecosystem, agriculture, and human interactions as components of one integrated system. This has to be used with an integrated observation system (IOS) that provides the data needed to build,

validate and verify local and regional weather and long-term climate system models.

Despite some shortcomings, all the pieces are in place to build the RESP and IOS for India. The country now has one of the best instrumental climate data records of a sufficiently long-time series covering a large-enough area. Empirical forecasts of the monsoon and various hydrologic variables such as stream flows are now advancing to dynamic forecasts. The research work going on at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune now includes extending short-term weather forecasts to long-term climate predictions.

For information essential to manage the food-energy-water nexus, India needs two steps. The first is to improve its hydrologic and air quality information systems. The second is a national strategy to integrate the weather and climate information with the hydrologic and air quality information and manage this together. Then agricultural scientists can improve what they are doing right now to help farmers plan their crops.

To make such an integrated system useful, scientists also need to estimate the length of time to which forecasts from such an integrated system will be reliable. When all these are added up, integrating and managing this information may seem a daunting task, but it can be done. Building this capability is a necessary requirement to safeguard the nation's future. IANS

*(In an arrangement with thethirdpole.net. Raghu Murtugudde is an Earth System Scientist at the University of Maryland. Views expressed are strictly those of the thethirdpole.net.)*

# Labour party gains momentum

*"Our new govt will invest in future growth of many, not few", says Corbyn*



NITYA CHAKRABORTY

**Jeremy Corbyn has emerged as the darling of the masses and in the last few days, addressed widely attended meetings getting a massive response. In comparison, the Conservative Party campaign has turned clueless and Prime Minister Theresa May is failing to respond to the points raised in the Labour's manifesto**



Labour party's PM candidate Jeremy Corbyn

On June 8, Thursday, Britain will go to the polls. The leader of the Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, who started his campaign at the beginning of the last month as a "not winnable" candidate in the eyes of the corporate media, has emerged as the front-runner for the Prime Minister's post as campaigning comes to a close. Corbyn's election manifesto for a New Britain has attracted the common Britishers, and despite the endless slanders against him by the Conservative Party leaders and the media close to them, opinion polls are showing significant surge by the Labour Party.

Jeremy Corbyn, the self-declared socialist, has emerged as the darling of the masses and in the last few days, he has addressed widely attended meetings getting a massive response. In comparison, the Conservative Party campaign has turned clueless, and the Prime Minister Theresa May is failing to respond to the points raised in the Labour's manifesto. In the last week of the campaign, the Conservatives have been outmanoeuvred by the Labour onslaught, and in desperation, they are only focusing on security as a result of recent terror attacks and claiming that the Labour cannot be trusted for that.

In a recent interview with the London-based daily Morning Star, the Labour's PM candidate Jeremy Corbyn made his position clear on terror attacks by placing the issue in historical perspective. According to him, many experts in Britain's intelligence and security services have pointed to the connections between wars the British govt has fought in other countries and terrorism at home. The assessment in no way reduces the guilt of those who attack our children. Those terrorists will forever be reviled and held to account for their actions, he said.

Elaborating, Corbyn says that an informed understanding of the causes of terrorism is an essential part of an effective response that will protect the security of the people. His frank view is that the war on terror is simply not working and there is need to look for a smarter way to reduce the threat from countries that produce threat and nurture terrorism.

As regards the Conservative Party charge that the people are not safe under him, Corbyn said that ensuring the safety of our communities demands adequately resourced action across many fronts. It means

upholding and enforcing our rights, promoting community relations, supporting our emergency services, tackling and preventing crime, and protecting us from danger, including threats of terror and violence. Only a Labour government will meet these challenges. As mentioned in the manifesto, Labour will recruit 10,000 more police officers, 3,000 extra firefighters, as well as additional prison officers and border guards.

Labour will also legislate to ensure safe staffing levels in the NHS, including for our ambulance services. Labour will also increase staffing levels at the security and intelligence agencies to better ensure our collective safety.

Defending the Labour stand on public utilities, the Labour leader said, public utilities like water and energy have been given away, often

to foreign companies and state-run firms. Profits have gone to the shareholders, while the prices we pay, have increased and the quality of service has often deteriorated. Enough is enough of this rip-off.

"Compare your experience of services run by and in the interests of the public – like our NHS, police, and armed services – and the privatised rail, energy, water, and bus services. Remember when recruitment for the Olympics was outsourced to G4S, which was paid millions of our money for it and then boded the job? The armed services had to step in and sort it out. Labour will take back control of what belongs to us – so we, the many, not the few, can benefit."

According to Corbyn, this will be a sound investment for the British people because privatisation has

failed. Many countries around the world have public ownership of their utilities, and they run better than they do in Britain. The privatised water companies have paid out £18 billion (\$23 billion USD) in dividends to private shareholders in the last ten years. In the last year, the privatised water companies paid out 1,000 times more in dividends to private shareholders than they paid in corporation tax. Under Labour's plans, the British people, not private shareholders, would benefit from the sector's profits. Water bills have risen 40 per cent above inflation since privatisation. With this investment, we can reduce water bills by around £100 (\$129 USD) per year per household, the equivalent of a 25 percent reduction. Overall, the estimate is that bills could fall by £220 (\$283 USD) a year across energy and

water under our plans, he said.

As regards his socialist credentials, Corbyn said, "I have always stood up for what I believe in – the principles of equality, peace, and social justice. This is what keeps me going and is exactly what I'll do as Prime Minister."

He defended the National Health Service by saying that "every family in Britain has relied on NHS at some stage in their life. It is the most civilised thing about our country. I am so proud of it and will always defend it and preserve its core founding principles. The Conservatives are failing our health service, which has been pushed into financial crisis and soaring deficits. Patients are facing longer waits, with hospitals overcrowded, understaffed, and threatened with closure. Labour will stand up for our NHS. We will always

make sure the NHS has the funding it needs and will join up services from home to hospital with an appropriately integrated health and social care service. Labour created the NHS to care for us all, and now it's time to care for the NHS. The choice is stark: a properly funded NHS under Labour or accelerating NHS privatisation and underfunding under the Tories," Corbyn mentioned.

In conclusion, the Labour leader said "this election is about the kind of country we want Britain to be. The choice is between Labour's plan to transform Britain for the many, not the few and a Conservative Party that has held people back and put the wealthy first. On June 8, let's vote to move forward in the interests of the many."

(The views expressed are strictly personal.)

## TB's hidden links

*Treatment must take into account associated mental health disorders*



KARNIKA BAHUGUNA

**Apart from the mental health disorders that originate as a reaction to diagnosis and social stigma, there is another less studied aspect: drug-induced psychosis, depression, and suicidal tendencies. Many anti-TB drugs like cycloserine precipitate major depression, anxiety, or psychosis**



Representational Image

Three years ago, 29-year-old Brihaspati Pandey came to New Delhi from Basti, Uttar Pradesh, to attend a two-day meeting on tuberculosis (TB). Pandey was taking treatment for pulmonary TB for about two months. After the first day, he went to his room and unpacked his medicines. "A health advocate colleague, who was sharing the room with me, asked me if I had TB," he says. When Pandey replied in the affirmative, the colleague vacated the room immediately. "I developed an inferiority complex and started hiding my TB medicines. I even stopped taking medicines in front of anyone. Some of my family members also distanced themselves when they learnt of my condition," adds Pandey.

The stigma associated with TB patients not only hinders adherence to treatment but also adds to the stress and leads to mental disorders. According to a report by the World Health Organization (WHO), the prevalence of mental disorders, including depression and anxiety, among TB patients is estimated to be between 40 and 70 per cent.

A study published in the International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases in 2008 says that the stigma affects the quality of patients' lives and the effectiveness of TB medicines. The overall stigma index is the highest for India, the study found. However, there is little research and focus on the impact of the disease on mental health in India, and these cascading health problems have not been incorporated in TB treatment protocols. These findings assume significance as India accounts for more than one-fourth of the global TB cases and deaths. In 2015 alone, there were 2.8 million new cases and 0.47 million deaths due to TB.

### Intrinsic relationship

"The connection between TB and mental health starts right at the initial phase of diagnosis," says Beena Thomas, a scientist with the National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, Chennai. Irrespective of the literacy status of people, the perception and stigmatization around TB influence the patient's initial reaction to the diagnosis.

It also matters how the health practitioner discloses the news to the patient, and how the patient discloses it to the family. "All these factors impact mental health. If the family's reaction is nega-

tive, it will impact the patient's mental health. We still find that irrespective of one's education, knowledge, and awareness about TB are not what they should be," says Thomas.

Apart from the mental health disorders that originate as a reaction to diagnosis and social stigma, there is another less studied aspect: drug-induced psychosis, depression, and suicidal tendencies. Many anti-TB drugs like cycloserine precipitate major depression, anxiety or psychosis, says Thomas. She advocates counselling right from the initial phase of diagnosis to not only help patients cope with the disease but also to help them understand the importance of adhering to the treatment. "Many patients tell us that if they had known that being irregular with treatment would lead them to multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB, they would have adhered to the course," says Thomas.

Take the case of 24-year-old Yasmine (name changed), who lives in Tughlakabad village in New Delhi. She was diagnosed with the first category or drug-sensitive TB three years ago. The side-effects of the drugs, which included stomach discomfort, nausea, and frequent vomiting, forced her to stop taking medication for two months. When her health deteriorated, she got herself tested, and found that she had developed

multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB. "No one told me that missing doses would make the disease stage a comeback in a severe form. Had I known, I would have never missed a single dose," she says.

### Call for counselling

"The lack of counselling services for TB patients is the biggest gap in the treatment protocol," says Blessina Kumar, chief executive officer, Global Coalition of TB Activists. Kumar cites the successful example of the HIV programme where robust counselling is an integral part of the treatment. She says that replicating such good practices for TB patients has been a struggle because TB treatment is largely based on medicines. "The so-called softer areas like counselling, patient care, adherence and nutritional support are not part of the treatment protocol, so they usually take the back seat," she says.

So far, the Revised National TB Control Program has been focused on screening and treatment with little focus on mental health. There is no official data on suicidal attempts by TB patients. Paucity of research is another area which needs attention. Data on cases of depression, anxiety, or other mental health issues among TB patients is also not available. However, the silver lining is that the country has belatedly woken up to

the idea of integrating counselling in the TB control programme.

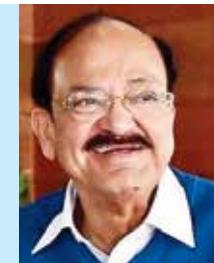
"We plan to appoint about 600 counsellors countrywide—one at every district centre for MDR-TB patients within a year. The process has already started. The project is being funded by the Global Fund for AIDS, TB, and Malaria," says Sunil Khaparde, deputy director-general, TB, Central TB Division, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) is the technical partner in the project, which will train the counsellors. The initial phase of the project, called Saksham Pravaah, started in 2016 with the appointment of counsellors in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Karnataka.

"The initial progress has been to retain patients to continue treatment as also to bring back patients who had stopped treatment. Financial concerns are also one of the reasons for treatment default. That's why counsellors of Saksham Pravaah link needy patients to social protection services and programmes like nutrition support and widow pension—both from government and non-governmental agencies," says Shweta Bajaj, senior programme manager, Saksham, TISS.

DOWN TO EARTH

Saddened to lose India and Bengal's brave son Naik Dipak Kumar Maity, martyred on Sunday in Kashmir. The State government will extend all assistance. Bengal stands with his family at this hour of grief

M VENKAIAH NAIDU  
@MVenkaiahNaidu



On this #WorldEnvironmentDay, let us take #BlueGreenPledge to segregate household waste into 2 bins. Wet waste in Green & Dry waste in Blue

MEHDI HASAN  
@mehdirhasan



Saudi Arabia is accusing Qatar of supporting terrorism and sectarianism. In other news, the pot has called the kettle black.

TAVNEEN SINGH  
@tavneen\_singh



We in the media have never spoken up against this barbaric practice loudly enough. Raids put the onus of proving innocence on victims.

**Iran blames Trump for escalating Qatar diplomatic crisis**

TEHRAN: Iran has accused the US of setting the scene for the escalating Gulf diplomatic crisis during President Donald Trump's recent trip to the Saudi Arabia. "What is happening is the preliminary result of the sword dance," Hamid Abotalebi, deputy chief of staff of Iran's President Hassan Rouhani, tweeted, in a reference to a traditional ceremonial dance that took place during Mr Trump's visit to the Saudi capital of Riyadh last month. Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, as well as the Western-recognised governments of Yemen and Libya, severed their ties with Qatar on Monday, accusing it of supporting terrorism.

