

FROM PAGE ONE

IAF plane shot down, pilot taken captive

"India strongly objected to Pakistan's vulgar display of an injured personnel of the Indian Air Force in violation of all norms of International Humanitarian Law and the Geneva Convention. It was made clear that Pakistan would be well advised to ensure that no harm comes to the Indian defence personnel in its custody."

India also expects his immediate and safe return," the government said in its demarche.

Later, the Pakistan military released a video of Wg Cdr Varthaman drinking tea and speaking to Pakistani military personnel as proof that he had not been harmed.

According to a release from the Pakistani Foreign Ministry, the PAF had carried out strikes without crossing the LoC at "non-military targets, avoiding human loss and collateral damage", in words that mirrored the MEA statement on Tuesday.

Pakistan military spokesperson Maj. Gen. Asif Ghafoor also said that PAF aircraft in the operation had "locked into six targets" including supply depots in Bimber gali, Rajouri and Nowshera in Jammu and Kashmir, and claimed they dropped bombs in open areas "at a safe distance" from four of them in an effort to "prove their capability and resolve" to retaliate if required.

Rejecting the Pakistani claims, the MEA said that Pakistan's aerial response had in fact targeted military installations on the Indian side and "due to [IAF's] high state of readiness and alertness, Pakistan's attempts were foiled successfully."

Terming the Pakistani operations an "unprovoked act of aggression", the government said India reserves the right to "take firm and decisive action", calling for the immediate return of the pilot.

India handed over its protest in a demarche to the Pakistan Acting High Commissioner Syed Haider Shah, who was summoned by the Joint Secretary in the Ministry Deepak Mittal.

Referring to the Indian strikes on Balakot on Tuesday, the MEA said it had also handed over a dossier to Mr. Shah with "specific details of JeM complicity in the Pulwama terror attack and the presence of JeM terror camps and its leadership in Pakistan" and called on Pakistan to take immediate action against terrorism emanating from its territory.

With the possibility of escalation growing, several countries rushed in to appeal for restraint from New Delhi and Islamabad.

Imran calls for talks, offers help to probe Pulwama

Earlier, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the Pakistani Air Force took down two Indian aircraft in Pakistani airspace. "This was not a retaliation to the continued Indian belligerence. Pakistan has taken strikes at [a] non-military target, avoiding human loss and collateral damage. [The] sole purpose being to demonstrate our right, will and capability for self-defence," it said.

Major General Asif Ghafoor, Director-General of the

Inter-Services Public Relations, tweeted about the strike: "In response to PAF strikes this morning as released by [the] MoFA, [the] IAF crossed [the] LOC. [The] PAF shot down two Indian aircraft inside [the] Pakistani airspace."

He said one aircraft fell inside Pakistan-held Kashmir, while the other fell on the Indian side. He later tweeted that one Indian pilot was in Pakistan Army's custody.

Air strike was pre-emptive: Sushma tells China, Russia

Ms. Swaraj made it plain to Mr. Wang that "the entire UN had spoken with one voice condemning the terrorist attack."

Despite India's ongoing tensions with Pakistan, the Chinese Foreign Minister pointed to Beijing's intent to pursue the "Wuhan spirit" – a reference to the two-day dialogue between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping to reboot India-China ties. "Last year, President Xi and Prime Minister Modi held a very important meeting at Wuhan, and this meeting led bilateral relations into an honest and stable new stage. Led by the leaders, all levels of bilateral relationship are doing well. Every level of the two countries and also international society are more optimistic of our bilateral relationship. In 2019, we are going to

keep working on the consensus of the two leaders," Mr. Wang said in his opening remarks.

Referring to the Wuhan informal summit, the External Affairs Minister said the decision to pursue "strategic communication" by the two leaders provided an "important foundation for the development of our bilateral relations."

"This channel of strategic communication between the two of us and between senior officials of our two sides should always remain open."

Stressing the importance of maintaining the Wuhan spirit, she said: "It is important for both sides to make sure the thorough and effective implementation of guidance given by the two leaders. Both sides have made efforts, and this should sustain the efforts."

NIA conducts searches in south Kashmir

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday carried out searches at 11 locations in south Kashmir in connection with cases related to the February 14 terror attack on a CRPF convoy in Pulwama and funding of separatists and terror groups, according to an official statement.

The houses of Mudassir Ahmad Khan and Sajjad Bhat, members of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and key accused in the terror attack in Pulwama, were searched, the NIA statement said.

Also, the residences of active overground workers of the Jaish in Tral, Awantipura and Pulwama areas were searched.

The probe agency said the houses of three separatist leaders from south Kashmir – Mohd. Shabir Dar, Shawkat Maulvi and Yasmine Raza – were also searched in connection with a terror funding case.

Documents related to terror funding, coded messages and Jihadi literature have been seized, the agency said. NIA teams also recovered a large number of incriminating documents, it added.

China offers tacit support to India

Says 'terror breeding grounds should be eradicated', but rejects labelling Pak. as a sponsor of terrorism

ATUL ANEJA
WUZHEN

China on Wednesday appeared to have walked a thin line by tacitly supporting Indian air strikes against the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorist camp in Pakistan, but making it plain that it would not label Islamabad as a state sponsor of terrorism.

China's deft balancing act became visible during comments by Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi during the course of the Russia-India-China (RIC) Foreign Ministers' meeting in the picturesque town of Wuzhen.

Without referring to the cross-border attack by the Indian Air Force on Tuesday on a JeM training camp in Balakot, Mr. Wang said that it was "especially important"



Joining hands: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj at Wuzhen in China on Wednesday. ■ REUTERS

to "eradicate the breeding grounds of terrorism and extremism."

Endorsing the Chinese Foreign Minister's remarks, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on two occasions

joint strategy is concerned, you just heard Foreign Minister Wang Yi's speech. What he said during his concluding statement, he reiterated here, and he said that we would cooperate on eradicating the breeding grounds of terrorism."

Referring to the adoption of a common approach by the three RIC countries, Ms. Swaraj said that, "This is not only a common strategy for the three of us, but it is resolution for the three of us."

But the Chinese Foreign Minister also said Pakistan was opposed to terrorism.

"China, Russia and India have reaffirmed our strong opposition to terrorism in its various forms and manifestations. At the same time, we believe that Pakistan has always been opposed to terrorism."

rism," Mr. Wang observed.

Referring to the recent developments between India and Pakistan, Mr. Wang said he appreciated statements by Indian and Pakistani friends saying that they would exercise restraint and avoid escalation on Wednesday.

Mr. Pompeo spoke separately with the Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan and urged them to avoid "further military activity". "I expressed to both Ministers that we encourage India and Pakistan to exercise restraint, and avoid escalation at any cost," Mr. Pompeo said in a statement.

"I also encouraged both Ministers to prioritize direct communication and avoid further military activity," he said.

Meanwhile, General Joseph Dunford, the top U.S. military officer, called up his Pakistani counterpart General Zubair Mahmood Hayat and discussed the "current security environment," the Pentagon said.

The conversation marked the highest level of contact between the two Armies.

"Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr. spoke today with Pakistan Chief of Defence Gen. Zubair Mahmood Hayat. The senior leaders discussed the current security environment in Pakistan," Joint Staff Spokesperson Col. Patrick S. Ryder said in a brief statement.

No other details were immediately available.

Over the years, despite a deterioration in U.S.-Pakistan bilateral ties, Gen. Dunford has maintained a good working relationship with both his Pakistani counterpart Gen. Hayat and Pakistani Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa.

(With PTI inputs)

U.K. calls for diplomatic solutions

Foreign Office Minister urges India and Pakistan to de-escalate tension in region

VIDYA RAM
LONDON

Union Ministers Arun Jaitley and Prakash Javadekar on Wednesday criticised the statement put out by 21 Opposition parties, suggesting that the BJP was politicising the sacrifices of the armed forces.

Both termed the suggestion baseless, adding that it was being interpreted by the Pakistani establishment that the country (India) was not united behind the armed forces.

"The cross-border terror attack in Pulwama was a reality. The Balakot operation was India's anti-terror pre-emptive strike to defend its sovereignty. The whole nation has spoken in one voice, why is then the Opposition alleging that the government is politicising anti-terror operations?"

Foreign Office Minister Mark Field noted that India was entering a "pre-election" period and that remained a "factor of concern."

"That is one of the reasons we want to see a de-escalation at the earliest possi-



Foreign Office Minister Mark Field noted that India was entering a "pre-election" period and that remained a "factor of concern."

ble opportunity," Mr. Field said during a question and answer session in the House of Commons on Wednesday.

He also said that he would express concerns about the safety of Kashmiri people based across India who had faced violence and threats since the attack.

"I am happy to express

those direct concerns when I speak with the High Commissioner," Mr. Field said.

The Minister urged for dialogue and for the two countries to find "diplomatic solutions."

The opposition Labour Party's shadow foreign secretary Emily Thornberry said that while India had

been absolutely right to take action against the terrorist group and to urge Pakistan to do the same, long-standing human rights concerns also had to be dealt with.

"They have shut down airports and cancelled the flights. What are they doing? We need to ask them questions," Ms. Banerjee reportedly said.

