

RBI MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE MEETS JUNE 6

Food inflation shadow over RBI rate meeting

Between December 2018 and April 2019, annual wholesale food price inflation rose from -0.42% to 7.37%

HARISH DAMODARAN & PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS
NEW DELHI, PUNE, JUNE 2

MOST EXPECT the RBI's monetary policy committee to slash interest rates in its review meeting Thursday. Bond markets also reflect this expectation: On Friday, yields on the benchmark

10-year government paper fell to 7.03 per cent, the lowest since November 25, 2017.

But there's an elephant in the room: food inflation.

Between December 2018 and April 2019, annual wholesale price inflation for food articles has risen from minus 0.42 per cent to 7.37 per cent. During the same period, the year-on-year increase in the consumer

food price inflation — which is what the RBI tracks — has been much less, from minus 2.65 per cent to 1.10 per cent. However, the underlying trend of food prices firming up after a long gap

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MARKETS BET ON RBI TO CUT RATES
PAGE 12

FARM SECTOR GROWTH

	(% year-on-year)	
	CONSTANT PRICES	CURRENT PRICES
Apr-Jun 2016	4.58	13.91
Jul-Sep 2016	6.01	13.85
Oct-Dec 2016	6.73	10.03
Jan-Mar 2017	7.37	11.71
Apr-Jun 2017	4.16	2.78
Jul-Sep 2017	4.48	7.30
Oct-Dec 2017	4.58	9.12
Jan-Mar 2018	6.53	7.74
Apr-Jun 2018	5.05	6.78
Jul-Sep 2018	4.93	4.17
Oct-Dec 2018	2.79	2.07
Jan-Mar 2019	-0.13	3.78

Note: Farm sector includes agriculture, forestry and fishing
Source: Central Statistics Office

On Goyal table: Key challenges in foreign trade, disputes in WTO

ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 2



Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal

WHILE THE decision by the United States to end preferential trade status for India from June 5 calls for urgent attention, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal's larger challenge will be to address the reverses faced by India during the last 12 months on both bilateral and multilateral fronts over alleged protectionism.

On May 14, Japan complained to the WTO against import duties imposed by India over the last 24 months on a wide range of electronic products such as mobile phones and components, and integrated circuits. Soon afterward, China and Thailand expressed interest in joining consultations in the case filed by Japan. Singapore, Canada, and Chinese Taipei are learnt to have sought to join, too.

Much of this played out when the general elections were under way in India, and the new government is learnt to be tak-

ing stock of the widening impact of these trade challenges.

In early April, the European Union, which oversees trade policy for the 28-member bloc, had separately launched a WTO dispute against India over import duties levied on electronic products.

But the action is not limited to electronics. Late last year, Australia moved to refer India to the WTO over subsidies paid to sugarcane farmers. (The government had approved a fresh Rs 5,538-crore package for the sugar industry in September.) Brazil has lodged a separate complaint on the matter, and Guatemala, too, is learnt to have initiated a dispute complaint. On November 12, the US had alleged at the Geneva-based global trade

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Pak stops guests from attending iftaar hosted by Indian envoy, India protests

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 2



Photo of Harish Kumar tweeted by CM Ashok Gehlot

Rajasthani folk dancer Queen Harish dies in road accident

SUANSHU KHURANA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 2

THE GLITTERING ghagra choli, bangles all the way up to his shoulders, Salvatore Ferragamo pumps and bright makeup — every time Harish Kumar aka Queen Harish walked onto the stage, he would light it up with his lithe moves and the mesmerised audience would soon forget that this was a man in drag. "I don't want to present dance in drag as an imitation of something people have seen. I want my dance to be looked upon as a dignified presentation in itself," Queen Harish had said some years ago while sitting in the Zenana courtyard of Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Tit for tat response ahead of SCO meet

PAKISTANI SECURITY agencies' action seems to be a tit-for-tat response to what India did during the March 23 Pakistan National Day event in New Delhi. Coming days after the re-election of the Narendra Modi government and with leaders from both countries heading towards Bishkek for the SCO summit on June 13-14, all eyes will be on whether they are able to hit the refresh button on ties.

guests were turned away, including parliamentarians, government officials, media representatives, retired military officials, businessmen, and retired diplomats, in addition to citizens

from all walks of life.

According to sources, a former spokesperson of the Pakistan Army, Major General (retired) Athar Abbas, was among those stopped. Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Farhatullah Babar was able to attend "after much difficulty".

High Commissioner Bisaria later told his guests that some of them could not make it to the party. "I want to apologise because some of you faced a lot of trouble to come here and some of our friends could not come," he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

In Champions League final, Liverpool fans chant for Egyptian hero: 'I'll be Muslim too'

MIHIR VASAVDA
MADRID, JUNE 2

"If he scores another few, Then I'll be Muslim too... If he's good enough for you, He's good enough for me, Then sitting in a mosque, is where I wanna be Mo Salah-la-la-la-lah! Mo Salah-la-la-la-lah!"

ESTADIO METROPOLITANO is shaking. Around 20,000

Liverpool supporters are bouncing in the stands, paying the ultimate homage to their "King". Most of them haven't even settled in their seats when Mohamed Salah hammers home a penalty in the second minute. But they see him sprint towards the corner flag, slide on his knees and raise his arms skywards. The unassuming celebration can mean just one thing — a goal has been scored.

This isn't just another goal. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



Mo Salah and his teammates return to Liverpool Sunday after winning the Champions League final. Reuters

Draft NEP: Elite used English to marginalise large sections of society

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 2



On Hindi, Jaishankar tweeted: 'No language will be imposed'

ATTRIBUTING THE popularity of English to its adoption by the country's "economic elite", the draft National Education Policy (NEP) 2018 states that large sections of society are marginalised because the privileged use English "as a criterion" to determine if someone is educated and "as a prerequisite" for the jobs that they control.

For equity and inclusion in society, the "power structure of language must be stopped at the earliest", the draft states.

"A major effort in this direction must be taken by the elite and the educated to make increased use of languages native to India, and give these languages the space and respect that they deserve (particularly in hiring, societal events, and in schools and all educational institutions, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

In World Cup season, a story of cricket and hope from a tribal village in Jharkhand



Umesh Srivastava with his boys in Kenduataand. Abhishek Angad

ABHISHEK ANGAD
DHANBAD, JUNE 2

ON WEDNESDAY, India take on South Africa in their first match of this World Cup in Southampton. It will be the first step of a journey that a billion fans hope will end with the trophy at Lord's in London on July 14. And if that happens, among those celebrating will be an entire village located thousands of kilometres to the east — in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district.

But then, for the cricketers of Kenduataand in East Tundi block, all Santhal tribals, cricket has been a journey in itself — from an "aimless and wayward life" to one of "purpose" and "hope".

In Kenduataand, the first step was taken seven years ago by Sipon Tudu, a 24-year-old M S Dhoni fan who "cycled for an hour" and then hopped on to a truck carrying sand to reach the Dhanbad Sports Academy run by

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local coach Umesh Srivastava. "I was asked to take a trial and then admitted to the academy as an allrounder for a fee of Rs 250 a month. But within three months, I was struggling. My family of seven has five bighas of land, and it's just enough for our survival. My elder brother works as a daily wage labourer," says Tudu, who studied up to Class 12 and now works on his farm land when not playing cricket. "When Sipon told me about his village, I asked him to bring everyone along. I told him I would not charge any fee. But even sparing Rs 50 per day for **CONTINUED ON PAGE 7**

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WEB EXCLUSIVE

BLACKLISTED BY INDIA, 11-YEAR-OLD POLISH GIRL PENS LETTER TO PM MODI

In her handwritten letter, Alicja Wanatko says "Hindustan" is where "all her friends, animals, school and happiness still is", and says she misses Goa where she lived, and mostly the cows at the animal resource centre where she volunteered.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



VIJAYVARGIYA ON BJP'S PERFORMANCE

BJP's general secretary on what results mean for party's future

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EXPRESS AUDIO

Ex-soldier as foreigner, ministers and beef

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Indian Express details the ministers in Modi's Cabinet, and the significance of these decisions. We discuss the detention of an ex-soldier in Assam and how it is linked to the National Register of Citizens. Last, what the BJP website was hacked to display.

FROM PAGE ONE

On Goyal table

regulator that India had paid out far more in cotton subsidies than is permitted under WTO rules.

What compounds the situation is that on November 7, India lost a key trade dispute at the WTO after a settlement panel largely upheld Japan's complaint on the imposition of safeguard duty on imports of hot-rolled steel flat products during September 2015 and March 2018.

Earlier, in 2016, the dispute settlement panel had ruled in favour of a US complaint against the requirement that power producers under the Jawaharlar Nehru National Solar Mission compulsorily procure a part of solar panels and modules for their projects from domestic producers.

The increasing trade disputes coincide with a phase in which India has resorted to well over a dozen increases in Customs duties covering over 400 items during the last 30 months, marking a "calibrated departure" from the policy of reducing import duty that had been followed by successive governments

over the last two decades.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly asserted that India is a "tariff king" that imposes "tremendously high" tariffs on American products.

In May 2018, the US had submitted a communication under provisions of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) on certain measures of India providing Market Price Support to wheat and rice for the years 2010-11 to 2013-14. The US had claimed that India had under-reported its domestic support for wheat and rice, and breached its commitments under the WTO AoA.

Some other countries too, reiterated the claims of the US after the submission of counter notification to the WTO.

In a November 12 WTO filing, the US contended that India had paid out far more in cotton subsidies than the rules permitted. India has refuted the calculations in the US counter notifications as "being flawed on technical grounds", and asserted that the methodology used by India in its domestic support notifications is in accordance with the rules under the AoA.

India's stated position on the sugar issue is that the country's exports comply with WTO rules, as it does not extend a subsidy to its farmers for exports, but instead gives a production subsidy.

Food inflation shadow over RBI rate meeting

seems clear, with the southwest monsoon's delayed onset only adding to the uncertainty.

The last two-three months have seen prices of a host of farm commodities go up, mainly on the back of drought in large tracts of western and southern India. Pre-monsoon rainfall during March-May was 24.7 per cent below the normal average for this period, with the deficit largely concentrated in these two regions.

Prices of maize in Karnataka's Davangere market are now averaging around Rs 2,000 per quintal, compared to Rs 1,270 a year ago, while bajra and jowar are trading at Rs 2,000 (Rs 1,140) and Rs 1,900 (Rs 1,160) in Rajasthan's Chomu and Maharashtra's Jalgaon mandis, respectively.

No less has been the surge in pulses — from Rs 3,650 to Rs 5,950 per quintal for arhar in Latur, Maharashtra; from Rs 4,600 to Rs 6,000 for moong in Nagaur, Rajasthan; and from Rs 2,950 to Rs 4,100 for urad in Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh.

"Urad and moong are short-duration crops (of 60-70 days and 80-90 days, respectively) and mostly sown in June. If the rains aren't good this time, farmers may not

choose to plant. They would, instead, opt for more long-duration (160-180 days) crops such as arhar and cotton, whose sowing window extends till the second or even third week of July," says Nitin Kalantari, CEO of Kalantary Foods, a leading Latur-based dal miller-cum-trader.

The India Meteorological Department Friday retained its earlier forecast of the monsoon setting over Kerala around June 6. It also said that the current weak El Nino conditions — an abnormal warming of the equatorial eastern Pacific Ocean waters, known to adversely impact rainfall in India — was "likely to continue during the monsoon season (June-September)".

While there is "some possibility" of these turning to "neutral" during the latter part of the season, the uncertainty over rains in June — the IMD expects the monsoon precipitation to be 95 per cent of its long-period average during July and 99 per cent in August — makes the RBI's job not that easy. This is more so, given that food and non-alcoholic beverages have a 45.86 per cent weight in the official consumer price index.

The upward pressure on prices is also being felt in dairy and horticultural produce.

Liquid milk retailers such as Amul and Mother Dairy raised prices by Rs 2 per litre immediately after the Lok Sabha election results were out, following a dip in procurement from farmers, who are experiencing a severe fodder and water shortage in addition to rising costs of cattle-feed ingredients.

Skimmed milk powder prices, too, have climbed from about Rs 160 to Rs 240 per kg since October. Wholesale prices of tomatoes have crossed Rs 2,100 per quintal in Kolar, Karnataka from Rs 500 a year ago, while touching Rs 1,200 (Rs 850 last year) for onion in Maharashtra's Lasalgaon market.

The Narendra Modi government, in its first term, was proactive in controlling food inflation through "supply management" measures that included imposition of stock-holding limits, banning exports and allowing unlimited duty-free imports.

It may not be inclined to similar hawkishness now, particularly with farm sector growth slowing to low single-digits even in nominal terms.

Whether the RBI, too, would be inclined to ignore the return of food inflation — and view it more as a necessary price correction in favour of farmers — will be known June 6.

spite the rich, expressive and scientific nature of Indian languages".

It attributes English's popularity to its adoption by the "economic elite" since Independence. "...only about 15% of the country speaks English, and this population almost entirely coincides with the economic elite (compared with, e.g. 54% of Indians who speak Hindi)," the draft states.

"Furthermore, the elite often use English (whether deliberately or inadvertently) as a test for entry into the elite class and for the jobs that they control: English is regularly used by the elite as a criterion to determine whether someone is 'educated', and perhaps most unfortunately of all, as a prerequisite for jobs — even in cases of jobs where knowledge of English is entirely irrelevant," it states.

The NEP 2018 blames this attitude for the marginalisation of economically weaker sections, which, it states, "has created an unnatural aspiration of parents for their children to concentrate on learning and speaking languages that are not their own".

Even as the Chapter holds English responsible for "the current divide between the economic elite and the rest of the country", it stresses on the importance of teaching the language in all schools (in addition to native languages) to break the same divide.

It acknowledges that English has become the international common language in science and technology research — and calls for India to emulate the example of technologically advanced countries and teach its science students to speak fluently in their local languages and English.

The draft NEP, prepared by a panel led by eminent scientist K Kasturirangan, was submitted to the new HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on May 31, following which it was made public for feedback and suggestions.

The document's pitch for proper implementation of the three-language formula in schools across the country drew strong reaction from the DMK, which dubbed the suggestion as an effort to "thrust" Hindi on Tamil Nadu. The criticism forced the HRD Ministry to issue a statement Saturday clarifying that the policy was only a draft and will be finalised after incorporating public feedback and views of the state governments.

On Sunday, S Jaishankar, Minister for External Affairs, reiterated the HRD Ministry's clarification on Twitter — in Tamil and English. "The National Education Policy as submitted to the Minister HRD is only a draft report. Feedback shall be obtained from general public. State governments will be consulted. Only after this the draft report will be finalised. GoI (Government of India) respects all languages. No language will be imposed," he tweeted.

Queen Harish

after his performance at the Rajasthan International Folk Festival.

Kumar, father of two young children whose unconventional choice of profession earned him the fame and dignity he aspired for, died in a car crash while on his way from Jodhpur to Ajmer for a show. Police said the group's SUV collided with a stationary truck near Kaparda village in Jodhpur district. Three other folk artists with Kumar also died in the accident that took place near Kaparda village early Sunday morning. Five others were injured in the accident.

With expertise in Rajasthani folk forms such as ghoomar, kalbelia, and bhawai, among others, it was Harish's appearance on India's Got Talent in 2010 that made him hugely popular. In 2007, he featured in Gypsy Caravan, a documentary by American filmmaker Jasmine Dellal. He has also been a part of Bollywood movies such as Jai Gangaajal.

Harish began dancing at the age of 20 to make ends meet — an unusual choice of profession for Suthars, the carpenter community to which he belonged. "But the area that he lived in in those days was a Manganiyar hub. That's where he picked the strong sense of rhythm that's needed to dance," says Vinod Joshi of the Jaipur Virasat Foundation who was involved in a number of performances that Harish was part of. "He saw the Manganiyars travelling abroad for shows... that motivated him too. He loved the spotlight."

Joshi adds that Harish could not sing or play any instrument because in Rajasthan, "these musical forms are all passed down by families" and his parents had died early.

Harish found a teacher in 'Annu Dancer', the first male professional dancer in drag from Jaipur. "He learned from Annu, but he did better than his master and reached where no Indian male dancer in drag has," says Joshi.

Harish is survived by his wife and sons aged 8 and 10.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot expressed his condolences and termed Kumar's demise as a big loss. WITH INPUTS FROM ENS, JAIPUR

FULL REPORTS ON www.indianexpress.com

Envoy's iftaar

In a statement issued on Sunday, the Indian High Commission said that the guests faced "unprecedented harassment and intimidation at the hands of security agencies".

"A concerted campaign was launched by Pakistan's security agencies in the days preceding the iftaar function to reach out to invitees to actively dissuade them from attending the event. Those guests who did reach the function venue, in some cases from places as far as Lahore and Karachi, were intimidated and physically stopped from attending the if-

taar function by Pakistani security forces, who had virtually laid the Serena hotel under siege", the statement said, adding that many guests from the diplomatic community based in Islamabad were also subjected to harassment. Sources said despite facing harassment and questioning about 130 people were able to attend the event, including leaders from major political parties such as the PTI, PML(N) and PPP who, a source said, "came in their personal capacity, and not as representatives of their parties".

Tweeting about the harassment he faced, senior PPP leader Farhatullah Babar, who was advisor to former Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari, said, "Came to Serena for iftar hosted

by Indian HC. Hotel seems barricaded. Told that iftar cancelled. When insisted, I was told to use other gate. Other gate also closed and told to go back to front gate again. What's going on, something fishy."

In its statement, the Indian High Commission said that in violation of diplomatic norms, a large Pakistani security detachment was detailed outside Serena Hotel to aggressively turn away Pakistani citizens. "In some cases, cars used by invitees were lifted and removed using forklifts", it said.

The Indian High Commission called the events of June 1 "disappointing" and said they not only "violate basic norms of diplomatic conduct but are against all notions of civilized behaviour".

"We have requested the government of Pakistan to urgently investigate these ugly events and share the results of the exercise with the High Commission of India," it said.

The incident took place more than two months after the Indian government's security establishment stepped up screening of guests attending the Pakistan National Day event in Delhi. Then, on March 23, as guests walked past barricades manned by Delhi Police, security personnel in plain clothes asked the guests about the purpose of the visit. After they were shown the invitation card, the police personnel had noted down the details of the guests: name, designation, organisation, address and mobile number. The Indian government had decided to boycott the event, on the pretext that Hurriyat leaders had been invited.

Mo Salah

It's the one that gives Liverpool a massive early advantage in the Champions League final Saturday night, silences the "white end" of the stadium and wreaks havoc with Tottenham Hotspur's gameplan.

As much as the goal and its significance, the jubilant, impromptu rendition of the Salah song is equally striking. Here are thousands of fans, largely middle-aged and white, in what are divisive times with Islamophobia on the rise, singing aloud the lines, "I'll be a Muslim" and "a mosque is where I wanna be".

Salah's strike paved the way for Liverpool to end their 14-year wait for a European title, their sixth overall. But what he's doing goes way beyond the football field. Scoring goals. Breaking barriers. Bridging gaps.

"He's a god. He will never, ever need to buy a beer in Liverpool," says 35-year-old Simon Curtis, a lifelong Liverpool supporter. "In the current climate, it's not easy for a Muslim man... Salah's changing the perception. That's what the last line of our song signifies... he cuts across all the barriers... giving us a reason to sing aloud and celebrate week after week."

Salah isn't in the same league as Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo yet. His has been a stuttering career that began at Najriji in Egypt, by undertaking eight-hour bus journeys every day so that he could train and stay with his family. From there, he moved to Basel before trying to establish himself as a professional player, without much success, in London, Florence and Rome. Then, Liverpool happened.

When the Reds signed him for 42 million euros (roughly Rs 327 crore) in June 2017, the logic was questioned by football pundits in England and abroad. A year later, they voted him as the best player in the English Premier League and his peers bestowed the same title upon him. At the FIFA gala, he was voted among the best three players in the world by FIFA last year.

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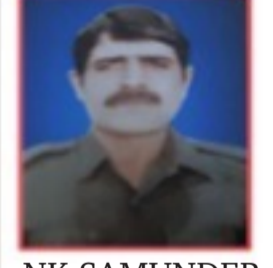
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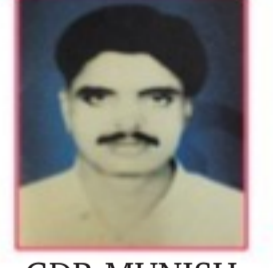
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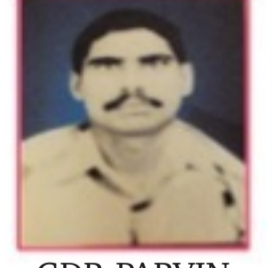
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Former CJI R M Lodha duped of Rs 1 lakh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JUNE 2

FORMER CHIEF Justice of India R M Lodha has approached the Delhi Police, informing them that he was duped of Rs 1 lakh by a man who accessed his friend's email account and sent him an email seeking money for medical treatment.

Police have registered a case under IPC section 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) at Malviya Nagar police station on Saturday. So far, no arrests have been made in the matter, police said.

In the FIR, Justice Lodha wrote that he received an email from his friend, Justice B P Singh, a former Supreme Court judge. "I have been regularly corresponding with Justice B P Singh on arbitration matters. In the said email, I was requested for some urgent help and got back to him on email, as he was unavailable over the phone. When I responded via email asking him to tell me what the matter was, I received another email stating that his cousin was suffering from acute lymphoblastic leukaemia," the FIR read.

The email further asked Justice Lodha to send "Rs 95,000 or Rs 1 lakh" to a surgeon's bank account, details of which were sent to him. Justice Lodha transferred Rs 1 lakh in two installments of Rs 50,000 each to an account held by a man named Dinesh Bali.

After the transaction was done, Justice Lodha realised that his friend's e-mail account had been hacked, following which he approached police.

Capital to get relief from heat wave

New Delhi: The capital might get temporary relief from the scorching heat, as the meteorological department forecast the possibility of "thunder developments" towards Sunday night.

The maximum temperature in the city on Sunday settled at 42.5 degrees Celsius, and the minimum temperature at 30.8 degrees Celsius. The department has predicted partly cloudy skies for Monday. ENS

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PETROLEUM & ENERGY (IIFE)
(2nd Floor of Andhra University College of Engineering Administrative Block)
VISAKHAPATNAM 530003

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION 2019-20

Indian Institute of Petroleum & Energy, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, an Institute of National Importance at par with IITs, IIMs under Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Govt of India calls for admissions for the academic year 2019-20 for 4-year B.Tech. (Petroleum Engineering) and B.Tech. (Chemical Engineering) Programs. Aspirant students who get Rank in JEE(Advanced) 2019 can go through the admission notification in the web site of IIFE - www.iife.ac.in for the admission criterion and other details from 13th June 2019 onwards for applying on line. **DIRECTOR**

NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA REPERTORY COMPANY

(An Autonomous Institute under Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)

SUMMER THEATRE FESTIVAL 29 MAY TO 4 JUNE, 2019

Based on "Fiddler on the Roof"
KHAMOSHI SILI SILI
Written by Joseph Stein
Adaptation : Asif Ali Haider
Design & Direction : PROF. SURESH SHARMA
29 May, 2019 at 7.00 p.m.
KAMANI AUDITORIUM, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi

GHAZAB TERI ADAA
Script & Direction: PROF. WAMAN KENDRE
30 May, 2019 at 7.00 p.m.
KAMANI AUDITORIUM, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi

BAYEN
Story : Mahasweta Devi
Direction : USHA GANGULI
31 May, 2019 at 7.00 p.m.
KAMANI AUDITORIUM, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi

PEHLA SATYAGRAHI
Written by : Ravindra Tripathy
Direction : PROF. SURESH SHARMA
1 June, 2019 at 7.00 p.m. & additional show at 3.30 p.m. 4 June, 2019 at 7.00 p.m.
KAMANI AUDITORIUM, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi

Vijay Tendulkar's
JAAT HI POOCHHO SADHU KI
Direction : RAJINDER NATH
2 June, 2019 at 7.00 p.m. & Additional show at 3.30 p.m.
KAMANI AUDITORIUM, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi

Ajay Shukla's
TAJ MAHAL KA TENDER
Direction : CHITTARANJAN TRIPATHY
3 June, 2019 at 7.00 p.m.
KAMANI AUDITORIUM, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi

Ticket (Rs. 200/-, 100/- & 50/-) are available at NSD Repertory, Bahawalpur House, Bhagwandas Road from 27 May, 2019 onwards from 11 am to 1 pm & 2 pm to 4 pm and if available one hour before the show at the Auditorium. Children below 8 years and eatable are not permitted inside the Auditorium. Enq.: 011-23031106, 23031105

Consolidating Excellence in Energy

Up by 58% PAT
Up by 13% Gross Loan Assets
Up by 24 bps Interest Spread
Down by 26 bps Cost of Funds

Extract of Statement of Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended 31.03.2019

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended		Consolidated	
		31.03.2019 (Audited)	31.12.2018 (Un-Audited)	31.03.2018 (Audited)	31.03.2019 (Audited)	31.03.2018 (Audited)	31.03.2019 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations	7,701.12	7,380.75	6,254.47	28,842.00	25,975.85	54,113.94
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax and Exceptional Items)	2,916.00	2,772.82	1,068.48	9,815.79	5,845.11	17,817.78
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional Items)	2,916.00	2,772.82	1,068.48	9,815.79	5,845.11	17,862.03
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional Items)	2,117.56	2,084.37	796.35	6,952.92	4,386.77	12,640.27
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	2,022.86	2,152.24	466.47	6,745.95	4,063.03	12,372.52
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value ₹ 10/- each)	2,640.08	2,640.08	2,640.08	2,640.08	2,640.08	2,640.08
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation reserves) (As per Audited balance Sheet as at 31 st March)	40,647.91	34,316.07	34,316.07	40,647.91	34,316.07	44,481.17
8	Net Worth	NA	NA	NA	43,287.99	36,956.15	47,121.25
9	Paid up Debt Capital*	NA	NA	NA	2,14,894.19	2,10,704.55	4,12,480.46
10	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	Debt Equity Ratio	NA	NA	NA	6.66	6.21	11.45
12	Earnings Per Share (EPS) (Face value ₹ 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)**						
	(a) Basic EPS (in ₹)	8.02	7.90	3.02	26.34	16.62	37.58
	(b) Diluted EPS (in ₹)	8.02	7.90	3.02	26.34	16.62	37.58
13	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Debt Redemption Reserve	NA	NA	NA	2,014.25	1,726.82	2,708.07

* Amortised cost of Debt Securities and Subordinated Liabilities.
** EPS for the quarters are non-annualised.

Notes:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results is available on the Stock Exchanges' websites www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website www.pfcindia.com.
2. The Company adopted Ind AS from 01.04.2018 and the effective date of transition was 01.04.2017. Accordingly, the above financial results have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement principles of Ind AS prescribed under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rules issued thereunder. The transition to Ind AS has been carried out from the erstwhile Accounting Standards notified under the Act read with relevant rules thereunder and directions issued by the RBI (collectively referred to as "Previous GAAP"). The impact of transition has been accounted for in the opening reserves as at 01.04.2017. Results for the corresponding period prepared under Previous GAAP have been duly restated to Ind AS.
3. The results have been prepared based on the notified Schedule III for Non-Banking Financial Companies issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs on 11.10.2018.
4. During this quarter, the Company has acquired 52.63% shareholding held by the President of India (103,93,99,343 equity shares of face value ₹ 10/- per share) in REC Limited at ₹ 139.5036 per share for a total cash consideration of ₹ 14,500 crore paid on 28.03.2019. Hence, Power Finance Corporation Ltd. has become holding company of REC Limited.
5. For other applicable disclosures as required under Regulation 52(4) of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015, refer detailed format of the financial results filed with the stock exchanges.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors
RAJEEV SHARMA
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN - 00973413

Place : Mumbai
Date : 29.05.2019

POWER FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

"Urjanidhi", 1 Barakhamba Lane, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, Website : <http://www.pfcindia.com>, CIN : L65910DL1986G01024862

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with **122+** selection in CSE 2018

AIR 1 KANISHAK KATARIA

ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR NEW SESSION 2019-20

General Studies Pre-cum-mains Batch

MUKHERJEE NAGAR (DELHI) 10 JUNE | 5:30 PM | **LAXMI NAGAR (DELHI) 12 JUNE | 10:30 AM** | **23 JUNE | 11:00 AM (WEEKEND BATCH)** | **OLD RAJENDRA NAGAR (DELHI) 10 JUNE | 6:00 PM | 17 JUNE | 10:30 AM**

PRAYAGRAJ (ALLAHABAD) 10 JUNE | 7:30 AM & 6:00 PM | **LUCKNOW (ALIGANJ) 8 JULY | 8:30 AM & 6:00 PM** | **LUCKNOW (GOMTI NAGAR) 10 JUNE | 5:30 PM** | **GREATER NOIDA 10 JUNE | 3:30 PM**

SCHOLARSHIP TEST

9 JUNE | 12:00 PM
LAXMI NAGAR (DELHI)

UPTO **100%** SCHOLARSHIP | REGISTRATION MANDATORY

ALL INDIA MAINS TEST SERIES 2019

with face to face evaluation

16 JUNE | OFFLINE | ONLINE
OLD RAJENDRA NAGAR (DELHI)

12 GS (8 sectional + 4 Full Length) | 5 ESSAY | UPPCS TEST SERIES ALSO AVAILABLE

THINK ABOUT IAS/IPS JUST AFTER 12th

UDAAN
A journey to success

IAS OLYMPIAD ENTRANCE EXAM | **16 JUNE 11:00 AM**

Eligibility: Age Limits: 15-19 Years Age Group 12th Passed / Appearing Students

UPTO **100%** SCHOLARSHIP

LUCKNOW (ALIGANJ) 0522-4025825, 7570009014 | LUCKNOW (GOMTI NAGAR) 7234000501, 7234000502

Face to Face Centre
DELHI (MUKHERJEE NAGAR) : 011-49274400 | 9205274741, DELHI (RAJENDRA NAGAR) : 011-41251555 | 9205274743, DELHI (LAXMI NAGAR) : 011-43012556 | 9205212500, ALLAHABAD : 0532-2260189 | 8853467068, LUCKNOW (ALIGANJ) 0522-4025825 | 7570009014, LUCKNOW (GOMTINAGAR) 7234000501 | 7234000502, GREATER NOIDA RESIDENTIAL ACADEMY : 9205336037 | 9205336038, BHUBANESWAR : 8599071555, SRINAGAR (J&K) : 9205962002 | 9988085811

Live Streaming Centre
BIHAR - PATNA, CHANDIGARH, DELHI & NCR - FARIDABAD, GUJARAT - AHMEDABAD, HARYANA - HISAR, KURUKSHETRA, MADHYA PRADESH - GWALIOR, JABALPUR, REWA, MAHARASHTRA - MUMBAI, PUNJAB - JALANDHAR, PATIALA, LUDHIANA, RAJASTHAN - JODHPUR, UTTARAKHAND - HALDWANI, UTTAR PRADESH - ALIGARH, AZAMGARH, BAHRAICH, BAREILLY, GORAKHPUR, KANPUR, LUCKNOW (ALAMBAGH), LUCKNOW (GOMTI NAGAR), MORADABAD, VARANASI

FOR DETAILS VISIT US ON WWW.DHYEYAIAS.COM OR CALL ON 011 49274400

BRIEFLY

Discom seeks Rs 7-crdues from North corporation

New Delhi: Tata Power-DDL has claimed dues of Rs 7 crore from the North MCD and DSIIDC for the maintenance of 50,000 streetlights in unauthorised areas. It has threatened to cut power supply for streetlights until payment is made. The NDMC and DSIIDC have denied ownership of the streetlights, resulting in the accumulation of the arrears.