"[Qatar] embraces multiple terrorist and sectarian groups aimed at disturbing stability in the region, including the Muslim Brotherhood, Isis and al-Qaeda, and promotes the message and schemes of these groups through their media constantly," Saudi state news agency SPA said. Iran, which Trump singled out as a key source of funding and support for extremist groups during his inaugural foreign trip, is the secondary target of Monday's decision by Saudi Arabia and its allies. The decision of the tiny energy rich country's neighbours to cut off its land, sea and air routes to the outside world is a "violation of its sovereignty," a statement from Qatar's foreign ministry said.

Doha has denied supporting militant groups. It described the crisis as "absolute fabrications". AGENCIES

# Isolated Qatar: Middle-East split to affect flights, food and football

DUBAI: Four Arab nations severed diplomatic relations with Qatar on Monday, moving swiftly to isolate the small but influential country after accusing Qatar's rulers of supporting terrorist factions and stoking regional conflicts.

The four countries — Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain — released separate and apparently coordinated statements saying they would cut air, sea and land links with Qatar, which hosts a forward base for the US Military's Central Command and is home to the widely watched Al Jazeera network. The feud — the most serious in decades among some of the region's most key Western allies — has been simmering for years as Qatar increasingly flexed its political muscle across the region, including backing for the Muslim Brotherhood.

The diplomatic break came just weeks after President Trump met with Arab and Muslim leaders in Saudi Arabia and called for a unified front against extremism and regional influence by rival Iran. The visit was hailed by the Trump administration as a success, but analysts in the region said at the time that it seemed likely to aggravate local disputes.

But what might this mean for Qatar's economy and people doing business there?

With a population of about 2.7 million people, this tiny nation on the north-east coast of the Arabian Peninsula is trying to punch above its weight.

People know about it thanks in part to its national airline (Qatar Airways), its international news station (Al Jazeera) and through sport (notably winning the right to host the 2022 football World Cup and being a former sponsor of perhaps the world's most famous club, Barcelona).

And with a distinctive skyline in the capital Doha, it has succeeded in attracting multinationals to open offices there.

**FLIGHTS:** Abu Dhabi's Etihad Airways and Dubai's Emirates are suspending all flights to and from Doha, starting from Tuesday morning. Both carriers operate four daily return flights to Doha. Budget carriers FlyDubai and Air Arabia are also cancelling routes to Doha, with other airlines, including Bahrain's Gulf Air and Egyptair expected to follow suit.

It comes after Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt all said they would stop flights in and out of Qatar, and close their airspace to the country's airline, Qatar Airways.

And it is Qatar's flag carrier that risks being the biggest loser. Its flights to places like Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh and Cairo will stop. That is dozens of flights a day.

Qatar Airways has already said it is cancelling its services to Saudi. It said: "All customers booked on affected flights to and from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will be provided with alternative options, including the option of a full refund on any unused tickets and free rebooking to the nearest alternative Qatar Airways network destination." But being banned from large chunks of airspace in the region would also cause a major problem, forcing it to alter flight paths, inevitably adding time to some flights.

Qatar Airways' growth has come through positioning itself as a hub airline, connecting Asia and Europe via Doha. Egypt said it will suspend air links with Qatar from Tuesday, after it and other Arab states cut diplomatic ties with the Gulf emirate and accused it of supporting extremism.

The decision to "halt all flights between Egypt and Qatar" would take effect from 0400 GMT tomorrow and continue "until further notice", the aviation ministry said.

British Airways is one of a number of European airlines to fly to Doha. It said on Monday that it will "continue to offer a full schedule.

**FOOD:** Desert states, by their nature, struggle to grow food. And food security is a particular issue for



Qatar given the only way in by land is a single border with Saudi Arabia.

Every day hundreds of lorries

cross the border, and food is one

of the main supplies. About 40%

of Qatar's food is believed to come via

this route.

Saudi Arabia has said it will close

that border and when the lorries

stop, Qatar will become reliant on

air and sea freight. "It will imme-

diately cause inflation and that will

directly affect normal Qatari people,"

says Nuseibeh. "If things start cost-

ing significantly more, then you're

going to see the Qatari people putting

increasing political pressure on the

ruling family for either a change of

leadership or a change of direction."

He also points out that many poorer

Qatars make daily or weekly trips to

Saudi to do their grocery shopping as

it is cheaper. Clearly a closed border

means this will no longer be possible.

**FOOTBALL:** One of the areas

that could feel the impact is Qatar's

hosting of the World Cup, football's

biggest tournament, in five years'

time. "This is a massive escalation

in pressure on Qatar," said Kristian

Ulrichsen, Gulf analyst with the

Baker Institute at Rice University in

Houston. "I think it will really have

an impact if it lasts any time."

Since being controversially chosen

by FIFA in 2010 as the host,

Qatar has maintained that it is a politically secure nation despite its location in a volatile region.

Doha has also emphasised that the tournament serves the entire Gulf, and not just the tiny gas-rich emirate. But current events may challenge those notions, Ulrichsen said.

"One of its pitches (to secure the World Cup) was that Qatar is one of the most stable countries in the Middle East," he told AFP.

With that potentially called into question — and the fact that there are other countries which could host the event at little notice — organisers may be getting anxious, Ulrichsen said. "Qatar will know that there are alternatives, so they will be looking over their shoulder," he said.

Suggestions have been made previously that the United States, one of the countries that lost the race for the 2022 competition to Qatar, could take over hosting duties if necessary.

**PEOPLE:** The move to end ties bans citizens from Saudi, Egypt, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Libya and Yemen from travelling to Qatar, living there or passing through it, according to the Saudi government. People affected have 14 days to leave. Meanwhile Qatars will have the same amount of time to get out of Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain. More significant though would be if Egypt issued a similar ban. According to one recent report about 180,000 Egyptians live in Qatar - with many involved in engineering, medicine and law as well as construction.

A loss of that workforce would pose a problem for both local and international firms operating in the Gulf state.

AGENCIES

## Moon orders probe into unreported THAAD missile deployment

SEOUL: South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Monday ordered an additional probe into an unreported deployment of four more mobile launchers of the US missile shield in the country.

Moon ordered an investigation into the "intentional" omission of report to him about the deployment of four THAAD mobile launchers at an unidentified US military base in South Korea, Xinhua news agency reported.

The President was later briefed on the investigation findings that showed Wi Seung-ho, Chief of the Defence Ministry's National Defence Policy Office, ordered officials to omit the deployment of four more THAAD launchers from a document to the presidential Blue House.

Wi will be excluded from relevant defence affairs, while other relevant Defence Ministry officials will be subjected to further investigations, according to the Blue House.

President Moon also



ordered a separate probe into the Defence Ministry, that is suspected of avoiding the environmental assessment of THAAD at a golf course in Seongju county, North Gyeongsang province.

Seoul and Washington decided in July last year to deploy one THAAD battery in southeast South Korea. The site was altered in last September into the golf course at a small village.

About two weeks before the presidential by-election on May 9, two mobile launchers, the radar and other heavy equipments were transported in the middle of night to the golf course. The hurried installation boosted speculation.

AGENCIES

## Pakistan Senate to debate ICJ verdict on Kulbhushan Jadhav case

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Senate on Monday decided to debate the ICJ order staying the execution of Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav after a senator of a hardline party tabled a motion saying the verdict hinted that Islamabad was not fully prepared to fight the case.

Senate Chairman Raza Rabbani admitted the adjournment motion by Jamaat-I-Islami Senator Sirajul Haq for regu-

lar debate, and issued notices to the foreign ministry and the attorney general to brief the upper house of the parliament.

Haq made a forceful plea in the Senate about his motion, saying the judgment by the International Court of Justice to stay Jadhav's death sentence hinted that Pakistan was not well-prepared to fight the case brought by India. "These and similar statements have been

passed around, which are creating confusion," Haq said.

On May 18, the ICJ in a setback to Pakistan restrained it from executing Jadhav, 46, who was convicted of espionage and sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court after a secret trial. India took the matter to the ICJ, citing that it had been denied consular access to Jadhav in violation of the Vienna Convention.

AGENCIES

## Police kills hostage-taker in Aus, rescues woman

MELBOURNE: A man was shot dead on Monday by Australian police who ended a hostage crisis at an apartment in south eastern suburb of Melbourne where a woman was held captive and a body of another man was found.

The woman escaped safely but three officers were injured as police stormed the building to end the hostage situation.

According to reports, the police operation was launched at the Bay Street apartment in Brighton following reports of an explosion at

4PM (Local time). The emergency services, including State Emergency Service (SES) crews, were called to the scene where they also located the

body of a man who appeared to have been shot in the foyer of the building.

A woman was held hostage by a suspect who was later shot

dead by police in a volley of gunfire in the apartment block.

A man has been shot dead by police in the Bay Street apartment complex shortly before 6:00 PM (local time). Police have safely rescued a woman who was being held against her will in the apartment block," police said.

Dozens of gunshots rang out just after 6 PM in Bay Street with crowds of people fleeing and taking refuge in a nearby supermarket. The Age website reported that the gunman reportedly called the Channel

Seven newsroom during the

standoff, telling them "This is for IS (Islamic State)." Police are now investigating if the incident was terror related.

Three police officers were injured with two taken to hospital and another treated at the scene, police said. The woman who was taken hostage is now safe. The siege has now ended but a major police presence, including specialist tactical officers, remains at the scene.

The motive behind the incident is yet not clear, report said.

AGENCIES

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to viewers/distributors of the channel "Zee Salaam" and all concerned that Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL) is suspending the transmission and distribution of the aforementioned channel with effect from 30th June, 2017 (23:59:59 Hrs). ZEEL vide this public notice informs all the concerned Affiliates / Multi System Operators (MSO's) / Local Cable Operators (LCO's)/Direct to Home (DTH) Operators / Internet Protocol TV (IPTV) Operators / Head-end In The Sky (HITS) Operators/ Subscribers and Viewers of "Zee Salaam" channel to take note of the same.

Issued by :  
Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited  
Essel House, B-10, Lawrence Road,  
Industrial Area, Delhi-110 035

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to manufacturers/suppliers (wherever applicable) or their authorized sales distributors for supply of Combi Oven for use in the Institute.

### E-TENDER NOTICE

On line bids are invited from manufacturers/suppliers (wherever applicable) or their authorized sales distributors for supply of Combi Oven for use in the Institute.

### KEY DATES:

Name of Items	Combi Oven
On line availability of tender	03.06.2017 5:00 PM
Last date & Time for on-line Submission of bids/ physical Submission of earnest money ,	16.06.2017 04:00 PM
Date of Opening of bid documents	19.06.2017 10:00 A.M.

For off-line viewing of detailed terms and conditions eligibility criteria etc. please log on to website www.ihmchandigarh.org. For participating in the above e-tenders, the suppliers shall have to get themselves registered on http://etenders.chd.nic.in/nicg

For any clarifications/difficulty regarding e-tendering process please contact at mobile No. +91 9872722688, 9814810551. Memo No 4539/PRC-53(Advt)

Dated: 05/06/2017

Sd/-  
Principal/ Secretary

ANKARA: Turkey on Monday refused to budge on its

lawmakers permission to visit troops stationed at a Turkish air base, saying it expected "positive steps" on Turkey's requests for Germany to crack down on Kurdish rebels and alleged coup plotters. The German troops are part of the international coalition against the Islamic State group.

Speaking at a joint news conference with his visiting German counterpart, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Turkey would allow German legislators to

visit a NATO base in the central province of Konya, but not Incirlik Air Base, where some 270 German troops are stationed with Tornado reconnaissance jets and a fueling plane. The German troops are part of the international coalition against the Islamic State group.

"At the moment, a visit to Konya is possible but not to Incirlik," Cavusoglu said during the news conference with Germany's Sigmar Gabriel. "In the future, if the conditions are

there and there is normalization (a visit to) Incirlik may be possible." If Germany takes positive steps, we will always take two (positive) steps. But we cannot ignore the current situation," he said.

Turkey blocked the visit to Incirlik, angered by German authorities' decision to grant asylum to soldiers and other individuals that Turkey accuses of participating in last year's failed coup and also accuses of harboring Kurdish militant groups.

AGENCIES

## Hijab-clad Aus school girls forced to leave expo

MELBOURNE: Hijab-clad Muslim school students were allegedly forced to leave a career expo in Australia after onlookers felt threatened by their "attire" in the wake of the Manchester suicide bombing.