Sources said Jan Loktantri Party chief Sharad Yadav, without blaming the Congress for keeping mum after the Pulwama attack, said that only three politicians, Mayawati, Mamata Banerjee and Sitaram Yechury, had asked the government relevant questions.

Akhilesh takes a swipe at govt., calls for pilot's safety

They were launching apps: SP chief

India scrambles fighters as Pak. jets target positions across LoC

Several PAF aircraft target Indian Army positions

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

A day after the Indian precision air strike on a terrorist training camp in Balakot, Indian and Pakistani Air Force jets on Wednesday engaged in a chase over the Line of Control. One Indian MiG-21 Bison aircraft was lost and a Pakistani F-16 was shot. Indian Air Force pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman was arrested by Pakistan and is in their custody.

On Wednesday morning, several PAF aircraft targeted Indian Army positions following which IAF fighters were scrambled in response. "There was a lock on a Pakistani F-16 by a MiG-21 which fired an R-73 missile and hit the target," a defence source said on condition of anonymity.



Villagers showing the damage due to shelling in Mankote of Poonch. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ity. Wg. Cdr. Varthaman managed to eject but landed in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Initially, Maj. Gen. Asif

Ghafoor, Pakistan military spokesperson, said they shot down two IAF aircraft and captured two pilots. Later, he changed the statement, tweeting, "There is only one pilot under Pakistan Army's custody. Wg. Cdr. Abhinandan is being treated as per norms of military ethics."

Wg. Cdr. Abhinandan, based in Srinagar, hails from Chennai. His father is a retired Air Marshal who was the Commander-in-Chief, Eastern Air Command.

Earlier in the day, the PAF dropped bombs at four places in Jammu and Kashmir close to Army installations. The general area of their brief ingress was in the Naushara and Lam sectors in Kashmir, according to defence sources.

"Today, PAF undertook strikes across the LoC from within Pakistani airspace," the Pakistani Foreign Ministry statement said.

Around 10.30 a.m., some PAF jets came into the Krishna Ghati sector of Kashmir and went off from the Lam valley in the Nowshera sector, the source stated. Among the areas targeted are Narina where the Army has an ammunition point.

The PAF F-16 which was shot down in the Khuretta sector in PoK, opposite the Lam valley, the source added.

Shock and awe in Poonch, Rajouri

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Low-flying jets thundered over roofs, explosions rent the air and smoke filled the skyline along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri and Poonch districts in the mountainous Pir Panchal Valley on Wednesday morning.

An eyewitness, who teaches in a school at Lam village, told *The Hindu* over the phone that students were appearing for the examination around 10 a.m. when three jets roared low across the sky.

"Explosions soon followed on the hill slopes. In the impact, stones rolled down the incline," said the eyewitness.

Local people said two or three Pakistani fighter jets violated the air space in the Nowshera sector in Rajouri and Poonch district.

An official at the district



A worker paints a red cross on the rooftop of a hospital in Srinagar. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

administration office in Rajouri said a nine-year-old girl was injured in the bombing by the jets. Lam, Jhangar, Pukerni and Kerri at Nowshera were the areas where around half-a-dozen explosions were heard after the jets flew in. All these areas are within five km of the LoC.

Sources said one blast took place close to an Army depot in Rajouri. However, the local official denied any Army facility was hit in the

bombing by the Pakistani jets.

"Any violation and its details will be confirmed only by the Indian Air Force (IAF). However, the LoC became calm by evening. There was no report of any major exchange," Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri, Mohammad Ajaz Asad told *The Hindu*.

The Hamirpur sector and Bhimber Gali in Poonch also reported air space violations by Pakistani jets. Officials said these jets were chased by the Air Force (IAF) planes.

After a daylong lull in Poonch, Pakistan again violated ceasefire after sunset in Meander Balakote sectors, said officials.

All schools falling within a five km of the LoC in Poonch and Rajouri have been closed. In Uri, officials said, Pakistan resorted to "low-calibre firing" at night.

IN BRIEF



India, Pak. must exercise restraint: Farooq

SRINAGAR
National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday called for de-escalation of tensions between India and Pakistan and asked both the countries to maintain "maximum restraint" for the "greater good of humanity". "History bears testimony to the fact that war did not help both the neighbours resolve their long pending issues," he said.

Hospitals in J&K asked to stock up on medicines

NEW DELHI
Following the tense situation on the Pakistan border, staff members working in the District Hospital, Udhampur, Jammu have been directed not to leave the station and not to avail any kind of leave, according to a circular by the medical superintendent. The circular comes after the State government issued an order earlier this week stating that all Chief Medical Officers should collect available supplies of medicines and surgical items for their districts.

Tighter security for Pakistani prisoners

KOLKATA
The West Bengal government has decided to increase the security of Pakistani prisoners in the correctional homes of the State, Minister Ujjwal Biswas said. Mr. Biswas said that after the alleged killing of a 50-year-old Pakistani convict by fellow inmates in the Jaipur central jail, security of foreign inmates had been stepped up. "We have not many Pakistani prisoners. Most of our foreign prisoners are Bangladeshi and Nigerian," the Minister said.

BJP misusing the Army, says Congress leader

PANAJI
Congress secretary A. Chellakumar on Wednesday alleged that the Pulwama terror strike could have been manipulated like the 2002 Godhra train burning incident, which sparked communal riots in Gujarat. At a press conference here, he said the BJP was misusing the institution of the Army also for political gains, Mr. Chellakumar said, "Yes. People are feeling so. Modi and Amit Shah will go to any extent." Referring to a recent video in the public domain, he recalled the Godhra carnage and tried to compare it to the recent Pulwama terror strike.

At the ready



On the trigger: A CISF man keeping vigil at the Delhi International Airport on Wednesday after Pakistani jets intruded into Indian air space, escalating tensions. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

Villagers jolted awake by Indian bombs

They are guarded about militant camp

REUTERS
BALAKOT

Villagers near Balakot town in northeast Pakistan were shaken out of their sleep by what seemed like an earthquake in the early hours of Tuesday, only discovering once dawn broke that there had been an Indian air strike.

India has said the raid destroyed a training camp of Jaish-e-Mohammed. The villagers, however, said only one person was wounded in the attack and they knew of no fatalities.

A resident, who did not want to give his name, said there was a nearby madrasa run by Jaish, though most villagers were guarded talking about their militant neighbours.

Another person, who also declined to give his name, said the militants had had a presence in the area for years.

"I know for sure that there has been a training camp. It used to be there. I know Jaish people ran it," he said.

"This camp was turned into a madrasa several years ago, but no one would still

The only casualty was a man sleeping in his house when shrapnel broke the windows

FIDA HUSSAIN SHAH
Farmer

be allowed to get close to this infrastructure. There are scores of students in the madrasa at any given time," he said.

From what villagers could see, the Indian attack had missed its target as the bombs dropped exploded about 1 km away from the madrasa. Mohammad Ajmal, a 25-year-old villager near Jabba Top, where the attack took place, said he had heard four loud bangs in succession just before 3 a.m. local time.

"We saw fallen trees and one damaged house, and four craters where the bombs had fallen," he said.

Fida Hussain Shah, a 46-year-old farmer, said he and other villagers had found pieces of Indian ordnance that had splintered pine trees on the hill but the only casualty was a man sleeping in his house when shrapnel broke the windows.

"It is suspected that the camp is functioning under cover of the Madrasa Ayesha Sadiq," the note said.

It said the JeM terrorists trained at Balakot first travelled to Kel in Pakistan-oc-

Four infiltration routes from Balakot

Hilltop camp trained militant recruits in combat and use of weapons

VIJAYITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Security agencies have identified four routes along the Line of Control in Kupwara that were being used by Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) cadres trained at the Balakot camp in Pakistan to infiltrate into India.

A note prepared by the Intelligence agencies on the camp that was hit by Indian Air Force jets in the early hours of Tuesday said the terrorists were shown videos of the Babri Masjid demolition and that of the hijack of the IC-814 Indian Airlines flight in 1999 to radicalise them.

The note was prepared based on the interrogation of a JeM terrorist arrested in India. They were shown videos of alleged atrocities against Kashmiris by the Army.

Madrasa cover
Spread over six acres, the camp has six buildings with a capacity to house 600 people.

"It is suspected that the camp is functioning under cover of the Madrasa Ayesha Sadiq," the note said.

It said the JeM terrorists trained at Balakot first travelled to Kel in Pakistan-oc-



Cordon off: Pakistani soldiers patrolling an area near the Balakot camp on Wednesday. ■ AP

cupied Kashmir and from there, infiltrated into India from the Kupwara side.

The infiltration routes passed through Duhniyal, the Kainthwali forest, the Magam forest, Lolab and Kachma and Kralpora.

The LoC is manned by the Army.

At the Balakot camp, the JeM cadres undergo different types of training courses such as a three-month advanced combat course known as *Daura-e-Khas*, an advanced armed training course called *Daum-al-Raad* and a refresher training programme, the note said.

They were trained in camouflage, besides operat-

ing wireless sets and matrix sheets. Leisure activities included football.

As reported earlier, the facility was headed by Jaish chief Masood Azhar's brother-in-law Yusuf Azhar. It was located on a hilltop in a forest far from the civilian area in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Balakot, around 200 km from Islamabad.