Ex-school principal found dead, family alleges murder

Gurgaon: A former principal of a private school was found dead at her home in Palam Vihar Saturday night, minutes after she called up her son for help. Police said her husband has named his brother, sister-in-law and their son in the FIR, with whom their family is involved in a property dispute.

Two held for blackmail

Gurgaon: A woman who runs a tea stall in Palwal has been arrested along with her sister for allegedly blackmailing a tea stall owner by threatening to register a sexual assault case against him.

2 men burgle cafe at CP

New Delhi: Two masked men allegedly burgled a cafe in Connaught Place Sunday, police said. In CCTV footage, the two men could be seen taking cash, liquor and other valuables from the cafe, they said.

15 held in fake call centre bust

Noida: As many as 15 people were arrested from a fake call centre, which allegedly duped people by offering them non-existent insurance policies, in Indirapuram. ENS

ARRESTED FROM RAJASTHAN

IIT grad advertises 'PM's free laptop scheme', steals data of 15 lakh people

12 DU colleges stare at fund crunch

New Delhi: DU colleges funded by the Delhi government are staring at a fund crunch with no resolution in sight to the impasse between the varsity and the state over the formation of governing bodies. Authorities of the 12 colleges fully funded by the Delhi government state they are starved of resources.

In April, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had written to the secretary, higher education directing that no funds be given to 28 DU colleges partially and fully funded by the Delhi government till the constitution of their governing bodies. Sisodia said the responsibility for the impasse lies with the V-C. "The university should take ownership of the situation; are they not worried about this? They are not sending me the names or giving the clarification we are seeking. Principals should put pressure on the V-C," he said. V-C Yogesh Tyagi could not be reached for comment. ENS & PTI

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, JUNE 2

In a first of its kind case, an IIT graduate was arrested by Delhi Police for allegedly stealing personal data of over 15 lakh people by luring them onto a fake website and claiming to distribute free laptops to "2 crore youths" under the "PM's free laptop distribution scheme", especially in the wake of the BJP's victory in the Lok Sabha polls. Police said the accused, Rakesh Jangid, managed to access data of 15 lakh people in just two days by spreading the misinformation on platforms such as WhatsApp. "A fake promotional multimedia message using the 'Make in India' logo was posted on the website to lure people to register themselves and get the free laptop. They were made to fill out personal data under the guise of registration," DCP (Cyber Crime Unit) Special Cell Anshu Roy said. He added that during questioning, it came to light that the accused was using the BJP's Lok Sabha win to further peddle the website and convince people to register. The website has a photo of the Prime Minister and the tagline, 'Pradhan Mantri Muft Laptop Vitran Yojana 2019'. It asked for the name, age, phone number and state of each visitor. "He launched a website offering a 'free laptops government scheme' to the general public and tried to lure them by stating



The accused, Rakesh Jangid

that these were being distributed by the Government of India on the occasion of formation of new government. Using the Make in India logo and the PM's picture, he had created a website offering free laptops to 20 million registered users," Roy said. The accused was arrested from Nagaur district in Rajasthan by tracing his IP address.

In another first, cyber team officials said they did not get a formal complaint, but the accused attracted their suspicion while they were monitoring online activity and found a huge surge in the particular website's views. According to officers, Jangid graduated earlier this year after pursuing a management and economics course offered by IIT. He was supposed to join a private company in Hyderabad before he allegedly decided to make the fake website. Police claimed he told them that he wanted to earn money via advertising revenue from increased traffic on the website. "He was also aiming to capture personal data of millions of citizens, which could later be sold to cyber criminals to cheat vic-

tims or extort money," Roy said. Police claimed the accused used Google AdSense, a program that allows bloggers and website owners to make money by displaying ads on their website. Explaining Jangid's modus operandi, Roy said he was making money from the large number of page views, known as impressions, and clicks on ads hosted on the website. "The more attractive the advertisement, the more traffic it generates and larger the revenue generated. AdSense publishers receive 68% of the click cost and Google takes 32% as commission. So far, the accused had managed to get 1.52 million page views and more than 68,000 clicks. The relevant devices have been seized," Roy said.

After seven years, Delhi fire dept to get 500 new recruits

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, JUNE 2

SEVEN YEARS after the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) last recruited fire fighters, more than 500 fire operators are expected to join the force, following the Central Administrative Tribunal's directions to continue its recruitment process for fire operators.

The DFS, which gets over 30,000 fire calls in a year, has been reeling under a 40% staff shortage. According to officials, the summer months see an average of 100-120 fire calls, while the monsoon sees building collapses. Even in winters, an average of 90 calls are received in a month, DFS said.

With retirement age fast approaching for senior fire officers, the influx of new fire operators is expected to take the steam off fire stations in Shahdara, East Delhi and South East Delhi.

"This recruitment would have taken place in October last year, but some candidates approached a city court saying they were not fairly judged. I told the court that we have a lot of vacancies and would love to take them under the DFS. We now have permission to induct them," Chief Fire Officer Atul Garg told *The Indian Express*.

Fire fighters usually have to rely on an outdated training manual developed by the



New recruits underwent a gruelling six-month endurance and dexterity training

Nagpur-based National Fire Service College. Now, DFS has deputed senior officers who underwent training at the Singapore Fire Academy to usher in a new training programme.

Additional Divisional Officer Ajay Sharma has been busy training fresh recruits at the Delhi Fire Safety Service and Management Academy in Rohini.

To make sure fire fighters are on par with their French and American counterparts, the new recruits underwent a gruelling six-month endurance and dexterity training. They spent at least three hours every morning undergoing cross-fit training.

"We made them beat large tractor tyres with hammers, run for 5 kilometres, made them march in police formations and learn the newest fire

fighting methods taught in Singapore," Sharma told *The Indian Express*.

The first batch of 330 fire operators are expected to join next week, and other batches will follow in the coming month. The fresh recruits have already attended more than a hundred fire calls as part of their assignment, and were even made to pull in endurance training for five hours at night. "We have also acquired 16 acres of land near Bawana to open a modernised training facility for our recruits," Sharma said.

Furthermore, a committee has been formed to research and acquire latest fire-fighting gadgetry. With building collapses making headlines in Delhi last year, the DFS is also planning on stocking up on hydraulic cutting tools and introducing a course on building collapse rescues.

'Free bus, Metro rides for women a gimmick'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 2

THE DELHI government's proposal to make Metro and bus travel free for women came under fire from the BJP, with Leader of the Opposition Vijender Gupta calling it an election gimmick.

The announcement was made by CM Arvind Kejriwal during a public meeting at Kali Bari Saturday. "We are about to make an announcement soon, but I will share a part of it with you. We are working on a proposal to make Metro and bus rides free for women. This will encourage them to use public transport and ensure their safety," he said.

Hitting out at the move, Gupta said: "The transport minister's assertion that it will take six months to implement the proposal... underlines the fact that it is no more than an election gimmick. Kejriwal knows that by the end of six months, the Model Code of Conduct will come in force in Delhi in view of the Assembly elections. It cannot be overlooked

that Kejriwal had put obstacles in the implementation of Metro Phase IV and failed to buy even a single DTC bus during his tenure."

DPCC chief Sheila Dikshit said, "Kejriwal is the CM; let him decide what he wants to do."

Senior officials said Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot met DMRC and DTC officials to discuss the proposal. However, no decision has been taken yet. "The matter was discussed in the presence of the DMRC MD and DTC officials. It is still at the preliminary stage. Technical and financial implications will have to be examined. If things work out, then a proposal in this regard will be brought to the Cabinet," Gahlot said.

"This is a policy matter... for buses, it is not an issue. We have implemented such waivers on several occasions, such as Rakshabandhan and Bhai Dooj. It can be done now as well, only if somebody is ready to take the burden," said CK Goyal, assistant vice-president, DIMTS, which has been appointed as a consultant for procuring 1,000 low floor e-buses.

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि.
ऊर्जा भवन, 220केवी विद्युत उपसंस्थान, बाई-पास रोड, सिकन्दरा, आगरा
टेलीफैक्स नं० 0562-2603736, CIN : U31200UP2003SGC027460
निविदा सूचना

ई-निविदा सं-दोषि वि०नि०लि० - प्रशासन	प्रबन्ध निदेशक, दोषि वि०नि०लि०, आगरा कार्यालय परिसर में 01 वर्ष के लिए कराये जाने वाले कार्यों का विवरण	घरोहर धनराशि का विवरण	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य टैक्स सहित रू०	ऑनलाइन एवं निविदा प्रपत्र जमा करने की दिनांक	निविदा खुलने का दिनांक एवं समय
02/2019-20	क्रियाशील ए०सी० एवं वाटर कूलर (मय स्टेब-लाईजर्) का रखरखाव।	4,00,00,000	590.00		
03/2019-20	स्टेशनरी की आपूर्ति।	10,00,00,000	5,900.00		
04/2019-20	कम्प्यूटर्स को इन्टरनेट से जोड़ने, एन्टीवायरस इंस्टाल करने, कम्प्यूटरों से सम्बन्धित सभी उपकरणों तथा Digital EPABX system का रखरखाव।	4,00,00,000	590.00	01.07.2019 को 14:00 बजे तक	01.07.2019 को समय 16:00
05/2019-20	पुलिस अधीक्षक (सतर्कता) के कार्यों हेतु किराये पर 01 नम जीजल चलित मय चालक 24 घण्टे हेतु एवं टैक्सी परमित वाहन (01 नम इन्वोवा/स्कॉर्पियो) उपलब्ध कराना।	4,00,00,000	590.00		
06/2019-20	कोरियर के माध्यम से समस्त अनुभागों की डॉक आगरा शहर एवं आगरा शहर से बाहर निगम के अधीन कार्यालयों एवं अन्य स्थानों पर प्रेषण का कार्य।	8,00,00,000	5,900.00		

निविदा इलेक्ट्रॉनिक टेण्डरिंग के माध्यम से उ०प्र० शासन के ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर ही प्राप्त की जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र सम्बन्धी सभी जानकारियां उ०प्र० शासन के ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> एवं <https://dvvn1.org> पर उपलब्ध हैं, जहाँ से निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है।
हस्ता/अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (प्रशासन) "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये"
पत्रांक: 9043- प्रोनि०/का०प्र०/अ०ख०/ई-निविदा/दिनांक: 02.06.2019

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ोदा Z.O.S.A.R.B., Allahabad (Prayagraj) 19-A Dwarka
Bank Of Baroda Bhawan, 1st Floor, Tagore Town, Prayagraj-211002

PUBLIC NOTICE
Advance A/c: M/s Bholey Flour Mill
ZOSARB: Allahabad (Prayagraj) Publication of Photograph of Wilful Defaulters

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that Bank of Baroda has declared to the following persons as wilful defaulters in terms of Bank's/RBI's extant rules and regulations, Complying with the due process prescribed therein.

Shri Manoj Sharma (Partner)	Shri Brijmohan Sharma (Partner)	Shri Vipin Kumar (Partner)

Bank had sent suitable communication to the Borrower informing the decision of the Bank to declare them as wilful defaulters. As permitted by RBI, Bank Publishes the photograph of the wilful defaulters, for the information of the public at large.

Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy
Directorate of Construction, Services & Estate Management
Centralized Quantity Division

PRE-QUALIFICATION CUM NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Head, Electrical Division, DCSEM, DAE, V.S. Bhavan, Anushaktinagar, Mumbai-94 on behalf of the President of India invites online item rate tender (in two bid) through e-tendering mode, from eligible contractors for the following works:

1) NIT No.: DCSEM/CQD/QSC/GCNEP-II/T-Site_SS/05/2019-20, dt.31.05.2019
Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 12kV RMU, 11/0.433 kV, 1000kVA ONAN transformers with OLT & RTCC, HT & LT Cables, LT Panels, 320 kVA Silent DG set with AMF Panel and associated works for GCNEP Township site at Jassaur Kheri, Bahadurgarh, Haryana." Estimated cost ₹380.00 lakh, EMD ₹ 7,60,000/-. Completion period : 10 months and cost of tender processing fee ₹ 5900/-.

2) NIT No.: DCSEM/CQD/QSC/GCNEP-II/TypeIIIC&IVD/Elev/06/2019-20, dt.31.05.2019
"Design, fabrication, supply, installation, testing & commissioning of 04 nos. 13 passenger (884kg) elevator, 1.0 m/s speed, ACVVVF control, gearless elevators for Type-IIIC & IVD residential blocks at GCNEP Township, Bahadurgarh, Haryana." Estimated cost ₹ 80.00 lakh, EMD ₹ 1,60,000/-, Completion period : 10 months and cost of tender processing fee ₹4720/-.

Detailed tender notice along with documents are available on website: www.tenderwizard.com/DAE. The processing fees shall be paid in the form of e-payment in favour of ITI Limited New Delhi. Tender documents for view/download from 03.06.2019 (11:00 hrs.) to 17.06.2019 (15:00 hrs.). Pre-bid clarifications from 03.06.2019 (12:00 hrs.) to 18.06.2019 (15:00 hrs.). Closing of online submission of tenders up to 17:00 hrs. on 27.06.2019. Receipt of hard copies towards EMD up to 15:00 hrs. on 28.06.2019. Opening of online tender (technical bids) on 28.06.2019 at 15:30 hrs. Financial bids of qualified bidders shall be opened at a later date; to be notified separately. Detailed NIT is also available on website www.dcsem.gov.in for view only. For further information, please contact on 022-25487416/7414/7464 Fax: 022-25565362.

DELHI UNDERGROUND

Beating the heat

Around half-a-dozen Delhi government bureaucrats left for the cooler climes after polls ended in the city. AAP leaders claimed CM Arvind Kejriwal found many senior officials missing when he started review meetings to kickstart a series of projects that were grounded due to the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct.



SIGHTSEEING
At Humayun's Tomb, Sunday. Abhinav Saha

Cancelled

The Delhi Assembly had planned to hold its annual iftar on May 29. Cards were printed

and invites sent out to guests. Even PWD and police were informed to make arrangements. But the event was cancelled for unspecified reasons.

HARYANA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION
BAYS NO. 67-70, SECTOR-2, PANCHKULA-134151
(www.hssc.gov.in)

RESULT OF WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS AND NOTICE FOR SCRUTINY OF DOCUMENTS FOR POST OF JUNIOR ENGINEER (ELECTRICAL) AGAINST ADVT. NO. 01/2019, CATEGORY NO. 01 OF UTTAR HARYANA VITRAN BIJLI NIGAM.

It is for the information of all concerned candidates that Haryana Staff Selection Commission has declared the Result of Written Examination (CBT) for post of Junior Engineer (Electrical) against Advt. No. 01/2019, Category No. 01 of Uttar Haryana Vitran Bijli Nigam on 01.06.2019 and Scrutiny of Documents of the Candidates will be held in the Commission office on 11.06.2019. The candidates are advised to report at 09.00 A.M. in the Commission Office, Bays No. 67-70, Sector-2, Panchkula as per schedule.

- The Candidates are also directed to bring all original documents, downloaded application form, along with one set of self attested copies of all documents mentioned in their application form and One ID proof. The Roll Nos. of the candidates are also available on Haryana Staff Selection Commission website www.hssc.gov.in.
- In case a candidate does not appear for Scrutiny of documents no further opportunity will be given thereafter.
- While every care has been taken in preparing and uploading the result, possibility of inadvertent/technical errors cannot be ruled out. The Commission reserves the right to rectify the same later on.

Sd/-
Under Secretary,
for Secretary, Haryana Staff Selection Commission, Panchkula.

Place: Panchkula
Dated: 1st June, 2019

H.P. STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
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E-mail Address: mdhpsesc@himapurti.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

Himachal Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited, Shimla invites Global E-Tenders for the procurement of **Iodized Salt for six months supply**. The detailed tender notice, tender documents and other instructions can be down-loaded or viewed on-line from the portal <https://hptenders.gov.in>. The last date for submission of online tenders, samples, earnest money deposit tender document fee and processing fee shall be till 24.06.2019 upto 5:00 (PM). The tenders of Iodized Salt shall be opened on 26.06.2019 at 11.00 (AM).
Managing Director

5 HARDLOOK COACHING CENTRES

LESSONS FROM SURAT

Echoes of the Surat fire tragedy are being felt in coaching centre hubs across the capital, where fire safety has never been top priority. With authorities beginning a crackdown, hundreds of such centres are scrambling to get their act together. ANAND MOHAN J, NAOMI KLINGE & SHIVAM PATEL report

FOR SAFER STRUCTURES

Building requirements, as mentioned in the DDA's 'Unified Building Bylaws for Delhi 2016', mandate:



STAIRCASES

- In buildings used as hotels and for educational purposes, width of stairs should be 1.5 metres
- Those used for educational purposes must have minimum of two staircases



DOORS

No door shall be less than 1.2 metres in width and 2.20 metres in height



EXITS

Exits shall be clearly visible and routes to reach exits shall be clearly marked, with signs posted to guide occupants of floor concerned. All exits shall be free of obstructions and must be properly illuminated

DREAMS ARE sold in giant fonts of black, red and blue. Flex boards with smiling faces of teenagers next to promises of moulding students into IAS officers, language experts and computer specialists. Behind the hoardings for innumerable coaching centres in the capital, however, hide potential tinderboxes — old buildings with narrow staircases, rusty fire safety equipment and no emergency exits.

Tremors of the Surat fire tragedy last month, which claimed the lives of 22 students enrolled at a coaching centre, have been felt in Delhi-NCR, with authorities beginning a crackdown on coaching hubs — on Saturday, two such coaching centres were sealed in Laxmi Nagar.

Over the past week, *The Indian Express* visited four such hubs in Delhi — Mukherjee Nagar, Karol Bagh, Lado Sarai and Kalu Sarai — and one each in Gurgaon and Noida, and discovered that fire safety violations, problematic building bylaws and absentee building owners make for a dangerous combination.

Rules and realities

Entering a 20-year-old building in Mukherjee Nagar leads to a broken staircase and a labyrinth of shops and offices, including over a dozen coaching centres, a paint shop, a meditation centre and a chemist.

Ajay Mishra, owner of a coaching centre inside, wondered what to write on the flex board. After going through videos of rescue operations in Surat, he came up with: "We have fire safety. You are all safe in my class."

Since the May 24 Surat fire, inspection teams have started issuing notices to coaching centres about upgradation of safety. The Delhi Fire Services (DFS) has already conducted an inspection of 12 coaching centres in Mukherjee Nagar, Karol Bagh, Lado Sarai, Kalu Sarai and Laxmi Nagar. According to its report, none had adequate fire safety arrangements.

At four coaching hubs in the capital, *The Indian Express* found several similarities — centres packed with 100-plus students from morning to evening, no alternative fire exits, outdated fire extinguishers, dusty hose reels and a single staircase.

Several such centres also operate from basements with no ventilation systems or smoke alarms. In one instance, the sole water sprinkler system was installed over two years ago.

Inspection team officers said owners of such buildings, which usually give spaces to coaching centres on rent, often hide behind outdated bylaws.

For example, the newly modified building bylaws of 2016 cannot be invoked in Mukherjee Nagar, where buildings are over two decades old and follow the 1983 bylaws. The old law requires a 1.25 metre wide staircase, as compared to the 1.5 metre width required now.

Moreover, buildings less than 15 metres in height don't come under the jurisdiction of the DFS. "This was done so entrepreneurs can run businesses hassle-free.

CHECKING VIOLATIONS

Inspection team looking into whether coaching centres have:

- Two staircases
- 6 metre 'set back area' for fire tenders to move around
- 25 litre overhead tanker over every coaching centre building
- 9,000 LPM (litres per minute) fire pumps
- One manually operated electric fire alarm system
- One public announcement system
- Emergency lights
- Sprinkler systems
- Smoke alarms

They do not require a no-objection certificate (NOC) from us. In the first inspection phase, we're looking at buildings taller than 15 metres... we have jurisdiction to cut water and electricity supply there. We can also seal the premises with MCD's help within 30 days of issuing notice," said Chief Fire Officer (DFS) Atul Garg.

Coaching centres also don't require registration with any government agency and can operate merely with a rent agreement. "All one has to do is give 2% of the rent on the stamp paper given to us before starting the coaching centre," said Tarun Ahuja, an owner of a building in Karol Bagh.

Inspection team officials maintain newer building bylaws adhere to international standards. Globally, municipalities adopt the International Fire Code (IFC), which suggests minimum regulations of fire protection systems for buildings across the world to be considered safe.

For instance, Assistant Fire Chief Brad Fraizer of the Columbia Missouri Fire Department told *The Indian Express*: "Our fire department reviews building plans before a building is constructed to ensure it is up to code, and they have a rotating inspection system so buildings are routinely inspected every 18 months on average."

He also emphasised on integrated systems that help control and monitor fires such as sprinklers and fire detectors, as well as a second exit — a feature missing from most coaching centres in the capital.

Instead, *The Indian Express* found no access to the terrace, sealed glass windows in classrooms, heavy metal doors, overhead cables, and even empty coffee cups and cigarette butts instead of hose reels inside fire safety boxes at several centres.

Absent owners

At Mukherjee Nagar, an owner of three office spaces argued with DFS officers about the height of the building. "It's less than 15 metres," he insisted. Inspection officer Mukesh Verma paid no heed.

Verma's report has found that coaching centres in Mukherjee Nagar have wooden panelling and wooden staircases instead of cement ones. "Plus the flex boards are highly flammable. We will remove them and maybe accept a smaller display. Rooms less than 100 square feet are filled with 300 students. If a fire breaks out, it is next to impossible to evacuate all students in time," said Verma.

The owner of the three offices said he has been looking for the building's original owner, who left the country after selling 42 spaces in the structure, now filled with coaching centres.

"I own three offices, not the building. The original owner moved out in 1984. We want to discuss erecting an alternative staircase. It's tough to get the current owners together for fire safety meetings. Two years ago, I spent Rs 3 lakh on fire safety equipment, I can't spend that kind of money again," said the office space owner.

The problem is common to several buildings across Delhi, where owners have largely abdicated responsibility and tenants or office owners are reluctant to spend on making it safer.

In fact, not being able to trace the owner becomes a bigger problem in case of a fire. An official explained that during the Hotel Arpit Palace blaze in Karol Bagh that left 17 dead, firemen had no way to access the hotel map, which hindered operations.

At the particular Mukherjee Nagar building, an average office space is 270 sq ft. The reception area takes up more than half the space and is adorned with woodwork. Classrooms are filled with 100-odd students, along with furniture and fittings, leaving no space for an alternative escape route. "Wood is a major accelerant in case of a fire," said a DFS official.

At South Delhi's Lado Sarai village, a coaching centre has had two previous instances of short circuits in electrical panels in 2016, and in the building's transformer a few weeks ago. The in-charge of the institute said both instances happened in the summer, when students were there. Around 700 students study in the three-storey building.

"Our electric meters are installed on the ground floor and we have had a short circuit twice, but it did not lead to anything major because we use good quality power fittings. However, we do understand summer time is problematic," he said.

A feature common to several coaching centres across the four localities is that electric meters are installed at the entrance to the stairway, and in case a fire starts there, it makes exiting the building difficult, an official said. The major cause of fire in Delhi, as per DFS, is short circuits from electrical meter boards.

"Ten years ago, they made us install the meters outside. Now, BSES officials say we should find another safe space. For the time being, I have repaired the electrical wiring system," said the owner of a three-storey Karol Bagh building.

GURGAON

'No centre bothered to get fire safety clearance'

SAKSHI DAYAL

AT OLD DLF Colony in Gurgaon's Sector 14, both sides of the lane are adorned with boards promoting coaching centres for MBA, TOEFL, GRE and GMAT. Many of them run from basements. *The Indian Express* visited several such establishments and found that none of them had procured an NOC from the fire department. Many, however, said they had applied for one after the Surat fire.

At one coaching centre, providing courses on the currency market, students study in a room in the basement. It has a single, narrow staircase, the walls of which are lined with wires clinging like creepers. The manager there said, "We set this up a year ago, but we don't have an NOC or fire extinguishers so far. We haven't applied for one and the fire department hasn't reached out to us either."

On the second floor of the same building is another coaching centre, set up five years ago for GMAT aspirants. Here, there are two classrooms — where up to 40 students are taught at a time — apart from two offices and a pantry. An official there said, "We don't have an NOC but will apply soon. We have taken some precautionary measures — four fire extinguishers of 9 kg, and two of 2 kg. Nobody in this area has an NOC as far as I know. Some have started applying now, especially because parents have raised concerns after the Surat incident."

Officials from the Fire Safety

No coaching centre has an NOC, as a result of which we don't have figures of such establishments "

IS KASHYAP, ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL FIRE SAFETY OFFICER

Department confirmed that they have got several requests for fire safety NOCs from coaching centres over the last week. "These, if issued, will be the first such certificates to be handed over to coaching centres," said an official.

"Following the Surat incident, the deputy commissioner directed us to conduct an inspection and check if fire safety norms are being followed by coaching centres. On examining our records, we found no coaching centre has an NOC, as a result of which we don't have figures of such establishments," said IS Kashyap, assistant divisional fire safety officer.

"People from coaching centres have started contacting us to know the process and conditions they have to fulfil. So far, centres in Sector 14 and New Railway Road have been inspected. Most common violations include narrow staircases, loose wires and lack of firefighting equipment, one entry and exit point," added Kashyap.

He said owners of centres found violating norms will be directed to rectify the same and apply for an NOC. If they fail to do so, the centres will be directed to either move to a building that meets the guidelines or face sealing.

NOIDA

Over 50 centres get notices

AMIL BHATNAGAR

DAYS AFTER the Surat tragedy, fire department officials started a crackdown on coaching centres in Noida's sectors 18 and 39 and pockets of Greater Noida. "We have sent notices to more than 50 coaching centres, seeking a response on fire safety apparatus. They are bound to comply with provisions of the National Building Code. The places will be sealed if they are found defaulting," said A K Singh, Chief Fire Officer (Gautam Budh Nagar).

Buildings have to adhere to the Noida Authority's Building Regulations 2010, which states that any construction higher than 15 metres and having more than 500 sq metres ground coverage requires a fire certification.

In Noida's Sector 18 Atta Market, coaching centres take up space in decades-old buildings. While the management maintains they are

equipped for a fire, students remain apprehensive. "Many coaching centres have created partitions to hold more classes. There is one staircase in the front and a very narrow emergency exit. If many people are evacuated together, there could be a stampede," said a student preparing for bank exams in one such building.

A branch of a popular medical and engineering coaching centre claimed it recently held a series of meetings with fire officials and discussed the need for sprinklers, extinguishers and alarm systems.

Buildings in Noida typically have to go through two steps of fire certification. "The first stage is during plan approval and the second stage after project completion. At the second stage, the Chief Fire Officer examines whether building bylaws have been followed," said S C Gaur, chief architect and urban town planner of the Noida Authority.

At Mukherjee Nagar, a prominent coaching centre hub in the capital. Praveen Khanna



6 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



ON HER FOOTSTEPS

NEW EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who made his debut on Twitter on Saturday, first sent out thank you messages to his counterparts from around the world. And then he followed the footsteps of his predecessor, Sushma Swaraj, that 'help is just a tweet away', and responded to some of the people who were asking for help. His Twitter following has crossed 1.6 lakh within a day of his first tweet.

NO RESPONSE

TWO OF the biggest national political parties — BJP and Congress — have failed to honour the Supreme Court's May 30 deadline for submitting details of donations received through electoral bonds to the Election Commission. This despite the fact that the poll panel had reminded all parties last week about the top court's directions. Of the two, the BJP has cornered the largest chunk of electoral bonds donation. It is not clear if the EC will write to them again or just report back to the court with names of defaulting parties.