The schoolgirls were attending the career expo at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre (PCEC) last week, just days after the suicide bombing in Manchester that left 22 dead and dozens injured. Some people complained that the school

# 'Pak-origin man among three responsible for London attack'

**LONDON:** A Pakistani-origin man was among three knife-wielding militants responsible for carrying out the brutal London terror attack that killed seven people and injured 49, according to a media report. The man, identified as 'Abz' is believed to have been the ring-leader of the trio that carried out the horror attack at two London landmarks, *The Mirror* reported.

Abz, 27, is said to be from Barking in east London, was pictured lying on the ground after police swooped on the attackers on Saturday night and shot them dead in a flurry of 50 bullets. Seven people were killed and 49 injured when the trio rammed a van into pedestrians on London Bridge before stabbing revellers in bars in the nearby Borough Market.

Abz, a father of two children, appeared to pray to an Islamic State flag in a London park in a TV documentary about the behaviour and motivations of British extremists. Police are searching four houses in Barking and have made 12 arrests as part of their investigation into the atrocity.

His neighbours said the



Arsenal fan had been wearing the club's replica away shirt the day before the attack, matching the one worn by one of the suspects pictured lying on the ground with what appear to be canisters taped around his body. The terrorist was a home-grown jihadi who came from Pakistan as a child but was brought up in the UK, the report said.

The brother of one of the

terrorists was a soldier, according to the *Daily Mail*. The killer, 27, found his brother dead aged twelve, and it has been suggested he was traumatised at this young age. His brother, however, volunteered for the Army Reserves. Counter terrorism police have made two fresh raids on addresses in east London in connection with Saturday's deadly terror attack in London. The Metropoli-

## IS claims responsibility amid calls for increased attacks

**LONDON:** Isis has claimed responsibility for the London terror attack through its Amaq 'news agency'. A statement on the group's propaganda outlet said a "detachment" of its fighters had carried out the atrocity, in which seven people were killed and 48 were wounded. The three perpetrators, who have not yet been officially named, were shot dead at the scene by police just eight minutes after the first emergency call. Amaq's statement quoted 'sources', a phrase usually used for attacks inspired, rather than directly commissioned, by Isis. Meanwhile, British opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn on Monday backed calls for May to resign for reducing the number of police officers during her six years as interior minister.

AGENCIES

tan Police said officers entered properties in Newham and Barking at 4.15am on Monday and "a number" of people had been detained. Searches were continuing at both addresses, police added.

Residents reported hearing "loud flash bangs and gunshots" in the early hours of Monday morning. Officers say

they know the identities of the men who carried out the attack and will release the names "as soon as operationally possible".

Scotland Yard said seven women and five men aged between 19 and 60 were arrested under the Terrorism Act in Barking on Sunday.

A 55-year-old man was later released without charge. AGENCIES

## Defying Russia, Montenegro finally joins NATO

**BUDVA:** Once the Balkan stronghold of pro-Russian sentiments, tiny Montenegro is on Monday silently celebrating its entry into NATO in a historic turn that has made the Kremlin furious. Despite the Russian anger and a deep split within the nation of some 620,000 people over the issue, Montenegro is formally becoming the 29th member of the Western military alliance at a ceremony in Washington on Monday.

To get there, Montenegro has stood up against its former ally Russia, which has sought to maintain strong historic, political and cultural influence in the Slavic country it considers a special zone of interest. Bringing Montenegro into NATO further diminishes Russia's influence in south-east Europe, and blocks it from the so-called "warm seas" in Europe that could be used as staging grounds for military interventions in the Middle East.

The US State Department said Montenegro's membership "will support greater integration, democratic reform, trade, security, and stability with all of its neighbours." Russia has threatened economic and political retaliation, including a campaign to undermine the Montenegrin tourism industry, which relies heavily on Russian visitors. An estimated 200,000 Russians visit Montenegro a year and 80,000 Russians own property there.

Russia has also banned imports of Montenegrin wine and recently deported a ranking official from a Moscow airport. Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova recently warned potential Russian tourists that "there is an anti-Russian hysteria in Montenegro." AGENCIES

## Donald Trump seeks 'tougher' travel ban, expedited hearing



**WASHINGTON:** Donald Trump has promised to impose travel restrictions on immigrants to the US "in any event", as the Supreme Court considers his failed attempt to introduce a ban on people from some Muslim-majority countries. The US President pressed his controversial travel ban plans on Monday morning following the weekend terror attack in London Bridge, calling for an expedited judicial review and urging his administration to seek a tougher version of the proposal.

"The Justice Dept. should have stayed with the original Travel Ban, not the watered down, politically correct version they submitted to SC," Trump, referring to the US Supreme Court, wrote in a series of tweets following the attack in which he called for the implementation of his controversial travel ban, even though it was not immediately clear how, if at all, a ban would be able to stop a similar attack in the US. Those tweets berating Khan have been widely condemned, and are in contrast to a statement from the US Embassy in London.

Trump's early morning tirade on Twitter attacked the US courts that have so far blocked both of his controversial bans, criticised his own Justice Department for not sticking with his original travel ban. AGENCIES

## Putin: I didn't even really talk to Flynn

**MOSCOW:** Russian President Vladimir Putin said he hardly spoke to former national security adviser Michael Flynn during a 2015 dinner in Moscow.

The dinner - where the two men were seated next to each other - celebrated Russian state media outlet *Russia Today* (RT). "I didn't even really talk to him," Putin told

*NBC News'* Megyn Kelly during an interview that will air Sunday at 7pm EST.

Putin explained that although he sat next to Flynn at the dinner, the two had limited contact. "I made my speech. Then we talked about some other stuff. And I got up and left," Putin said.

He added: "And then afterwards I was told, 'You

know there was an American gentleman. He was involved in some things. He used to be in the security services' ... that's it. I didn't even really talk to him." That's the extent of my acquaintance with Flynn." Putin has also denied he had any compromising material about US President Donald Trump. "Well, this is just another

load of nonsense," Putin said, when asked whether he had any damaging information on the Republican president. The remarks were the latest in a series of denials from Moscow that have had little impact so far on a political crisis in the United States over potential links between Russia and Trump's inner circle. AGENCIES

## 'Dylan sends Nobel lecture required for prize money'



**STOCKHOLM:** Music icon and Nobel literature laureate Bob Dylan has delivered his Nobel lecture, the only requirement to claim the money that comes with the prize, the Swedish Academy said on Monday.

"The speech is extraordinary and, as one might expect, eloquent. Now that the lecture has been delivered, the Dylan adventure is coming to a close," Sara Danius, the permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy, which awards the prize, wrote in a blog post. In the speech, sent to the Academy with an audio link in which Dylan reads it aloud, the enigmatic rock star reflects on the possible links between his lyrics and literature.

"When I first received this Nobel Prize for Literature, I got to wondering exactly how my songs related to literature," Dylan said. He then cited musicians who inspired him - including Buddy Holly, whose music "changed my life" and made him want to write songs when he was a teenager - and the classic novels that made a big impression on him, including "Moby Dick," "All Quiet on the Western Front" and "The Odyssey." Dylan is the first songwriter to win the prestigious Nobel Literature Prize. AGENCIES

## Japan arrests 14-year-old for creating ransomware



by the *Kyodo* news agency.

This ransomware, which has been downloaded 100 times, allowed the user to infect the victim's computer and asked for virtual currency as ransom, although the economic toll has not yet been confirmed, added the same sources. The young boy, who supposedly learned by himself how to create this type of pro-

gramme, revealed to the investigating authorities that he only wanted to become famous, according to state television channel NHK.

His arrest comes after WannaCry's ransomware hit at least 150 countries and health centres in the UK, large companies in France and Spain, railways networks in Germany, public institutions in Russia and universities in China.

Some 600 Japanese companies, including Hitachi and Nissan, were affected by this cyberattack. Japanese IT security company Trend Micro has detected more than 65,000 ransomware attacks over the past year in Japan, a figure 10 times higher than that of the previous year. AGENCIES

## Girls sentenced in school bathroom attack that led to death of classmate

**WILMINGTON:** A 17-year-old Delaware girl has been sentenced to 6 months in a juvenile facility for a school bathroom attack that left a 16-year-old classmate dead. The girl was convicted of criminally negligent homicide by a Family Court judge in April in the death of Amy Joyner-Francis. The judge sent her to a secure residential treatment program. AGENCIES

### CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

In the matter of Acodex IT Solutions Private Limited having CIN: U74999DL2016PTC288657 vide publication in "Millennium Post" dated 01.03.2017, the address of Regional Director should be read as "Office of the Regional Director (Northern Region), Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, B-2 Wing, 2nd Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003 instead of "(Regional Director), Northern Region" and shifting of the registered office of the above mentioned company should be read as "National Capital Territory of Delhi" instead of "State of Delhi".

**E-Tender Notice**  
No. NCRPU\_SnT\_2017\_office\_cleaning\_196  
Date: 31.05.2017  
General Manager/North Central Railway, Subdarganj, Allahabad for and on behalf of the President of India, invites open E-tenders from the competent contractors having sufficient experience in similar works through E-tendering portal on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) as per following details:  
Name of Work: Cleaning / Dusting of office complex building including VSATHUB Building and newly constructed Structure in circulating area of CAO/NCRPU - ICRU Complex, Shivaji Bridge, New Delhi for the period of one year with 03 full time dedicated staff.  
Approx Cost of Work: ₹ 5,76,720/-  
Earnest Money: ₹ 11534/- Cost of tender form (Non-refundable): ₹ 2000/- Completion Period: 12 Months. Submission of Tender : 10.07.2017 at 15:00 hrs. Tender Opening Date/Time: 10.07.2017 at 15:30 hrs. Place of Opening: In the Office of CAO/NCRPU/ICRU Complex, Shivaji Bridge, New Delhi  
Validity of Offer: 90 days from date of opening. Tenders without Earnest Money will be summarily rejected. Further particulars can be obtained from Indian Railways website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Tenders who wish to participate in tenders on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) have to register on the website mandatorily. Tenderers can submit cost of tender document and EMD only through online mode. Online payment of earnest money and cost of tender document can be made through net banking, debit/credit card etc. Fixed Deposit receipt (FDR) will not be accepted as EMD for tenders invited on IREPS (e-tender portal). 487/17(I)

**Tender Notice No.CV-CS-CP-Civil Lines side-ALD-2017** dated: 01.06.2017  
**Parking Stand Contract**

Following open tenders in sealed covers on prescribed tender forms are invited by the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, North Central Railway, Allahabad on behalf of President of India

**Tender No.** Description of work Approx. Cost (₹) Cost of tender Form Earnest Money (₹) Completion Period  
12 Cycle/Scooter cum Car parking stand contract at Civil Lines side, Allahabad 34848231.75 10700/- 3484824/- 3 years

**Purchase of Tender Documents :** (i) Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Managers Office, North Central Railway, Nawab Yusuf Road, Civil Lines, Allahabad. (ii) Dy. Chief Traffic Manager, North Central Railway, Nawab Yusuf Road, Civil Lines, Allahabad & Dy. Chief Traffic Manager, North Central Railway Station Building, Kanpur Central 484/17(I)

**Website Details:** The tender detail & documents can be seen & downloaded from North Central Railways website [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) & [www.tenders.gov.in](http://www.tenders.gov.in). Details can also be seen on the notice board of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Managers Office, North Central Railway, Nawab Yusuf Road, Civil Lines, Allahabad & Dy. Chief Traffic Manager, North Central Railway Station Building, Kanpur Central 484/17(I)

**North central railways** [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) [@CPRONCR](mailto:)

## Appeal For Identification



General public is hereby informed that this person  
**Named:** Unknown **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown  
**Age:** about 35-36 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5 feet 4 inch, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Blue colour stripes T-shirt & Blue colour jeans has been found dead at backside of Hotel Shanti Plaza, Aarakasha Road, Paharganj, Nabi Karim, Delhi on dated 29.05.2017. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours in the mortuary of Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi for identification.

In this regard a DD No. 53B dated 29-05-2017 U/s 174 Cr. P.C. has been lodged at PS. Nabi Karim, Delhi.

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

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

**SHO**  
**PS. Nabi Karim, Delhi**  
**DP/4695/CD/17**

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an **unidentified body of a male** namely Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, was found unconscious on 28.05.2017, Near Metro Pillar No. 433, Tagore Garden, Delhi. Admitted in DDU Hospital for treatment where during Treatment Doctors Declared him Dead

Vide MLC No. 140111/17. In this regard DD No. 58A, dated 28.05.2017 has been lodged at Police Station, Rajouri Garden, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

**Name:** Unknown, **Age:** 50 Years, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Cream Shirt and White Pant.

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

**SHO**  
**Police Station, Rajouri Garden, Delhi**  
**DP/6784/WD/17**

## GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING e-Tender No.08 for 2017-18

Bids for the work detailed in the table given below are invited online (e-tender) on Public Work Department Government of Maharashtra through website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> by the Executive Engineer, Public Work Division Sawantwadi on the item rate basis (B-2) form for the following works by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division Sawantwadi from all the Contractors who fulfills all the criteria required to carryout the following works. Executive Engineer Public Work Division Sawantwadi reserves right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason. The Conditional tender will not be acceptable.