Aquatic training
Situated on the banks of the Kunhar river, the camp offered the possibility of aquatic training to terrorists. The trainers at the camp were "ex-Army personnel".

Home Minister Rajnath Singh reviewed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir and also the States sharing borders with Pakistan.

He, however, proceeded to attend a political rally in Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh during the day even as new details of an IAF fighter pilot being captured by the Pakistani Army poured in.

A senior BSF official said that though security had been heightened along the International Border in Jammu, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat, the situation was "calm".

Russia, Iran advise restraint

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Russia on Wednesday called upon both India and Pakistan to de-escalate tensions in South Asia that intensified after Pakistan carried out a raid inside Kashmir.

In a statement, Dmitry Peskov, Press Secretary of the Russian President, said, President Vladimir Putin was following the developments including India's strike on the Balakot, safe pad for terror suspects, and Pakistan's raid inside Kashmir on Wednesday. "We are extremely concerned about the news coming in, we are very closely monitoring the situation and, of course, we urge all parties to show restraint," said Mr. Peskov.

Iran asked for restraint with Foreign Minister Javad Zarif urging both sides to ensure peace in the region. Iranian news outlets reported that Mr. Zarif had stated he would speak to his Indian counterpart, Sushma Swaraj.

Nepal asked for "utmost restraint" and dialogue. Sri Lanka called for peace in the region, and asked India and Pakistan "to act in a manner that ensures peace and stability".

PM Modi must suspend his

political activities until

Wing Commander Abhinandan is returned safely. It can't be business as usual with him crisscrossing the country at tax payer expense making political speeches while our pilot is a Pakistani captive

OMAR ABDULLAH
National Conference leader

Pakistan has expressed its intention to crack down on terrorism and initiate a dialogue with India. Perhaps the best gesture to gain India's trust at this point would be the safe return of Wing Commander Abhinandan back home

MEHBOoba MUFTI
PDP chief

The country demands that petty politics are set aside and our media acts responsibly so that our brave pilot is safely brought back home

AKHILESH YADAV
SP chief

I pray for the safety of Indian Air Force pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan. Whole country is proud of this brave son and everyone is hoping for his safe return. We all stand united to keep our country safe and strong

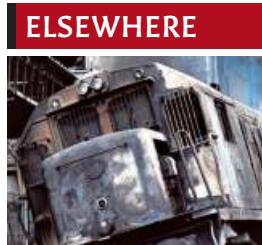
ARVIND KEJRIWAL
Delhi CM

Our prayers are with the brave pilot & his family. Under Geneva Convention every party is required to treat prisoners humanely. Pakistan must respect its obligations towards the IAF pilot

ASADUDDIN OWAISI
AIMIM leader

CM YK

A ND-NDE



ELSEWHERE

25 killed in crash at Cairo train station

CAIRO
At least 25 people were killed and 50 injured when a locomotive smashed through the buffer stop at Cairo's main train station on Wednesday, causing an explosion and a fire, state television and witnesses said. The Transport Minister said the train's diesel tank had exploded. REUTERS

Indian student held for damaging 50 computers

NEW YORK
Vishwanath Akuthota, an Indian student, was arrested on February 22 after being charged with intentionally causing damage to over 50 computers owned by a college in New York capital Albany, officials said on Wednesday. He entered numerous locations in the college and inserted a device resembling a USB stick, says the complaint. PTI

4 killed in Indonesia coal mine collapse

NORTH SULAWESI
Indonesian rescuers scrambled on Wednesday to find dozens buried in the collapse of an illegal gold mine that killed at least four people, the disaster agency said. More than three dozen people may still be trapped at the site in the Bolaang Mongondow region of North Sulawesi. AFP

Venezuela calls for Trump-Maduro talks

GENEVA
In an address at the UN Human Rights Council, Venezuela's Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza on Wednesday called for direct talks between President Nicolás Maduro and his U.S. counterpart Donald Trump, to help ease the crisis gripping his country. AFP

We'll have an interesting dialogue: Kim

Trump calls relationship with North Korea leader 'special', says he's in no rush to secure denuclearisation

REUTERS
HANOI

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and U.S. President Donald Trump met in Vietnam on Wednesday for a second summit that the United States hopes will persuade North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons in exchange for promises of peace and development.

Mr. Kim and Mr. Trump shook hands and smiled briefly in front of a row of their national flags at the Metropole hotel in the Vietnamese capital, Hanoi, before heading to dinner together.

Mr. Trump told reporters he thought the talks would be very successful, and asked if he was "walking back" on denuclearisation, said "no". At their historic first summit in Singapore last June, Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim pledged to work toward denuclearisation and permanent peace on the Korean peninsula but little progress has been made.

'A courageous decision'
Mr. Kim said they had overcome obstacles to hold their second summit and praised Mr. Trump for his "courageous decision" to begin a dialogue. "Now that we're meet-



Another handshake: U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un in Hanoi on Wednesday, the first day of a two-day summit between the two sides. ■ AFP

ing here again like this, I'm confident that there will be an excellent outcome that everyone welcomes, and I'll do my best to make it happen," he said.

Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim held a 20-minute, one-on-one chat before sitting down to dinner with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Mr. Trump's acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney, Mr. Kim's top envoy, Kim Yong-chol,

and North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho.

On Thursday, the two leaders will hold a series of meetings, the White House said. "We're going to have a very busy day tomorrow ...

Probably a very quick dinner," said a smiling, relaxed looking Mr. Trump, seated beside Mr. Kim at a round table with the other four officials and two interpreters. "Our relationship is a very

special relationship."

Mr. Kim also appeared at ease. "We'll have a very interesting dialogue," he told Mr. Trump.

In the run-up to this summit, Mr. Trump has indicated a more flexible stance, saying he was in no rush to secure North Korea's denuclearisation. He repeated that on Wednesday, saying while some people believed the talks should be moving

more quickly, he was satisfied. Mr. Trump has held out the prospect of easing sanctions if North Korea does something "meaningful".

Asked if he would declare a formal end to the Korean War, which North Korea has long called for, Mr. Trump said: "We'll see."

The Vietnam example

Despite little progress on his goal of ridding North Korea of its weapons programmes, Mr. Trump appeared to be betting on his personal relationship with the North Korean leader, and the economic incentive after 70 years of hostility between their countries.

"Vietnam is thriving like few places on earth. North Korea would be the same, and very quickly, if it would denuclearise," Mr. Trump said on Twitter ahead of the meeting. "The potential is AWESOME, a great opportunity, like almost none other in history, for my friend Kim Jong-un. We will know fairly soon – Very Interesting!" For Mr. Trump, a deal that eases the North Korean threat could hand him a big foreign-policy achievement in the midst of domestic troubles.

Rouhani backs Zarif, rejects resignation

'It would be against national interests'

REUTERS
DUBAI/LONDON

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani rejected the resignation of Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Wednesday.



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif. ■ AP

consider accepting your resignation against national interests and reject it," Mr. Rouhani said in a letter.

On Wednesday, Mr. Zarif thanked Iranians for their support.

Senior Revolutionary Guards commander Qassem Soleimani said Mr. Zarif was the main person in charge of Iranian foreign policy and he was supported by Ayatollah Khamenei.

Indian held over plot to kill Sirisena acquitted

Marceli Thomas was arrested in Oct.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO

An Indian national held in Sri Lanka over an alleged plot to assassinate President Maithripala Sirisena was acquitted on Wednesday, court officials said.

Marceli Thomas, from Kerala, was arrested in October following a complaint by Namal Kumara, a police informant, who had alleged a plot to assassinate Mr. Sirisena and Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, the former top Defence Ministry bureaucrat.

When the case was taken up for hearing on Wednesday, the Colombo Fort Magistrate's Court acquitted Mr. Thomas of the charges of conspiring to assassinate the VIPs. The CID has not been able to produce any evidence against Mr. Thomas implicating him in the conspiracy charges.

Considering the facts in the case, the Magistrate said he cannot order to keep a person in remand without evidence as the police wanted.

Trump is a conman, a racist and a cheat, says Cohen

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Michael Cohen told Congress on Wednesday he had no direct evidence that President Donald Trump coordinated with Russia during the 2016 presidential campaign, but spoke of his "suspicions" that his former boss was involved in collusion.

Delivering uncomfortably blunt testimony about his

decade-long professional relationship with Mr. Trump, the disgraced lawyer provided examples of how Mr. Trump or his family had dealings with Moscow or with Russian figures during the 2016 campaign.

"Questions have been raised about whether I know of direct evidence that Mr. Trump or his campaign colluded with Russia," Mr. Co-

hen told the House Oversight and Reform Committee. "I do not, I want to be clear. But I have my suspicions."

Mr. Cohen, who is about to go to jail for three years after admitting financial crimes and lying to Congress, said he believes Mr. Trump had advance knowledge of a June 2016 meeting between campaign members, including his son, and

Russians peddling "dirt" on election rival Hillary Clinton.

Mr. Cohen also said the then-candidate "knew of and directed" negotiations for a Trump Tower in Moscow through the campaign even while denying any business ties with the Russians.