SEEKING HELP

ASSAM CHIEF Minister Sarbananda Sonowal may have a diplomatic problem at his doorstep. Thailand's Ambassador to India Chutintorn Gongsakdi took to Twitter and created a flutter on Saturday afternoon, when he asked, "Does anyone have connections with the Chief Minister's Office in Assam @CMOfficeAssam? We are trying to confirm an appointment for Jesada Katavetin, director general, department of South Asian Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Thailand with Shri CM on June 3. Many thanks." While many tagged Sonowal and asked for facilitating the appointment, the Thai envoy later deleted the tweet.



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar with Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan at an iftaar party in Patna on Sunday. *PTI*

Nitish expands Bihar Cabinet, all eight new ministers from JD(U)

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JUNE 2

THE NITISH Kumar-led Bihar government on Sunday expanded its Cabinet, inducting eight ministers — all from the JD(U). The alliance partner BJP decided against filling its quota, saying it will take its share in the future.

Only two positions are now left in the 34-member Cabinet. As IJP has no MLA or MLC, it will have no representation in the ministry. Its lone MLC and minister Pashupati Kumar Paras is

now Hajipur MP.

With the JD(U) not accepting the offer of "symbolic representation" at the Centre, it reportedly sought to lift the morale of its cadres by the expansion in Bihar. The Cabinet expansion looks to send across the JD(U)'s message to its cadres by maintaining social balance.

New ministers include Neeraj Kumar (upper caste Bhumihar), Sanjay Jha (upper caste Brahmin), Bima Bharti (EBC), Ashok Kumar Choudhary and Shyam Rajak (Scheduled Caste), Narendra Narayan Yadav

(OBC) and Lakshmeshwar Rai (EBC Dhanuk) and Ramsevak Singh (OBC Kushwaha).

Sanjay Jha, who had missed a chance to contest Lok Sabha election, was given charge of the water resources department, Narendra Narayan Yadav was made the minor water resources minister. Neeraj Kumar will head the information and public relations department and Ashok Kumar Choudhary has been given charge of building construction department. Shyam Rajak is the new industry minister and Ramsevak Singh is social

welfare minister.

Bima Bharti is sugarcane industry minister and Lakshmeshwar Rai has the disaster management portfolio.

Senior BJP leader and Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi said, "BJP decided to take its share of ministry in future".

Denying any rift between the BJP and his party, a JD(U) leader said, "It was important to send across a message to our cadres with cabinet expansion. They could have felt let down by JD(U) being offered just one berth in the Union Cabinet."

Naveen quits Bijepur seat, retains coastal stronghold

SAMPAD PATNAIK
BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 2

ODISHA CHIEF Minister Naveen Patnaik resigned from the Bijepur Assembly seat on Sunday, retaining the Hinjili seat from where he won for the fifth time in a row in the recently concluded state polls.

Patnaik sent his resignation as legislator from Bijepur constituency in Bargarh district to Assembly Speaker S N Patro, BJD general secretary Bijay Nayak said. The Chief Minister conveyed his gratitude to the people of Bijepur for supporting him.

A BJD MP said the party is likely to put up Rita Sahu as its candidate for the bypoll.

Patnaik was elected to the Assembly from two seats — Hinjili in south coastal Odisha and Bijepur in western Odisha. He had contested from Bijepur for the first time.

Patnaik, who steered the BJD to a landslide victory in the Assembly polls, defeated his BJP rival Pitambar Acharya in Hinjili by 60,160 votes. In Bijepur, the BJD chief defeated his BJP rival Sanat Kumar Gartia by 57,122 votes.

Bijepur was a Congress bastion until 2018 when the BJD won it in a by-election necessitated by the death of sitting Congress MLA Subal Sahu. The BJD had then fielded Sahu's wife, Rita as its candidate.

Some leaders in the BJD expressed reservations on Patnaik's decision to vacate Bijepur. "Normally, when a high-profile leader fights and wins from two constituencies, it is customary to retain the new constituency as a courtesy to the voters. For example, Prime Minister Narendra Modi retained Varanasi in 2014 though he had also won from Vadodra," said a senior BJD MLA.

"Retaining Bijepur would have also sent a message that the CM is very keen on personally spearheading the development of western Odisha, which has had complaints of neglect by coastal Odisha leaders," the MLA added.

Patnaik recently unveiled a package for Bijepur. The package proposes that two mega pipe water supply schemes, aimed at covering a population of 8 lakh across 505 villages, will be executed in Bargarh district at an estimated cost of Rs 1,120 crore. It envisages that all villages in Bijepur assembly segment will be provided piped water supply and house-



Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik

Pinaki Mishra to lead BJD in Lok Sabha

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Chief Minister and BJD supreme Naveen Patnaik has appointed Puri MP Pinaki Mishra as the parliamentary party leader in the Lok Sabha. The post was earlier held by Cuttack MP Bhartruhari Mahtab. Kandhamal MP Achyuta Samanta is the chief whip for the party. Mishra defeated BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra in the general election in Puri Lok Sabha constituency. **ENS**

hold connection in two years.

The package also promises a new mega lift irrigation project by sourcing water from River Ong at an estimated cost of Rs 48 crore, 29 river lift projects and 3000 deep borewell irrigation projects. The package also promises that about 34,000 eligible households with kutcha houses will be provided with pucca houses.

Patnaik's move comes amid a war of words between the BJD and the BJP. BJD Minister Susanta Singh had recently questioned why the Narendra Modi cabinet did not include MPs from western Odisha, despite the party winning Sundergarh, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Bargarh and Sambalpur seats. The BJP had replied that the region is being represented by Dharmendra Pradhan, who has been given the Petroleum and Steel portfolios. Pradhan is currently a Rajya Sabha MP from Madhya Pradesh.

The BJP has slammed Naveen's decision to vacate Bijepur, calling it a "betrayal of western Odisha". The party has said that despite being invited by western Odisha people and getting their votes, the Chief Minister has "ignored them".

BJP using Jai Shri Ram to mix religion, politics: Mamata

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JUNE 2

WEST BENGAL Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday said the BJP is using 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans to "mix religion with politics". A Delhi BJP leader, meanwhile, has written to Banerjee, urging her to chant Lord Ram's name as it "removes the effects of bad spirits".

In a Facebook post, Banerjee alleged that the BJP was making attempts to "sell hate ideology through vandalism and violence". "Jai Sia Ram, Jai Ramji ki, Ram Naam Satya Hai, etc., have religious and social connotations. We respect these sentiments. But the BJP is using religious slogan 'Jai Sri Ram' as its party slogan in a misleading manner by way of mixing religion with politics. We do



RSS workers take part in a route march at Beldanga in Murshidabad district of West Bengal on Sunday. *PTI*

not respect this forcible enforcement of political slogans on others in the name of so called RSS which Bengal has never accepted," she wrote.

The remark came days after

she confronted some alleged BJP supporters for raising 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans as her convoy was passing by. Banerjee had then reprimanded the people and also asked police to take action against them.

"This is a deliberate attempt to sell hate ideology through vandalism and violence, which we must oppose together. One can fool some people sometimes, but cannot fool all the people all the time," she wrote in her post.

"From Ram Mohan Roy to Vidyasagar to other great social reformers, Bengal has been a seat of harmony, progress and forward thinking. But now, the misconceived strategy of BJP is targeting Bengal in a very negative manner. This is high time that proper action is taken to restrain political workers from creating unrest, chaos, violence and disrupt normal life by taking recourse to misplaced ideologies in the so called name of religion and create divide among the people," she wrote.

Praveen Shankar Kapoor, a spokesperson in the Delhi BJP unit, has written to Banerjee, urg-

ing her to chant Lord Ram's name.

"The effects of bad spirits has gone up to an extent that now mere chanting of 'Jai Shri Ram' in front of you provokes you to shout," Kapoor has said in the letter. "Please accept my gift of 'Bhagwan Shri Ram Naam Mantra' sent through Amazon. I request you to keep it on your work table and it will soon remove the effect of bad spirits on you and make you follow the path of Ram Rajya in public service," he said.

Kapoor's colleague Tajinderpal Singh Bagga and BJP MP Arjun Singh had said they would launch campaigns to send postcards with 'Jai Shri Ram' written on them to Banerjee. Bagga, who was detained before the launch of his campaign in Kolkata, claimed that around 25 lakh postcards were sent to Banerjee by BJP workers and supporters. **WITHPTI INPUTS**

UP: Special court allows govt to withdraw 2010 case against Rita Bahuguna Joshi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JUNE 2

A **SPECIAL** court in Prayagraj has allowed the Uttar Pradesh government's plea to withdraw a case lodged against cabinet minister Rita Bahuguna Joshi in 2010.

Joshi, who has now become BJP MP from Allahabad, was Congress state president when the case was filed against her at Wazirganj police station in Lucknow. She was accused of attacking a police team when she,



Joshi was in the Congress when the case was lodged

along with Congress workers, was stopped from marching towards the chief minister's resi-

dence during a protest. Around three months back, the state government moved an application in the special court (MPs/MLAs), seeking to withdraw the case. "Special Judge Pawan Kumar Tiwari on Saturday allowed the application," said District Government Counsel of Prayagraj, Gulab Chand Agrihari.

According to the prosecution, the case dates back to February 16, 2010 when Congress leaders were protesting against the state government at Shaheed Smarak in Wazirganj police station area.

When the Congress leaders were moving towards the chief minister's residence to stage a protest, police stopped them. The protesters then broke police barricade and also threw stones at the policemen. The police had to use mild force to control the situation.

Then station house officer of Wazirganj police station, Om Prakash Sharma, lodged an FIR following the incident. The police investigated and filed a chargesheet against Joshi and one Meera Singh on various charges.

Chhattisgarh: Ousted A-G meets Governor to present his case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, JUNE 2

THE CONTROVERSY over the appointment of a new Advocate General by the Congress government in Chhattisgarh, with his predecessor insisting that he has not resigned, continued for the second day on Sunday.

Kanak Tiwari, a 78-year-old senior lawyer and Congressman, who was replaced by Satish Chandra Verma, met Governor in-charge Anandiben Patel and apprised her of his point of view. The meeting came on a day when both the BJP and Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (Jogi) (JCC) continued their attack on the Congress.

On Friday night, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had said that the government received a resignation from Tiwari, and that a replacement had been identified. Even as Tiwari insisted on public platforms that he had done no such thing, the government issued an order late on Friday night, with the Governor's approval, that Tiwari had been replaced by Satish Chandra Verma, known to be close to Baghel.

Tiwari then alleged that this situation had developed after he

had advised the government against undue haste in cases against the previous government, which have seen setbacks in the High Court.

On Sunday, Tiwari said that if any action is taken by a government against the stature and constitutionality of the position of the Advocate General, he cannot support it. He said that he had apprised the Governor of the facts of the case and submitted a petition to her. He also said that the position of the Advocate General should not be used to humiliate an elder statesman and appoint a much junior lawyer.

Meanwhile, even as the BJP kept up its attack on the Congress, calling it "jungle raj", Amit Jogi of the JCC wrote a 17-point letter to Congress president Rahul Gandhi. Pointing to examples from an alleged social media account of Satish Chandra Verma that has been deleted, he said that his opinions over the past five years were clearly "anti-Congress" and against the "Nehru Gandhi paradigm". "I have written to the Congress president to ask him to clarify that by appointing a person with such views as Advocate General, is Chhattisgarh still a state which lives under the rule of Gandhi, or has it turned into one where Godse rules?" Jogi said.

Cong's Dewas candidate says office-bearers in party casteist

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, JUNE 2

PRAHLAD TIPANYA, the Congress candidate from Dewas Lok Sabha seat, has alleged that the party has many upper caste office-bearers who don't support Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates during elections.

Famous for singing songs of the poet Kabir in Malwa folk style, Tipanya lost from the reserved constituency by a margin of 3,72,249 votes to BJP's Mahendra Solanki. "Very few people extend their full cooperation in reserved constituencies. Some (upper castes) openly say we don't have to contest any election from there," he told *The Indian Express* on Sunday. Tipanya said he had conveyed the same to a party leader who sought feedback over the party's loss.

Tipanya, who was awarded the Padma Shri in 2011, said the Congress won four Assembly segments of the Dewas Lok Sabha constituency in the December polls, but fared poorly in the area four months later. Hinting at sabotage, he claimed that had he received support from office-bearers, things would have been different.

Surendra Chaudhary and Ajay Shah, in-charge of Congress's SC and ST units, respectively, refused to comment.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF CITIZENS

MHA to assist Assam to set up 1,000 tribunals

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 2

WITH MORE than 40 lakh people in Assam excluded from the draft National Register of Citizens, the Centre has decided to extend assistance to the state government in setting up 1,000 tribunals where people can contest their exclusion. These tribunals have to be set up after the NRC is published on July 31, but the efforts are stymied by paucity of legal staff.

Sources said that B R Sharma, Secretary (Border Management)

in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), recently held a meeting to discuss Assam government's proposal for creation of e-Foreigners Tribunals and creation of 1,000 additional Foreigners Tribunals.

The Centre is also in the process of giving its approval to the state government's proposal to set up e-Foreigners Tribunals for those who were declared illegal immigrants, an official said.

When the draft NRC was published on July 30, 2018, there was a huge controversy over the exclusion of 40.7 lakh people, with

the draft including 2.9 crore names of the total 3.29 crore applications.

The MHA decision comes after the Supreme Court recently questioned the state government's plan to set up 1,000 Foreigners Tribunals, pointing out that it would be difficult to find 1,000 legal officers to preside over them.

The state government, along with the MHA and agencies, has been tasked to identify retired judicial officers for the purpose. The tribunals will require nearly 12,000 personnel, including judicial officers.

The new tribunals would ease the burden of 100 existing tribunals as cases of those languishing in detention centre will be disposed of faster.

Some 30 lakh of the 40.7 lakh people left out of the draft NRC filed for inclusion of their names. Around 600 objections were submitted by individuals who suspect the citizenship of others who made it to the list.

The Supreme Court, which is monitoring the NRC update process, has made it clear that the final NRC has to be published on July 31, 2019.

7 EXPRESS NETWORK



NORTH Mentally-challenged minor raped in UP, one held

Meerut: A 13-year-old mentally-challenged girl was allegedly raped by two scrap dealers, aged 30 and 34, in a Meerut village for four months. One of the accused was arrested on Sunday, while raids were being conducted to nab the other. Police are also on the lookout for a woman who col-luded with the men. "On the

pretext of evening strolls, the woman used to take the victim to a nearby scrap shop where the two men would rape her," said the in-charge of the police station where a case has been filed under IPC Section 376 and POCSO Act. Her family learnt about the incident when she showed signs of pregnancy. **ENS**



Children take respite from the heat in Noida. Several parts of the country reeled under heatwave conditions that claimed one life in Rajasthan, with the IMD saying there will be no respite for the next two days. *Cajendra Yadav*

WEST 5 held for assaulting man, using casteist slurs

Vadodara: Dabhoi police on Sunday arrested five persons for allegedly beating up a man and using casteist slurs against him following a minor road accident. Those arrested were identified as Akash Patanwadiya, Ravji Patanwadiya, Manoj Patanwadiya, Balwant Patanwadiya and Arvind Patanwadiya. Two others, Jatini

and Shankar, who have also been named in the FIR, are on the run. According to the complaint filed by one Kailashben Vasava, Vasava's son and Akash had an altercation when their tempos collided. Akash was joined by six others who allegedly beat her son with sticks, besides threatening to kill him and abusing him for his caste. **ENS**

EAST SSB man killed in encounter with Maoists in Jharkhand

Dumka: A Sashastra Seema Bal personnel was killed and four others were injured in an encounter between security forces and Maoists in Dumka district of Jharkhand early Sunday, police said. At least five ultras also suffered bullet injuries, but they retreated into the forest of Taldangal where a search operation has

been going on, SP Y S Ramesh said. The Maoists fired on the joint team of SSB and police around 3.30 am after noticing the personnel, who also retaliated. Five SSB personnel suffered bullet injuries and one of them, identified as Niraj Chetry, a resident of Sonitpur in Assam, died. **PTI**

SOUTH 2 brothers run over by tractor for 'demanding wages'

Hyderabad: A real estate contractor allegedly ran his tractor over two brothers for their demand that their pending labour wages be cleared. The incident was reported in Krishnapuram village in Maddenapalli mandal of Chittoor district Sunday evening. N Chandra Naik had hired Hari Krishna and Hari Bhushan to ferry bricks and

sand to a construction site. According to Maddenapalli Police, Naik delayed payment of Rs 3,000 each to the brothers, an amount pending since 15 days. "Both brothers died on the spot. Naik fled as villagers started gathering. He is absconding and we have launched a manhunt for him," police said. **ENS**

'Gun seized by Maharashtra ATS was used to train Lankesh killers'

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, JUNE 2

THE FORENSIC analysis of 16 country-made guns recovered by Maharashtra ATS in August 2018 during a crackdown on an extremist group linked to Sanatan Sanstha has revealed that one of the guns was used for training two persons directly involved in the shooting of journalist Gauri Lankesh outside her Bengaluru home on September 5, 2017, sources have said.

The analysis of the 7.65 mm country-made guns was carried out recently by experts at the Forensic Science Laboratory of Karnataka Police to ascertain whether any of the guns were used to shoot Lankesh. The analysis also compared bullets and cartridges found in Kineye forest near Belagavi — where the killers received training before the mur-

der — with bullets and cartridges fired from the seized weapons.

The analysis has revealed that one of the guns was used in a practice session held in August 2017, police and forensic sources said. The new finding adds to an earlier finding which indicated that the 7.65 mm gun used to kill Lankesh was also used in practice sessions in the Kineye forest.

A Karnataka police SIT investigating the Gauri Lankesh murder case has found that the journalist was allegedly shot by Parashuram Waghmare, 26, who was recruited and trained by an organised syndicate linked to Sanatan Sanstha. Waghmare and an associate Ganesh Miskin, 27, reached the journalist's home on a motorcycle and shot her at the gate, says the SIT's chargesheet filed on November 23, 2018.

The SIT probe has found that weeks before the murder, Waghmare and Miskin were



Gauri Lankesh

trained to use the gun by three others allegedly involved in the plot, including Amol Kale, a former Pune convener of Sanathan Sanstha affiliate Hindu Janajagruti Samiti.

In October 2018, a suspect who was allegedly at the training camp ahead of the Lankesh murder and was arrested by the SIT, took police and forensic experts to the site of the camp. A search unearthed six expended bullets and six cartridges.

In a report dated November 13, 2018 on the analysis of the bullets and cartridges, the Karnataka Forensic Science lab said that one of the six bullets and

one of the six cartridges found at the site were fired from the 7.65 mm gun used to shoot Lankesh.

The analysis of the bullets and cartridges revealed that one bullet and one cartridge had the same markings as those found on four bullets fired at Lankesh, indicating that the same 7.65 mm country-made pistol was fired at the two sites, the report has stated.

The finding helped establish the fact that the persons involved in the murder of the journalist were in possession of the murder weapon prior to occurrence of the crime, police sources said. Ballistic evidence has played a central role in the Lankesh murder case.

Following the murder, police recovered three bullets that hit her and a bullet that missed her along with the four empty cartridges. The bullets and cartridges were sent for forensic analysis and comparison with bullets and

cartridges from the August 30, 2015 shooting of Kannada scholar M M Kalburgi, which occurred under similar circumstances.

In a September 13, 2017 ballistics report provided to the SIT, the Forensic Science Laboratory reported that the analysis of the bullets and cartridges in the two murder cases had revealed that Kalburgi and Lankesh were killed with the same pistol.

Forensic comparison done in 2015 of bullets and cartridges from the Kalburgi case with those recovered from the scene of the shooting of Lankesh Govind Pansare, 81, and his wife in Kolhapur on February 16, 2015 showed that one of the two guns from the shooting of Pansare was used to kill Kalburgi.

The findings in 2015 and 2017 helped establish the fact that the shootings of Pansare, Kalburgi and Lankesh were carried out with the same gun.

Body of missing girl found with arm chopped off

Lucknow: Around three days after a three-year-old girl went missing from outside her relative's house in Aligarh, her partially decomposed body with one arm chopped off from the elbow was found in a pile of garbage on Sunday morning.

Police are waiting for the postmortem report to find if the girl was sexually assaulted and also looking at the possibility of child sacrifice.

"Around three days ago, the girl was playing outside her uncle's house from where she went missing. An FIR against unidentified persons was registered for kidnapping at the nearby police station the same day and police conducted a search in the area. On Sunday morning, her body was found in a pile of garbage around 60 metres from the house," said Circle Officer (CO) of the area.

"So far we cannot say if there was sexual assault as the body is in a bad condition because of heat. However, we are not ruling out the possibility. Things would be more clear after the post-mortem report," he said. **ENS**

UTTARAKHAND

Eight mountaineers still missing, four from UK rescued

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PITHORAGARH, JUNE 2

EIGHT MOUNTAINEERS, including seven foreigners, reported missing since May 25, continued to be untraceable on Sunday, when authorities managed to rescue four other climbers from UK, stuck near the base camp of Nanda Devi East peak in Pithoragarh.

Pithoragarh District Magistrate V K Jogdande said the four climbers were spotted 21 km from the base camp and rescued during a sortie undertaken to locate the missing eight-member team led by well-known British climber Martin Moran.

The four-member team rescued on Sunday, all British nationals, was led by 44-year old Mark Thomas. The other three members were Zachary Quain, 32, Kate Armstone, 39 and Ian Wade, 45.

Two sorties were conducted Sunday to locate Moran's team, said Jogdande, adding more sor-

ties will be held on Monday to trace them.

The four mountaineers rescued Sunday told authorities that when they last got in touch with Moran's team on May 24, they were heading for some peak other than Nanda Devi East.

Moran's eight-member team went missing on way to the 7,434-metre-high Nanda Devi East peak in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district.

Moran's team includes three climbers from the UK, two from the US and one from Australia, besides an officer from the Indian Mountaineering Foundation, New Delhi. The eight missing climbers are Martin Moran, John McLaren, Richard Payne and Rupert Havel from the UK, Anthony Sudecam and Rachel Bimmel from the US, Ruth Macrair from Australia and IMF's Chetan Pandey.

The district administration launched the search operation after people at the base camp alerted authorities late on Friday.

Goa: Woman hammers husband to death

Panaji: An aircraft handler posted with *INS Hansa* was hammered to death by his wife at Vasco on Saturday night, ending a long marriage of domestic abuse, confirmed the police. The woman has been booked for murder, police said.

According to Deputy SP Sunita Sawant, Kulshehra Singh was one of the aircraft handlers at Dabolim's naval air station. He was in the habit of beating his wife and was also known to be an alcoholic, according to the statement given by neighbours to the Vasco Police.

The woman, who called the neighbours on Saturday night, admitted that they had a long fight, after which she used a kitchen appliance to hammer his head several times, she told the police. The woman later called the neighbours who rushed the man to the naval hospital. "He was declared brought dead. The post mortem has shown there are 12 to 14 deep injuries on the head and lot of blood loss, and he seems to have died due to the beating. We have recorded the statement of the woman and she is under arrest," Sawant said. **ENS**

Army personnel assaulted in Baghpat

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NOIDA, JUNE 2

TWO ARMY personnel were assaulted with sticks and rods by a group of people over a minor argument in a Baghpat restaurant on Saturday. The two victims, identified as Azad Singh and Amit Rathi, were visiting an eatery in Baghpat's Banaut with a child when an argument with a third person escalated to the point of a full-fledged assault against them.

"There is a hotel called Indica in which the two Army persons had gone to have food. While they were eating, another customer came and an argument ensued which soon escalated. A waiter

was called and he also got involved in it. The Army persons and the other people soon went outside and there was a fight there. As per the complaint of the Army personnel a case has been registered under Section 307 (at-tempt to murder) against the waiters. Seven people have been arrested and further investigation is pending," said RK Khushwaha, Circle Officer, Banaut.

A video of the incident which went viral on social media showed people dragging Amit and Azad to the ground and beating them with sticks. Both received injuries on the upper part of the body and were bleeding, which was visible in the video. A large crowd was seen in the video, but no one was seen going to the rescue of the Army personnel.

"We had gone to the restaurant with a small child. While we were eating a man came and started drinking water from the glass kept on our table. We didn't say anything. We submitted a bill of Rs 250 and we told the staff that a random person came to our table and it was not appropriate. He began arguing over our small complaint, which escalated," Azad Singh said.

SHAH VISITS POLICE MEMORIAL

Home Minister Amit Shah Sunday visited the National Police Memorial in Delhi and paid tributes to over 34,000 policemen who were killed in the line of duty. "A grateful nation is indebted to them... I pay my utmost respects to those martyrs and their families," he said. *Prem Nath Pandey*

Kerala man being examined for Nipah, no confirmation yet

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, JUNE 2

THE NATIONAL Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) is investigating a sample from a man in Kerala who is suspected to be carrying the Nipah virus. NCDC authorities have told *The Indian Express* that the sample is being investigated and there has been no confirmation so far.

A young man from Ernakulam district in Kerala, who has been suffering from fever for the last 10 days, has been admitted to a private hospital and kept under isolation, Kerala health authorities have said. Samples have been sent to a private laboratory at Bengaluru — National Institute of Virology and Virus Research Diagnostic Laboratory at Manipal.

At the Indian Council of Medical Research, highly placed officials have said they will be able to give a correct picture by

Monday. "We are waiting to receive the sample and test it," the official said.

Meanwhile, Ernakulam district officials have rejected social media reports claiming that a Nipah virus case had been confirmed.

In a statement, Ernakulam District Collector K Mohammed Y Saifurulla has said such reports are baseless and there was no need for concern.

If the disease is confirmed, it will be officially conveyed to the public and necessary precautions will be taken to control its spread, the Collector said, and appealed to all to desist from spreading panic.

Last year, a Nipah outbreak in Kerala claimed 17 lives in Kozhikode and Malappuram districts.

Sources from the Kerala health department said a positive sign in the man from Ernakulam is that he does not have respiratory symptoms of being affected with the virus.

WITH PTI INPUTS

EXPLAINED What is Nipah?

NIPAH VIRUS infection is an emerging zoonotic disease of public health importance in the WHO South East Asia region with a high case fatality rate estimated to range between 40 and 75 per cent. It was first recognised in 1998-99 during an outbreak among pig farmers in Malaysia and Singapore. The virus can be transmitted to humans from animals (such as bats or pigs). Fruit bats are the natural host of the virus.

FROM PAGE ONE

Cricket gives hope to village in Dhanbad

the bus fare was tough for them and they were on the verge of quitting," says Srivastava, the coach. "For me, it was my entire childhood in rewind mode. I was so passionate about cricket but could not pursue the game professionally because of a middle-class mentality at home. We used to be beaten up for playing cricket. Now, there were these youngsters who cycled for hours and travelled on trucks to reach my academy. I promised myself and Kenduata and villagers that their dreams won't be crushed," says Srivastava.

Soon, the coach visited the village, met the elders and pitched the idea of getting the youngsters to play. "There was a ground where people used to play football.

However, after a Maoist attack in the year 2000 during a football match, there weren't many takers... there was much work to do," says Srivastava, referring to the killing of Bihar Higher Education Minister Dr Saba Ahmed in October 2000, before Jharkhand was officially declared a separate state. "The families were sceptical but after seeing the youngsters' enthusiasm, they relented. In the next few days, I handed them a surplus cricket mat, nets, bats, pads and other equipment to Tudu and his team. I would visit the village once a week to train them. A few sports shops in Dhanbad gave me cricketing gear at cost price... Students started coming in and an environment was created," says Srivastava.

"Earlier, some of our youngsters used to waste their time drinking hadiya (a local rice beer)... many were jobless. Since we started playing cricket, they wait

for our annual tournament to happen. Now, many hope that some of us would make it to the district cricket team," says Tudu.

Apart from Tudu, the first batch from the village included Rajesh Murmu, once a batsman and now a teacher, and Budhan Murmu, an aspiring batsman whose family owns a ration shop. Then there's Anil Manjhi, who made it to a department team in Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCL) — he works as a mechanical fitter in the company.

The tribal cricketers admit that they are still a long way away from where they want to be. Srivastava is now able to make it "only once or twice a month", there is "not enough gear", and practice is conducted on a weathered mat with used leather balls and old bats. "There is a dire need of funding," says the Dhanbad coach.

But no one's giving up. Today, over 20 cricketers, ranging from 10 to 30 years of age, gear up every

day in Kenduata and under the scorching summer sun. They practise from Thursday to Sunday for three hours every day starting 6.30 am. The village has also become the venue of a 'premier league', with four teams competing over a month every year. Youngsters from neighbouring villages have also started trickling in.

"Whenever matches are organised, it looks like a fair and the entire village is involved. The boys have got a purpose in life," says Durga Tudu, 70, Sipon's father. He remains apprehensive about the road ahead, though. "Jab iss gaon se koi Dhoni banega, tab dekheinge (When someone from this village becomes like Dhoni, then we will see)."

But Sipon Tudu remains hopeful. "A few girls have now started learning the game. Even my seven-year-old niece has started practising with a custom-made bat and a leather ball."

11-year-old Polish girl writes to PM, seeks removal from blacklist

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, JUNE 2

WITH HER mother's repeated pleas to get an entry back to India failing, an 11-year-old Polish girl has now reached out to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and newly-appointed External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

The handwritten letter by Alicja Wanatko is addressed to the Prime Minister and has been tweeted by her mother Marta Kotlarska. "I pray to Shiva and Nanda Devi to help us and I have decided to write to you because you are the most powerful person that can help me and my mum come back to India, my home. Please help us and allow to remove us from this blacklist so that we can be happy again," the

letter reads. Marta has also tagged the External Affairs Minister, seeking help in the matter.