Sr. No	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rupees)	Earnest Money (Rupees)	Time limit in Tender	Type of Tender & Cost of Tender
1		3	4	5	6
1	Construction of Upgraded 50 Bedded Sub District Hospital Main Building at Vengurla Tal Vengurla Dist. Sindhudurg.	4,87,25,971/-	2,44,000/-	24(Twenty Four) Calendar Months (including monsoon)	B-2(Rs.10000/-)

### e-Tender time table

1	Download Period of online Tender and Bid Preparation	Dt. 05/06/2017 at 10.30 Hrs to
		Dt. 29/06/2017 at 14.00 Hrs.
2	Date and time of Pre-bid meeting	Dt. 22/06/2017 at 14.00 Hrs. in the office of the Chief Engineer Mumbai P.W. Region, Mumbai
3	Place, Date and time of opening Technical bid and Financial bid.	Dt. 01/07/2017 at 15.05 Hrs. office of the Superintending Engineer P.W. Circle Ratnagiri (If possible)

### Note:

# GST to be economy's turning point: PM after review meet

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday reviewed the preparations for the roll-out of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime from July 1 and said it will be "a turning point" in the country's economy.

Describing it as an "unprecedented" moment in the country's history, he said the creation of the one-nation, one-market and one-tax system would greatly benefit the common man.

He took stock of various elements involved in the roll-out and directed the officials that maximum attention be paid to cyber-security in IT systems linked to the GST, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement.

The meeting, which lasted for over two-and-a-half hours, was attended by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, and top-most officials from the Ministry of Finance, the PMO and the Cabinet Secretary.

The prime minister said the implementation of GST from July 1 is the culmination of the concerted efforts of all stakeholders, including political parties, trade and industry bodies, the statement said. He described the GST as a "turning point for



**Prime Minister Modi took stock of various elements involved in GST's roll-out and directed officials to maximise attention to cyber-security in InfoTech systems linked to GST**

the economy, unprecedented in history", the PMO said.

During the course of the meeting, the prime minister specifically reviewed aspects of implementation such as IT readiness, HR readiness, training and sensitisation of officers, query handling mechanism, and monitoring, the statement said.

He was informed that GST systems such as IT infrastructure, training of officials, integration with banks, and enrolment of existing taxpayers will be in readiness well in time for the July 1 implementation date, it added. Information security systems were discussed in detail.

A Twitter handle - @ask-Gst\_GOI has been started for real-time answering of queries.

An All India toll-free phone 1800-1200-232 has also been activated for this purpose. PTI

## Gold jewellery demand unlikely to be affected at 3% GST: Icra

**NEW DELHI:** The Government of India has announced a 3% tax on Gold Jewellery, in line with the 2%-6% rates indicated earlier in the draft Goods and Services Tax rules.

Under the present tax regime, jewellery retailers are levied a VAT of ~1% in most states (except Kerala, where 5% VAT is levied) on sales and an excise duty of 1% is levied on the input side (without tax credit).

This apart, a duty of 10% is levied on bullion imports and 15% on jewellery imports. Against the cumulative current tax rate of 2%, the final GST rate at 3% is higher, while the import duty will continue at prevalent rates.

ICRA expects the same to be passed on to end customers and the higher tax is not likely to cause any major disruption to the gold jewellery demand.

K Srikumar, Vice President and Co-Head, Corporate Ratings, ICRA, said, "Gold jewellery demand is expected to be favourable over the near-term with uptick in both rural

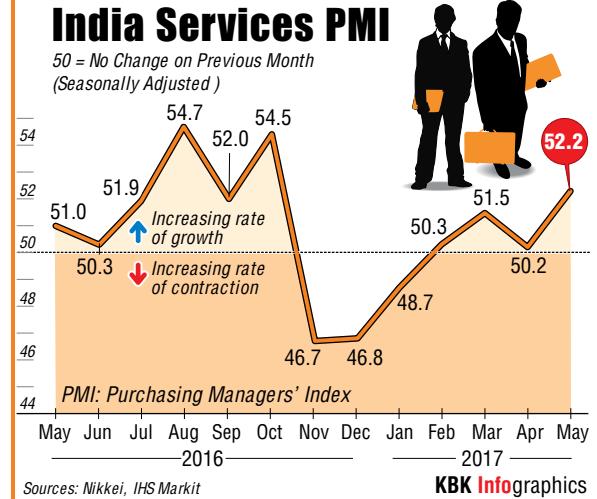
and urban demand. Rural consumption will benefit from favourable monsoon guidance, likely rise in minimum support prices, rural employment guarantee scheme and waiver of farm loans in few states.

"Urban demand will gain traction from rising income levels, staggered tax revision for state government employees and pensioners and favourable demographic spread. The long term fundamentals of the industry remain strong driven by the cultural underpinnings in the country, evolving lifestyle, and growing disposable income."

Specifically, the organised retailers are expected to benefit at the cost of unorganised players as the overall supply chain is likely to be streamlined with the scheduled rollout of Goods and Services Tax.

In recent years, the market share of organised players have increased, due to factors like assurances on quality, purity, availability of a wider design range and rising preference for fashion jewellery. MPOST

**May services sector PMI growth fastest in 4 months: Nikkei**



**NEW DELHI:** Services sector activity in India grew at the fastest pace in four months in May riding piggyback on higher work orders as companies inducted more people to cope with greater workloads, a monthly survey said on Monday.

The Nikkei India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), which tracks services sector output on a monthly basis, rose from 50.2 in April to 52.2 in May.

The Nikkei India Services PMI posted above the critical 50.0 level, which separates growth from contraction, for the fourth month running in May.

Service providers took on extra staff in May in order to cope with greater workloads. Although the rate of job growth was modest, it was the fastest in almost four years. Job creation at services firms also mirrored

expectations of output growth, with panelists mentioning new offerings, business expansion plans, more marketing and favourable government policies as the key factors supporting positive sentiment regarding the 12-month outlook.

However, there are worries surrounding an increasingly competitive environment that weighed on confidence of service providers and optimism was at a three-month low.

Meanwhile, the Nikkei India Composite PMI Output Index, that maps both the manufacturing and services sector activity, reached a seven-month high of 52.5 in May from 51.3 in April, as the stronger upturn in services sector counterbalanced the slowdown in growth of manufacturing orders.

On price rise, the report said, inflation rates were muted which was lower than long-run average. PTI

...growth and investment need to improve. These are indicators which are available. Any finance minister under these circumstances would like a rate cut, the private sector would like a rate cut. But then when you entrusted it with the MPC,

I would rather wait for their decision," he told CNBC-TV18. Industry has been pitching for a rate cut to boost GDP growth which fell to 7.1 per cent in 2016-17, from 8 per cent in the previous fiscal. The Reserve Bank, however, may wait for the July 1 roll out of the GST and assess the impact of the new indirect tax regime on inflation before tinkering with the policy rates.

"I do not think RBI will cut repo rate in the upcoming policy. They will wait for CPI data before taking a call. The tone of the policy is likely to be dovish," Union Bank of India executive director Vinod Kathuria said. The inflation data for July, to

be released in August, will give an indication on the impact of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on prices. Retail inflation, based on Consumer Price Index (CPI), dropped to multi-year low at 2.99 per cent in April over last year, mainly due to lower cost of food items, including pulses and vegetables. CPI inflation was 5.47 per cent in April 2016.

At the same time, inflation based on the wholesale price index slipped to a four-month low of 3.85 per cent in April as both food articles and manufactured items showed cooling in prices.

"Given the inflation trajectory and as the liquidity is enough in the market, it is unlikely that there would be any rate cut this time. I think commentary of the policy will be benign," State Bank of India DMD and Chief Financial Officer Anshula Kant said.

"You don't need people at the higher level because there is no upward movement," the former CEO of the Bengaluru-headquartered IT major told PTI in an interview.

"I haven't seen or heard anything about massive layoffs. There is always tighten-

ing of promotion process and I think that will happen automatically," he said.

"Promotions are going to be tighter. (Performance) evaluations are going to be more tougher," said the Chairman of Axilor Ventures, an early stage startup accelerator and venture fund.

But Gopalakrishnan said such developments are natural in the sector as they have happened in the past - after the internet bubble burst in 2001 and the 2008 financial crisis. PTI

## India overtakes China to top global retail index



**SINGAPORE:** India has surpassed China to secure the top position among 30 developing countries on ease of doing business, according to a study that cited India's rapidly expanding economy, relaxation of FDI rules and a consumption boom as the key drivers.

The 2017 Global Retail Development Index (GRDI), now in its 16th edition, ranks the top 30 developing countries for retail investment worldwide and analyses 25 macroeconomic and retail-specific variables. India's rapidly expanding economy,

easing of foreign direct investment (FDI) rules and a consumption boom are the key drivers for India's top ranking in the GRDI. The GRDI, titled 'The

Age of Focus', ranks China in second place. Despite its slower overall economic growth, the market's size and the continued evolution of retail still make

China one of the most attractive markets for retail investment.

"The study is unique in that it not only identifies the markets that are most attractive today, but also those that offer future potential," said the management consulting firm A T Kearney.

India's retail sector has been growing at an annual rate of 20 per cent. Total sales surpassed the \$1 trillion-mark last year and the sector is expected to double in size by 2020. Rapid urbanisation and a growing middle class with higher income levels is driving up consumption

across the country, the consultancy group said. The government's continued support to relax FDI regulations in key areas of the retail sector have provided further boost to its growth, it noted.

In the past year, the government has allowed 100 per cent foreign ownership in B2B e-commerce businesses and for retailers that sell food products. India's retail sector has also benefited from the rapid growth in e-commerce. It is projected to grow 30 per cent annually and reach \$48 billion by 2020. PTI

## 8 top cities' new home launches collapsed by 8% in last fiscal



**NEW DELHI:** Housing sector witnessed 8 per cent decline in new launches to 1,08,200 units in eight top cities during the last fiscal, mainly due to new real estate law and poor sales post demonetisation, according to a report.

In its latest report, property consultant Cushman & Wakefield said that the top 8 cities saw residential launches of about 25,800 units in the first quarter of 2017 calendar year, down 16 per cent from the year-ago period.

These eight cities are -- Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune and Ahmedabad.

"Launches in the residential sector have declined by about 8 per cent during the period April 2016 to March 2017 compared to the same period in 2015-16," C&W said. The new home launches stood at 1,17,650 units in the previous year.

The consultant said that launches have seen a steady

quarter on quarter decline for the last four quarters, "corresponding with the announcement of Real Estate Regulatory Act (RERA) 2016 in March last year and the demonetisation exercise in November 2016."

However, the share of affordable segment in total launches has improved to 30 per cent last fiscal compared to 25 per cent in the same period in 2015-16. The share of high-end and luxury segments fell to 11 per cent from 13 per cent during the same period.

"While sales have been weak across segments, it has been prominent in the high-end and luxury segments over the last quarters owing to

demand-supply mismatches," C&W said in a statement.

On prices, the consultant said that rates fell in cities such as Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru and select markets in Mumbai in the first quarter of 2017 on combined impact of a prolonged slowdown in sales and the pressure of mounting inventory.

In Delhi-NCR, quoted capital values softened by 1-3 per cent in the mid and high-end segments across most of the sub-markets from the previous quarter.

Bengaluru too witnessed rationalisation of prices in most of the sub-markets across mid and high-end segments.

The real estate developers

have cut down on new launches and are reducing the effective cost of their offerings by bundling in incentives and add-ons to clear unsold stocks. To boost sales, developers are offering several lucrative packages and incentives to close deals for genuine buyers. PTI

rides gives us the confidence that we are collectively driving a positive change to reduce carbon footprint." Uber India Head of Policy Shweta Rajpal Kohli said. For Uber, 28 per cent of rides in Delhi and 30 per cent in Mumbai are uberPOOL trips. Launched in Bengaluru

## Tri asks operators to launch data pack with 1-year validity

**NEW DELHI:** Telecom regulator Trai has asked telecom operators to launch at least one mobile Internet data pack that has higher validity of one year.