A day earlier, Mr. Cohen provided closed-door testimony to the Senate Intelligence Committee, where he

was likely to have been grilled in private about what he knows regarding the Trump campaign's ties to Russia.

He told lawmakers he was "ashamed" of his decade-long role as the President's personal lawyer. "I am ashamed because I know what Mr. Trump is. He is a racist. He is a conman. He is a cheat," Mr. Cohen said.

President Buhari wins 2nd term

Nigerian Opposition vows to challenge 'sham' result in court

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ABUJA

Muhammadu Buhari was on Wednesday re-elected Nigeria's President after a delayed poll that angered voters and raised political temperatures, but the Opposition immediately vowed to challenge the "sham" result in court.

It was the second victory at the ballot box for Mr. Buhari, a one-time military ruler who was first elected in 2015 to lead Africa's most populous nation and top oil producer. With ballots counted in all of Nigeria's 36

states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Mr. Buhari triumphed with some 15.2 million votes over his nearest rival Atiku Abubakar, who trailed by nearly four million votes.

"Muhammadu Buhari... is hereby declared winner and is returned elected," Mahmood Yakubu, chairman of Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) announced early on Wednesday.

Rigging claims
However, Mr. Abubakar rejected the result of the vote,

which has been marred by claims of rigging and corruption.

"I hereby reject the result of the February 23, 2019 sham election and will be challenging it in court."

A total of 72.7 million people were eligible to vote in the presidential poll as well as parliamentary elections held at the same time.

Low voter turnout – at 35% across the country – was blamed on a combination of voter apathy because of the delay, organisational and logistical problems, as well as unrest.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA

"e" Procurement Notice for PMGSY Works

Identification No.- Online Tender- PMGSY N.C.B. No. 154 for 2018-19

Letter No. 532 / Date : 25.02.2019 //

1. Name of the Work	Construction & Maintenance PMGSY-II road works Batch-I of 2018-19 in the District of Mayurbhanj.				
2. Total No. of Works	36 Nos. (Thirty Six Nos.)				
3. Estimated Cost	From Rs.82.50 lakhs to Rs.319.49 lakhs (approximately).				
4. Eligible Class of Contractor	'B' & 'A' Class, 03 Nos of packages 'A' & 'Special', P.W.D. or relevant Class of other licensing authorities.				
5. Period of Completion	11 (Eleven) calendar months for works above Rs.3.00 Crore, 09 (Nine) Calendar months for works below Rs.3.00 Crores Up to Rs.1.00 Crore & 06 (Six) Calendar months for Works Below Rs.1.00 Crore as specified in DTCN.				
6. Other details					
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clari-fication	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O S.E.R.W.Circle,Baripada.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada.	PMGSY Online N.C.B. No. 154	Dt.02.03.2019 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.20.03.2019 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.19.03.2019 up to 1.00 P.M.	Dt.23.03.2019 at 11.00 A.M.
● Further details can be seen from the website: www.pmgstyenders.gov.in ● Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.					
25130/11/0034/1819 Superintending Engineer, R.W.Circle, Baripada.					

Superintending Engineer, R.W.Circle, Baripada.

Government of India
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
NUCLEAR FUEL COMPLEX
Civil Engineering Division,
ECIL Post, Hyderabad - 500 062.
PHONE NO.: 040-27184296, FAX: 040-27122552

CORRIGENDUM

Dates for Tender Notice No. C/1193/2019 for the work 'Replacement of existing AC sheet for roof and cladding along with rain water gutters in STP, RTP and balance portion of SSTP in NFC, Hyd-Phase - III' and C/1196/2019 for 'Replacement of existing roof sheeting (AC sheet) for various buildings of Central stores at NFC, Hyd-Phase - IV' are extended :Tender request: Upto 14.03.2019, Online submission: 19.03.2019, Opening of Envelope-Let: 25.03.2019. All other conditions remain unaltered. Tender document is available in www.tenderwizard.com/DAE.

Sr. Superintending Engineer (Q, PH, CMS & EM)

Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited

(A wholly owned undertaking of State Govt. of Gujarat)
CIN U41010GJ2004SGC045195
Sardar Patel Vidyut Bhavan, Racecourse, Vadodara-390007
PBX : (0265) 2310582-86, Web : www.guvnl.com

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

GUVNL invites e-tender for purchase of 500 MW RTC power for the period 01.04.2019 to 15.05.2019 at GETCO periphery (interconnection point of Gujarat STU with CTU) as per Ministry of Power (MoP), GoI guidelines dated 30.03.2016.

RFP will be available at www.mstcecommerce.com from 01.03.2019. Bid has to be submitted online through DEEP portal of MoP. All terms and conditions shall be as per RFP.

Date : 28.02.2019

General Manager (Commerce)

भारत सरकार/GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
अंतरिक्ष विभाग/DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण व अनुसंधान युव/CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
विक्रम साराही अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/VIKRAM SARABHI SPACE CENTRE
दिरुवनंतपुरम/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 22
(फोन नं. प्र. No. 0471 - 2564568 / 2564537)

इन्विटेडा सूचना सं. वीएपएससी/सीपीएच/27/2018-2019 दिनांक 27.02.2019.

E-Tender Notice No. VSSC/CMG/CPH/27/2018-19 Dt. 27.02.2019

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना/BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

i) भारत के राज्यपाल की ओर से, सम्बन्धी श्रेणी के अधीन निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग दवारा ऑनलाइन मदद-दरवाजा आमंत्रित की जाती है। / On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following work under composite

IN BRIEF



Wipro to sell Workday, Cornerstone On Demand

IT services major Wipro said it would sell its Workday and Cornerstone On Demand business to Illinois-based Alight for cash consideration of up to \$110 million. Following the closing of its 10-year agreement, that was announced in September, Alight and Wipro continue to explore additional strategic opportunities and possible alignment of portfolios, Wipro said in a regulatory filing. PTI

Croma plans to have 130 stores by March

Tata-owned Infiniti Retail Ltd, which owns the Croma electronics retail chain, is planning to run both large and small format stores to cater to different segment of households. "We started the retail chain for consumer electronics and durables with a large format stores of 10,000 sq.ft. each," said Ritesh Ghosal, chief marketing officer. "By March 2019, we will have 130 stores across the country."

Shriram Properties ties up with Kotak India

Chennai Shriram Properties Ltd. (SPL) has partnered with Kotak India Affordable Housing Fund-I (KIAHF) for development of its next phase of affordable housing project in Kolkata named Shriram Grand 2. KIAHF, an affordable housing fund that is managed by Kotak Investment Advisors Ltd. and CDC Group, would invest up to ₹40 crore. This housing project will have over 3,000 units and aggregate saleable area of over 2.1 million sq.ft.

Nasscom wants U.S. to provide level-playing field for Indian firms

Indian IT companies get less than 12% of H-1B visas, not taking away U.S. jobs'

PIYUSH PANDEY
MUMBAI

IT industry body National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) is working closely with the U.S. government to change its perception that Indian firms and workers take away most of the jobs in the U.S. information technology sector.

According to Nasscom, Indian IT companies take less than 12% of the 65,000 H-1B visas. More than 70% of the visas are given to Indians, but not to Indian IT firms.

"There is a shortage of talent in the U.S. and Indians or Indian IT firms do not take away U.S. jobs. We are asking



Short of hands: U.S. will fall short of over two million digitally skilled staff by 2020, a government data show. ■ SHAJU JOHN

for a level-playing field and not for special treatment at all," Nasscom chairman Rishad Premji told *The Hindu*.

According to data with the U.S. Department of State and

Department of Labour, there will be a shortage of over two million digitally skilled workers by 2020 in the U.S.

Nasscom has roped in Spencer Abraham, chairman

and CEO of strategic consulting firm, The Abraham Group, to change the perception of the U.S. government towards the \$180 billion Indian IT industry.

Exciting year

According to Nasscom, 2018-19 was an exciting year for the industry, as the export sector crossed \$137 billion of revenue and marginally grew above Nasscom's guidance of 7.9%. Nasscom president Debjani Ghosh said, "There was a 9.2% growth in IT exports. So, we are doing phenomenally well in all the countries that we are in and we are expanding our footprint across the world."

Spotify enters India, to take on Amazon Music, JioSaavn

Users can access over 40 million songs and 3 bn playlists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Music streaming service Spotify on Wednesday announced its foray into the Indian market, where it will compete with players such as JioSaavn, Amazon Music and Gaana.

The Swedish firm said it would offer local and international music for Indian listeners with the app available to download for free. Users can also upgrade to Spotify Premium for ₹59 onwards per month.

Talking about the opportunity in the Indian market, Spotify India managing director Amarjit Singh Batra said a 2018 report by IMI and IFPI stated that an average Indian Internet user spent



21.5 hours listening to music per week.

"The same report also says that the income from subscription audio streams tripled from 2017, to ₹220 crore; that number gives a sense of how Indians are starting to consume music digitally," he told PTI.

While the national number of people paying for

music was small, statistics showed that there was definitely a growing section of users, who were seeing the value in subscriptions, he said.

"...we believe the market is maturing and ready to transition from a price-conscious to a value-for-money mindset," he added.