In the letter, Wanatko has said she came to live in India five years ago with her mother. After her father left them, they continued to stay in Goa, where Marta works as a photographer.

Marta, who was on a multiple entry-B2 business visa to India was not allowed entry at Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, on March 24, when she was returning from Sri Lanka where she had gone to renew her Indian visa. "My mum could not re-enter India on 24th March, 2019 after a short trip out and we were told we were blacklisted due to our overstay," the letter reads.

The government allowed Marta to return to pick up her daughter on the condition that

she had to leave the country. Both mother and daughter are now waiting in Cambodia and trying to get permission to enter India.

Wanatko has said "Hindustan" is where "all her friends, animals, school and happiness still is".

She has also written that she misses Goa where she lived, and mostly the cows at the animal resource centre where she volunteered. "I love my school in Goa, the beautiful nature, and I am missing my volunteering in the animal rescue centre there where I was helping to take care of cows. I am now with my mum, but am missing my old life in my favourite country more than ever... I know my animals will be so confused without me and I cannot sleep without feeling angry or upset," she writes.

6 electrocuted, 6 injured as auto-rickshaw hits electric pole

Hyderabad: Six people were electrocuted while six others received serious burn injuries when the auto-rickshaw they were travelling in crashed into an electric pole with live wires falling on the vehicle.

The incident occurred in Balpam Cheruvu village in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh. Officials said that 12 people were returning home from a Sunday village fair and the driver lost control of the vehicle as it was overloaded and hit the electric pole. The overhead high tension lines snapped and fell on the vehicle. While six were electrocuted, six others, including three children, received burn injuries. **ENS**

TELLING NUMBERS

30% of MPs under age 40 are postgrads, including 2 doctorates



Sujay Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil (left), Sukanta Majumdar are doctorates

OF THE 64 newly elected Lok Sabha MPs who are under age 40, more than three in four — 49, or 76% — are at least graduates, according to a data analysis by PRS Legislative Research. Nineteen of them, or nearly 30%, are postgraduates, including two doctorates.

Both doctorates are BJP MPs. Sujay Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, 37, son of Congress leader Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, was elected on a BJP ticket from Ahmednagar in Maharashtra. He holds a Master of Surgery degree in neurosurgery from Dr D Y Patil Medical College in Pune. The other doctorate is Sukanta Majumdar, elected from Balurghat in West Bengal. He got his PhD last year from

North Bengal University, from where he had also done his MSc in 2005, according to the PRS analysis.

The BJP has six MPs among the 19 under-40 postgraduates, including the two doctorates. The Congress has four. The other nine are from nine different parties — Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, TDP, Shiv Sena, JD(U), Trinamool Congress, YSRCP, Apna Dal (Soneylal), NPP and AIADMK. Three of the 19 are doctors — Vikhe Patil, Heena Vijaykumar Gavit (BJP) and Shrikant Eknath Shinde (Shiv Sena). Two others — Rammohannaidu Kinjarapu (TDP) and Gaurav Gogoi (Congress) hold a B Tech in addition to their respective PG degrees.

THE DOCTORATES AND THE POSTGRADS

The young MP	Party	Degree
Sujay R Vikhe Patil	BJP	MCh (Neurosurgery)
Sukanta Majumdar	BJP	MSc, PhD
Indira Hang Subba	SKM	MSc (Physics)
Heena Vijaykumar Gavit	BJP	MD (General Medicine), LLB
Rammohannaidu Kinjarapu	TDP	BTech, MBA
Shrikant Eknath Shinde	Shiv Sena	Master Of Surgery (Orthopaedics)
Kavita Singh	JD(U)	MA
Aparupa Poddar (Afrin Ali)	AITC	MA
Yeduguri Sandinti Avinash Reddy	YSRCP	MBA
Geeta Kora	Cong	MBA
Gaurav Gogoi	Cong	BTech, Master in Public Administration
Pritam Gopinathrao Munde	BJP	MD
Dean Kuriakose	Cong	MA (Politics & Human Rights)
Anupriya Singh Patel	Apna Dal (S)	MBA
Chavda Vinod Lakhamshi	BJP	LLB, BEd
Deepak Kumar Baij	Cong	MA
Agatha K Sangma	NPP	Masters Degree In Environmental Management
P Raveendranath Kumar	AIADMK	MBA
Feroze Varun Gandhi	BJP	MSc (Public Policy Management)

Source: PRS Legislative Research

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Peak traffic on top of the world

The death of 11 climbers on the world's highest peak has drawn worldwide attention. What does it take to climb Mount Everest? How many get permission, and how? What are the risks involved in the ascent?

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE & ANJALI MARAR
KATHMANDU, PUNE, JUNE 2

ELEVEN mountaineers, including four Indians, have been killed on Mount Everest this year — the largest number of deaths since at least 1996 when too, 11 climbers perished on the world's highest mountain. More recently, in 2015, 11 sherpas were killed on Everest.

Climbing the Himalayas is an extremely risky expedition (on Sunday, rescue teams were scouring Nanda Devi, the second highest peak in India, for eight climbers from UK, Australia, US and India, missing for more than 24 hours in a dangerous area), but the mountains, and especially Everest, have continued to draw large numbers of adventurers to them. In the 66 years since the first recorded conquest of Everest by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, more than 4,800 people have achieved the feat, and some 300 are believed to have been killed on the mountain.

The massive interest in climbing Everest has also turned the 8,848-metre peak, sacred to Buddhists, Hindus, and animists, into one of the world's dirtiest mountains — scarred by piles of garbage, from empty oxygen cylinders and stoves to human waste and even bodies of dead climbers. As part of the Everest Day celebrations — held annually to commemorate the triumph of Hillary and Tenzing on May 29, 1953 — Nepal's Army, assisted by other agencies and activists, cleared the summit route of 10,834 kg of garbage.

Who can climb Everest?

Adults over age 18, who have completed basic and advanced courses in mountaineering from recognised training institutes, are eligible. They are required to have above average physical and mental fitness. Experts say only those with four to five years' experience of Himalayan trekking, including a few peaks at heights over 7,000 metres, should attempt to climb Everest.

Applications are cleared by the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB). The climbing season is for three months, ending on May 31; however, the most favourable period, called "weather window", lasts for only about 10-12 days of May. For most of the year, a powerful westerly jet stream surrounds Everest, and the constant winds of speeds around 120 km/hr — double the maximum wind speed that climbers can usually tolerate — make it almost impossible to climb the peak. During the weather window, westerly winds blow at below 2,000 metres, and speeds can drop to 40km/hr.

What happened this year?

The NTB has not given a reason for the 11 deaths this year. "We don't really know," a senior NTB official told *The Indian Express*. "It could be loss of energy, loss of courage, waiting in low-oxygen conditions, or altitude sickness."

Indeed, even the fittest humans struggle at altitudes higher than 8,000 feet — the most common symptoms being fatigue, headaches, vomiting, and dizziness. The Everest base camp on the southern side is at 17,600 feet; Everest itself soars 29,000 feet. Beyond 26,000 feet, surviving every minute is a challenge.

A lot has been written and said about overcrowding and "traffic jams" on the peak



HEART-STOPPER

Year	Summitteers		Killed	
	Climbers	Sherpas	Climbers	Sherpas
1990	100	76	—	—
1991	146	78	2	—
1992	201	135	3	2
1993	186	159	4	1
1994	119	90	3	1
1995	164	109	—	1
1996	242	158	11	1
1997	209	163	5	3
1998	205	134	1	—
1999	170	119	4	—
2000	309	223	2	—
2001	278	228	3	1
2002	203	177	2	—
2003	436	344	3	1
2004	336	269	7	1
2005	450	392	6	—
2006	453	375	7	4
2007	538	493	6	1
2008	366	293	1	—
2009	402	386	3	2
2010	416	437	3	—
2011	423	473	4	—
2012	486	483	7	3
2013	471	550	4	4
2014	96	295	—	17
2015	173	435	3	11
2016	425	460	5	—
2017	518	532	5	1
2018	545	653	2	3

Source: The Himalaya by the Numbers: A Statistical Analysis of Mountaineering in the Nepal Himalaya, by Richard Salisbury and Elizabeth Hawley

after a picture was published in the international media showing a long line of climbers, virtually holding on to each other, making their way along a ridge. While the NTB did issue permits to a record 381 climbers in 44

A dramatic photo of the rush of climbers on Mount Everest on May 21. The last sprint to the summit is critically dependent on the weather, and predictions of several hours of clear skies brought some 250 of the 381 climbers who were given permits this year, out at the same time. Nepal has been criticised for not having a policy for permits, and for allowing virtually anyone who pays on to Everest. AP

teams this year, Karma Tenzing, who scaled Everest on May 15, said the descriptions of "traffic jams" on the mountain were "misrepresented and exaggerated". TIME magazine quoted Mohan Krishna Sapkota, Nepal's Secretary of Tourism and Civil Aviation, as saying: "There has been concern about the number of climbers on Mount Everest but it is not because of the traffic jam that there were casualties. In the next season we will work to have double rope in the area below the summit so there is better management of the flow of climbers."

The crowding happened on May 21, when some 250 out of the 381 climbers — accompanied by a roughly equal number of sherpas — attempted to reach the summit all at once. "Sophisticated technology has contributed to a very accurate weather forecast, and climbers for that day had hours of fair weather to get to the top," said Suman Pande, Nepal's leading tourism and hospitality entrepreneur.

Is it difficult to get a permit?

On the contrary, generally, all applications received at the NTB are granted permits. "We issue permits on a first-come-first-served basis," said Meera Acharya, who coordinated on behalf of the NTB with various stakeholders of this year's expedition. Critics have said that the absence of a policy has allowed many non-serious or inadequately trained individuals to attempt the climb, putting lives at risk.

The NTB awards permits to groups of mountaineers against a payment for \$11,000 (approximately Rs 7.65 lakh), plus a refundable deposit of \$4,000, which is returned after verifying that the climber has adhered to all regulations. Climbers from India said expeditions are planned by a mountaineering

agency or company that is recognised by Nepal's government. Individual climbers pay \$35,000 (about Rs 24.3 lakh) to the agency, which covers transport, camping and lodging, food, medicine and the company of a sherpa per climber. Each sherpa is paid between Rs 3 lakh and Rs 4 lakh.

What equipment is needed?

The list of mandatory climbing gear includes 20-22 different types of equipment, including headgear, goggles, various rappelling devices like harness, carabiner and descenders, mountain boots, crampons, ropes, ice-sacks, etc. Special clothing includes a down jacket, mountain boots, windproof thermal layers, mitten gloves, thermal socks, oxygen masks and sleeping bags. The clothing can cost Rs 5 lakh, the most expensive items being the down jacket (Rs 60,000 to Rs 80,000) and the mountain boots (Rs 50,000 to Rs 60,000). Climbers also require at least five 4.5-kg oxygen cylinders, plus a spare. Each cylinder lasts 7-8 hours at normal usage rate.

"Only those with required experience of Himalayan mountaineering and good fitness levels must attempt such a feat. The mountaineers must be well aware of their own body's responses at such high altitudes and must have expertise to judge challenging situations, including taking halts at appropriate places and from time-to-time," said Umesh Zirpe, president, Akhil Maharashtra Giryarohan Mahasangha, Mumbai.

While there can be no control over weather conditions, the possibility of human-induced errors needs to be addressed, experts say. "The system we have is not perfect, but we are trying to make it foolproof and more credible," an NTB official said.

EXPERTS EXPLAIN

Months after Raje ceded Assembly, how BJP swept all LS seats again



CHRISTOPHE JAFFRELOT & JUSMEET SINGH SIHRA

RAJASTHAN IS one of the states where the BJP swept all 25 seats in both the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha (LS) polls. Even though many commentators believed there was no "Modi wave" in the 2019 elections, the victory in Rajasthan for the BJP is even bigger in 2019 than in 2014. The average vote share of the winning BJP candidates has increased from 54.08 per cent in 2014 to 60.35 per cent in 2019. The average winning margin of the BJP candidates has increased by almost a lakh between the two elections (from 2.5 lakh votes in 2014 to 3.4 lakh votes in 2019).

Rajasthan, however, presents a curious case. In the December 2018 Vidhan Sabha (VS) elections, the Congress made a strong comeback, and formed the government in the state with the help of the BSP's two seats. So, what happened in the last five months that the Congress could not win a single seat in Rajasthan in Lok Sabha?

One, it has to do with the way Rajasthan's voters voted in the 2018 VS elections. Voters wanted to punish Vasundhara

Raje for several reasons — agrarian distress, Rajput anger, her alleged governance scams, her uneasy relationship with the RSS, an increasingly arrogant image of her as a *maharani* and a general anti-incumbency in the state where power alters alternatively between the Congress and the BJP every VS election. The slogan *Modi tujhse bair nahin, rami teri khair nahin* (We have no grudges against you, Modi, but Vasundhara will not be spared) encapsulates it all. The Congress used all this to its advantage. Moreover, it brought the Muslims and Dalits to its fold after a spate of lynchings of individuals of both communities. Vasundhara Raje was ousted, but Modi was spared.

In the 2019 LS elections, the loan waivers that Congress announced after winning in Rajasthan backfired. Only loans from cooperative and land development banks were waived and not those from commercial and rural banks. This gave an impression of a half-hearted implementation of the scheme. Farmers, anyway, were less excited about it since loan waivers would not address the deeper structural issues such as minimum support price or the water crisis. With the Model Code of Conduct kicking in on March 10, the Congress ran out of time to do anything more substantial.

There were other regional issues that weakened the Congress considerably in the state. First, sources in the Rajasthan Congress said that workers were disgruntled with the Congress faction leaders. After the 2018 vic-

DECISION 2019
STATE BY STATE
RAJASTHAN NEXT
MADHYA PRADESH

tory, only those closer to Ashok Gehlot, Sachin Pilot and C P Joshi were rewarded. Further, workers were not consulted about the choice of 2019 candidates. While experienced party workers were sidelined, new faces were put in the fray in at least 10 seats. Then, the winning/losing 2018 MLAs were given charge of leading campaigns in their VS constituencies. But those who were not favoured previously by the Congress for the MLA ticket barely extended their support, and worked against the 2018 MLA candidates. The infighting thus continued at many levels.

Second, the Congress lost support within two key communities in the state — the Gujjars and the Jats. Gujjars were still unhappy about Sachin Pilot not being made Chief Minister. The Congress candidate could not come first even from Pilot's VS seat Tonk in the 2019 LS elections due to Gujjars ditching the Congress, according to sources

in the Congress. Besides, the BJP received crucial Gujjar support with Kirori Singh Bainsla, the prominent leader of the Gujjar quota agitation, joining the BJP along with his son Vijay Bainsla before the LS elections.

Jat support to the Congress was severely diminished due to the way it tackled the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) leader Hanuman Beniwal. Beniwal commands strong support amongst the Jat voters and the party won three seats in the 2018 VS elections and came second in at least two seats. His discussions with the Congress for the ticket from the Nagaur LS seat, his home turf, went in vain and Congress instead fielded Dr Jyoti Mirdha, a dynast from a very prominent Jat family (her grandfather was a six-time MP and four-time MLA). BJP quickly made the best of it and allied with Beniwal despite his acrimonious relationship with Vasundhara Raje. The Beniwal factor got huge Jat support to the BJP in the state and contributed significantly to the defeat of Ashok Gehlot's son Vaibhav Gehlot from Jodhpur. What also contributed to Vaibhav Gehlot's defeat was further resistance from the Jat community at the behest of Congress MLA Divya Maderna. Ashok Gehlot had sacked her father Mahipal Maderna in 2011 from the Cabinet due to his alleged involvement in the Bhanwari Devi murder case. It was Divya's chance to settle scores.

The Jat factor also influenced the result of the high-profile contest of Congress candidate Manvendra Singh, son of the former



A BJP worker in Bikaner celebrates during counting on May 23. PTI

BJP IMPROVES FROM 2014 TO 2019

	2014	2019
Average vote share	54.08%	60.35%
Av. victory margin	2.5 lakh	3.4 lakh

BJP veteran Jaswant Singh. Kailash Chaudhary, a Jat, from the BJP was pitted against Manvendra. Although Manvendra was able to amass Rajput as well as Muslim votes, Jat and upper caste votes were consolidated for Chaudhary. Moreover, Ummeda Ram, an SC who was Beniwal's RLP candidate in Baytu (an SC seat in Barmer) in the 2018 VS elections, helped

some SC votes be transferred in favour of the BJP Jat candidate.

In two of the four SC seats, the BJP played the card of uniting other SC *Jatis* against the dominant Jatav caste. In Bharatpur, it fielded Ranjeeta Koli, a Koli candidate, and in Karauli-Dholpur, it fielded Manoj Rajoria, a Khatik candidate. In Bikaner and Ganganagar, the BJP, like the Congress, fielded a candidate from the dominant Meghwal caste.

In at least two seats, the decision of Congress to field a candidate from the "reserved category" in "General" seats backfired. Congress fielded a Meena candidate each from Kota and Tonk-Sawai Madhopur which led to protests by upper castes.

These local vignettes show that in Rajasthan, while Modi's popularity, Hindutva, and the post-Pulwama nationalism played a huge role, there were a series of important state-related factors affecting the Congress, as well as delicate and shrewd caste calculations on the part of BJP that took the saffron party to its massive victory in Rajasthan.

Christophe Jaffrelot is Senior Research Fellow at CERI-Sciences Po/CNRS, Paris, professor of Indian Politics & Sociology at King's India Institute, London, and non-resident scholar at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Jusmeet Singh Sihra is a doctoral student in sociology and politics jointly at CERI-Sciences Po and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



MEANWHILE
POPE APOLOGISES TO ROMA

Pope Francis apologised to the Roma people on Sunday for the Roman Catholic Church's "discrimination" against them as he wrapped up a visit to Romania. Making up around 10 per cent of Romania's 20 million people, many Roma are marginalised and live in poverty and have suffered centuries of discrimination and insults.

TOPOF THE
WORLD



BRITAIN
Trump urges
UK to go for
no-deal Brexit

London: Britain should go for a no-deal Brexit with the EU and refuse to pay the agreed £39 billion (\$50 billion) divorce bill, US President Donald Trump told the *Sunday Times* newspaper on the eve of a visit to London. The comments by America's outspoken leader came after he told the *Sun* newspaper he thought former foreign secretary Boris Johnson would make an "excellent" prime minister to take over from Theresa May, the current leader who is to resign June 7 after failing to get her EU divorce text through Parliament. Trump is to embark on a three-day state visit to Britain from Monday, during which he will meet Queen Elizabeth II and have talks with May.

SRI LANKA
Presidential
polls to be held
after Nov 15

Colombo: The presidential elections in Sri Lanka would be held between November 15 and December 7, Election Commission chairman Mahinda Deshapriya has said, clarifying that according to constitutional provisions the polls must be held one month before the end of the current president's term. Deshapriya's clarification on the constitutional provisions regarding the date for the next presidential elections came after President Maithripala Sirisena told reporters last week in New Delhi that the presidential polls are likely to take place on December 7.

IRAQ
Nine French
jihadists now on
death row in Iraq

Baghdad: Nine French jihadists are now on death row in Iraq after a court sentenced two more to death on Sunday for joining the Islamic State group, rejecting a claim of torture. Fodil Tahar Aouidate and Vianney Ouraghi were among 11 French citizens and one Tunisian handed over to Iraqi authorities in January by a US-backed force fighting the jihadist group in Syria.

US prepared to engage with Iran without pre-conditions: Pompeo

Tehran says US offer just word-play, seeks action instead

DAVID BRUNNSTROM & JOHN REVILL
BELLINZONA (SWITZERLAND),
JUNE 2

THE UNITED STATES is prepared to engage with Iran without pre-conditions about its nuclear program but needs to see the country behaving like "a normal nation", US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Sunday.

Iran responded by calling the offer "word-play", and asked for action instead. Iran's President Hassan Rouhani suggested on Saturday that Iran may be willing to hold talks if Washington showed it respect, but said Tehran would not be pressured into talks.

Pompeo, in an apparent softening of his previous stance, said when asked about Rouhani's remarks: "We are prepared to engage in a conversation with no pre-conditions, we are ready to sit down." However, he said Washington would continue to



We are certainly prepared to have that conversation when the Iranians can prove that they want to behave like a normal nation."

MIKE POMPEO
US SECRETARY OF STATE

work to "reverse the malign activity" of Iran in West Asia, citing Tehran's support to Hezbollah and to the Syrian government.

Pompeo said US President Donald Trump had been saying for a long time that he was willing to talk to Iran.

"We are certainly prepared to have that conversation when the Iranians can prove that they want to behave like a normal nation," Pompeo told a joint news conference with his Swiss counterpart Ignazio Cassis in the southern Swiss city of Bellinzona.

Responding to the US offer, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman

Abbas Mousavi said: "The Islamic Republic of Iran does not pay attention to word-play and expression of hidden agenda in new forms. What matters is the change of US general approach and actual behaviour towards the Iranian nation." Mousavi was quoted as saying by Mehr news agency "Pompeo's emphasis on the continuation of maximum pressure on Iran is the same old wrong policy that needs reform".

Trump said last Monday he was hopeful Iran would come to the negotiating table. But Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday

EXPLAINED
Calming tensions to avoid a war neither side wants to fight

POMPEO'S STATEMENT that the US is willing to talk to Iran without pre-conditions is the most conciliatory message to come from the Trump administration since tensions escalated after a US military buildup in West Asia coincided with attacks on Saudi and Emirati oil infrastructure that have been blamed on Iran and its proxies. The statement comes after Iranian President Rouhani said Tehran was prepared for talks with the US if Washington showed it respect. Neither side wants an open conflict, but both have been at pains to point out that they are ready for war. This rhetoric panders to hardliners in both countries, and for the US, it also seeks to discourage any possible Iranian attacks on US interests in the region. For Iran, speaking of a readiness for war also comes from the hope that this could force the US and its allies to agree to talks on ending crippling economic sanctions.

Tehran would not negotiate with Washington, even after Rouhani had previously signalled talks might be possible if sanctions were lifted.

Cassis voiced concern at Iranian people suffering from the impact of sanctions and said that

neutral Switzerland wanted to provide humanitarian aid, "especially pharmaceutical products and foodstuffs." He said Iran needed to make payments for this, and that was possible only if the United States allowed banks to transfer payments. REUTERS

Violence at holy site in Jerusalem

Jerusalem: Hundreds of ultra-nationalist Jews guarded by riot police streamed their way into the Jerusalem compound revered both in Judaism and Islam on Sunday, resulting in violence between police and outraged Muslim worshippers.

The highly provocative visit came during the final days of Ramzan, when Muslims flock to pray at the compound's al-Aqsa mosque, the third-holiest site in Islam where non-Muslim prayer has been banned since 1187.

Police fired teargas and rubber-coated bullets to disperse worshippers, some of whom threw stones and chairs as the Jewish groups walked across the esplanade in front of the al-Aqsa to angry calls of Allahu Akbar.

One Palestinian man suffered a head injury.

Revered by Jews as Temple Mount and by Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary, it is one of the most sensitive sites in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. REUTERS



CRUISE SHIP CRASHES INTO VENICE PORT, BOAT

A cruise ship crashes into a dock in Venice Sunday. The towering, out-of-control ship, the *MSC Opera*, blared its horn as it slammed into a much smaller river boat and a dock on Giudecca Canal as dozens of people run away in panic. Four were injured. REUTERS

30 YEARS SINCE TIANANMEN

Singer missing as China cracks down on anniversary

YANAN WANG
BEIJING, JUNE 2

IT HAS been three months since Chinese rock musician Li Zhi disappeared from public view.

First, an upcoming tour was cancelled and his social media accounts were taken down. Then, his music was removed from all of China's major streaming sites — as if his career had never existed at all.

Li is an outspoken artist who performs folk rock. He sang pensive ballads about social ills, and unlike most entertainers in China, dared to broach the taboo subject of the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests that ended in

bloodshed on June 4, 1989. "Now this square is my grave," Li sang. "Everything is just a dream."

China's ruling Communist Party has pushed people like Li into the shadows as it braces for Tuesday's 30th anniversary of the military crackdown. Hundreds, if not thousands, are estimated to have died on the night of June 3 and in the early hours of June 4.

The party's effort to scrub any mention of the movement has been consistent through the decades since then and ramps up before major anniversaries every five years. This year, the trade war with the US has added to government skittishness about instability.



Chinese singer Li Zhi singing his song *The Square*. AP

"They are certainly nervous," said Jean-Pierre Cabestan, a political science professor at Hong Kong Baptist University. "Under (President) Xi Jinping, no stone will be left unturned."

Many of the actions appear

aimed at eliminating any risk of individuals speaking out, however small their platforms. Bilibili, a Chinese video streaming site, announced last week that its popular real-time comments feature will be disabled until June 6 for "system upgrades".

Chinese Human Rights Defenders, an advocacy group, said 13 people have either been detained or taken away from their homes in connection with the anniversary. Among them are several artists who recently embarked on a "national conscience exhibit tour" and a filmmaker who was detained after tweeting images of a liquor bottle commemorating June 4.

The bottle's label featured a

play on words using "bajiu", China's signature grain alcohol, and the Chinese words for 89, or "bajiu". A court convicted four people involved in designing the bottle in April.

Foreign companies are not immune. Apple Music has removed from its Chinese streaming service a song by Hong Kong singer Jackie Cheung that references the Tiananmen crackdown. Tat Ming Pair, a Hong Kong duo, have been deleted entirely from the app. They released a song this month called *Remembering is a Crime* in memory of the protests.

Wikipedia also announced this month that the online encyclopedia is no longer accessible in China. AP

US visa applicants must now provide social media details

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, JUNE 2

NEARLY ALL those applying for US visas will have to provide information on their use of social media under new rules adopted to enhance vetting of foreign nationals, according to the officials.

The State Department adopted a new policy on Saturday under which most visa applicants, including temporary visitors, will be required to list their social media identifiers in a drop down menu along with other personal information.

Applicants will have the option to say that they do not use social media if that is the case.

If a visa applicant lies about social media use, they could face "serious immigration consequences" as a result, a US Department of State official told *Hill* TV.

For now, the drop down menu only includes major social media websites, but the applicants soon will be able to list all sites that they use.

"This is a critical step forward in establishing enhanced vetting of foreign nationals seeking entry into the United States," the official said. "As we've seen around the world in recent years, social media can be a major forum for terrorist sentiment and activity. This will be a vital tool to screen out terrorists, public safety threats, and other dangerous individuals from gaining immigration benefits and

'EXTREME VETTING'

■ A new policy was adopted Saturday under which most visa applicants, including temporary visitors, will be required to list their social media identifiers in a drop down menu.

■ Applicants will have the option to say that they do not use social media, if that is the case.

■ Lying about about social media use in visa applications could result in "serious immigration consequences", the US State Department said.

setting foot on US soil."

The social media identifiers will be incorporated into a background check review against watchlists generated by the US government.

Applicants will also be required, in the future, to turn in more extensive information on their travel history.

The policy stems from a March 2017 executive order issued by President Donald Trump intended to put "extreme vetting" into place. The State Department published its intent to implement the policy in March 2018.

Bus carrying students targeted amid wave of bombings in Kabul

Islamic State claims responsibility



At the site of an explosion in Kabul. AP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KABUL, JUNE 2

TWO PEOPLE were killed and dozens more wounded in Kabul on Sunday as a wave of bombings hit civilian targets — including a university school bus — across the Afghan capital.

The yellow bus had been heading to Kabul Education University in the western part of the city Sunday morning when it was hit by a sticky bomb — a growing menace in Kabul, where insurgents and criminals use magnets to slap explosives on vehicles.

The device had been placed under the bus, interior ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi said.

In the immediate aftermath, as people rushed to help victims, two more bombs that had been

planted by the side of the road went off, he added.

Among the wounded was an Afghan journalist who appeared to have been live-streaming the aftermath of the first explosion when he was hit in a secondary blast.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility.

Initial reports said the bus was carrying university officials, but Kabul police spokesman Firdaws Faramarz later said students had been on board.

According to health ministry spokesman Wahidullah Mayar, two people were killed and 24 more wounded.

There was a fourth blast later Sunday, when another sticky bomb hit a vehicle in the western part of the city. Three people were wounded.

PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN ZAYED HAS AN INCREASINGLY BELLICOSE AGENDA

The most powerful Arab ruler isn't Saudi prince MBS, it's UAE's MBZ

DAVID KIRKPATRICK
ABU DHABI, JUNE 2

PRINCE MOHAMMED bin Zayed, the 29-year-old commander of the almost negligible Air Force of the United Arab Emirates, had come to Washington shopping for weapons.

In 1991, in the months after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the young prince wanted to buy so much military hardware to protect his own oil-rich monarchy — from Hellfire missiles to Apache helicopters to F-16 jets — that Congress worried he might destabilise the region.

But the Pentagon, trying to cultivate accommodating allies in the Gulf, had identified Mohammed as a promising partner. The favourite son of the

illiterate Bedouin who founded the UAE, Mohammed was a serious-minded, British-trained helicopter pilot who had persuaded his father to transfer \$4 billion to the US Treasury to help pay for the 1991 war in Iraq.

Richard A Clarke, then an assistant secretary of state, reassured lawmakers that the young prince would never become "an aggressor."

"The UAE is not now and never will be a threat to stability or peace in the region," Clarke said in congressional testimony. "That is very hard to imagine. Indeed, the UAE is a force for peace."

Thirty years later, Mohammed, now 58, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and de facto ruler of the UAE, is arguably the most powerful leader in the Arab world. He is also among the most

influential foreign voices in Washington, urging the United States to adopt his increasingly belligerent approach to the region.