In August last year, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) had permitted increase in validity for mobile data packs to 365 days from up to 90 days. This was done to increase Internet usage in the country and also attract first-time users. However, telecom operators did not launch any such pack.

According to sources, Trai has now issued an "advisory" asking the operators to bring out at least one such mobile Internet pack, reflecting the higher validity that was permitted.

Meanwhile, Sector regulator Trai on Monday launched a new app -- MyCall -- which enables subscribers to rate voice call quality in real time



**Telecom regulator launches new app 'MyCall' which enables subscribers to rate voice call quality in real time**

the call was made indoor, outdoor or while travelling. Callers can also provide additional details such as noise or audio delay and mark a call drop, if they believe that is how the call got terminated.

The government and the regulator have refused to lower their guard on the issue of call drops, and have kept a close watch on call quality through initiatives like drive tests and automated call system. Last year, when instances of call drops spiked, the government and the regulator made a co-ordinated effort to tackle the issue through deliberations with the industry. PTI

## Sensex, Nifty scale new peaks on GST preparedness



**HYDERABAD:** The opportunities for new recruitment and promotions have shrunk in India's IT industry, a phenomenon natural when growth slows down, says an industry expert, who sees no merit in reports about massive layoffs.

At the same time, inflation

based on the wholesale price

index slipped to a four-month

low of 3.85 per cent in April as both food articles and manufactured items showed cooling in prices.

"Given the inflation trajectory and as the liquidity is enough in the market, it is unlikely that there would be any rate cut this time. I think commentary of the policy will be benign," State Bank of India DMD and Chief Financial Officer Anshula Kant said.

"You don't need people at

the higher level because there

is no upward movement," the former CEO of the Bengaluru-headquartered IT major told PTI in an interview.

"I haven't seen or heard

anything about massive lay-

offs. There is always tighten-

ing of promotion process and

I think that will happen automatically," he said.

"Promotions are going to be tighter. (Performance) evaluations are going to be more tougher," said the Chairman of Axilor Ventures, an early stage startup accelerator and venture fund.

But Gopalakrishnan said such developments are natural in the sector as they have happened in the past - after the internet bubble burst in 2001 and the 2008 financial crisis. PTI

The domestic equities continued their stellar record-breaking stint for the second session today, with stock benchmarks capturing new intra-day highs on the back of strong liquidity driven

by global mixed global cues. Banking stocks were instrumental in driving the day's Sensex gains, with Axis Bank, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank closing in the green.

The market sentiment also got a boost after the GST Council last week finalised rates for some pending commodities, which take the process a step closer to the roll out of the new indirect tax regime from July 1.

Besides financials, mild buying in select counters such as consumer durables, realty, capital goods, telecoms, industrials and energy predominantly propelled the flagship Sensex to conquer a fresh lifetime high of 31,355.42 before ending at a historic peak of 31,309.49.

But, counters like metal, utilities and power witnessed some profit-booking.

The broader Nifty also climbed a new high of 9,687.20 before ending at a record close of 9,675.10. PTI

## Delhi, Mumbai top both Uber, Ola shared rides' list



**NEW DELHI:** More

# Oil Ministry forms 'super-boards' to monitor ONGC, OIL performance

**NEW DELHI:** The oil ministry has formed all-powerful review committees to monitor performance of ONGC and Oil India, and will have power to relinquish any oil and gas field for auctioning to private firms.

Being dubbed as 'super-boards', the committees will be headed by the ministry's upstream nodal authority DGH, and will review and monitor performance of areas given to Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) on nomination basis.

The two panels - one each for ONGC and OIL, will review from annual work programme and budget to declaration of a discovery as commercial as also reservoir and production performance, monitoring of development activities and collaborations with other explorers.

"The advice/decision of the Review Committee shall

be implemented forthwith by the NOC (national oil company) concerned and the progress of implementation shall be reported to the Review Committee through DGH at its next meeting," the May 25 order issued by Atanu Chakraborty, Director General, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), said.

The order follows ministry's unhappiness with state explorers particularly on delays in projects linked to output enhancement. It has already ordered a detailed review of board of directors of ONGC for a possible revamp of the functional heads.

"They have all the powers to do so. We have to live with it," said a senior official at one of the two explorers. "If they want to create a 'super-board' so be it," he said. The panels will be headed by DG, DGH and will have two other members



from DGH - one Deputy DG and another head of Division in charge of NOCs monitoring. One representative of ONGC or OIL not below the rank of director will be nominated by the NOCs.

Also, the manager of the asset that is under review would be co-opted as member of the committee, the order said. ONGC produced 86 per cent of its 26.13 million tonnes of crude oil in 2016-17 fiscal from fields

given to it on nomination basis. Natural gas production from nomination fields accounted for 93 per cent of the total output of 25.34 billion cubic meters.

In the order for 'Constitution of Review Committees for Management of Oil and Gas Resources of Nomination Fields of National Oil Companies (NOCs)', Chakraborty said the panels are being constituted drawing from powers given to DGH by the oil ministry orders.

The order for the constitution of the committees will "come into force with immediate effect," he said.

The review committee will meet at least once every three months. The powers of the panels include "annual work programmes and budgets in respect of exploration operations and any modification and revisions thereto" and "annual work programme and budgets in respect of development and production operations and any modifications and revisions thereto."

It will also review "proposals for surrender or relinquishment of any part of the area included in the nomination field". Fields relinquished by NOCs are auctioned to private firms by the government. The first such auction was concluded last fiscal with 67 of fields relinquished by ONGC/OIL being put on sale.

"Performance of non-pro-

ducing/sub-optimally producing" fields as well as "reservoir and production performance of producing fields" would also be reviewed by the panels, the order said. Field development plans (FDP), feasibility reports of commercial discoveries in nomination fields and monitoring of development activities for early monetisation will also fall within the ambit of the committees.

"Proposals for 'field surveillance' by DGH for better reservoir management" will also be under review of the committees, the orders said, adding collaboration with licensees or contractors of other areas

as well as reviewed by them.

Also, proposals for an appraisal programme or revision, declaration of a discovery as commercial discovery along with proposed development area will be function of the panels.

PTI

## Coal India Ltd to cater to other buyers only after it meets PSU promises



**NEW DELHI:** State-owned

CIL will offer coking coal through auction route to other consumers only after it meets long-term supply commit-

ments of the dry fuel to PSUs, including SAIL.

The decision on the same was taken in the board meeting of Coal India Ltd (CIL) held last month, an official said.

Coking coal will be offered only after meeting long-term commitment of steel plants, including integrated steel

plants of SAIL and RINL and other such consumers taking into account those coal fuel supply pacts, the official said.

However, the washed coking coal and steel Grade-II coal can be offered for metallurgical purposes, the official added.

SAIL is a prime consumer of coking coal as well as a major customer of CIL's metallurgical coal.

"While Coal India subsidiaries shall be empowered to decide the reserve price (of coking coal to be offered under e-auction route), upper cap of the reserve price will be on the basis of applicable scheme of

PTI

Recognising limited availability of metallurgical coal as an 'disadvantage' for Indian steel sector, the draft steel policy aims at increasing supply of domestic coking coal to cut dependence on imports by half and a production of 300 million tonnes of the alloy by 2030-31.

The National Steel Policy aims at achieving increased domestic availability of washed coking coal so as to reduce import dependence on coking coal by 50 per cent by 2030-31.

Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of the domestic coal production.

PTI

## Woodland to roll out inner-wear product line

### Foreign markets give us half our revenues: GCPL



**CHANDIGARH:** Footwear and apparel brand Woodland will roll out inner-wear and leisure wear collection as part of its expansion plans as the company looks to cross Rs 1,500 crore total turnover mark by current fiscal.

Besides, the company has firmed up plans to enter new export markets including Canada to expand its footprint overseas.

"We will launch inner-wear and leisure wear collections.

This is part of our expansion plans as this was the category which we thought we were missing," Aero Club MD Harkirat Singh said. Aero Club owns Woodland brand. The collection will comprise products like vests, briefs, trunks, inner T-shirts and shorts, he said.

The current size of the innerwear category in the country is pegged at over Rs 15,000 crore, as per company estimates.

"The new range of our product line will be available at company run 600 stores and about 4,000 multi-brand outlets," he told PTI. Woodland offers an extensive line of footwear, performance apparel and outdoor gear.

PTI



**BHEL** has proposed an equity dividend of 79% (including 40% interim dividend paid earlier) for fiscal 2016-17. Significantly, not only is this four times the dividend paid (20%) in the previous year but also the highest dividend to be paid by the company in the last 3 years. With this, the company has maintained its impeccable track record of rewarding investors by paying dividends uninterruptedly for four decades without a break.

### Alibaba Pictures buys majority TicketNew stake

**NEW DELHI:** Alibaba Group's entertainment arm Alibaba Pictures Group has acquired a majority stake in India's online ticketing platform TicketNew. "Marking Alibaba Pictures' first big acquisition in the burgeoning Internet ticketing industry outside of China, this strategic partnership will strengthen TicketNew's operations and service portfolio," TicketNew said in a statement. However, details of the deal were not disclosed. TicketNew founder and CEO Ramkumar Nammalvar said, "Alibaba plans to invest to the tune of Rs 120 crore over a period of time. We are delighted to work with Alibaba Pictures. This secures the future of our staff and the company for generations to come". Ramkumar Nammalvar will continue to spearhead the business for TicketNew. Founded in 2007 by Ramkumar Nammalvar, TicketNew is a Chennai-based ticketing website which has presence in over 300 cities in India.

PTI

### Keku Gazder is AAI Cargo Logistics & Allied Services Company CEO



**NEW DELHI:** Keku Bomi Gazder has been appointed as CEO of AAI Cargo Logistics and Allied Services Company Limited (AAICLAS), a subsidiary of Airports Authority of India (AAI).

Gazder has a rich experience of over 27 years in Aviation Industry spread out in Middle East, South Asia and Indian Sub Continent Region.

Based out of the Corporate headquarters of Airports Authority of India in New Delhi, his primary focus will be on Air Cargo Handling Services along with related activities such as Ground Handling Services and Security Services.

Gazder's services will also include entering strate-

tic partnerships at airports within and outside of the country. Being an independent cargo subsidiary company, the vision of AAICLAS is to become the foremost integrated logistics network operator in India.

PTI

### Panipat Refinery's naphtha cracker plant continues its excellent run

**PANIPAT:** Panipat Naphtha Cracker Plant of Panipat Refinery & Petrochemical Complex, has continuously been achieving excellence in its performance. Recently, Propylene (PP) Unit (Both Line 1 & Line 2) of Panipat Naphtha Cracker (PNC) have been ranked number one globally under the category of Internal Stream Factor for the year 2016-17, as a part of the benchmark study conducted by the Licenser M/s Lyondell Basell.

The Benchmarking study was carried out among the international players (54 participants globally) and aimed to bring out the worldwide overview of PP unit's performance and capability in terms of reliability, quality and consumptions.

Internal Stream Factor (ISF) is an indicator of the plant downtime caused by unscheduled shutdowns for internal reasons.

The Line-2 of PP unit also acquired 1st position under the category of 'Stream factor for total unscheduled shutdowns' which is an indicator of the plant downtime caused by unscheduled shutdowns both for internal and external causes.

PP units (Line 1 and Line 2) of PNC made remarkable achievement of having internal stream factor of 100% each against the world average of 98.3%. It shows that there is no downtime due to shut downs for internal reasons and dem-

onstrates that outstanding reliability of the equipments is maintained by regular upkeep and maintenance.

High Density Polyethylene Unit (PNC) has also been ranked number one globally under the category of 'Prime Percentage' and 'Unplanned shutdowns for external reasons' for the year 2016-17, as a part of the benchmark study conducted by the Licenser M/s Lyondell Basell.

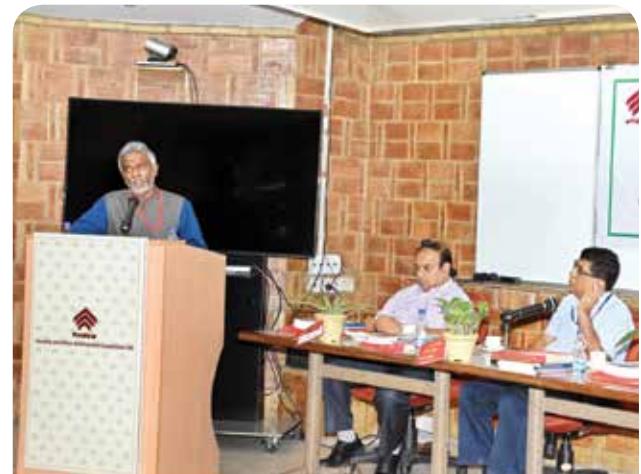
The study was carried out among the international players (18 participants globally). Prime percentage is an indicator of Product quality compliance, i.e. the total percentage of prime product produced in the unit.