Spotify said it had redesigned the music experience for India with exclusive features such as multi-language music recommendations and city playlists that listed out trending music in various cities.

Users would get access to more than 40 million songs and 3 billion playlists across Indian and international music, he added.

Anarock sells property worth ₹22,000 crore

In partnership in 13 Indian cities, Gulf

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Leading real estate agent Anarock Property Consultants has announced the successful closure of 300 mandates to market residential projects across India and in the Gulf. The cumulative market value of the inventory sold to date is more than ₹22,000 crore, the company said.

Interestingly, 11,000 units of these, with a value of ₹10,000 crore, were sold in the current financial year (FY18-19) itself. The combination of focused experienced brokerage and our bespoke technology has been a winning combination," he added.

The company currently sells housing inventory at a rate of 1,000 apartments (approx. 1,000,000 sq.ft.) per month.

The cities which have yielded the highest and fastest closure of projects mandated exclusively are Mumbai, Bengaluru, Pune, Chennai and Delhi NCR.

India Inc. lauds Operation Balakot

Proud of action in retaliation to suicide attack: Ratan Tata

PIYUSH PANDEY
MUMBAI

India Inc. took to Twitter to applaud the action of the Indian Air Force (IAF) in striking terror camps across the Line of Control (LoC) in Pakistan, in the aftermath of the Pulwama ambush.

"We congratulate the PM and the IAF for the successful air strikes on the terrorist training camps which Pakistan has claimed never existed! India is proud of the firm action taken in retaliation to the suicide attack on our soldiers a few days ago," Ratan Tata, Chairman of Tata Sons, tweeted.

"The message from our armed forces is strong and resonates the pulse of the world's most populous democracy. The nation continues to stand firmly behind



Ratan Tata

our armed forces. #JaiHind #IndianAirForce," Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani said in his tweet.

Feat in itself'

Mahindra Group chairman Anand Mahindra tweeted, "And they returned safely... which is a feat in itself. Let us pray for the continued safety of those who protect us."

RPG Group chairman Harsh Goenka's tweet read; "#IndianAirForce show moves from Bangalore to #Balakot. #SwachhBharat campaign moves to #SwachhPakistan. 'Josh' converts to start of end of Jaish. #SurgicalStrike2."

"We salute & stand firm with the honour of our security forces for their sustained commitment to protect our freedom. For the families of the #Pulwama martyrs a small token of gratitude from everyone," Aditya Ghosh, CEO India and South Asia, OYO Hotels and Homes, tweeted.

Jindal Steel and Power Limited chairman Naveen Jindal offered salute to the Indian Air Force and the team that carried out the air strikes in Balakot.

Jeypore Sugar comes under insolvency action

NCLT order follows IDBI Bank petition

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Chennai Bench of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has directed initiation of insolvency proceeding against The Jeypore Sugar Company Ltd.

The petition was filed by IDBI Bank Ltd. for non-payment of dues to the tune of ₹183.75 crore as on October 1, 2018.

According to the petition, the company availed loans to the tune of ₹165.37 crore from the bank in the form of working capital and rupee term loans, among others.

IDBI Bank has classified the loans as non-performing assets (NPA) on June 30, 2015.

As per the petition, the

company had offered a one-time settlement proposal, which did not materialise.

The company argued that the petition should be dismissed on grounds that the debt claim was barred by limitation as the default occurred on June 30, 2015 and whereas the petition was filed on October 24, 2018.

NCLT rejected the argument and ordered the initiation of insolvency proceedings. It had appointed V. Venkata Sivakumar as interim insolvency professional and also declared a moratorium. Under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, a maximum of 270 days are given for finding a suitable resolution plan for revival of the firm.



KERALA RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION AGENCY
Tender ID 2019_KRWSA_271575_1 KRWSA-PMU/3116/2017-TA (TECH)

E-PROCUREMENT-INVITATION OF BIDS (IFB) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

TENDER

KRWSA invites bids for Supply of 10534 numbers of 50 LPD Capacity Terafil Water Filters to 5267 households of Kerala. For more details and submission of bids, login to website www.tenders.kerala.gov.in. Last date and time of submission of bids 30-03-2019, 02.00 PM.

Dated: 27-02-19

Executive Director, KRWSA

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(MATERIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT WING)
NEW POWER HOUSE, INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003

PHONE : (0291) 274223

FAX : (0291) 2746539

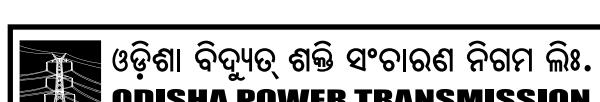
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

E-Procurement Tenders are invited for supply of 33 KV 800 A Isolator with Post Insulators without Earth Blade (TN-1510) (UBN JV1819GL0B00692), 11 KV Horn Gap Fuse, Sets with PI (TN-1511) (UBN JV1819GL0B00693), 11 KV Horn Gap Fuse, Sets with PI (TN-1512) (UBN JV1819GL0B00694), 12' Lattice Tower Double Circuit & 36' Lattice Tower Single Circuit (TN-1518) (UBN JV1819GL0B00684), 11 KV Cross Arm With Clamp and Top Hamper (TN-1519) (UBN JV1819GL0B00690), 33 KV Cross Arm With Clamp and Top Hamper (TN-1535) (UBN JV1819GL0B00691).

Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders are available on our website at www.jdvnl.com and also at <http://www.jdvnl.jhansi.gov.in>

Samwad/C/6149/2018-19

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM&C)



ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଗ୍ରହଣ ନିଗମ ଲିୟ.

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

Lifeline of Odisha (A Government of Odisha Undertaking)

Regd. Office : Janpath, Bhubaneswar - 751 022, Odisha, CIN : U40102OR2004SGC007553

INVITATION FOR BIDS (International Competitive Bidding)

Date : [28.02.2019]

Loan Agreement No : [ID-P245]

IFB No : [ICPC/JICA/ICB/03/18-19]

Reference Identification No : [OPTCL/JICA/PKG-3]

1. The Government of India (hereinafter referred to as borrower) and Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL) (hereinafter referred to as executing agency) has received an ODA loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (formerly JBIC), in the amount of JPY 21,787 Million Japanese Yen, equivalent to approximately USD 182 Million, or approximately Rs.1,1467 Million towards the cost of Odisha Power Transmission System Improvement Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for 10 nos. of packages - 'Design, Supply and Installation of Sub-Stations (S/S) & Transmission Lines (T/L) viz; Pkg-1 : Dhenkanal (New) S/S, Pkg-2 : Dhenkanal (New) T/L, Bhadrak New T/L, Kuakhia T/L, Pkg-3 : Bhadrak (New) S/S, Rajnagar S/S and T/L, Pkg-4 : Turumunga S/S and T/L and Chandipur S/S and T/L, Pkg-5 : Ganjam S/S and T/L, Bahugram S/S and T/L, Pkg-6 : Gajapati S/S and T/L, Pkg-7 : Kikata S/S and T/L, Dasapala S/S and T/L and Pkg-8 : Deogarh S/S and T/L, Lakhimpur S/S and T/L, Lephrupada S/S and T/L and Thiapalli S/S and T/L'. Disbursement of an ODA Loan by JICA will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JICA ODA Loans". No party other than Government of India and OPTCL shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to loan proceeds.

The above Loan Agreement will cover major part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, Government of India and OPTCL will take appropriate measures for finance.

2. Bidding will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.

3. The OPTCL now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the construction and completion of (Design, Supply and Installation of Sub-Stations & Transmission Lines for Procurement of 400/220/33 KV BHADRAK (Ramakrishnapur) S/S (OUTDOOR GIS) in Odisha State of India under Package-3 ("the facilities"). International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with JICA's Single-Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure.

4. Eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office given below :

C.G.M (Elect.), CPC, Floor/Room number: 1st Floor, Corporate Building, OPTCL, Street Address : Janpath, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, INDIA, ZIP Code : 751 022, Tel : 0674-2541801, Fax : 0674-2542964, Email : sgm.cpc@optcl.co.in/jica@optcl.co.in

5. A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs.22,400/- inclusive of GST @12% or 307.36USD or 34745JPY equivalent convertible currency in USD or JPY, by way of demand draft issued in favour of OPTCL, payable at Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before 10.00 p.m. on dated 10th April, 2019 and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of INR 48 Million or JPY 74 Million or USD 0.66 Million.

7. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 3.30 p.m. on dated 10th April, 2019 at the office of the C.G.M. (Elect.), CPC, 1st Floor Conference Hall, Corporate Building, OPTCL, Street Address : Janpath, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, INDIA, ZIP Code : 751 022, Tel : 0674-2541801, Fax : 0674-2542964, Email : sgm.cpc@optcl.co.in/jica@optcl.co.in

Cr. Advt. No.87/18-19 Chief General Manager (Elect.), C.P.C.
Please connect us : optcl.odisha [@energyodisha](mailto:optcl_odisha)

LAST FEW LEFT IN THIS IN
DAYS / MONTH / 2019

Don't let the time
for improving your English

The Maxwell show leaves India stunned as Australia sweeps series



On fire: Glenn Maxwell simply tore into the Indian attack. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

His unbeaten 113 came off just 55 deliveries; Kohli and Dhoni's century stand to no avail

AUS IN INDIA

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
BENGALURU

An extraordinary hundred from Glenn Maxwell powered Australia to a seven-wicket victory over India and a first T20 series win in the country.