Mohammed is almost unknown to the American public, and his tiny country has fewer citizens than Rhode Island has. But he may be the richest man in the world. He controls sovereign wealth funds worth \$1.3 trillion, more than any other country. His influence operation in Washington is legendary. His military is the Arab world's most potent, equipped through its work with the United States to conduct high-tech surveillance and combat operations far beyond its borders.

For decades, the prince has been a key US ally, following Washington's lead, but now he is going his own way. His special



Trump with Prince Mohammed bin Zayed at the White House in 2017. NYT

forces are active in Yemen, Libya, Somalia and Egypt's North Sinai. He has worked to thwart democratic transitions in West Asia, helped install a reliable autocrat in Egypt and boosted a protégé to power in Saudi Arabia.

At times, the prince has contradicted US policy and destabilised neighbours. Rights groups have criticised him for jailing dissidents at home, for his role in creating a humanitarian crisis in Yemen, and for backing the Saudi

prince whose agents killed dissident writer Jamal Khashoggi.

Yet under the Trump administration, his influence in Washington appears greater than ever. He has a rapport with Trump, who has frequently adopted the prince's views on Qatar, Libya and Saudi Arabia, even over the advice of Cabinet officials or senior national security staff.

Western diplomats who know the prince — known as MBZ — say he is obsessed with two enemies, Iran and the Muslim Brotherhood. Trump has sought to move strongly against both and last week took steps to bypass congressional opposition to keep selling weapons to both Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

"MBZ has an extraordinary way of telling Americans his own interests but making it come

across as good advice about the region," said Ben Rhodes, a deputy national security adviser under President Barack Obama, whose sympathy for the Arab Spring and negotiations with Iran brought blistering criticism from the Emirati prince. When it comes to influence in Washington, Rhodes added, "MBZ is in a class by himself."

Mohammed worked assiduously before the presidential election to crack Trump's inner circle, and secured a secret meeting during the transition with the President's son-in-law, Jared Kushner. The prince also tried to broker talks between the Trump administration and Russia, a gambit that later entangled him in the special counsel's investigation into foreign election interference.

He has recruited US commanders to run his military and former spies to set up his intelligence services. He also acquired more weaponry in the four years before 2010 than the other five Gulf monarchies combined.

With advice from former top military commanders including former defence secretary James Mattis, Mohammed has even developed an Emirati defence industry. To many in Washington, Mohammed had become America's best friend in the region, a dutiful partner who could be counted on for tasks from countering Iranian influence in Lebanon to funding construction in Iraq. "It was well known that if you needed something done in the Middle East," said Richard C Olson, a former US ambassador to Abu Dhabi, "the Emiratis would do it." NYT



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

THE WATER TEST

Providing piped water to all households is a long overdue project. It will have to join several dots

DURING AN election rally in Tamil Nadu last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised that if voted back to office, he would “ensure the creation of a Jal Shakti ministry that will deal with supplying clean drinking water to people and providing top-class irrigation facilities to farmers”. He moved to meet this promise during the portfolio allocation of ministers, last week. A new Jal Shakti Ministry has been formed by reorganising the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and merging it with the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The idea behind the creation of the new ministry — “to approach the issue of water management holistically and ensure better coordination of efforts” — is salutary. And, the new Jal Shakti Minister, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, has begun work by announcing that the government intends to provide piped drinking water to every household. This is a long-overdue initiative given that, according to a 2018 NITI Aayog report, “600 million Indians face high to extreme water stress and about two lakh people die every year due to inadequate access to safe water”.

The new ministry will, however, have its task cut out. According to a 2017 assessment by the Ministry of Water Resources, India’s estimated per capita availability of water in 2025 will be 1,340 cubic metres. This is likely to fall to 1,140 cubic metres in 2050. The NITI Aayog report underlines one of the reasons for this state of affairs. Seventy per cent of the country’s water aquifers are polluted. Much of this owes to the Central Groundwater Board’s (CGWB) aggressive projects to tap groundwater. These endeavours, that began in the 1970s, did not pay adequate attention to the constraints placed by the country’s geology: Hard rocks constitute more than 60 per cent of the surface area of underground water sources. This means that they have poor permeability, which constrains their re-charge by rainfall. The Jal Shakti ministry’s endeavour to provide clean water will require a paradigm shift from the CGWB’s groundwater-centred approach.

Currently, less than 20 per cent of rural households have access to piped water; hand pumps are their main source of potable water. Piped water schemes in rural areas have been dogged by problems of infrastructure maintenance: Power fluctuations often damage motors and pipes are prone to leaks. Last year, a CAG report pointed out that “poor execution” has marred the National Rural Drinking Water Programme’s attempt to provide piped drinking water to 35 per cent of the country’s rural households. The auditor pointed out that, in most states, the panchayats were not provided with the informational know-how to operate the expensive piped water systems. The Jal Shakti ministry’s challenge will be to ensure that such mistakes are not repeated. It will have to join several dots.

REVERSING THE SLIDE

On economy, near-term focus should be on capital expenditure, and steps to boost demand in sectors with a multiplier effect

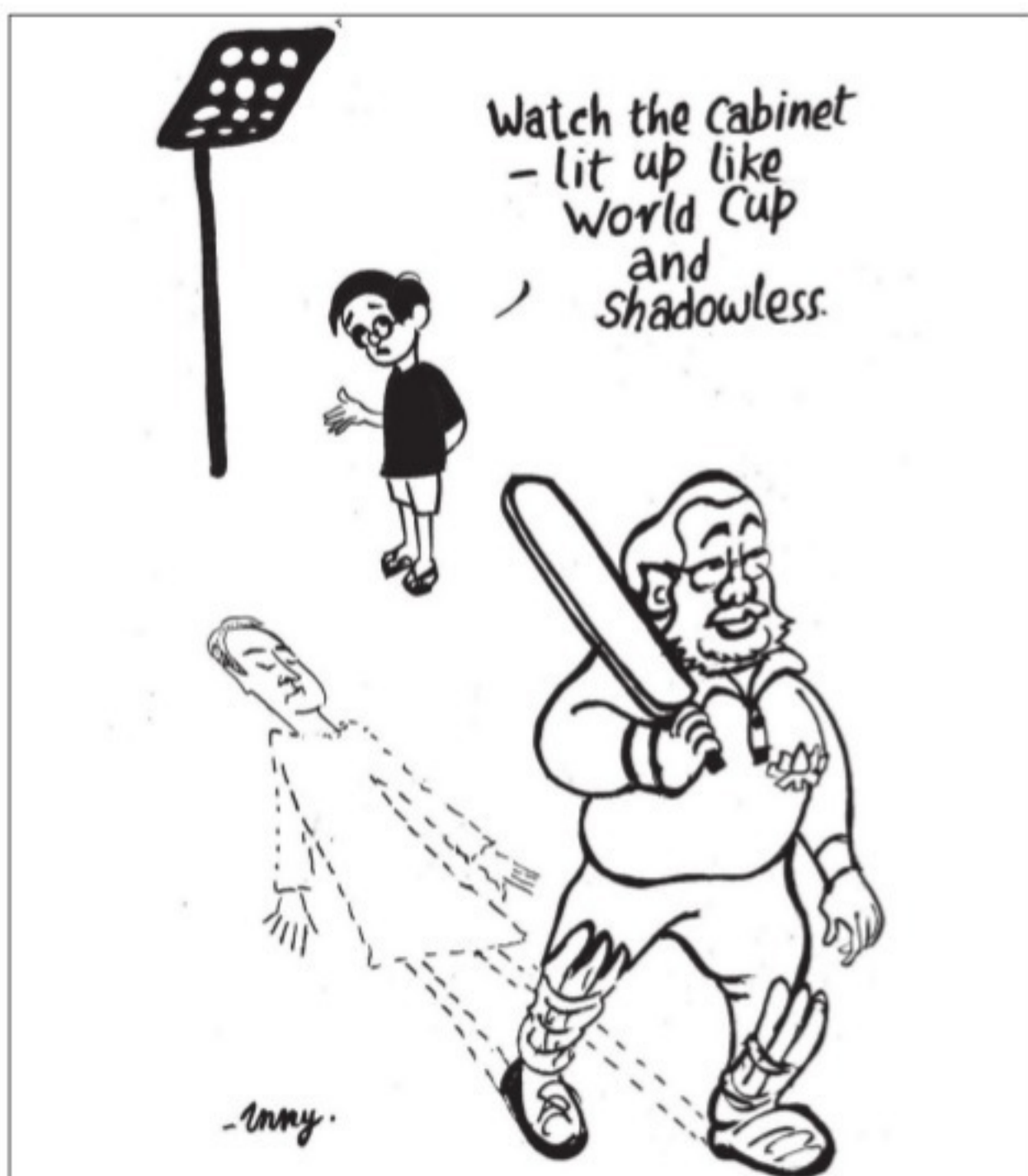
THAT THE Narendra Modi government, which returned to office with a resounding mandate, should hit the ground running was much needed, given the state of the economy. But that among its first steps should be to sign off on the proposal to expand the PM Kisan Yojana to cover 2 crore more farmers and a pension scheme to cover 3 crore retail traders and shopkeepers, is more debatable. The extra expenditure may be justified, though, by a government struggling to meet budgeted revenue targets — as a way of addressing political constituencies which supported the BJP, and also as a directional shift towards income support and building of a social safety net in a limited manner. It is also consistent with the party’s commitment to follow up on these in its poll manifesto. The question is whether these government interventions can be effective or will at best provide a temporary boost at a time when the fourth quarter GDP numbers are at a five-year low and when growth for the last fiscal at under 7 per cent is below most expectations. Some economists argue that the economy may well now be at the bottom of the cycle and is on course for a gradual reversal this fiscal.

The challenge, especially when the economy is firing on one engine, and when expectations are riding high, is to ease the fiscal tap and to attempt the so-called big bang reforms. The fact is, however, that such reforms can wait for now. Rather, the near-term focus should be on capital expenditure and steps to boost demand in sectors such as housing, steel and cement, which have a multiplier effect. It should help that interest rates appear to be headed southwards.

Logically, average GST revenues should be higher, with an expansion of the base, more simplification and stricter compliance. Banks also should be on course to lend more provided the government doesn’t delay stumping up capital and carrying out governance changes this time around. In the first budget after the Modi government took over in 2014-15, Arun Jaitley, who was then finance minister, said that the country was in no mood to suffer unemployment. Five years on, that still resonates.

FREEZE FRAME

E P UNNY



As demand slows down

Government should target a structural deficit as an alternative to the fiscal deficit



SOUMYA KANTI GHOSH

FRIDAY, MAY 31, was an interesting day in Indian politics and economics. On the economics front, Q4GDP numbers plunged to a 20-quarter low while annual growth came to a five-year low of 6.8 per cent. However, despite much scepticism, India could stick to its fiscal deficit of 3.4 per cent for FY19. Bank credit growth declined by Rs 1.5 lakh crore in April, but this has always been a seasonal phenomenon. On the political front, the country got its first woman finance minister (PM Indira Gandhi did hold the portfolio, but that was only as an additional charge) in 72 years.

Domestic growth was even weaker than what was expected. Manufacturing GVA, which grew by 12.1 per cent in Q1, decelerated sharply, growing by 3.1 per cent in Q4. This was expected, based on the Q4 FY19 results of 932 listed corporates — around 550 companies had reported either negative or single digit revenue growth. For FY19, manufacturing GVA grew by 6.9 per cent compared to 5.9 per cent in FY18. Core GVA, an indicator of private demand, slowed down to 6.1 per cent (the lowest since Q2FY18).

Agriculture and allied activities grew at 2.9 per cent in FY19, compared to last year’s growth of 5.9 per cent. In Q4, the sector registered a negative growth of 0.1 per cent. However, the good thing was that the agricultural price deflator, an indicator of rural purchasing power, has finally recovered in Q4 after two successive quarters of de-growth. In fact, our estimates suggest that since the MSP increase in July 18, wholesale prices of 18 major crops (includes cereals, pulses and oil seeds) have recovered from lows and are now on average 10 per cent higher than the MSP. However, such rise in mandi prices has no material impact on retail food inflation, which seems to have declined even as wholesale inflation has moved up. The divergence is a matter of debate, but low inflation now seems entrenched in India’s psyche.

In this context, the government decision to now extend the PM-KISAN scheme to all farmers is a positive step. We also did some rough estimates to find out the fiscal cost of such an ambitious programme over the next five years. Our calculations suggest that even

if we progressively increase the income support from, say, Rs 6,000 to Rs 8,000 in the terminal year (inflation indexed) and reduce the fiscal deficit to 3 per cent in 2024 (with a nominal GDP growth of around 11.5 per cent), the additional cost for 14-crore farmers over the baseline estimates could be Rs 12,000 crore per annum, same as the revised estimates if only Rs 6,000 was provided to all 14 crore during the next five years. We need a definitive consumption push in rural areas.

The figures on the expenditure side of GDP do not foretell a promising picture. The decline in private final consumption expenditure is a matter of concern, though an increase in government final consumption expenditure has been able to offset it. After reaching a high growth of 9.8 per cent in Q2 FY19, PFCE growth declined to 7.4 per cent in Q4. The growth in gross fixed capital formation dipped to 3.6 per cent in Q4FY19, which is the lowest in the last eight quarters. It seems that election uncertainties have taken a toll on investment and government spending.

On the fiscal front, the latest data shows that the government has been able to meet the revised fiscal deficit estimate of 3.4 per cent of the GDP. However, there has been a Rs 1.45 lakh crore reduction in expenditure with a Rs 69,140 crore cut in subsidies (majorly food subsidy), covering for Rs 1.57 lakh crore reduction in total receipts. Now that FY19 estimates are revised, the FY20 BE may be on the higher side.

The problem is that global uncertainties have compounded in recent times. Tax cuts by the US did not have much impact on its growth last year and going forward there is not much room for further support. World trade growth is likely to remain weak into the second quarter of 2019. The latest World Trade Outlook Indicator (WTOI) remains well below the baseline value of 100 for the index, signaling continued falling trade growth in the first half of 2019. The outlook for trade could worsen further if heightened trade tensions are not resolved or if macroeconomic policy fails to adjust to changing circumstances. For example, the ongoing trade skirmish between USA and China is showing no signs

of abating with the US increasing tariffs on Chinese products. China, in retaliation, has said that it will raise tariffs on \$60 billion worth of US imports starting June 1. There are even concerns about the tariff war spilling over to financial markets in the form of China cutting its exposure to the US treasury market. Worsening economic indicators in the US, like student loan delinquency and yield curve inversion (the worst since 2007), as well as US exports getting squeezed by trade wars, are also going to pose challenges for the US economy.

Given the growth slowdown that the country is facing, the question arises whether the government should continue to focus on the path of fiscal consolidation or keep deficit numbers constant for the next two years at 3.4 per cent (or keep it marginally higher), before reducing it as growth revives. We believe that the government should target a structural deficit as an alternative to targeting the fiscal deficit, like most advanced and several emerging economies. This serves as an automatic counter-cyclical stabiliser unlike the current target that has been set from the outset as a fixed percentage of GDP and is a statistical misnomer. But, for sure, fiscal policy should be transparent and credible, and we must strive for what we can achieve through resource mobilisation, and not through expenditure compression.

We also expect monetary policy support to complement fiscal policy in the interregnum. The RBI could also advise banks for effective rate transmission (the SBI has proactively moved to external benchmarking of the repo rate to lending rates, there is no harm in replicating this).

We end on a positive note. Recently, S&P Global Ratings upgraded Indonesia’s sovereign rating to BBB from BBB- just after the re-election of President Joko Widodo. Strong economic growth prospects, low debt, an infrastructure drive of more than \$400 billion and prudent fiscal policy enabled the upgrade. India has also seen the re-election of the Modi government with an even larger mandate. Uncanny similarity for S&P?

The writer is group chief economic advisor, SBI. Views are personal

The decline in private final consumption expenditure is a matter of concern, though an increase in government final consumption expenditure has been able to offset it. After reaching a high growth of 9.8 per cent in Q2 FY19, PFCE growth declined to 7.4 per cent in Q4. The growth in gross fixed capital formation dipped to 3.6 per cent in Q4FY19, which is the lowest in last eight quarters. It seems that election uncertainties have taken a toll on investment and government spending.

A MONTH TO REFLECT

Ramzan has always been the time to look inwards, build bridges



IN GOOD FAITH

SABA RAHMAN

AS THINGS STAND across the world today, religion cannot be a private experience for Muslims — even if they want it to be. Burdened, demoralised and anguished with terror attacks in the name of Islam, Muslims find themselves — and their faith — implicated in global events almost every day. More recently, the targeting of mosques in New Zealand or churches in Sri Lanka have made Muslims either helpless victims or motivated perpetrators of violent attacks. Closer home, rising Islamophobia coupled with an almost non-existent political representation in the government, have driven India’s Muslims to the edge. It is amidst such a feeling of fear and siege among Muslims that Ramzan, Islam’s holiest month, began, and is set to draw to a close in a couple of days.

Ramzan is when the Muslims believe the Quran was revealed to Mohammad, the last prophet of Islam, in 610 CE in Mecca. People know the drill for the believer in these 30 days. Those who observe Ramzan go without food and water, and also abstain from sex between dawn and dusk. There is, however, much more to Ramzan than just hunger and thirst. The month is about self-restraint, discipline, charity and intense reflection. It is about the struggle to attain spiritual goals. Prophet Mohammad said that Allah has no need for his followers to abstain from food

and water if they do not abstain from falsehood and other sinful practices. In fact, Islam has a powerful Arabic word for a larger struggle to resist temptations and fight anger, malice, jealousy, vengeance and similar negative traits. That word is jihad. Unfortunately, the most spiritual concept of Islam has become its most sullied at the hands of extremists who kill innocent people in the name of jihad. It wasn’t jihad that happened on 26/11 in Mumbai or during the attacks on the churches in Sri Lanka. The Quran does not endorse such mindless acts of violence. It is also not jihad when Muslims kill other Muslims, as they are doing in Syria, Somalia and Afghanistan. The Prophet did engage in military expeditions, but those battles were more to survive than conquer. In fact, upon returning from one such expedition, the Prophet is said to have described war as “a lesser jihad” in comparison to “the greater jihad” that calls on one to look inwards for spiritual purification. Ramzan epitomises this idea.

In India, Ramzan started in the middle of the country’s general elections, whose verdict left Muslims feeling further alienated. The election campaign was communal and vitriolic. However, did Muslims abstain from posting or responding to messages of hate on social media? Did they quarrel with their colleagues or neighbours because of their contrarian political stands? Did they share their iftar with them? It is not easy for many Muslims to live up to the behavioural expectations that fasting demands when anti-

Muslim hatred is on the rise. But this is what Ramzan is all about: To train the self to rise above base instincts. The Prophet said: “The believer does not insult, he does not curse, he is not profane, and he is not crude.”

Significantly, the Quran is replete with messages that obligate Muslims to remain committed to social justice. Zakat (charity) is one of the five pillars of Islam and it assumes greater significance during Ramzan. Zakat is mandatory on all Muslims who have a certain amount of wealth. The idea is to bridge the gap between rich and poor, and restore the dignity of the socially ignored people. In his famous last sermon, the Prophet had declared: “A white has no superiority over black, nor does a black over a white, except by piety and good action.” The Prophet’s closest aides were two former slaves who went on to command much respect in the first Muslim society.

The Quran puts it beautifully: “We created you from a male and a female, and we made you into nations and tribes for you to get to know each other.” This verse, and Quran has many such, is central to Islam’s message of peace, friendship and love among people who are different. These 1,400-year-old wise insights can help us overcome fear, hatred and discord, which have become the hallmark of modern societies. Ramzan is the perfect time to renew such pledges and build those bridges.

saba.rahman@indianexpress.com

JUNE 3, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO



AHMEDABAD AGITATION
AHMEDABAD WAS COMPARATIVELY quiet on the sixth day of the policemen’s agitation today amid reports that the state government is ready to negotiate with them. The home minister, Popatlal Vyas, will meet a deputation of policemen to resolve the dispute, which had virtually led to the collapse of the city police administration and forced the government to seek help from the army and para-military forces. This virtual climb-down by the government has brightened prospects for a negotiated settlement before the chief ministers conference in Delhi on Wednesday. The government had earlier taken the stand that nothing would be dis-

cussed before the proposed Delhi meeting.
CURBING PRICE RISE
THE CABINET IS divided over measures to curb price rise. Ministers agreed to cut down expenditure, money supply and burdens on the exchequer, but differ on how to do this. The one point on which they are all agreed is credit squeeze. The Reserve Bank governor has been instructed to take necessary steps in that direction. During discussions in the last three days, the cabinet has considered many suggestions to effect the economy. They vary from banning strikes and giving the public sector undertakings the right to dismiss erring or sluggish employees to

freezing wages. The basic document which the cabinet has considered emanated from the Planning Commission, which describes a four-pronged approach.

AIRLINES ON ALERT
THE GOVERNMENT HAS placed all aircraft of the German Lufthansa and US Pan American Airlines under commando guard, along with those of the Japan Air Lines at the four international airports. Stating this, official sources told UNI that this has been done following the highest rating security alert given by Interpol about the Japanese “Red Army” terrorists. Similar measures have been taken by various governments worldwide.

THE IDEAS PAGE

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The rise of anti-Jewish actions in Germany is profoundly worrying, but Angela Merkel's fightback sets an example of moral seriousness and rigour."

— THE GUARDIAN

A refugee market, an elitist outpost

The curious journey of Khan market in the national capital



NARAYANI GUPTA

A FEW YEARS ago, a student visiting Delhi from Oxford was looking for picture postcards. These are rare items in India, but we tried our luck at a stationer's in Khan Market. The elderly gentleman at the counter listened to Nadir's question. Instead of answering, he looked at him intently and asked, "Where are you from?" When his hunch that Nadir was from Pakistan's North-West Frontier province (after 2010, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) turned out to be true, he was overjoyed. Coffee/tea and *thanda/garam* were eagerly offered, and they plunged into a conversation, where nostalgia was inseparable from a sense of community.

In the shops of Khan Market, the features and manners of many owners — Hindu relocates of 1947 from the Frontier Province — are unmistakable. And in the name of the market, the benign faces of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and his brother Khan Saheb — independence activists, who opposed the Partition — swim before us.

After 1947, Lutyens' small capital enclave of New Delhi was surrounded by an outer ring of resettlement neighbourhoods, in one of the most impressive projects of rehabilitation India has known. Livelihoods were also addressed, and "refugee markets" was one of the options — in Queensway/Janpath, in front of the Red Fort, and in the empty space at the south end of New Delhi, east of Lady Willingdon Park (later Lodhi Garden). If the place-names in New Delhi celebrated rulers from the past, the new "colonies" and markets celebrated freedom-fighters — hence Malviya, Lajpat, Patel and Rajendra nagars; Ajmal Khan Road, Lajpat Rai Market, Khan Market. These names were inspirational, and the Hindu refugees who got shops and homes in Khan Market saw the name not as that of a Muslim, but of a beloved leader.

Sharada Nayak, a longtime resident of Prithviraj Road and then of Sujana Singh Park recalls: "The construction of Khan Market started soon after Partition and was completed in 1951. We welcomed the convenience of a neighbourhood market. The first shop owners were Hindu migrants from West Pakistan, and many of them lived in small two-roomed flats above each shop. The shopkeepers were all known to us by name, and we were usually welcomed with a cup of tea and a leisurely visit. Girdhari Lal, who had his Empire Stores in Connaught Place, had a branch at the western corner of Khan Market which was run by his son Om; next to them was Sovereign Stores. These two establishments were our favourite haunts for ice creams, and various foods.

It was best avoided in the evenings, when the government liquor store next door made it difficult to negotiate our way through the crowds. The most prominent shop in the middle of the front row of shops was Bahrison's, a book store that is still the most popular, with Mr Bahri a familiar figure at his desk. His son Anuj now runs the book store."

On the eastern end next to the Bank of India were a chemist, Bata shoe-store and Mr Gupta's Vishnu Cloth store where we could buy yardage and go to the tailor next door for our clothing needs. He lived in the flat above his store, as did many of the shop owners. His son, Om Prakash, who was born in the flat above the shop, now runs the Vishnu Cloth store, along with his son, Nayak reminisces, and adds: "Some of the flats were rented by private tenants. I don't remember ever climbing the steep stairs to the second floor until the Eighties when book stores, dentists, and a small restaurant took over the rented flats."

According to Nayak, the 1980s saw a change as the younger generation, unlike Anuj Bahri and Om Prakash Gupta, decided they did not want to run the family business. "We miss Empire Stores and Sovereign Stores, and even the bank has completed its lease and has moved out, as businesses with international repute have leased out the space. The middle lane, once used as entrances for residents and parking, was commercialised in 1990," she says.

The rental value of shops in Khan Market has soared from the 1990s and, as a result, something similar has happened in Lodhi Colony and Meher Chand and Khanna Markets — after the first flush of nationalist fervour, two other refugee markets were economically named after one person, by splitting the name of Mayor Meher Chand Khanna into two. Parking is becoming a nightmare, when shops close in the evening, because a plethora of restaurants have taken over the first floor flats and the central lane. Where once residents parked their cars at the entrance to their flats, shops have taken over.

Nayak laments that "for someone who has shopped at Khan Market for 50 years, prices are now way beyond reach". "But people-watching has become much more interesting," she says. Khan Market has been ranked as one of the most expensive retail locations and shops have been taken over by many international brands.

As one of the old shopkeepers told Nayak, "Nowadays people are ready to spend Rs 16,000 on a pair of shoes but not Rs 16 on some practical household item." However, says Nayak, "most noticeable is the rapid turnover of businesses, restaurants and shops. Here today gone tomorrow, for money is also easy come easy go."

Badshah Khan, if you were to return, what will you make of the twists and turns of the fortunes of your people in this outpost? You will realise that it is a reflection of the game of dice that is Delhi.

The writer is a historian of Delhi



C R Sasikumar

How to boost the energy drive

A blueprint of initiatives the new government can consider



OVER THE BARREL
BY VIKRAM S MEHTA

buildings and factories to make them carbon neutral and influencing behavioural change towards energy conservation. A multi-pronged thrust along these lines will weaken the current unhealthy relationship between economic growth, energy demand and the environment. Additionally, the "clean energy fund" which is currently funded through a cess on coal production and is managed by the ministry of finance should be augmented through the issuance of "green bonds" and a clean energy tax. This is to intensify research and development on clean energy technologies (battery storage, carbon capture and sequestration, hydrogen, coal gasification, modular nuclear reactors, etc.) and to fund the transmission and distribution infrastructure required for absorbing the flow of clean energy. Its loci of administration should be handed over to those with domain expertise. This to safeguard the funds from sequestration into the consolidated fund and to ensure that the conditions are created for incubating innovation, and forging international R&D and technology partnerships.

Three, energy diplomacy. The levers of energy and, in particular, oil policy, are today in the hands of autocratic leaders. This "personalisation" of energy politics would not have been an issue in the past when oil was traded mostly against long-term supply contracts. But today, against the backdrop of an integrated, liquid and fungible market characterised by short-term flexible supply deals, this is of relevance especially for import-dependent countries like India. The local actions of leaders now have global, supply-related ramifications. The new government should, therefore, look to develop a specialised cadre of "energy diplomats." It should contemplate lateral entrants at mid- and senior levels of government with relevant domain and international expertise. It should unshackle the energy public sector units from intrusive bureaucratic oversight to enable their management to respond with agility to unexpected market developments. And it should establish strong personal relations with the leaders of oil exporting states. At a crunch time, the latter could be the peg on which will hang India's supply security.

Four, intensify exploration and enhance recovery. India's unattractive geology is the reason why the various bidding rounds for private sector investment in oil and gas exploration have not been a success. The new government should not stop this effort but

it should consider three changes to the current contract terms. One, it should replace the current revenue-sharing model with a production-sharing model for new exploration. Two, it should link investment in the marginal and smaller discovered fields with access to the domestic retail market and remove the condition that only companies that have invested Rs 2,000 crore will be eligible for a marketing licence. Three, it should contemplate bidding out Mumbai High and other major producing oil and gas fields to international players with proven enhanced oil recovery technologies. The current recovery rates of production from these fields are well below the global average.

Five, increase competition. Coal India Limited (CIL) is a major producer of coal but faces huge legacy issues (labour unions, mafia, politics and organisation) which constrain its ability to fully and efficiently harness the country's indigenous coal reserves. These issues cannot be addressed without first redrawing the contours of India's political economy. The new government cannot, understandably, tackle these issues early on in its tenure. It can, however, resurrect an earlier decision to allow private sector companies into commercial coal mining. The consequent pressure of competition will bear positively on the performance of CIL.

Six, natural gas. This has also not realised its full potential. Five early initiatives should be contemplated. First, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) should be unbundled into a monopoly gas pipeline company. It should be divested of its upstream (production/re-gasification of LNG) and downstream (petrochemicals) operations. These can be merged into one or more of the existing PSUs. Second, the "common access" principle must be fairly enforced. Every player, private or public, must have equal access to gas pipelines. Third, the price of gas should be determined on the basis of market and competitive principles. This principle should apply across the gas value chain, except pipeline transport tariffs which should be linked to return on capital. Fourth, a gas trading hub should be expeditiously established. Finally, special energy courts should be established to expedite adjudication of disputes and ensure sanctity of contracts. The latter have been major deterrents to investment in the energy sector.

The writer is chairman & senior fellow, Brookings India

The local actions of leaders now have global, supply-related ramifications. The new government should, therefore, look to develop a specialised cadre of "energy diplomats." It should contemplate lateral entrants at mid- and senior levels of government with relevant domain and international expertise.

INDIA FACES A VARIETY OF CHALLENGES RELATED TO ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT. HERE ARE SOME INITIATIVES THAT THE NEXT GOVERNMENT COULD CONTEMPLATE EARLY ON ITS TERM.