MPST

### CORPORATE KALEIDOSCOPE



**NLCIL** observed the World Environment Day 2017, with the theme "Connecting People to Nature" at Yegneswaran Auditorium of Learning & Development Centre, Neyveli, on May 5. C Kalaiaperumal, Director, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Chennai Region was the Chief Guest. To mark this occasion, the Chief guest and S K Acharya, CMD, NLCIL distributed prizes and free tree saplings to winners of the various competitions organised by Corporate Environment Cell



**HUDCO** observed World Environment Day and all officials took the Green Pledge. M Ravi Kanth, CMD HUDCO highlighted the importance of celebrating the day to encourage people to make their surroundings safe and clean for a better quality of life



**Meja Thermal Power Project** joined hands with the rest of the world in celebrating World Environment Day on June 5, 2017 at its premises. The celebration started with Prabhat Ferri and tree plantation by Chief Guest N Rai CEO of Meja Urja Nigam with senior officials



**World Environment Day** programmes were organised at Central Coalfields Ltd, Darbhanga House (Ranchi), Central Hospital Gandhinagar and all command areas. CCL CMD Gopal Singh personally led employees in the programme and hoisted the environment flag



**Durgapur Steel Plant** observed the World Environment Day on June 5, 2017. To mark the day, the environment flag was hoisted and the senior officials and a section of the employees took the pledge to work relentlessly for protecting the environment



**C K Tiwari**, Executive Director, Haldia Refinery unfurled the World Environment Day Flag, released the WED special issue of In-House journal 'Sandesh' and addressed HRians on the occasion of World Environment Day 2017 celebrations at Haldia Refinery

**RAMKUMAR WINS ITF FUTURES TITLE IN SINGAPORE**

**SINGAPORE:** Indian player Ramkumar Ramanathan lifted the USD 15,000 ITF men's Futures tennis title after outplaying Raymond Sarmiento of the USA in straight sets here. The top seeded Indian hardly broke a sweat on his way to a 6-2 6-2 win over the second seeded player from USA in the final of event on Sunday night.

**CT MATCH PREVIEW****England set for tougher test against Kiwis**

New Zealand's Trent Boult celebrates taking the wicket of Australia's David Warner with team mates

**CARDIFF:** After a comfortable outing in the tournament-opener, title favourites England are set to face a much stiffer test against New Zealand in a crucial Champions Trophy Group A fixture here on Tuesday.

There is a lot at stake for both the teams. England will put their one foot in the semi-finals with a second successive win while New Zealand will aim for two full points after rain denied them a crack at Australia and the two teams settled for a point each in a game that produced no result.

England could not have hoped for a better start to the tournament as they thrashed a lacklustre Bangladesh in the first match of the Champions Trophy on Thursday.

How easily they chased down 306 was a timely warning to the other title contenders. Joe Root strolled to a 10th ODI hundred while opener Alex Hales missed out on well-deserved hundred by five runs.

Captain Eoin Morgan too began his campaign on a confident note, smashing an unbeaten 75 off 61 balls.

He, however, would be a tad worried about the lean patch of opener Jason Roy, who has not crossed 20 in his last six ODI innings. The hosts will also have to deal with the absence of fast bowling all-rounder Chris Woakes, who was ruled out of the tournament with an injury after bowling just two overs against Bangladesh. Steven Finn has been named his replacement.

**BIRMINGHAM:** Shahid Afridi was appalled by Pakistan's abject surrender but he credited India for their commanding show, saying the defending champions lived upto the favourites tag in their Champions Trophy opener here.

Afridi, a former Pakistan captain, said his country's drab show on Sunday night took away all the excitement from what was expected to be a high-voltage Group B encounter.

"The Indo-Pak Champions Trophy encounter failed to live up to its hype as Pakistan produced a forgettable performance at Edgbaston. As a Pakistani supporter, the drab show was a painful watch indeed as India once again proved that it has a stranglehold over its neighbour that it is in no mood to relinquish," Afridi wrote in a column for the ICC.

AGENCIES

**All India Sub-Junior National Rowing C'ship starts**

**KOLKATA:** West Bengal Rowing Association will be organising the 20th edition of the All India Sub-Junior National Rowing Championship at Rabindra Sarobar Lake from June 5-10.

This event is organised under the Rowing Federation of India.

Participation of over 400 participants from 20 states of India is expected in the competition.

The opening ceremony will be held on Tuesday at around 4.30 pm.

Firhad Hakim, minister, Urban Development and Municipal Affairs, Government of Bengal will be the chief guest for the opening ceremony.

Sujit Bose, MLA, will also grace the occasion as the Special Guest.

Debasish Kumar, Mayor-in-Council in charge (Parkers and Garden, Sports, Advertisement and Car Parking) and Ajit Banerjee, president, Bengal Olympic Association will be present as the Guests of Honour.

The competition will be conducted in accordance with the RFI Rules of Racing.

MPOST

**FIRST PRIORITY WOULD BE TO GET SUSPENSION LIFTED: RCA CHIEF**

**JAIPUR:** CP Joshi, who piped Ruchir Modi to recapture the president's post of Rajasthan Cricket Association, on Monday took over charge and reiterated that his immediate priority would be to get the BCCI's suspension lifted. "I will have to look into every aspect of this suspension but this would be my first priority," he said.

**BERDYCH FIRES COACH AFTER POOR PERFORMANCE AT FRENCH OPEN**

**PARIS:** Czech tennis player Tomas Berdych announced that he will not continue with coach Goran Ivanisevic following his early elimination in the second round of the French Open here on Monday. Berdych, who was seeded 13, was eliminated in the round of 64 by Russian Karen Khachanov, world No. 53, reports Efe.



**This Pakistan team lack ability to beat India: Former greats**

**KARACHI:** Pakistan's 124-run defeat to India in the ICC Champions Trophy tournament has been described as "shameful" and "humiliating" by the country's former greats such as Imran Khan and Wasim Akram, critics and fans alike.

"My opinion does not matter and should not matter. It's up to them what they decide going ahead. But regardless of who you play, you just want to play cricket," he added.

"It's not preferences over opposition. And that's all I can say to this."

Nonetheless, Kohli said, he does enjoy the competitiveness of Indo-Pak cricket rivalry.

"They're a very competitive side. The atmosphere is great. From that regard, as a cricketer, we really enjoyed this game, that's all I can say," he said.

Reflecting on his own performance, Kohli said he let the momentum slip after reaching 40 and regretted trying too hard for big hits during his partnership with Yuvraj.

"But when he got out, I decided to stay still and just back the strokes that I have and a few connected, and that's what happens in this sport. Momentum comes your way; it goes away."

"But you've got to stay patient. And when it comes back, you've got to capitalise on it. So I believed in myself. I can get 30 off 10 balls as well in the end," he explained. AGENCIES

AGENCIES



Yuvraj Singh (left) celebrates scoring his half century against Pakistan as Virat Kohli looks on

with the win, Kohli was not impressed with India's fielding.

"With the bat and ball, right up there -- I would say nine out of 10. In the field we were still 6. It's a very strong performance, we've taken the confidence from the practice games."

"We need to tighten our fielding to compete hard against the best teams," he said.

The Indian batsmen remained focussed despite the rain breaks with Rohit Sharma (91 off 119), Shikhar Dhawan (68 off 65), Kohli and Yuvraj

rising to the occasion in a game reduced to 48-overs-a-side affair.

"I think the way Shikhar batted was really good to see."

Rohit was taking a bit of time because, understandably so, he's come back after so long to international cricket. IPL is different, but international runs are very different, against a quality bowling attack as well," Kohli said.

"And Hardik, 18 off five balls, was outstanding. We went with four seamers purely

because we're playing Pakistan. They play spin really well, and most of them are right-handers."

"In pressure situations, to have mid-on, mid-off up and hit hard lengths, gives us an advantage. Against other sides, we might use two spinners, depending on their strengths," he added.

"Asked what it meant to play against Pakistan given the continuing tensions between the two countries, Kohli chose to offer a diplomatic reply.

"This one's done and

dusted...We come here to play the sport. And that's all we focus on. It's not my place to speak of any other decisions. The higher officials take care of those decisions," he said.

"My opinion does not matter and should not matter. It's up to them what they decide going ahead. But regardless of who you play, you just want to play cricket," he added.

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AGENCIES

**India played like favourites, says Afridi**

"India started as the favourite and played the entire game in the same frame of mind, even as Pakistan crumbled limply."

India launched their ICC Champions Trophy campaign

with a resounding 124-run victory over Pakistan last night, extending their dominance over the arch-rivals in major ICC tournaments.

Analysing the match, Afridi

said India came hard on skipper Sarfraz Ahmed's shoddy game plan.

"Sarfraz Ahmed won what was a crucial toss in tricky weather conditions. When rain is around, the team batting second gets a huge advantage. Unfortunately though, a poor game plan and shoddy execution, besides abysmal fielding, nullified the advantage," he said.

"Mohammad Amir bowled a splendid first over and I thought he would strike with the new ball. Strangely though, Sarfraz handed the other new ball to Imad Wasim despite the overcast conditions. The tactic was perplexing for me since the match wasn't being played in the UAE! Even if Sarfraz wanted to surprise India, he should have deployed his faster bowlers after an over or two from Imad," he said. AGENCIES

**Badminton: Scandal-hit BWF deputy prez steps down**

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Badminton World Federation's deputy president has stepped down as he fights corruption allegations in his home country of Peru. Gustavo Salazar Delgado, the sport's number two official behind president Poul-Erik Hoyer, asked to be "excused from his duties", the BWF said. "In his communication to BWF, Salazar indicated he would step aside for the time being so as not to cause any reputational or undue damage to the BWF while the investigation is in progress," the Kuala Lumpur-based body said. The BWF said the accusations against Salazar related to "personal business matters" and are entirely unrelated to badminton and Salazar's role as BWF deputy president". Salazar was under investigation over a bribery and money-laundering case linked to Brazilian construction firm Odebrecht. Bribery scandals linked to Odebrecht have swept up scores of Brazilian politicians and span several Latin American countries. AGENCIES

**We were below-par, loss to India a reality check: Arthur**

simple as that. And it's a reality check of where we are in our one-day cricket at the moment," Arthur told reporters at the post-match press conference here.

"We talk about setting the tone up front. But we didn't set tone up front. We had a couple of guys that were in the clouds at the start and that sets the tone. For us to have a performance as tentative as that right

from the start is a worry and the only thing I can think of is the magnitude of the occasion got to them."

India launched their Champions Trophy campaign with a resounding 124-run victory over Pakistan on Sunday, extending their dominance over the arch-rivals in major ICC tournaments.

Pakistan now need to win their final two games against

Sri Lanka and South Africa to stand a chance of qualifying for the semi-finals.

"The guys tried as hard as they could. My issue is fear."

"My issue is getting out there and really looking to take the game on and just believing in themselves and believing that they can take the game on," Arthur said.

"The worrying thing for me, and it has been for a period of

time, is we just do the basics wrong. We do the simple things wrong. We drop simple catches. We don't run well enough between wickets," he lamented.

An exasperated Arthur could barely hide his disappointment with his players, who floundered in almost every aspect of the game.

"We don't hit the keeper with our throws. We don't understand when to bowl our

variations. We bowled a really good over and then we bowled a variation in our sixth ball and that's the ball that ended up going for a boundary," he said.

"So it's the simplicity of those things that are worrying me at the moment and our understanding of when to do certain things. So that was disappointing. But we'll bounce back from it," he added.

"The shoddy performance, notwithstanding, Arthur defended Pakistan's record in recent times. AGENCIES

**Sergio Lobera appointed head coach of FC Goa**

**PANAJI:** FC Goa have signed Sergio Lobera Rodriguez as the head coach on a two-year deal and he will take over the reins from the first week of July.

The Spaniard, who has previously coached UD Las Palmas and Moghreb Tetouan in Morocco amongst others, was also part of the late Tito Vilanova's backroom staff during his tenure as the head coach of FC Barcelona.