Set a target of 191 in the second T20I at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday, Australia rode on Maxwell's unbeaten 113 (55b, 7x4, 9x6) to sail home by seven wickets, with two balls to spare. The Victoria batsman has not always been treated fairly by Australia's selectors but this assault – studded with some of the cleanest hits over the fence – was a demonstration of why he cannot be ignored for the World Cup.

India struck early in the run chase, reducing Australia to 11 for two, but D'Arcy Short and Maxwell dragged their side back into the contest, adding 73 runs off 43 balls for the third wicket. The home team replaced Mayank Markande and Umesh Yadav with Vijay Shankar and Siddharth Kaul, but it did not change the fact that there were only five bowlers at Virat Kohli's disposal.

If one of his key personnel had a bad day, the captain would have no one else to turn to. As it turned out, Yuzvendra Chahal had a rough evening, finishing with none for 47 from his four overs, and there were no alterna-



Stat attack

- This is Kohli's first series loss at home as captain across formats. Of the 16 series so far, he has won 14, drawn one and lost one.

- This is also the first bilateral series defeat for India at home in any format since January 2016.

- Kohli has equalled Dilshan for the most number of fours (223) in T20Is. While the Lankan needed 80 matches, the Indian has done it in 67 games.

- The six sixes is Kohli's most in a T20I innings and his strike rate of 189.47 is his best in a 20-plus score in T20s.

- Dhoni became the first Indian to smash 350 sixes in international cricket – Tests (78), ODIs (222) & T20Is (52)

tives. Short and Maxwell scored effortlessly through the middle overs, before the former was dismissed by Vijay Shankar for 40 (28b).

Costly Chahal

Maxwell, though, would not be stopped. With Peter Handscomb playing the perfect foil, he went on the attack. Australia needed 60 off the final five overs, when Maxwell slammed successive sixes off Chahal – the first over fine-leg, the second reverse-swept over third man – as the leg-spinner bled 16 runs. Jasprit Bumrah and Kaul had 44 to defend off the final four overs, but with Maxwell in such form, there was little they could do.

At the heart of the Indian innings was rapid 100-run partnership (50 balls) for the fourth wicket between Kohli and M.S. Dhoni. The pair was united at the crease just as Australia had begun applying the brakes in the middle overs; soon the fielding side would be scrambling for cover.

K.L. Rahul had given his side a brisk start with a 26-ball-47, after India had been sent in, but the Karnataka batsman's dismissal stalled the flow of runs.

Shikhar Dhawan, who replaced Rohit Sharma in the side, was out for 14, held by Marcus Stoinis as he ran in

SCOREBOARD INDIA VS AUSTRALIA, SECOND T20I

India: K.L. Rahul c Richardson b Coulter-Nile 47 (26b, 3x4, 4x6), Shikhar Dhawan c Stoinis b Behrendorff 14 (24b, 7x4), Virat Kohli (not out) 72 (38b, 2x4, 6x6), Rishabh Pant c Richardson b Short 1 (6b). M.S. Dhoni c Finch b Cummins 40 (23b, 3x4, 3x6), Dinesh Karthik (not out) 8 (3b, 2x4); Extras (lb-3, w-5); Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 194.

Fall of wickets: 1-61 (Rahul, 7.1 overs), 2-70 (Dhawan, 9.2), 3-74 (Pant, 10.5), 4-174 (Dhoni, 19.1).

Australia bowling: Behrendorff 3-0-17-1, Richardson 4-0-45-0, Coulter-Nile 3-0-33-1, Cummins 3-0-40-1, Zampa 4-0-23-0, Short 3-0-29-1.

Australia: D'Arcy Short c Rahul b

Vijay Shankar 40 (28b, 6x4), Marcus Stoinis b Kaul 7 (11b, 1x4), Aaron Finch c Dhawan b Vijay Shankar 8 (7b, 1x4), Glenn Maxwell (not out) 113 (55b, 7x4, 9x6), Peter Handscomb (not out) 20 (18b, 1x4); Extras (lb-1, w-4, nb-1); 6; Total (for three wkts. in 19.4 overs): 194.

Fall of wickets: 1-61 (Stoinis, 2.2), 2-22 (Finch, 3.6), 3-95 (Short, 11.1).

India bowling: Vijay Shankar 4-0-38-2, Bumrah 4-0-30-0, Kaul 3-4-45-1, Chahal 4-0-47-0, Krunal 4-0-33-0.

Toss: Australia.

Man-of-the-Match: Maxwell.

Australia won by seven wickets with two balls to spare and clinched series 2-0.

from the cover boundary; the catch was referred to the third umpire but the fielder was deemed to have got his fingers under the ball.

There were no such doubts about Rishabh Pant's dismissal, though. Frustrated by three dot balls, the Delhi batsman swiped at the next delivery, only to be caught by a diving Jhye Richardson, who had hared to his left from long-off. India had lost three for 13 in 23 balls.

Dhoni's laboured effort in Visakhapatnam may have sparked some questions over his place in this Indian T20 side, but he demonstrated here that he could still make an impact in the shortest format. Dhoni was severe on Short's part-time left-arm spin, launching him twice into the second-tier on the leg.

Kohli played some stunning shots, including a hat-trick of sixes off Nathan Coulter-Nile: the first sent over deep mid-wicket with a flick of the wrists, the second driven beyond extra-cover, and the third again whipped over the leg-side boundary. He remained unbeaten on 72 (38b).

India had smashed 116 runs off the last nine overs, including 91 off the last six, but it would not be enough.

Humbled by time out of the side: Rahul

Says he used the period to finetune his game

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

K.L. Rahul has stated that his recent time out of the Indian team has "humbled" him, admitting that the off-field troubles he faced were "hard" to deal with. Rahul, suspended by the BCCI in January returned for the Australia series after the suspension was provisionally lifted. He has been in fine touch, scoring 50 and 47 in the two T20Is.

"It has been a hard time, no doubt. Everyone has to go through difficult times and it was my time to go through that," he said here on Wednesday.

"It has humbled me a little bit. I obviously respect the opportunity I have got to

play for the country. It is the dream of every kid and I am no different.

"[I have learnt] just to value where I am and keep making the opportunities count, put my head down and keep working on my cricket... Things happen. It has been four-five years with team India, I've learnt a lot about the game, where I stand as a person and cricketer."

"I spent a lot of time with Rahul Dravid, working on my game and chatting about cricket. He helped me a lot in the games I played for India A. These games have helped me," he said.

Rahul was pleased to be back in the Indian side. "It's nice to be back with the boys and be back in blue," he said. "I'm just happy that I have tasted a bit of success in the last two games and my batting has come out pretty well."



Finding his range: K.L. Rahul, returning for the T20I series, batted well in both games. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

Yashasvi and Vaibhav torment South Africa



Joy! Yashasvi Jaiswal gives vent to his feelings after reaching his hundred. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

U-19 'TEST'

A. VINOD
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal and middle-order batsman Vaibhav Kandpal, both aggressive left-handers, notched up a century each as India under-19 continued to dominate South Africa on the second day of the warm-up match at the Sports Hub, Kariyavattom, on Wednesday.

At close, the visitors were reeling at 50 for two in their second innings, still needing 193 more to avoid an innings defeat. India, resuming at 112 for two, finished with 395 in its first essay.

Yashasvi, 81 overnight, flourished yet again and held the innings together af-

ter the hosts lost three wickets for the addition of 65 runs. Vaibhav, who joined Yashasvi at this stage, played perfect foil.

They added 90 for the sixth wicket before Montgomery, bringing himself on, separated the pair by having Yashasvi (173, 220b, 24x4, 1x6) caught off his own bowling. Vaibhav, however, continued in the same vein and galloped to the three-figure mark, thanks to support from Anshul Khamboj and Manishi. His 120 off 170 deliveries had 17 fours and two sixes.

The scores: South Africa 152 and 50 for two in 21 overs (Matthew Montgomery 34 bat-

ting) vs India 395 (Yashasvi Jaiswal 173, Vaibhav Kandpal 120, Lifa Ntanzi four for 79).

Former India cricketer S. Sreesanth on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that a life ban from the game is too harsh a punishment.

"Life ban given to Mohd. Azharuddin (former India captain) was overturned," senior advocate Salman Khurshid, for Sreesanth,

BCCI would begin its response in the case on February 28.

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Unmukt, Bhati star for Delhi

Kerala puts it past Jammu & Kashmir; Jharkhand too has it easy

MUSHTAQ ALI

SPORTS BUREAU
MULAPADU

Opener Unmukt Chand's stroke-filled knock (70, 35b, 4x4, 6x6) and an impressive spell by medium-pacer Subodh Bhati (four for 27), Delhi recorded a 32-run win over Andhra in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T-20 cricket championship league match at Mulapadu Cricket Complex here on Wednesday.

Electing to bat, Delhi lost opener Hiten Dalal (0) to pacer Ayyappan Bandaru in the first over before Unmukt and Dhruv Shorey (28, 21b, 3 x 4, 1 x 6) put on 74 runs for the second wicket to keep Andhra bowlers at bay.