ONE, INTEGRATE ENERGY AND environment policy. The various ministries currently engaged with energy and the environment should be collapsed into one omnibus Ministry of Energy and Environment. This will perforate the current siloed approach to energy policy and enable the new government to view the sector through an integrated and holistic lens. It could more easily track and evaluate the systemic implications of changes in any one or more component variable. Secondly, an "Energy and Environment Security Act" should be passed at the earliest possible opportunity. The objective of such an act should be to bring energy and environment into the national narrative; to set out the road map for managing and mitigating the emergent challenge of balancing economic development and energy demands with the goal of environmental protection; and, to mobilise public support for the policy and regulatory changes required to hasten the transition to a non-fossil fuel based energy system. Finally, energy data is scattered across various government departments. This hinders policy and investment. The new government should establish an integrated energy data centre, whose data should be regularly updated and made available to all players on commercial terms.

Two, decarbonisation, demand management and efficiency should be the watchwords of the new government's energy policy. In this context, the focus should be on generating electricity from solar and wind, incentivising electric vehicles, curtailing diesel consumption in agriculture, enforcing standards and emission norms, redesigning

VIEW FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



A weekly look at the public conversations shaping ideas beyond borders — in the Subcontinent. Curated by Aakash Joshi

DREADING KASHMIR

THE PAKISTAN press has continued to analyse Narendra Modi's victory and its implications for India, bilateral relations and matters of nationalism and religion in South Asia. In its June 1 editorial, *Dawn* weighs in on what Modi 2.0 could mean for Kashmir. The paper strikes an ominous tone — quite in keeping with its line and that of most media in Pakistan — on the Indian state's role in Kashmir. It says that in its first term, the Modi government put in place a "brutal approach, with a militarised response to Kashmiris' yearning for freedom and dignity. In fact, the radical Hindu BJP said it would end Kashmir's special constitutional status, and remains committed to this dubious goal."

It remarks that "the cycles of ugly violence" have become the norm in the Valley and unless New Delhi "comes up with a new approach, they will show no signs of abating". Yet, the editorial ends with questions, that hint that there is as yet time for a course correction, though such hope remains slim: "Will the Indian prime minister continue with his hard-line approach, pushing Kashmiri youth to the wall and forcing them to fight the Indian state? Or will he display statesmanship and adopt a fresh approach to the troubled region? While those wishing to see peace prevail in

South Asia will be hoping that Mr Modi picks the latter option, the reality may be more of the same. However, while the BJP's suppression of the Kashmiri freedom struggle has resulted in the disillusionment of practically all Kashmiris with India, even some of Delhi's most loyal supporters in the region — the Abdullah clan, Mehbooba Mufti etc — appear dismayed at the way the Hindu nationalists have treated Kashmir."

JINNAH VINDICATED

M BILAL Lakhani, a Fulbright scholar and columnist, asks an important question in *The Express Tribune*, one which has become a common refrain in Pakistan: Is Narendra Modi India's Zia-ul-Haq? Lakhani begins his article by saying "Modi's win is a loss for India." He adds that "What Zia orchestrated in the 80s to use religion for the realisation of political goals Modi is engineering in India today. With one important nuance. The Pakistani people never elected Zia into office."

This sentiment, which began to be articulated after the 2014 Indian general election, can be summarised as many in Pakistan viewing the overwhelming mandate for a Hindutva party as a vindication of Muhammad Ali Jinnah's two-nation theory. Lakhani points out two dangers of Modi's po-

litical dominance in India. One: "It took 72 years but the Quaid-e-Azam's Two-Nation theory has been decisively endorsed by the long arc of history. Forget my arguments, Narendra Modi is the only person ever to be denied a US visa based on a little-known law on religious freedom, even though he applied for a diplomatic visa as a sitting chief minister. This led to nearly a decade-long US travel ban imposed over his role in Gujarat's anti-Muslim riots, which left thousands dead (the UK and several European nations had also slapped a de facto travel ban on Modi)."

And two: "what's worse is that Modi is also the symptom of a far more dangerous problem; an Indian electorate at peace with war-mongering. The performance of the Indian economy wasn't exactly the reason behind Modi's win, it was his hardline rhetoric and warmonger-like adventurism with Pakistan that allowed him to sweep the elections. This is in striking contrast to Pakistan, where every mainstream political party runs on a platform of peace with India and if any political leader was to call for war with India to get re-elected, they would be laughed out of office."

BANGLADESH AND BRI

"BRI IS a comprehensive undertaking that

can transform our development endeavours and also support us in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We will need to have a coordinated policy approach in three policy domains: trade, finance and investment (TFI). Only then can we better streamline the efforts to a win-win outcome." This is the thrust ANM Muniruzzaman's argument in *The Daily Star*.

What should be of concern, or rather interest, to India is the degree to which Bangladesh may be integrated in China's flagship project: "Bangladesh is a signatory country of BRI. It is also a key strategic partner of the initiative. Of the six economic corridors upon which the concept of BRI is built, one corridor will pass through Bangladesh. The old Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) corridor is now to become the BRI corridor linking Kunming to Kolkata. There are only two corridors of the six corridors which are identified as maritime corridors and the old BCIM corridor is one of them. It will start at Kunming in China, pass through Myanmar and Bangladesh, and end up in Kolkata, India. Recently, a bilateral contract has been signed between China and Myanmar known as China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC)."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

MISLEADING TITLE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, "Race for Tel Aviv" (IE, May 31). I was surprised to see this headline. Choosing to use Tel Aviv in the article and in the title as if to name it Israel's capital is false and misleading. Tel Aviv is not Israel's capital, nor does the parliament (Knesset, for which the elections are held) sit in Tel Aviv. The seat of the parliament is in Jerusalem, and always has been. While some newspapers may choose not to mention Jerusalem as Israel's capital for political reasons, naming any other city in its place is disrespectful and unnecessary. Avigail Spira, spokesperson, Embassy of Israel in India

MANDATE WOES

THIS REFERS TO the article, "Don't blame the mandate" (IE, May 31). In a rather visceral and prompt (or hasty) attack on Amartya Sen's article, the author herself falls prey to presenting a biased view. She conveniently misses to mention that BJP spend multiple times the amount the Congress could and how that there was widespread dismay over the election commission's role as a watchdog. As important as it maybe to her, her family and people that live around them are not nearly a credible sample to represent why people voted for Narendra Modi.

Annie James, Pune

LUMPEN ELEMENT

THIS REFERS TO the article, "Reassurance that isn't" (IE, May 30). The author de-

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to editpage@expressindia.com or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301. Letter writers should mention their postal address and phone number.

THE WINNER RECEIVES SELECT EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS

monises the prime minister as a leader of the lumpen elements and blames him for hate crimes and majoritarian dominance. He needs to examine causes of conflict of the two communities he mentions with Hindus and almost a complete absence of communal conflict among communities professing Indian religions. The hate crimes have genesis in religious conversions and killing of cows and both are deliberate provocations. No one has issued fatwa against either of these activities.

Shiv Kumar, via email

EXPORT WATCH
GEMS, JEWELLERY EXPORTS DIP 5.32%
New Delhi: Gems and jewellery exports declined 5.32 per cent to \$30.96 billion in 2018-19, mainly on account of slowdown in demand in major developed markets, according to data from the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC). **PTI**

SIGNIFIES MORE PEOPLE CHOOSING EDUCATION OR LONGER WAIT FOR DESIRED JOB

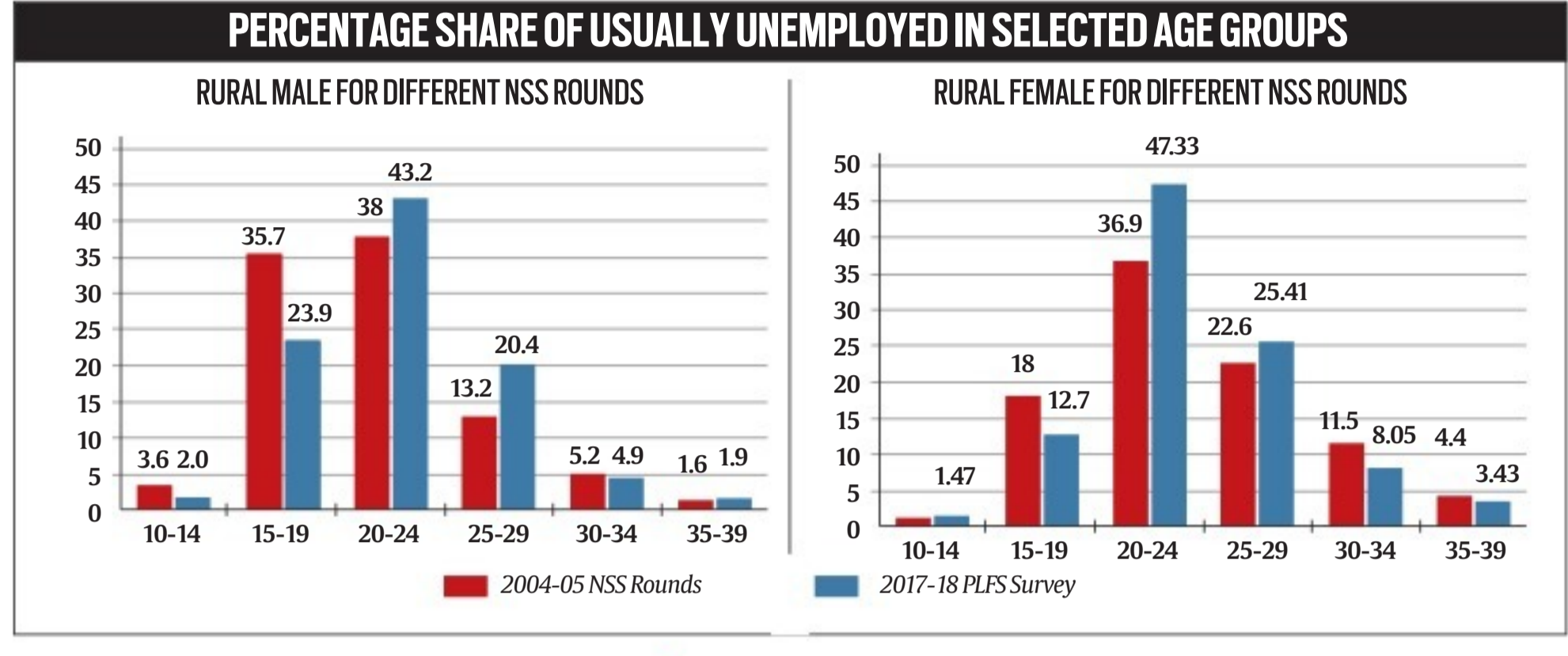
Unemployment trend moves up age brackets, higher in 20-29 age group

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
 NEW DELHI, JUNE 2

ALONGSIDE THE unemployment rate for the country rising to 6.1 per cent in 2017-18, there has also been a marked shift in the unemployment pattern to higher age groups in a little over a decade. The share of unemployed in different age groups, as per the recently released Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for 2017-18, shows that the higher unemployment has shifted to the 20-24 and 25-29 age groups as against the 15-19 age group earlier, signifying more people opting for higher education or willing for a longer wait to get their desired jobs, experts said.

In 2017-18, the percentage share of unemployed rural males rose to 43.2 per cent in the 20-24 age group, from 38 per cent in 2004-05 National Sample Survey (NSS) round of Employment-Unemployment Survey. In the 15-19 age group, there was sharp reduction in percentage share of unemployed males to 23.9 per cent in 2017-18, from 35.7 per cent in 2004-05.

The shift in the unemployment pattern is more noticeable for females, especially in rural areas. Rural females remained unemployed for a slightly longer time than males, with percentage share of unemployed rural females for the 20-24 age group rising to 47.33 per cent in 2017-18



from 36.9 per cent in 2004-05. Similarly, for the 25-29 age group, percentage share of unemployed rural females rose to 25.41 per cent in 2017-18 from 22.6 per cent in 2004-05. In the 15-19 age group, the percentage share of unemployed rural females saw a reduction to 12.7 per cent in 2017-18 from 18 per cent in 2004-05. One of the reasons for this could be attributed to a shift towards education in the 15-19 age group, experts said. Also, many people after gaining education are probably spending time unemployed in wait of their desired job. The shift towards education is visible in the PLFS data. As per the distribution of youth by activity status, the Survey shows that 71.7

EXPLAINED

More rural females also opted for education in the 15-19 age group, with 64.1 per cent share in 2017-18 as against 47.1 per cent in 2004-05. In the 20-24 age group, share of rural females as students went up to 13.8 per cent in 2017-18 from 7.5 per cent in 2004-05. A similar trend of shift of unemployment towards higher age groups was also seen for urban areas. The share of unemployed urban males in the 15-19 age group reduced to 14.73 per cent in 2017-18 from 23 per cent in 2004-05,

while that for 20-25 age group was 36.12 per cent in 2017-18 from 40.6 per cent in 2004-05. The share of unemployed urban males increased in the 25-29 age group and 30-34 age group to 26.20 per cent and 8.93 per cent, respectively, in 2017-18, from 19.2 per cent and 6.5 per cent, respectively, in 2004-05. The share of unemployed urban females reduced in the 15-19 age group to 5.81 per cent in 2017-18 from 12.6 per cent in 2004-05. For 20-24 and 25-29 age groups, however, the share of unemployed urban females went up to 41.07 per cent and 30.43 per cent, respectively, in 2017-18, from 39 per cent and 23 per cent, respectively, in 2004-05.

With bond yields at 18-month low, markets bet on Reserve Bank to cut rates once again

GEORGE MATHEW
 MUMBAI, JUNE 2

AFTER THE 50 basis points cut in the Repo rate by the Reserve Bank of India since February, the central bank is likely to opt for another cut in the main policy interest rate at its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting on June 6, despite the banking system not fully passing on the benefits of the previous cuts to the customers.

Yields on benchmark government bonds have already fallen to a near 18-month low of 7.03 per cent as the markets are betting on sharper rate cuts in the current fiscal, with the new government getting ready for its first Union Budget on July 5, crude oil prices falling and growth rate declining.

Soumya Kanti Ghosh, group chief economic adviser, State Bank of India, said, "We are thus penciling a larger rate cut (35-50 bps) by RBI in the forthcoming policy. Interestingly, the RBI for the first time could use the rate change in non-multiples of 25 bps as a first step towards providing second generation signals to market of future policy stance. However, even such larger rate cuts will not help fully, but its transmission will. To this end, the RBI should now ensure following things."

Lakshmi Iyer, chief investment officer (debt), Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund, said, "Liquidity woes in banking system are far from over. The silver lining in this is the expectation of government spending... this is likely to reduce the liquidity deficit in the system. Also, the currency in circulation which had shown sharp spikes due to elections, is also likely to gradually recede, impacting liquidity favourably."

"Given the global as also domestic scenario, the MPC may well choose to gratify the markets with a benchmark rate cut. What is more important for markets is the MPC guidance that the actual rate action," she added.

According to bankers, asset and liability side of the banks should move in tandem and Repo rate should be directly benchmarked to external benchmark, non-volatile bank liabilities, CASA

SYMBOLIC RATE CUT BY BANKS

While policy rates have been reduced by 50 bps since February, average bank lending rates have declined by only 5 bps. Many banks have cut MCLR, but only by a symbolic 5-15 bps

Some bankers expect a status quo from RBI in view of the Budget, monsoon, uncertainty about oil prices and incomplete transmission of the reduction in policy rate

deposits that are mostly used for transaction purposes. "Otherwise, we would continue to be constrained by lack of transmission, even as the RBI will continue to cut rates," Ghosh said.

While policy rates have been reduced by 50 bps since February, average bank lending rates have declined by only 5 bps. Many banks have cut the marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR), but only by a symbolic 5-15 bps. "State Bank of India reduced the MCLR by 5 bps since February. In fact, several banks have increased deposit rates since February. Banks are not willing to cut rates as deposits and household financial savings are at historical lows," Goldman Sachs said.

However, some bankers expect a status quo from the banking regulator in view of the Budget and monsoon.

"We expect the RBI to keep policy rates on hold during the June meeting. Our thinking is driven by five factors: uncertainty about oil prices, weak El Niño conditions, and its implications for south-west monsoon, with some evidence on firming up of wholesale and retail prices of food, incomplete transmission of the 50 bps reduction in the policy rate since February and therefore, a cautious wait and watch approach to make progress on more complete and faster transmission,"

Goldman Sachs said in a report. It added the Reserve Bank will "evaluate the implications of a new government policies for growth and inflation". "Our call is in line with market expectation — market pricing of less than 50 per cent chance of a cut in policy rates in June. However, we do see continued liquidity injections to take place in the near term," Goldman Sachs said.

Since the April monetary policy meeting, there have been several key developments that are likely to weigh on the RBI's decision. On the external side, global growth continues to be soft.

The trade war is gearing up again, and poses a downside risk to our China and US growth forecasts. India's headline consumer price index (CPI)-based inflation stayed flat at 2.9 per cent in April. The rise in food was offset by lower core and transport inflation in April. "We forecast average headline inflation to rise from 3.4 per cent in FY19 to 3.9 per cent in FY20," Goldman Sachs said.

Indranil Sen Gupta of Bank of America Merrill Lynch said, "Looking ahead, we expect the RBI MPC to cut 35 bps (up from 25 bps earlier) on June 6 (and 100 bps in 2019) with May inflation tracking a low 3.3 per cent."

"One can expect both liquidity measures and a rate cut. Rate cut expectation ranges from 25 bps to 50 bps. The central bank will see how the fiscal situation unfolds with the Budget announcement and spending measures. It will also take into account global factors, trade tensions, crude price trends, geopolitical equations and the monsoon outlook," said Shanti Ekambaram, president — consumer banking, Kotak Mahindra Bank.

With the elections resulting in a decisive mandate, the attention will now shift to policy — both fiscal and monetary — with focus of spurring growth, boosting slowing consumption and attracting private investment. There may be some structural measures from a liquidity perspective, strengthening of the financial system framework and, of course, looking at rates in the current context of low inflation and flagging growth.

BRIEFLY

ONGC most profitable PSU in 2018-19

New Delhi: Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), India's top oil and gas producer, has topped Indian Oil Corp (IOC) to regain crown of being the country's most profitable public sector company. According to earnings statements of the listed companies, ONGC reported a 34 per cent jump in its 2018-19 fiscal net profit to Rs 26,716 crore. In comparison, IOC registered a net profit of Rs 17,274 crore for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2019.

L&T's share in Mindtree now worth ₹70cr

New Delhi: Infrastructure major Larsen and Toubro (L&T) picked up 7.11 lakh shares of information technology firm Mindtree between May 27-30 for about Rs 70 crore, according to regulatory data. **PTI**

Global airlines slash profit forecast

Seoul: Global airlines slashed a widely watched industry profit forecast by 21 per cent on Sunday as an expanding trade war and higher oil prices compound worries about an overdue industry slowdown. The International Air Transport Association (IATA), which represents about 290 carriers, said the industry is expected to post a \$28 billion profit in 2019, down from a December forecast of \$35.5 billion. **REUTERS**

OVER ₹1 LAKH CRORE COLLECTED EACH IN APRIL, MAY THIS YEAR

Monthly GST may have topped ₹1 lakh cr, but required run rate short by ₹13.5K crore

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
 NEW DELHI, JUNE 2

GROSS GOODS and Services Tax (GST) collections have stayed above the Rs 1 lakh crore mark for the third consecutive month in May. However, the mop-up so far for this financial year is lagging behind the required run rate by around Rs 13,500 crore.

The slower trend in revenue is being seen as a reflection of the revenue loss due to change in exemption threshold, which became effective April 1, along with overall slowdown in the economy.

The widening gap between the GST revenue and the monthly target will put strain on the government to meet its total budgeted target for the 2019-20 fiscal. Officials say a shortfall of Rs

6,000-7,000 crore can still be met during festive season, when indirect tax revenue tends to go up, but a higher shortfall will make the overall target tough to meet. "The monthly run rate was set factoring in the required 14 per cent growth in revenue. Change in exemption threshold and economic slowdown have started showing up in GST revenue. "A shortfall of Rs 6,000-7,000 crore is manageable since the revenue picks up during festive season and year-end. But a shortfall higher than Rs 10,000 crore will make the overall annual target challenging," a senior government official said.

The Centre's target for gross GST collection for states and Centre is around Rs 1.14 lakh crore a month. The government had already missed its GST collection

target for fiscal 2018-19 by almost Rs 60,000 crore, even after scaling down the Budget target by Rs 1 lakh crore.

In the Interim Budget for FY20 presented on February 1, the Centre had scaled down the GST collection target by Rs 1 lakh crore, with revised estimate for 2018-19 pegged at Rs 6.44 lakh crore as against the initial Budget target of Rs 7.44 lakh crore.

Out of the total Rs 6.44 lakh crore GST collections pegged in Budget 2018-19, the government had aimed to collect CGST of Rs 5.04 lakh crore and IGST of Rs 50,000 crore.

For the current fiscal 2019-20, the Centre has pegged GST target at Rs 7.61 lakh crore, out of which Rs 6.10 lakh crore is estimated from CGST, Rs 1.01 lakh crore from compensation cess and Rs 50,000

crore from Integrated GST. Adding states' share, the overall target for GST revenue is around Rs 13.71 lakh crore for 2019-20, up from the target of Rs 11.48 lakh crore for 2018-19.

In its 32nd meeting in January, the GST Council had decided to double the exemption threshold to Rs 40 lakh and hike the limit for composition scheme to Rs 1.5 crore from Rs 1 crore with effect from April 1.

With the hike in exemption threshold to Rs 40 lakh, about 20.64 lakh taxpayers, including composition scheme registrants, were estimated to have the option to move out of GST regime.

The annual revenue impact of the decision was estimated to be Rs 5,225 crore, assuming that 50 per cent of registered taxpayers move out of GST.

External commercial borrowings drop 20% in Apr: RBI

Indian industry's borrowings from foreign markets fell by nearly 20 per cent to \$3.16 billion in April 2019 compared to the year-ago month, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India

\$3.92 BILLION IN APR 2018: Companies based in India had raised \$3.92 billion from overseas markets in April last year

SHARE OF ECBs: Of the total external commercial borrowings (ECBs) in April 2019

\$2.66 billion was raised through automatic route

\$500 million was raised through approval route

\$304,462 came through the issue of rupee denominated bonds (RDBs)



BORROWERS THAT RAISED FUNDS VIA AUTOMATIC ROUTE:

- **Shriram Transport Finance Company:** \$750 million on sub-lending
- **Dhamra LNG Terminal:** \$600 million for rupee expenditure
- **Indian Railway Finance Corporation:** \$300 million for infrastructure development
- **Ikea India Pvt Ltd:** \$257.82 million as working capital loan
- **Tata Motors Finance Ltd:** \$150 million for on-lending
- **Performance Speciality Products (India) Pvt Ltd:** \$89.91 million as working capital funding

■ **Johnson Matthey India Pvt Ltd:** \$64.82 million for new project requirement

COMPANY THAT RAISED FUNDS VIA APPROVAL ROUTE:

■ **JSW Steel Ltd:** \$500 million for modernisation

COMPANY THAT RAISED FUNDS VIA RDBs:

■ **Biosense Technologies Pvt Ltd:** \$304,462 for new project needs

CHINA ON Sunday laid the blame entirely on the US for the breakdown of trade talks between the two biggest economies in the world, while accusing the United States of using "extreme pressure" to force Beijing to reach a deal to end the trade conflict.

China said its negotiators were still "committed to credible consultations based on equality and mutual benefit" but said there will be no compromise on "matters of principle".

In a 28-page "white paper" on the nation's official position released here, China's State Council Information Office made it clear that the US government "should bear the sole and entire responsibility" for the current stalemate and the escalating trade conflict. The white paper, 'China's position on the China-US Economic and Trade Consultation', also hit back at allegations that China had significantly changed the text under negotiation and backtracked from earlier promises.

It pointed out that it was "common practice" to make new proposals and adjustments as the talks progressed and said that this was something the US had done consistently. The white paper outlined the long drawn out process of 11 rounds of negotiations held since early last year to end the stand-off.

"Trumpeting 'America First', the current US administration has adopted a series of unilateral and protectionist measures, regularly wielded tariffs as a 'big stick' and coerced other countries into accepting its demands," the paper stated in a reference to US trade measures



Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen speaks during a press conference about China-US Trade issues at the State Council Information Office in Beijing, Sunday. **AP**

against various countries, including India.

The white paper was released a day after China hit \$60 billion worth of US goods with new punitive tariffs ranging from five to 25 per cent, in retaliation to the US raising punitive tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods.

Notably, the Chinese government's white paper pointed out that the US tariff measures have caused "serious harm" to the US economy instead of boosting it. At the press conference held here on Sunday, China's Vice Minister for Commerce, Wang Shouwen called the US "irresponsible" for accusing Beijing of backtracking on its promises. "Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed," he said in English.

Wang also said that the United States was putting "compulsory requirements", impinging on China's sovereignty with a rider that some tariffs will remain even after the deal. Without naming US

President Donald Trump, Wang said "they also increased tariffs in order to exert pressure on China" leading to severe setback of the negotiations. "If one doesn't respect other side's sovereignty and core interests and tries to force the other side to compromise by pressuring to yield lopsided results, such negotiations cannot succeed," Wang said. "If the US wants to use extreme pressure and all kinds of ways to escalate trade frictions to force China to capitulate, this is impossible," he added.

The white paper also accused the US of going back on its word three times over the course of negotiations by introducing new tariffs and other conditions beyond what was agreed on. It noted that China and the US agreed on most parts of the deal.

"But the consultations have not been free of setbacks, each of them being the result of a US breach of consensus and commitments, and backtracking," the white paper said.

SFIO identifies 'coterie' that defrauded IL&FS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 NEW DELHI, JUNE 2

LAUNCHING A massive crackdown on perpetrators of the IL&FS scam, the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has charged the erstwhile top management members of the group's financial services subsidiary IFIN of forming a "coterie" with its auditors and independent directors

to defraud the company while running the business as their "personal fiefdom".

Officials also said it is just a tip of the iceberg in this massive fraud case, involving defaults totalling an estimated amount of over Rs 90,000 crore, as the SFIO's first chargesheet concerns just one entity, IL&FS Financial Services Ltd (IFIN), and the probe is already underway against the parent firm Infrastructure Leasing and

Financial Services Ltd (IL&FS) and several other subsidiaries.

In addition to prosecution of former executive and independent directors of IFIN, among others, and attachment of their properties, SFIO is also looking to seek interim attachment of all moveable and immovable assets of the auditors including their lockers, bank accounts and jointly-held properties, officials said. The SFIO is also collecting de-

tails about all borrowings by IFIN from banks and through market instruments, as also about the role of banks and their officials and of credit rating agencies.

The first charge-sheet, filed by the government's white-collar fraud investigation agency, follows inspection of accounts of close to 400 entities, an extensive forensic audit, data collected from desktops and laptops seized from various IL&FS offices as also e-mails

extracted from the IL&FS servers, RBI inspection reports, minutes of meetings, among other documents, as also the assessment reports from the government-appointed new board of IL&FS.

The huge scam came to light last year after IL&FS and its subsidiaries defaulted on several debt repayments due to a severe liquidity crisis. As of March 2018, it owed over Rs 90,000 crore to banks and other creditors.

BRITAIN'S CONSTITUTIONAL TIME-BOMB

The next to blow

Brexit is already a political crisis. Sooner or later it will become a constitutional crisis, too



Anti-Brexit protesters outside the Houses of Parliament in London, on April 9. Most Britons seem blithely unaware of the test ahead. Reuters

BRITONS PRIDE themselves on their “unwritten” constitution. America, France and Germany need rules to be set down in black and white. In the Mother of Parliaments democracy has blossomed for over 300 years without coups, revolution or civil war, Irish independence aside. Its politics are governed by an evolving set of traditions, conventions and laws under a sovereign Parliament. Thanks to its stability, Britain convinced the world that its style of government was built on solid foundations laid down over centuries of commonsense adaptation.

That view is out of date. The remorseless logic of Brexit has shoved a stick of constitutional dynamite beneath the United Kingdom—and, given the difficulty of constitutional reform in a country at loggerheads, there is little that can be done to defuse it. The chances are high that Britons will soon discover that the constitution they counted on to be adaptable and robust can in fact amplify chaos, division and the threat to the union.

On June 10th, three days after Theresa May steps down as Conservative leader, the race to succeed her will formally begin. Some of the runners, including the favourite, Boris Johnson, vow that, unless the European

Union gives them what they want (which it won't), they will pull out of the EU on October 31st without a deal. The 124,000 members of the Conservative Party who will choose the next prime minister, an unrepresentative sample, to put it mildly, will thus take it upon themselves to resolve the question that has split the nation down the middle.

Worse, Britain's supposedly sovereign Parliament has voted against just such a no-deal Brexit on the ground that it would do the country grave harm. There will doubtless be more parliamentary machinations to stop a no-deal Brexit or force one through. The constitution is unclear on whether the executive or Parliament should prevail. It is unclear how to even choose between them.

Behind this uncertainty lies the fact that Britain's constitution is a jumble of contradictions scattered across countless laws, conventions and rules. These can easily be amended, by a vote in Parliament or merely on the say-so of the controversial Speaker of the House of Commons—who last week vowed to stay in office in order to ensure that Parliament's voice is heard. There was a time when most British lawmakers were mindful that playing fast and loose with the rules could undermine democracy. Perhaps that

is why they used to practise self-restraint. But in recent decades, when liberal democracy seemed unshakable, Britain's leaders forgot their caution. Instead, in a fit of absent-mindedness, they set about reinventing the constitution wholesale.