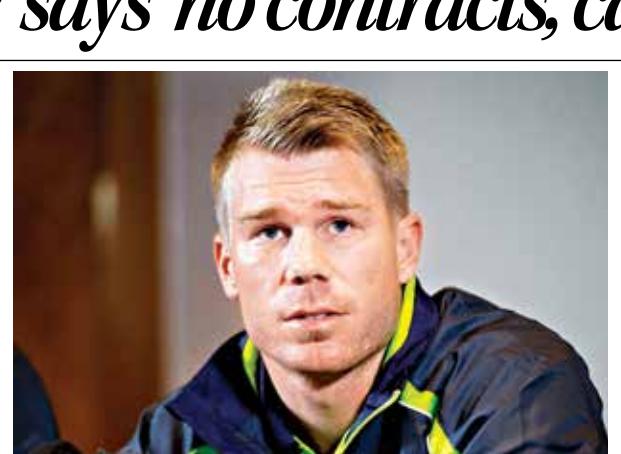
Lobera said he was "delighted" to join FC Goa and would look to achieve best results for the club.

"I see FC Goa as the ideal step in my career and hope to achieve the best results for the club. The passion for football in Goa is well documented and I'm keen to ensure that we play an attacking brand of football that the people of Goa can be proud of," said the new coach.

"I'm convinced that the club is ideally placed to compete in not just the ISL but across the youth level. Having seen the plans in place for the entire youth set-up and the grassroots program,

"I'm keen to play my part in helping the club work towards a unified playing philosophy, which will extend beyond the realms of the club to all young footballers in Goa who are keen to take the game," he added.

AGENCIES



Trophy. "We are pretty sure that they will come to an agreement. But, as you know, we are going to be unemployed come July 1.

So we have to wait and see." Warner said beyond "a couple of emails" CA management had not engaged with its contracted players.

"It is only what we hear in the media and that's how CA

have been driving it the whole way," he said.

"They have been using the media as a voice and we get the message from there."

Warner again pledged his "full support" to fellow players and affirmed he is "100 per cent" behind the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA).

"They are doing a great job for us," he said of the players' union's efforts in the dispute.

"From a players' point of view, we are pretty vocal and upbeat."

Warner added that he remains hopeful a new Memorandum of Understanding can be struck between now and June 30. "It is a big thing that we could be unemployed, but from us, our job is to play cricket, focus on winning the (Champions Trophy) tournament

AGENCIES

MPPOST

# India hold edge over Nepal in friendly as Chhetri returns

**MUMBAI:** Boosted by the availability of star striker Sunil Chhetri after his timely recovery from a hamstring injury, hosts India go into the football friendly against lower-ranked Nepal here on Tuesday with their confidence high and as the favourites.

The international friendly is to be played at the Football Arena in Andheri Sports Complex where India's dramatic ascension to no. 100 in the FIFA rankings commenced last September with a 4-0 rout of Puerto Rico.

The Indian squad has been sweating it out at the same venue for three weeks now with only the players from Bengaluru FC and Mohun Bagan missing for the major part due to their club commitments.

With them joining the camp a few days ahead of the friendly against Nepal, which is being used as the tune-up for India's vital AFC Asian Cup Group A qualifier against Kyrgyzstan next week, national head coach Stephen Constantine would be keen to put his best team on the park and make them jell again



as a combination.

The players had dispersed to fulfil their respective club commitments after notching up a memorable 1-0 win over Myanmar in the AFC Asian Cup group opener in March and the main aim will be to reunite in a proper way for the June 13 game against Kyrgyzstan at Bengaluru.

Although key striker Chhetri is fit enough to play, he was unlikely to be included in the friendly as a precaution for the more important game against Kyrgyzstan, said Constantine on Monday.

"Norway-based goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh will

lead the side. Sunil may not play against Nepal. The AFC Asian Cup qualifier is more important than a friendly. It's just to protect him. He's not 22 anymore. As you get older you will have to put up with injuries and it gets longer to recover," the Englishman explained.

India were hovering in the

170s when they last played against Nepal and Constantine described the ascent as "not an easy journey."

"It was a result of a lot of hard work and commitment from everyone concerned - players, support staff and the rest.

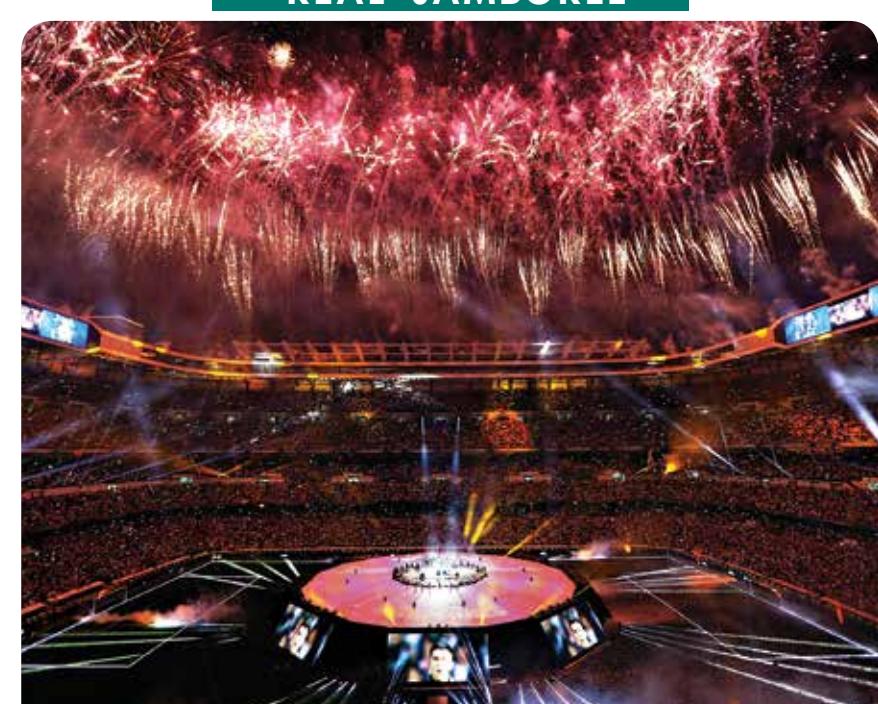
FIFA ranking is just one aspect, a number. It depends on a number of variations," he said.

The team will obviously miss the services of winger Udanta Singh, who has picked up a serious hamstring injury and is out of this game as well as the more important one against the Kyrgyz Republic.

It was Udanta who had laid the perfect pass for Chhetri to bulge the net in the dying moments of the game against Myanmar in Yangon on March 28. India will also miss the services of C K Vineet, said Constantine.

Coming to the India-Nepal football rivalry, the hosts have not lost to their north-eastern neighbours for 18 years, their last defeat - a 0-4 rout - happening in the 1999 SAF Games.

AGENCIES



Real Madrid supporters watch fireworks as the team celebrate at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid after winning the Champions League final. Real Madrid celebrated its record 12th European Cup with thousands of fans on Sunday

PIC/AP/PTI

## Starc contrast: Bowler takes 4 as Bangladesh wilt for 182



Bangladesh's Soumya Sarkar walks off after being caught by Australia's Matthew Wade

PIC/AP/PTI

**LONDON:** Fast bowler Mitchell Starc clinched a four-wicket haul as Australia restricted Bangladesh to 182 runs in their Group A encounter at the Champions Trophy here on Monday.

Starc spearheaded the Australian bowling attack with figures of 4/29 in 8.3 overs.

Leg-spinner Adam Zampa was also impressive on the day, conceding just 13 runs in four overs while bagging two wickets.

Fast bowler Josh Hazlewood, who had bagged a six-wicket haul in Australia's first match against hosts England, returned figures of 1/40 in his 10 overs.

For Bangladesh, experienced opener Tamim Iqbal was the standout performer with 95 runs off 114 balls. Electing to bat first, Bangladesh were off to a shaky start as they lost early wickets. Iqbal and Shakib Al Hasan attempted to steady the boat, adding 69 runs between them. Off-spinner Travis Head

trapped Shakib leg before to end what would prove to be the only decent piece of resistance by the Bangladesh batsmen.

Hasan scored 29 runs, hitting just two boundaries in the 48 balls he faced. The Bangladesh batting line-up folded up after his departure, losing the next six wickets for just 60 runs.

Australia have one point from their opening match against New Zealand which had to be abandoned following too many holdups due to rain.

**Brief Scores:**

**Australia vs Bangladesh:**

**B'DESH:** 182 (Tamim Iqbal 95, Shakib Al Hasan 29).

**AUS:** Mitchell Starc (4/29).

**Incomplete.**

AGENCIES

## Ex Newcastle midfielder Tiote dead

**BEIJING:** Former Newcastle United midfielder and Ivory Coast footballer Cheick Tiote died at the age of 30 after collapsing during training here on Monday. Tiote played for Beijing Enterprises in the second division of the Chinese league. The player had been taken ill after training. He was subsequently rushed to hospital, where he was pronounced dead. "We are devastated to have learnt of the tragic passing of Cheick Tiote at the age of just 30," Newcastle United said in a statement on Monday.

AGENCIES

**Harmanpreet scores two in India's win against Belgium**

**DUSSELDORF:** India's dragflick sensation Harmanpreet Singh scored twice to ensure a 3-2 victory over Belgium in a battle of nerves at the Three Nations Invitational Tournament here on Monday.

Earlier in the tournament, India had lost 1-2 to Belgium in their first match and drew 2-2 with Germany in their second game. It was goals by Harmanpreet Singh (34', 38') and forward Ramandeep Singh (49') that helped India win.

After losing their previous game 1-2 to Germany yesterday, Belgium made a strong start against India by playing an attacking game right from the word go.

The 2016 Rio Olympics silver medallists showed precision and were dominant with skill and ball possession. Though India caught them on the wrong foot early on by earning back-to-back PCs, they could not convert the chances.

Belgium, however, came up with a brilliant field goal, thanks to Amaury Keusters, to take a 1-0 lead in the 13th minute and put India under pressure.

India played cautiously in the second quarter, not allowing Belgian attackers easy penetration inside the striking circle. Meanwhile, India won two PCs in the 23rd and 24th minute but Harmanpreet's well-struck flick was blocked by Belgian defenders. The second quarter went goalless.

AGENCIES

## French Open: Murray into last eight



**PARIS:** Britain's Andy Murray produced a clinical performance to see off Russian Karen Khachanov and reach a seventh French Open quarter-final.

The world number one came through 6-3 6-4 6-4 to claim his 650th Tour-level victory in two hours and four minutes.

The Scot, 30, goes on to face Japan's Kei Nishikori or Fernando Verdasco of Spain in the last eight.

After his win, Murray paid tribute to the victims of recent terror attacks in Manchester and London.

"It was a terrible tragedy in London and also in Manchester only a few weeks ago," he said.

"Paris has had some problems in the last few years and I'm sure everyone will join me in sharing the fact that our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by this.

"It is something which has affected large parts of Europe

and all over the world. I appreciate everyone still coming out to support us and I'm grateful I can perform in front of you."

Murray - beaten finalist last year - continued where he left off against Juan Martin del Potro on Saturday to beat the unseeded Russian with barely a scare.

The only British man to win the French Open is Fred Perry, in 1935.

Murray followed up his impressive third-round win over Juan Martin del Potro with another display that suggests he is a real contender in Paris.

His struggles with form and fitness leading into Roland Garros had left him sticking to the 'one game at a time' mantra, with good reason.

However, the hugely powerful Khachanov, ranked 53rd, was dismissed by another Murray performance built around his trademark defensive skills allied with some solid serving.

The gap in experience was huge, with Murray trying to reach his 29th Grand Slam quarter-final and 21-year-old Khachanov his first.

It was quickly apparent that Khachanov's power would take some getting used to, as the Russian drew gasps from the crowd for both forehands and backhands.

AGENCIES

**GULF CRISIS COULD HIT QATAR 2022**

**DOHA:** The diplomatic crisis sweeping the Gulf could invigorate a campaign by critics of Qatar to strip Doha of the 2022 World Cup, experts said today. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Egypt and Yemen were among those to cut diplomatic ties with Qatar on the grounds that Doha supported extremist groups "that aim to destabilise the region". One of the areas that could feel the impact is Qatar's hosting of the World Cup, football's biggest tournament, in five years' time.