Later on, Lalit Yadav (31, 19b, 1 x 4, 2 x 6) propped the total with a breezy knock.

In reply, once pacer Ishant Sharma forced Andhra captain Hanuma Vihari to nick to wicketkeeper Anuj Rawat in the first over. Andhra was never really in the hunt losing wickets at regular intervals. The only notable contribution came from Ashwin Hebbar (38, 29b, 1x4, 1x6).

This was Delhi's fourth win in five games while, Andhra suffered third defeat in four matches. In another



Fluent knock: Unmukt Chand's stroke-filled knock 70 helped Delhi breeze past Andhra.

• FILE PHOTO

match, Kerala scored an emphatic, 94-run win over Jammu & Kashmir for its third win in four matches.

Jharkhand notched up its fourth consecutive win when

it defeated Nagaland by 54 runs.

Captain Ishan Kishan (52, 39b, 6x4, 2x6) and Kumar Deborah (69 not out, 32b, 5x4, 6x6) scored breezy half-

centuries and Anukul Roy chipped with a quick fire unbeaten 47 (23b, 4x4, 3x6) during a 57-run stand in 52 balls with Ishan to help Delhi post 175 for eight.

Leicester beats Brighton

Newcastle halts Burnley's unbeaten run

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

New Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers watched on from the stands as the Foxes beat Brighton 2-1, while Newcastle pulled further clear of the relegation battle by defeating Burnley on Tuesday.

Rodgers was confirmed as Claude Puel's successor just before kick-off at the King Power after dramatically leaving Celtic despite being on course for a third straight domestic treble in Scotland.

The Northern Irishman saw what his new side is capable of as Demarai Gray and Jamie Vardy put the host into a 2-0 lead before Davy Propper pulled a goal back.

"I spoke to them about the incoming manager and just said we had to concentrate on the game. He's given the players a boost. He said he's excited to get started," said Leicester's caretaker manager Mike Stowell.

"It's been a difficult season on and off the pitch but I think we should be seventh for the quality we have."

"Today's win broke four defeats on the spin so hopefully the shackles are off because there's still plenty of games to play – let's look upwards not down."

However, Brighton's alarming slide towards the



Goal! Jamie Vardy gets on the scoresheet for Leicester City.

• REUTERS

bottom three continued as it could not find an equaliser and now has not won in seven league games.

Newcastle is headed in the other direction as once again it was inspired by the performance of record signing Miguel Almiron to end Burnley's eight-game unbeaten run with a 2-0 victory.

Fabian Schar's stunning long-range effort put Rafael Benitez's men in front before Sean Longstaff scored his first league goal for the club to give Newcastle a commanding half-time lead it never looked like surrendering. "It is amazing to be playing every week, it was my dream as a young boy," said Newcastle native Longstaff.

"There is something different about night games at St. James' Park. The atmosphere is the best in the world, I got lost in the goal. It was amazing."

Cardiff remains just a point above the relegation zone as Everton inflicted a second heavy home defeat on the Welsh side in five days with a 3-0 win to boost its confidence ahead of Sunday's Merseyside derby against Liverpool.

Gylfi Sigurdsson scored twice either side of half-time before Dominic Calvert-Lewin rounded off a badly needed win for manager Marco Silva in stoppage time. Huddersfield remains rock bottom, but did secure its first win under Jan Siewert thanks to Steve Mounie's 91st-minute winner to beat Wolves 1-0.

The results: Premier League: Cardiff 0 lost to Everton 3 (Sigurdsson 41, 66, Calvert-Lewin 90+2); Huddersfield 1 (Mounie 90+1) bt Wolves 0; Leicester 2 (Gray 10, Vardy 63) bt Brighton 1 (Propper 66); Newcastle 2 (Schar 24, Longstaff 38) bt Burnley 0.

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26 Repertoire of talents needing special utensil (7)

27 Unplanned current spike? (4-2-3-6)

28 Skirt, shirt you called for repeatedly (4)

29 Clergy acting upset due to this (9)

30 Capable of ignoring our patron's oddities! (2,2)

31 Extremely dry British channel (4)

32 Discharge duty in pursuit of revenge finally (8)

33 Right of admission that's enjoyed after 15 (6)

34 They refuse to pay queens from Cardiff! (8)

35 Drama troupe won't adapt linguistic hybrid exemplified by Bollywood (11,4)

36 Slower alternative: having tubes tied (7)

37 Run away from Sun critic (7)

38 Clergymen acting upset due to this (9)

39 They refuse to pay queens from Cardiff! (8)

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TV PICKS

New Zealand vs Bangladesh: 1st Test, SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.
NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.
Syed Mushtaq Ali T20: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9 a.m. & 1.30 p.m.
Afghanistan vs Ireland: 1st ODI, DSPORT, 1 p.m.
Dubai Open: Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m.
I-League: Star Sports 3, 5 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Ghosal enters quarterfinals

CHICAGO: Saurav Ghosal made his way into the quarterfinal with a hard fought win over Wales player Joel Makin in the PSA World squash championship here on Tuesday. The 11th seeded Indian won 11-13, 11-7, 11-7, 13-11. In the fourth game, Saurav was down 5-8 and Makin looked all over. However, experience helped the Indian as he clawed back earned three match balls before ensuring a win.

Indian women lose to Uzbekistan in Turkish Cup

ALANYA (TURKEY) The Indian women's football team put up a valiant fight before going down 1-0 to Uzbekistan in the first match of the Turkish Cup on Wednesday. An early goal by Burhanova Malika (fourth minute) proved the match-winner. Though the Indian women played more aggressively in the second half, with Dangmei Grace using her long-range shooting abilities, they couldn't score. PTI

Siakam and Leonard lead Celtics rout

NEW YORK: Pascal Siakam and Kawhi Leonard led the way as Toronto Raptors kept up the pressure on Eastern Conference leader Milwaukee on Tuesday with a 118-95 rout of Boston Celtics. Other results: Knicks 108 bt Magic 103; Nuggets 121 bt Thunder 112. AFP

Indians fail to flourish on fast tables

Former World champions Higgins and Bingham progress

INDIAN OPEN

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI

S. Shrikrishna has a habit of talking to himself during matches. "It's almost like talking to a third person," revealed the Chennai youngster who won the men's National billiards title a few weeks ago the other day. "Sometimes, I even ask why you're playing like this."

However, on Wednesday, Shrikrishna virtually did not have anything to tell himself as he lost to Ben Woollaston 0-4 in the Indian Open world-ranking snooker tournament at the Grand Hyatt, Bolghatty Island.

A wild card, the 19-year-old was all at sea against the seasoned Englishman in the qualifying round and had a good reason for it.

"These tables are very fast, they are totally different from what we are used to," said Shrikrishna, whose only decent break was a 32 in the opening frame. "I would have played better had I spent more hours on these tables. I just got around two hours."

The luckiest Indian was 16-year-old Digvijay Kadian who got into the main draw after his opponent Jamie



Bingo! Stuart Bingham got his lines right against Peter. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the reactions are quite different. Everything was perfect but we are not used to these. I got used to it after a couple of frames," said Himanshu.

"The third frame was close on the black ball. But, from this match, I know that we can also play with them."

Wildcards do better

Two other Indian wildcards, Autosh Padhy and Laxman Rawat, fared better despite losing. While Autosh took two frames against Wales' Dominic Dale, Rawat lost 1-4 against China's Zhou

Jones of Wales was disqualified on disciplinary grounds.

The big names – Scotland's defending champion John Higgins and England's Stuart Bingham, both former World champions – registered wins. Higgins defeated Ashley Hugill 4-1 in the qualification round while Bingham beat compatriot Peter Lines by a similar margin.

Important results: Ben Woollaston (Eng) bt S. Shrikrishna (Ind) 4-0 (60-45, 62-12, 71-8, 63-2); Jack Lisowski (Eng) bt Himanshu Jain (Ind) 4-0 (63-26, 73-17, 63-58, 94-0); Dominic Dale (Wal) bt Autosh Padhy (Ind) 4-2 (93-13, 68-51, 83-41, 19-91, 40-88, 71-42); Zhou Yuelong (Chn) bt Laxman Rawat (Ind) 4-1 (76-36, 87-6, 82-16, 19-67, 110-13).

The tables are quite fast, "The tables are quite fast,

Ajgar-Mustafa duo starts favourite

MOTORSPORTS

RAYAN ROZARIO
SILIGURI

There is always something new and challenging for the drivers in the JK Tyre Himalayan Drive each year.

And the seventh edition of the multi-nation TSD event, which was flagged off by Manoj Verma, Inspector General of Police, Darjeeling range, turned out to be exciting with the competitors asked to tackle the 'tricky' terrain at night for the first time on the opening day.

It is here that the navigators' role come into play. Reading the 'tulip chart' can be extremely difficult without lights.

Interestingly, this year a time logging app was also launched. It is being used for the first time in a full-scale rally inside the country.

It was tried earlier for the marshals during the Monsoon Drive 7 (Kolkata to Digha) in August last year. "It was a great success despite the partial use. Logging time

in a TSD event is of utmost importance," said Suchandan.