Under Tony Blair and David Cameron, the Westminster Parliament ceded power to assemblies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and to the people directly through referendums. These innovations were often well-meant and, in themselves, desirable. But nobody gave much thought to the consequences for the constitution as a whole.

The resulting mess has already stamped its mark on Brexit. The referendum endorsed leaving the EU but left the details for later. It provided a mandate for Brexit, but not for any of the very different forms Brexit can

take. It is unclear how MPs should reconcile their duty to honour the referendum with the duty of each one of them to act in the best interests of their constituents. Other countries avoid that mistake. Ireland holds referendums, too. But Article 46 of its constitution is clear: the people vote on a change only after a bill has passed through the Dail with the details nailed down. Britain never thought to be so sensible.

Brexit is itself sowing the seeds of further constitutional chaos, by threatening the integrity of the union. In the elections for the European Parliament, the Scottish National Party (SNP) won an increased share of the poll. Scotland voted Remain in the referendum, and the SNP's leaders can understandably claim that they have just won an enhanced mandate to leave the United

Kingdom. Yet, at least one of the Tory leadership candidates is ruling out any further referendums.

Breaking up the union would be a constitutional nightmare—if only because no process for secession is laid down. Merely choosing to hold a second Scottish referendum could be fraught. Mr Johnson is loathed north of the border. Plenty of English voters are calling for a second Brexit referendum. Mrs May told the SNP to wait until Brexit had been resolved. Legally, could Prime Minister Johnson hold the line against a determined Scottish campaign? It is unclear.

The very act of leaving the EU would also load the constitution with fresh doubts. The Charter of Fundamental Rights, which enshrines EU citizens' rights in law, would no longer govern British courts. Some would-be Tory leaders, such as Dominic Raab, want to scrap domestic legislation that embeds those rights. If Parliament passed oppressive new laws, the courts might complain, but they could not stop it. Voters who moan about meddling European judges might start to have second thoughts. Cue calls for a British Bill of Rights and another fit of ill-considered constitutional innovation.

And that leads to a final worry. Britain's

ramshackle, easily amended constitution is vulnerable to the radicalised politics produced by three years spent rowing about Brexit. Jeremy Corbyn and his colleagues on the hard left could not be clearer about their ambitions to revolutionise Britain. It is naive to think they would focus on the economy and public spending, but leave the rules alone. A Labour government under Mr Corbyn—or, for that matter, a Conservative government led by a populist Tory—would be constrained only by its ability to get its way in Parliament. Labour has already called for a constitutional convention.

Most Britons seem blithely unaware of the test ahead. Perhaps they believe that their peculiar way of doing things always leads to stability. It is indeed just possible that their constitution's infinite flexibility will permit a compromise that gets the country through the Brexit badlands. More likely, however, it will feed claims that the other lot are cheats and traitors.

Brexit has long been a political crisis. Now it looks destined to become a constitutional crisis, too. It is one for which Britain is woefully underprepared.

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THE DEATH PENALTY IN PAKISTAN

The ultimate injustice

Most convicts on death row in Pakistan should not be there

THE DAY Ghulam Qadir and Ghulam Sarwar were acquitted of murder after a miscarriage of justice should have been a moment to celebrate. The brothers had been awaiting execution for over a decade, only for the Supreme Court belatedly to quash their case. Eyewitness testimony against them was shaky and the prosecution case flimsy, the justices declared. Yet when officials sought to bring the pair the good news, they had a shock. They had been hanged a year earlier. No one had told the court or their lawyer.

This combination of injustice and incompetence is common in capital cases in Pakistan, a new report argues. Two NGOs, the Foundation for Fundamental Rights, which is based in Pakistan, and Reprieve, based in Britain, have studied the 310 known cases in which the Supreme Court reviewed death sentences between 2010 and 2018. They found that the justices revoked 78% of them. About half of those overturned ended in outright acquittal. The rest saw sentences commuted or a review initiated. If these proportions hold for Pakistan's 4,700 death-row

prisoners, some 1,800 should be set free. As many should have their sentences commuted or their cases retried or reviewed. But such reprieves do not come quickly. The average death-row prisoner spends ten years under threat of execution before the case reaches the Supreme Court.

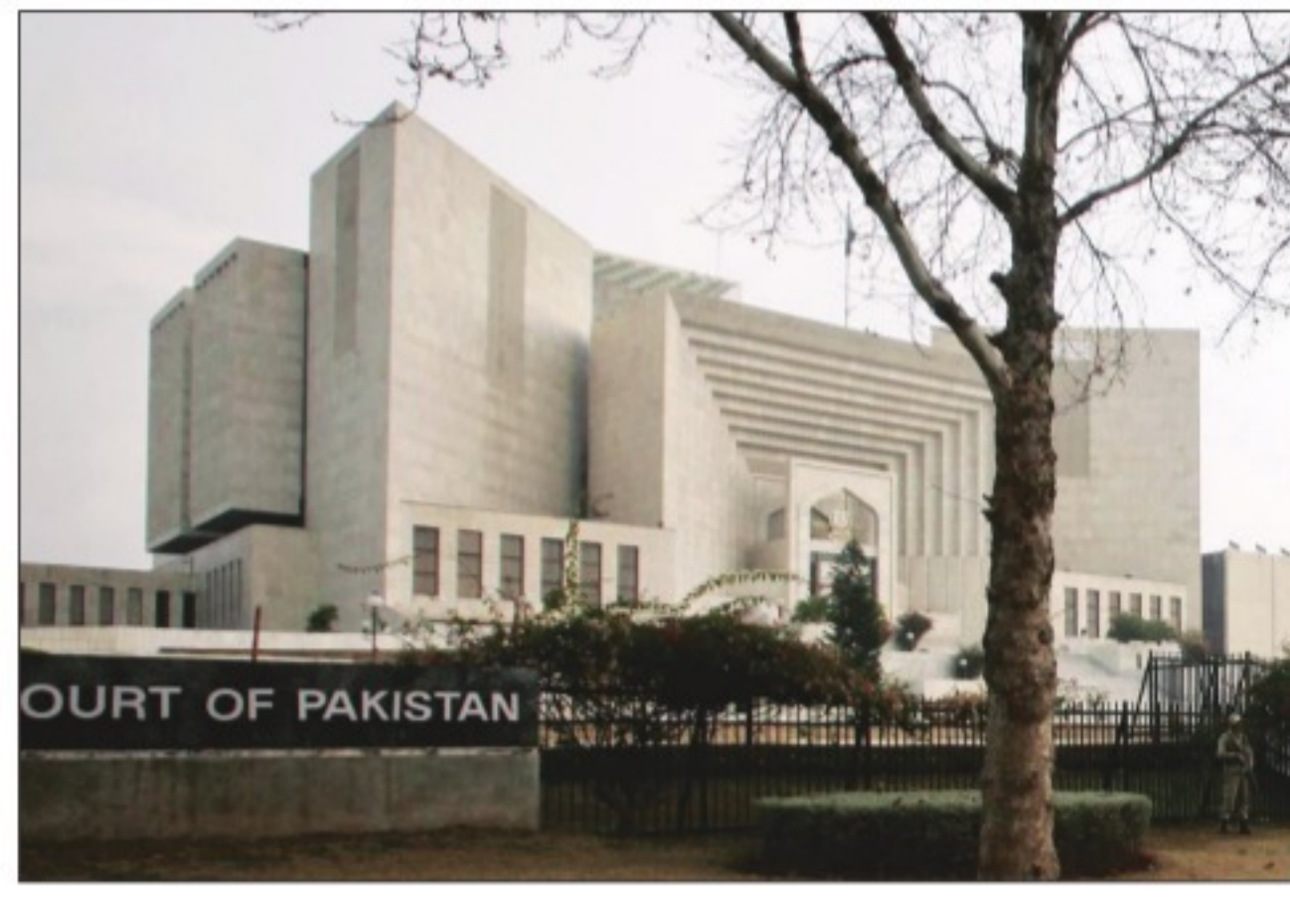
The country's highest judges often complain that lower-court convictions rely on dubious “eyewitness” testimony. Sometimes it is directly at odds with the physical evidence. Particularly suspect are “chance” witnesses—people unrelated to

The Supreme Court also often questions the reliability of the police. Corrupt cops have been found not only to tamper with (or concoct) witness statements, but also to plant evidence and collude with victims or their families.

killer or victim who, prosecutors claim, happened to observe a murder or other crime by coincidence. These witnesses often give evidence deemed clinching even if there is no proof they were present when the crime was committed. Such witnesses are sometimes people known to bear a grudge against the accused.

The Supreme Court also often questions the reliability of the police. Corrupt cops have been found not only to tamper with (or concoct) witness statements, but also to plant evidence and collude with victims or their families. Confessions are often extracted by beating.

Blundering and inconsistency are also rife. Bungled identity parades, in which the police do not stick to required procedures, undermine even cases in which credible witnesses identify culprits. The lower courts can be arbitrary, too. Evidence strong enough to send one suspect to the gallows, for instance, is deemed too weak to convict his co-accused. Then there is the question of which offences merit execution. A total of 27 crimes



The average death-row prisoner spends ten years under threat of execution before the case reaches the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Reuters

can lead to a death sentence, ranging from murder, treason, kidnap and drug smuggling to blasphemy. But many Pakistanis are put on death row for crimes the highest court does not believe warrant execution. Over the nine years the NGOs looked at, the court did not uphold a single death sentence for a non-lethal offence. Even for murders, it appeared

to favour life sentences for all but the most heinous. Yet lower courts often impose death sentences for drug crimes, for example.

Supreme justice

More than 500 people have been executed since 2014. And yet the Supreme Court seems ever more sceptical about capital

cases. In 2018 it upheld the death penalty in just 3% of those it reviewed. Among the death sentences it overturned was, most famously, that imposed on an alleged blasphemer, Asia Bibi, which it said was based on “concoction incarnate”. Amnesty International, a London-based watchdog, has recorded a drop in recent executions, from at least 87 in 2016 to 60 in 2017 and 14 in 2018. Yet Amnesty recorded at least 360 death sentences handed down in 2016, over 200 in 2017 and upwards of 250 last year.

Concerns about the use of the death penalty are long-standing. The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), in power from 2008 to 2013, introduced a moratorium on executions in 2008. But the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz, which defeated the PPP in the election of 2013, pledged to lift the moratorium to tackle a tide of crime and militancy. Indeed, it did so just days after an attack in 2014 on the Army Public School in Peshawar, where the Taliban killed more than 140 people, including 132 children.

In their new report the NGOs argue that Pakistan's capital-punishment regime is so broken that the government elected last year, led by Imran Khan, the prime minister, should impose another moratorium immediately. He seems unlikely to listen. That leaves it to the Supreme Court to temper some of the injustices of the judicial system over which it presides.

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FEMME FASHION

Fashion world's favourite muse, singer Lady Gaga is showcasing 40 of her most bizarre outfits at the "Haus of Gaga" exhibition in Las Vegas. This also includes the 'meat dress' she wore at the 2010 MTV Video Music Awards.

WEEK AHEAD



Back in Time

REPLETE WITH traditional ghazals, thumris and qawwalis, *Umrao Jaan Ada: The Musical* brings to the stage one of Urdu poet Mirza Hadi Ruswa's 19th-century classics. Witness the tale of love and struggle at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Pragati Vihar, Lodhi Colony, on June 4. Tickets priced between Rs 1,500 and Rs 5,500 available at the venue if not sold out.



Got This Feeling

HAILING FROM Ooty, singer-songwriter Suraj Rajan's compositions are a reflection of his feelings at any given moment. On his journey of releasing his new EP *Dispose*, Rajan will perform at The Piano Man Jazz Club, Commercial Complex, B 6/7-22, Safdarjung Enclave, on June 4 at 7 pm.



Take Note

NAMAN, AN evening of Indian classical music, has in store a performance by acclaimed shehnai player Lokesh Anand (pictured) and a solo tabla performance by Suraj Nirwan. At Amaltas Hall, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, on June 5 at 7 pm. Entry is free.

Artists Respond

ON WORLD Environment Day, the exhibition "Breathless: An Artistic Call To India's Air Pollution Crisis" hopes to raise awareness on the effects of air pollution. The project has been shot by photographer Ishan Tankha, with stories penned by Aruna Chandrasekhar. At Bikaner House, India Gate, from June 6 to 9, 10 am to 6 pm.



(Clockwise from above) Cover of the book *India Moving: A History of Migration*; stills from VR videos by Memesys Culture Lab; Shalim Hussain; Chinmay Tumble



The Permanence in the Ephemeral

The Migration Museum, a day-long event in Mumbai by Godrej India Culture Lab, will explore various aspects of migration through art, performances and discussions

DIPTI NAGPAUL

MARRIAGE IS one of the biggest forms of migration in India. This aspect of migration is so basal that one is confronted with the power of the statement only when it is spelt out. Chinmay Tumble, who beautifully articulates it in his book *India Moving: A History of Migration*, will be one of the speakers at the Migration Museum coming Saturday. A one-day event by Godrej India Culture Lab, it will see a cross-section of artists and intellectuals share their views on migration. Scheduled to take place at their Vikhroli campus on June 8, it will feature a mix of films, performances, art, workshops, panel discussions and a masterclass.

However, while the easiest approach one can take to migration is presenting it through the regional lens, the Culture Lab team has put together an event that slices through the very core of migration to explore various aspects of it. So there is a screening of Mani Kaul's *Arrival*, which examines migrant labour as a commodity. A student film by Tata Institute of Social Sciences, *Ghutan* investigates the subject of internal migration within Mumbai as a result of infrastructural projects undertaken by the state.

Poet, writer, translator and research scholar at the Department of English at Jamia Millia Islamia, Shalim Hussain will perform Miyah poetry, a form of protest poetry by Assamese Muslims of Bengali



The current politics of Assam is determined by migration but we choose to look at it only historically, as events. But what has it done to us? How has it impacted Assam culturally? These are some aspects that I want to talk about"

SHALIM HUSSAIN
POET, WRITER AND RESEARCH SCHOLAR



origin. The Lab will also be preparing some dishes from Mumbai Mobile Creche's book *Food Memories of Migrant Women*, a compilation of recipes by the wives of migrant construction workers in Mumbai.

The final project of their summer leadership programme, held annually with college students, the Migration Museum was conceived by the participants. The Culture Lab head, Parmesh Shahani credits the students for putting together the idea while the format of a pop-up museum came from the Lab's team. "This kind of programming is rooted in the idea

of the lab. One of our earliest events, Museum of Memories was a breakthrough for us. We have since had several such events including Vikhroli Skin and the Partition Museum last year to mark 70 years of India. These events are beautiful but transient, and pretty much metaphorical of culture," explains Shahani.

For Hussain, it was the fact that the North-East is often overlooked in the larger narrative of migration in India that drew him to participate in the event. "The current politics of Assam is determined by migration but we choose to

look at it only historically, as events. But what has it done to us? How has it impacted Assam culturally? These are some aspects that I want to talk about," says the poet, who also belongs to the community of Bengali migrants.

The museum came together after extensive research. "Reena Kallat will be showcasing an installation of her book cover prints where she had created a women map by tracing the routes of contract workers, indentured labour, asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants. Isn't it amazing that so many books on migration use her art for their cover? By showing her covers, we will end up highlighting several books on the subject," Shahani points out, adding that they did not want to explore the subject in terms of displacement alone but also look at aspects such as identity and citizenship.

Through some of the programming, such as Hussain's performance, there is an engagement with politics and current affairs. Shahani explains that he understands the need to engage with politics today, more than ever before "but we would like to do so through art".

About the transient nature of the museum, Shahani says, "In some ways it is like migration...we build it and let go. But what's more important is that the physical form is what is lost but what really matters lives on — through pictures, videos and more importantly, the memories and everything we learn while putting it together."

ON THE LOOSE



LEHER KALA

Us and Them

The posh liberals of India actually don't count so much

EVER SINCE Prime Minister Narendra Modi told this newspaper (with more than a hint of withering scorn) that it wasn't the "Khan Market Gang" that created his image, the term has gone viral as an idiom for posh people — who have harebrained self-serving ideas, and money to burn. The Khan Market Gang in popular imagination has become a metaphor for the English-speaking elite, referred to with smirks and frothy adjectives such as "limousine liberals" and "champagne socialists". "Lutyens Media" evolved earlier as a reaction to the policies of the UPA, but is being banded about a lot right now; at the risk of sounding horribly elite, it bears pointing out that the larger public (innocently, perhaps) interprets it more literally — and not how it was meant — as a blanket term for influential insiders thriving in the Capital.

Instead, Lutyens Media precisely because of the word media (unfairly) has the common man thinking it's the journalists who are the wily operators in the corridors of power, complicit with politicians in diminishing their status. The lobbyists, arms dealers and dodgy brokers working the scene have gotten away with their reputations intact (or at least exactly as they were) because the vast majority of people don't consider them "media". The term Lutyens Media also, unfortunately, conjures up images of news TV professionals living in sprawling bungalows in the centre of Delhi, which is simply not true. I know of maybe two journalists with a Lutyens address and it didn't come their way via a newspaper salary but by the birth lottery, more commonly called fate. The reality is most people working in the media live in far flung suburbs and spend a minimum of an hour commuting to work. Every profession has the occasional sleazeball but by and large, journalists don't deserve being bracketed with hustlers just because some made the fatal error of doing their job, and asking questions of the establishment.

As far as the Khan Market Gang goes, despite whatever the saffron-clad lot think of the kind of people who hang out at Khan, the martini-sipping, Chanel shades-wearing minority, they should be cut some slack. Because from what I can tell, having a vast range of acquaintances who frequent Khan, many of them too, voted BJP. It's a fact that many of the liberal elite were revolted by the alternative, a shining example of undeserved privilege.

Most of the time the one per cent may live resolutely apart from the rest of the country because our consciences no longer trouble us to notice the injustices meted out to our fellow citizens. That is, until our sensibilities are violated by seeing somebody flaunting even more entitlement. Alas, the Congress scion succeeded, at least, in evoking an enraged righteousness even among liberals. In any case, the tiny bunch of posh liberals inhabiting India don't count, being carefully insulated from whomever is holding forth at the centre. Life will carry on in the same vein, with the same frustrations of traffic jams and load-shedding.

History is replete with examples of the misery inflicted by charismatic leaders who were convinced they had the answers to creating perfect civilisations and sought to convert those who disagreed. Right from the Inquisition when the Roman church prevailed, to Stalin's Russia to the Emergency in India in 1975, these were instances when contrary moral values were rubbished by leaders who believed, chillingly, that they had the right to ride rough shod over anyone who thought differently. It turns out people everywhere have an inherent need to believe in saviours and that explains the huge disappointment of the fans of the recently concluded iconic show, *Game of Thrones*.

After eight seasons of speculation on who would rule the Iron Throne, *GoT* ended on the sobering note, that no one gets it right. In the penultimate episode, the queen, previously shown as having sympathy for the downtrodden, went on a killing spree, dazzled by her conviction that the throne was her ultimate destiny. *GoT* questioned, more than glorified greatness, and unsparingly tore into a character who had flashes of brilliance but like many real life leaders, exposed her flaws when her hold on power was threatened. It wasn't a popular ending but the correct one, to show how the path to good intentions by the wise can often take a dangerous turn.

hutkiyfilms@gmail.com

The Show Goes On

Koodiyattam and Nangiarkoothu artiste Kapila Venu, who will perform at the seventh SPICMACAY convention at JNU, on meditating on her rare art form, and being lesser-known

SUANSHU KHURANA

THIRTY FOUR-YEAR-OLD Kapila Venu, one of the few Koodiyattam and Nangiarkoothu (the female style of Kathakali) artistes in India, has never been worried about the popularity of her art form. In fact, she thinks it's a good thing. "Appealing to large numbers isn't necessarily a positive thing. I am very comfortable being lesser-known, even exclusive. There are only a few of us in the world, which gives us an organic way of growth. With other art forms, it's so much competition rather than creativity, it's scary," says Kapila, who will perform in Delhi as part of the seventh international convention of SPICMACAY, which is also coinciding with Jawaharlal Nehru University's golden jubilee celebrations. Her performance is slated on June 8.

Koodiyattam, which originated in Kerala, is a combination of ancient Sanskrit theatre with elements of Koothu — a Tamil/Malayalam performing art that is as old as the Sangam era and is recognised by UNESCO as a "masterpiece of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity". Traditionally, the dance form, a combination of acting and dance, is performed in temple theatres or Koothambalams of Kerala. It remains the only art form that uses drama from ancient Sanskrit theatre. On nurturing her tradition, Kapila says that since the lineage is unbroken for centuries, she hasn't lost touch with the language, and the elements it includes. "When it's broken and you are trying to revive it, it is difficult to reimagine," says Kapila.

From a young age, Kapila grew up in an enriching environment. Born to Kutiyyattam exponent and actor G Venu and Mohiniyattam dancer-teacher Nirmala Paniker, intense training and dance was all that she saw. Koodiyattam maestro and legend Guru Ammannur Madhava Chakyar, whom she also learned from eventually, was her neighbour. And the house was always brimming with puppeteers, folk artistes, contemporary and *avante garde* dancers and musicians from around the world. "This definitely impacted my sensibilities and aspirations as a dancer," says Kapila, who also trained under the famous dancer, Min Tanaka from Japan. And thus came the ability to question and refresh what she was performing.

"I love to stay grounded in tradition, but at the same time, I am also interested in other forms especially theatre and dance. For me, it's important to be part of both the worlds," says Kapila, who has taken time off to learn contemporary art forms.

"My parents were pretty relaxed about academics. I was an average student and my mom was certainly more concerned than my father when it came to academics. There was no pressure, but I knew that if I were to be an artiste, they would be happy," says Kapila, who was aware of the risks that came with taking up art. "I saw my parents lead a very unconventional life, so it didn't

seem odd to me. It never felt like I was jumping off a cliff or something," adds Kapila, who is currently a top performer of both the art forms and the director of Natanakairali — Research Training and Performing Centre for Traditional Arts in Irinjalakuda, an institute set up by her father in the year 1975.

There was a time when Koodiyattam students and performers were not allowed to even watch other forms of dances. Even Nangiarkoothu was only to be performed by Nangiark women. "Those times have changed. My generation has had a lot of exposure to other schools of thought, which gives a different dimension to our practice, a different perspective to understand our tradition better," says Kapila.

The convention will also feature a number of other stalwarts from the fields of music, art and dance. These include noted flautist Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia, santoor maestro Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma, sarod legend Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Bharatanatyam exponent Malavika Sarukai, famed violinist A Kanyakumari, vocalists Pt Rajan and Sajan Mishra and painter Krishan Khanna, among others. A number of master craftsmen from various states will also be a part of the convention that is seeing participation of students from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and UAE.

The convention will take place at the JNU campus from June 3-9. Entry by registration



(Clockwise from right) Kapila Venu; Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia; Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma





KEDAR DOES FULL NETS
Having made a significant recovery from his shoulder injury, Kedar Jadhav was up and running at the nets. He hardly looked troubled when facing the bowlers.

An underdog day afternoon at Oval, as Bangladesh defeat SA



Timely strikes by Bangladesh bowlers put paid to South Africa's aspirations to surpass the lofty total of 330. Reuters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LONDON, JUNE 2

MAYBE, WE shouldn't be surprised. There may be a considerable difference in rankings and pedigree, but Bangladesh players and fans believe that on their day, they're a match for anybody. An insipid South Africa found that out, to their own cost, on Sunday. Most of Bangladesh's senior players came to the party with the bat, and when it came to defending a big total – their highest in ODIs – their spinners and, significantly, their seamers showed the nous and skill to ensure that every partnership was nipped to pave the way for a winning start to their campaign.

It's also a thumbs-up to the astute preparation that Bangladesh undertook before the World Cup. They arrived in the region early, played a tri-series in Ireland, and beat West Indies twice for their first multi-national trophy. As not many of their players featured in the Indian Premier League, they got time to

gel as a unit. South Africa came into the World Cup a bit under the radar, and judging by their first two matches, one now sees why. They tried to bounce out the Bangladesh batsmen, but when that didn't work, they had no Plan B. They went for 70 runs in the last six overs, 54 in the last four, as Mahmudullah and Mosaddek Hossain made merry against some ordinary bowling and sloppy fielding.

While batting, in the absence of Hashim Amla, missing the match after a blow to his head against England, most of their main men got off to starts but fell before making it count. This proved to be their undoing in a high-scoring game. The Proteas fell short by 21 runs. One wonders what could have happened had any of their top-order players stayed till the end. Skipper Faf du Plessis top-scored with 62, trying to undo the damage of putting the opposition in after winning the toss, while Aiden Markram, David Miller, Rassie van der Dussen and JP Duminy were all dismissed around or in their 40s.

Bangladesh's impressive total of 330/6 was built on the foundation laid by Mushfiqur Rahim (78) and Shakib Al Hasan (75), who added 142 for the third wicket at the Oval. That Lungi Ngidi had to leave the field after bowling just four overs due to a hamstring strain also didn't help South Africa. He was subsequently ruled out for 10 days.

Tall order

The Proteas had to rewrite World Cup records to win the contest but Mustafizur Rahman took three wickets and Mohammad Saifuddin got vital breakthroughs. Spinners Shakib and Mehidy Hasan were miserly and also chipped in with big scalps. Quinton de Kock and Markram took the team to 49 before a misunderstanding gifted Bangladesh a wicket. Du Plessis and Markram put on 53 in 60 balls before Shakib going through the opener's defences.

The skipper looked destined for a significant impact, before an ugly hoick off Mehidy

caused his downfall. For a while, Miller seemed to be playing a guiding role with energetic running and a few big shots putting pressure on Bangladesh, but that too didn't last long.

With the asking rate reaching 10 runs an over, van der Dussen also succumbed and it looked a tall order for South Africa. Duminy was their last hope but when he was bowled by Mustafizur, it was the last nail in the coffin. "It will be one of our top wins," said player of the match Shakib. "We have done some upsets at World Cups but we want to prove something at this tournament."

Up next for South Africa is India at Southampton on Wednesday, and even at this stage of the World Cup, South Africa realise it's a game they can't afford to lose. For starters, they will hope to get Amla and Dale Steyn back.

Bangladesh, on the other hand, can look forward to a clash against New Zealand on the same day at the site of their Sunday's heroics.

SCORECARD >>
SA vs BAN

The Oval | Toss: South Africa

BANGLADESH 330/6 IN 50 OV

T Iqbal c de Kock b Phehlukwayo **16**
(29b, 2x4)

S Sarkar c de Kock b Morris **42** (30b, 9x4)

S Al Hasan b Tahir **75** (84b, 8x4, 1x6)

M Rahim c van der Dussen b Phehlukwayo **78** (80b, 8x4)

M Mithun b Tahir **21** (21b, 2x4, 1x6)

Mahmudullah not out **46**
(33b, 3x4, 1.6)

M Hossain c Phehlukwayo b Morris **26**
(20b, 4x4)

M Hasan not out **5** (3b, 1x4)

Extras: ((lb 9, w 12) **21**

Fall of wickets: 1-60 (T Iqbal, 8.2 ov), 2-75 (S Sarkar, 11.4 ov), 3-217 (S Al Hasan, 35.1 ov), 4-242 (M Mithun, 39.4 ov), 5-250 (M Rahim, 42.1 ov), 6-316 (M Hossain, 48.6 ov)

Bowling:

L Ngidi **4-0-34-0**

K Rabada **10-0-57-0**

A Phehlukwayo **10-1-52-2**

C Morris **10-0-73-2**

A Markram **5-0-38-0**

I Tahir **10-0-57-2**

JP Duminy **1-0-10-0**

SOUTH AFRICA 309/8 IN 50 OV

Q de Kock run out **23** (32b, 4x4)

A Markram b Shakib **45** (56b, 4x4, 1x6)

F du Plessis b Miraz **56** (53b, 5x4, 1x6)

D Miller c Miraz b Rahman **38** (43b, 2x4)

H van der Dussen b Saifuddin **41**
(38b, 2x4, 1x6)

JP Duminy c Miraz b Rahman **38** (43b, 2x4)

A Phehlukwayo c Shakib b Saifuddin **8**
(13, 1x4)

C Morris c Sarkar b Rahman **10** (10b, 1x4)

K Rabada not out **13** (9b, 1x6)

I Tahir not out **10** (10b)

Extras: (b 4, nb 1, w 9) **14**

Fall of wickets: 1-49 (Q de Kock, 9.4 ov), 2-102 (AK Markram, 19.4 ov), 3-147 (F du Plessis, 26.4 ov), 4-202 (DA Miller, 35.1 ov), 5-228 (HE van der Dussen, 39.1 ov), 6-252 (AL Phehlukwayo, 42.5 ov), 7-275 (CH Morris, 45.5 ov), 8-287 (JP Duminy, 47.1 ov)

Bowling:

M Rahman **10-0-67-3**

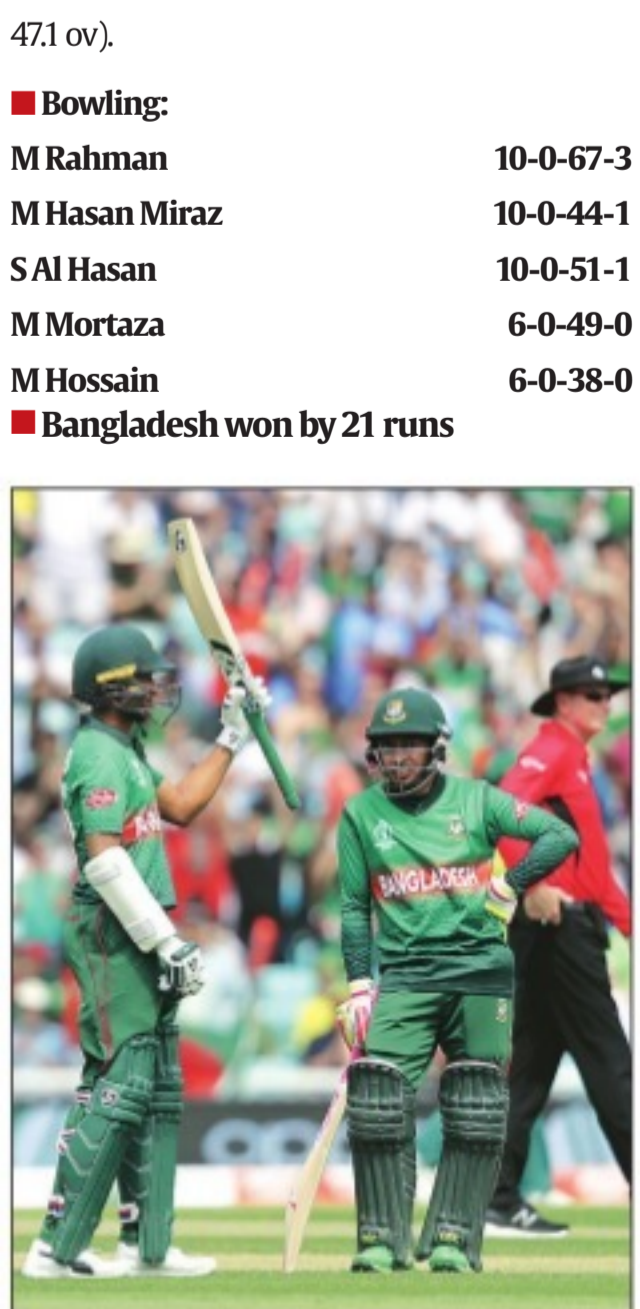
M Hasan Miraz **10-0-44-1**

S Al Hasan **10-0-51-1**

M Mortaza **6-0-49-0**

M Hossain **6-0-38-0**

Bangladesh won by 21 runs



A142-run stand between Shakib and Rahim gave Bangladesh the impetus to post their highest ODI total. Reuters

IPL exclusion has hampered Pakistan batsmen's evolutionary leap, as they play catch up with the rest of the world



EXPRESS AT WORLD CUP

SRIRAM VEERA
NOTTINGHAM, JUNE 2

THE SUN finally went down on a long summer's day in Nottingham when Wahab Riaz and Imad Wasim stood out of their hotel peering at the crowds spilling out for Saturday night revelries.