AGENCIES

**ROAD DIVISION-III, CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
ROOM NO. 306-A, S.B.S. PLACE GOLE MARKET, NEW DELHI-110001  
e-Procurement Tender Notice  
e-Tender ID No.2017\_NDMC\_130351\_1  
Name of work: Repair and Maintenance of infrastructure assets in R-III division during 2016-17.  
Sub Head: Regular Cleaning, Watch & ward in Subway opposite INA Market Aurobindo Marg. Estimate cost: ₹ 8,65,762/-  
Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution : 02.06.2017  
Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution : 13.06.2017 upto 4:00 P.M.  
Further details can be seen at <https://www.govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>  
Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with system, Government Executive Engineer (R-III)

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**  
(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that Suraj S/o Kumar Sen R/o Village Dhanak Pura, P.S. Raja Khea, Distt. Dholpur, Rajasthan has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 881/16 u/s 363/370/376/34 IPC & 6 POCSO Act P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Suraj can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Suraj has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Suraj of FIR No. 881/16 u/s 363/370/376/34 IPC & 6 POCSO P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on 07.07.2017.  
By Order  
Ms. Nivedita Anil Sharma,  
ASJ-01(West), Room No. 122, 1st Floor,  
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi  
DP/9709/OD/17

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice No. EL-WS-GKP-2017-TN-01  
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Mechanical Workshop, N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur & for behalf of President of India invites "OPEN" E-Tender through online (e-tendering) for the following work:-  
Tender No. & Description of work Approx. Value (₹) E.M.D. Money (₹)  
EL-WS-GKP-2017-01: Provision of Mobile Charging facilities in 1469 Nos. GS/GSCN/GSCZ Coaches of NER, NCR & ECR at Mechanical Workshop, N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur, Itzatnagar Workshop, N.E. Railway, Itzatnagar and entire TL & AC depot in L/N/BSB/ZN Divisions of N.E. Railway.  
• E-tender online will be submitted upto 15.00 Hrs on dated 06.07.2017.  
• For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway IREPS official website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
CPO/EL-11 Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (WS/N.E.R./Gorakhpur)  
• About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794649595  
"DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN"

Sr No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.) Lakhs	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Time Limit (Month)	Type & Cost of blank e-tender form fee (Non Refundable)
1	S.R. to Kharepatan Shejwali Valye Bandiwade Prindavan Upale Taral Kumbhavade Nanar Katradevi Road. (MDR-75) (Const of Head wall & pipe causeway at km. 18/200. Tal. Rajapur, Dist. Ratnagiri.	24,53,308/-	24,600/-	6 Including Mansoon	"B-2" Rs. 1,000/-
2	Reparis to causeway on Rajapur Dhopeshwar Panhale Goval Shivane Burambewadi Road (MDR-71) Km. 3/200 Tal. Rajapur, Dist. Ratnagiri	24,86,213/-	24,700/-	6 Including Mansoon	"B-2" Rs. 1,000/-
3	Imp. To Bhatey Pawas Purngad Road (MSH-4) Km. 0/00 to 25/615 (Painting for Bhatey Bridge) Tal. and Dist. Ratnagiri	14,46,795/-	14,500/-	6 Including Mansoon	"B-2" Rs. 1,000/-
4	Imp. To Bhatey Pawas Purngad Road (MSH-4) Km. 0/00 to 25/615 (Painting for Purngad Bridge) Tal. and Dist. Ratnagiri	9,46,650/-	9,500/-	6 Including Mansoon	"B-2" Rs. 500/-
5	Constrn of Major Bridge at Satparya on Vithapeth Malkapur Anusukra Road Km. 215/545 (Taking Trail Bore) Tal and Dist. Ratnagiri	12,01,636/-	12,100/-	6 Including Mansoon	"B-2" Rs. 500/-
6	Constrn of Birdgeat Shiposhi Boudhwadi Harihareswar Mandir to Adwali Railway Station (Taking Trail Bore) Tal Lanja, Dist. Ratnagiri	8,27,451/-	8,300/-	6 Including Mansoon	"B-2" Rs. 500/-
7	Constrn of Bridge on Sakharpa Bhadkhambe Bhowade Devade Road at 10/100 Near Ram Mandir (Taking Trail Bore) Tal Sangmeshwar, Dist. Ratnagiri	9,92,830/-	10,000/-	6 Including Mansoon	"B-2" Rs. 500/-
8	Constrn of Bridge on Lanja Korle Prabhanwalli Khorninko Road at ch. 7/325 (Taking Trail Bore) Tal Lanja, Dist. Ratnagiri	4,31,810/-	4,400/-	6 Including Mansoon	"B-2" Rs. 500/-
9	Const. of Bridge on Rajapur Dhopeshwar Panhale Goval Road at Ch 3/600 (Taking Trail Bore) Tal Rajapur Dist. Ratnagiri	3,28,324/-	3,300/-	6 Including Mansoon	"B-2" Rs. 500/-
10	Constrn of Bridge on Mirjole Boudhwadi Road at Shri Subhash Sagvekar House (Taking Trail Bore) Tal and Dist. Ratnagiri	4,31,810/-	4,400/-	6 Including Mansoon	"B-2" Rs. 500/-
11	Const of Bridge on Agave Kurtade Chanderai Road at ch. 14/800 (Taking Trail Bore) Tal and Dist. Ratnagiri	4,31,810/-	4,400/-	6 Including Mansoon	"B-2" Rs. 500/-
12	Constn of Bridge on Dabhole Lanja Run Satawali Road at ch 0/500 Tal Lanja Dist. Ratnagiri.	4,07,852/-	4,100/-	6 Including Mansoon	"B-2" Rs. 500/-

### E-tender time table

1. Release Tender/Download Period of online Tender	Dt. 06/06/2017 at 10.0
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# Ariana's Manchester benefit gig raises €2.35 million

The star-studded concert was held in support of the May 22 Manchester victims



LONDON: The British Red Cross has raised an "incredible" 2.35 million euros during Ariana Grande's star-studded 'One Love Manchester' benefit concert at Old Trafford stadium on June 4.

Earlier in the day, the society's official account tweeted that its Manchester Emergency Fund had reached 7.3 million euros, bringing the total raised by the concert's end to 9.65 million euros.

The concert was in support of the victims of the Manchester Arena terror attack on May 22.

The fund "will help alleviate immediate suffering and ensure victims and their families do not face short-term financial difficulties,"

the British Red Cross tweeted.

The concert, organised and headlined by Grande, saw some of the biggest names in the music world, including Coldplay, Take That, Robbie Williams, Pharrell, Miley Cyrus, Niall Horan, The Black Eyed Peas, Imogen Heap, Katy Perry and Justin Bieber.

The 23-year-old pop diva belted out her several hits such as 'Break Free', 'Side to Side', 'Be Alright' and 'The Way' during the three-hour show. Ariana Grande cried as she sang a heartbreak version of 'Somewhere over the rainbow' to close her 'One Love Manchester' benefit concert.

It was an emotional time for Grande, who just days earlier had visited some of the victims in the hospital. She also talked during the show about meeting the mother of one of the victims, Olivia Campbell, 15, who died in the terrorist bombing.

"As soon as I met her, I started crying and I gave her a big hug and she said I should stop crying because Olivia would have wanted me to stop crying," Grande told the audience.

"And she said Olivia would have wanted to hear the hits."

The singer said she had rearranged her line-up to honour Campbell.

After the Take That members Gary Barlow, Howard Donald and Mark Owen finished their gig, Barlow introduced their 'brother' Robbie Williams who was taking to the stage after them, reports *metro.co.uk*.

Williams came on and Take That started to leave, but he called his former bandmates back so they could take a bow together.

Former Oasis frontman Liam Gallagher was a surprise addition to the line-up. Martin filled in for Liam's brother Noel on acoustic guitar, reports *bbc.com*.

Grammy Award winning singer Justin Bieber fought back tears during a short speech after performing acoustic versions of 'Love yourself' and 'Cold water' at the charity event.

In a voice choked with emotion, the 'Purpose' hitmaker told the audience on June 4 that he wasn't going to "let go of hope" and shared some encouraging words from his faith, reports *etonline.com*.

"God is good in the midst of the dark-



ness. God is good in the midst of evil. God is in the midst, no matter what is happening in the world. And he loves you, and he's here for you."

"I just want to take this moment to honour the people that were lost, that were taken," he said.

"We love you so much. To the families, we love you so much. Put both hands up to honour those people right now."

The benefit concert has been a star-studded and emotional affair, with heartfelt speeches from performers like Pharrell and Miley Cyrus too.

PTI



## Fergie isn't leaving Black Eyed Peas



## Sridevi is back with *MOM*

OUR CORRESPONDENT

After wowing audience with her performance in English Vinglish, Sridevi is back with *MOM* directed by Ravi Udyawar. Interestingly, *MOM* happens to be Sridevi's 300th film and 2017 marks her 50th anniversary in the film industry.

The film went on to become a subject of heated discussions as the makers pulled off a casting coup with powerhouse performers like superstar Sridevi, Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Akshaye Khanna being roped in for the film. That's not all; the music of *MOM* has been composed by maestro A R Rahman, making it one of the most sought after films this year.

The trailer of the film was launched by Sridevi, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, director Ravi Udyawar and producers Boney Kapoor and Sujay Kutty from Zee Studios. It left the audience at the edge of their seats with its gripping plot and glimpse of the fine performances in store. Also present at the launch were Jhanvi and Khushi Kapoor.

Expressing herself at the event, Sridevi said, "This film was extremely challenging but it was a very special experience. I'm happy that I got to work with such great actors and we had a great time shooting for the film."

On the occasion Nawazuddin Siddiqui added, "When I was approached for the film I just couldn't refuse as it was



an opportunity to work with Sridevi. I was even more excited when I saw the references of my look in the film. It was an opportunity to do something different and look different".

"Since this is Sridevi's 300th film it had to be special. She has never really attempted something like this before and whoever has watched the film believes this is one of her finest performances," said producer Boney Kapoor.

Sujay Kutty, Business Head Zee Studios added further, "At Zee Studios; we strongly believe in backing good content. We are excited to be partner with Boney Kapoor for this film and look forward to present it to a wide spectrum of audience across the world."

Mad Films and NA film production's *MOM* has been directed by Ravi Udyawar and the music is composed by A R Rahman. The film will hit the screens on July 7 in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Hindi.



## Lipstick Under My Burkha to release on July 28

MUMBAI: After a long fight with Censor Board, Konkona Sen Sharma and Ratna Pathak Shah starrer *Lipstick Under My Burkha* has finally got a release date.

The Prakash Jha production will release on July 28.

Producer Ekta Kapoor has come on-board as presenter and pan-India distributor of the film.

Trade analyst Taran Adarsh broke the news on *Twitter*, writing, "Balaji Motion Pictures present *Lipstick Under My Burkha*. Produced by Prakash Jha and Directed by Alankrita Shrivastava. 28 July 2017 release."

The film, which explores women's sexuality, won the Spirit of Asia Award at the Tokyo International Film Festival and the Oxfam Award for the Best Film on Gender Equality at the Mumbai Film Festival.

Directed by Alankrita Shrivastava and produced by Prakash Jha, the film stars Konkona Sen Sharma, Ratna Pathak, Aahana Kumra and Plabita Borthakur in lead roles.

PTI

## Chris Pine slams *Avengers: Infinity War* title



LOS ANGELES: Actor Chris Pine has an issue with the title of Marvel's film *Avengers: Infinity War*, and wonders do we need more war for all time?

In an interview with Screen Slam for his film *Wonder Woman*, the actor took a jibe at the third "Avengers" movie when he was asked if adding a theme of humanity to the usual blockbuster action was something that drew him to the DC film, reports *express.co.uk*.

Pine said, "One of the reasons for sure. She, in particular – Patty (director Patty Jenkins) was a great reason why I wanted to be involved. I met her, I hadn't read – there was no script. Then she told me what she wanted to do: the story, my character, and Gal's (Gal Gadot) character."

"I agree that within this genre, it's difficult to do something new, and usually, you just see a bunch of people killing one another – in outfits and blowing up cities. Like, I know there's a thing called *Infinity War*, which is like, I don't – really, like, *Infinity War*? We need more war for all time?"

IANS

## Wonder Woman Gal Gadot challenges Thor to fight

LOS ANGELES: Gal Gadot is basking in the success of *Wonder Woman* and the actor now thinks her superhero character is ready to take on Marvel's Thor, played by Chris Hemsworth.

The 32-year-old actor plays Wonder Woman in her own new DC Comics movie and will also reprise her role in the upcoming movie *Justice League*.

During an interview with Katie Couric, Gadot was asked who would win in a battle between Thor and Wonder



Woman.

"They ask me, who would win? Wonder Woman or Thor? And I think it's Wonder Woman. Don't you, Chris?" Gadot said in a video posted by Couric on her *Twitter* account.

Responding to Gadot's clip,

Hemsworth, who portrays the prince of Asgard in Marvel movies tweeted, "I think she'd kick Thor's a\*\*."

The actor wrote back, "I always knew you were a smart guy. But I think it's worth a fight. We should collide worlds."

PTI