Defending champion Ajgar Ali (co-driver M. Mustafa, Erode) from Haldia, who start as favourites, welcomed the use of this app. "More than accuracy it can bring about transparency," he said.

Talking about his title chances, Ajgar said he wants to keep it simple and safe on the route. "Driving in the night can be a bit tight but we are sort of used on the roads."

The 800-km long event is organised in association with Experience Bengal (West Bengal Tourism).

(The writer is in Siliguri at the invitation from JK Tyre).

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Brand connect initiative

The cost of freedom

They were once victims of bonded labour but today they are changing lives and breaking people free from the shackles of suppression with support from International Justice Mission (IJM). The



out of jobs and I had to borrow money to take care of my sick daughter. That led us to signing a bond with someone in our village and the start of a misery we never knew was coming", says Kanniyappan.

"Today, I'm surprised with what I'm doing, I never imagined I would be here, I never thought our day of freedom would come but to be free and to do what I'm doing, it all seems like a dream."

Kanniyappan's life story has been rechartered and today he is one of the core members of RBLA, a long with six other rescued survivors. They are making a difference, they are changing lives and they are bringing hope to many who strongly believed they would never escape their miserable situations! "We want

to rescue every single person and we strive towards ensuring no one ever goes back into the horror of bonded labour," says Kanniyappan. RBLA and IJM ensure this by training the survivors and help them access livelihood opportunities. They also educate them on the various government schemes they can benefit from and RBLA schedules frequent visits with the survivors to ensure their wellbeing.

"Things that couldn't be imagined were done to us. We have endured physical and verbal abuse, life-threats if we displayed the slightest signs of attempting to leave, and so much more. All because we took a loan and also because we didn't have an education and were not aware of our rights," says Kanniyappan.

In the past year, RBLA has rescued over 100 bonded labourers, helped them obtain government schemes and ID proofs and set up small-scale business opportunities, creating a security net. All

that Kanniyappan and his team wish to do is eradicate bonded labour and make sure each of them is aware of their rights as well as provide their children with education, for a permanent end to this vicious cycle.

THE HINDU #UNDERMYWATCH

THERE WILL BE AN END TO BONDED LABOUR

Under My Watch is an initiative by The Hindu that celebrates conscious and responsible citizens who make India better, one small act at a time. Tell us your story and get a chance to be featured in The Hindu

SUBMIT YOUR STORY AT WWW.THEHINDU.COM/UNDERMYWATCH

Ayyasamy makes the cut for Asian meet

Ditto for Dutee in the 200m

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

Dharun Ayyasamy made it two-in-two, winning the 400m hurdles in the second leg of the Indian Grand Prix here on Wednesday and also securing qualification for the Asian Championships in the process.

Ayyasamy clocked 49.94s – the qualifying time was 50s – to finish ahead of Tamil Nadu statemates Santhosh Kumar and M. Rama-chandran, improving on his 50.05 performance in Patiala four days back.

Also achieving the mark was Dutee Chand in the 200m, clocking exactly 23.30s, the qualifying timing set by the AFI.

Ajay Kumar won the 1500m, finishing in 3:46.10 – falling short of the qualifying mark by one-tenth of a second. Interestingly, Ajay's name was not in the initial starting list for the event. Also winning was Delhi's Nisar Ahmed, in the 200m, his first outing since being dis-

qualified in the age-fiasco at the National Youth Athletics meet in Raipur recently. Nisar is also a winner of the Khelo India School Games. The AFI, while claiming that he was clear to participate in senior events, has also admitted it would be meeting to decide on the quantum of punishment for

those found guilty even though the National Sports Code 2011 has clear provision for a two-year ban.

The results: Men: 200m: Nisar Ahmed (22.05s), Emmanuel Paul (22.37s), Abhinav Pawar (22.51s); 400m: Arokia Rajiv (46.49s), Jeevan KS (47.02s), Kunhu Mohammed (47.19s), 400m hurdles: Dharun Ayyasamy (49.94s), Santhosh Kumar (50.77s), Ramachandran M (50.83s); 1500m: Ajay Kumar (3:46.10), Rahul (3:48.15), Ankit (3:49.90); Triple Jump: Mohd. Salahuddin (15.80m), Jay Shah (15.44m), Praveen Chithravel (15.40m); Discus: Mithravarun S (52.62m), Arvind Rathore (49.48m), Surjeet Gurra (47.62m); Shot Put: Parveen (17.37m), Sahil Singh (16.53m), G. Venkatesh Naidu (13.20m); Javelin: Abhishek Singh (78.24m), Abhishek Drall (75.19m), Yashvir Singh (67.95m).

Women: 200m: Dutee Chand (23.30s), Anjali Devi (24.15s), Supriya Maddali (24.48s); 400m: M.R. Poovamma (54.12s), Sarita Ben Gayakwad (54.61s), Prachi (54.74s); 1500m: Chitra P.U. (4:20.76), Lili Das (4:20.89), Usha Sati (5:08.07); Triple Jump: Renu (12.76m), Sheena (12.45m), Sonam (12.34m); Shot Put: Kachnar Chaudhary (14.41m), Anamika Das (13.75m), Sonal Goyal (13.28m); Discus: Navjeet Kaur Dhillion (54.92m), Nidhi Rani (45.95m), Suryan Choudhary (25.19m); Javelin: Sharmila Kumari (50.94m), Ru-pinder Kaur (48.62m).



Fluid motion: Dutee Chand clocked the exact qualifying timing set by the AFI for the 200m. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

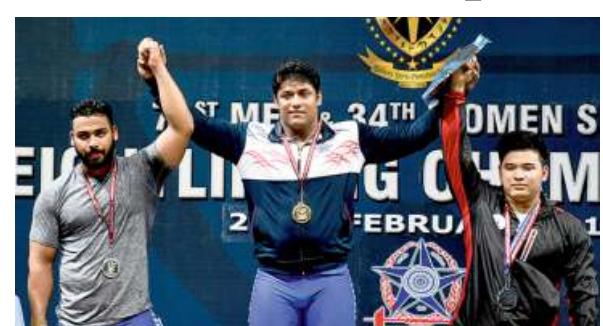
CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (BM-III), PALIKA PARKING, NEW DELHI-II e-Procurement Corrigendum Notice

I.D. No. 2019_NDMC_169964_1
Name of Work: Providing Housekeeping Services at Swati, Akansha & Indra Niketon working women's Hostel, Sandhya & Aradhana Sr. Citizen's Home and Freedom Fighter's Home.
Estimated Cost: 1,50,06,448/-
Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution - 26.02.2019.
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting on 08.03.2019 at 3.00 PM in the Chamber of CE(C-II)
16th Floor Room No. 1601 Palika Kendra New Delhi.
Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution - 19.03.2019 at 4.00 pm
Further details can be seen at site www.govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in
Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with e-tendering system Government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory.

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (BM-III)

To be The Global Benchmark for a Capital City

Veerender triumphs



Podium finish: Vikas Thakur, Veerender Singh, and Konjum Taba, winners of the men's 96kg category. ■ C. SUBRAHMANYAM

WEIGHTLIFTING

Y.B. SARANGI
VISAKHAPATNAM

Services lifter Veerender Singh stunned two-time Commonwealth Games medallist Vikas Thakur to win the men's 96kg gold medal in the National weightlifting championships at the Railay Indoor Sports Enclave here on Wednesday.

Veerender's total of 350kg was good enough to fetch him the top honour as Thakur could not give his best and managed 342kg to settle for the silver medal.

Kojum Taba of Arunachal Pradesh claimed the third place with 334kg.

Unsuccessful

Veerender lifted 156kg in his opening attempt in snatch against Thakur's 151kg. Veerender did not succeed while trying 160kg a couple of times, but was hardly affected as Thakur's effort of 155kg was twice adjudged as 'no lift'.

Going into the clean and jerk with a deficit of five kg, 25-year-old Thakur closed the gap by lifting 191kg while Veerender did 188kg.

Veerender's 194kg in se-

cond try put pressure on his fellow Services man representing Punjab.

Thakur's push for 200kg in his two concluding efforts went in vain as 29-year-old Veerender secured his maiden gold medal.

"Happy to be the champion. Thakur is a good lifter but could not do it. Some of my efforts were wasted too. It's part of the game," said Veerender.

Thakur took the defeat in his stride. "I had done my best, 353kg, in the Olympic qualifying event in Thailand earlier this month. Today was not my day," he said.

Sahil Sharma won the 102kg crown convincingly. Sahil's 150kg in snatch helped him establish a handsome lead over others. He ensured the gold medal with his second clean and jerk lift of 183kg.

The result: Men: 96kg: 1. Veerender Singh (Services) snatch 156kg, clean and jerk 194, total 350kg; 2. Vikas Thakur (Pun) 151kg, 191kg, 342kg; 3. Kojum Taba (Arun) 151kg, 183kg, 334kg.
102kg: 1. Sahil Sharma (SSCB) 150kg, 183kg, 333kg; 2. A.R. Ramshad (Ker) 140kg, 184kg, 324kg; 3. Pardeep Singh (RSPB) 138kg, 183kg, 321kg.

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