A car stopped, windows slid down, a head peeped out and invectives flew out, followed by "what are you guys playing, we have to put our heads down and walk here in shame". A Pakistani journalist restrained the players from reacting and shooed away the irate fan with a few choice words of his own.

In Pakistan's perspective, the world has not changed at all in more ways than one. Not just the fans, but more importantly, their batting, almost frozen in its soul through the decades gone by. Barring the quirky Fakhar Zaman, a very street-smart attacker, Pakistan's tempo runs on a steady even note, a lullaby in the world of punk rock and heavy metal, staid and unadventurous in a world of headbangers.

So, the question pops up: Is it in some way connected to the IPL? England's aggressive approach has clearly emerged from India's T20 tournament. It's not even a conjecture as England skipper Eoin Morgan confirmed it when one put it across to him.

"The group of players we have at the moment have played in the IPL in the past couple of years - it has given them great exposure, great experience against the best teams in the world under a huge spotlight, and in the last two to three years, those guys have gone from learning a huge amount at the IPL to actually going there and being MVP (Most Valuable Player) or dominating in certain stages," he said.

He admitted it was a huge step in their evolution, emboldened by their maverick approach. "That for us is a huge step because we had a very few people going to the IPL, say six years ago, and probably looked down upon. That's (IPL experience) breeding confidence in the changing room."

Pakistan do have their T20 - PSL - but there is no doubt that IPL offers much better, stronger competition. Its raved about by foreign cricketers who want to be in. Morgan, in fact, fought with his board who had wanted him to rejoin for national duty in 2016, saying that he would rather stay back as he is "learning a lot" in the IPL.

Essence intact

Let's come to Pakistan now. It's amazing how their batting soul has remained almost the same in essence for decades now. The style, even. The same soul but in a diluted version - not retaining the best of the 80's but resembling it somewhat. Those of us a bit older can easily identify who is Pakistani and who is an Indian batsman - even if they are unknown commodities. Place two unknown random batsmen from the two countries and in a minute, you can suss out their nationality.

Such are the fascinating moulds set in the past - and keep throwing up impressions in the future.

Unlike India and Sri Lanka, Pakistanis tend to use a lot more arms than wrists. The way they pick up the bat, the way arms get into the shots, how their feet shuffle a bit (they rarely stride) - one can go on. That isn't the issue, as it's a fascinating feature with all nations; how even the kids who come up, more often than not, mirror the same technique.

There were two main Pakistani batsman with contrasting styles - Zaheer Abbas, who was wristy, magical, stylish, and Javed Miandad, who was innovative,



For Pakistan to nurse knockout ambitions, they need under-firing batsmen like Imam-ul-Haq (in pic) to come up with the goods. Reuters

imaginative, arms and wrists working in tandem. The subsequent Pakistani batsmen have gone the Miandad way - without his imagination and skill, of course.

This is where the IPL too has perhaps played its part in the non-modernisation of Pakistani batsmen. The bowlers are still doing well, as the pace battery keeps throwing up names like Mohammad Hasnain, but the batsmen haven't evolved. They have been anachronistic to an extent.

The IPL-bred batsmen have been, as Morgan says, more attacking, dominating - they have learnt how to do it in pressure situations and also improved their skills.

In 2009, when Morgan blitzed a 34-ball 67 to eject hosts South Africa from the Champions Trophy, his attacking style used to stand out in stark contrast to his teammates. For the next few years, it remained so. As IPL and modern-day batsmanship left its impact, Morgan no longer was the odd one out. He has almost faded into the background as the likes of Jos Buttler, Jason Roy, Alex Hales (who isn't at this World Cup), and recently, Jonny Bairstow have all upgraded their game.

Pakistan have remained the same. Almost. It comes through the most in middle overs, especially if Fakhar Zaman doesn't fire away at the start. Even that is a bit old-fashioned. Just one attacker at the top. But if he gets out without a substantial contribution, Pakistan can seem as if they are dawdling along.

The push-and-prod template

Shoib Malik, in some ways, is a template originator of that pushing and prodding around. He was the original sponge in the middle overs, nudging the ball around here and there. Former skipper Misbah-ul-Haq too could eat up the overs, plodding away, but both of them could, if they wished, break free later with big hits without making it look risky. That is missing in the current set of batsmen.

HIGH AVERAGE, LOW YIELD

48 Despite Pakistan's meek performance in the World Cup opener against the West Indies at Trent Bridge, they have pedigree in the top-order. Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq and Babar Azam average 48 with the bat since the Champions Trophy.

11 England have beaten Pakistan in 11 of their last 13 ODIs. They have, however, beaten the fancied hosts in the crucial Champions Trophy semifinal two years ago.

We were not far away, we just need to handle the crucial moments better. We know England have ability and skill and the best batting line-up but we can beat them, it wouldn't be that big an upset."

AZHAR MAHMOOD
PAKISTAN BOWLING COACH

Their inexperience doesn't help. Perhaps, a couple of IPL seasons could have helped a few youngsters, one never knows. At times, they bat like outdated versions of an android; the phone is pushing out notifications for updates but they haven't gone for them, stuck without wi-fi (read IPL) and worried about data charges. And so they have stuck on with the old style that they know best.

For that to click, they need two things: their bowlers firing and Zaman exploding at the start. When that happens, the classy Babar Azam can shepherd the rest. Else, at times, it feels they are always sweating hard to catch up with the run-rate - and modernity.

MATCH LIVE ON STARS SPORTS 1/HD FROM 1500 HRS

Wood in line for recall, as England look to amplify chin-music volume

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
NOTTINGHAM, JUNE 2

ENGLAND CAPTAIN Eoin Morgan played a straight bat when asked about the chances of bolstering his pace attack for the side's second World Cup match against Pakistan at Trent Bridge on Monday. The way Pakistan's batsmen were undone by a barrage of bouncers from the West Indies in their opening defeat has led to suggestions England could recall fast bowler Mark Wood.

But given World Cup hosts and favourites England started their campaign with a 104-run thrashing of South Africa at the Oval on Thursday, they may decide to stick with a winning formula rather, than bring Wood in alongside fellow 90 mph plus paceman Jofra Archer.

"I think there's a good case for playing any of our bowlers," Morgan told reporters at Trent Bridge on Sunday. "We'll have to adapt to anything the wicket throws up. If there is anything to exploit, hopefully we'll select the right team."

But Morgan was well aware of the attraction of an Archer-Wood partnership. "It is exciting. It's like saying can you add a Jason Roy 180 to a Jos Buttler 150 off 70 or 80 balls - it might happen and if it does that would be awesome."

England have twice set world records for the highest score in a one-day international at Nottinghamshire's headquarters - posting 444 for three against Pakistan in 2016 before closing in on the 500 barrier with 481 for six



The last time Mark Wood featured against Pakistan he had Imam Ul-Haq retired hurt with a bouncer.

against world champions Australia last year. "To get something near that you need to play unbelievably well," said Morgan. "It starts with the very basics with getting yourself into an innings and each batter starting and trying to establish a partnership."

England's final series before the World Cup saw them whitewash Pakistan 4-0. The 1992 World Cup champions then suffered their 11th straight loss in a completed ODI against on Friday against the West Indies. But having seen his England side beaten by eventual tournament winners Pakistan in the semi-finals of the 2017 Champions Trophy in Cardiff, Morgan was taking nothing for granted. We're preparing for Pakistan at their best," the Dubliner insisted.

Mad-Red

Maximising resources like Alexander-Arnold and Origi, Klopp and Liverpool claim the prize they had coveted for so long

NEW YORK TIMES
MADRID, JUNE 2

THERE WAS a moment, as most of Liverpool's players drew themselves up in line in the middle of the field, ready to offer a guard of honor to Tottenham Hotspur, when Trent Alexander-Arnold was far away, all by himself, in a world of his own. In front of him was a massed bank of red: Liverpool's fans stretching forward, pouring over each other, clawing at the air, desperate to be as close as possible to the players that had beaten Tottenham, 2-0, the goals coming early and late, and made their team champion of Europe for the sixth time.

Alexander-Arnold is one of them, really, deep down. He grew up in Liverpool, supporting the club, a few miles from Anfield, the team's famed home. His jubilation was their jubilation. His dream was their dream. There were thousands of eyes upon him, but it felt, still, like a private reverie. And so, without thinking, Alexander-Arnold started to dance: bouncing up and down, kicking his legs and pumping his fists to a rhythm only he could hear, and then running the width of the field and back again, the energy burning away inside him.

Only once that was done did he sprint back to his teammates, to join the line that would applaud the Spurs players as they trudged onto the podium to collect their runner-up medals, those tokens of regret. Only then did Alexander-Arnold make the slow walk himself, those few seconds that he will remember for the rest of his life. First, though, he had wanted to commune with his fans, his people. Sometimes, you want to be with your own.

Even amid the tumult of a Champions League final, even in all the delirium for Liverpool and its fans and the despair etched on the faces of Tottenham's players, it is worth pausing to consider Alexander-Arnold's career, because it is the best way to understand how it is that Liverpool now stand as winners of the Champions League.

Alexander-Arnold is only 20. It was only a little more than two years ago that he made his first start in the Premier League, a surprise selection for a game against Manchester United. As ever, youth was given its chance by death; Liverpool's season was hardly memorable: a fourth-place finish qualifying as the meeting of a target, rather than a great triumph.

By the start of the next season, he was Jürgen Klopp's first choice right back. That was the summer of 2017. The trajectory of his career since — the trajectory of Liverpool's rise — is quite extraordinary. Alexander-Arnold ended that season as a Champions League finalist, ruling Liverpool's defeat to Real Madrid. He went to the World Cup with England, helped Liverpool mount a thrilling title challenge, and then — at the end of only his second full season as a senior player — went back to the Champions League final. And this time, thanks to an early, controversial penalty from Mohamed Salah and a late, trophy-clinching, nerve-settling goal from Divock Origi, he ended it not just on his feet, but dancing.

It has, by any measure, been an extraordinary rise, both in gradient and speed. But then so too has Liverpool's: a team that had barely even qualified for the Champions League since 2010 — just one, faintly embarrassing campaign in 2014 — has now reached two finals in two years, and won one of them. Only Real Madrid and A.C. Milan have a more garlanded European history than Liverpool, a better record in the game's biggest club competition.

Liverpool's players know precisely who to thank. After the medals had been handed out at Estadio Metropolitano, after the trophy had been lifted and the glitter cannons exploded and the fireworks illuminated the night sky, after the players had celebrated with the fans, just as things were winding down, Georginio Wijnaldum noticed someone was missing.

Klopp was sneaking away, back toward the center circle. Wijnaldum chased after him, together with Virgil van Dijk, and hauled him back. The rest of the team closed in. They picked up their manager, hoisted him on their shoulders, and marched him back to the fans. Once there, they bounced him up and down — no easy task; he's a big man — as a broad grin spread across his face.



A team that had barely qualified for the Champions League since 2010 — just one, faintly embarrassing campaign in 2014 — has now reached two finals in two years, and won one of them. Reuters

LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

3 In the 2018-19 Champions League, Liverpool became just the third side to win a game against a team from each of Europe's big-five leagues in a single season in the competition, after Bayern Munich in 2012-13 and Liverpool themselves in 2004-05.

6 Liverpool have won their sixth Champions League/Europe Cup trophy — twice as many as any other English team has won (Man Utd, 3).

Alexander-Arnold is not the only story that illustrates the change in the club's fortunes. Andy Robertson joined in the summer of 2017 and has never lost a home game. Divock Origi might have been loaned out to Huddersfield Town last summer; he now has scored a decisive goal in the biggest game in club soccer.

That is not to make Liverpool out as some minnow. Klopp had the world's most expensive defender (van Dijk) in his team, and the second-most expensive goalkeeper in Alison. The club has spent money, and it has spent money, as a rule, rather well, testament to a recruitment strategy that counts as among the most intelligent in the sport. But Klopp also has maximized his resources: he has helped Alexander-Arnold develop; he has finessed Robertson; he has offered Origi, against all odds, a way back.

Most of all, he has helped his team mature. There is an idea, one that will take a while to shift, that Liverpool is a team of adventure and risk and swashbuckling style. It was, certainly, but it has not been for some time. It has become a side that controls games, a team of boundless resilience, that is happy to sacrifice aesthetics for effect. In that sense, this final was fitting tribute.

Football in the times of Brexit

MIHIR VASAVDA
MADRID, JUNE 2

Jagbir Singh recalls an incident from 2015 that reassured him that the decision he had made more than 50 years ago was the right one. "I was queuing up to enter the stadium (White Hart Lane) for a match. Some idiot walked past and said, 'oi bin Laden'," the 58-year-old, who runs a video production business, says. "Suddenly, some 20 Tottenham fans surrounded him and told him to 'f**k off' and leave me alone. They stuck by me because I was one of their own."

On Saturday, Jagbir joined thousands of Spurs fans who occupied a section of the 68,000-seater Estadio Metropolitano hoping to see their team win its first Champions League. And he wasn't the only one of Indian heritage. Hundreds of second- and third-generation Indians had descended upon Madrid for the Champions League final.

The majority, however, were supporters of Liverpool, who clinched their sixth European title with a 2-0 win, riding on goals from Mo Salah and Divock Origi. "1970s was when Indian-origin people my age or younger started following football. And Liverpool were the team to back then. So a lot of people, even from London who live close to Spurs, ended up supporting Liverpool," he says.

Liverpool's popularity, not just among Indians but fans from the world over, has been evident in Madrid this week. On match day, the city centre virtually turned into a Reds square, with fans occupying the streets, singing and dancing and getting drunk in anticipation of a win, releasing red smoke into the clean Madrid air. Several Madrilenos, who take pride in the city's football culture, admit they haven't seen anything like this before.

A Maradona lookalike named Diego, who has Batistuta inscribed on the Argentina jersey he's wearing, is hogging all the limelight. His thunder is stolen by 83-year-old Martin Sagrera, who unfurls an anti-Brexit and anti-'Cat.exit' banner in front of the security guards. "Brexit and Cat.exit create internal division and ruin," it reads.

There're complaints that the price mineral water, in some parts of the city, was jacked up from 1 euro to 5 euros per bottle. Their solution? Binge on cerveza (beer); they walk around the city with glasses of ale in their hands at 9 in the morning right until kick-off, which is 12 hours later (a local report says Madrid's bars had to store a month's quota of cerveza to meet the requirements of the fans over the last three days).

At the stadium, a couple of fans have passed out minutes before the clock strikes 9. It takes an army of Reds to bring them back to life and drag them to their seats. Elsewhere around the Metropolitano, it's a little mayhem-ish. Armed guards and security personnel on horseback secure the entry points after a minor scuffle breaks out between supporters; a young Spanish girl is weeping after someone snatched away her tickets while she was in the queue. Beyond these stray incidents, though, it is electrifying.

The Spurs fans, outnumbered by the Reds, hide their north London rivals Arsenal and hype up 'King Kane.' A Maradona looka-

like named Diego, who has Batistuta inscribed on the Argentina jersey he's wearing, is hogging all the limelight. His thunder is stolen by 83-year-old Martin Sagrera, who unfurls an anti-Brexit and anti-'Cat.exit' banner in front of the security guards. "Brexit and Cat.exit create internal division and ruin," it reads.

Sagrera is from Barcelona but has been living in Madrid for several decades. Like Britain, there's a demand for a referendum in Spain for a separate Catalonia, an issue that's been hotly debated in the last few years. "But we should not break our countries. We are small nations... if we become smaller, how will we compete with USA, China and India?" he argues. "The United Kingdom should not break. Spain should stay as one and welcome people from other regions. They will help us grow."

Sagrera isn't a massive football fan but he could've made an even more compelling argument if he'd cited Liverpool somewhere. At a time when the UK is on the verge of leaving the Europe Union, Liverpool have become the continent's champions largely because of its multi-ethnic side: two African and a Belgian striker; midfielders from Guinea, the Netherlands, Brazil and Switzerland; Scottish, Dutch and Cameroonian defenders; and a Brazilian goalkeeper.

Spurs, too, boast of an equally mixed ethnicity in their crowd, but Jagbir says it's the inclusivity and tolerant nature of the supporters that sets them apart. Ledley King, a Spurs legend, visited a gurudwara in Southall for Diwali in 2018 and in the first game of the recently-concluded season, the club kept a bhanga performance as half-time entertainment. "There's no racism or prejudice. Club, caste and creed do not matter. There's no division," he says. "That's why we support this club."

The writer is in Madrid on the invitation of Gazprom.

EXPLAINED

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Power equation in European club football has tilted towards England

GLOBALLY, THE Premier League's clean sweep of the continent this term is basically a success story of the world's most commercially vibrant and competitive football competition. The Premier League, of late, has become the favoured destination for the game's top stars and elite coaches. Little wonder then that Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur squared up in the Champions League title showdown, while Chelsea and Arsenal faced off in the Europa League final.

Fifa's Global Transfer Report of 2018 stated that approximately £4.06 billion had been spent on players in Europe's top five leagues — Premier League, La Liga, Serie A, Bundesliga and the French Ligue 1. English clubs alone spent roughly £1.56 billion on transfers. Uefa's Benchmark Report for 2017 showed that Premier League clubs' aggregate revenue shot up to over £4.77 billion, which accounted for 27 per cent of European football's total revenue. Li Liga, at No. 2, had aggregate revenue of a little over £2.56 billion. The Premier League thrives on its record £8.4 billion TV deals.

Moving over to the competition, the other elite leagues in Europe are top-heavy. Spain has Real Madrid and Barcelona, and the rest, including Atletico Madrid. Juventus annexed their eighth consecutive Serie A title this season. Bayern Munich won the Bundesliga title for the seventh successive term, while in France, Paris Saint-Germain, owned by Qatar Sports Investments, won their sixth Ligue 1 title in seven years.

It's not an easy ride in the Premier League even for Abu Dhabi-owned Manchester City, who successfully defended their league title this season. Liverpool breathed down their neck till the final match day. In Italy, only three clubs have their own stadiums — Juventus, Udinese and Sassuolo but in England, even a relatively low-profile club like Spurs have the financial might to build a £1 billion state-of-the-art new stadium.

English football has also greatly benefited from the arrival of the world's finest coaches. Pep Guardiola remains the jewel in the crown followed by Jürgen Klopp and Mauricio Pochettino. Guardiola, who changed England's philosophy and outlook towards the game and created a seriously positive trickle-down effect, is reportedly on a £15 million-a-year contract with City while Zinedine Zidane is reportedly earning £7.2 million a year at Real Madrid. To be honest though, Real Madrid were caught in a coaching quagmire all season, which worked to the Premier League clubs' advantage. Barcelona, on the other hand, will have to rebuild.

The latest Club Elo — pretty similar to Elo rating in chess — has five English clubs in the top 10. The European football's power axis has well and truly shifted to England.

[SPORTS BAR]

King's Cup: Stimac names 6 newcomers

Indian football head coach Igor Stimac on Sunday named six newcomers in the final list of 23 players for the King's Cup, to be held in Buriram, Thailand from June 5. The six newcomers include Rahul Bheke, Brandon Fernandes, Raynier Fernandes, Michael Soosairaj, Abdul Sahal and India U-17 World Cup team captain Amarjit Singh. Meanwhile, Adil Khan has made a comeback to the squad post 2012, while goalkeeper Kamaljit Singh is yet to make his international debut. "We had to make the difficult decision about the remaining two slots in the squad, and eventually, Nishu Kumar and Jobby Justin were released," the coach informed. India will play Curacao in their first match on June 5, while the second match is slated for June 8.

Upgraded Gabba to host Ashes opener

The Gabba has been locked in to host Australia's opening Test of the 2021-22 Ashes series against England after a major upgrade to the stadium was announced. The ground, where Australia haven't lost a Test since 1988, the longest active streak in world cricket, was overlooked for the first Test against India last summer. With a Aus\$35 million upgrade to public, corporate and media facilities announced on Saturday, Cricket Australia confirmed the decision.



Sachin Tendulkar considered retiring after the World Cup 2007 debacle.

'Viv helped come out of retirement thoughts'

Sachin Tendulkar on Sunday revealed that a phone call from West Indies batting legend Vivian Richards helped him change his mind after he thought of quitting the game after the 2007 World Cup. "I felt that was it. At that stage lot of things happening around Indian cricket were not at all healthy. We needed some changes and I felt if those changes did not happen then I was going to quit cricket. I was almost 90 per cent sure of quitting cricket. But my brother told me in 2011 there is World Cup final in Mumbai, can you imagine holding that beautiful trophy in your hand?" Tendulkar said during a 'India Today' programme. "I got a call from Sir Viv, saying I know there is plenty of cricket left in you. We had a conversation for about 45 minutes and that was so heart-warming because when your batting hero calls you it means a lot. That was the moment things changed for me and from that moment onwards I also performed much better," Tendulkar recalled.

Dutch beat Australia in front of record crowd

The Netherlands got the perfect farewell as they headed off to the women's World Cup on Saturday when they beat Australia 3-0 in a friendly played in front of a record crowd of 30,640 at the Philips Stadium in Eindhoven. Shanne van de Sanden scored twice in an outstanding display and fellow forward Vivianne Miedema got the other goal as the Dutch condemned the Matildas to a second straight heavy defeat since Ante Milicic replaced Alen Stajcic as coach. The Dutch, set to compete in only their second World Cup, start their campaign against New Zealand in Le Havre on June 11.

Aditi Ashok slips at US Women's Open

Aditi Ashok failed to find a single birdie on way to a four-over 75 and slipped to T-53rd after the third round of the US Women's Open at Charleston on Sunday. She now has rounds of 72, 71 and 75 to be five-over for the tournament. She dropped shots on third, eighth, 10th and 16th. Meanwhile, Yu Liu of China and Celine Boutier of France who played college golf for Duke University together, are tied for the lead after three rounds. Liu rallied from four shots behind when the round began with a 66 to get to seven-under. Her good friend and 2014 colleague on the NCAA championship team, Boutier shot 69.



Woods can't build Memorial momentum

Tiger Woods said his frustrating two-under par 70 on Saturday left him out of contention for a sixth Memorial Tournament title, but he saw encouraging signs for this month's US Open. "I'm so far back, and there's too many guys (ahead of him)," said Woods, who claimed his 15th major title at the Masters in April. "I'm not going to win the golf tournament. But, hopefully, I go out and play a positive round of golf tomorrow and get something out of my round like I haven't done the first three days and get some positive momentum going into the (US) Open." Woods needed to gain ground after a double bogey at the par-five 15th stalled his momentum on Friday. Shubhankar Sharma played a fine round despite a few mishaps to rise to tied 31st in the third round but Anirban Lahiri slipped to T-63 from T-3.



Neymar denies alleged rape in Paris

Brazil star Neymar has denied an accusation of rape, outlined in a police report seen by Reuters, in which an unnamed woman alleges that the sports star drunkenly assaulted her at an up-market hotel in the French capital. Sao Paulo state's public security ministry released a statement confirming the accusation had been made, and said the investigation was still sealed. The report was obtained by organisations including Reuters. The accusation represents a fresh blow for the Brazilian, who has seen his international reputation suffer amid incidents of indiscipline. Neymar posted a long video on his Instagram page. "Whoever knows me, knows of my character and my nature, and knows that I would never do a thing like that... What happened is exactly the opposite of what they're saying."



FLOORED: Anthony Joshua suffered his first defeat as a professional in his first bout in the United States. Reuters

Ruiz stuns Joshua for heavyweight title

ASSOCIATEDPRESS
NEW YORK, JUNE 2

ANDY RUIZ JR. had six weeks to prepare for the fight of his life. He'll have a lifetime to celebrate one of boxing's biggest heavyweight stunners. A massive underdog just like Buster Douglas, Ruiz knocked down British champion Anthony Joshua four times, and the final two in the seventh round proved the decisive blows.

Ruiz, the first heavyweight of Mexican descent to win a heavyweight title, capped one of boxing's epic upsets to win Joshua's shares of heavyweight championship at Madison Square Garden.

"I just feel so good, man," Ruiz said. "This is what I've been dreaming about, this is what I've been working hard for. I can't believe I just made my dreams come true." Ruiz etched his name in heavyweight lore by TKO at 1:27 in the seventh round to become the surprise champ in a bout that had shades of Douglas' upset over Mike Tyson for the heavyweight title in 1990. Ruiz barely was on anyone's heavyweight radar when he was summoned as a replacement to fight the undefeated

Joshua in front of a packed Garden.

Considered a joke by fans, all Ruiz did was dominate the British champion and used a TKO to turn his life and the heavyweight division upside down. Ruiz racked up 32 wins without beating many boxers of note and walked into the ring with a waistline that will need a supersized championship belt.

Ruiz, a flabby fighter out of Southern California, came up short in his only other shot at a world title, having lost on points to then-WBO champion Joseph Parker in December 2016. Ruiz even warned Joshua before the fight: "Don't underestimate this little fat boy."

The 270-pound heavyweight knocked down Joshua twice in the third round and did it two more times in the seventh before referee Mike Griffin ended the fight. Joshua was woozy and seemed to stumble toward the wrong corner after the final blow. Ruiz stepped in after fighting on April 20, when he stopped Alexander Dimitrenko. Jarrell Miller's failed drug tests sent the challenger to the sidelines and paved the way for Ruiz's unexpected title shot. Ruiz (33-1, 21 KO's) seized the opportunity and made boxing history to win the championship.

EXPLAINED What Joshua's loss means for heavyweight division

ANTHONY JOSHUA had a bad night. Underdog Andy Ruiz had a phenomenal one. But it would be unfair to dismiss Sunday's upset as just a perfect storm of varying showings. The fight being Joshua's first in US played a major part. In the familiar British Isles, Joshua has advantages of dedicated facilities. Ruiz was also a late replacement and came in with a three-fight winning streak (all three opponents 36+ in age) and also with weeks of ridicule. Most importantly, Joshua was put through the media ringer to promote his first fight on the American soil. Umpteen interviews and podcasts during the training period meant Joshua didn't look his self even during the walk-

out. But it is also about what he said during the interviews. A few days before the fight, Joshua admitted that he was not just thinking about Ruiz, but also about future fights against Deontay Wilder and Tyson Fury. Wilder mocked Joshua, Fury consoled him but both would be disappointed in not being the ones to dethrone the Brit in a marquee showdown. His high-ticket antics and promotional politics hurt a heavyweight division which was just again beginning to generate interest. Joshua held three belts and all of the cards. But the defeat was not just a blow to his credentials but has also left the heavyweight division wide open.

Federer, Nadal into Roland Garros last eight

Paris: Roger Federer's dream return to the French Open continued as the Swiss waltzed into quarter-finals by giving Argentine Leonardo Mayer a 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 masterclass on Sunday. The 20-time Grand Slam champion, back at Roland Garros after a three-year hiatus, cruised through the opening rounds seemingly unchallenged and his last-16 encounter was no exception. Things are likely to get trickier for Federer from now on as the third seed will next face

either a resurgent Stan Wawrinka, the champion in 2015, or Greek sixth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas who beat him at the Australian Open.

Rafael Nadal ended the dream run of French Open debutant Juan Ignacio Londero with a typically dominant 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 win to power into the quarter-finals. In hot conditions, the Spaniard once again produced claycourt tennis of the highest quality to make the last eight of a Grand Slam event for the 38th time. REUTERS

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